



Instarams highlandsrams

highlandsrams We are so proud of our Valedictorian Laura Ciuchta and Salutatorian Melissa Gustafson! Best wishes to all of our recent graduates!

proudranf And good luck to the new and returning students! Check out the events in this year's Activities Calendar!



**HIGHLANDS
School District**

2015-16 Activities Calendar

Highlands School District BUILDING DIRECTORY



Highlands Administrative Center

*The Administrative Center is located at the High School.
Parking and entrance is at rear of building.*

PO Box 288, Natrona Heights, PA 15065

724-226-2400 Fax 724-226-8437

Superintendent: Dr. Michael A. Bjalobok

Business Manager: Jon D. Rupert

Director of Pupil Personnel Services: Dr. Karen King

Director of Special Education: Debra Lehew

Highlands High School Grades 9-12

1500 Pacific Avenue, Natrona Heights, PA 15065

724-226-1000 Fax 724-226-9611

Principal: Catherine Russo

Assistant Principal: Molly Skedel

Highlands Middle School Grades 6-8

1350 Broadview Blvd., Natrona Heights, PA 15065

724-226-0600 Fax 724-226-3287

Principal: Charles Mort

Assistant Principal: Deborah Beucker

Grandview Upper Elementary School

Grades 3-5

101 East Ninth Avenue, Tarentum, PA 15084

724-224-0300 Fax 724-224-3178

Principal: Heather Hauser

Fairmount Primary Center Grades K-2

1060 Atlantic Avenue, Brackenridge, PA 15014

724-224-5880 Fax 724-224-2413

Principal: Shawn Bennis

Fawn Primary Center Grades K-2

5591 Ridge Road, Natrona Heights, PA 15065

724-224-4844 Fax 724-224-9243

Principal: Shawn Bennis

Pre-K Counts Program

(located at Grandview)

Principal: Shawn Bennis

Transportation: 724-226-1000, ext. 4104

www.GoldenRams.com

Welcome to the 2015-16 School Year!

Instarams Moments...

Walking into Fawn or Fairmount for the first time as a Kindergartener

Attending the first Friday night Rams football game of the season

Receiving a Brown or Gold Academic Achievement Award

Organizing a food drive with the Middle School Student Council

Singing loud and proud at the Grandview talent show

Like the “snapshot” moments and memories featured on the social media network Instagram, every day life at Highlands is also made up of “moments and memories” - some extraordinary, some mundane. Some memorable, some forgettable. Some funny, some sad. Although we all have our own individual moments and memories on our educational journey, we are bound *together* through our Highlands Instarams Pride.

This annual calendar publication highlights our Instarams network and the ways the Highlands **home, school** and **community** contribute to the many staff and student awards, achievements, community projects, and programs that fill us with that Rams Pride.

Please refer to this calendar for the 2015-16 district holidays, events and activities. Don't forget to visit the *new and improved* www.GoldenRams.com website often for calendar updates, current school news features, photos, announcements and any changes to calendar events. You can also stay connected with Highlands on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

On Instagram? Look us up at:



HIGHLANDS
GOLDEN
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Information for Parents

www.GoldenRams.com



School Bell Schedule

Grades K-5

Start: 8:50am (tardy bell) Dismissal: 3:35pm

Middle School (6-8)

Start: 7:48am (tardy bell) Dismissal: 2:37 & 2:42pm

High School (9-12)

Start: 7:40am (tardy bell) Dismissal: 2:34pm

Pre-K Counts

Morning Session: 9:10-11:40am Afternoon Session: 12:30-3:00pm

Early & Half-Day Dismissals

During the school year students will be dismissed early on specially scheduled days. These days are listed in **red** on the monthly calendar grids. The following dismissal times will be in effect on those days:

Early Dismissals: Grades K-5 dismissed at 1:28pm; and Grades 6-12 dismissed at 12:30pm.

Half-Days: All buildings will dismiss students before lunch; Gr. 6-12 at approximately 11am and Gr. K-5 at approximately 12Noon.

Bus schedules will be revised to accommodate students for the early and half day dismissals.

Emergency School Delays, Closings & Early Dismissals

The decision to delay starting times, to cancel school, or to dismiss students early because of weather factors or other emergencies is based solely on the safety and welfare of students. These situations necessarily require the understanding and cooperation of parents. **Parents who are not ordinarily at home at times of morning delays, school cancellations, or early dismissals should make arrangements at the start of the school year for their children to be supervised at home, or for them to report to a pre-arranged, safe place when such an emergency occurs.**

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

1. Announcements of school emergencies will be broadcast on local radio and TV stations, the phone call alert system, the district's website, www.GoldenRams.com, the website's E-Alert (e-mail message) system, Facebook and Twitter.

2. On a one or two-hour delay, starting times at schools and bus pick-up times will be adjusted according to the length of the delay for K-12 students. Parents of Pre-Kindergarten students will be informed of the delay procedures at the beginning of the school year.

3. The school breakfast program will be in operation on a one-hour delay, but cancelled on a two-hour delay.

4. Early dismissals due to emergency will be ordered only when absolutely necessary.

5. **Please do not call the schools.** This procedure will always be followed. Additional information or changes during a particular emergency will be broadcast if necessary.

YMCA Before/After Care

The Allegheny Valley YMCA operates a School Aged Child Care program for students in grades K-5 before and after school at Grandview Upper Elementary. The morning session starts at 6:00am and the afternoon session ends at 6:00pm. For more information about the program, call the YMCA at 724-224-9500.

School Attendance, Truancy

It is the belief of the Highlands School District Attendance Officer that school truancy is a symptom, not a problem. The earlier in a student's school career that action is taken, the better chance to assure intervention and success. All absences should be treated as unlawful until the school district receives a written excuse explaining the reason(s) for an absence.

First Unlawful Absence - Parent/guardian receives a notice of unlawful absence from the school district.

Second Unlawful Absence - Parent/guardian receives a second notice of unlawful absence from the school district.

Third Unlawful Absence - Parent/guardian receives a 3rd notice of unlawful absence by certified mail providing "official notice of child's third illegal absence." Three days after giving such notice, the student or parent/guardian who again violates the compulsory attendance requirements shall be liable without notice.

Truancy Elimination Plan (TEP) - School districts shall coordinate a school/family conference to discuss the cause of the child's truancy and develop a mutually agreed upon Truancy Elimination Plan (TEP) to resolve truant behavior.

Subsequent Unlawful Absence - After agreeing to a TEP, or if there is no agreement on a truancy elimination plan and 3 days have passed since the parent/guardian received the official notice of the child's third illegal absence, if a child is unlawfully absent, at any point within the school year, an official notice of unlawful absence will be sent home. It advises the parent/guardian that a citation will immediately be sent to the magisterial district judge.

TARDY POLICY

Grades K-5: 10 tardies = ½ day illegal absence and every additional 5 tardies count as another ½ day illegal absence.

Middle School: 5 unexcused tardies = 1 illegal absence

High School: 4 unexcused tardies = 1 illegal absence

For more information, contact your child's school or the District Attendance Officer at 724-226-2400 or visit www.goldenrams.com/attendance.

Highlands School District Goals

1. **Establish** a safe, disciplined, and well maintained learning environment that challenges students at all levels, involves parents in their child's education, and encourages the development of a strong work ethic.

2. **Promote** collaboration and foster a professional learning community with the primary focus on student achievement through long-term, intensive staff development and data analysis to inform high quality instruction that will enhance student learning.

3. **Align** the written, taught, and tested curriculum through the development of challenging standards for all disciplines with a focus on reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, science, and technology emphasizing mastery of the basics and development of higher level thinking, and problem solving skills through fiscally sound management procedures.

4. **Provide** a support system that allows all students to access additional help, and then address those students at more frequent intervals to determine the effectiveness of remediation strategies.

5. **Support and enhance** the comprehensive arts curriculum (visual, dance, theater, music, and physical education), emphasize components of the district wellness program, and incorporate the functions necessary to develop technologically proficient and career ready students.



2015

August

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday						
 <p>highlandsrams</p> <p>2015 likes</p> <p>highlandsrams Congrats to the Class of 2015! You will always be RAMS for Life!</p> <p>optimist15 Make us proud, HHS graduates!</p>												<p>CALENDAR CODES: HS - High School MS - Middle School GRV - Grandview FMT - Fairmount FAWN - Fawn VF - Varsity Football CC - Community Center</p>
	<p>MARCHING BAND CAMP 8am-8pm</p> <p>Band Boosters (HS Cafe) 7pm</p>	<p>MARCHING BAND CAMP 8am-5pm</p>	<p>MARCHING BAND CAMP 8am-5pm</p> <p>Gridiron Club (CC) 7pm</p>	<p>MARCHING BAND CAMP 8am-5pm</p>	<p>MARCHING BAND CAMP 8am-5pm</p>	<p>Soccer Boosters Meeting & Picnic</p>						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8						
9	<p>School Board Agenda Mtg. (HS Library) 7pm</p>	<p>MARCHING BAND CAMP 8am-12noon</p>	<p>6th Grade Transition Camp (MS) 8:30am-11am</p> <p>Marching Band Group Photo & Band Camp 11am-7pm</p> <p>MARCHING BAND PIE NIGHT 7pm Golden Rams Stadium</p>	<p>6th Grade Transition Camp (MS) 9-11am</p>		<p>Football Team Pictures / Picnic Day 10am - Stadium</p>						
	10	11	12	13	14	15						

16	School Board Regular Mtg. (HS Library) 7pm	9th Grade Orientation 8:30am-12:30pm (HS)		3rd Grade Open House at Grandview 6-7:30pm Varsity Marching Band Performance at Kennywood Park		
17	24 TEACHER INSERVICE	18 TEACHER INSERVICE	19 TEACHER CLERICAL DAY Baseball Boosters (CC) 6:30pm	20 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS <i>Welcome Back!</i> Kindergarten Get Acquainted Day Football Meet the Team Night (MS Aud.) 7pm	21 Kindergarten Transition Day <i>Noon Dismissal</i>	22 GRANDVIEW'S 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY Open House 1:00-5:00pm Gridiron Club Cash/Prize Bash 6-10pm Brack. Legion
23	30	31 Kindergarten Transition Day <i>Noon Dismissal</i> Variations Show Choir Informational Meeting 2:45-4pm (HS Choir Room)	25	26	27	28
29						

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 **2015 likes**

highlandsrams Welcome back to school! [#cheersforthenewyear](#)
mrteachr Can't wait to see our RAMS students! [#backtoschoolagain](#)

August 2015  **2015 likes**
highlandsrams The RAMS staff supported the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge!




2015

September

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><i>Patriot Day Moving Flag</i></p>	<p>CALENDAR CODES: HS - High School MS - Middle School GRV - Grandview FMT - Fairmount FAWN - Fawn VF - Varsity Football CC - Community Center</p>	<p>Variations Auditions 3-5pm (HS)</p>	<p>Variations Auditions 3-5pm (HS)</p>	<p>VF: Rams vs. Summit Academy - 7:00pm <i>Elementary Night</i></p>	
1	2	3	4	5		
	<p>LABOR DAY SCHOOLS CLOSED</p>	<p>"BACK TO SCHOOL" NIGHT at Grandview 6:30-8:30pm</p>	<p>"BACK TO SCHOOL" NIGHT at Middle School 6:30-8:30pm</p> <p>Soccer Boosters (CC) 6:30pm</p> <p>Gridiron Club Fall Mums Orders Due</p>	<p>"BACK TO SCHOOL" NIGHT at Fairmount & Fawn Primary Centers and the High School 6:30-8:30pm</p>	<p>PATRIOT DAY</p> <p>HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS & TEACHERS Gr. K-5: Noon Dismissal Gr. 6-12: 11am Dismissal</p> <p>VF: Rams @Apollo Ridge 7:00pm</p>	<p>ACT @Burrell - Gr. 12</p> <p>Mercer Band Festival (HHS Band @Mercer Jr/Sr High School) 7pm</p>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<p>GRANDPARENTS DAY</p>	<p>ROSH HASHANAH Variations Boosters (HS Cafe) 6pm</p> <p>Variations 1st Rehearsal 6:30-8:30pm</p> <p>Band Boosters (HS Cafe) 7pm</p> <p>School Board Agenda Mtg. (HS Library) 7pm</p>		<p>COLLEGE FAIR @Clarion Hotel, 6-8pm</p> <p>Gridiron Club Fall Mums Delivery 5-6pm - HS Parking Lot Meeting at 7pm (CC)</p>		<p>VF: Rams vs. West Shamokin - 7:00pm <i>Elementary Cheer/Youth Sports Night</i></p>	<p>Variations Rehearsal 10:30am-1:30pm</p>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19

20	School Board Regular Mtg. (HS Library) 7pm	ALLE-KISKI BAND FESTIVAL @ Plum HS 7pm - Rain Date Sept. 23	FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN YOM KIPPUR	HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Gr. K-5: Noon Dismissal Gr. 6-12: 11am Dismissal	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Act 80 Teacher Inservice VF: Rams @Carlynton 7:00pm	26
27	21 ELEMENTARY BAND NIGHT (Grandview) Time TBA	29	30 HIGH SCHOOL BROWN & GOLD AWARDS for the 2nd Semester of 2014-15 (HS) 7pm Baseball Boosters (CC) 6:30pm	24	25	26

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♥ 2015 likes

highlandsrams Highlands kids love our community youth cheer and sports leagues!
rampride There are so many great options for our young children in this community. #gratefulparent

September 2015

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♥ 2015 likes

highlandsrams Friday Night Lights Highlands style #R4L
ramfanforever Happy Ram time!
cheercapn The ONLY place to be on Friday nights! Go Rams! #R4L





2015

October

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
 highlandsrams 2015 likes highlandsrams Scary, funny, pretty, or strange ... Highlands students know how to rock Halloween! #hsc Halloween highschoolstudent Elementary school parades and parties were the best!					1	2	3
Fire Prevention Week Oct. 4-10 4	Fall Follies Auditions 3-5pm PMEA Honors Band Auditions 5pm - South Fayette HS Variations Boosters (HS Cafe) 6pm Band Boosters (HS Cafe) 7pm 5	6	7	EARLY DISMISSAL ALL SCHOOLS Gr. K-5@1:28pm Gr. 6-12@12:30pm Gridiron Club Pie Orders Due Homecoming Spirit Night & Pep Rally 7:30pm - Stadium 8	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Act 80 Teacher Inservice HOMECOMING Parade: 6pm - Plaza VF: Rams vs. Freeport 7:00pm 9	10	
National School Lunch Week Oct. 12-16 11	COLUMBUS DAY NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Act 80 Teacher Inservice School Board Agenda Mtg. (HS Library) 7pm 12	13	PSAT/NMSQT @Highlands - Gr. 10/11 Soccer Boosters (CC) 6:30pm Gridiron Club (CC) 7pm 14	15	VF: Rams @Burrell 7:00pm 16	17	

National Red Ribbon Week: Oct. 23-31 18	National School Bus Safety Week Oct. 19-23 School Board Regular Mtg. (HS Library) 7pm 19	20	Fall Follies Dress Rehearsal 3-6pm Gridiron Club Pie Delivery 5-6pm (CC) 21	FALL FOLLIES TALENT SHOW (HS Aud.) 7pm 22	VF: Rams vs. Valley 7:00pm MS Band Night 23	UNITED NATIONS DAY ACT @Butler - Gr. 12 Performing Arts Day: HHS Choir @Norwin 10am & Kennywood 7pm 24
25	26	27	High School Musical Informational Meeting 2:45-4pm - HHS Choir Room Baseball Boosters (CC) 6:30pm 28	MIDDLE SCHOOL SHOWCASE OF STARS TALENT SHOW 7pm (MS) End of First Grading Period 29	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Teacher Clerical VF: Rams vs. Shady Side 7:00pm Senior Night 30	HALLOWEEN 31

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♥ 2015 likes

highlandsrams Homecoming always stirs up the Rams Pride! Welcome home, alumni!
queenking I was so honored to be a part of the Royal Court! Thanks to all! #proudoberams

October 2015

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♥ 2015 likes

highlandsrams HESA's first Fire Expo for students and the community
ramsstudent I learned so many valuable lessons about fire safety!
hesaprood See Mr. Krzeminski for more info about firefighting class!



2015

November

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>November is National Career Development Month</i></p> <p>STANDARD TIME BEGINS "Fall Back" One Hour</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Variations Boosters (HS Cafe) 6pm</p> <p>Band Boosters (HS Cafe) 7pm</p> <p>2</p>	<p>ELECTION DAY</p> <p>Stadium Highlights Rehearsal 6-9pm</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Stadium Highlights Rehearsal 2:45-4:30pm</p> <p>Gridiron Club 7pm (CC)</p> <p>HHS MARCHING BAND'S STADIUM HIGHLIGHTS HS Gym - 7pm</p> <p>4</p>	<p>REPORT CARDS ISSUED</p> <p>5</p>		<p>SAT I&II @Springdale & Knoch - Gr. 12</p> <p>7</p>
	<p>School Board Agenda Mtg. (HS Library) 7pm</p> <p>9</p>		<p>VETERANS DAY</p> <p>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</p> <p>Parent-Teacher Conference Day 11:30am - 2:30pm & 4-7pm - All Schools</p> <p>11</p>		<p>High School Musical Auditions 5-9:30pm HHS Choir Room</p> <p>13</p>	<p>High School Muscial Callbacks 10:30am-5pm HHS Aud.</p> <p>14</p>
<p>94th Annual National American Education Week: Nov. 16-20</p> <p>15</p>	<p>HIGH SCHOOL FINANCIAL AID NIGHT 6PM</p> <p>School Board Regular Mtg. (HS Library) 7pm</p> <p>16</p>		<p>Baseball Boosters (CC) 6:30pm</p> <p>18</p>		<p>HIGH SCHOOL FALL PLAY (HS) 7pm</p> <p>20</p>	<p>Tarentum/Brackenridge Holiday Parade 1pm</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL FALL PLAY (HS) 7pm</p> <p>21</p>

22	HS Musical Parent Info Meeting (HS Cafe) 6:30pm		HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Gr. K-5: Noon Dismissal Gr. 6-12: 11am Dismissal Teacher Clerical - PM GOLD CARD THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON - 11am @ HS	THANKSGIVING Thanksgiving Holiday SCHOOLS CLOSED		PMEA Honors Band Festival @Carnegie Hall Nov. 28-30
29	SCHOOLS CLOSED	24	25	26	27	28



2015 likes

highlandsrams During Veterans Week, veteran and substitute teacher Mr. Jim McGowan tells the students at the Primary Centers about his military experience. Team Red, White & Blue involves Highlands students in their effort to keep the American flag moving on Patriot Day. #remember911

usapride Thank you to all of our Veterans!

hmsstudent So that's why they were carrying the flag on Broadview Blvd! I want to be a part of that next year!

highschoolkid We also had several Veterans visit the High School to share their experiences. Thank you to them!



2015 likes
highlandsrams GV Principal Heather Hauser read for the entire school day as part of the Book It! Principal Challenge, "Read Your Heart Out". She enlisted the students, staff, therapeutic reading dogs and the HHS football team to read with her!

November 2015



2015

December

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>All Aboard the Polar Express!</i></p>			<p>Keystone Exams Testing Window: Dec. 2-16 →</p> <p>Gridiron Club 7pm (CC)</p> <p>HIGHLANDS AREA ROTARY CLUB CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT (HS Aud.) 7pm</p>			<p>STUFF-A-BUS for TOYS FOR TOTS (Tentative)</p> <p>SAT I&II @Butler - Gr. 12</p>
		1	2	3	4	5
<p>NOTE: The Highlands School Board December Meeting date and time will be announced and posted on the district website.</p> <p>Football Banquet 5pm (HS Cafe)</p>	<p>HANUKKAH</p> <p>A-K Honors Band Auditions @HS 3:30pm</p> <p>Variations Boosters (HS Cafe) 6pm</p> <p>Band Boosters (HS Cafe) 7pm</p>	<p>HS Choral Rehearsal 3-6:30pm</p>	<p>HIGH SCHOOL WINTER CHORAL CONCERT (HS) 7PM</p>	<p>MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER CHORAL CONCERT (MS) 7pm</p>		<p>ACT @Burrell - Gr. 12</p>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	<p>HS Band Rehearsal 2:45-5pm</p> <p>High School Musical Cast Caroling in the Community "Tag Day" 6:30-8:00pm</p>	<p>HS Band Rehearsal 2:45-5pm</p> <p>GRANDVIEW WINTER CHORAL CONCERT & ART SHOW 6pm</p>	<p>HIGH SCHOOL WINTER BAND CONCERT (HS) 7pm</p> <p>Baseball Boosters (CC) 6:30pm</p>	<p>MIDDLE SCHOOL HOLIDAY BAND & JAZZ BAND CONCERT (MS) 7pm</p>		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19

		FIRST DAY OF WINTER	HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Gr. K-5: Noon Dismissal Gr. 6-12: 11am Dismissal Teacher Clerical - PM	Christmas Eve Holiday Vacation SCHOOLS CLOSED through Jan. 3	CHRISTMAS →	KWANZAA Dec. 26-Jan. 1
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Holiday Vacation SCHOOLS CLOSED			New Year's Eve →		
27	28	29	30	31		

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❤️ 2015 likes

highlandsrams Younger students participate in the annual Christmas Around the World event hosted by Mr. Pat Hassler's High School social studies students.

mrsteacher My students learned songs, made crafts, and even sampled food from various countries. The AFS students were there as well. It was a big hit with the kids!

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❤️ 2015 likes

highlandsrams The month of December features many concerts and holiday events, including the annual "Stuff A Bus" campaign for Toys for Tots.

hsdmom My kids and I stopped by that bus to donate new, unwrapped toys! #stuffabus



December 2015




2016

January

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>highlandsrams</p> <p>♥ 2016 likes</p> <p>highlandsrams A fabulous family of "Frozen" friends from Fairmount wish you a Happy New Year and wonderful (quick) winter! #wannabuildasnowman</p>					<p>NEW YEAR'S DAY SCHOOLS CLOSED</p> <p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>January is School Director Recognition Month</p> <p><i>NOTE: Highlands School Board meeting dates for 2016 were decided at the December Reorganization meeting and are posted on the district's website.</i></p> <p>3</p>	<p>SCHOOLS REOPEN</p> <p>Variations Boosters (HS Cafe) 6pm</p> <p>Band Boosters (HS Cafe) 7pm</p> <p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Keystone Exams Testing Window: Jan. 6-20</p> <p>→</p> <p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>Musical Cabaret Parent Meeting (HS Aud.) 2pm</p> <p>9</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>Gridiron Club (CC) 7pm</p> <p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>

17	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Act 80 Teacher Inservice	End of 1st Semester		A-K HONORS BAND FESTIVAL @Highlands HS	EARLY DISMISSAL ALL SCHOOLS Gr. K-5 @1:28pm Gr. 6-12 @12:30pm Teacher Clerical - PM A-K HONORS BAND CONCERT (HS Aud.) 7pm	HHS Musical Alumni Meet 'n Greet Rehearsal 12Noon - HS SAT I&II @Burrell - Gr. 11/12
24	GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE WEEK! Jan. 25-29 →	REPORT CARDS ISSUED	PMEA District Band @ Norwin HS Baseball Boosters (CC) 6:30pm	PMEA District Band @ Norwin HS	PMEA District Band @ Norwin HS	PMEA District Band @ Norwin HS
31	25	26	27	28	29	30

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♥ 2016 likes

highlandsrams HHS tennis player Olivia Szalanski was awarded a scholarship from the Positive Athlete Pittsburgh Program, led by former Steelers great Hines Ward. Nearly 40 HHS students were nominated as Positive Athletes by coaches, staff, families and friends!

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♥ 2016 likes

highlandsrams The Great Kindness Challenge encouraged ALL district students and staff to complete 50 kind deeds during the GKC week. [#kindnessmatters](#)
ramsarekind The participation was outstanding! Highlands was proclaimed a Kindness Certified School District. [#GKC](#) [#cooltobekind](#)



January 2016



2016

February

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>February is National Career and Technical Education Month / African American History Month & National Love A Book Month</i></p>	<p><i>National School Counseling Week Feb. 1-5</i></p> <p>Band Boosters (HS Cafe) 7pm</p>	<p>GROUNDHOG DAY</p>			<p>Cabaret Concert Dress Rehearsal (HS) 7pm</p>	<p>ACT @Butler - Gr. 11/12</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL ALUMNI & CAST CABARET CONCERT HS Commons & Audion 7pm</p>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	<p>HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Gr. K-5: Noon Dismissal Gr. 6-12: 11am Dismissal</p>	<p>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Teacher Inservice</p>	
				11	12	13
<p>VALENTINE'S DAY</p>	<p>PRESIDENTS' DAY</p> <p>SCHOOLS CLOSED or Makeup Day</p>	<p>HIGH SCHOOL BROWN & GOLD AWARDS for 1st Semester (HS) 7pm</p>	<p>MIDDLE SCHOOL BROWN & GOLD AWARDS for 1st Semester (MS) 8th gr. - 11am 7th gr. - 12 noon 6th gr. - 1pm</p>			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20

21	22		Baseball Boosters (CC) 6:30pm			
28	29	23	24	25	26	27
	LEAP YEAR DAY High School Musical Ticket Sales Begin					

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♥ 2016 likes

highlandsrams The Highlands HS Variations Show Choir took New York City by storm last spring!
choirmember It was awesome! We saw two Broadway shows and performed in Central Park and Liberty State Park.
musicismylife I loved eating at Ellen's Stardust Diner!

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♥ 2016 likes

highlandsrams The Middle School 6th grade special area teachers collaborated on a unit about the Inuit Culture to provide an interactive exhibit for the school.
sixthgrader I liked learning about the games the Inuits like to play.
msteachr Dr. Reidmiller's caribou stew was the best!

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♥ 2016 likes

highlandsrams Grandview students conduct the egg drop experiment during the annual Science Olympiad for grades 3-5.
fourthgrader Science Olympiad was super COOL! #lovescience
fifthgraderocks The egg drop was just one of the many experiments we got to do! I never knew science was this fun!
mrsscience It was wonderful to have the community donations and support to provide this opportunity for the kids. The kids even got to wear and take home Olympiad T-shirts!

February 2016






2016

March

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p><i>National School Breakfast Week</i></p> <p>1</p>	<p><i>NEA'S READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY & Dr. Seuss' Birthday</i></p> <p>2</p>			<p>SAT @Valley, Kiski, Plum, Knoch & Burrell - Gr. 11/12</p> <p>High School Musical Cast MANDATORY Muscial <i>Marathon</i> Full Dress Rehearsal 9:30am-6:30pm</p> <p>5</p>
<p><i>March is Music in Our Schools Month, National Nutrition Month, National Social Work Month, Youth Art Month, and Theater in Our Schools Month</i></p> <p>6</p>	<p>Band Boosters (HS Cafe) 7pm</p> <p>7</p>		<p>PMEA Region Band</p> <p>9</p>	<p>PMEA Region Band</p> <p>10</p>	<p>PMEA Region Band</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL PRODUCTION (HS Aud.) 7pm</p> <p>11</p>	<p>PMEA Region Band</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL PRODUCTION (HS Aud.) 7pm</p> <p>12</p>
<p>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS - "Spring Ahead" One Hour</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL PRODUCTION (HS Aud.) 2pm Matinee</p> <p>13</p>				<p>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</p> <p>Cager Classic Practices</p> <p>17</p>	<p>End of 3rd Grading Period</p> <p>A-K BASKETBALL CAGER CLASSIC Skills Events (HS Gym)</p> <p>MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL "The Lion King Jr." (MS Aud.) 7pm Cookies with the Cast following the performance</p> <p>18</p>	<p>A-K BASKETBALL CAGER CLASSIC GAMES (HS Gym)</p> <p>MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL "The Lion King Jr." (MS Aud.) 2pm & 7pm Cookies with the Cast following the performance</p> <p>19</p>

<i>FIRST DAY OF SPRING</i>	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Teacher Clerical <i>or Makeup Day</i>	SPRING BREAK: SCHOOLS CLOSED <i>or Makeup Day</i>	SPRING BREAK: SCHOOLS CLOSED <i>or Makeup Day</i>	SPRING BREAK: SCHOOLS CLOSED	SPRING BREAK: SCHOOLS CLOSED <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i>	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<i>EASTER SUNDAY</i>	SPRING BREAK: SCHOOLS CLOSED		PMEA All-State Band Festival @Hershey Baseball Boosters (CC)6:30pm	PMEA All-State Band Festival @Hershey		
27	28	29	30	31		

 **highlandsrams**



♥ 2016 likes
highlandsrams March is MUSICAL season at Highlands! Hundreds of students, staff and parents come together to create outstanding productions!
castmember We start auditioning in the fall and spend long days and evenings rehearsing for the next few months! It is all worth it! We have directors at the HS and MS who put their hearts and souls into these musicals! [#lovethestage](#) [#bestfeeling](#)



♥ 2016 likes
highlandsrams Read Across America Week and Dr. Seuss' birthday is always a big hit with students! The week features guest readers, activities and sometimes...birthday cake!
sixthgrader Well, our teachers made us green eggs and ham! LOL [#actuallytastedgood](#)
elemarent The teachers make reading fun for the kids! I love the creative Dr. Seuss book-themed door decorations!

March 2016





2016

April

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 highlandsrams 2016 likes highlandsrams HSD Alumni musicians and local musicians impress the audience with some jazz standards at the annual Highlands Gives Back Charity Concert. bandfan Go Mr. Lynn & Mr. B! #HGB					APRIL FOOL'S DAY REPORT CARDS ISSUED PMEA All-State Band Festival @Hershey	PMEA All-State Band Festival @Hershey
	Band Front Auditions Apr. 4-8 → Variations Boosters (HS Cafe) 6pm Band Boosters (HS Cafe) 7pm		HIGH SCHOOL HONORS BAND RECITAL on the HS Stage - 7pm			ACT @Butler - Gr. 11/12 Variations Rehearsal 10:30am - 2pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NAEYC Week of the Young Child & National Library Week Apr. 10-16 →	PSSA Testing Window: English & Language Arts Apr. 11-15 →			EARLY CHILDHOOD FAIR & KINDERGARTEN / Pre-K COUNTS REGISTRATION (HS Cafe) 5:30-8pm	"HIGHLANDS GIVES BACK" ALUMNI & FRIENDS CHARITY CONCERT at the Clarion Hotel	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16

<p>MARCHING BAND BANQUET (TBA)</p> <p><i>Public School Volunteer Week</i> Apr. 18-22 →</p> <p>17</p>	<p><i>PSSA Testing Window: Math</i> Apr. 18-22 →</p> <p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>A-K JAZZ FESTIVAL @Deer Lakes HS 7pm</p> <p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p><i>EARTH DAY</i></p> <p>22</p>	<p><i>PASSOVER</i></p> <p>23</p>
<p>24</p>	<p><i>PSSA Testing Window: Science</i> Apr. 25-29 →</p> <p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p><i>ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY</i></p> <p>Baseball Boosters (CC) 6:30pm</p> <p>27</p>	<p>High School Band Trip Apr. 28-May 1 →</p> <p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

 **highlandsrams**



♥ 2016 likes

highlandsrams Last year's annual Spring Sanity raised nearly \$4,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation!

juniorram This was totally the highlight of the school year!

sanityrocks I loved watching the teachers do the "Evolution of Dance" during a break in the action. LOL!

ram4life It was cool to see Mr. Hassler breakdancing - the "worm"! [#coolteachers](#) [#hssspringsanity](#)



highlandsrams

♥ 2016 likes

highlandsrams

Young ones enjoy the entertainment and crafts at the annual Early Childhood Fair.

prekmom You can also pick up your registration packet at the Fair!

highlandsadmin We look forward to meeting all of our Pre-K and Kindergarten students in the fall! [#rams4life](#)



April 2016



2016

May

Instarams
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>LAW DAY</p> <p>HIGHLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK National Teacher Appreciation Week, Music Week, and Physical Ed & Sports Week: May 1-7 →</p> <p>1</p>	<p>PSSA Makeups May 2-6 →</p> <p>Variations Boosters (HS Cafe) 6pm</p> <p>Band Boosters (HS Cafe) 7pm</p> <p>2</p>	<p>TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Middle School Washington DC Trip May 4-6 →</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL SPRING BAND CONCERT (HS) 7pm</p> <p>4</p>	<p>GRANDVIEW SPRING CHORAL CONCERT & ART SHOW 6pm</p> <p>5</p>	<p>HS: Armed Forces Day</p> <p>6</p>	<p>SAT I&II @Highlands, Plum & Knoch Gr. 11/12</p> <p>7</p>
<p>MOTHER'S DAY</p> <p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC HONORS CEREMONY (HS) 5:30pm</p> <p>10</p>	<p>ELEM. / MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC HONORS CEREMONY (MS) 5:30pm</p> <p>HS: Graduation Soloist Auditions - 2:45pm</p> <p>11</p>	<p>HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ BANDS SPRING CONCERT (MS) 7pm</p> <p>12</p>	<p>HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Gr. K-5: Noon Dismissal Gr. 6-12: 11am Dismissal Teacher Inservice</p> <p>Junior/Senior Prom</p> <p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>National Educational Bosses' Week May 15-21 →</p> <p>15</p>	<p>Keystone Exams Testing Window: May 16-27 →</p> <p>HS Choral Dress Rehearsal 3-5:30pm</p> <p>16</p>	<p>HS Choral Dress Rehearsal 3-5:30pm</p> <p>17</p>	<p>HIGH SCHOOL SPRING CHORAL CONCERT (HS) 7pm</p> <p>18</p>	<p>MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING CHORAL CONCERT (MS) 7pm</p> <p>HS: Drum Major Auditions 3:45pm - Stage</p> <p>19</p>	<p>HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Gr. K-5: Noon Dismissal Gr. 6-12: 11am Dismissal</p> <p>Variations Show Choir Trip to Rock & Roll Hall of Fame May 20-22 →</p> <p>20</p>	<p>21</p>

<p>BACCALAUREATE SERVICE FOR HHS SENIORS (HS Auditorium) 7pm</p> <p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>GRANDVIEW BAND CONCERT (GV) - 6pm</p> <p>24</p>	<p>Baseball Boosters (CC) 6:30pm FORBES ROAD CTC SENIOR CERTIFICATE CEREMONY</p> <p>25</p>	<p>MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING BAND CONCERT (MS) 7pm</p> <p>26</p>	<p>HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS Gr. K-5: Noon Dismissal Gr. 6-12: 11am Dismissal</p> <p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>MEMORIAL DAY SCHOOLS CLOSED</p> <p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p> highlandsrams</p>  			

 **highlandsrams**



 **2016 likes** **highlandsrams** Elementary students always look forward to the end of the year celebrations!
ramfanforever There's so many great things there for the kids - face painting, music, bounce houses and snacks! Thank you to our PTOs for making it happen! [#ptorocks](#)

May 2016

 **2016 likes**

highlandsrams Prom-goers arrive in style at the Promenade, where family and friends get a chance to see the dazzling dresses and tuxes.
hhsstudent I got my dress from Danielle Basista's prom dress drive! People donated dresses and we got to take one at no charge!
newswatcher That's Danielle with WPXI's Katherine Amenta! Danielle was featured in the "Proud to be from Pittsburgh" segment.





2016

June

Instarams
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><i>Class of 2015 Officers</i></p>			1	2	<p>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - HALF DAY Gr. K-5: Noon Dismissal Gr. 6-12: 11am Dismissal Teacher Clerical</p> <p>48th Annual Commencement (Tentative) 6pm - Stadium</p> <p>REPORT CARDS ISSUED TO GR. K-5</p>	<p>SAT I&II @Burrell & Knoch - Gr. 11/12</p>
5	<p>High School Band Percussion Camp (HS) 9am-Noon</p> <p>Band Boosters (HS Cafe) 7pm</p>	<p>High School Band Percussion Camp (HS) 9am-Noon</p>	<p>High School Band Percussion Camp (HS) 9am-Noon</p>	<p>REPORT CARDS MAILED TO GR. 6-12</p>		<p>KENNYWOOD SCHOOL PICNIC</p> <p>ACT @Butler - Gr. 11/12</p>
12	13	<p>14</p> <p>FLAG DAY</p>	15	16	17	18

FATHER'S DAY	FIRST DAY OF SUMMER					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Baseball Boosters (CC) 6:30pm

 **highlandsrams**



♥ 2016 likes

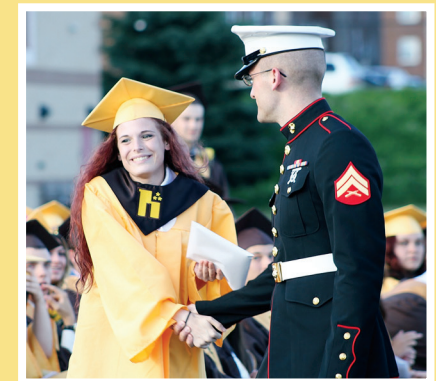
highlandsrams School may be out for summer, but the kids who joined our Compass Camp in July had the opportunity to continue learning in a fun, camp-like atmosphere. The kids used the Compass learning program on the tablets, played games, made crafts and took field trips, like this one to Harrison Hills Environmental Center.

 **highlandsrams**



♥ 2016 likes

highlandsrams A Commencement “selfie” captures the moment.
graduate15 That was the coolest thing ever! What a great idea!
goldenramfan Highlands has one of the nicest, traditional Commencement ceremonies I’ve been to around here!
highlandsrams Our graduates were awarded over \$1.4M in scholarship monies!



June 2016



2016

July

Instarams
www.GoldenRams.com



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	INDEPENDENCE DAY				1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24						
31	25	26	27	28	29	30





2016

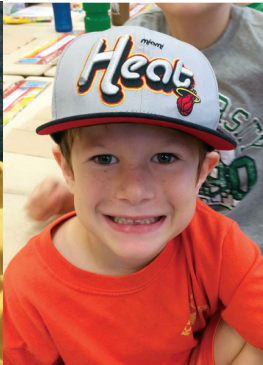
August

Instarams
www.GoldenRams.com



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Band Boosters (HS Cafe) 7pm Keystone Exams Testing Window: Aug. 1-5 →					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

● Instarams Moments ●





Be Involved... Volunteer!

What You Need to Know About Clearances for Volunteering in Schools

Changes to the state's Child Protective Law Services that passed at the end of 2014 will require parents and community members who are willing to volunteer in our schools to apply for and submit official clearances from the state of Pennsylvania with the school district.

Previously, background check software that checked the same records but was made available through the district at no cost to the volunteer was required to participate in classroom activities, field trips and booster groups. Parents or volunteers who had undergone this background check process will be required to provide the state clearances before volunteering again after July 1, 2015.

The clearances that will be required under Act 153 for all volunteers are the **PA State Criminal Record Check and the PA Child Abuse History Clearance**. If a volunteer has resided in the state of Pennsylvania for the past ten (10) years, they may sign an Arrest and Conviction Verification Report signing off that they have not been convicted of any of several listed crimes. *A Federal Criminal History Report is required through the FBI only if a volunteer has not lived in the state for the past ten (10) years.*

Effective July 25, 2015, fees for child abuse clearances and criminal background checks required by the Child Protective Services Law are waived for volunteers working with children. Clearances will need to be updated and resubmitted every 3 years.

Parents will still be permitted to attend award assemblies, after-school family functions and events on school property and performances without submitting clearances. Volunteers who wish to donate time in other capacities, such as classroom parent, party helper, field trip chaperone, backstage assistants for performances, volunteer team coaches

or any other volunteer position that includes direct contact with children must submit clearances.

As always, any visitors into a school building will still be required to check in through the Raptor system with a valid state-issued photo ID or Driver's License. The Raptor system is a visitor log that also instantly alerts the school administrators of anyone who is a registered sex offender and custody or security issues. More than 12,000 schools nationwide utilize the Raptor System in their school security procedures. Highlands was the first district in the state to implement the procedure in 2008.

Clearances should be submitted to Misty Chybrzynski at the Administrative Center, Box 288 Natrona Heights PA 15065 or mchybrzynski@goldenrams.com. Call 724-226-2400 x4550 with questions.

PA STATE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK:

Go to: <https://epatch.state.pa.us/>

PA CHILD ABUSE HISTORY CLEARANCE:

Go to <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS>

For direct links to clearance sites and step-by-step directions, please visit our district website at www.goldenrams.com/volunteer.



Stay Connected: Subscribe to E-Alerts!

The Highlands School District website has a feature called *E-Alerts*, which are school announcements and information sent via email through the website. E-Alerts are generally sent several times a month with school news and updates. E-Alerts will also be sent for school emergencies, delays, etc.

TO SUBSCRIBE:

1. Log on to www.GoldenRams.com and click on **Register** (upper right). Follow the prompts to *create a user name and password*.
2. Once registered, **Sign In** to edit your account. Click on **My Account** (upper right) then **Edit Account Settings**.
3. Click on **Subscriptions** then the **Manage Subscriptions** button. Check the box for **Highlands School District** and the boxes for any other school page from which you'd like to receive E-Alerts.
4. Click on the "I'm Done" button and **Sign Out**.

E-ALERTS TEXT OPTION:

If you would like to receive *emergency E-Alert texts* via your cell phone:

1. **Sign In** to your account. Click on **My Account** and select **Edit Account Settings**
2. Click on **E-Alert Settings** and enter cell phone number, provider, and select **Yes**.
3. Click **Save Changes** button and **Sign Out**.

Remember, texted E-Alerts will **ONLY** be sent for school emergencies, delays, etc.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Jennifer Goldberg at jgoldberg@goldenrams.com or 724-226-2400 x4535.

2015 Fall Sports Schedules

Varsity Football

09/04/15	*SUMMIT ACADEMY	Home	7:00PM
09/11/15	*APOLLO RIDGE	Away	7:00PM
09/18/15	*WEST SHAMOKIN	Home	7:00PM
09/25/15	*CARLYNTON	Away	7:00PM
10/2/15	*DEER LAKES	Away	7:00PM
10/9/15	*FREEPORT (Homecoming)	Home	7:00PM
10/16/15	*BURRELL	Away	7:00PM
10/23/14	*VALLEY	Home	7:00PM
10/30/15	*SHADY SIDE ACADEMY	Away	7:00PM

Junior Varsity Football

9/5/15	SUMMIT ACADEMY	Away	10:00AM
9/14/15	APOLLO RIDGE	Home	6:00PM
9/21/15	WEST SHAMOKIN	Away	6:00PM
9/28/15	CARLYNTON	Home	6:00PM
10/5/15	DEER LAKES	Home	6:00PM
10/10/15	FREEPORT	Away	10:00AM
10/19/15	BURRELL	Home	6:00PM
10/24/15	VALLEY	Away	10:00AM
10/31/15	SHADY SIDE ACADEMY	Away	10:00AM

Grades 7/8 Football

9/2/15	DEER LAKES	Home	6:00PM
9/9/15	VALLEY	Away	4:00PM
9/16/15	BURRELL	Away	4:00PM
9/30/15	FREEPORT	Home	6:00PM
10/7/15	DEER LAKES	Away	3:45PM
10/14/15	VALLEY	Home	6:00PM
10/21/15	BURRELL	Home	6:00PM

Girls Junior Varsity Soccer

9/9/15	BURRELL	Home	5:30 PM
9/12/15	MARS	Away	9:30 AM
9/14/15	FREEPORT	Home	5:30 PM
9/16/15	KNOCH	Away	6:00 PM
9/23/15	DEER LAKES	Away	5:30 PM
9/28/15	BURRELL	Away	5:30 PM
9/30/15	MARS	Home	5:30 PM
10/2/15	FREEPORT	Away	5:15 PM
10/5/15	KNOCH	Home	5:30 PM
10/7/15	VALLEY	Away	6:00 PM
10/14/15	DEER LAKES	Home	5:30 PM

Girls Varsity Soccer

8/25/15	NEW BRIGHTON (Scrimmage)	Home	4:00PM
9/5/15	AMBRIDGE (Labor Day Tourney)	TBA	
9/9/15	BURRELL *	Home	7:00PM
9/12/15	MARS *	Away	11:00AM
9/14/15	FREEPORT *	Home	7:00PM
9/16/15	KNOCH *	Away	7:30PM
9/18/15	VALLEY *	Home	3:30PM
9/23/15	DEER LAKES *	Away	7:00PM
9/28/15	BURRELL *	Away	7:00PM
9/30/15	MARS *	Home	7:00PM
10/2/15	FREEPORT *	Away	3:45PM
10/5/15	KNOCH *	Home	7:00PM
10/7/15	VALLEY *	Away	7:30PM
10/14/15	DEER LAKES *	Home	7:00PM

Boys Junior Varsity Soccer

9/8/15	DEER LAKES	Home	5:30PM
9/10/15	WEST SHAMOKIN	Away	5:30PM
9/15/15	SHADY SIDE ACADEMY	Home	5:30PM
9/19/15	MARS	Away	10:00AM
9/22/15	KNOCH	Home	5:30PM
9/24/15	FREEPORT	Away	5:15PM
9/26/15	DEER LAKES	Away	6:00PM
9/29/15	WEST SHAMOKIN	Home	5:30PM
10/1/15	SHADY SIDE ACADEMY	Away	6:00PM
10/8/15	MARS	Home	5:30PM
10/13/15	KNOCH	Home	6:00PM
10/15/15	FREEPORT	Home	5:30PM
10/17/15	ST. JOSEPH	Home	11:00AM
10/20/15	HEMPFIELD	Away	6:00PM

(*) - League Event

These are the schedules that were available at the time of printing.

NOTE: Events are subject to change.

**For additional information regarding athletics,
contact Chuck Debor, Athletic Director
724-226-1000, ext. 6114**

Boys Varsity Soccer

9/8/15	DEER LAKES *	Home	7:00PM
9/10/15	WEST SHAMOKIN *	Away	3:30PM
9/14/15	AMBRIDGE	Away	TBA
9/15/15	SHADY SIDE ACADEMY *	Home	7:00PM
9/19/15	MARS *	Away	1:00PM
9/22/15	KNOCH *	Home	7:00PM
9/24/15	FREEPORT *	Away	3:45PM
9/26/15	DEER LAKES *	Away	7:30PM
9/29/15	WEST SHAMOKIN *	Home	7:00PM
10/1/15	SHADY SIDE ACADEMY*	Away	7:30PM
10/8/15	MARS*	Home	7:00PM
10/13/15	KNOCH *	Away	7:30PM
10/15/15	FREEPORT *	Home	7:00PM
10/17/15	ST. JOSEPH	Home	1:00PM
10/20/15	HEMPFIELD (SR. NIGHT)	Away	7:30PM

Girls 7/8 Basketball

8/31/15	ARMSTRONG (Scrimmage)	Away	3:30PM
9/2/15	FREEPORT	Away	3:30PM
9/3/15	DEER LAKES	Home	3:30PM
9/8/15	BURRELL	Away	3:30PM
9/10/15	ARMSTRONG	Home	3:30PM
9/15/15	APOLLO RIDGE	Away	3:30PM
9/17/15	WEST SHAMOKIN	Home	3:30PM
9/22/15	VALLEY	Away	3:30PM
9/24/15	SPRINGDALE	Home	3:30PM
9/28/15	SENECA VALLEY	Away	3:30PM
9/29/15	RIVERVIEW	Away	3:30PM
10/1/15	LEECHBURG	Home	3:30PM
10/8/15	FREEPORT	Home	3:30PM
10/13/15	DEER LAKES	Away	3:30PM
10/15/15	BURRELL	Home	3:30PM





Chuck Debor
Athletic Director
724-226-1000, ext. 6114



Girls Varsity Volleyball

8/25/15	LEECHBURG (scrimmage)	Away	3:30PM
9/8/15	VALLEY *	Home	7:00PM
9/10/15	KNOCH *	Away	7:30PM
9/14/15	ST. JOSEPH	Home	6:00PM
9/15/15	OBAMA ACADEMY *	Home	7:00PM
9/17/15	DEER LAKES *	Away	7:00PM
9/22/15	BURRELL *	Home	7:00PM
9/29/15	FREEPORT *	Away	7:00PM
10/1/15	VALLEY *	Away	7:00PM
10/6/15	KNOCH *	Home	7:00PM
10/8/15	OBAMA ACADEMY *	Away	7:00PM
10/12/15	SPRINGDALE	Away	7:00PM
10/13/15	DEER LAKES *	Home	7:00PM
10/15/15	BURRELL *	Away	7:00PM
10/19/15	ST. JOSEPH	Away	6:00PM
10/22/15	FREEPORT *	Home	7:00PM

Varsity Golf

8/24/15	BURRELL *	Home	3:30PM
8/26/15	CARDINAL WUERL NORTH CATHOLIC *	Away	3:30PM
8/28/15	VALLEY *	Home	3:30PM
8/31/15	PENN HILLS	Home	3:45PM
9/2/15	WEST SHAMOKIN *	Away	3:30PM
9/4/15	LEECHBURG *	Home	3:30PM
9/9/15	FREEPORT *	Away	3:30PM
9/11/15	BURRELL *	Away	3:30PM
9/14/15	CARDINAL WUERL NORTH CATHOLIC *	Home	3:30PM
9/16/15	VALLEY *	Away	3:30PM
9/17/15	PENN HILLS (Greek Oaks, Verona)	Away	3:30PM
9/21/15	BOYS INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS	TBA	
9/22/15	WEST SHAMOKIN *	Home	3:30PM
9/24/15	LEECHBURG *	Away	3:30PM
9/30/15	FREEPORT *	Home	3:30PM

Girls Varsity Tennis

8/26/15	CARDINAL WUERL NORTH CATHOLIC*	Home	3:30PM
8/28/15	WEST SHAMOKIN *	Away	3:30PM
8/31/15	INDIANA *	Away	3:45PM
9/2/15	SOUTHMORELAND *	Away	3:30PM
9/8/15	VALLEY *	Away	3:30PM
9/10/15	BURRELL *	Home	3:30PM
9/15/15	SECTION SINGLES	TBA	
9/23/15	DEER LAKES *	Home	3:30PM
9/25/15	RIVERVIEW *	Home	3:30PM
9/28/15	SPRINGDALE *	Away	3:45PM
9/29/15	SECTION DOUBLES	TBA	
10/2/15	WINCHESTER THURSTON * (Schenley Pk/Oval)	Away	4:00PM
10/5/15	CARLYNTON *	Home	3:30PM

(*) - League Event

NOTE: Events are subject to change.



Winter & Spring Sports Schedules will be available on
 the district website: www.GoldenRams.com

HSD Programs & Services

Including School Health Services & Procedures

Highlands Virtual Academy Web-Based Education

Highlands School District understands that parents and students are looking for an alternative to the traditional classroom environment. Highlands is proud to meet the needs and wants of students and their parents by providing the same quality academic environment in our Highlands Virtual Academy program.

Highlands Virtual Academy is an exciting, engaging, online learning environment that is designed to capture your child's attention and draw him/her into the interactive world of web-based education. Highlands School District utilizes an award-winning platform to provide a high quality cyber program for your student.

Highlands students may enroll in Highlands Virtual Academy from Grades 7 through 12. Our cyber school offers the benefits of an online education with the reward of a Highlands High School diploma upon completion. Students also may participate in home district athletics, extracurricular activities, and use district facilities for hands-on learning. The academy is overseen by Highlands employees and teachers, and the Highlands curriculum is instructed. *Did you know that by operating our own cyber school we are able to recoup \$9,000 to \$20,000 per district student that elects to enroll in our cyber school versus another offered in this state?*

The Highlands Virtual Academy provides your student with a state of the art education, opportunities to participate in a wide range of district activities, and individualized instruction and support by certified and highly qualified members of the professional teaching staff. For more information about enrollment, visit the district website at www.GoldenRams.com or call the HVA Coordinator at 724-226-1000.

Gifted and Talented Education

Highlands School District is dedicated to providing opportunities which promote the growth of skills and knowledge necessary for identified gifted students to achieve their potential and to fulfill their future roles in our ever-changing global society. Highlands recognizes the unique abilities, talents, interests and needs of intellectually gifted students which require special educational modifications.

The gifted program (GATE) is a sincere commitment to the gifted student, yet the responsibility for educating a gifted student is inherent to all educators, the student's parents and the student. For more

information about the GATE program, visit the district's website, www.GoldenRams.com, or contact Deb Lehw, Director of Special Education at 724-226-2400.

Title I Program

Title I is a federally funded program developed to meet the academic needs of students. The goal of Title I is a high quality education for every child. This is achieved by providing extra help to students who are having difficulty mastering grade level skills.

Schools with at least 40% low income families can develop a Schoolwide Title I Plan. This plan offers special programs and services to address the needs of struggling students. Frequent progress monitoring and assessment data is used to make instructional decisions. High quality instruction and interventions that use proven and appropriate methods and materials are implemented.

The plan is revised and evaluated each year with input from building parents, teachers and administrators. Grandview Upper Elementary School and Fairmount & Fawn Primary Centers are Schoolwide Title I buildings. For more information about the Title I Program, visit the district's website, www.GoldenRams.com.

ProjectCONNECT

ProjectCONNECT links schools, families, and communities to promote the academic success of at-risk students. A team of professionals will meet with parents to determine the student's need(s) and to assure that those needs are addressed. Programs that may be accessed include Title I, instructional support, student assistance, tutoring, counseling services, and social work services.

In grades K-5 and the Middle School, the Student Assistance Programs and the Instructional Support programs work together as ProjectCONNECT. At the High School, the Student Assistance Program is also called ProjectCONNECT. To learn more about this program, contact your building principal, guidance counselor, instructional support teacher or social worker or visit www.GoldenRams.com.

Library Services

The libraries of the Highlands School District function as a continuing unit, primary through high school, to provide the students and teachers with educational materials which serve to supplement and enrich the school curriculum and serve to provide the incentives for individual

growth in specific areas of study and in the use of leisure time -- incentives which will develop the spirit of independent learning and exploration. District schools are serviced by a building library and librarian. Highlands also partners with the Community Library of Allegheny Valley, which offers services and programs to students and their families. For more information, visit www.GoldenRams.com/library.

School Nurses

Kim Woodrow, RN, CSN

High School, St. Joseph HS: 724-226-1000

Shelly Long, RN, CSN

Middle School, OLMBS: 724-226-0600

Mary Beth Jones, RN, CRNP

Grandview, Fawn, Fairmount: 724-224-0300

Annual Health Screenings

1. Growth Screenings - Height, Weight, and BMI (Body Mass Index) is required annually for all children in all grades (K-12). These measurements will be done by a certified school nurse, teacher, or persons under the direction of a certified school nurse. The certified school nurse will send a Parent/Guardian Notification letter as needed.

2. Scoliosis screening will be done in grades 6 and 7 by the certified school nurse or persons certified in scoliosis screening.

3. Vision screening for both distance and near vision acuity is required annually for all children in all grades (K-12). Students in grade 1 will be tested for plus lens, color vision deficiency, and depth perception. The Snellen eye charts are used for vision exams. Referrals are sent home to parents/guardians of those students who have failed any of the vision screenings. The vision screening is done by a certified school nurse, or under the direction of the certified school nurse.

4. Annual hearing screening is required for all children in Grades K-3, 7 and 11. The Pure-Tone Audiometer is used for hearing screenings. Referrals are sent to parents/guardians of those students who failed the hearing screening. The hearing screenings are done by a certified school nurse or under the direction of the certified nurse.

All results of the health screenings are recorded in the student's confidential health record.

Programs & Services cont.

Dental Health Services

The Pennsylvania School Health Act, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and Highlands School District mandate that all children as first-time enterers (Kindergarten or Grade 1) in Grade 3 and in Grade 7 must receive a Dental Examination.

Required dental examinations may be conducted by the family dentist and reported to the school. Parents are encouraged to have their children examined by the family dentist so as to provide continuity in the child's dental care. An examination done by the family dentist within the calendar year of that school year (from January 1) and recorded on the form provided by the school will be accepted for the required examination.

Implementation of the School Dental Examination is the responsibility of the school administrators, certified school nurse, and the school dental examiners. School dental examinations will be scheduled and conducted for students who do not return verification of receiving a dental exam by their family dentist.

Procedure of Dental Exam by Family Dentist

Each spring before the close of school, the Private Dentist Report of Dental Examination, together with the Highlands School District cover letter, will be sent to parents of all children in Grade 2 and Grade 6. These forms will also be given to parents of children registering for Kindergarten or Grade 1 as first-time enterers.

When school opens in the fall, determination will be made of the number of children in Kindergarten or Grades 1, 3 and 7 that have had a dental examination by their family dentist and have returned a completed Private Dentist Report form to the school. Documents returned to the school will be placed in the student's confidential health record. After October 1, another private dental report form and letter from the school nurse will be sent to those who have failed to return the initial form. Following this procedure, the school nurse will notify the school administrator of the students who still have not returned the requested form; will schedule these students to receive a school dental examination during school hours, by the school dentist.

Medical Health Services

The Pennsylvania School Health Act, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and Highlands School District stipulates that medical examinations will be required of all first enterers (Kindergarten or Grade 1) in Grade 6 and in Grade 11. Required medical examinations may be done by the family physician within the calendar year of that school year

(from January 1) and recorded on the form provided by the school. Documentation from the district's athletic department of students receiving a "sports physical" during the calendar year will also be accepted for the required medical examinations for grade 6 and grade 11 school years. Parents are encouraged to have their children examined by their family physician so as to provide continuity in the child's medical care.

Procedure of Medical Exam by Family Physician

Each spring before the close of school, the Private Physician's Report of Physical Exam, together with the Highlands School District cover letter will be sent to parents of all children in Grade 5 and Grade 10. These forms will also be given to parents of children registering for Kindergarten or Grade 1 as first-time enterers.

When school opens in the fall, determination will be made of the number of children in Kindergarten or Grades 1, 6 and 11 that have had a physical examination by their family physician and have returned a completed Private Physician's Report form to the school. Documents returned to the school will be placed in the student's confidential health record. After October 1, another private physical report form and letter from the school nurse will be sent to those who have failed to return the initial form. Following this procedure, the school nurse will notify the school principal of the students who still have not returned the form and will schedule these students to receive a school physical exam during school hours, by the school doctor.

Summary of Medication Policy and Procedures

The administration of prescribed medication to a student during school hours in accordance with the direction of a parent/guardian or family physician will be permitted only when failure to take such medicine would jeopardize the health of the student or if the student would not be able to attend school if the medicine were not available during school hours.

No medication, prescription and non-prescription (over the counter), will be administered in school except by the Direct Medication Order Form of a licensed health provider and accompanied with a parent's/guardian completed and signed Highlands Medication Administration Permission Form. This paperwork must be in place before any medications are dispensed to students. Highlands School District does not supply any medications and it is the parent's responsibility to supply and deliver all medications to be administered during school hours.

Only the School Nurse, or other licensed health personnel, is solely responsible for administering medications to students. The

parent/guardian is responsible for the delivery of all medications, required consent form, and medication order to the school health personnel. Students are not permitted to carry or possess any medications while at school. All medication is to be taken in the presence of the school nurse. In the case of inhalers and EpiPens, the parent/guardian and student will follow the procedures and for possession and use of emergency medications. The parent/guardian of the child must assume responsibility for informing the school nurse of any changes in the child's health or change in medication. A new "Medication Order" from the licensed provider and the Medication Permission Form, completed by the parent will be required with each change in medication and at the start of each school year. The complete Medication Policy may be viewed at any school building or online at www.goldenrams.com.

Re-Admission to School After Illness & Disease

The certified school nurse will comply with the "Requisition of Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases" issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health for the management of diseases in the school age population. For the diseases listed below, re-admission of students to school will occur on the following basis:

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Period of Exclusion</u>
<i>Chicken Pox</i>	Until all vesicles are scabbed and absence of fever
<i>Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)</i>	24 hours after medical treatment has begun
<i>Impetigo</i>	(For large area of multiple site infection) 24 hours after medical treatment has begun; draining sores must be covered while in school
<i>Ringworm</i>	24 hours after treatment has begun; no contact sports until lesions are gone
<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	At least 24 hours after treatment has begun and temperature has been normal for 24 hours
<i>Strep Throat</i>	At least 24 hours after treatment has begun and temperature has been normal for 24 hours
<i>Scabies</i>	12 hours after proper medical treatment has begun
<i>Pediculosis (Head Lice)</i>	Re-admit as soon as shampoo treatment has been used and school nurse has confirmed that all nits have been removed (See separate procedure)
<i>Acute Gastro-Enteritis Virus (diarrhea, vomiting)</i>	Children who are vomiting will be sent home and remain home until vomiting subsides. Acute diarrhea episodes will be assessed individually.
<i>Fever</i>	Children with fevers greater than 100.5 will be sent home and remain home until fever free (less than 100.5). Children with a fever less than 100.5 during the course of the school day will be permitted to rest and return to class provided they have no other symptoms of infection.

ANNUAL NOTICES

Annual Notice: Tobacco Use

The Board recognizes that tobacco use by students presents a health and safety hazard that can have serious consequences for both users and nonusers and the safety and environment of the schools.

For purposes of this notice, tobacco use shall be defined as use and/or possession of a lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar and pipe; other lighted smoking product; and smokeless tobacco in any form.

The Board prohibits tobacco use and possession by students at any time in a school building and on any property, buses, vans and vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the school district.

The Board prohibits tobacco use and possession by students at school-sponsored activities that are held off school property.

The school district may initiate prosecution of a student who possesses or uses tobacco in violation of this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and staff about the district's tobacco use policy by publishing such policy in the student handbook, parent newsletters, posted notices, and other efficient methods.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures to implement this policy.

Incidents of possession, use and sale of tobacco in violation of this policy by any person on school property shall be reported to the Office of Safe Schools on the required form at least once each year.

A student convicted of possessing or using tobacco in violation of this policy may be fined up to \$50 plus court costs or admitted to alternative adjudication in lieu of imposition of a fine.

The following procedures will be followed for violations of this policy:

1. The violator will be referred to the principal.
2. The principal shall:
 - a. File a complaint with the local district justice for violation of Act 145.
 - b. Draft letter to parents/guardians citing the offense.
3. Student offenders will return to class unless principal uses suspension option.
4. Disposition of case will be handled by the local district justice. Witnesses, as necessary, will be released from school to appear before the district justice.

Suspension Options

1st Offense: Possession - One day In-School Suspension plus Citation.
Use - Two days In-School Suspension plus Citation.

2nd Offense: Three days Out-of-School Suspension and After-School Alternative plus Citation.

3rd Offense: Three days Out-of-School Suspension and After-School Alternative plus Citation.

4th Offense: Possible recommendation for expulsion for *Willful and Persistent Violation of School Rule*

Annual Notice: Student Rights / Surveys

This notice sets forth guidelines by which student rights and responsibilities are determined, consistent with law and regulations.

The Board has the authority and responsibility to establish reasonable rules and regulations for the conduct and deportment of district students. At the same time, no student shall be deprived of equal treatment and equal access to the educational program, due process, a presumption of innocence, and free expression and association, in accordance with Board policy and school rules.

Surveys conducted by outside agencies, organizations and individuals shall be approved by the Board, based on the Superintendent's recommendation, prior to administration to students.

Attendant upon the rights established for each student are certain responsibilities, which include respect for the rights of others; obedience to properly constituted school authority; and compliance with the policies, rules, and regulations of this district.

A student who has reached the age of eighteen (18) years possesses the full rights of an adult and may authorize those school matters previously handled by parents/guardians.

Instructional Materials

Parents/Guardians shall be notified annually that all instructional materials, including teachers' manuals, audiovisuals, or other supplementary instructional material, used in the instructional program shall be available for inspection by the parents/guardians of students, in accordance with Board policy. Instructional materials do not include tests or academic assessments.

Surveys/ Evaluations

All surveys and instruments used to collect information from students shall relate to the district's educational objectives.

Parents/Guardians shall have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey created by a third party prior to administration or distribution to a student. Such requests shall be in writing and submitted to the building principal.

No student shall be required, without written parental consent for students under eighteen (18) years of age or written consent of emancipated students or those over eighteen (18) years, to submit a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of student or parents/guardians.
2. Mental and psychological problems of the student or family.
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes.
4. Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior.
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships.
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents/guardians.
8. Income, other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

However, such survey, analysis or evaluation may be conducted on a voluntary basis, provided that the student and parent/guardian have been notified of their right to inspect all related materials and to opt the student out of participation. The district shall implement procedures to protect student identity and privacy when a survey contains any of the restricted subject areas listed above.

Collection of Information for Marketing

Parents/Guardians have the right to inspect the material and opt out of the student from participating in any activity that results in the collection, disclosure or use of personal information for purposes of marketing or selling that information. This does not apply to the collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for or to students. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and promulgate procedures consistent with law and Board policy to ensure that student rights under varying conditions are properly described.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify parents/guardians concerning:

1. Contents of this policy and its availability.
2. Approximate dates that any surveys requesting personal information may be scheduled.
3. Procedures to request access to survey instruments prior to administration.
4. Procedures for opting students out of participation in surveys.

Personal information means individually identifiable information including a student's or parent's/guardian's name, address, telephone number, or social security number.

Annual Notice: Electronic Devices

Student possession of cell phones and other personal electronic devices, such as pagers, calculators, personal assistants (PDAs), laptop computers, handheld computers, cameras, MP3 players, or any other devices designed to communicate, create or store information **is permitted** by the Highlands School Board. It should be noted that Highlands School District does not recommend bringing personal devices into schools and that owners assume all risks of damage, theft, loss or misuse of such devices. The district shall annually notify students, parent/guardians and staff about the district's electronic device policy by publishing such policy in district publications.

Devices must be powered off or silenced during the school day unless otherwise permitted by district procedures. Use of personal or district technology devices that disrupt the instructional day or includes possession, viewing, sending or sharing video or audio information having sexual, violent or threatening content on school grounds, school events or school buses is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the personal device. Exceptions to any prohibitions set forth in this policy may be made for health, safety or emergency reasons with prior approval of the building principal or designee, or when use is provided in a student's individualized education program (IEP).

Parents and students must sign Acceptable Usage Policy Waiver acknowledging review of Board Policy #815, Acceptable Use of Internet and Computer Resources and knowledge of restrictions, responsibilities and consequences in said policy. Students may not use such devices on school property and school-sponsored activities to access and/or view Internet websites that are otherwise blocked to students at school, such as, but not limited to, FaceBook, MySpace and YouTube.

Student use of such devices in a manner that interrupts the instructional day will result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the device. If device is confiscated, it will only be released/returned to a parent/guardian.

Students can only utilize such devices in the classroom with the consent of the teacher. Cameras of any type in restrooms, locker rooms, swimming pool areas or during testing are prohibited. Sending text, image, sound, video or files for the purpose of cheating is grounds for confiscation and/or inspection of transmitted data.

Continued on next page



The following also is prohibited while using such devices on school grounds: sending/displaying offensive messages or pictures; using obscene language; harassing, insulting or attacking others; violating copyright laws; using another person's password/access codes; trespassing in another's digital files, work or folders. Students should not intentionally waste resources, such as excessive downloading or creating viruses. Students may not employ the district network for commercial or any non-educational purposes.

If students do not adhere to the above guidelines or if reasonable suspicion is had regarding infractions of the above guidelines, district authorities will follow these procedures:

- Staff may confiscate the device when in use outside the parameters of the acceptable use guidelines listed here and in Board Policy #815.
- School administration will receive the device and hold until parent/guardian and/or Harrison Township Police inspect device in case of guideline violations involving a sexual, violent or attacking nature.

District staff is not authorized to share, distribute or download any content from a student's personal device. Disciplinary action will be determined by the number of previous violations, the nature of the act, the context in which alleged violations occur. Consequences can vary from revocation of privileges to suspensions, expulsions or legal action.

Annual Notice: Custody Issues

The district recognizes that the support of parents/guardians is vital to a student's educational success. Communication between the district and parents/guardians is essential. The school district shall promote cooperation among all parties who have a legitimate and legal interest in each student.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians living at two (2) addresses to notify the principal(s) of their child(ren)'s schools, in writing, of address and effective date of a second parental address.

The school district will make parents/guardians aware of this responsibility through an annual notification in school district publications and/or correspondence.

Parents/Guardians must provide written authorization for the school district to speak to designated others (for example, to grandparents, significant others of parents/guardians, etc.) regarding students. Specifically, school district employees will not share information about students with anyone other than a parent/guardian unless such authorization is in place.

Non-custodial parents/guardians have the same right of access to their child during school hours as the custodial parent/guardian as long as the custodial parent/guardian is notified. However, non-custodial parents/guardians may not remove their child from school without written consent of the custodial parent/guardian.

Unless one or both parents/guardians provide a document to the contrary, the district shall presume that the custodial person will receive report cards, notices, permission slips, etc. The custodial parent/guardian is the parent/guardian with whom the child lives and sleeps, the one who has physical custody, the one who assures compulsory attendance, and the one who is called in an emergency.

Unless one or both parents/guardians provide a document to the contrary, the district shall presume that both parents/guardians have shared or joint custody, giving them the right to make educational decisions. Where legal custody is shared, or there is no order pertaining to custody, both parents/guardians have a right to exercise their rights under special education due process:

1. Both parents/guardians are entitled to notices.
2. Either parent/guardian can object to an evaluation, notice of recommended educational placement, individual education plan, or placement.

If one parent/guardian has been granted sole custody, the district shall deal exclusively with that parent/guardian on all matters, except for access to educational records.

Unless documentation is provided to the contrary, both parents/guardians have access to educational records. Where there is joint legal custody, both parents/guardians will receive copies of all IDEA paperwork, if the district is aware of the addresses of both parents/guardians:

1. If IDEA paperwork requiring a signature (Permission to Evaluate and Notice of Recommended Educational Placement) is returned by one parent/guardian and not the other, action will be taken as directed by the paperwork that was returned.
2. If the parents/guardians return paperwork indicating contrary responses, the Director of Special Education will contact the Court that granted the custody for clarification. If the Court is unable or unwilling to mediate or to render a decision, the district shall request a due process hearing through the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education.

The school district will not be responsible for enforcement of custody/visitation situations. Therefore, requests to visit during school hours should not be denied unless there is a reason. It is not the job of the school to ensure that the non-custodial parent/guardian does not pick up the student.

If a non-custodial parent/guardian requests visitation during the school day, an effort will be made to notify the custodial parent/guardian, preferably before the visitation occurs. If a non-custodial parent/guardian attempts to pick up a child, the school district will notify the custodial parent/guardian and/or police before releasing the child.

Parental rights are not affected by institutionalization of the child or by temporary custody by Children, Youth and Family Services.

Annual Notice: McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act: Student & Parent Rights

Students and/or parents who live in a shelter, motel, vehicle or campground, on the street, or in an abandoned building, trailer, or other inadequate accommodations because they cannot find or afford housing have certain rights and protections under the Homeless Education Act.

Contact the Highlands School District local liaison officer for homeless education, Dr. Karen King, at 724-224-5880 for information and assistance.

Highlands Media Procedure

The Highlands School District will allow a student's image, verbal or written comments, and a student's work to appear in various multimedia outlets, including newspaper features, television and radio broadcasts, district newsletters, publications, promotional videos, the district's website, and official district social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) unless the student's parent or guardian submits a written objection. A parent or guardian may object to the use of their child's image, comments, or work appearing in any form of media by notifying the child's principal within 30 calendar days from the start of the school year. If a written objection is not

received, silence will serve as implied consent. Anyone with questions should contact the district's School and Community Relations Office at 724-226-2400.

Parent Right-to-Know Notification

In compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act, Highlands School District is notifying parents of their right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teachers, and to receive the information in a timely manner. Requests should be made to the building principal.

Highly Qualified Staff

In compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act, Highlands School District is notifying parents that all Highlands professional staff and paraprofessionals are highly qualified. Parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teachers and of the paraprofessionals who provide instructional services to their children. Parents will be notified if their child is assigned to or being taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified in a core academic subject.

Right-to-Know Law

The Right-to-Know Law is an Act that provides for access to School District records and information that is open to the public. Requests for records or information must be made in writing and submitted to: Misty Chybrzynski, Open Records Officer, Highlands School District, PO Box 288, Natrona Heights, PA 15065. Written requests also may be sent through e-mail to mchybrzynski@goldenrams.com. A response will be issued within five business days from receipt of the request. There will be a fee charged per page of provided copies of documents.

Compliance Notice

It is the policy of the Highlands School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, disability, age, ancestry or any other legally protected classification in its educational programs, activities or employment policy as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For information regarding services, activities, programs and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons or for inquiries regarding compliance with the above policies, contact Compliance Officer, Highlands Administrative Center, PO Box 288, Natrona Heights, PA 15065.

Notice of Discrimination Grievance Procedure

Highlands School District has established a comprehensive grievance procedure for complaints of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and discrimination on the basis of physical or mental handicap. The procedure is in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any Highlands student or employee, or any individual or group acting in behalf of a student or employee (male or female) may file a grievance of sex discrimination or sexual harassment with the district's Title IX Coordinator. Any handicapped student or employee may file a grievance of discrimination on the basis of physical or mental handicap with the district's 504 Coordinator. Persons with complaints may obtain a copy of the grievance procedure and form from the district's coordinators by contacting Highlands Administrative Center.



Annual Notice: Grievance Procedures for Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

I. FILING OF A GRIEVANCE

A. Eligibility for Filing: Any student or employee or any individual or group acting in behalf of a student or employee (male or female) may file any grievance of sex discrimination or sexual harassment with the Title IX Coordinators at the Administrative Center.

B. Pre-grievance Contact: Prior to the submission of a written grievance to a hearing officer, the grievant(s) may request a pre-grievance contact with the respondent alleged to be directly responsible for the violation, and/or with the persons having immediate supervisory authority related to the grievance. These persons may make reasonable efforts to meet with the Title IX or Section 504 Coordinator to discuss the grievance that the student(s) or employee(s) wishes to bring to their attention. Such pre-grievance contact, however, shall be at the option of the grievant(s); it shall not be a precondition of a written grievance to a hearing officer.

C. Grievance Filing: Grievances filed with the Title IX coordinator or Section 504 coordinator shall be in writing on a form provided by the coordinator, and shall provide the following information: *name and address of grievant; nature of alleged violation; names of persons responsible for the alleged violation (where known); requested relief or corrective action (specification of desired relief shall be at the option of the grievant), and any background information the grievant believes to be relevant (e.g. names or groups of other persons affected by the violation, etc.)*

D. Grievance Forms: A grievance form shall be prepared by the grievant and the Title IX coordinator or Section 504 coordinator who will facilitate the filing of the grievance. These forms and a copy of the Grievance Procedures may be obtained from the Title IX coordinator or from the Section 504 coordinator located at the Highlands Administrative Center. The grievant shall have the right to request assistance from the Title IX coordinator or Section 504 coordinator or other individual, group, organization to assist in the preparation of the form or in the filing of the grievance.

E. Time Limit: A grievance must be filed within 60 days of the occurrence of the alleged Title IX violation or the alleged Section 504 violation.

F. Grievance Provisions: Prior to filing a grievance, the grievant shall be informed of the provisions and their rights, and shall be given a copy of Part V: General Provisions.

Annual Notice: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records.

They are:

1. *The right to inspect and review the student's education records within thirty days of the day the District receives a request for access.* Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. *The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.* Parents or eligible students may ask Highlands School District to amend a record they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the Highlands School District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. *The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.* One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the school official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. *The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.*

The office that administers FERPA is:
Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

Notice of Intent to Disclose Directory Information

The Highlands School District has designated the following as directory information: Name, Address, Phone Number, Height & Weight for Sports, Participation in Official Activities, E-mail Address

The District may disclose this information without prior consent after giving notice of the school's intention to release the information. **A parent or eligible student may object to the release of certain directory information by informing the school principal in writing within 30 days of the start of the school year. Failure to object within the designated time period waives the right to object to the release of the above directory information.**

Parents Have Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) provides parents with certain rights regarding Highlands School District's conduct of surveys, the collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams.

These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

Inspect, upon request and before administration or use:

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

Highlands School District has developed and adopted policies regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The District will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The District will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided the opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- ~ Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
- ~ Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education.
- ~ Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW,
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

Annual Notice: Programs for Exceptional Students Offered

Identification of Special Needs Children

The Highlands School District is responsible for locating, identifying and educating children who are in need of special education. If anyone in the community is aware of a child with a disability such as mental retardation, blindness, deafness or a physical disability who is not attending school, please notify Mrs. Debra Lehew at 724-226-2400.

Services for Preschool Children

Act 212, the Early Intervention Services Act, entitles all preschool children with disabilities to appropriate early intervention services. Young children experiencing developmental delays or physical or mental disabilities and their families are eligible for early intervention services. At-risk children are eligible for screening and tracking.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is responsible for providing services to preschool children ages three through five. For information, contact Project DART.*

Special Education Services for School-Age Exceptional Students

Highlands School District provides a free and appropriate public education for exceptional students. To qualify as an exceptional student a child must be of school age, in need of specially-designed instruction, and meet eligibility criteria for mentally gifted and/or one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities, as set forth in Pennsylvania Department of Education standards: autism, deaf/blindness, deafness, emotional disturbance, hearing impairment, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific hearing disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, and visual impairment.

The district provides identification procedures to ensure that eligible students receive an appropriate educational program consisting of special education and related services individualized to meet specific needs. These services are provided at no cost to parents in compliance with state and federal law, and are reasonably calculated to yield meaningful educational benefits.

To identify students who may be eligible for special education, various screening activities are conducted on an on-going basis. These screening activities include: a review of group-based data (cumulative records, enrollment records, health records, report cards, ability and achievement test scores); hearing, vision, physical and speech/language screening; and review by a building-level Instructional Support Team. When screening results suggest that a student might be exceptional, the district will seek parental consent to conduct a multidisciplinary evaluation (MDE). Parents who suspect that their child is exceptional may request a multidisciplinary evaluation at any time by a written request to the school principal or the Director of Special Education.

Services designed to meet the needs of exceptional students include the annual development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP), tri-annual multidisciplinary re-evaluation, supportive intervention in the regular class, supplemental intervention in the regular class, or in a special education itinerant, supplemental, and full-time special education class in a regular school, or placement in a full-time special education class at a location other than the regular school.

The extent of special education services, and the location for the delivery of such services are determined by the IEP team, and are based on the student's identified needs and abilities, chronological age, and the level of intensity of the specified intervention. The district provides related services,

such as transportation, physical therapy and occupational therapy, that may be required for the student to benefit from the special education program.

Parents of exceptional students should know that their children have the same rights to participate in extracurricular activities as do non-exceptional children.

Procedural Safeguards

Upon completion of the written IEP, a Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP) will be issued to the parent for the parent's signature. The parent must indicate on the NOREP whether he/she agrees or disagrees with all or certain parts of the program and placement. If the parent disagrees with the NOREP, then a prehearing conference may be held. The parents and the school district each have the right to "waive" the prehearing conference, which means they choose not to participate, and therefore give up the right to have this conference. If the conference is held, it should provide school personnel and parents an opportunity to resolve the disagreement informally. Prehearing conferences can be requested by a parent at any time.

Other methods for solving disputes are the filing of a complaint, mediation and due process hearings. Student rights also include notice, consent and confidentiality of records.

Parents may obtain additional information regarding special education services, programs, and procedural safeguards by contacting the school principal or the Director of Special Education. Students who have been identified as not being exceptional for special education, as defined by special education regulations, may have written recommendations for regular education.

Services for Protected Handicapped Students

In compliance with state and federal law, Highlands School District will provide for protected handicapped students those services or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities. These related aids are provided without discrimination or cost to the student or parents. In order to qualify as a protected handicapped student, the child must be of school age with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program.

Services and protections for protected handicapped students are distinct from those applicable to exceptional students enrolled or seeking enrollment in special education programs.

For further information about the evaluation procedures, and provision of services to protected handicapped students, contact the Director of Special Education.

Confidentiality

In compliance with state and federal law, Highlands School District protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information regarding exceptional and protected handicapped students. Parents have the rights to review, inspect, make copies and request a list of all individuals having access to those records. Parents and guardians must contact the building principal to arrange to view records. Copies of the Highlands School District Policy for Collection, Maintenance, and Disclosure of Student Records may be obtained at the Highlands School District Administrative Center.

*Allegheny Intermediate Unit, 475 E. Waterfront Drive, Homestead, PA 15120, or phone 412-394-5700.

Title I Parental Involvement

1. Purpose

The Board recognizes that parental involvement contributes to the achievement of academic standards by students participating in Title I programs. The Board views the education of students as a cooperative effort among the school, parents/guardians and community.

2. Authority 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6318

In compliance with federal law, the district and parents/guardians of students participating in Title I programs shall jointly develop and agree upon a written parental involvement policy. When developing and implementing this policy, the district shall ensure the policy describes how the district will:

1. Involve parents/guardians in the joint development of the district's overall Title I plan and the process of school review and improvement **by conducting monthly building and/or district PAC meetings attended by parents, teachers, administrators and Board members.**

2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, including assistance in understanding state academic content and performance standards, state and local assessments, requirements of Title 1.

3. Develop activities that promote the schools' and parents'/guardians' capacity for strong parental involvement **by promoting an atmosphere of open communication and cooperation.**

4. Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with appropriate programs, as provided by law, including information on how to work with business partners and other community organizations to learn about Title 1 and to encourage school/family/community partnerships.

5. Involve parents/guardians in an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the policy in improving the academic quality of schools served under Title I **through explanation and discussion of policy details.**

6. Identify barriers to participation by parents/guardians who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority **and find ways to strengthen outreach.**

7. Use findings of annual evaluations to design strategies for more effective parental involvement that will be implemented throughout the district as appropriate.

8. Involve parents/guardians in the activities of schools served under Title I. 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6318 The Board shall adopt and distribute the parental involvement policy, which shall be incorporated into the district's Title I plan and shall be evaluated annually, with parental involvement.

3. Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district's Title I parental involvement policy, plan and programs comply with the requirements of federal law. The building principal and/or Title I staff shall provide to parents/guardians of students participating in Title I programs:

1. Explanation of the reasons supporting their child's selection for the program.

2. Set of objectives to be addressed.

Continued on next page

Title I Parent Involvement cont.

3. Description of the services to be provided.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that information and reports provided to parents/guardians are in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents/guardians can understand.

4. Guidelines 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6318

An annual meeting of parents/guardians of participating Title I students shall be held to explain the goals and purposes of the Title I program. Parents/Guardians shall be given the opportunity to participate in the design, development, operation and evaluation of the program. Parents/Guardians shall be encouraged to participate in planning activities, to offer suggestions, and to ask questions regarding policies and programs. In addition to the required annual meeting, additional parent/guardian meetings shall be held at various times of the day and evening. At these meetings, parents/guardians shall be provided:

1. Information about programs provided under Title I.
2. Description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
3. Opportunities to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children.
4. Opportunities to submit parent/guardian comments about the program to the district level.

If sufficient, Title I funding may be used to facilitate parent/guardian attendance at meetings through payment of transportation and child care costs. Opportunities shall be provided for parents/guardians to meet with the classroom and Title I teachers to discuss their child's progress. Parents/Guardians may be given guidance as to how they can assist at home in the education of their child. Whenever Title I parents/guardians are involved in the planning, review, and improvement of the educational programs of the district and require transportation, child care, home visits or other services in order to participate, related expenses may, at the discretion of the district, be paid from Title I funds. The goal of our partnership is to develop programs, activities, and procedures collaboratively, airing differences as needed to increase the capacity for parental involvement to all families in the district.

School-Parental Compact

Pol. 102

Each school in the district receiving Title I funds shall jointly develop with parents/ guardians of students served in the program a School-Parental Compact outlining the manner in which parents/guardians, school staff and students share responsibility for improved student achievement in meeting academic standards. The compact shall: 1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment, enabling students in the Title I program to meet the district's academic standards.

2. Indicate the ways in which parents/guardians will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in the classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their child's education and positive use of extracurricular time.

3. Address the importance of parent-teacher communication on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum, parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents.

Additional Title I information and Title I newsletters are available on the district's website, www.GoldenRams.com.

Instagrams M o m e n t s





Highlands School District
 P.O. Box 288
 Natrona Heights, PA 15065
 724-226-2400
www.GoldenRams.com



ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Michael A. Bjalobok, Superintendent
 Jon D. Rupert, Business Manager / Board Secretary
 Dr. Karen King, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
 Debra Lehew, Director of Special Education

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2015-16 Highlands School District

Activities Calendar



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