

FALL 2022

# schoolbell

HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2.0



How to Be:

...Becoming who He wants us to BE





As we break ground for Expansion 2023, we pray for God's blessing over the work, the workers, the students, and greater community who will be impacted by Christ and for Christ through Highland Christian School. Read more in the article, *Blessing on the Groundbreaking* on page 6.

**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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# Achieving a Dream

By Mr. Kyle Weener, Principal

Highland Christian School is guided by our mission and vision, and our success is rooted in 'student outcomes.' However, as we are committed to being a school that is Christ-centered, our student outcomes are not only defined by academic results, but also by spiritual growth, faith-based relationships, and the intentional cultivation of a deep love for our Heavenly Father. What does this look like in action? Just a few weeks ago, the 6th-8th grade students were busy working in various elective courses (Engineering, Creative Writing, Band, IMPACT class, and Student Leadership), when Mrs. Claire Eshuis (Beezhold), HCS former science teacher, walked into each classroom. Without delay, students sprang from their seats, quickly creating a mob of excitement and hugs around 'Ms. B.' For the next 15 minutes, students were seen pouring out their hearts to their former teacher. Although Claire worked at Highland Christian for only two years before getting married and moving to Carmel, her time at HCS was marked by listening to the deep concerns of students, praying for students, and integrating her faith into being a 'trusted adult' and expression of Christ for so many kids dealing with various challenges. We are blessed to have a team of countless staff and students daily striving to exemplify the love of Jesus in every part of their lives.



This year, Highland Christian continues to have many exciting advances and achievements to celebrate. Some of these include:

- Record enrollment of 465 K-8 students and 92 Pre-K students (up 32% from 2019)
- Successful CSI Accreditation
- New positions to support students (Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Counseling - every day, Reading Specialist, Dean of Students, Assistant Principal)
- Smaller Class Sizes by adding third sections in Kindergarten - 5th Grade
- Improved Academic Outcomes on School Goals
- A beautiful 18,000 SqFt addition coming to Highland Christian (August 2023)

While Highland Christian has so much to celebrate, we would not trade any of these accomplishments for the moments where students connect with peers or teachers like 'Ms. B' to **SEE** the Father's Creation, **SENSE** order in a world saved by Christ, and **SERVE** God through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

With over 100 years of history, 3,000+ graduates, 100+ of partner churches, and thousands of donors supporting our mission and vision, Highland Christian is incredibly blessed. While Highland Christian is growing, our goal is not to be the biggest school, but the best school for the families and students God has called us to serve.

**To achieve this dream, we welcome you to join us as we enter an unprecedented time in our school's history. With a building project costing 5x the cost of any project the school has ever undertaken, we continue to appreciate your prayers, financial support, and encouragement. Our comfort continues to be that this grand vision is completely aligned with the good work God has called us to do.**

1 Peter 4:11, "Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."



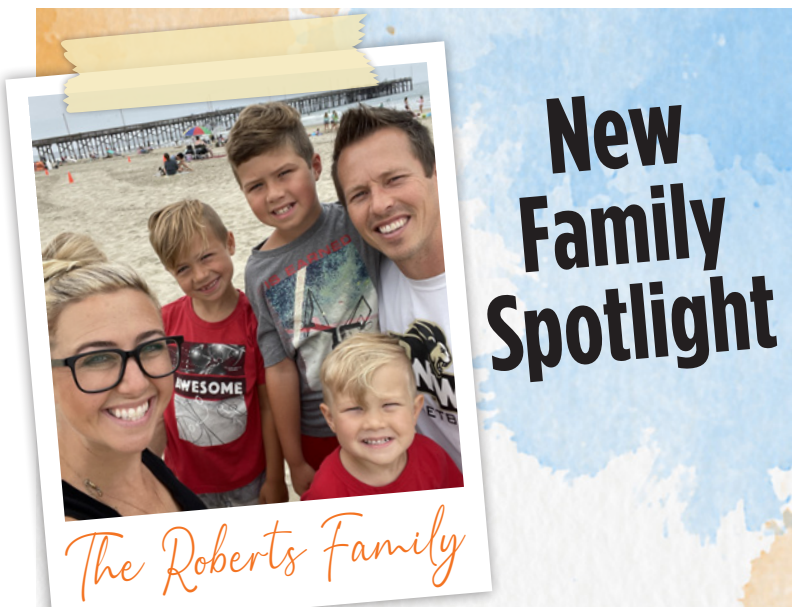
## Blessing on the Groundbreaking

By Miss Jodi Lineburg, Development Director

Groundbreaking ceremonies are traditionally hosted to celebrate the start of major construction projects. On Friday, October 28th, Highland Christian hosted a special "Blessing on the Groundbreaking" Chapel to not only celebrate the start of construction but to pause and thank God for His faithfulness to us.

Scripture was read aloud, worship was offered in song, and testimonies were shared. Students enjoyed hearing from their contemporary, Jaydon "JC" Colar, Class of 2022, and his father Mr. Lloyd Colar. We enjoyed hearing from our beloved teacher, Mrs. Shirleen Brown, who shared what Highland Christian School's community has meant to her over the years- as a parent of alum, long time faculty member, grandmother of current students, and fellow sister in Christ. It was particularly special to hear how Highland Christian School shaped learning and life values for Mr. Frank Van Til, Class of 1961, as told from his grandsons', Jiraiya and Tyler's point of view. Finally, we were challenged by Mr. Huizenga's testimony. This first of five generations to come through Highland Christian School, he shared a testimony of his father's commitment to the school and obedience to God when he sold his only horse in order to keep his promise to give \$75 to the School's building fund.

Chapel concluded on the worksite outside as students, faculty, parents, grandparents, and friends prayed together for the work that was yet to be done, for the workers who will do it and the students who will benefit as a result. Beautiful was the sound as young and old sang "God is So Good". As we continue to record God's good works for future generations, may our faith be reinforced and our aspirations be anchored once more in the truth that all that we have comes from Him and may all our pursuits bring Him glory.



### New Family Spotlight

The Roberts Family

Being new is never easy, but everyone we've had the pleasure to cross paths with at Highland Christian has made our kindergarten and third grader's transition an enjoyable one. I knew when they jumped into the car after the first week of school and asked, "mom, can we come back to this school again next year," we were off to a good start. Being the active boys they are, having a structured P.E. class as well as options at recess such as gaga ball and soccer to enrich their day really goes a long way. As parents, we appreciate the staff and teachers who actively communicate with us regarding our students' spiritual, emotional and academic growth. Thank you, Highland Christian, for caring for our boys so well.



# BE A BLESSING

By Mrs. Vicki Huizenga

Our school theme for the 2022-23 school year, **Be A Blessing**, was gifted to us by last year's 8th graders. Members of Spiritual Life examined different passages of Scripture in an effort to select a theme for 2022-23. Last year's theme, **Just LIVE it!** came from James 1:22, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." These 8th graders decided that it was necessary to learn practical ways to **Just LIVE it!** Jesus' words in Matthew 5:3-12 gave us the practical lessons we needed to live as Christ-followers.

This year's theme, **Be A Blessing**, was introduced at Convocation with the acrostic of **BE A Blessing**. In order to **Be A Blessing**, God calls us to **Belong** to Him. He chooses us, like he did Abram in the Old Testament, to be His children. Since He chose us, as His own, He also **Equips** us to bless others. Daily, students are equipped at HCS to be a blessing to their classmates and teachers. Care for others is modeled and taught. Prayers are offered for classmates and families and God's world in homerooms. Caring relationships are built in the classrooms, on the playground and through team-building activities.

Since we **Belong to God** and while we are being **Equipped by God and others**, God commands us to **Act**. We need to practice what He equips us to do. That is what we are exploring monthly as we work our way through Matthew 5:3-12.

In September we examined Matthew 5:3, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." The fourth graders reminded us to be people that recognize our need for a Savior because we can't save or rescue ourselves. After the chapel, students were given the opportunity in their classrooms to reflect with journaling activities and questions like: .....

Read John 3:16 and insert your name in place of **THE WORLD**, what helps you believe that God loves you? List some ways God shows His love to you.

At the end of September, pastors taught us about Matthew 5:4, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." The pastors reminded us that we should celebrate the opportunities to encourage, comfort, and care for each other. Gifts of a coffee from Dunkin' Donuts or words of encouragement or an arm around a shoulder are practical ways to show God's love to others. We equipped students to **Be a Blessing** by giving them the opportunity to provide Christian books for a family that blesses their community with God's love at a Harvest Festival at the end of October.

Throughout the year, we will continue to learn to **BE A BLESSING** as we study God's words in Matthew 5:3-12:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for 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.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and  
falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice  
and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the  
same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

# Grandparents' Day 2022

By Mrs. Laurel Reynhout



We had a wonderful time at Grandparents' Day. Being able to see so many familiar faces, watching the program and spending the day with our grandson, Jensen, was so special.

Attending Grandparents' Day allowed us to reflect on our time as parents of four HCS graduates and we were so happy with our experience. At the time we sacrificed a lot in order to send our kids and saw God's faithfulness, not only financially, but providing lifetime friendships and a solid spiritual foundation for each of our children. To now experience being a grandparent of a student attending HCS and seeing the joy and excitement he has for school gives us a feeling of pride and legacy. The 2008 building expansion was when Todd served on HCS school board and it's exciting to see another addition project in progress.

To see God's continued faithfulness at Highland Christian School is such a blessing. The growth of the student body, the support of other grandparents, many with whom we shared the experience of being parents to students at the same time, and the representation of so many churches is a testament to the vision and mission of the school. We are so proud to be part of this community.

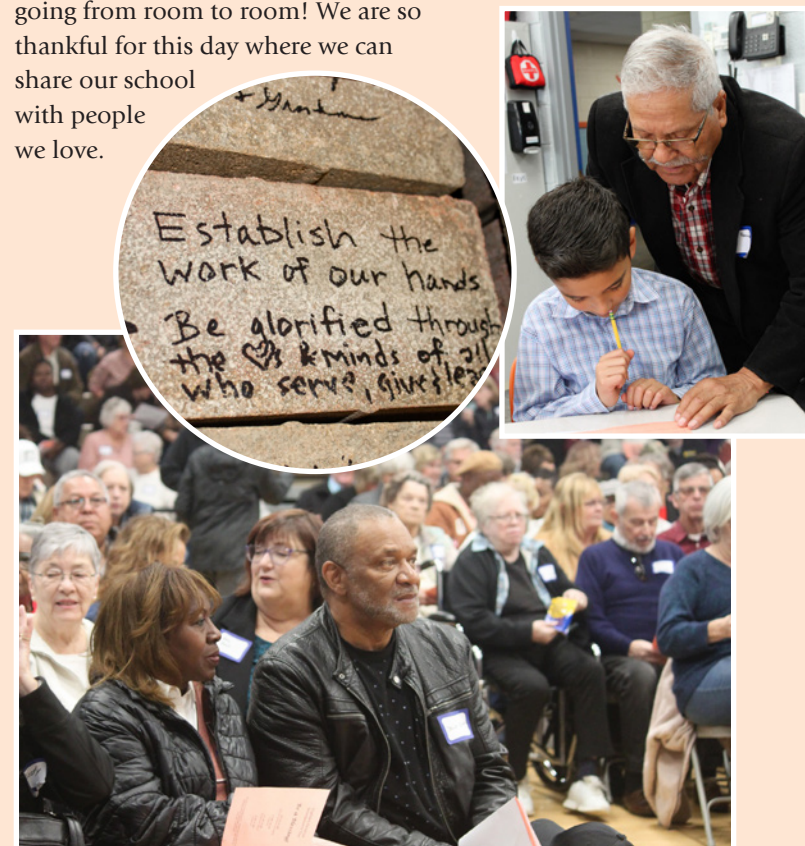
-Todd & Michele Heldt

The theme for Grandparents' Day 2022 was **Be a Blessing**, based on our theme verses for the year, Matthew 5:3-12. At Highland Christian School, our vision is for students to be academically equipped, biblically grounded, and spiritually nurtured to impact their world for Christ. In order to reach that vision, students need to understand the world they live in and how they can Be a Blessing to the people around them.

October 14 was a beautiful day. Grandparents arrived early and were able to get a small treat and head to the gym for the program. The program began with corporate worship and then a student program, *Be a Blessing*, led by music teacher Mr. Mark Rinkenberger. **The children presented songs and ideas of how to be a blessing and how our grandparents are a blessing to us.** The kindergarten through second grade sang together and the third through fifth grade sang and had a short play. The Junior High Choir sang and there was a short junior high video presentation.

Grandparents also had an opportunity to bless the students and the new addition being built. Highland Christian has a Prayer Plaza with brick pavers in it. Grandparents were able to write scripture or a word of encouragement on the bottom of a brick. Those bricks will then be placed in the Prayer Garden.

Following the program, grandparents visited classrooms, saw special projects the students had done, met teachers, and experienced the school. Many grandparents had more than one student to visit and kept busy going from room to room! We are so thankful for this day where we can share our school with people we love.





# Sunshine Enrichment Center

By Mrs. Karen van Belle

Preschool has a lot to celebrate these days! We've been blessed in so many ways, and are excited to share a few of them.

An unexpected surprise awaited us at the start of school – a volunteer tomato plant grew on our playground! We decided to keep it there and have harvested quite a few cherry tomatoes. The students love checking if any tomatoes have ripened! We also got to watch some bees pollinating the plant. It's almost done now, but we've had a great time observing it and learning a little extra about plants and insects!

Our biggest celebration is our brand new playground! We love playing on the slides, climbing through the tunnel, and hanging out on the rope climber. It's been great! We still hope to add a few pieces, but in the meantime, we're enjoying the new equipment.

After two years, we were able to return to the apple orchard. This is one of our favorite field trips! This year the weather was perfect, the apples were ready to pick, and the bees were working hard to make honey and pollinate the apples. We enjoyed our day there with many chaperones, and each of us took a bag of freshly picked apples home with us.



We also want to celebrate the progress we see in our students. When we start each year, there are so many differing abilities. Little by little, we start to see growth. The child who had difficulty holding their scissors is now cutting confidently. The child who was afraid to enter the building each day now comes in with a smile. It's not always easy to see, but progress is being made, and we are thankful that God has brought each of these students to our classrooms!



# My PLC Journey Begins

By Mrs. Nancy Oostman

This past summer a large number of teachers, including many from Highland Christian, attended a conference in Lincolnshire, Illinois at Adlai E. Stevenson High School. We went with a shared goal, to continue, or for some of us, start our PLC journey. Although I am an experienced teacher, I'm in my first year at Highland Christian School and new to the PLC Framework. If you're like me, you might be wondering what PLC is all about.

As I walked the halls of Stevenson and prepared for the conference to begin, there was a lot to take in from the high school itself. From the large auditorium to the well-equipped classrooms, huge gymnasium with brand new college grade weight room, immaculate football field, very talented and very large band (we got to listen to during our breaks), and walls of academic awards, Stevenson was a very impressive high school in deed. Many of us commented that it looked more like a community college than a high school. **However, as the conference began we learned it wasn't always that way. Stevenson had an extremely difficult start. In fact at one point in its history it was the high school no one wanted to attend. Parents moved so their children wouldn't have to attend.** Now it was the opposite - people moved IN to attend. It is ranked one of the top high schools

in America by U.S. News and World Report and Newsweek Magazine. It has also been named a National School of Distinction in Arts Education by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. So what changed? Many things for sure, but one of the biggest changes was PLC.

What does PLC look like at Highland Christian? Well, I'm a bit of a newbie at this, but I'll share some things I've learned and have seen so far. At Highland Christian, teachers meet weekly to review the four questions. We look at student work and ask "what worked well, what didn't work, what can we change?" We look ahead to plan and use common assessments so the educational experience is consistent in each grade level. We take data from those assessments to plan out our next move, which students need extra support, which student need learning to be extended, and what that will look like. I've learned that we have an incredible amount of resourceful people to turn to for assistance. I've learned it's an ongoing process where we, as educators continue to learn how to best serve our students so they can continue to reach their fullest potential. Finally I have learned that I have lot more to learn about PLC, but I am grateful for the training, and am excited to continue the journey.

## PLC Update All Teacher Trip to Lincolnshire

By Mr. Kyle Weener, Principal



A hallmark of an excellent organization is one that is committed to continuous improvement. As we are deeply aligned to Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), Highland Christian sent 36 teachers and administrators to Lincolnshire, IL to learn how we can best work together to see students achieve at high levels. Because we are a nationally-acclaimed **Model PLC School**, it is imperative that all of our teams are equipped with the tools to successfully accomplish instructional and spiritual goals.

After taking off from school at 5:45am on August 1, the staff spent two days building relationships, learning about maximizing student outcomes, and eating a fabulous meal at the Cheesecake Factory. Funded completely through Title I resources, we are thankful for the ways our team is better equipped to support all students, make data-informed decisions, and promote high levels of learning for all students. While the conference has since passed, God's good work is still underway!



# A Day in the Life of the Dean

By Mr. Bryon Ritzema, Dean of Students



**Proverbs 19:21** *“Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.”*

Have you ever known someone who seems to know everything? Or at least thinks they know everything? Or, do you think that **you** know everything or know what’s best for you? I know there have been many times that I have. One of the most recent times where I thought this, was this past school year.

As you may or may not know I was at Calvary Academy in South Holland for 23 years as the PE teacher, coach, and about half that time as Athletic Director. I loved athletics and I loved kids. I didn’t have any plans to go somewhere else but one thing I did know....if I did go somewhere else I knew it wouldn’t be to a school within our athletic conference or close to my church, Faith Highland.



It wasn’t until the end of last school year where God laid this verse on my heart for what he had for my future. I *thought* I knew what was best for me OR actually, what was NOT best for me. And now, here I am, almost 2 months into God’s new calling on my life as the Dean of Students at HCS! As weird as it sounds to me still, I am a Husky! And why is that? Not because of what I thought was best, but trusting that God’s purpose for my life is way better than anything I thought was best for me.

Each day for me at HCS as the Dean of Students is different, exciting, and rewarding! I love coming to work! Some of the things that I get to do are help Mr. Krooswyk with intramurals, meet kids at recess, sit in classrooms for lunch to get to know students, make phone calls and communicate with families regarding God’s best for their son or daughter, pray with students and families, teach a class to 13 amazing young men called IMPACT, support and work with a tremendous staff, and build relationships with the kids and families at Highland Christian.

My encouragement to the HCS community is to trust your Creator with each day and even if things don’t work out the way **you** thought was best, know that they worked out exactly how God had planned! Trust in that!

## QUEST

By Mrs. Pat Scheeringa,  
QUEST Teacher

QUEST, our program for high-achieving students, is entering its second year. This year there are thirty-three students who meet in small groups to read Greek myths, construct lunar landing models, and debate if the Big Bad Wolf is entitled to compensation from the Three Little Pigs. Students delve into novels and write their own mysteries. Students in third through eighth grade explore, analyze, and construct. We are so grateful to be able to offer this program at HCS and look forward to the many other opportunities that will open up with our new space in the addition.



# Christian Schools International Site Visit Results in Re-Accreditation and a New School Improvement Plan

By Mr. Kyle Weener and Mrs. Andrea Harvey

From September 12-14, Highland Christian was blessed to welcome six remarkable Christian educators, from across the Midwest, to serve on Highland Christian’s Accreditation Site Team. Over this three day visit, the Site Team gathered feedback from teachers, met with parent and student focus groups, observed classrooms, reviewed HCS documentation, and broke down the survey results from Rick Newberry’s parent survey from last February. Additionally, they reviewed our Self-Study documentation and our proposed new School Improvement Plan.

In preparation for their visit, our own School Improvement Team spent numerous hours last year preparing for the visit by meeting to collect and review documentation and evidence to write both the Self-Study and a new School Improvement Plan. Many thanks to the Highland Christian School Improvement Team composed of Kyle Weener, Andrea Harvey, Shirleen Brown, Sara Jabaay, Vicki Huizenga, Deanne Van Rosendale, Julie Sitter, and Jill Feikema. Their summative work was a wonderful showcase of how Highland Christian has been operating and working for the past five years.

At the end of their review, the Site Team shared with resounding support that Highland Christian was approved for re-accreditation under Christian Schools International through the 2026-2027 school year. Furthermore, the team affirmed the implementation of our new five year School Improvement Plan. Praise God from whom all blessings flow; we are so grateful and overjoyed to be able to continue serving the students and families of Highland Christian!

**HCS’s new School Improvement Plan contains five major areas for development and improvement.**

**The five areas include:**

- 1. High Levels of Learning**
  - Instructional Practices
  - Curriculum Alignment
  - Data Analysis
  - Professional Development
- 2. Biblical Integration**
  - Faith Integration into Curriculum
  - Bible Curriculum Development
  - Teachers’ Faith Integration and Training
- 3. Climate and Community**
  - Development Office Initiatives
  - Communication
  - Climate
  - Service
- 4. Facilities and Staffing**
  - Staffing
  - Hiring Practices
  - Facilities
- 5. Strategically-Focused Board Development and Management**
  - Policies and Procedures
  - Long-Term Vision Goals
  - Long-Term Financial Goals



**HCS School Improvement Team with the CSI Site Visit Team**

**While this is a broad overview of Highland Christian’s new School Improvement Plan, we would encourage constituents to view our full plan at Highland Christian’s website - found in the ‘About’ tab.**



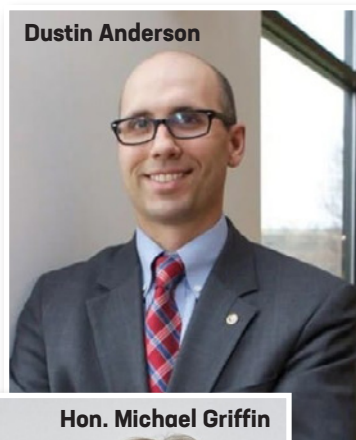
# REPRESENTATIVES VISITS

By Mrs. Joyce Groen

One of my goals in Social Studies has been to introduce students to real life people who love serving our communities and our country. Before COVID-19 changed our lives in very real ways, I had decided to invite elected officials to Highland Christian to see the way our school impacted students' lives and also to encourage students to actively participate in the responsibilities needed to serve our towns, counties, state and country. Senator Todd Young was our first visitor via Facetime in 2019. After a two year respite from any visiting, we began to contact the people who represent us in Highland and surrounding communities, county officials, state representatives and then those who we elected to national offices.

Our first visitor was Dustin Anderson, the town manager of Munster. He explained how he became interested in city planning after being raised in a place that wasn't a great place to grow up. He also spoke about cooperating with state and local governments to achieve plans that help all citizens. Part of our conversation was about the impact of the new extension of the South Shore line through Munster. We were surprised to learn that streets were not being fixed because so much infrastructure will need to be replaced because of the train going through to Chicago. He also told our students that much more was done at the town level for most citizens even though we are sometimes more focused on the national level of politics. He encouraged all students to be involved in the planning processes in the towns that they lived in.

Our second visitor to HCS was the Hon. Michael Griffin, a senator who represents Highland in our state government. He is up for reelection this November and spoke to students about how God calls us to be part of our government. He quoted scripture in addressing the students about how elected officials should be servants of the people. He explained how our Indiana government is a bit different than our national government as he is elected for four years. He had worked for previous representatives as an aide and worked for the Town of Highland for more than 30 years before he felt called to serve as a state senator. He especially pointed out how the Indiana state government differed from other states and from our national government in many ways. He stressed that both our Indiana Constitution and our national Constitution are so very important and must be upheld. He also spoke to students about how many senators are friends despite being from different parties



Dustin Anderson



Hon. Michael Griffin

in ideology. He brought information to students about how to become active in state government and possibly serve as aides to the representatives in our state government.

We hope to invite more people to our class as the year progresses. Please feel free to join us in our classroom as we learn more about our government and its different levels that affect us. There are many responsibilities in a democracy and our students at HCS are learning how to become involved citizens.

# Team Building at Camp Manitouqua

By Mrs. Vicki Huizenga

This fall, the 6th graders participated in a team-building experience at Camp Manitouqua. The outdoor course program was a very effective way for our 6th graders to look deeper at team dynamics (*communication, listening, cooperation, etc.*). As they worked towards their goal, the focus was on the process of completing the skill and not on the end result. Student engagement was high during the team-building activities. Cody, Melina, and CJ reflected, "Teamwork was necessary to complete ALL of the games. The **Marble Run** was difficult and frustrating; we needed each other to finish this challenge." Students were proud of the accomplishments of their team. Abby expressed, "I learned that communication was essential to get to our goal of completing the challenge. When things are tough, people often yell in order to be heard. Yelling doesn't help. Listening to each other is more important."

The 6th graders had fun while learning important team dynamics that will be utilized in the classroom. Students also learned to use different skills. Balance and rhythm, pacing and timing were necessary to complete the **Whale Watch** and **Jump Rope** challenges. For some of the 6th grade athletes, these were humbling challenges. The concept was easy, but students' skills were tested. DJ commented, "It was difficult to get the rhythm you needed for **Jump Rope** and you had to pay close attention to each other in **Whale Watch**."

Several students learned something new about themselves. Ivy learned, "It pays to be small when completing **Spider Web**. I could crawl underneath and thread the rope through the web." For most, the highlight of the day was the rock wall and zip-lining activity. Students learned to trust and rely on their classmates who assisted them in climbing the wall by belaying the ropes. After belaying for several classmates, Chloe noted, "Everything about the **Rock Wall** was hard work." Those who conquered the wall were faced with stepping off the edge in order to zip-line across the field. Many students stood for a time at the edge of the rock wall to conquer their fears. Danica reflected, "It was hard to take that first step off the wall, BUT the ride down was amazing." This team-building experience proved again to be a fun, enjoyable way to build community and teamwork within the 6th grade.



## Writing Is a Family Affair

By Mrs. Pam Scheeringa

Peter DeYoung, a 2022 graduate, is the third member of his family to have written and published a book while a student at HCS. Peter worked for two years in Creative Writing class, to craft his delightful novel, *The Greatest Stunt*. The reader follows the exploits of 6th grader, Alex, who wants to make his mark in Middle School by pulling off a huge stunt that will impress everyone. You will be rooting for this likable underdog as he must thwart both the 8th grade bullies and the teacher who is determined to get him expelled. Check it out on Amazon!



## Cross Country

By Mrs. Ashley Kruthof

We had a great season of Cross Country this year! We had a total of 20 students run. This season was full of a lot of determination, growth, and fun! We had a total of three meets, and the team improved greatly throughout the season. We ended the season with a meet at Ilianna where the boys took 2nd place and the girls took 4th. I am very grateful for the team members and all of their effort put in this year!



# 8th Girls' Volleyball

By Coach Leanne Otto

The 8th grade girls' volleyball team had a good season and worked hard in each game. The girls had exciting wins at Oak Lawn and Tinley Park. The season ended after a close three game loss to Crown Point in the league tournament. The girls worked hard at practice and are well prepared for high school. Leianne Otto was the team coach and she did an excellent job leading the girls to a successful season. The team included Mallory Otto, Claire Aardsma, Natalie Bantsolas, Piper Constantino, Angel Cubelo, Vivienne Tebben, and Edyn Ooms.



# 7th Girls' Volleyball

By Coach Leanne Otto

The 7th grade girls' volleyball team had a fun season with many wins. The girls worked hard and finished the Round-Robin Tournament well by winning four out of six. The team was fun to watch as they battled in each game and had success. We look forward to the girls continuing to work hard and prepare for the 8th grade season. The team included Liv Scheeringa, Wren Weinberg, Addie Buikema, Tatum Boles, Jaya Okrasinski, Mikayla Colar, Abrielle Brown, Jordyn McGuire, Ava Hoogstra, Kinley VanderPol, and Jasmyn Spraggins.

# A Soccer

By Mr. Neil Krooswyk

The A soccer team had a fantastic season. They earned the #1 seed for the league tournament and a first round bye. They beat Calvin in the semi-finals and then faced Crown Point Christian in the championship game. The season ended with a 2-0 championship win! Micah Wieringa was spectacular in goal, making many saves, and goals were scored by Justin Jackson and Ari Smit. The team was impressive in their passing and displayed great teamwork. They represented HCS well and all of their efforts are appreciated. The team was coached by Josh Blocker and included Kade Blocker, Nathan Sherwood, Daniel Julian, Evelyn Julian, Addy Mills, Justin Jackson, Zinabu Bosman, Jared Antunez, James Dillon, Elliot Molenaar, Gabel Zoeteman, Sebastian Chavez, Cameron Katz, Ari Smit, Levi VanderWoude, and Micah Wieringa.



# B Soccer

By Mr. Neil Krooswyk

The B soccer team had a fun and exciting season. The team showed great improvement and did well in the tournament by beating Calvin and playing a close game against Crown Point. They worked hard each day and will be well prepared for next season. The team included Manny Avila, Chris Howell, Grant Sitter, Xochitl Garcia, Brelynn Blauw, Nelson Contreras, Adelia Eriks, Ian Hadley, Madigan Poortinga, Tyler Hutton, Nathanael Koutz, Josh Neibert, Caleb Porter, Jayden Thompson, Bellany Vazquez, and Jonah Van Ek.

# Fundraising Update

By Ms. Jodi Lineburg,  
Development  
Director

## Unbelievably Blessed!

It is a tremendous privilege to participate in the stewardship and care of Highland Christian. Every year, unsung heroes lead, give, and work to see our Christian School strong. God is at work, and we are grateful!

### School Improvement Appeal | Expansion 2023

In the few short months since our fundraising work began, we have received over \$1 million in pledges and gifts towards the 2.5 million needed in private donations for the Expansion project! We are SO THANKFUL to be surrounded and supported by such a generous community! While the output of this project is physical – 11 classrooms, a substantial student commons area, offices, restrooms, etc. the desired outcomes will be eternal as kids internalize the truth of the gospel, grow in their individual relationship with Christ, and ultimately profess faith in Him. Thank you for equipping us to do the work of education well.

### SGO Scholarships

Highland Christian School is pleased to report that this year's SGO Scholarships will be funded internally. While we appreciate the many donors who typically give in support of this need, we are in a season of prosperity and have surplus funding as a result of the Employee Retention Credit Act. A portion of HCS's ERC refund has been allocated for the estimated 35 SGO scholarships that are needed this year.

### P.T.O.

Thanks for supporting our P.T.O. These parent volunteers invest a great deal of energy and work to ensure that our parent/teacher/student relationships are strong. Here are some photo highlights of their work this year!



**Give Today, Impact Kids for Life!**  
Do you wish to support HCS? You can give your gift online, at [www.highlandchristian.org/give](http://www.highlandchristian.org/give)  
All gifts received through the School Improvement Appeal this year will be applied to principal only.



# HCS Foundation Update

By Tim Spoelman, HCS Foundation Board Member



The HCS Foundation was created over 35 years ago with the purpose of promoting the long-term viability of Highland Christian School by growing the assets of the Foundation and administering the funds for the exclusive use and benefit of the school. Each year the Foundation provides a financial gift back to the school based on the principal balance of the fund. As the fund grows, the amount of the gift grows, which is why we continue to ask for your support and donations. As HCS has seen, and expects to continue to see increased enrollment, the Foundation must also keep growing in order to maintain the same level of support we have been able to give in the past. Although the performance of the financial markets has hurt us over the last 18 months, we remain determined to grow the principal balance of the fund to \$10 million. At that level we will be able to provide the school an annual gift of \$400,000.00, which will offset various costs and thereby reduce tuition expense significantly. The key to reaching that benchmark will be the continued support of our constituents and faithful donors, as well as obtaining interest and new support from the next generation of parents and families that send children and grandchildren to HCS.

One of the primary ways the Foundation has grown over time is the financial support we receive from etc...Thrift Store. Each year, the excess income generated by the store is gifted to the Foundation. Last year alone we were gifted \$200,000 from the store. In fact, they have gifted the Foundation \$1.8 million since the store's inception. We thank all the staff, volunteers, and shoppers that help make that store a success. What a blessing!

## Tribute Gifts

Highland Christian School is honored to have received gifts in memory of these beloved individuals. While they are now present with the Lord, their legacies continue through the ministry and outreach of the Highland Christian School Foundation, The Joe Jonkman Family Legacy Fund and Highland Christian School's Tuition Assistance Program.

Mrs. Mae Boender  
 Mr. Wesley Feikema  
 Mrs. Carol Holderman  
 Mr. Louis Holderman  
 Mrs. Betty Huitsing  
 Mr. Hank Jonkman  
 Mr. James Allen Koopman  
 Mr. Robert "Curly" Laning  
 Mr. E. Ken Leep  
 Mr. Warren Meter  
 Mr. Bernard Stammis  
 Mr. Arie Swets  
 Mrs. Dianne Van Prooyen

## Highlights from this past year:

- Despite the markets decreasing by roughly 9% over the course of the year, the Foundation's principal balance fell a modest 1.6%, decreasing from \$4.52 million to \$4.45 million. We received very strong support from our donor base which helped offset the market losses.
- We worked with the School Board to create a new system for disbursing the Foundation Gift to families who could use some financial support. The goal was to find an effective way to provide an appropriate gift to the families who could use it most. We are determined to do what we can to make a Christian education as affordable as possible for our families, and encourage all families that could use a little help to continue to ask for the support in the future.
- We also partnered with the School Board to start funding a separate contingency fund that will provide financial support in the event the Choice Scholarship Program were to ever go away or be altered in such a way as we could no longer participate. Over \$100,000 of our annual gift went towards the Contingency Fund in 2022. We feel it is essential to plan for the unknown and want to ensure the school will be viable with, or without, the Choice Scholarship Program.
- We once again hosted a very well-attended golf outing. This event is a highlight of the year for our team and has become a must attend event for many of our friends and families. Thanks to a great group of golfers, donors, and dinner attendees, we were able to raise over \$21,000 this year. Thank you to all you came out and supported this event. We will see you again next year!

On behalf of the entire Foundation Board, I want to thank you all for your faithful giving and support over the years. To all who have served on the Foundation previously – we are grateful for your vision and dedication to Christian education. May God continue to bless HCS and the Foundation.

# alumni INfOCUS

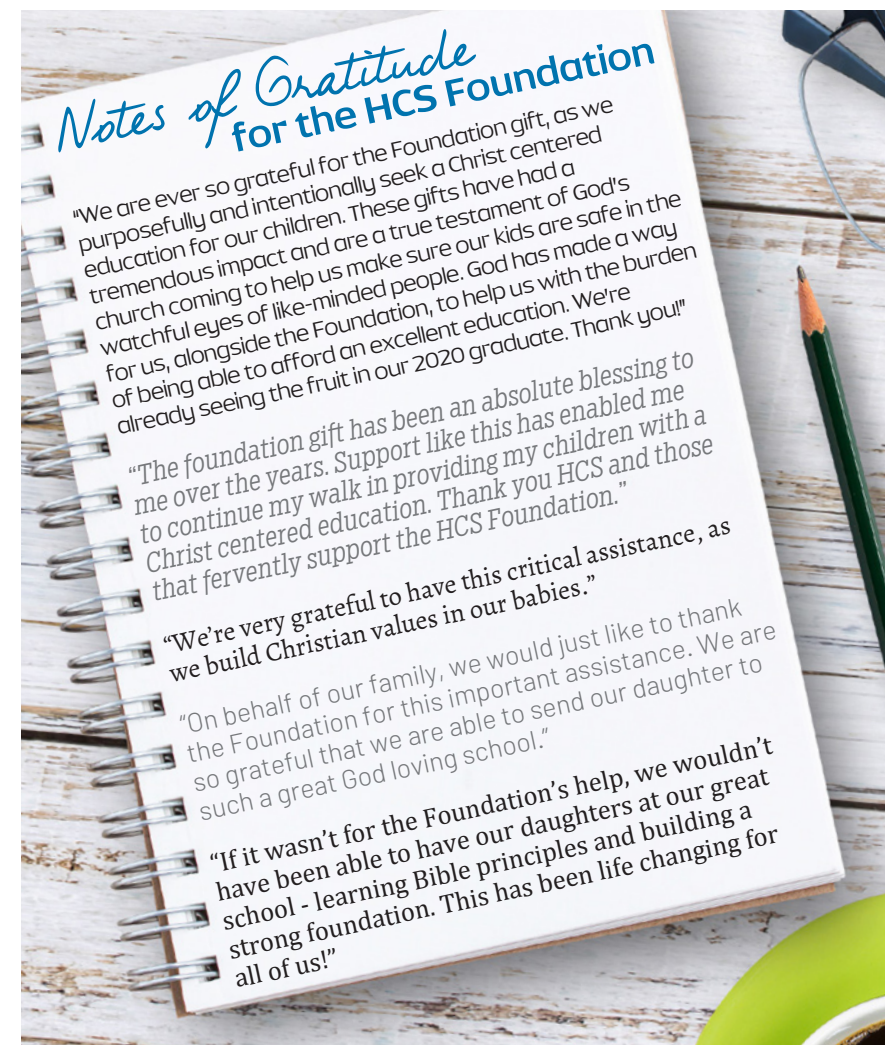
## Lisa (Gossman) Lohmann Class of 1982

We're always excited to hear where God has led our alumni! Recently, we had the chance to re-connect with Lisa Lohman (nee Gossman).

**What are you doing today?** I am a teacher. I've been teaching in a Christian elementary school for 31 years, first in Massachusetts and now in Denver, CO. Like my mom (Marilyn Gossman, who taught at HCS 16 years), teaching is my passion and calling. I especially love teaching Bible classes.

In my goal to understand what is between the lines of scripture historically, culturally, socially, and linguistically, I attended seminary and studied in Israel. I now aim to make the Bible come alive and make it relevant and understandable for my students in my own classroom and in other schools via Bible teaching materials that are available online.

**Family Update** My husband and I married ten years ago. We enjoy traveling and hiking all over Colorado, reading, watching movies, serving in our church, and visiting friends and family.



## HCS FOUNDATION GOLF OUTING

By Dave Sherwood,  
 HCS Foundation Board Member

This year the Highland Christian Golf outing was filled with some amazing memories from great Christian golfers and volunteers. The Foundation is so thankful for all the work that goes into putting on such an awesome event. We are truly blessed!

This year's event was riddled by some conditions that weren't the best for golfing. Taking a break from the rainy conditions allowed us time to enjoy some fellowship and to catch up with our fellow Huskies and supporters, once again showing God's grace when times are not as we plan!

Thanks again for coming out and sticking through the rain delay. This year's outing was the most successful one to date as we raised more than \$20k from your generous support. We look forward to seeing you next year!





## Pastor Appreciation Chapel 2022

By Ms. Jodi Lineburg, Development Director

It's one of our favorite days of the year! Pastor Chapel 2022 was a delightful time of worship, learning, connection, and prayer with lifetime dividends for all. On average, each year, Highland Christian School partners with 100 local, Protestant Christian churches. These churches are represented through student enrollment and serve as the "third leg" of our Covenant Christian education "stool." We were very excited to have 75+ pastors, children's ministry leaders, and other spiritual leaders gather participate with us this year. This is a truly a highlight event for our staff and students as well as these church leaders!

Special thanks to Student Leadership, under the guidance of our Junior High Bible teacher, Mrs. Huizenga for planning our chapel topic, to **Pastor Nick Alons**, Lynwood URC, **Pastor Jim Hollendonner**, Munster Church, **Pastor Leroy Childress (PC)**, Faith Highland, and **Pastor Jeremias Alicea**, Laurel Church for providing devotions and input through our Pastor Panel. Finally, thanks to our wonderful P.T.O. for the hospitality and breakfast they provided for our guests.

## Upcoming Events

December 18 – January 1	Christmas Vacation
January 2	School Resumes
January 9	Kdg. & SEC Open House 6:30-8:00 p.m.
January 16	Martin Luther King Day NO SCHOOL
January 20	PTO Family Fun Event
January 28	ISSMA-Instrumental
February 1	Late Start-10:00 a.m.
February 3	Preview HCS 1:30-3:00 p.m.
February 4	ISSMA-Vocal, Piano
February 16	Skating Party 6:30-9:30 p.m.
February 17	In-Service NO SCHOOL
February 20	Winter Break NO SCHOOL
February 27-March 3	D.E.A.R. Week and Book Fair
March 1	Late Start-10:00 a.m.
March 3	Preview HCS 1:30-3:00 p.m.
March 8	Kindergarten Screening
March 10	End of 3rd Qtr.
March 16	K-5 Spring Program – 6:30 p.m.
March 27-April 2	Spring Vacation - No School
April 3	School Resumes
April 5	Late Start-10:00 a.m.
April 7	Good Friday – No School
April 15	Live Auction
April 25,26	Young Authors Reception & Festival
May 1	HCS Society Meeting 7:00 p.m.
May 1-5	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 2	Grand Finale Art/Music 6:30 p.m. Beginning Band, Junior High Band & Choir
May 3	Late Start 10:00 a.m.
May 5	IMPACT Day
May 11,12	Junior High Musical – 7:00 p.m.
May 16-20	8th Grade Trip
May 17	PTO Muffins for Misses
May 22,23	SEC Last Days
May 23	SEC Graduation for Kdg.-Bound Students
May 24	SEC Picnic 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
May 24	8th Grade Graduation 7:00 p.m.
May 26	Kdg.-7th Last Day 1:45 Dismissal

# Tie a knot.

## The importance of individual involvement in community

By Mrs. Serita Jackson, HCS Foundation Board Member and Parent

**Ecclesiastes 4:9, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:"**

**Ecclesiastes 4:12, "A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."**

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore, get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7). Solomon's wisdom is worth considering as we reflect on the importance of individual involvement in communities like HCS. Solomon's wisdom was so highly valued that even the Queen of Sheba visited Solomon to hear his wisdom. In modern times, this would be equivalent to gathering to hear a keynote speaker or attending a convocation address or tuning in to a popular podcast featuring daily insights for living.

**Developing people is not a single-handed feat, it takes a community of parents, staff, churches, and even architects who don't simply design a building, but design spaces for young people to flourish in an environment where their talents are unleashed and their skills are honed to become all that God calls them to become.**

Community at HCS is witnessed in the camaraderie of parents evolving from merely volunteering for field trips to gathering at homes where classmates have bonded like true siblings. Community is when coaches give of their time not simply to build championship teams but foster a team culture where the character of players is prized above domination of the competition and everyone is valued. Community is the faithful service of Board members who are dedicated to sustaining Christian education for anyone who's values are commensurate with the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Solomon's wisdom, that a 3-fold cord is not easily broken, remains applicable today as a hallmark for sustainable communities. HCS's 3-fold cord of home, church, and school are strands that remain pivotal to building community through efforts that harness the faithful service of Board members, the unwavering commitment of teachers, the camaraderie of families, and where the legacy of developing others is tied like a knot when each individual works together in community as serving the Lord. **Tie your knot today by becoming a parent volunteer, connect with other HCS families, offer your expertise, or give of your time and treasure as we enact Solomon's wisdom and build upon the legacy of community.**



Justin Jackson  
Class of 2023



Brett & Serita  
Jackson



## etc...A Community Endeavor

By Mrs. Beth Mills

etc...a Thrift Store not only supports Highland Christian School financially, it is a vital part of the Husky community. Each year etc supports grade level sort nights. These nights let parents know about all the buying opportunities available at the store and provide fellowship between the parents, teachers and staff at the store. It is great to see all these people working to support the school!

etc also nurtures independence in HCS alumni by providing employment to many Illiana Christian High School students. Students develop working skills that will support them in their future endeavors. This community relationship also allows many Illiana and Lake Central High School students to fulfill their required service hours. etc provides many of the drama and chapel props, unique items that cannot be found elsewhere.

etc has become a blessing to the Husky community in so many ways: years of working together to build relationships, providing unique items and opportunities for many levels of service that give the students and families support for their education.





# Expansion 2023 | UPDATE



By Mr. Kyle Weener, Principal

With faces plastered against the preschool fence, the three and four year olds watched in awe as excavators and concrete trucks rolled by. The enthusiastic screams and shouts of pure joy reverberating from our youngest learners wonderfully express the sentiment of excitement our community has collectively shared! With all of the moving pieces, we have been truly blessed.

As we have partnered with Lagestee-Mulder and our architect, Les Dreischerf, significant progress has been made towards our Grand Opening in August 2023! Since June, a number of projects have already been completed to help accommodate the 32% increase in enrollment since 2019 and the additional student services that have been added. Some of these projects include: creating an additional learning space in the library, converting the technology lab into a classroom and two offices, erecting a new storage barn, moving the playground, repositioning utilities in preparation for the new addition, and much more. Additionally, as the Building Expansion Team further evaluated space needs, it was recommended to the Board that two additional classrooms be added. After further consideration, the Board agreed and added two classrooms to the north end of the expansion project. It was certainly a very busy summer!

Since the school year has begun, the Expansion Team has designed and built new emergency exits, received state approval on our foundation plans, completed various plumbing and utility projects, further designed classroom features (adding sinks and built-in cabinetry into each classroom), and completed various preparation activities - including an extensive rerouting of various sanitary and storm sewer lines. These are just some of the over 100+ projects that are currently underway.

As we approach the late fall, the Expansion Team expects work to continue throughout the winter to position the school to complete the addition in a timely manner before the 2023-2024 school year. As members of our community, we ask that you pray for the Board, students, staff, and future Kingdom work that will happen within these walls, consider giving towards this transformational project, and find opportunities to thank the many community members and vendors who are giving their time, talent, and resources to see that this project can be completed in the most effective and efficient manner. To God be the glory!

# A \$5,000 Gift for You!

By Mr. Kyle Weener, Principal

The strength of Highland Christian is built upon the resilience and commitment of supporters, parents, and grandparents who have faithfully given since HCS's inception over 100 years ago. One mechanism that families have used to make a lasting impact is through our **Family Legacy Funds**. Throughout our school community, we have a number of families that regularly contribute to their fund - with all dividends going to benefit a cause of their choosing. Some examples include: Tuition Assistance, Athletics, Special Education Services, Library Resources, Professional Development, Sensory Supplies, and many more!

This fall, Highland Christian was a recipient of a sizable tax credit. After much review, the Administrative Team and Board decided to utilize part of these funds by distributing \$5,000 to every existing Family Legacy Fund. **Additionally, a special \$5,000 match is being given to ten unique individuals or families that want to start their own Family Legacy Fund.** Starting a fund does not require \$5,000 all at one time, but can be accomplished over a number of years.

If you would like to learn more about this process and obtaining a \$5,000 match, please contact Jodi Lineburg at [jlineburg@highlandchristian.org](mailto:jlineburg@highlandchristian.org).

With our community's commitment to Christian education, we jointly can achieve our vision to academically equip, Biblically ground, and spiritually nurture to impact the world for Christ.

### Family Legacy Funds

Donor Advised | Frank & Gladys Van Til  
 Library | Marilyn Gossman Memorial Library Fund  
 Tuition Assistance | Feikema Family Tuition Assistance Fund  
 Music/ Discovery Center | Case & Rosemary Van Til  
 Annual Needs/Tuition Assistance | The Principal's Fund  
 Wish List | ABC Family Funds  
 Foundation/Student Services | Lineburg Family Legacy Fund  
 Donor Advised | Joseph Jonkman Family Legacy Fund

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

**HCS Architect**  
 Les Dreischerf  
 General Contractor  
 Phil Mulder  
 Braden Mulder

**Expansion Team**  
 Bill Barry  
 Ray Eriks  
 Henry Groot  
 Mike Schutt  
 Julie Sitter  
 Kyle Weener

### Supporting Contractors

Americlean  
 B & K Concrete  
 Boender Electric  
 Boss Door Company  
 Brian's Tree Service  
 Cabinets Unlimited  
 Cambridge Companies  
 Colvin Masonry  
 Countryside Landscaping  
 D & G Electric  
 Dekker Irrigation  
 Design Alliance Architects  
 Eenigenburg Framing  
 Eenigenburg Roofing  
 Fairfield Properties  
 Feikema Plumbing  
 Fred's Painting  
 Glover Construction  
 Illiana Masonry  
 Integrity CM Services, LLC  
 KA Components  
 Krilich Construction  
 Krooswyk Materials

Lagestee-Mulder  
 Larry Huizenga  
 Lincoln Mechanical  
 NIPSCO  
 Ozinga  
 P & C Trucking  
 Regnerus Masonry  
 Reichelt Plumbing  
 Reuhl Recreations, LLC  
 Schillings Lumber  
 Scott Scheeringa  
 Seal Tight Roofing & Siding  
 Site Services  
 South Suburban HVAC  
 Southland Excavating  
 Straight Line Excavating, Inc.  
 Torrenga Engineering  
 Total Disposal Company  
 Township of Highland Building & Fire Departments  
 VL Construction  
 Wayne Scheeringa

## Wish List

- Kindergarten - Mrs. Oostman**  
 Do A Dot Art! Rainbow dot markers 6 pack . . . . . \$17.99  
 Melissa & Doug Wooden Building Blocks set of 100 . . . . . \$20.49  
 Magna-Tile Translucent Colors 100 pieces . . . . . \$99.95  
 Learning Resources Link 'N' Learn Links 500 pieces . . . . . \$18.99  
 Rugs.com Everyday Shag Rug . . . . . \$69.00
- 1st Grade - Mrs. Otte**  
 Walgreens gift cards to develop pictures for 1st grade journals . . . . . any amount
- 2nd Grade - Miss Huizenga**  
 Puzzles . . . . . \$30.00  
 Glue for classroom . . . . . \$20.00  
 Recess balls . . . . . \$14.00  
 Walgreens gift card to develop pictures for 1st grade journals . . . . . \$75.00 to \$100.00
- 2nd Grade - Mrs. Vugteveen**  
 Checkers set for indoor recess . . . . . \$17.98  
 Magnetic money . . . . . \$24.99  
 Playing card activities . . . . . \$14.99  
 12-pack playing cards . . . . . \$29.99
- 3rd Grade - Mrs. Murphy**  
 U shaped table . . . . . price varies  
 Kahoot Premium . . . . . \$72.00
- 4th Grade - Mrs. Jabaay**  
 Teachers Pay Teachers gift cards . . . . . any denomination
- 6th Grade - Mrs. Huizenga**  
 Camp Manitoqua Team Building Activity 20.00 x 50 students . . . . . \$1000.00

- Junior High Science - Mrs. Wieringa**  
 Class pack of scissors . . . . . \$40.00  
 Hot glue guns with glue sticks . . . . . \$50.00  
 Document camera . . . . . \$110.00
- Junior High - Mrs. Groen**  
 Funds for Teachers Pay Teacher resources . . . . . \$100.00
- Discovery Center - Mrs. Achterhof**  
 Comprehension Flashcards . . . . . \$9.99  
 WRS Word Cards (Steps 1-6) 4th Edition . . . . . \$24.00
- Support Services/Counseling Office**  
 HLL3290 CDW compact digital color printer . . . \$369.99  
 WorkPro 2-drawer file cabinet . . . . . \$159.99
- Academic Support Services - Mrs. Brouwer, Mrs. Freel**  
 WV Phonics Growing Bundle . . . . . \$225.00  
 10 Sided Dice in Dice Set . . . . . \$36.00  
 Wilson Reading System (steps 1-4) . . . . . \$319.00  
 Cuisenaire Rods . . . . . \$29.99
- Technology - Mr. Vander Woude**  
 110 iPad covers with keyboard . . . . . \$100.00 each
- Dean of Students - Mr. Ritzema**  
 Various \$5 gift cards to be given to students who are really turning their behavior around OR rewarding students who are being amazing.
- Finance Office**  
 Laptop case . . . . . \$40.00  
 2 desk chairs . . . . . \$320.00 each
- Office**  
 Amazon Basics 150-Sheet Paper Shredder . . . . . \$250.00
- Lunch Program**  
 2 stainless steel Hubert Utility Carts with 3 shelves . . . . . \$268.80 each



# 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



Auction 2023 will take place in the HCS Gymnasium on Saturday, April 15th. Mark your calendar today, then join us for the fun! It's truly a grand night filled with friends, fellowship, and purpose as we raise money for Highland Christian School! Funds raised through this annual event are used to offset expenses and special projects in the coming school year.

We are now accepting donations of merchandise, services, memorabilia, tickets, excursion packages, etc. for this year's event.

You can give online or learn more at [highlandchristian.org/give/auction/](http://highlandchristian.org/give/auction/) If you wish to speak to someone directly, please call our Development Office at 219-838.0356 x165.

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

- Proverbs 22:6

## Quiet Lives, Grand Legacies

By Miss Jodi Lineburg, Development Director

Highland Christian School's community is full of delightful people, living faithful lives. People who live out Scripture's call to live in reverence for the Lord. People who live quiet lives, work with their hands, meet the needs of others, do good, and seek peace. Our children are so blessed ... and in their innocence and youth, they don't even know it. But we do.

**We appreciate every person who has chipped in, chimed in, and committed themselves to the Lord and to His purposes at Highland Christian School.**

**What a great legacy this is!** Without an example it would be hard to define and worse yet, to envision, what it means to live a quiet life. Yet, in truth, this is what we desire for the kids we serve. Thankfully, Scripture defines it and communities like ours, model it. What a blessing this is and a grand legacy at that!

In a world that promotes self, pushes promotions, and pursues individual prosperity, we are so grateful to point to and follow your example in faithfulness, love, obedience to God, and generosity. Whether you are the first or fifth generation in your family to participate in Highland Christian's vision and mission, we thank you for being part of the good work God is doing here. To God be the Glory!



Time to  
**UPDATE?**

Your experience and insights can impact kids for Christ at Highland Christian School.

**WILL YOU BE PART OF THE PACK THAT COMES BACK?**

Update your information with us today!

**SUBMIT YOUR UPDATE AT [WWW.HIGHLANDCHRISTIAN.ORG/ALUMNI](http://WWW.HIGHLANDCHRISTIAN.ORG/ALUMNI)**

Getting your children's mail? Let us know! We'd love to send it straight to them. Give us a call at 219.838.0356 or send an email to [jlneburg@highlandchristian.org](mailto:jlneburg@highlandchristian.org). Thanks in advance for your help!