

WINTER 2023

schoolbell

HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2.0

My name is Liam.

My favorite season is summer.

If I could be an animal it would be a dog.

In my free time I like to watch TV.

My favorite color is gold.

My least favorite food to eat is broccoli.

My favorite food to eat pizza.

I love to play basketball and soccer.

I want to learn more about science in 2nd grade.

I want to be a construction worker when I grow up.

If I had a superpower it would be super speed.

My favorite thing about school is recess and gym.

Another fun fact about me is that I like to play video games.

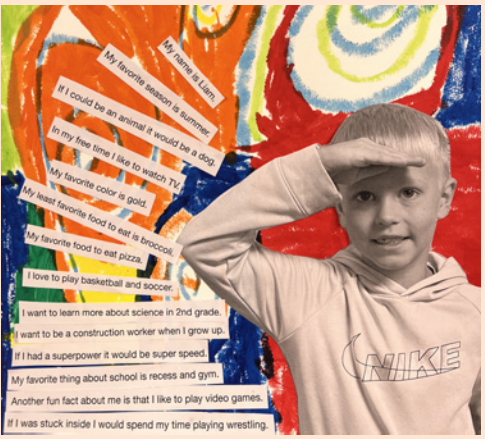
If I was stuck inside I would spend my time playing wrestling.



How to Be:

...Becoming who He wants us to BE

from the COVER



Abstract Self Portrait paintings provide 2nd grade students with a cross-curricular project that integrates art, language arts, and technology.

HCS MISSION STATEMENT

In order to honor God, we nurture and guide students to see the Father's creation to sense order in a world saved by Christ to serve God through the leading of the Holy Spirit

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Agile, Focused and Determined

By Mr. Kyle Weener, Principal

Brio train tracks, a vibrant multi-colored crayon comforter, and a play kitchen were some of the items scattered around the small bedroom I shared with my younger brother. I had the blessing to grow up in a small farmhouse - one that my great grandparents lived in during the early 1900s. Now, over 100 years later, my sister lives in the farmhouse.

This August, we spent the night with her during a visit to see family in Michigan. For the first time in 25 years, I slept in my childhood bedroom, which, instead of bunk beds, now hosted a full-size bed. We made a spot for our oldest son's sleeping bag in a slim space along the wall on the floor, the baby slept in her bassinet basket at the foot of the bed, and we squeezed the portacrib into the office for our toddler. There were ups and downs, but we navigated the inconveniences of cramped quarters as they came up. We left grateful for an incredible weekend, but also very grateful to return home, to a much more suitable space for our family of five.

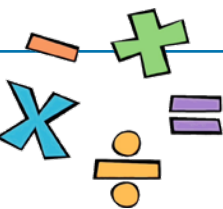
Reflecting on this trip, I could not help but parallel my nostalgic farmhouse experience with many realities at Highland Christian over the past few years. Just like the fun weekend getaway, we really didn't realize how tight we were until the new building was completed and the students, staff, and community members had the space to breathe, learn, and grow. While my gratitude for our new building is tremendous, I keep coming back to this truth: The HCS community is an agile, focused, and determined group.

- In a time where students could have acted out, they formed relationships.
- In a time where teachers could have taught to the middle, they carefully crafted lessons to achieve learning for all.
- In a time where the board could have maintained the status quo, they prayerfully planned so children and families could benefit for generations to come.
- In a time where our community could have sat back, they stepped up to fund \$2,000,000 towards the expansion.
- In a time where the world was facing chaos, HCS stepped up to ensure our kids knew the Lord.

We are blessed to enjoy our beautiful, well resourced school, but recognize the true beauty comes from the thousands of relationships that are formed between each of us - all for His glory. **The true beauty of Highland Christian comes when kids come to know the Lord as their King and Savior.** Thank you for contributing to the lives of our young ones. Together, we are achieving our vision to see students be academically equipped, Biblically grounded, and spiritually nurtured to impact the world for Christ. Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

200% Growth in Math!

During the 2022-2023 school year, HCS saw a need to make an adjustment in our Jr. High math classes to allow students to receive a more targeted and individualized approach to instruction. As a result, all of the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes saw over 200% growth in the area of mathematics. That's over two years of growth in one year! HCS continues to be committed to making decisions that align with what is best for the development of God's children, our students. Great job, HCS!



COVERED IN DUST

By Mrs. Karen vanBelle, Preschool Director, Teacher

At CEA Convention October 2021, teachers learned of an upcoming opportunity to take a trip to Israel. The purpose of the trip would be to see the places where Jesus walked, learn more about His life and ministry, and bring back lessons and ideas to share with students. The following months were ones of waiting, preparation, and prayer.

In June of 2023, a group of 7 HCS teachers joined a larger group of Christian teachers and students - 60 in all - and boarded a plane for Israel! The teachers who attended were: **Caitlin DeBoer (1), Joyce Groen (Jr Hi), Vanesa Huizenga (1), Vicki Huizenga (Jr Hi), Jeana Otte (1), Karen van Belle (SEC), and Judy Zandstra (K).**



Our group spent 13 days walking rocky paths, climbing mountains, trekking in the desert, and learning about our rabbi and Savior, Jesus. We learned and experienced Jesus's teachings every step of the way!

- In the desert, we learned about trusting God to provide shade when we need it. It doesn't always look the way we think it will, and we might want more shade than is given, but God gives us just enough.
- At the springs of En Gedi we got the opportunity to be "all in" for Jesus and His mission.
- At the Jordan river we were reminded to get off the bank and take steps forward in faith, knowing that God goes before us and has prepared the way.

We reflected on those who have shaped our own faith and spent time praying with gratitude for those people. We also reflected on what it means for us to tell God's stories to those who come behind us. We pray that we can be standing stones for our students and others in our community, pointing others to God and being reminders of His faithfulness.

As we ended our time in Israel, our group sat on the Mount of Olives. We took communion together, and our guide reminded us to follow the steps of our rabbi, Jesus. There is a Jewish blessing that says "**May you be covered in the dust of your rabbi.**" We should be following so closely behind our rabbi that any dust He kicks up lands on us. By the end of our trip, we were certainly very dusty! Our prayer is that we can continue to follow Jesus so closely that everyone can see we are covered in His "dust."

Refining Instruction:

Curriculum Changes and Updates for the 2023-2024 School Year

By Mrs. Andrea Harvey, Assistant Principal

This school year we have implemented three major changes in our curriculums and instructional practices to best meet the needs of our students and increase alignment with the state of Indiana's academic standards.

In grades K-8, teachers were given a brand new **Social Studies curriculum**, which replaced our curriculum that was thirteen years old. Our new curriculum, *Savvas myWorld* ©2019, is aligned to Indiana state standards and received great reviews from the teacher review committee. We have adopted this curriculum with a six year license.

See on the right, the multi-faceted approach curriculum review teams implement to examine curriculums for use at Highland Christian School.

Additionally, grades K-8 were provided with an updated **Science curriculum** from Savvas. The new Science curriculum, *Savvas elevateScience* ©2024, was updated to replace Savvas' Interactive Science ©2019. As many changes were made to the Indiana Science standards in the spring of 2023, this update will give the teachers a curriculum that fully aligns with the new standards.

Finally, in our primary department, all of the teachers received **UFLI Foundations manuals** to change their instructional practices to best align with the Science of Reading research. These manuals provide teachers with explicit instructions for teaching reading by developing phonemic awareness and decoding skills within their students. Along with the manuals, the teachers all received specific training on the Science of Reading methods from our reading specialist, Kristin Freel. With the shift to Science of Reading practices, the primary department also changed their implementation of Leveled Reading groups. Now students are working independently and in small groups on activities that meet their specific needs. Teachers are also progress monitoring the students each week to see if they have mastered the phonics skills they studied. The UFLI Foundations manuals and training on Science of Reading instructional methods are an addition to the reading curriculum, *Wonders*. The primary department has been using *Wonders* for the past two years for reading comprehension and providing students with opportunities to read both fiction and nonfiction text.

Moving forward, during the 2023-2024 school year, our school will be reviewing the curriculum resources and practices for the Pre-K Sunshine Enrichment Center, K-8 Music program and the Student Services Department. Teams have been assembled and their review process has already begun.

HCS's Curriculum Review Process:

1. A team of expert teachers are assembled to review our current curriculum, Indiana standards and best instructional practices for the content area under review. If warranted, curriculum samples are obtained to review new curricular resources for possible adoption.
 - If samples are being reviewed, the team develops a rubric to analyze for rigor, alignment, effectiveness, etc.
2. The team members reach out to local schools to hear their feedback about the curriculum and resources they are using in their buildings.
3. Using websites, such as edreports.org, the team reviews the data regarding the curriculum's effectiveness for student learning and growth.
4. Collectively while using the rubric, feedback from local schools and data about effectiveness, the team spends time in discussion about all the available options.
5. The team makes a recommendation to the Education Committee- either to continue with the same curriculum or adopt a new curriculum. The Education Committee has the opportunity to review the team's notes and see curriculum samples when they receive a recommendation.
6. The Education Committee confirms/denies the recommendation from the review team on how to proceed with any changes.

Saturday Serve

By Mrs. Vicki Huizenga, Junior High Bible

The desire for flourishing has led to an intense scrutiny of the mission statement of HCS. Highland Christian's mission statement states:

In order to honor God, we nurture and guide students to:

- **SEE the Father's creation**
- **SENSE order in a world saved by Christ,**
- **SERVE God through the leading of the Holy Spirit.**

Are these just words? Are we intentional about nurturing students to SEE, SENSE, and SERVE? Do we create the opportunity to practice this? Out of this discussion a new opportunity for service was launched - Saturday Serve. This service opportunity was born from a desire to have families, parents and students, participate in serving the community around HCS.

Our first Saturday Serve saw parents, students, siblings, and teachers gather at a vacant lot near Flourish Church. We assembled to clear out the vegetation and the trash: couches, tables, a pulpit, cans, bottles, etc. that littered the lot. The size and the scope of this endeavor was daunting, but armed with rakes and clippers, gloves and garbage bags, we began to make progress. When others arrived with chainsaws, we began to witness the progress being made. By the end of the morning, we stood on the road and saw the neighbor's home that had previously been hidden behind a wall of vegetation and debris. This Saturday Serve cleanup made an impact on the neighborhood and on the families who participated. HCS was made aware of this need through a partnership with Pastor Harris of Flourish Church.



Our second Saturday Serve witnessed families gathered outside VanTil's grocery store. We entered the store, grabbed shopping carts, and loaded them with nonperishable foods: peanut butter, pancake mix, soup, spaghetti, rice, canned vegetables, etc. to fill local Blessing Boxes. These boxes are located near churches and stocked with non-perishable food items, basic toiletries, baby supplies, and anything else that might be considered a blessing to someone who finds themselves in need. Items are anonymously donated and anonymously received and available at any time day or night. After scouting out the best deals and checking out, families loaded the grocery items into their vehicles. Then they set out to fill one of the Blessing Boxes in Hammond, Highland, or Griffith. What a joy to see these empty boxes once again bursting with food as a blessing to the community!

When families gather on Saturday mornings and serve the community around HCS, the words of the mission statement become an outpouring of the Good News of Jesus. Students are nurtured and guided to follow the Spirit's leading to live out the gospel story and flourishing happens.

Welcome, MR. HIBBLER

By Miss Jodi Lineburg, Development Director

Highland Christian School is pleased to introduce **Mr. Dustin Hibbler!** Dustin joins our team as the new Director of Admissions and Marketing! He is a gifted individual with a passion for Christian education, communication, photography and videography. He will be shadowing Jessica and I this year, before taking the helm with Jessica in the future. We are extremely pleased that he said "Yes!" and look forward to the many ways God will bless his efforts to further the reach and impact of Highland Christian School.

Dustin comes to us from Southwest Chicago Christian Schools, where he has served in the capacity of Associate Director of Marketing for the past three years. A graduate of Calvin University (Grand Rapids), Dustin holds a BA in Communication Arts and Sciences. A fun fact about Dustin is that he and each of his siblings work in Christian education in four different time zones (CA, NM, IN, and MI)!

He and his wife Erin, are active members of First Church PCA in Lansing Illinois and look forward to the day their infant daughter becomes a husky pup at HCS!



Sonshine Enrichment Center By Mrs. Karen van Belle

We love to learn through experiences here at Sonshine Enrichment Center! We have had lots of great experiences together so far this year, and we see the progress the students have made. It's so exciting to see the students exploring God's world together!

Some of the things we do may not seem so exciting, but each activity has purpose and helps the students develop their skills. We have especially worked on social skills this year. Since preschool is a first school experience for many children, they need to learn how to take turns and follow classroom routines. We practice these together each day and learn new things as we need them. Our preschoolers are working hard to be "coworkers in God's service!"

Play is an important part of our day at preschool. There are many opportunities during play to learn social skills and cooperation. It's also a great way to work on fine motor skills, basic number skills, patterning, creativity, and so much more! We use different activities and materials during our choice

time. Sometimes we use toys and other times we use a light table or a sand/water table. The students love having new things to explore!

Food experiences are another big hit at preschool. During the first few weeks of school, Mrs. van Belle's class worked together to make fruit popsicles! We learned a little about nutrition, following a recipe, measuring, and teamwork. And, we got to eat what we made! Delicious!

Most of our preschool experiences are here at school, but in September we took a trip to the apple orchard! We picked apples, saw working beehives, and learned how trees make their own food. We each took home a bag of apples. Some of those apples were turned into applesauce by Mrs. van Belle's class! Apple peelers are a great workout for little hands!

We are looking forward to the many experiences that the rest of the school year will bring. We are thankful to God for our students, their families, and His amazing world!



Where Does FORT PEEP Fit In? By Mrs. Jackie Mulderink, Fifth Grade

Fort Peep is a demonstration project that ties to academic goals and social goals in fifth grade.

MATH STANDARDS: Fort Peep is tied to a couple different math standards. We are adding and subtracting decimal numbers while we keep track of our income and expenses. We are also collecting data to build different types of graphs representing the number and color of eggs laid.

SOCIAL GOALS: Fort Peep also ties to social goals. Students are learning to work together in teams of four as they have Fort Peep duty for one week each semester. They do this during their lunch recess under the supervision of Mrs. Dawn Stammers.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION: Coming full circle, students also practice stewardship through Fort Peep! We will be donating the profits we make from selling the eggs to Phil's Friends. Fifth grade students serve at their facility on Impact Day in May. This year we are looking forward to not only serving them for a few hours, but also giving them a monetary donation!

FORT PEEP EGGS

HCS-FRESH EGGS

Introducing our Fresh Eggs from our happy and healthy hens that have been feed organically & spend their days sunning in the courtyard!

\$5 FOR ○○○○○

Proceeds will be used to partner with Phil's Friends! Phil's Friends bring care packages, cards of hope, hospital visits and prayer to those diagnosed and suffering from cancer.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OUR 5TH GRADE CLASS!

Learning Together | A Year of "Firsts"

By Mrs. Hannah Sikma, Kindergarten

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" It's one of the most popular questions kids get asked. All I ever wanted to be was a teacher just like my mom, but I never dreamed I'd be able to be a kindergarten teacher at the school I grew up at. My name is Hannah Sikma and I am the new kindergarten teacher at Highland Christian. I graduated from Highland Christian in 2015 and went on to Illiana Christian High School and Purdue University Northwest. Last year, I had the opportunity to student teach at Highland Christian School with Judy Zandstra.

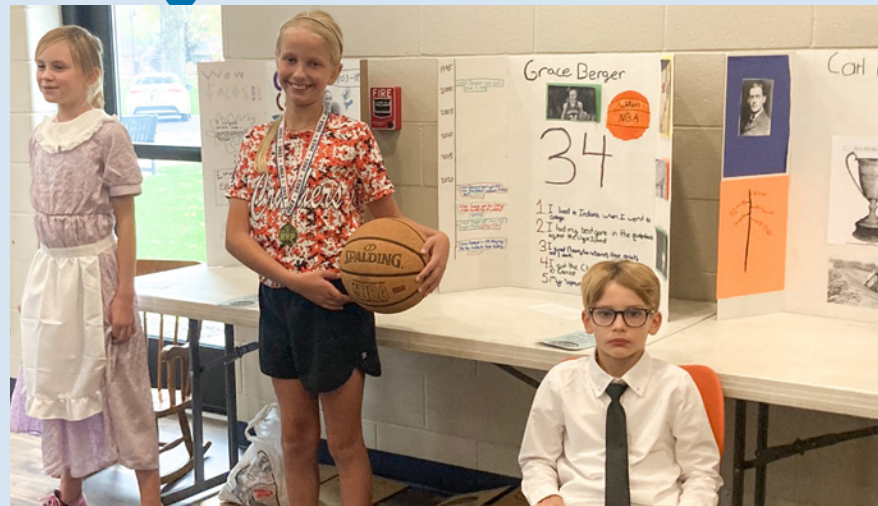
When I got the job here, I was immediately flooded with emotions. I had big shoes to fill and I had no clue what I was going to do. The past few months have been a lot of learning for not only my students, but also me. I'm lucky to have a very patient class that just smiles and encourages me when I make goof ups.

One day I was really struggling and I guess my students could tell. One of them came up to me and hugged me and said "Just do your best. That's what you tell us." Five-year-olds are seriously wise. I emphasize to my students that everyone is learning and God is always helping us grow. This is their first year in school and it's my first year as a teacher. It's incredibly special to share this time together. My students mean the world to me and I hope they look back on this time and remember it as fondly as I do of my years at HCS. This has been a dream come true and I'm praying for many more years of learning for my students and myself.



Living Wax Museum

By Mrs. Ashley Kruihof, Fourth Grade



To celebrate and remember Famous Hoosiers from Indiana, 4th grade put on a Living Wax Museum! Fourth graders selected any Hoosier that has made an impact in Indiana and pretended to be them for an hour. We had athletes, performers, race car drivers, inventors, and many more! The 4th graders put hours of work into this project. Over the course of 3 weeks, they researched their famous Hoosier, wrote speeches, and created posters to go along with their presentation. By dressing up and talking as if they were that Famous Hoosier, they really made history come alive!

Grandparents' Day 2023

Building on the Firm Foundation

By Mrs. Julie DeYoung, Fifth Grade

God's faithfulness through generations was clearly on display on October 13, 2023. **Grandparents' Day at Highland Christian School is more than a cherished tradition. It is a celebration of our distinctive community - young and old sharing in the joy of what we believe.**

As grandparents streamed into the school, it was clearly evident to them that the footprint of the school had changed. But thanks to the many PTO volunteers and junior high students, our visitors were able to navigate the new hallways easily. After enjoying a snack and time to visit, the grandparents discovered that while our walls may look different, our true foundation has remained the same.

The primary department shared a delightful program highlighting the "building" part of our theme. First, several students explained the role grandparents play in building faith. Next, grandparents laughed and cheered as large blocks were pulled, wheeled and driven onto stage to create a wall of Christian character. The final surprise of a block descending from the ceiling made for a memorable closing. This fun skit was presented along with a final thank you and three heartfelt songs. All the primary performers spoke and sang with confidence. Our new primary music teacher, **Mr. Shellhaas**, skillfully guided the music, and first grade teacher, **Mrs. Otte**, faithfully shared her talent again in creating the narration and skit.

The DeGraff family led our guests in worship while the elementary department filled the gym. The students of 3rd - 5th grade performed a skit imagining a fitness center dedicated to working out our faith. As various customers entered "The Firm Foundation", they learned the truth about the power of Christ, the power of praise, the power of forgiveness, and the power of what we believe. The elementary students enthusiastically sang songs and did motions to highlight each of these concepts. The 5th graders displayed impressive acting skills which greatly added to the overall experience. Elementary music teacher, **Mr. Rinkenberger**, directed with purpose and energy, and 5th grader teacher, **Mrs. DeYoung**, provided the script.

The halls were truly filled with love as the grandparents journeyed into all the classrooms. Students proudly introduced friends and teachers while grandparents admired many posters and projects.

Thanks to the efforts of Grandparents' Day committee leader, Mrs. Achterhof, kind volunteers, and the entire HCS staff and faculty, everyone enjoyed a beautiful day of blessings.



PUBLISHED WORKS

New Elective! Published Works

By Mrs. Judy Zandstra, Librarian

Published Works is an elective for students that want to develop writing skills through newspaper articles and magazine layout skills through publishing the school yearbook. Students write editorials about events in the school, sport recaps and ideas from current events. Some of the current event issues written about are: book banning, daylight savings time, the screen writer's strike, and why turkey is a part of Thanksgiving. Students research their topic to develop an opinion and then write about it. Sometimes students will debate two sides of the same issue. Through this elective, students are able to develop critical thinking skills and become more aware of the different facets of an issue.

Published Works students also participate in the development of the yearbook. They are encouraging pictures of yearlong classroom events, so that the yearbook will elicit memories of what a grade did throughout the year, as well as the peers in the classrooms. Published Works hopes to make the yearbook a dynamic and accurate representation of the school year.

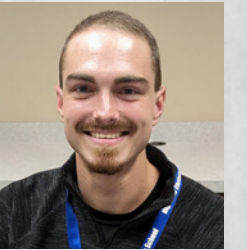
Introducing Student Teacher, Mr. VanBaren!

By Jayden Parks, 8th Grade Student

Mr. VanBaren is the 22-year-old student teacher of Ms. DeBoer's room. He is currently a math major with a focus in secondary education, also known as middle school. At the moment, he is shadowing Mrs. DeBoer while she teaches, and next semester he will be teaching the class.

Mr. VanBaren enjoys math because he thinks in numbers. When he sees a street sign while driving with numbers, he immediately adds them together. One of his goals as a math teacher is to get students to enjoy math more. Out of all the different types of math, his favorite is algebra. He feels a certain amount of satisfaction when you finally get a math problem solved, especially if you need to try a million different methods. History is a not so close runner up for second favorite subject.

He chose HCS as the school where he would be a student teacher because he thinks the kids are amazing and everyone is a Christian. He appreciates that everyone has been very welcoming and nice.



QUEST NEWS

Seventh Grader Found Not Guilty!

By Carina Miller, 7th Grade Student

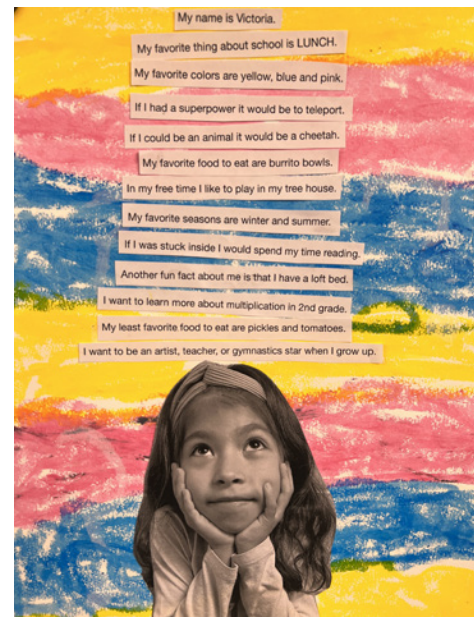
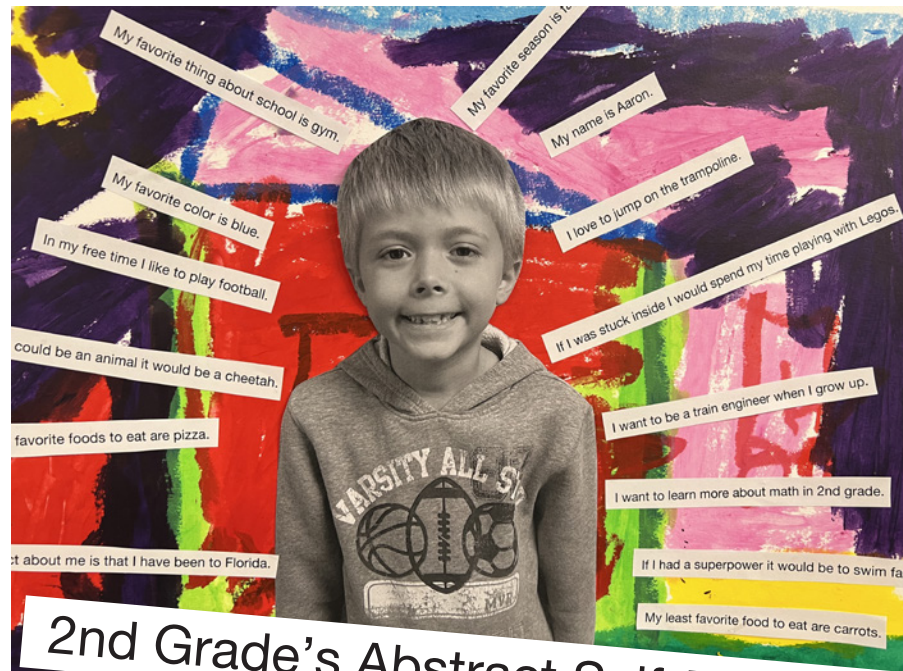
"Has the jury come to a conclusion?" asked the judge sternly. The jury guardedly glanced at their foreperson, Wren Weinberg, before she announced, "We believe that the defendant is innocent."

The judge nodded her head, turned towards the defendant, and proclaimed, "Max Paulson, you are a free man!"

On Monday, October 30th, the students from Mrs. Scheeringa's QUEST class participated in a mock trial. It was presided over by the Honorable Judge Harvey and Mrs. VanderMeyden, who served as the bailiff. The accused, Max Paulson (Kellen DeVries), was defended by Miriam Christoffels, Daniel Julian, and Carina Miller. The prosecution team was Abigail Wieringa, Chloe Aardsma, and Evan Kuzmar. They hoped to prove that the defendant was guilty of reckless or careless driving, which resulted in hitting the cyclist, Sam Smith (Christian Childress). The defense team was successful, and Max Paulson walked out of the courtroom a free man.

"I feel like we should have objected when the prosecution team said that the business districts gave permission for Sam to ride on the sidewalks," said Alan Kuzmar, member of the prosecution team.

Despite the loss for the prosecution, Mrs. Scheeringa reminded the class, "This was a learning experience for all of us. Even though there were disappointed prosecutors, we learned a lot about court procedures." Even though the prosecution was sad that they lost, and the defense team was joyful that they won, they all learned something valuable that will no doubt stick with them for the rest of their lives.



2nd Grade's Abstract Self-Portrait Paintings

By Mrs. Lauren Evers, Art Teacher

This bright and colorful masterpiece has been a favorite to teach over the last few years to my second grade artists. Not only does this fun self-portrait lesson combine art exploration with abstract art and color theory, it incorporates language arts and technology and puts it all together to complete the piece.

During one class period, the students create an abstract background using tempera paints after seeing a few examples from famous abstract artists such as Paul Klee, Kandinsky, and Miro. The second class we spend answering a questionnaire with facts about ourselves and we take a picture.

For the last class we put the sentences, portrait, and background together to create a collage that is also such a sweet keepsake to capture who they are in second grade. I love hanging this one in the halls, so their classmates can also learn about their peers and what makes them unique.



Parable of the Sower | Faith Formation Connection

By Mrs. Vicki Huizenga, Junior High Bible

When we talk about Faith Formation, what do we mean? To grow in faith, is it enough to learn about Jesus? Is it enough to know the Bible stories? Is it enough to have factual knowledge of the people, places, and events of the biblical account? If not, what then is our deepest hope for ourselves and for students at Highland Christian? Our deepest hope is that students grow and walk in **FAITH**.

Thus, Faith Formation at Highland Christian seeks to connect students with God's story. Students need to KNOW God's story and DISCOVER that they are a part of this story. Students need to KNOW that they belong.

The first question of the Heidelberg Catechism echoes this deep hope: "What is your only comfort in life and death? That I am not my own but **belong** - body and soul, in life and death - to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ." For eighth graders, we make this connection by reading the book of Mark. Rather than choosing individual stories from Jesus' life to study, the 8th graders are invited to engage in the good news by reading Mark's gospel. Students annotate the story and share their insights with each other. Much **DISCOVERY** happens, but it is hard to discern if students are finding their place in God's Story.

IMPACT OF ISRAEL

After going to Israel this summer, my understanding changed. When we read the Parable of the Sower, I had pictures and a story of walking in a farmer's field much like the one described in the text. I shared how the farmer cleared the field to make it ready to be good, prosperous soil. I explained that in the heat of a June afternoon, we were told to clear the field by picking up rocks. I related that we began by picking up stones only to discover after 45 minutes, that we weren't being called to sit under the tree for a teaching. We were expected to continue picking up rocks, not stones. I explained to students that we dug, with our fingers or with larger stones, to loosen rocks that required multiple people to lift from the hole. We dug up rocks for close to 2 hours.



As the period was ending, a student asked the question, "WHY? Why did you dig up rocks for 2 hours? It wasn't your field and you weren't going to plant anything."

I PONDERED THIS QUESTION: WHY?

Digging rocks was one of the highlights of my journey to Israel. I hadn't traveled to Israel to climb Mt. Timna, although that was amazing and terrifying, or to float in the Dead Sea. I didn't need more pictures of the Sea of Galilee or the Temple Mount or the Judean Desert. I went to Israel to immerse myself in the story; I went to **SEE** myself in God's story. And I found myself in **HIS** story in a field digging rocks. I experienced what Jesus meant.

We are called to "produce a crop - some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what is sown." But before I can be fruitful, I must prep the soil. I need to remove the rocks. I need to do more than pick up stones on the surface; I must dig out the deeply covered rocks that choke the Word. This takes time, effort, and at times, the help of others. Some rocks are so deep in the soil, like the rock we tried to uncover, that it may take a lifetime to remove. But if we don't remove the rocks, the seed can't find root, and it won't produce the crop.

My students and I were challenged to dynamically examine what rocks are choking out the Word in our soil - the soil of our hearts.

This study of Mark continues to give opportunity for 8th graders and me to find our place in God's Story. When we see the Bible as God's Story with His people, and when we realize we are His people, faith is formed and nurtured. As faith grows, the seed continues to grow and "produce a crop - some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what is sown."



Supporting Learners

By Mrs. Melissa Brouwer, Director of Student Services/Title 1 Teacher

As our student body continues to grow, our Student Services team is continuously adapting to meet the unique needs of our students. Our team meets biweekly during the school year to analyze NWEA data, discuss current classroom data and review the progress of students receiving services. Our team does a tremendous job of collaborating to support students.

As we review data each school year, we recognize that many students in younger grades need additional support in the area of phonics. Our students need additional time to practice the foundational skills of phonemic awareness (blending and segmenting sounds) and phonics. Research shows that phonemic awareness is one of the single best predictors of future reading success. As a result of this information changes were made to the way we provided interventions.

One student in the primary grades had a significant drop from the spring of the previous year to the fall of the current year in both math and reading. The parents were concerned and we saw that immediate intervention was needed. The reading intervention focused intensely on improving phonemic awareness and targeting phonics skills that were missing. The math intervention focused on the basic facts and skills needed to build a strong foundation in math. As a result, this student grew 37 points on her NWEA math assessment and 28 points in reading from the fall to the winter. After one semester, she was able to move out of both reading and math interventions. She continues to make great gains with the solid instruction that is happening every day in her classroom.



PROactive vs REactive

By Mrs. Christine Hoekstra, Student Support Specialist

Our support services team had some opportunities to be proactive this quarter! Instead of waiting for a problem to happen, we jumped into the classroom to equip students with tools for emotional regulation and relational success. We combined a whole classroom approach with small group activities to explore skills such as emotional regulation, bullying, social skills, and breathing activities from a Christian perspective. We're excited to observe the fruit of this input as students begin to practice and apply these skills organically.

The collaboration between school and home was vital in giving this child the support needed to be successful. As a team, we were able to provide support at school and give parents the tools needed to help at home as well. The parent shared, "My daughter's fall MAP scores revealed that she was struggling significantly, compared to her peers. As parents, we did everything we could for her at home, but she needed more. The Student Support Services Team reached out to me with ways that they could support her academically, beyond what was happening in the classroom. She received targeted instruction to support her in the areas where she was struggling most. It made a huge impact for her! Her confidence soared and the quality of her classroom work increased. Her winter MAP scores showed an incredible amount of growth! I truly think none of us could believe it! Many, many thanks to her classroom teacher, Mrs. Freel, and Mrs. Brouwer for investing in her and for making an impact that will last for years to come."



COMMUNITY CONNECTION {PASTORS}

By Miss Jodi Lineburg, Development Director

How wonderful it is to be called a child of God! How glorious to be cloaked in Christ's righteousness, bearing His image and Name! We are grateful each day for the privilege of Christ centered education and the opportunity to teach in a school where all learning is subject to the truth of God's Word. However, our joy was especially full as we gathered together at the start of the year during our annual Pastor Appreciation Chapel. Here we enjoyed the reality of our covenant Christian school as parents, staff and student spent time together – sharing life, worshiping God and learning together.



HERE'S A SNAPSHOT OF THIS SPECIAL DAY!

- ❖ 90+ Pastors, Children's Ministry leaders, and other church representatives attended
- ❖ 74 of our 135 student churches were represented
- ❖ **Pastor Dexter Harris** of **Flourish Church** (Gary), delivered a word of encouragement for the church leaders during breakfast ahead of this special Chapel.
- ❖ **Pastor Sam Hamstra** of **Anthem Church** (Hammond), **Pastor Kyle Beckrich** of **Bethel Church CRC** (Lansing), and **Pastor Drew Brown** of **Crossroads Community Church** (Schererville) participated on our Pastors' Panel.
- ❖ Mrs. Eva Gomez and Mrs. Amalia Martinez blessed our guests with a delicious hot breakfast.
- ❖ PTO graciously provided for the hospitality



Value of relationships – How much are they worth?

By Mr. Bryon Ritzema, Dean of Students

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light

As a kid growing up I loved collecting baseball cards. I couldn't wait to open up a brand new pack that I purchased at the local convenience store! I would first look to see if there were any Minnesota Twins players, then I would organize them by what team they were on, and then alphabetize them by their last name. I put them all in a 3-ring binder, which I would flip through occasionally, see if I had any of them out of place, and make sure no corners were folded or bent to keep them in great condition. I realized over the years that the better you take care of the cards the more they were worth. And then for the real special cards that had the potential to be worth a lot someday, they would get their own special glass case so that they would keep their value.

What do you value? As adults we may value our homes, our vehicles, or our jobs. I would say that kids value their phones, most likely their phones, and I am guessing their phones. All joking aside, what I would say all of us truly value is relationships, whether we want to admit it or not. Being around students and families for as long as I have, I believe we need good relationships. I was reminded of this when someone pointed out to me the metaphoric poems that were posted in the junior high hallway by some of our students, possibly your son or daughter. Their poems started with Life is..... I thought I would share a few of them with you.



LIFE IS

- **A pair of shoes.** They are always dirty no matter how much you clean them
- **A pen.** You can't erase your mistakes and sometimes your sadness smears the ink
- **A map.** Cluttered with things, hard to navigate, with many different places, with many different people.
- **A pumpkin.** Life can be scary, a heavy weight to carry, lots of bruises along the way, and can be messy when you dig into it.

Wow, wow, and wow. If reading each of these doesn't tug at your heart, then maybe you need to have relationship bypass surgery! Each one of these students is spot on about life. Life is dirty. We can't erase our mistakes but Christ not only forgave them He died for them! (Romans 5:8). Life circumstances are hard to navigate but God's word is the best map to guide us through them (Psalm 119:105). And life can be scary, heavy to carry, and messy...but God tells us to cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for each of us (1 Peter 5:7). When you have a spare moment, look up these verses and hide them in your heart so you can be better prepared to handle what life throws your way.

So instead of asking ourselves, "What do we value?", we need to be asking ourselves, "Who do you value?" I don't believe any of us would say anything is more important than our parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, son or daughter. But what would our actions show? Do we check in on them daily? Do we put others' needs in front of our own? Make relationships a priority. I believe if we did it would show them how special they are. So special they would be put in their own special glass case.

7th Grade Volleyball

By Mr. Neil Krooswyk

This season was a great one for 7th grade volleyball. There were many girls on the team who had never tried the sport before, but ended up loving it. The girls grew so much from the first practice to our tournament at the end of the season. We focused primarily on fundamental skills like passing and serving, and it really paid off in the end. Some favorite memories are when we beat Calvary Academy in a tight 3-set match, starting off the tournament 4-0, and of course, screaming Disney songs on the bus. The team included Carina Miller, Danica VanderMeyden, Rosalind VanderWoude, Abbi Wierenga, Hope Aardsma, Annika Burney, Melina Casares, Isabella Casillas, Leilani Celio, Rowan DeBoer, and Taylor Kinkade.



8th Grade Volleyball

By Mr. Neil Krooswyk

Although the 8th grade volleyball team only posted one win this season which was against Calvary Academy, they worked very hard to improve. The growth in their skill level was evident as the season progressed, and the scores of our games got much closer. They had some extremely competitive games against Calvin Christian and Southwest Christian Oak Lawn. We had several good servers which helped us, and the girls got much better as the season went on using the bump-set-hit, rather than just bumping it over on the first hit. The team included Liv Scheeringa, Kinley VanderPol, Xochitl Garcia, Mikayla Colar, Ava Hoogstra, Miracle Johnson, Jordyn McGuire, Jaya Okrasinski, Jayden Parks, Jasmyn Spraggins, and Wren Weinberg.



Time for a Husky Howl!

by Ms. Jodi Lineburg, Development Director & Mr. Neil Krooswyk, Athletic Director

HCS alum, **Isaac Sytsma** (Class of 2015), is back! He has returned to HCS to co-coach and mentor the 8th grade boys Basketball Team. It's always a joy when alumni visit and a double honor when they come back to invest in a younger generation!

A graduate of Highland High School, Isaac is currently in his junior year running cross country at St. Xavier University in Chicago, IL. Athletic Director, Mr. Krooswyk and Isaac have maintained a special coach/mentor relationship since Isaac's years as a student athlete. Aware that he was interested in getting back into the game, Mr. Krooswyk invited him to co-coach, stating, "Isaac is a leader that leads by example. He was an incredible player, but more importantly he was a great teammate. He made each player on his team feel important and he was a good communicator on the court. He is an extremely hard worker and this is evident in his success with cross country. His work ethic is second to none."

A Soccer

By Mr. Neil Krooswyk

The A soccer team had a fantastic year. The team only lost one game in the regular season and improved each day. The highlight was finishing the season by winning the league championship. The Huskies beat Crown Point 3-0 to win back to back league championships. The team showed great sportsmanship and teamwork with their great passing and communication. The team consisted of Ian Hadley, Gabel Zoeteman, Jonah Van Ek, Nathan Sherwood, Kade Blocker, Grant Sitter, Nathanael Kouts, Elliot Molenaar, Cameron Katz, Sebastian Chavez, Adelia Eriks, Tyler Hutton, Daniel Julian, Evan Kuzmar, and Josh Neibert.



B Soccer

By Mr. Neil Krooswyk

The B soccer team had a great season. The team improved immensely from the beginning of the year and this was evident when they beat a team they previously lost to. The team finished the season with a great showing at the league tournament where they beat Crown Point in their first tournament game. The team included Sam Rich, Xavier Hughes, Seth Hadley, Collin Kramer, Caleb Katz, Brody Boomsma, Aquanis Dixon, Julia Arellano, Emma Zoeteman, Belany Vazquez, Sam Thompson, Tyson St. George, Leo Smit, Layla Okrasinski, Katelyn Julian, and William Jellema.



The 8th grade boys had a great volleyball season this spring. The boys had several close games and they improved from the start of the season to the Illiana tournament. A highlight was their 3rd place finish in the Illiana tournament. The boys worked hard each game and learned how to play as a team. The team included Zinabu Bosman, Chris Howell, Michael DeYoung, Ethan DeBoer, Ryan Henderson, Diego Jimenez, James Dillon, Ari Smit, Myles Miller, Jordan Smith, and Micah Wieringa.

Cross Country

By Mrs. Ashley Kruihof

Cross Country had a wonderful season! Our team also significantly grew from last season. We only had 15 runners last year, but this year we had 35! We competed in four different meets this fall. At our league championship, the boys placed 2nd and the girls placed 3rd. Every single athlete improved their time between the first meet and the last!



alumni INfOCUS

By Miss Jodi Lineburg, Development Director & Mr. Gary Torrenza



I had the privilege of visiting with Mr. Gary Torrenza (Class of 1964) this Fall. As we walked through the halls, sharing stories and reminiscing, I was keenly aware of the profound and unique ways teachers contribute to the foundation of a student's life. Gary's memories were palpable and his admiration and

respect evident as he reflected on the teachers who instructed, encouraged, and influenced him. We asked him to share his story as our Winter 2023 Alumni in Focus.

How did your early educational experiences influence you?

I attribute a great deal of my success on HCS and CMA. Highland Christian taught me the values of discipline, education, and total honesty. The teachers were for the most part kind, profoundly intelligent, and fair. They went far beyond being grade school teachers in the way they handled us with firmness and compassion. It was a grade school that naturally led to school mate friendships because of the shared workload from the tough teachers.

Whose influence do you still ponder?

I corresponded with my favorite HCS teacher, **Miss Beulah Buus** until she died around 1990. The smartest and toughest instructor I've ever had at any level of education. There are few days go by when I don't ask myself, "What would Miss Buus say in this case"? I've only felt that way about one other instructor which was Col. Martin Arno Uebel at CMA. He was our Counselor in Company C of the Infantry Battalion.

Col. Uebel and Miss Buus may have never known each other, but they were two of the most important people I ever had the privilege to know. The very idea those individuals took such an interest in my education and well-being astounds me to this day. May God bless them both in Heaven.

Tell us a little about your life experiences.

A resident of Highland, I started my education at Highland Christian School as a kindergartener in 1955. I was in Miss Kaptuin's class which met in the basement of Mr. Vander Zee's (HCS Principal) house. My first-grade year with

Mrs. Zandstra was interrupted by a temporary family move to Virginia where I finished 1st grade. Mrs. Zandstra arranged a surprise "Going away" party for me! The rest of grade school was at HCS.

I especially loved baseball in spring/summer and soccer in fall/winter and have many fond memories of playing on Highland Christian's "huge" playground complete with 4 baseball fields, basketball court, swings, slides, monkey bars, et al!

I graduated HCS in '64 and was accepted as a new cadet at Culver Military Academy. There were 5,000 applicants from all 50 states and only 300 of us were accepted. CMA must have received good recommendations from my teachers, even though my 8th grade homeroom teacher, Mr. DeVries, kicked me off the HCS baseball team until I got new glasses! (I Did because I was the starting 3rd baseman!). I graduated CMA on June 4, 1968.

I attended Purdue University for one semester and dropped out. The instruction was in assembly room type classes and bored me to tears after the small class size at CMA. I just went to work and waited to be drafted into the service.

After waiting 10 months, I enlisted in the Army National Guard (NG) on October 6, 1969. (My parents received my draft notice WHILE I was in Basic Training at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina!) I traveled to Ft. Belvoir, Virginia for Advanced Individual Training, was chosen for Officer Candidate School and became a US Army 2nd Lt. in 1971. I served as an officer in the NG until October, 1975 then rejoined the NG as a Captain in 1979 and served as a Company Commander until 1982.

Between his terms of service, Gary applied and was accepted at Valparaiso University School of Engineering where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (Class of 1975). In this same period of time, he received his pilot's license. Upon graduating, he went to work at Torrenza Engineering where he worked with his father Alfred Torrenza until 1982 when his father died in an airplane accident. Then he became president of the company. Gary served as Highland's Town Engineer from 1976 until 1983. He was licensed as a Professional engineer in 1979 and a Professional Land Surveyor in 1983. Gary is happily married, enjoys regular time with his children, grandchildren and golden retriever, Travis.

Introducing, Mrs. April VanderMeyden! **SCHOOL SAFETY OFFICER**

By Miss Jodi Lineburg, Development Director

Join us in welcoming, Mrs. April VanderMeyden! April has long been part of Highland Christian School's family but recently joined our team in the new capacity of School Safety Officer!

QUICK FACTS

- ◆ Graduate of Highland Christian and Illiana Christian High School
- ◆ Master's Degree from Indiana State in Criminology
- ◆ Former Lake Co. Probation Officer
- ◆ Completed School Resource Officer training in August 2023
- ◆ Married to Mr. Brad VanderMeyden
- ◆ Mom to Caden (HCS Class of '21) and Danica (HCS Class of '25)
- ◆ Member of Munster Church

IMPROVING SCHOOL **SAFETY** & SECURITY

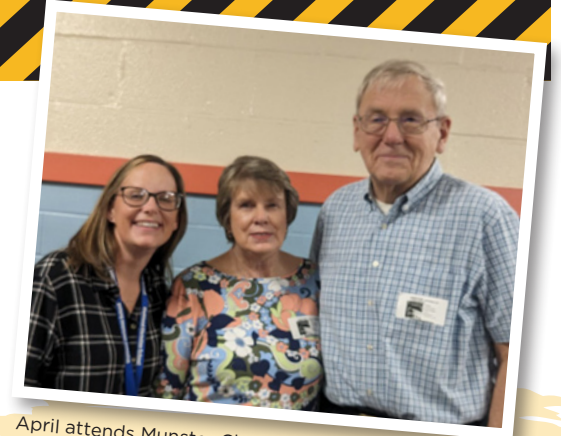
By Mrs. April VanderMeyden, School Security Officer

This fall, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security awarded Highland Christian School with a Secured School Safety grant. This grant provides necessary funds for special security related projects around school. Over Fall Break, 14 additional parking bollards were installed along our front drive. Site Services did a wonderful job of supplying and installing these concrete bollards, providing additional safety measures for students and staff along the front of the building.

Additionally, a physical security assessment is scheduled for January 2024. Building on the valuable information received from our security assessment in 2019, Allegion Consultants will conduct a site survey to assess our physical building, access points, and emergency plans to identify potential security needs, ensuring we are maximizing our grant funds and security budget effectively. This vulnerability analysis will provide guidance for future projects and inform on best practices for school security as we aim to protect the safety and welfare of students, staff, and visitors.

Other safety related improvements at HCS:

- ◆ Our guest management system, SafeVisitor, is up and running! All guests entering the building are required to present a government issued identification upon entrance of HCS. This system provides a higher level of security for our students and makes visitors to our school more visible through the use of name badges.
- ◆ In 2019, our PTO generously supplied our classrooms with red emergency "go" bags. Since the expansion and increase in staff, 10-12 additional bags were needed. All classrooms are now outfitted with these specialized kits containing first aid supplies and a source of food and water in case of an emergency.
- ◆ New exterior doors have been labeled alphabetically. Uniformly numbered doors provide easier communication for emergency responders, as well as building guests.
- ◆ HCS has partnered with the Lake County Sheriff's Department in their Safe School Program. This coordination provides essential information about our facilities to first responders in order to locate, monitor, and mitigate the source of the emergency.



April attends Munster Church with past principal, Dr. Rich Vandenberg, who toured our new wing with his wife Nancy. Dr. Vandenberg is very excited to see this security work come to fruition after planting seeds during his service years at HCS.



Mr. Glen DeYoung faithfully cares for our facility needs. Here he is participating in the security task of relabeling entries.

HCS FOUNDATION UPDATE 2023

By Mr. David Sherwood, Parent, HCS Foundation President

What an amazing time to be a Husky! This past year has been an exciting time for the HCS Foundation Board and HCS. As God continues to guide our path and extend our footprint in the community the Foundation continues to help promote the long-term viability of the school by growing assets and administering funds for the exclusive benefits of the school.

These funds help provide financial support to families in need. Over the past 2 years we have created a new system for disbursing these funds with the goal of finding an effective way to provide for the families that needed the most assistance. We remain determined to keep Christian education as affordable as possible for our HCS families.

Another initiative for the HCS Foundation Board has been to work on growing our Contingency Fund in the event the Choice Scholarship program were to go away or be altered in such a way that we could no longer participate. A portion of the Foundation Board annual gift to the school continues to be allocated to



this fund. It is critical to plan for the unknown and to ensure that HCS remains on strong financial footing with or without the Choice Scholarship program.

One of the amazing blessings providing financial support to the Foundation has been given through our thrift store ETC. ETC has done an amazing job at providing an incredible shopping experience from your generous donations. We are incredibly thankful to the ETC staff, volunteers and shoppers who have contributed more than \$2 million dollars over its lifetime to the Foundation. Thanks for this inspiring gift!

Another way we have been blessed as a Foundation is the annual golf outing. This year's event at Innsbrook Country Club was a tremendous success. As always it is a highlight of our year and has been a great way to fellowship with fellow Huskies and HCS supporters. A special thanks to all who helped in the planning of this event. Thank you to all the sponsors, golfers and dinner attendees who supported our outing. This year we were able to raise \$25,000. What a double blessing to be able to gather and give!

Finally, thanks to all those who give of their time and resources! We are incredibly grateful for your dedication and support to Christian education at HCS and are honored to serve on the Foundation Board. It is amazing to be part of a family of believers who continue bless others with the blessings the Lord has given them!

etc...A Thrift Store | Giving Back

by Mrs. Jessica Hiskes & Mrs. Jodi Lineburg, Development Team

An idea, turned into a plan...which turned into an engine that's powering the future! Since July 2023, etc... has contributed an additional **\$210,000** to the HCS Foundation bringing the total contribution to just under \$2.25 million since its inception! What a blessing this is as we work to ensure that Highland Christian is thriving, vibrant, and ready to serve students for another hundred years!

Special thanks are due our management team and volunteers for their diligence and commitment to these outcomes!

As well, we appreciate the parents, students, and teachers who've helped during school sort nights!! It is so encouraging when parents and students invest time and energy in the store. This year the Primary Department won for the most enthusiasm and help!

At etc... every dollar saved is a dollar earned for the school's Foundation Fund and THAT is how we do it at Highland Christian School!



Fundraising Update

By Ms. Jodi Lineburg, Development Director

SMART, STREAMLINED GIVING

Tax-Wise Solutions for the Giving Season

Barnabas Foundation has provided us with simple, end-of-the-year strategies that streamline and stretch the value of your giving. These tax-reducing options are generally more cost-effective than giving cash!

Contact Jodi to request your free copy of Barnabas Foundation's "7 Smart and Savvy Tips for Year-End Giving."

Jodi Lineburg, Development Director
P: 219-838-0356 x165
E: jlineburg@highlandchristian.org

Association for Christian Instruction d/b/a Highland Christian School (FEIN 35-0898393)

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT APPEAL | Update

Purpose: Pay down the debt from Expansion 2023

Goal: Reduce the debt by an additional \$500,000 by the end of 2024

We are incredibly blessed and deeply grateful for the generosity you have displayed towards Highland Christian School. As we approach year-end, We're pleased to share this update with you.

Total Resources Committed to Expansion Costs

Charitable gifts and pledges (43%) . . . \$2,328,527
HCS Transfers (Completed) \$775,876
Total Allocated Resources (57%) \$3,104,404

Will you consider a gift during our School Improvement appeal to further reduce the principal balance? We'd love to tackle the next \$500,000 by the end of 2024!

HCS Foundation | TRIBUTE GIFTS

We remember those whom the Lord has called home and celebrate their memory, influence, and lasting impact on our lives. Highland Christian School's Foundation is honored to have received tribute gifts in memory of these individuals:

- Mr. and Mrs, John (Carol) Kapteyn
- Mr. Ed Rudenga
- Mrs. Linda Schoon
- Mr, Bill Verkaik
- Mr. and Mrs, Jake (Florence) Verhulst



Legacy Prayer Plaza

Before the snow falls, we entreat you to visit the Legacy Prayer Plaza! It is good to read the names and sentiments inscribed on these stones as we journey together in faithful obedience to Jesus Christ.

Our small but might community is replete with men and women who responded to God's call, built their lives on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ, and encouraged others to do the same. Humble, faithful, hard-working, obedient, gracious, generous... who is this for you?

Great thanks to alumni, **Scott Scheeringa**, for redesigning the Legacy Prayer Plaza after construction was completed and to **Southland Excavating** for re-installing these memorial stones.

Paver stones can be purchased online at highlandchristian.org/news/legacy-prayer-plaza-2/



Wish List

Kindergarten – Mrs. Oostman

Five stools for small group time. \$84.99 each
 Light table for word building. \$259.00
 Transparent letters for the light table, two sets \$17.99

Kindergarten – Mrs. Sikma

Staples gift card \$100.00
 Classroom books. \$205.00
 Organization bins \$124.00
 Mini basketball hoop \$29.00
 Art supplies \$42.00
 Ocean Lego kit. \$25.00
 Astro brights paper \$19.00
 Rainbow pocket chart \$27.00
 Indoor recess games \$55.00
 Outdoor learning materials (wagon, beach towels) . . \$142.00
 Holiday decorations \$63
 Book buddies. \$119.00
 Science center materials \$115.00

Kindergarten – Mrs. Zandstra

Magnetic sound wall. \$100.00
 Amazon gift cards for books and games \$100.00

1st Grade – Miss Huizenga

Amazon gift card (for books for the classroom) \$100.00
 Amazon gift card (stickers/stamps) \$30.00

2nd Grade – Mrs. Vugteveen

Stamp collection \$9.99
 Pen Holder \$23.99
 Index card divider case \$25.99
 Index card holder \$6.99
 Index Box dividers. \$6.95
 2 adhesive hooks. \$12.99 each

2nd Grade – Mrs. Verkaik

Reading games. \$50.00
 Math games \$50.00
 Indoor recess activities \$75.00

3rd Grade – Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Burney

25 kids headphones \$20.00 each
 Hanging organizer. \$20.00

3rd Grade – Mrs. Schurman

25 kids headphones \$20.00 each
 Hanging organizer. \$20.00

3rd Grade – Mrs. Warga

25 kids headphones \$20.00 each
 Hanging organizer. \$20.00

3rd Grade

Kits to share:
 Addition and Subtraction Kit. \$569.00
 Multiplication and Division Fact Fluency Kit \$589.99

4th Grade – Mrs. Krooswyk

Rolling Utility Cart \$89.99
 Timer \$37.79
 Reward Jar \$50.00
 Late Stamp \$9.99
 Jesus Calling Devotional. \$11.33
 Self-Inking Stamps \$12.85

6th Grade – Mrs. Hadley

72 count Bic highlighters in 5 colors. \$20.00
 5 Scrabble board games \$22.00 each
 Document camera. \$100.00
 Gift Card to Teachers Pay Teachers \$200.00
 Elmers 60 count glue sticks \$10.00
 Scissors 25 count multipack. \$25.00
 28 pack clipboards \$26.00
 3 copies of Fantasia (Spanish edition) \$8.00 each
 2 copies of Crossover (Spanish edition) \$10.00 each
 2 copies of La Caseta Magica (Spanish edition) . . . \$9.00 each

6th Grade – Mrs. Julian

Pencils \$29.99
 3 White boards \$9.99 each
 Post-it poster paper. \$ 51.09
 Pencil dispenser. \$27.99
 Tangible rewards-stickers \$7.69
 Post-its. \$19.99
 Calculators (need 5-10) \$12.99 each
 Erasers \$8.99
 Mesh trays \$18.98
 2 sets of dry erase boards \$28.99 each
 Math posters \$11.99
 Spanish stickers \$11.99
 Spanish flags \$13.99

7th Grade – Mr. McClenahan

Magnet copper wire. \$11.70
 2 Hydroponics Growing Systems. \$89.00 each

8th Grade – Mrs. Groen

Upgrade for Kahoot for 1 year \$120.00
 4 week Rental of Gilder Lehrman history exhibition "United States from Colonies to Reconstruction" \$450.00
 Gift Card to Teachers Pay Teachers Current Events . . \$200.00

Spiritual Formation – Mrs. Huizenga

New Initiative!
 God's Big Words Series 90 books. \$630.00/full set

Discovery Center – Mrs. Achterhof

Pipishell 3-Tier Mesh Utility Cart, Rolling Metal
 Organizational Cart gray \$32.00
 EAI Education Smart PAL Dry Erase Sleeves 10 pack . . \$19.95
 Two books \$24.00

Quest – Mrs. Scheeringa

4 Sphero Bolt Robots \$215.00 each
 8 Novel Sets. \$6.50 each
 3 Dash Robots. \$180.00 each
 Legos used
 K'nex sets used



HCS PTO



↑ DONUTS FOR DUDES PENNY WAR ↓



Upcoming Events

January 3 School Resumes
 January 8 SEC Open House 6:30-8:00 p.m.
 January 15 Martin Luther King Day-No School
 January 17 Late Start 10:00 a.m.
 January 19 PTO Family Fun Event
 January ISSMA-Vocal, Piano
 February 7 Late Start 10:00 a.m.
 February 9 Preview SEC 10:00-11:00 a.m.
 Preview HCS 1:30-3:00 p.m.
 February ISSMA Instrumental
 February 15 Skating Party 6:30-9:30 p.m.
 February 16 In-Service No School
 February 19 Winter Break No School
 February 21 Late Start 10:00 a.m.
 March D.E.A.R. Week and Book Fair
 March 6 Late Start 10:00 a.m.
 March 6-7 Kindergarten Screening
 March 8 PTO Family Fun Event
 March 12 Illiana Jr. High Band Festival
 March 15 End of 3rd Qtr.
 March 20 Late Start 10:00 a.m.
 March 21 K-5 Spring Program 6:30 p.m.
 March 29 Good Friday No School
 April 1-5 Spring Vacation No School
 April 8 School Resumes
 April 17 Late Start 10:00 a.m.
 April 20 Live Auction
 April 23-24 Young Authors Reception & Festival
 May 1 Late Start 10:00 a.m.
 May 2,3 Junior High Musical 7:00 p.m.
 May 3 IMPACT Day
 May 6 HCS Society Meeting 6:00 p.m.
 May 8 PTO Muffins for Misses
 May 6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week
 May 14-18 8th Grade Trip
 May 15 Late Start 10:00 a.m.
 May 23 Grand Finale Art/Music 6:30 p.m.
 Beginning Band, Junior High Bands & Choirs
 May 27 Memorial Day No School
 May 28-29 SEC Last Days
 May 29 SEC Graduation for Kdg.-Bound Students
 May 30 8th Grade Graduation 7:00 p.m.
 May 30 SEC Picnic 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 May 31 Kdg.-7th Last Day 1:45 Dismissal



SUPPORT HCS

- Auction
- Church Offerings
- Estate Gifts
- etc...Thrift Store
- Family Legacy Funds
- Foundation Fund
- Fundraising Events
- Gifts of Stock
- Hope Fund
- Legacy Prayer Plaza
- PTO
- School Improvement Fund
- SGO Scholarship Fund
- Tribute Gifts
- Tuition Assistance Fund
- Wish List Fund



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

3040 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana 46322

219-838-0356

www.highlandchristian.org

HCS LIVE AUCTION SAVE THE DATE

04 April
20 Saturday
2024 Year

Be part of the pack that
IMPACTS Generations!

Registration is free.

Bidding is fun.

Don't miss out.

Still getting your kids mail?

We'd love to hear
where life has taken them.

Visit us at highlandchristian.org
and click on Update My Address.

QUICK, CONVENIENT, DONE.



HCS FOUNDATION Business Venture Brainstorm

By Miss Jodi Lineburg, Development Director

It's been 15 years since etc.. thrift store was birthed in a conversation between the HCS Foundation and visionaries in our community. Now, \$2,000,000 later, the store is thriving and we're looking forward to the next big idea! Want to join the conversation?

A small group of visionaries has come together again to explore the possibility of another alternative revenue source for Highland Christian School and the Foundation - via niche market spaces. We are currently investigating potential opportunities in storage, wrap-around services to ETC (e.g. when someone is ready to downsize, grouping the services they need), and the expansion of ETC.

**We're open to new ideas and suggestions,
so if this is your jam, give one of us a call!**

Miss Jodi Lineburg, Development Director

(jlineburg@highlandchristian.org), ext.165

Mr. Kyle Weener, Principal

(kweener@highlandchristian.org), ext. 157

"Train up a child in the way he should go
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

- Proverbs 22:6