

# from COVEr



Highland Christian School works hard all year to build relationships, celebrate community, and make meaningful memories for our kids. Field day was 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

#### **CONTACT US**

3040 Ridge Road Highland, Indiana 46322 219-838-0356 www.highlandchristian.org

PRINCIPAL	Kyle Weener
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL	. Andrea Harvey
DEAN OF STUDENTS	Bryon Ritzema
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	Jody Moes
DIRECTOR OF RECRUITMENT	
AND DEVELOPMENT	Jodi Lineburg
SCHOOL BELL LAYOUT	Christina Woo
PRINTINGLithographic	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 Serita Jackson Caleb Jonkman Terry Krooswyk Jerry Kuiper Mike Natelborg George Oostema Josh Scheeringa Dave Sherwood Tim Spoelman Deanne Van Rose

Deanne Van Rosendale Chris Yonkman

# Row the Boat By Mr. Kyle Weener, Principal

After graduating from college and getting married to my beautiful wife, Abby, we made Kalamazoo, Mich igan home. As newlyweds, living a mile away from my in-laws, we spent a significant amount of time with family, at our church, and enjoying all that our community had to offer. As Kalamazoo is a college town, we enjoyed following Western Michigan University's football team. In an unprecedented rise during the 2016 season, Coach PJ Fleck led the Broncos to a 11-1 record and school record #15 ranking in the AP Poll. His catch phrase "Row the Boat" became a city-wide mantra as the entire community celebrated the team's exciting victories. Now coaching for the University of Minnesota, Coach Fleck still uses this saying.

Why "Row the Boat"? Coach Fleck understood the importance of teamwork and the importance of a unified vision for every individual that was a part of the team. At Highland Christian, we do share the same 'row the boat' mantra - expressed through our strongly held vision to academically equip, Biblically ground, and spiritually nurture to impact the world for Christ.

In Lynn Swaner's book, "Flourishing Together: A Christian Vision for Students, Educators, and Students", she presents a compelling example of how schools can effectively achieve their mission and vision while seeing all constituents excel. The foundation of this flourishing begins with unity of purpose and vision. Throughout this edition of the School Bell, we want to share with you the many areas where Highland Christian is flourishing. What you will see is a reflection of the deep commitment and unified vision our entire HCS community has. Here are just a few highlights of these areas of flourishing:

**Academic Achievement:** In the 2022-2023 school year, HCS improved academic outcomes in multiple domains: 70% at 70th percentile, ILEARN pass rates, and MAP tests reported students grew more than one year in Math and ELA

**Enrollment:** With enrollment up 43% in the past four years, Highland Christian continues to be a destination school for Christian students and families.

**Financial Position:** Highland Christian continues to be in a strong financial position. While over a million dollars has been generated for the building project, other funds are growing to support HCS' long-term needs. This includes, but is not limited to HCS' Foundation, Choice Contingency Fund, Family Legacy Funds, Building Needs, and Other Operating Accounts.

**Spiritual Growth:** Highland Christian continues to improve service and worship experiences for students. HCS demonstrates a healthy school culture and a community that is focused on building faith in students.

**Student Services:** Responding to increased student needs, HCS now employs a robust student services team to support the emotional, academic, and special needs of our students. Last year, the student services team supported 291 students.

**Support of Teachers:** Highland Christian has prioritized increasing teacher compensation (starting at \$40,004), improving insurance and other benefits, and increasing teacher preparation time.

**Retention:** When families come to Highland Christian, they stay. HCS sports a 98%+ retention rate of students. Staff are retained at 95%+ rate.

Thank you for the role you play in our flourishing school community and for "rowing the boat" along with us. Whether you are a parent, supporting church member, donor, grandparent, or invested constituent, we appreciate you. Through the advancement of HCS, my prayer continues to be that the Lord's name is glorified and lives are impacted for eternity. *We are truly blessed!* 



Claire Aardsma



Jared Antunez



Francisco Avila\*



Natalie Bantsolas



Zinabu Bosman



Nevaeh Brandon



Piper Constantino



Angeline Corral-Alba



Angel Cubel



Ethan De Boer









Maliyah Dennie

Michael DeYoung



James Dillon



Jacob Eriks



Johnathan Escamilla



Olivia Figueroa





Ryan Henderson



Inara Hook



Christopher Howell



Justin Jackson

Diego Jimenez





Arryanna Johnson



. Evelyn Julian



Alanna Lee



Myles Miller



Addison Mills



Edyn Ooms



Ryan Oostman



Mallory Otto



Olivia Rich



Julissa Rivera



Ari Smit



Jordaň Smith



Vivienne Tebben 🗼



Levi Vander Woude



Zarek Vazquez



Micah Wieringa

# Data Drives Our Instruction

By Andrea Harvey, Assistant Principal

At Highland Christian School we use NWEA MAPs scores data to drive our instructional practices, frame our PLC team time and determine the best groupings of our students for academic success. Our academic goal for our students is to see our students demonstrate growth on their MAPs testing throughout the school year. To encourage academic growth, teams have taken various approaches this school year.

After our first round of testing in September, the sixth grade math team noticed a significant gap in student abilities with the grade level. After a review of the data, the sixth grade classes were shuffled around from homerooms to ability groupings to best meet the needs of students.

This restructuring of the math classes led to substantial growth in sixth grade math as demonstrated below as they moved the median percentile from 53 to 74 along with removing all students within the below 20th percentile.

Furthermore, the fourth grade team took a different approach with Math and utilized their WIN (What I Need) time to provide students with individualized IXL math plans. This individualized approach also proved effective as their **students showed significant growth in their math scores from Fall to Spring as outlined in the table below.** 

# PRAISE FOR The Pack!

By Miss Jodi Lineburg, Development Director

It's true that the people make the place! We appreciate the commitment, personal investment, and faithfulness of our faculty and staff and with great gratitude for the incredible contributions they make each day, we recognize these employees for their years of service at Highland Christian School!

5 YEARS Vernon Bonner

**20 YEARS**Julie DeYoung

10 YEARS

25 YEARS

Chris Borgo Roberta Huitsing Vicki Huizenga

Lisa Long

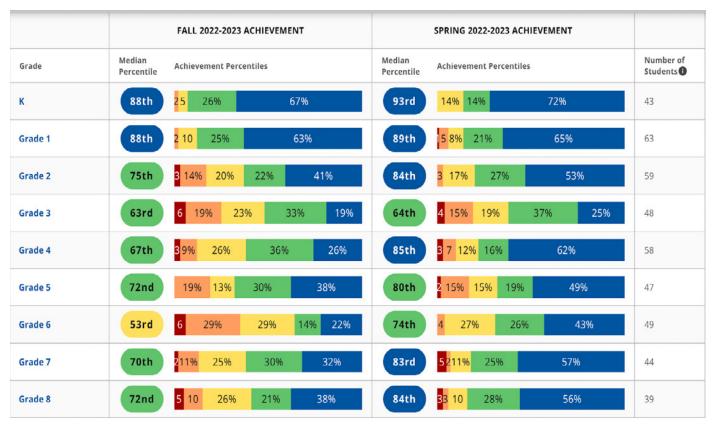
30 YEARS
Jeana Otte

**15 YEARS** Karen Huizenga

45 YEARS

Shirleen Brown

While these are only two examples of how our instructional practices and PLC teams respond to data, there are countless others that have happened in our building this school year as our teachers are continuously evaluating how to challenge our students and encourage academic growth.





and fostered faith, welcomed new staff and new ideas, nurtured children and nourished the community. She has contributing generously from the time, talents and resources God entrusted to her and we couldn't be happier for her as she retires from teaching and enters this new chapter of her life. We love you Shirleen and wish you all the best!

# If you were one of Mrs. Brown's students... By Mrs. Nancy School, Kindergarten Aide

If you had Mrs. Brown as a teacher, you might remember songs like "People, People", Superbook Videos, dressing up for

Thanksgiving, and Letter People Day! You will remember doing A LOT of work in Reading, Math, and Bible. But I'm sure

you will also remember that when the door was shut, after our work was done, we had a lot of fun!

If you were in her class this year... I am sure you will forever remember celebrating her (and your!) last 20 days of kindergarten... especially when she organized a sneak snowball attack on Mr. Weener!

Working with Mrs. Brown for over 25 years, I know how much she cared for each of you. She taught you the Bible, to work hard, and to love and respect people.

Mrs. Brown, after 45 years, you are a legend at Highland Christian School! You have touched many lives. In retirement, we hope you are proud of your accomplishments and realize the impact you have made! We love you and you will be dearly missed!

# WELCOME TO THE HCS COMMUNITY!

We are pleased to introduce you to these new members of our faculty and staff!



Mrs. Kimberly Julian



PRESCHOOL TEACHER
Mrs. Jennifer Koovenga

Mrs. Jennifer Kooyenga

## PRESCHOOL AIDE

Mrs. Jennifer Kotynski

#### **KINDERGARTEN**

Mrs. Hannah Sikma

#### **THIRD GRADE**

Mrs. Sydney Schurman

#### **JR. HIGH SCIENCE**

Mr. Vince McClenehan (not pictured)

#### **K-2 MUSIC/6TH GRADE BIBLE**

Mr. Nathan Shellhaas

#### **6TH GRADE MATH/SPANISH**

Mrs. Kimberly Julian

#### P.E.

Mrs. Darcy Nichols

#### TITLE 1

Mrs. Erin Ritzema















# Preschool accreditation

By Mrs. Karen van Belle

Sonshine Enrichment Center was founded in 1996 and has worked to provide a quality, Christ-centered preschool experience since then. Many things have changed along the way, but our commitment to our students remains the same. One way that the SEC staff embraces change is that we are always looking for ways to improve the educational experience.

Recently we made the decision to partner with the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and to seek preschool accreditation. This is a process that will take several years. During this time the staff will engage in a lot of self-study and look at ways to improve the preschool experience. The staff at ACSI will help us through this process and assist us to set goals that we will continue to work on in the years following the accreditation.

Deciding to embark on this journey wasn't easy, but we feel it's the best way to move our preschool program as we strive for excellence. We are always encouraging our students to grow, and we want to embrace growth, too.

The work will start over the summer and into the fall with curriculum mapping, and initial assessments. From there, we'll continue going through standards, progressing through all the areas of self-study required by ACSI. When we finish that process, a team will come to determine if our preschool has met the requirements for accreditation. That's when we will set long-term goals and set a plan to help us meet those goals. We're very excited (and a little

nervous) about this process!

We would like to ask for your prayers as we walk through the accreditation process over the next few years. Our main goal is to continue to provide quality preschool that glorifies our Lord and Savior. We also wish to serve our community and reflect the light of Jesus to our students and their families. We pray that this process helps us do that even more effectively!



# Learning, Growing, Flourishing!

By Mrs. Karen van Belle

As I look at the faces of my preschoolers, I see children that I have gotten to know well over the past 9 months. They've learned, they've grown, and they've experienced so much. They have flourished in many ways!

Of course, they've grown physically. Looking back at pictures from August, it is easy to see that the baby faces have changed. The smiles are just as bright, but the faces I see today are almost a year older than when we first met. The students are taller and stronger. They're almost done being preschoolers! Kindergarten is right around the corner.

More difficult to measure is the academic, spiritual, and emotional growth that has also occurred. I think of the student who was afraid to try climbing the big ladder on the playground without assistance and is now climbing up and down confidently. This afternoon I watched a student who struggled to learn their letters celebrate when they knew almost all of them! I think of the many conversations we've had about God and how much He loves us. Just this morning a student giggled when I said, "God doesn't change." That led to a great class discussion about how God will always love us and He never does

change, we just learn more about Him!

It's been a great year of learning and growing, and it's been a privilege to have a front row seat to watch these children reach so many goals. They have indeed flourished this year, and we look forward to ending the year with one final flourish – graduation! Congratulations, future Kindergarteners!



# **Putting the Pieces Together**

By Miss Jodi Lineburg, Development Director

For learning to be meaningful, students must be able to put all the pieces of a concept together. For it to be relevant, it must tap into a student's innate need to make sense of their experiences. Each year, we engage in a variety of stewardship projects for the purpose of demonstrating how knowledge, belief, and behavior fit together in God's economy. Inside and outside of the building, in classrooms and with families, students are encouraged to engage, explore, explain and evaluate practical stewardship as they used they gifts God gave them - their minds, abilities, and resources - in ways that promote the well-being of others and perpetuate God's established plan of caring for the world.

This year students have raised funds and partnered in prayer for a new Christian Preschool that is being established in Uganda. They provided a barn and furnished the animals through a collection for World Renew. Among other things, they participated in IMPACT DAY, The Crayon Initiative, the Public Library Read-a-Thon, Prevent Child Abuse's Chairish the Children Project, HCS Foundation's Change for the Future initiative, blessed the Lansing Police Department, and raised funds for Ukraine.

It is truly delightful to witness God's work in the hearts of our kids and to participate with Him in his good work in the world we enjoy, Thanks to all who contributed to these projects. It is our hope that these early, intentional experiences create a framework for stewardship in the lives of our students. In time, May they, by practice and example, learn to live lives that are rooted in love, gratitude, generosity, humility and trust.

"Let no one disregard you because you are young, but be an example to all the believers in the way you speak and behave, and in your love, your faith and your purity" (1 Timothy 4:12). 8 schoolbell SUMMER 2023

# IMPACT DAY By Mrs. Allison Krooswyk

Fourth grade took on an adventure for Impact Day. With 28 chaperons tagging along, they embarked on a journey to **Feed My Starving Children**. Feed My Starving Children is a Christian organization that "turns hunger into hope by empowering volunteers to pack meals for the malnourished in nearly 70 countries."

HCS students and parents created an assembly line to fill MannaPack meals. These meals consist of rice, soy, vegetables, and vitamins. While they were there, each student had a chance to pack MannaPacks to ship to many different places around the world. As a collective total, they packed 105 boxes, 22,680 meals, and fed 62 kids a meal daily for a year! Before sending off our pallet that they packed and filled, they were able to pray over the pallet as it gets shipped to help so many around the world. Students were truly impacted by the testimonies they heard and by the work that they did.

# Flourishing in Art Education By Mrs. Lauren Evers, Art Teacher

If a connection to visual arts is properly developed in early childhood, it can become the backbone of one's creativity and expression. These benefits can extend long after their time at Highland Christian. Visual art does not have boundaries. It enables people to play with materials, to express their thinking, to problem solve and to make sense of emotions.

For children, art is a way to communicate their ideas. It can be about the job of immersing yourself in the art-making process as much as it is about cognitive development and problem-solving At Highland Christian we try to boost our student's confidence through the art making process by exploring and trying new things. Exposing children to multiple media and techniques, a student is bound to find some success in one or more aspect of creating.

In my opinion, a flourishing art student at Highland Christian is a student who does not strive for the "perfect" art project, but rather explores and tries new things. The art process is like any other skill you want to be good at. To be good at art you need to practice and learn from "mistakes". Looking at God's creation this summer would be excellent inspiration for our young artists. I can't think of a more creative artist than Him! From majestic mountains to the small delicate butterflies, pointing out His beauty has no end and will continue our little ones to keep on flourishing.

As I organized projects and prepared to send them home, I personally saw the growth in each student from the beginning of the year to the end as we explored multiple mediums and techniques this year. Well done, Husky Pack!



# Bigs&Littles: What is it?

By Mrs. Christine Hoekstra, Student Support Specialist

Bigs & Littles is a group that consists of Jr. High students that display leadership characteristics who are partnered with designated elementary students. It is a time set aside for elementary students that would benefit from the positive attention to develop meaningful relationships. It also allows our students to have an additional positive experience integrated in their school experience.

It is a great time to allow for students to develop relationships while learning different skills. In the past students learned grounding activities, breathing exercises, appropriate ways to gain attention, ways to be a good sport, and writing a card.

It is beautiful to listen to the conversations that happen organically and the way the Jr. High students are able to connect with the elementary students. In the middle of the year I meet with students in a small group to check in how Bigs & Littles is going. Their responses included, "There should be a shorter time in between our meetings" and "We should meet more"!

Next year I am looking forward to the schedule that will be implemented. In the past I planned the activities and at the end of the year met with Jr. High students to brainstorm and plan one of the last meetings. Next year's schedule will allow for Jr. High students meet more often and take more responsibility for the meetings. I look forward to the intentional time allot for the Jr. High students are equipped and develop their leadership skills.

# It Will be Okay

By Mrs. Abby Jacobs, Licensed School Social Worker (LSSW)

"Trust this truth in the tough things you face. Confusing times in the messy, hard place. God loves you, and He is kind. Remember this always in your heart and mind."

It Will be Okay, by Lysa TerKeurst

Here at Highland Christian School we help students flourish in the area of mental

health, social skills, and emotional



growth through individual or small group counseling. Our counseling program works with the entire student body to identify any students who may need extra support in order to help them accomplish day to day academic demands. One way we provide counseling is with the therapeutic strategy of bibliotherapy. Bibliotherapy is simply using books or stories to help young children process and work through personal problems. This year I helped a student who was struggling with the medical issues of a family member. Together we read the book 'It will be okay', by Lysa TerKeurst. This book talks about the relationship between a little seed and a little fox who are facing changes that are both scary and confusing. They both learn that even in the darkest of times, even with an experience that can be both scary and confusing, the Farmer (God), was always watching over them. After reading the book the student was encouraged and guided to draw their own characters in a story. Then while talking about the characters we discussed how scary it is when things change and when we don't know what will happen to the ones we love. We talked about how change can also lead to growth and experiencing amazing things we've never had before, like love for a new person in our life.

Bibliotherapy is a simple technique that any parent or guardian can also use at home with their child. Children of all ages often have a difficult time both understanding and communicating their own emotions, especially if they are scared something bad may happen. Stories can be a safe and natural way to deal with the fears and struggles in real life. Stories can give children a visual to focus on that is less personal and more objective. This allows them to feel safe to process and express their own big, uncomfortable emotions. Reading with your child can give them a healthy way to learn about different emotions, like anxiety and worry, and learn healthy ways to express, manage, and cope with these big, new emotions they've never had before. If you would like a list of book recommendations for helping children work through all types of struggles please don't hesitate to reach out to us at Highland Christian School.

## Interactive Metronome

by Mrs. Cheri Flory, Leveled Reading, Intervention

Highland Christian School has been blessed to acquire the Interactive Metronome program. It looks weird but works on many underlying issues that contribute to learning difficulties and delays. Basically it tunes the brain and various parts of the body to work to a beat while tapping hands and feet in varying sequences to sensors that provide simultaneous tonal and visual feedback on a screen. This immediate feedback lets children know if they're too slow, too fast, or "super right on." Gradually they get on the beat.

Originally developed for musicians, the Interactive Metronome students noticed that as their musical skills synced with the beat, their attention, sequencing, reading, coordination, sensory, athletic, behavioral and even speech issues also improved. Interactive Metronome has since concentrated this brain training into various sequences of movement to help all parts of the brain get in sync. They've now added computer games to make it even more fun.

For 10 years, Mrs. Flory has been using this training with students struggling with adhd, coordination, autism spectrum, dyslexic, sensory processing, behavioral, and auditory and visual processing issues and parents and teachers have been delighted with the results. Children frequently go beyond the original 15 sessions.

It's recommended that students do 2 or 3 sessions per week with as few interruptions to the training as possible. Call the office for more information if you are interested in this investment in your child's future.

# WILLY WONKA, JR.

By Mrs. Judy Zandstra, Librarian, Co-director

Drama nourishes the imagination! It is an opportunity to develop spontaneity, empathy and new perspectives as they take on a character's persona and work cooperatively with other members of the cast and crew. Our annual musical production is an endeavor that requires many hands and talents to bring the magic to the stage! **Willy Wonka Jr.** was no exception.

This year parent, **Sarah Van Drunen** gave mass voice lessons to the students. She gave them warm up exercises and pointers for how to hit those high notes and ideas for ways they could sing the songs. She also spoke about the differences of singing on stage and singing in a choir. It was a great learning opportunity that the actors incorporated into their roles.

Parents **Derek De Boer** and **Caitlyn DeBoer**, played a big role with our props. This play required some pretty significant props and they helped build the bigger ones. Mr. Glen DeYoung was also busy putting wheels on many of the props and helping with the final details and the sound system. **Advanced Art** brought the color to the props painting doors, carts and candy!! Many other parents helped in the background – organizing the cast party, rehearsal dinner, and providing costumes.

Actors and directors worked for 50+ hours of rehearsal time to bring the finished product to a very appreciative audience. This does not include the hours each spent fine tuning their role at home, working on the accents and mannerisms that make a character believable. This is a part of the roles that make a production more enjoyable but often goes unseen. And speaking of being unseen the tech and backstage crews were wonderful.

Students who've been doing this for a couple years, stepped up to become mentors and leaders at their "stations". Tech crews learn about lights, mics and sound systems. **Arend van Belle** created mic maps and occasionally sound effects to fill out the soundtrack. Backstage crews were led by **Diego Jimenez** and **Vivienne Tebben** who managed props and directed students when to bring the props on stage.

Although 8th graders, Piper Constantino, Inara Hook, Diego Jimenez and Vivienne Tebbens will be missed next year, we are grateful that they passed down their skills to those students who will mentor new students in the next musical. **Everett De Boer** and **Julie Rivera** were only here for one year but they too left their mark on the stage as they step into acting roles. Their skills will also be missed next year. It is the director's wish that this experience is just the beginning of many ways these students will share their talents and skills with others in the future.







# Scenes from 40h 60ac/8





# Junior High Encore HOLOCAUS' **CLASS PROJECT**

By Mrs. Joyce Groen

Beginning in August 2022, my Current Events class along with my Holocaust Education class began to research the Russian War with Ukraine. By January 2023, we had a bake sale and distributed more than \$1,000 to a refugee camp in Moldova. On March 9, 2023, ten 6th grade leaders traveled to the Holocaust Museum in Illinois to take part in their yearly leadership conference. Our proposal for the



conference gift certificate. This shower was given in Munster Church. Mrs. DeBoer and Mrs. Groen attended the shower.



conference was to supply Ukrainian refugees with a "Welcome to America" basket upon their arrival in the U.S. and more specifically, our neighborhood.

In November, Svetlana and her husband and three boys arrived and in March 2023, Olga and Alex and their three boys arrived. They live in apartments in a home in Lansing, Illinois called **Welcome House**. Three churches and many volunteers help them navigate the rules in Illinois to get green cards and driver's licenses.

Our group helped the families in many ways. We held a baby shower in April for Olga, who is ready to have her 4th child. Our gift certificate from the museum went to her for baby products as they could not enter the country with any supplies at all. My leadership students brought games for the other boys, puzzles, diapers and items they thought would help them integrate in the

USA. The baby shower was a huge success and the students were rewarded by the family coming to our school to tell them a little about themselves. Also, when students had to make choices for our service day, called IMPACT, many of the 6th grade leaders went to Welcome House to work on projects in the home and in the yard.

ILMEC for a wonderful experience for my 6th grade leaders. This year they really got involved with their community, just studying current events and the Holocaust and trying to see what they could do in their world.

# HCS PTO Enjoy Your Summer!!

By Mrs. Krista Boomsma, PTO President

It was a pleasure for your Highland Christian Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) to serve this growing and flourishing community for the 2022-2023 school year. Your PTO board is comprised of 12 parents and 2 teachers serving 2-year terms. PTO strives to



support the parents, teachers, and students of this community. The purpose of PTO is to foster community within Highland Christian School through events like: Ice Cream Social, Muffins for Misses, Donuts for Dudes, Staff Appreciation Breakfasts, and Family Fun Nights. If you haven't been to one of our events, we encourage you to attend and immerse yourself in our community. Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to serving you for the 2023-2024 school year.

12 schoolbell SUMMER 2023



Our 8th grade Philadelphia trip this year included beautiful weather, wonderful scenery and good food. Twenty seven students and seven adults left Highland Christian to travel to Philadelphia, one of the 1st capitals of the United States of America.

We began our trip on Tuesday, May 16, meeting at 5:30am in the HCS parking lot. After a 10 hour drive, we arrived in Gettysburg, PA for a quick stop to see where Lincoln gave his famous Gettysburg Address. We picked up Subway sandwiches for dinner and disembarked at our hotel at 10:00 pm. Our tour coordinator was waiting for us with keys and well wishes. Students and chaperones headed to rooms for a good night of rest. After a 6:30 am wake-up, we met our tour guide, Miss Nancy, and headed to the Rocky steps for our first group picture. For lunch we went to a food court and then went to see the Liberty Bell and Museum, and 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 ended our day with swimming and hanging out at our hotel. On Thursday, we visited The Ben Franklin Science Museum, and the Philadelphia Art Museum and viewed the fantastic artwork. 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, including the first post office. On Friday, we went to the International Seaport Museum and enjoyed the tours of the World War II submarine and the Olympia, the vessel that was used to transport the remains of the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier," a famous gravesite in Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C. 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, and read about the freezing cold winter. We then headed back to Philadelphia to get some much needed souvenirs and dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe. We left Philadelphia early on Saturday and made the 11 1/2 hour trip home and all parents greeted us as we turned into the parking lot. The students were great and enjoyed themselves along with the chaperones. I want to thank Mr. VanderWoude, Mrs. Huizenga, Mrs. Wieringa and Mr. Dave Bosman for helping chaperone the trip. Special thanks as well to Ms. Howell, and Ms. Zamot and all parents for making our trip even more special. We are absolutely looking forward to taking our 2024 graduates back on this trip next year.

# Track and Field

By Coach Krooswyk

The HCS Track and Field Teams had a good season. The girls and boys teams consisted of many new 6th graders and the improvement was noticeable. Each student improved in their events and we finished the season strong at the championship meet.





Natalie Bantsolas got first place in the discus and shotput at the championship meet, along with Grant Sitter and Zinabu Bosman getting first and second in the 1600M. The other major highlight was Cameron Katz, Ari Smit, Justin Jackson, and Myles Miller tying the 4x100M relay school record with a time of 51:00. The team included Zinabu Bosman, Justin Jackson, Ari Smit, Myles Miller, Chris Howell, James Dillon, Jared Antunez, Everett DeBoer, Micah Wieringa, Kade Blocker, Cameron Katz, Nathan Sherwood, Sebastian Chavez, Zachary Clark, Nathanael Koutz, Elliot Molenaar, Jonah Van Ek, Grant Sitter, Max Van Laten, Connor Zandstra, Arend van Belle, Gabel Zoeteman, Logan Tucker, Sam Thompson, Bode Wognum, Josh Oostman, Claire Aardsma, Natalie Bantsolas, Mallory Otto, Jasmyn Spraggins, Hope Aardsma, Angelyn Galvan, Melina Casares, Olivia Boender, Leah Eriks, Addi Haitsma, Taylor Kinkade, Kennedy Roberts, Danica VanderMeyden, Rosalind VanderWoude, and Abbi Wierenga.





## Cheerleading

By Coach Gillespie and Coach Lenting

The HCS cheerleaders had an amazing season. With significantly more girls on the team than the previous years, we were able to work on advanced skills and intricate pyramids. The girls worked hard to develop halftime and quarter cheer routines to perform during basketball games. The girls also participated in the pep rally for the basketball teams and brought school pride to the events. They ended their season by performing a full routine at the parent and friend showcase. The girls brought lots of cheer and excitement by mastering twist stunts, timed jumps with motion, and team pyramids. The team included Neveah Brandon, Tatum Boles, Inara Hook, Anneke Burney, Melina Casares, Chloe Aardsma, Miriam Christoffels, Liberty Yates, Gatlyn Dotson, Addison Mock, and Taylor Kinkade.

Aardsma, Natalie Bantsolas, Mallory Otto, Jasmyn Spraggins, Hope Aardsma, Angelyn Galvan, Melina Casares, Olivia Boender, Leah Eriks, Addi Haitsma, Taylor Kinkade, Kennedy Roberts, Danica VanderMeyden, Rosalind VanderWoude, and Abbi Wierenga.

## Volleyball

The 7th grade boys had a great volleyball season. They improved drastically in the short season and they finished the season strong at the Illiana volleyball tournament with a third place finish. The boys showed great sportsmanship and look to keep improving for the 8th grade season next year. The team included Nathanael Koutz, Noah Falvey, Kade Blocker, Nathan Sherwood, Grant Sitter, Cameron Katz, Elliot Molenaar, Jonah Van Ek, Sebastian Chavez, and Gabel Zoeteman.





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

## 6th Grade Girls Basketball

By Coach Aardsma

The 6th grade girls had a great season and finished off with an exciting win. The girls improved drastically by the end of the season and worked hard from start to finish. A major highlight for the girls was the tournament comeback win against Calvary Academy. The team was coached by Dan Aardsma and the team included Hope Aardsma, Abbi Wieringa, Favour Izuora, Addi Haitsma, Danica VanderMeyden, Rowan DeBoer, Adelia Eriks, Maddie Poortinga, Olivia Boender, Kennedy Roberts, and Rosalind VanderWoude.



## 7th Grade Girls Basketball

By Coach Brown

The 7th grade girls worked hard all season and improvement was seen in the second round of league games. The girls worked well as a team and never gave up. The team was coached by Abe Brown and the team included Abrielle Brown, Mikayla Colar, Jordyn McGuire, Kinley VanderPol, Jasmine Spraggins, Hayden Cristler, Xochitl Garcia, Ava Hoogstra, Jayden Parks, and Liv Scheeringa.



## 8th Grade Girls Basketball

By Coach Krooswyk

The 8th grade girls had a fun season and were in many close games. The best moment of the season was the last regular season game that the girls won in overtime on the road at Calvary Academy. The girls worked really hard all year and it was fun to watch them compete in many close games. The girls did a great job representing HCS in each game. The team was coached by Neil Krooswyk and included Claire Aardsma, Addi Mills, Alanna Lee, Piper Constantino, Olivia Figueroa, Julissa Rivera, Angeline Corral, Evelyn Julian, Natalie Bantsolas, and team manager, Liv Rich.



16 schoolbell SUMMER 2023



## 6th Grade Boys Basketball

By Coach Krooswyk

The 6th grade boys had a great season. Their final record was 10-2 and included winning the 6th grade tournament. The team improved each day, and at the end of the season, they were even able to beat the two teams they had previously lost to. These boys often had balance scoring and each game was a total team effort. This group was a joy to coach and we can't wait to see them continue to improve next year. The team included Jake Evers, Evan Kuzmar, Bode Wognum, Sam Thompson, Tyler Hutton, Daniel Julian, Josh Neibert, William Henderson, Cj Childress, and Owen Ooms.



## 7th Grade Boys Basketball

By Coack Sherwood

The 7th grade boys had a fun season and ended their season with a win in the first round of their tournament. The boys worked hard and their continued improvement showed at the tournament. We look forward to seeing the team continue to work hard and compete next year at the 8th grade level. The team included Nathan Sherwood, Elliot Molenaar, Zachary Clark, Kade Blocker, Jaiden Budna, Jonah Van Ek, Jozef Nelson, Grant Sitter, Nathanael Koutz, and Noah Falvey.



By Coach Krooswyk

The 8th grade boys team had a fantastic season. The boys won several close games and beat teams they had not beaten on the road before. The team carried momentum to the tournament and won the first round game against Calvary Academy. The boys then beat Tinley Park to earn a spot in the league championship game. The boys lost to Oak Lawn in the finals, but had a memorable season. The boys showed much growth from last year and had a very successful season. The team included Zinabu Bosman, Myles Miller, Ari Smit, Chris Howell, Kade Blocker, Cameron Katz, Nathan Sherwood, and DJ Clay. The student managers were Levi VanderWoude and Justin Jackson.



# Transitions ORT PEEP est. 2023



By Mrs. Dawn Stammis, Leveled Reading, Chicken Mama Extraordinaire

The summer of 2023 will be one of transition for Highland Christian School and our chickens are no exception. For the last couple of months, the kindergarten classes have hatched and cared for our new feathered friends. They have held, visited, prayed for, and even wrote letters to the chicks. Starting this summer, families of our 5th grade class will have the opportunity to volunteer to care for them. They will have an up-close and personal experience with the juvenile chicks as they mature into egg-laying hens. We anticipate celebrating our first egg sometime in August. By the time school resumes, the 5th graders will be able to collect various colored eggs as well as care for the chickens. Their new teachers have several fun learning opportunities planned.

Another exciting transition for our newest Huskies will be moving day! Currently, their temporary coop is located at the East end of the soccer field. You can usually find them hanging out in the shade of the oak tree. Our students love to visit and observe the chickens during recess. Their permanent home, Fort Peep, is being custom-built this summer. In its new courtyard location, it will be larger and more secure. It will allow our 5th grade class to care for the brood in a safe, efficient manner. It's also going to look amazing!







18 schoolbell SUMMER 2023

# Teachers Become Disciples

By Mrs. Vicki Huizenga, Junior High

"After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. 'Follow me,' Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him."

Luke 5:27-28

Many of us have the opportunity to teach the stories of Jesus calling His disciples, but rarely do we have the opportunity to put those stories in context and practice in the land of the story. This summer a group of seven HCS teachers are joining other Christian school educators and heading to Israel. We will follow a teacher (leader) who will take us on a journey through the land of the story. We will encounter the land and the culture to better understand and appreciate God's Word. Walking through the land we will learn to appreciate the times and places of a particular people who received God's truth. We don't know the exact itinerary of this trip since we are to follow our teacher (leader) like the disciples did with Jesus. But we will wander the land around the Dead Sea like the Old Testament Israelites. We will immerse ourselves in the stories Jesus taught as He walked by the Sea of Galilee and in the towns surrounding. We will end our time in the city of Jerusalem where we will walk the streets featured in so many of the stories.

By immersing ourselves in the place, we can respond more fully to the power of God's Word. By walking through the land, we hope to come back again to Jesus' call to follow Him. As teachers our hope is to return with a broader perspective and understanding from which to teach the story and a fuller love for God and His Word.

Please pray for us as we encounter the land of the story in this unique opportunity. Those traveling this summer include teachers throughout HCS: Caitlin DeBoer, Joyce Groen, Vanessa Huizenga, Vicki Huizenga, Jeana Otte, Karen van Belle, and Judy Zandstra. Pray for safety while traveling; pray for the family members we leave behind. Especially pray that our hearts may be open to understand the Bible in the light of the historical and cultural context so we can be a transforming influence on our students, school, families, and culture.

# **Building Christian Men**

By Mr. Rick VanderWoude, Director of Educational Technology

Highland Christian School was delighted to start a new season of Building Christian Men. This group seeks to encourage all boys willing to show up to do something and be something. The program has involved Christian speakers to address and inspire our boys, fellowship, and food. The board of directors include staff members Neil Krooswyk and Rick VanderWoude, Jeremias Alicea (pastor and parent), Lloyd Colar (youth leader and parent), Juan Cruz (youth pastor), David Sherwood (parent).

This season our speakers included Michigan City Police Chief Dion Campbell in September (pictured), Pastor Joe Best of Cline Avenue Fellowship Church in November, parent and attorney James Dillon in December, Lloyd Colar in January, Jeremias Alicea in March, and Dan Kuiper in April. Each speaker contributed a unique story incorporating his formative experiences, while at the same time emphasizing the Biblical foundation of male leadership in God's plan.

Neil and Rick are grateful for the support received from their fellow board members and the parents. They hope to incorporate some off campus activities next year to supplement the conventional meetings at school help in the past two years.





Highland Christian has been blessed to have an amazing group of contractors and community volunteers who have helped push the new addition forward. As the largest project in Highland Christian's 114 year history, the 18,000 sq ft+ project will help serve Highland Christian's students and staff, while achieving Highland Christian's vision to academically equip, Biblically ground, and spiritually nurture to impact the world for Christ.

As the great need for additional space started to emerge in 2021, the building team has been working alongside our architect and Lagastee-Mulder for the past 18 months to ensure the new building best meets the needs of our students and school community. In all of our decisions, quality remains the focus. After receiving state approval to go vertical, the first block was installed on March 1. Since then, all walls have been erected, exterior brickwork is underway, trusses are in place, the courtyard pavilion has been erected, some floors have been poured, and we are close to 'boxing-in' the new building. As **Highland Christian remains on track for a July 15 opening**, we remain grateful for every individual who has made this project possible.

As organizations across the globe battle supply chain issues, Highland Christian has been proactively purchasing supplies since January to ensure product is available the moment it is needed. Some examples of this include ordering 45,000+ bricks nine months in advance, purchasing the new HVAC units in January, and obtaining all new technology and classroom furniture through a COVID-19 grant (EANS II), which arrived the first week of June.

With final costs nearing \$5,700,000, Highland Christian has an emergent need to raise \$1,700,000 by July 15. With a \$4,000,000 loan from Providence Bank, if the school does not raise such funds, the school will need to borrow from the Foundation or obtain a second note from Providence. As of June 1, the school has raised \$1,381,297. Will you join us in funding \$318,703 to avoid further extending the school's loan? Through your support and generosity, students will be able to worship corporately in the commons, lessons can be taught in the outdoor courtyard, students will be spread out into smaller class sizes, and staff won't need to share two restrooms between 87 employees!

Again, thank you for your continued partnership. We appreciate your prayers, positivity, and heart to see the community of Highland Christian thrive. **To God be the glory!** 



# Fundraising Update

By Ms. Jodi Lineburg, Development Director

## Reaching New Heights

Charitable gifts, grant income and other credits have pushed non-tuition revenue to new heights this year! We are unbelievably grateful to you our faithful family and vision partners – for providing so generously for God's work in and through our Christian school. You smashed the record at Auction this year and have given us a great start to Expansion 2023! Year to date fundraising and charitable gifts exceed \$1,361,791!! Thank you for equipping the short and term goals we've established as we press forward to see generations flourish at Highland Christian School!

## Foundation Gifts in Honor

Mrs. Shirleen Brown

#### Foundation Gifts in Memory

Mae Boender Chester L Evers, Jr. Wes Feikema Lois Hillegonds Louis Holderman **Betty Huitsing** Henry Jonkman **Esther Kats** James Koopman Adele Kroll Robert A Laning E. Ken Leep Joan Lolkema Warren Meter **Bernard Stammis Betty Stammis** Arie Swets Dianne Van Prooyen Betty Van Til Jacob Verhulst Carol Zandstra

## INNOVATE & INSPIRE Creative Classroom Grant

We are excited to announce a special grant that has been established for Highland Christian School! Innovative ideas are often inspired by need and usually require a quick infusion of time, energy, and resources. **Innovate and Inspire: A Creative Classroom Grant** is a Harold and Jennie Palmbos Legacy Grant for Educators. It equips, enables and empowers creativity in education by providing teachers with funds for classroom implementation of new instructional methods, ideas, and approaches to learning. Read the inspiring story behind this grant on our website!



# Now... For the Future

Everything we do now, affects the future of Highland Christian School. This is a weighty reality that requires careful thought and a judicious plan as we care for the vision and mission God entrusted to our community more than a century ago. While vision and mission remain unchanged, our school has changed dramatically in the past 10 years. Advances in the science of learning, increased enrollment, new frameworks, and diversified student needs have required that we look hard at who we are, what we are about, how we do what we do, and what will be required in the future.

Our current, multi-year campaign, **Now... For the Future**, is aligned with the goals of our School Improvement Plan, addresses both short and long term financial needs and focuses on increased engagement with our school community. In addition to providing annual budget support and funding for special projects, we will continue to pursue long term funding goals with an emphasis on the Choice Contingency Fund, Future Large Project Fund and Foundation Fund. Along with this, we will continue to identify and develop alternate funding sources that can augment revenue and charitable gifts.

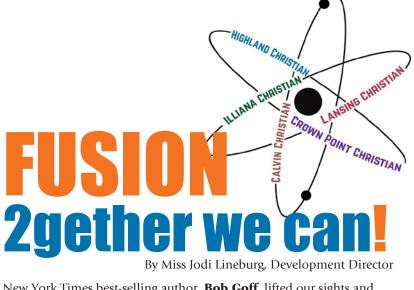
While Expansion 2023 will take the front seat for a time, raising awareness and growing the assets of the **HCS Foundation** continues to be a top priority. In 2023/2024, the Foundation will distribute it's annual gift to Highland Christian School in the amount of \$166,000. This is a notable increase over the previous gift of \$150,000. We appreciate the significant immediate impact this has on enrolled families and the long-term stability it provides for the school. Ideally, as the School grows, so would grow the Foundation.

With current assets at approximately \$4.45 million, the Foundation Board has begun to market our strategic plan to be at \$10 million in assets by the end of 2030. While lofty, we believe this is a necessary and attainable goal through some new internal initiatives and ongoing support of our generous donor base and constituents. As always, in all things, we hold unswervingly to God and work for His glory in this! We are blessed to be part of community that does the same and that gives generously to ensure that Highland Christian School has all that it needs - both now and for the future.

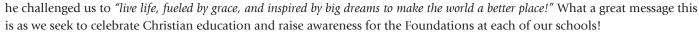
# Wish List

Sonshine Enrichment Center10'x10' sandbox\$1,410.004 GeoSafari, Jr. Microscopes\$80.00Mega Marble Race\$70.00KidKraft So Stylish Mansion Dollhouse\$275.00KidKraft Dollhouse Dolls 3 sets\$87.00
Kindergarten – Mrs.Oostman National Geographic microscope for kids. \$39.99 Mastering Addition Dominoes. \$12.99 Mastering Subtraction Dominoes \$12.99 Bob Books set \$13.95 Bob Books set \$13.95 Coogam Magnetic Ten-Frame Set \$21.99 Learning Resources STEM Explorers Pixal Art Challenge \$19.99 Magna-Tiles 100 piece clear color set \$119.99
Kindergarten – Mrs. Zandstra World Globe with Stand, 13"
First Grade – Mrs. De Boer Reusable Removable Sticky Clips Small Poster Clips . \$12.99 AdirOffice Wooden Literature Organizer Sorter \$153.96 Giant place value flip chart \$9.99 Set of 24 Small White Board Dry Erase Boards \$39.99 Water bottle holder for desks \$25.99
First Grade – Mrs Otte Photo Developing for 1st Grade Journals \$150.00
Second Grade – Mrs. Reynhout Post-It chart paper\$36.75
Second Grade – Mrs. VugteveenBookends for Shelves\$40.00Magnetic Hooks (set of 20)13.00Class set of white boards (24)\$45.00Marker collection33.00(4) Incentive Charts\$7.00 eachClassroom Sweeper\$24.00
Third Grade – Mrs. Murphy Editing and Revising Bundle \$31.00 3rd Grade Writing Bundle \$42.00 Year Long Writing Prompts \$68.40
Third Grade – Mrs. Burney Crayon Initiative 3rd Grade Service-Learning Project. \$300.00 Space and Geography Trivia Board Games \$35.00 50 States Wooden Puzzles (5)
Fourth Grade – Mrs. Jabaay Classroom set of novel studies
Fourth Grade – Mrs. Krooswyk Pencil sharpener \$35.12 Stapler \$18.12 Tape Dispenser \$12.72 Desk Organizer \$27.81 Magnetic Name Tags \$10.79
Fifth Grade - Miss Maatman  10-pack of clipboards

Junior High Math - Ms. De Boer
Classroom set of calculators
Junior High Science – Both Labs
Two Document Cameras
Two Sets of Classroom Markers
Two Sets of Classroom Colored Pencils \$55.00 each
Class Set of Stopwatches
Science Lab Storage Containers any monetary
donation appreciated minimum need \$500.00 Service Cleaning, Repair and Restoration of
Middle School Microscopes \$1000.00-1500.00
Donated Items; can be gently used
1. Hot Wheel Cars and Tracks
2. Lots of old pennies (pre 1982)
3. Basic tool kit: hammer, screwdrivers, wrenches,
pliers, screws, nails, rubber mallet 4. Hot Glue Guns (gently used or brand new!)
Augmented Reality Sandbox Supplies any monetary
donation appreciated minimum need \$1000.00
Microsoft Kinect
Mushroom Fruiting Chamber \$155.00
Hydroponics Grow Kit
Classroom Pet (Bearded Dragon) and Supplies any monetary
donation appreciated minimum need \$200.00
Art - Mrs. Evers
Epson WorkForce Pro WF-4720 Color Inkjet Printer, Copier, Scanner
Discovery Center – Mrs. Achterhof Teachers Pay Teachers gift cards \$10.00 or \$20.00
Bigs & Littles  16 crayola markers packs
16 Crayola colored pencils packs
8 Elmer glue sticks
8 Elmer glue bottles
14 plastic pencil/crayon boxes \$40.00
4 watercolor paint sets
30 small canvas
Friendship bracelet making kit
(2) Spray sealer Krylon Low Odar clear finish \$12.00 each
Walgreens gift cards for printing pictures any amount
Music - Mr. Shellhauss
Xylophones
Quest - Mrs. Scheeringa
Byrdseed TV subscription
Storage bins
K'nex (new or used)
Roller coaster construction templates \$25.00
Finance Office
Laptop case
Office
Amazon Basics 150-Sheet Paper Shredder \$250.00
Speech Room
Ajax Scientific Dental Care Mouth Model, Fake Teeth,
Dental Hygiene Toy with Giant Toothbrush\$54.56



New York Times best-selling author, **Bob Goff**, lifted our sights and spirits through whimsical, story-telling and thoughtful encouragement from God's Word. Bob had us laughing out loud and thinking hard as



And we do have a big dream. The HCS Foundation's big dream is to support Highland Christian School in such a way that finances are never a barrier – for families as they seek to access Christ-centered education or for the school in its delivery of services. And we appreciate all the men and women who have lived life, fueled by grace and driven by big dreams to see this take shape at Highland Christian School. Excess revenue from this year's event was distributed evenly among the Foundation Funds at each of our respective schools.



If you weren't there for this inaugural event you missed out! But stay tuned! This is just the first of many "Big Events" hosted by **FUSION 2gether we can!** FUSION, a fresh, new collaboration of our sister Christian School's will be continuing its work – "bringing our best, for the good of all! – and looks forward to announcing our next event this Fall! In the meantime, great thanks to all who took part in this year's celebration of Christian education and of our Foundations!



**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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID GRIFFITH, IN PERMIT NO.14

# Innsbrook Country Club 3701 W. Taft Street, Merrillville, Indiana 46410

CHECK-IN 10:30-11:30am **TEE TIME 12:00pm DINNER** 5:30pm

#### **SPONSORSHIP**

#### **LUNCH Sponsor \$3,000**

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

## (2) VEST Sponsors \$2,500

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

#### BEVERAGE CART Sponsor \$2,000

Company Logo on Decked Out Beverage Cart which will circle the course throughout the golf day

#### (5) GOLF BALL Sponsors \$500

Company Logo Featured on Event Golf Balls which are given to each golfer Golf Ball Sponsorship commitment must be received by June 30

## **LEVELS**

#### 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

HOLE (No Golf) \$350

#### **Individual Golfer \$175**

Includes golf + Lunch & Dinner

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it. - Proverbs 22:6

