

SUMMER 2022

School Bell

HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



How to Be:

...Becoming who He wants us to BE

from the cover



Highland Christian School's PTO works hard all year to build relationships, celebrate community, and make meaningful memories for our kids! As we kicked off summer vacation with a super fun field day, PTO came through once more and treated the kids to Kona Ice! A great end to a great year!

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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PRINTING Lithographic Communications

2022-23 SCHOOL BOARD

Curt DeGraff	Jennifer Neibert
Shawn Evers	Karen Scherwood
Jerry Kuiper	Mike Schutt
Josiah Luttjeboer	Julie Sitter
Lon Natelborg	Deanne Van Rosendale

2022-23 FOUNDATION BOARD

Al Evers	Josh Scheeringa
Serita Jackson	Nancy Scheeringa
Caleb Jonkman	Dave Sherwood
Terry Krooswyk	Tim Spoelman
Jerry Kuiper	John Vander Pol
Mike Natelborg	Deanne Van Rosendale
George Oostema	Chris Yonkman

Impacting the World FOR Christ; Impacted BY a Community that Loves Christ!

By Mr. Kyle Weener, Principal

This summer, somewhat to my surprise, I found myself immersed in the NCAA women's softball championships. Quite frankly, watching softball was not something that ever drew my attention in the past, but after only watching one game, I was impressed with the storyline of the players, passion exhibited on the field, and in many cases, the faith-based perspectives. When it was all said and done, the Oklahoma Sooners, the reigning champions, took home another trophy - finishing the year with a whopping 59-3 record. When interviewed, many of the players referred to their team's mantra: AO1 ("Audience of One"). Team captain, Sarah Roberts, was quoted saying, "Our purpose is to lead others to Christ through the game of softball." **This team's story continually reminded me of Highland Christian - a community committed to undeniable Kingdom goals and where outcomes richly match the vision of the school.**

Over the past few years, the Highland Christian family has continued to grow in enrollment, student services, and resources to best serve the community we love. In 2020 and 2021, Highland Christian experienced significant growth - amassing 20% growth in each of the past two academic school years - with enrollment topping over 550 students (Pre-K - 8th grade). As short-term and long-term solutions have been sought to accommodate mission and vision oriented students, we have made a number of changes to add parking, build a new outbuilding, and convert a number of internal spaces to create instructional spaces. These projects led us to a nearly 18,000 square foot addition that will be completed by the 2023-2024 school year. As work is already underway, our community will find an extensive list of activities in progress which include rerouting storm sewer, moving playground pieces, and laying the foundation this fall. It is a very exciting time to be a part of the HCS family!

In addition to enrollment growth, Highland Christian has been extremely blessed by an incredibly generous community. Over the past year, there has been tremendous support for our school's Foundation, thrift store (etc), and growth of long-term funds such as the Indiana Choice Contingency Fund, Long-Term Building Fund, and tuition assistance funds. With such strong support, HCS was able to provide teachers and staff historically with large raises, while maintaining historically low tuition increases. In an inflationary world, being able to limit a tuition increase to 1.96% is an incredible blessing.

As you read this edition of the *schoolbell*, I hope you not only see the lives that have been impacted for Christ, but also the ways that God has used so many individuals in our community to live into our vision to academically equip, Biblically ground, and spiritually nurture to impact the world for Christ. We are truly blessed!

IT'S TIME FOR A HUSKY HOWL!

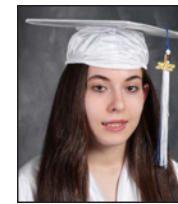
As we transition to a new year and new Boards, it is time for a husky howl! Men and women who serve on the School and Foundation Boards work quietly, investing their time, energy, and resources (often behind the scenes!) to ensure that Highland Christian School thrives. Great thanks are due these outgoing Board members as they complete their terms of service.

OUTGOING SCHOOL BOARD

Jim Bandstra
Nancy Scheeringa
John Stammis

OUTGOING FOUNDATION BOARD

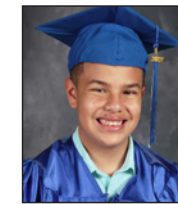
Dave Neibert
Nancy Scheeringa
John Vander Pol



Natalia Avila



Spencer Bandstra



Kyle Barrera



Kacie Carter



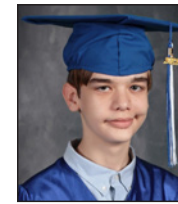
Christian Castro



Aidan Cisneros



Jaydon Colar



Peter De Young



Jayden DuPuy



Alise Evenhouse



Atoriah Flowers



Jalea Glasper



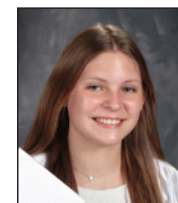
Luke Huizenga



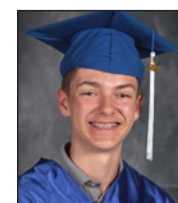
Haylie Hutton



Gavin Jones



Addison Kinkade



Micah McGuire



Caleb Mock



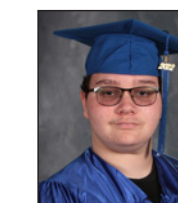
Nicholas Neibert



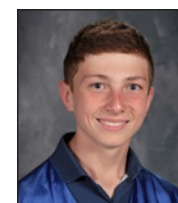
Jace Ooms



Samantha Panfil



Carlos Rivera



Dane Scheeringa



Abigail Smith



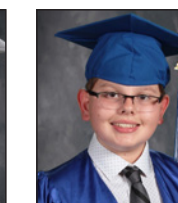
Jady Spraggins



Lailoni Staten



Avery Van Laten



Logan Van Prooyen



Keturah Williams



OUR DEEPEST HOPE

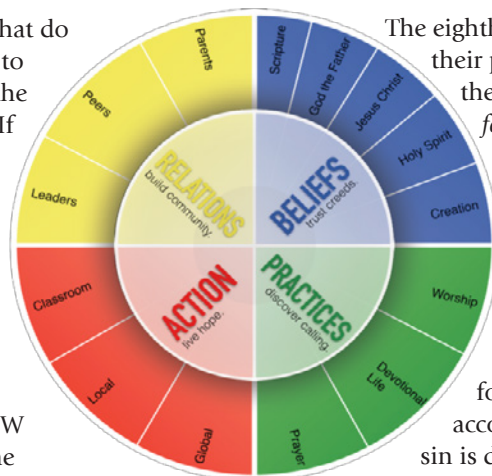
By Mrs. Vicki Huizenga

When we talk about Faith Formation, what do we mean? To grow in faith, is it enough to learn about God? Is it enough to know the Biblical stories to discover who God is? 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**.

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 grade, **Food Fellowship Fridays** are an opportunity for students to find their place in God's story. Deep questions, like Is Christianity the only true religion? & What does it mean to really love your neighbor?, give students the opening to wrestle with what it means to belong to Jesus and to His family.

For **FAITH** to grow, students also need to KNOW and UNDERSTAND who God is, how God has gifted us salvation, and what this means for living. To truly KNOW God and His plan for our lives, we need to spend time with Him. Instead of just memorizing a Bible verse for a grade, junior high students choose a Bible passage to study, examine, memorize, apply to life, and respond to with creativity. Time spent getting into God's Word brings a new understanding of who God is, how He offers salvation in Jesus, and what this means for life. The seventh graders also spent time reading Proverbs. Students discovered that "Wisdom is worth more than silver; it brings more profit than gold." (Proverbs 3:14) Seventh graders applied God's Word to their lives by defining in their own words what, according to Proverbs 6:16-19, is detestable to God. Arrogant eyes look someone up and down with disgust; judge people by their looks. Evil hearts choose not to include; or choose to let sin take over. A lying tongue talks bad about others; stirs up conflict. Spending time **IN** God's Word gives opportunity for the Holy Spirit to cultivate the fertile soil of hearts.

Our deepest hope is that students will choose **FAITH** in God.



The eighth graders were challenged to describe their personal beliefs about several tenets of the Christian faith: *God, Jesus, salvation, sin, forgiveness, service, faith, heaven, etc.* These students took what they learned from home, school, and church and claimed it as their own statements of faith:

The first, very important person I believe in is Jesus. I believe that Jesus was sent to earth by his Father, God, to save us from sin. I believe Jesus took all the pain for us and our sins by dying on the cross according to Romans 6:23. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Finally, I believe in salvation.

I believe that God gives us the gift of salvation by giving us a second chance. Matthew 7:13-14 says, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." This Bible verse shows that there are two ways of life, one is the way of Satan, and the other is the way of God. Acts 4:12 says, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." God is the only thing that can give us salvation, and no one else has the power to do so.

Forgiveness can be life-saving if you know how to receive it. It's a gift from God and he is just waiting for us to open our hearts to him. God is ready to forgive no matter what you have done in your life. If you repent, he will gladly take you back with the rest of the 99 sheep. He cares deeply about you and wants you to come back to him no matter what.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8). The words are put in place well here because it distinctly talks about how the only way is to have faith in Him. Faith means to believe in God and stay loyal to Him. Faith impacts my life because I don't need to stress about the bad things in my past; it's all about having faith in God and doing what he says in the present.

What is our deepest hope? God continues to make ALL things new. He is at work in the hearts and lives of the students as Highland Christian draws them closer to Him as they learn to grow and walk in **FAITH**.



8TH GRADE PHILADELPHIA TRIP

By Mrs. Joyce Groen

What a trip! Our 8th grade trip to Philadelphia was a giant success for all involved. We could definitely feel the prayers and excitement of our Highland Christian community as our trip went as planned, and as we experienced the many facets of Philadelphia.

We began our trip on Wednesday, March 18, meeting at 5:30 am in the HCS parking lot. Arriving at our hotel around 8:00 pm, students and chaperones headed to rooms for a good night of rest. We met our tour guide, Miss Donna, and headed to the Rocky steps for our first group picture. For lunch we had the famous "Philly Cheese Steak" sandwich and then went to see the Liberty Bell and Museum. Our spaghetti dinner at Maggiano's was fantastic, followed by a ride back to the hotel. On Friday, we visited our favorite site, Independence Hall, where students were captivated by our US Park Service guide who shared our nation's history in that iconic place. We learned about George Washington's chair and where all the delegates sat and fought while contemplating the beginnings of the United States. We

visited the Betsy Ross house and the many historical places depicting Ben Franklin, his inventions and huge contributions to science and philosophy, and government expertise. Next, on Saturday, we went to the International Seaport Museum and enjoyed the history of the Delaware River. From there, we traveled to Valley Forge, the winter headquarters of the Continental Army. We experienced first-hand the cabins that soldiers built for their winter stay, read about the freezing cold winter, while experiencing 97 degree temps on that day! We then headed back to Philadelphia to get some much-needed souvenirs and dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe. The students were great and enjoyed themselves, along with the chaperones. I want to thank Mr. Rick VanderWoude, Mrs. Vicki Huizenga and Mrs. Julie DeYoung for helping me chaperone the trip. Special thanks as well to Ms. Lauren Taylor, Mrs. Elizabeth Avila and Mr. Devin Williams and all parents for making our trip even more special. We are absolutely looking forward to taking our 2023 graduates back on this trip next year.



Gabis Arboretum

By Mrs. Laurel Reynhout

In the middle of May, the 2nd grade classes headed out to Gabis Arboretum in Valparaiso. When we arrived we were divided into three groups and a docent took each group on a walk around the arboretum. We walked through the prairie, some woods, and saw two ponds. We even got to play in the Music Garden! We could hear the many birds that live there and even saw some frogs in the water and hiding in tree trunks! We felt drizzle, heard thunder, and saw lightning so we headed to the gazebo to eat our lunches. Thankfully the rain passed quickly!

After lunch, we walked through the Train Garden. The trains weren't running because of the rain and wind, but we got to see the displays that showed how towns grew up around the train tracks. There was also a model of a quarry that mined Indiana limestone. We saw a suspension bridge, some bears and an eagle hidden in the rocks of the train garden. In spite of the rainy, windy weather, we enjoyed the day learning about God's amazing creation!



Life Cycles

By Mrs. Karen van Belle

Our preschool students were fascinated by life cycles this year. We learned about the life cycles of some animals, plants, and butterflies. The butterfly life cycle was extra special because we were able to observe it firsthand!

Our caterpillars arrived in the mail, and we watched them eat and grow. They got bigger and bigger, and it was hard to believe that they were the same tiny caterpillars that we had first seen! Finally, they formed their chrysalises! At first, it was exciting. Would they become butterflies that day? Waiting was difficult! With each day that passed, it seemed less likely that anything would happen.

Then one day, it happened. Just before school began, the teacher looked up and there was a butterfly. One after another, each chrysalis opened and a butterfly emerged! It was amazing to think that the still chrysalis had become a beautiful butterfly! After caring for them for a few days, we set them free outside. We each got to hold a butterfly on our hands before they flew away.

Preschool can be a lot like a butterfly's life cycle. The students come to us and we watch them grow. We see them attain goals in many areas: physical, emotional, social, and spiritual. We wait for them to grasp concepts and work on the skills they need in order to succeed in kindergarten. Sometimes it seems like the growth might not happen. Then one day, often without fanfare, there it is! The concept clicks, the goal is achieved, and we see that the student is ready for the next step. We celebrate and admire.

Then we have to let go. We send our students on to the next step – kindergarten. We know they're ready, but it's a little hard to set them free. We worked so hard together and they grew so much! We trust God's faithfulness and we pray for them. We also know this isn't the end – it's a cycle!

We know that God has a whole new batch of preschoolers ready to come to learn, to grow, and to achieve their goals. We are thankful that we are allowed to watch the whole cycle and take part in it!



Buckley Homestead

By Mrs. Sara Jabaay

In June, the 4th graders visited Buckley Homestead in Lowell, Indiana. We look forward to this field trip every year! The students got to see a real log cabin from the mid-1800s, a schoolhouse from the early 1900s, and a farm with goats, sheep, chickens, a cow, a horse, and more. Although students loved the idea of living on a farm with all the animals, they realized their lives are quite a bit easier now. School would have been a break from the "real work" they'd have to do!



Discovery Center

By Mrs. Gail Achterhof

Success is the accomplishment of an aim or purpose. It can mean different things to different people. HCS staff members would say success can be measured with MAPS test scores, unit test scores, homework completion, student engagement, student faith formation, how well the day's math lesson went, and much more. HCS students might say that success is getting test scores that meet standards, having friends to spend time with at recess, being the fastest runner in gym class, going beyond an AR goal, winning the championship game in the basketball tournament, buying just the right snacks at the Thursday snack table, and much more. For one of the 2021-2022 DC students, success meant meeting standards on reading tests, passing the I-READ test, remembering to turn in his homework, and having a winning record with the games he played with Mrs. Amber Powell and myself. **Here is his story:**

This student began the school year with some special needs. He had recently been diagnosed with dyslexia and with ADHD. Based on his diagnoses and on his test scores, we decided that he should come to the Discovery Center for both reading and spelling instruction. The Discovery Center is a place for students who learn in different ways, so this was a good fit for him.

At first this student was not happy with the plan set for him, but as time went on, he and I got to know each other better, and he adjusted. We learned quite a bit about each other in the first few weeks and months of the school year. I learned that he has a vast knowledge of information about a variety of topics that he loves to share. He learned that he was allowed to share a few bits of information at the beginning of class before we got to work on our reading lessons. I learned that he was created with a need for speed. He learned to slow down sometimes and think carefully when doing classwork and tests. I learned that he had great insights when discussing the stories we read. He learned how to find text evidence when answering comprehension questions. I learned that he loves reading games. He learned the sounds and spellings of vowel teams by playing some of our reading games.

Through novel studies, reading stories in the textbook, the Read Naturally program, Wilson reading and spelling, IXL, I-READ practices, and lots of activities and games, we worked hard to grow his reading and spelling skills during his DC times. Through Orton Gillingham (OG) tutoring and Interactive Metronome (IM), he worked hard to develop his reading and focusing skills. Through helping him study for tests, making sure he completed his spelling homework, and rereading the stories we did in school, his parents worked hard to help him develop his reading, spelling, and study skills. Because of all of this, he succeeded at becoming a much better speller than he was at the beginning of the year. He spelled words correctly on his tests, but he also gained a better knowledge of how to use spelling patterns in daily writing. He succeeded at learning how to write complete sentences and how to use some words from a question to craft a complete sentence answer. He succeeded at meeting his AR goal each quarter. He succeeded at learning new vocabulary words. He succeeded at learning how to read and understand both fiction and nonfiction stories. He succeeded at remembering to turn in his completed homework. He succeeded when he passed the I-READ test this spring. He succeeded by increasing his reading skills so much that he will not need DC reading next year.

To this student, I am so proud of you! To his parents, thank you so much for all of your hard work and for partnering with me. To the other teachers who taught this student, thank you for your work with him. To our faithful God, thank you for answering many prayers for this student and for each of the DC students.

Faculty vs 8th Graders

By By Mrs. Jessica Hiskes

For a fun send off to our 8th Graders, we had our first annual end of the year Volleyball Bash - Faculty vs. 8th Graders! The Faculty went full Blackout against the 8th Graders while 6th and 7th graders cheered us all on! Mr. Vander Woude was referee while Mrs. Huizenga kept score. We ended the games with ice cream enjoyed by all! It was a fun afternoon full of playful competition, laughter and memories made!



TRACK

By Coach Neil Krooswyk

The junior high boys and girls track teams had a great year. They competed in three meets and improved each time. It was an especially great year as the boys won the League Championship for the first time in six years. Another highlight was the four new school records that were set in the last meet: Dane Scheeringa - 1600m race, Jaydon Colar - Boys 100m hurdles, Jalea Glasper - Girls 100m hurdles, and the 4x100 relay of Spencer Bandstra, Jaydon Colar, Gavin Jones, and Caleb Kieft. The team included Caleb Kieft, Spencer Bandstra, Jaydon Colar, Gavin Jones, Luke Huizenga, Dane Scheeringa, Nick Neibert, Atoriah Flowers, Avery Van Laten, Alise Evenhouse, Jalea Glasper, Keturah Williams, Kacie Carter, Lailoni Staten, Jaiden Spraggins, Hailey Hutton, Ari Smit, James Dillon, Natalie Bantsolas, Addi Mills, Justin Jackson, Myles Miller, Zinabu Bosman, Micah Wieringa, Claire Aardsma, Mallory Otto, Kade Blocker, Nathan Sherwood, Jonah Van Ek, Elliot Molenaar, Sebastian Chavez, Gabel Zoeteman, Max Meter, Zoey Taylor, Connor Zandstra, and Nathanael Koutz.

**BOYS WON
LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP
FOR FIRST TIME IN SIX YEARS**

**FOUR NEW
SCHOOL RECORDS SET**



CHAIRish the Children

By Mrs. Lauren Evers

"CHAIRish the Children" Art Project invites students in the Lake County middle and high school art programs to participate by designing a chair that artistically represents what it means to cherish our community's children. These designs reflect the artists' thoughts about children, childhood, and what children mean to the future of our world.

All the chairs are displayed in the spring at the Indiana Welcome Center in Hammond, IN before being auctioned off. The money raised helps the PCALC organization to prevent child neglect and abuse through education, increased awareness and advocacy. Highland Christian has been submitting chairs for this project for many years, and we were excited that the auction and viewing of the chairs was done in person this year!

The first chair submitted was designed by Olivia Figueroa, Riley Jellema, Myles Miller, and Keturah Williams helped her complete it. They called it Dinosaur World, and after the judges voted, they won first place in the middle school category. The other chair was designed by Peter De Young, Ari Smit, and Ryan Oostman helped to complete his chair. After all the



voting was completed, their Airplane chair won "Fan Favorite" over all the chairs submitted. Congratulations to all these amazing artists!

Readathon

By Mrs. Judy H. Zandstra

This year, a great group of students raised over \$1800.00 for their local and school libraries. These students raised money by reading and received a trophy to celebrate the efforts they gave to make books available for everyone. The trophy was a great acknowledgement of the support the students gave to the library program, but the real benefit is all the new ideas and stories that were explored while raising these funds. Reading opened their minds to new ideas, places, people and history. The library is very grateful for the money raised and so proud of these readers who are building reading skills that will benefit them for a lifetime.



By Mrs. Judy H. Zandstra

- You may already know that **High School Musical Jr.** was a great success, but do you know the backstory? The production you enjoyed this spring, actually began in the heart of winter! In January, the cast received scripts and scores. They began to practice the songs, memorize their lines, and develop their characters. While the cast busied themselves with the story, the Advanced Art class began to paint sets and create props.
- Things start to come together in April, when we move from the music and art rooms to the stage. Here, the cast begins to incorporate props and stage directions into their acting and the tech and backstage crew joins them. Everyone has a part to play as we fine-tune where props go, when scenes change, and where scenes are best portrayed. Acting skills are honed as students and staff decide which side of the stage each character exits, how best to present the roles, and what the most impactful way to deliver lines they've worked so hard to memorize might be.
- It can be overwhelming at times. As each week begins, it seems like the play will never be ready! But at the end of each week the cast, directors and producers recognize improvements, and the hope that all will work out reasserts itself.
- When show time came, the students did a great job! They quickly realized what great fun all that work turned out to be. We are so proud of each student's accomplishments in this process and are pleased for each of these students to realize their potential on or behind the stage. Just like the students in "High School Musical Jr.," each HCS student used the talents they had and maybe some discovered talents that they did not realize they had! We look forward to seeing these students develop their talents further in next year's junior high musical.



Upcoming Events

- August 8 - 9 SEC Parent Nights 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- August 11 HCS Teacher In-Service
- August 12.Kdg. Round-Up 4:00-5:00 p.m.
New Family Reception 5:00 p.m.
All Student Classroom Visits 5:30 p.m.
Ice Cream Social 6:30 p.m.
- August 15.First Day of School 1:45 dismissal
- August 15.Convocation 8:30 a.m.
- August 16 - 17 SEC First Days
- August 18.HCS Parent Night
- September 5.Labor Day - No School
- September 7.Late Start 10:00 a.m.
- September 26 SEC Picture Day
- September 27.HCS Picture Day
- September 28.See You at the Pole 7:45-8:00 a.m.
- September 30.Pastors' Chapel
- October 5.Late Start 10:00 a.m.
- October 12 - 13 SEC Grandparents' Day
- October 14.HCS Grandparents' Day 1:45 dismissal
- October 14.No School for SEC
- October 14 End of 1st Qtr.
- October 17.Parent Performance of Grandparents' Day Program 6:30 p.m.
- October 19.1:45 Dismissal
- October 20 - 21 CEA Convention - No School
- November 2.Parent/Teacher Conferences
- November 3.Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:45 dismissal
- November 4.Teacher Work Day - No School
- November 23.1:45 dismissal
- November 23.No School for SEC
- November 24 - 25 Thanksgiving Vacation - No School
- December 7 Late Start 10:00 a.m.
- December 8 Christmas Concert 6:30 p.m.
Beginning Band and Junior High Band/Choir
- December 16.End of 2nd Qtr 1:45 dismissal
- December 18 - January 1 Christmas Vacation
- January 2 School Resumes

PTO

By Mrs. Jessica Hiskes

PTO had a great year connecting with families at our events this year! **Donuts for Dudes, Teacher Appreciation Week** and the **Kona Ice Truck** were this last quarter's hits! We are so thankful to be a part of such a wonderful group of parent volunteers who love this school, its students and the faculty! Thank you for your support and a fantastic year!

PTO is still in need of volunteers for next year – if interested in joining this fabulous group of HCS parents, please email: pto@highlandchristian.org.



Alumni in Focus | CHAT BACK

Hey Husky Pack! Where are you today? Your alma mater wants to know! When we engage with parents for the education and spiritual nurture of their children, our end goal is a graduate who is prepared academically (e.g., ready for high school and beyond) and nurtured spiritually (e.g., growing in their knowledge and love for Christ) so that you can do the work God has prepared in advance for you to do!

So, now we are wondering...

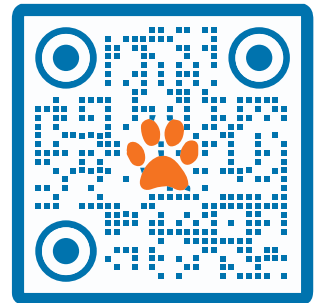
Where did God lead you? Scan this QR Code and quick share your update!

...**Class of 2018**, congratulations on completing high school! What's next?

...**Class of 2014**, did you just graduate college? What was your field of study?

...**Class of 2012**, where are you working, serving, living, today?

... Any alumni complete an advanced degree? Tell us more!



SCAN ME

Foundational Faithfulness

By Mrs. Deanne Van Rosendale, Parent and Fountain Board Member

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is when the Israelites cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land. But it's not the triumph of the new land or the promised home that digs deep in my heart. Joshua 3:15-4:9 tells of the crossing through a river at flood stage. In the midst of flood stage, God gives the Israelites dry ground to cross over. And as proof of their crossing, they are commanded to collect twelve stones from the middle of the river bed, from the place where the priests had stood with the ark, and carry them to the new land and build a memorial with them. Verse 9 ends with the phrase "And they are there to this day." Hundreds of years later, Israel could come back and see the twelve stones. I love so many things about this part of the story, but three things stand out to me that I see in our goals as a foundation for Highland Christian.

First, the task ahead is intimidating. A river at flood stage is defined as covering areas that are not normally covered by water and cause an inconvenience or a threat to life and property. Some definitions include the idea that it causes economic hardship along the river. Second, the stones at the bottom of the river have been there for a long time. They are still there because they are heavier than the water can easily move along the course of the river. And third, the stones are not the goal of the river crossing, but they are a physical reminder of the provision of God.

It wouldn't be a stretch to say we are at an economic flood stage. Perhaps not a 100 year flood, but the economic strain is greater than we have faced in a long time and it makes life difficult, especially as we try to practice good stewardship of the money God has given us and use some of that to train up our children in the way they should go. The Foundation regularly looks at our resources through the lens of a world that could drastically change in a very short period of time, and we seek to be ready to react and serve Highland Christian School.

Our stones at the bottom of the river are the commitments we have all made as constituents to support the school. Firm, not easily moved by rising waters, and known to God despite the turbulence of the flood rushing over us. The floods will come, but they will not carry us away. And our ability to follow His provision, bring our commitments out of the flood waters and lay them on dry land will stand as testimony to His name for generations to come. We are not building our foundation for our own glory, but as a celebration of His faithfulness.



The Highland Christian School FOUNDATION has been here for us...

... to STRENGTHEN, PROTECT, & PROVIDE for Highland Christian School

... to PRESERVE Christ-centered education at Highland Christian School

... to PROMOTE the good of others & make known the glorious deeds of the LORD for generations to come.

Questions? For more information, contact **Jodi Lineburg** Development Director p 219.838.0356 x165 jlineburg@highlandchristian.org

The Highland Christian School Foundation is a visible echo of the twelve stones carried out of the river. Formed in 1985, it was an intentional plan, and built by faithful servants at His command. The faithful history of the Foundation supporting Highland Christian is easily visible to the public, like a monument of stones on a river bank. But the Foundation is also still a symbol. The work is God's and the glory is God's and we celebrate His love as we continue to serve Him through the work of Highland Christian School.

Ann Lynch - Retirement

We want to thank Mrs. Ann Lynch for 21 wonderful years of service here at HCS! She has served as our TRIP Coordinator, Bus Driver and Transportation Director! In retirement, Mrs. Lynch is looking forward to:- Camping- Exploring New Places- Relaxing at their Michigan Property- Spending more time with family and friends. We wish her all the best things life has and days filled with happiness in her retirement!



HCS Staff Years of Service

5 YEARS

Christine Hoekstra
Student Support Specialist

Sandra Bewley
Night Custodian

Janna Bautista
Preschool Aide

10 YEARS

Mark Rinkenberger
Music Teacher

Michelle Herrell
Bus Driver

Donna Meter
Hot Lunch

Anne Spoelman
Hot Lunch

Tricia Groot
Preschool Aide

Stefanie Yonkman
Preschool Aide

15 YEARS

Lauren Evers
Art Teacher

Jackie Mulderink
5th Grade Teacher

Judy H. Zandstra
Librarian

Glen De Young
Head Custodian

John Cruse
Bus Driver

Amy Wilcox
Bus Driver

Karen van Belle
Preschool Director

20 YEARS

Judy Zandstra
Kindergarten Teacher

Gigi Eriks
Preschool Aide



Expansion 2023 | UPDATE



It was unanimous!

Thank you for your overwhelming support of the 2023 Expansion Campaign. When the final school bell rang signaling summer vacation, work began. We are encouraged by the early financial commitments we have received as we enter the pledge phase of this campaign and excited to share a quick update on this work.

- **Torrenga Surveying, Inc** is completing our survey work (Topo).
- **Bill Barry**, former Project Manager at Cambridge Construction, has been hired to supervise projects and run point for all projects from now until the completion of the expansion project.
- **Ray Eriks**, former owner of Cambridge Construction now retired, will be leading point alongside Bill Barry, as a volunteer.
- Sub contracts have mainly used HCS community members
- We have collapsed the **Building Expansion Team** to a core group, which includes: Les Dreischerf (Design Alliance), Ray Eriks (Project Manager/Volunteer), Henry Groot (Past Board Member), Julie Sitter (Board Member), Kyle Weener (Principal), and Mike Schutt (Board Member/Building & Grounds Chair)
- We appreciate the other contributors who served on the Building Expansion Team but who are no longer attending meetings: Gerritt Wieringa, John Stammis, Jerry Kuiper, Dave Sherwood, and Jodi Lineburg.
- Going forward, we're looking to complete financing in July, foundation work late summer/early fall, completion date is targeted for July 15, 2023.
- Great thanks to constituents Bill Fulton (B&K Concrete), Henry Groot (Fairfield Properties), Mike Schutt (Site Services), and others who have invested time and energy with us in these early days of work!

Summer Work | UPDATE

The Sunshine Enrichment Center Playground replacement project is back on track! If you've been past the campus recently, you will note that the old equipment is already disassembled! This is just one of many projects already in the works in the first few weeks of Summer 2022. Here are a few details you might be interested in:

- **Justin Reuhl, Reuhl Recreations** has been contracted to install the new SEC playground equipment and to move the west playground to the southside of our property. The discovery of buried electrical required some mid-project installation modifications.
- **Matt Hiskes, Southland Excavating, Inc.** has been contracted to do the excavation work on playground area.
- **Lagastee/Mulder** has been contracted to complete the construction of the internal library and tech lab projects, parking lot, and new garage. These permits have been received and work is underway!
- Other Summer Projects will include sanitary sewer rerouting, moving utilities, and prepping the courtyard.



Our HCS Family is Growing!

We are pleased to introduce the newest members of the HCS Family!

- Mrs. Bree Ooms *Preschool Aide*
- Mrs. Nancy Oostman *Kindergarten Teacher*
- Mrs. Kara Kramer *Kindergarten Aide*
- Mrs. Elizabeth (EB) Vugteveen *Second Grade Teacher*
- Mrs. Kelly Burney *Third Grade Teacher*
- Mrs. Allison Krooswyk *Fourth Grade Teacher*
- Ms. Madalyn Maatman *Fifth Grade Teacher*
- Mrs. Amy Wieringa *Jr High Science Teacher*
- Mrs. Dawn Stammis . . . *Leveled Reading/Hot Lunch*
- Mrs. Kristin Freel *Reading Specialist*
- Mrs. Megan DeKam *Physical Therapist*
- Mrs. Danielle Venhuizen *Speech Language Pathologist*
- Mr. Bryon Ritzema *Dean of Students*

Wish List

- Art – Mrs. Evers**
Canon - PIXMA PRO-200
Wireless Inkjet Color Printer \$600
- Junior High Science**
PLTW Storage Unit
for VEX Components \$250
- Music**
Tenor Saxophone \$2,916
Baritone \$2,189
- Academic Support – Mrs. Vant Hoff**
Texas Instruments TI-30XIIS Scientific
Calculator - Teacher Kit (10 pack) . . \$184
- Academic Support – Mrs. Flory**
Interactive Metronome Upgrade . . . \$900
- Quest**
K'nex Educational STEM Set \$165
Teachers Pay Teachers
Gift Cards any amount
- Office**
Amazon Basics
150-Sheet Paper Shredder \$250

BE A BLESSING

Matthew 5:3-12

By they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

SCHOOL THEME AND PASSAGE FOR 2022-2023

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explains what kinds of human lives are blessed by God. As we look ahead to the 2022/2023 school year, we are excited to announce that our theme will be **"CALLED TO BE A BLESSING!"** and our theme passage will be Matthew 5:3-12. We anticipate great conversations as we explore the qualities, character, and characteristics that are developed in us as we abide in Christ and respond to the Holy Spirit in us. We ask for the cover of prayer this summer as we prepare our hearts for these lessons. *Thanks to our student leaders for their research, study, and suggestions for this year's theme. Great work, great choice!*

HCS Partners with Enrollment Catalyst

By Miss Jodi Lineburg



This past Spring, Highland Christian School consulted with **Rick Newberry** of Enrollment Catalyst, to help guide our efforts as we prepare a new school improvement plan. In the course of his time with us, Mr. Newberry conducted a number of surveys, focus groups, and interviews with parents, employees and long-term supporters to evaluate our efforts with regard to enrollment, communication, and overall constituent satisfaction. *Thanks to each of you who completed the surveys and all those who participated in the focus groups!*

We gleaned a great deal from your input and receive it as guidance for ranking priorities as we establish goals for the upcoming accreditation cycle. In addition to the constructive criticism, we were certainly affirmed and encouraged by your support! Mr. Newberry used your responses to calculate a "net promoter score". This is a rating he uses to codify a school's position - positively or negatively - within their community. It is calculated based on the types of feedback a school receives and can fall anywhere between -100 and +100. In the raw data, survey respondents are identified as promoter, detractor or passive. The net promoter score is the difference between the promoters and detractors. **Highland Christian School was given a net promoter score of 76 which is the highest number Rick has ever seen!**

We were certainly delighted to receive such a score! Thank you for your continued commitment, honest feedback, and willing support as we are always seeking to be better at what we do. We look forward to sharing more details from these reports in the coming months.

Fundraising Update

By Ms. Jodi Lineburg,
Development
Director

Highland Christian School remains blessed and grateful!

As we approach the end of our fiscal year, we are thankful for the Christian community that supports our school. **Thank you for your generous support of our Christian school through the PTO, Auction, Foundation, School Improvement Appeal, Tuition Assistance and SGO Scholarship Appeal.** We appreciate the individual gifts you have given, the corporate matching gifts you've arranged, the gifts you've given to honor loved ones, and the estate gifts that have been realized. Through Christ-centered education, we are equipping future generations to be lifelong learners, faithful disciples, and contributing members of society and the Church.

We offer praises to God and our thanks to YOU for these rich blessings. Here is a snapshot of the charitable gifts we received this year and how they made a difference:

- \$8,349 | Supporting Church Offerings (for school expenses)
- \$23,000 | SGO Scholarship Fund (assisted 54 families!)
- \$74,000 | School Improvement (allocated for the Future Large Project Fund)
- \$136,765 | Auction Income (proceeds offset '22/23 budgeted expenses)
- \$9,600 | Contingency Fund (Board allocated for biggest needs)
- \$2,389 | Wishlist Donations (teacher & staff wishes!)
- \$12,716 | Foundation Tribute Gifts (strengthening the future!)
- \$28,413 | Family Legacy Fund Distributions (provided for tuition assistance, wishlist and other donor-designated needs!)

Our final appeal each year is for the **HCS Foundation**. This appeal is still underway and we're pleased to announce that we are ALMOST THERE! At present, we have received **\$24,615** towards our **\$35K** goal for the HCS Foundation Fund. This is a stretch goal worth your consideration!

The HCS Foundation plays a pivotal in our school community offsetting tuition costs for K-8 families, providing stability for Highland Christian School, and creating a network of Christ-following stewards who want to see kids grow in faith, ensure that our covenant Christian school stays strong, inspire legacies of generosity, and impact the world for Christ! If you want to make a difference in this way, you can give online today at www.highlandchristian.org/give!

While cash is the first asset people tend to give, we invite you to consider the benefits and impact related to non-cash assets that are given in support of the HCS Foundation. If you wish to learn more about these opportunities, please contact our Development Director, Jodi Lineburg at 219-838-0356 x165.

HCSF Change for the Future Campaign 2ND MATCH!

We're tickled to report that we already met the first \$1K match challenge in our HCSF Change for the Future Campaign! Thank you for contributing your loose change to impact generations for Christ through the HCS Foundation!

Not only did we meet the match, we ALSO received a second matching gift on the NEXT \$1K! Every dollar you give will be doubled in this offer! This is multiplication at its best!

So stop by the HCS Office to say "hi", and make your change jingle in the jar, as you contribute to the future at Highland Christian School!



SSSG | Update

As we wrap up the 2021/2022 grant cycle with the Secured School Safety Grant program, we are pleased to report the purchase of additional security cameras and the Safe Visitor Solutions package for volunteer management. These are the final two elements in our "Halt Harm! A Proactive Protective Plan" funded through the Indiana Department of Homeland Security this fiscal year. Installation will be completed this summer and all systems operable as we begin 2022/2023.

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

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Briar Ridge Country Club is located at

123 Country Club Drive, Schererville, IN

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Check-in 11:00am

Tee Time 12:00pm

Dinner 5:00pm

SPONSORSHIP

(2) SHIRT Sponsors \$2,500

Company Logo

Featured on Event Polo Shirt Sleeve
which is given to each golfer

LUNCH Sponsor \$3,000

Includes (1) Foursome + Lunch & Dinner
+ Name Recognition

PLATINUM Level \$2,000

Includes (1) Foursome + Lunch & Dinner
+ Name Recognition

GOLD Level \$1,250

Includes (1) Foursome + Lunch & Dinner
+ Name Recognition

SILVER Level \$1,000

Includes (1) Foursome + Lunch & Dinner

BRONZE Level \$800

Includes (1) Foursome + Lunch & Dinner

HOLE (No Golf) \$350

Individual Golfer \$175

Includes golf + Lunch & Dinner

HCS Foundation GOLF OUTING 2022 Monday, August 29 Briar Ridge Country Club 11:00am



Registration is open!
SCAN THE QR CODE
or go to www.highlandchristian.org
to participate or support
the HCS Foundation Golf Outing

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

- Proverbs 22:6