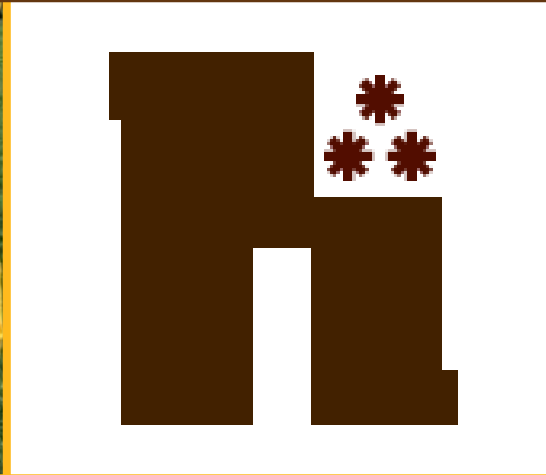


inside highlands 2014-15

Highlands School District



Highlands Class of 2014 Valedictorian & Salutatorian
Robert Love & Michael Calfe



CHANGING Our District ~ KEEPING with Tradition

School News & Calendar of Events

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
Assistant to the Superintendent: Patrick M. Graczyk
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
Asst. Principal: Shawn Bennis*

Highlands Middle School Grades 6-8

1350 Broadview Blvd., Natrona Heights, PA 15065
724-226-0600 Fax 724-226-3287

*Principal: Charles Mort
Asst. 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: To be named

Fawn Primary Center Grades K-2

5591 Ridge Road, Natrona Heights, PA 15065
724-224-4844 Fax 724-224-9243

Principal: To be named

Pre-K Counts Program

(located at Grandview)

Principal: To be named

www.GoldenRams.com



connect
to map



school
website

Welcome to the 2014-15 School Year!

CHANGING Our District
KEEPING with Tradition

Home. School. Community: Three aspects that define the Highlands School District, depicted by the *three asterisks* in the Highlands logo.

Highlands School District continues to implement innovative and creative programs to improve and *Change our District* without losing sight of the *Traditions* that *Keep* us grounded in our educational beliefs and our mission to enable students to achieve their highest potential in personal growth at **school**. Highlands also recognizes the important role that the family at **home** and the **community** at large have in preparing students to function as effective citizens in an ever-changing global community.

This annual newsletter / calendar publication highlights the ways our Highlands **home**, **school** and **community** contribute to the many staff and student awards, achievements, community projects, and programs.

Please refer to this calendar for the 2014-15 district holidays, events and activities. Don't forget to visit our website often for current school news features, photos, announcements and any changes to calendar events. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!



Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Michael A. Bjalobok



2014-15 Calendar of Events includes:
School & Community News, Information for Parents,
Health Procedures, Activities, Events, Meetings,
Fall Sports Schedules & Annual Notices

*Events are subject to changes, additions, and cancellations.
Check the district website for up-to-date information.*

www.GoldenRams.com

School & Community News

Congratulations HHS Class of 2014!



Class of 2014 Officers: Allan Cratsenberg, Vice President; Sara Helgert, Treasurer; Michaela Bonnett, Secretary; and Derrick Mazur, President

Highlands School District celebrated the 46th Annual Commencement in Golden Rams Stadium on the picture-perfect sunny and pleasant evening of Friday, June 6, 2014.

The Class of 2014 includes 174 students with bright futures, big plans and an impressive list of accolades. Members of this class included 53 members of the National Honor Society, 2 members of the National Vocational Technical Honor Society, 26 members of The Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics and Medicine (STEAMM) Academy at Highlands and eight future servicemen and women! Class Valedictorian was **Robert Love** and Salutatorian was **Michael Calfe**. Highlands' own **Jonathan Hladney** was named the Forbes Road Career and Technical Center Valedictorian.

Cumulatively, the Class of 2014 earned awards, scholarships and monetary prizes worth \$2,291,161! These awards included two full scholarships, two in memory of classmate Ryan Richards, and two in memory of graduates Ben Swantner and Jennifer Moser-Chiusano.

CLASS OF 2014 ACCOLADES

Several students were awarded for excellence in academics, service and other accomplishments during their school career. Some of these were:

The Caplan-Leiber Human Relations Award; Horatio Alger Scholarship The President's Volunteer Service Award; Girl Scout Gold and Boy Scout Eagle Scout Awards; Southwestern PA Bots IQ winning teams; USMC Distinguished Athlete Award; Trib Total Media Outstanding Young Citizen Awards; Forbes Road CTC Students of the Year Awards; National School Choral Award; Louis Armstrong Jazz Award; Troy Polamalu Student of the Month; and Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence.

Six students are now registered with the NCAA; and twenty-seven students were recognized by Governor Tom Corbett's Office for being the first graduating class from the STEAMM Academy at Highlands.

Graduate plans include:

83 to Four year colleges	28 to Community/Junior College
20 to Tech/Business/Health	8 to Armed Services
1 to an Apprenticeship Program	7 to Full-time Work/Employment
26 Undecided or Other	

Highmark's Positive High School: Highlands High School

Highlands High School was named the Highmark "Positive High School of the Year" in the C Harper Positive Athlete Pittsburgh program! HHS received this honor for the way the school and community came together to support our Highlands family and friends after losing student Ryan Richards in a tragic accident at the beginning of last school year. Our community, students and staff truly care about each other and help each other through the most difficult times. In addition, the quality of students nominated impressed the Program to confirm that our athletes, school and community are the most positive for the 2013-14 award!

The Positive Athlete Program recognizes those student athletes that take responsibility and ability off the field and into their locker rooms, classrooms, and communities. Highlands nominees included **Derrick Mazur, Teia Lobaugh, Danielle Voytko, Kyla Kelley, Sam Elliott, Kara Bowser, Zach Erb, Perry Shiring, Nolan Wise, Allan Cratsenberg, Jordan Gillette, Phil Miruri, Nathan Masarik, Michaela Bonnett, Sean Jackson, and Michael Calfe.**

The Highmark "Positive High School of the Year" award is given to the Western Pennsylvania Positive High School that provided the greatest support of the Positive Athlete program including nominations, promotion and giving back to their community in a significant way. The award includes a \$2,500 contribution to the school's foundation or athletic department.

On May 3, representatives from Highlands were honored at a reception with Hines Ward, Roberto Clemente Jr. and other athletes and executives from distinguished organizations and corporations at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh.



Gathered at the Highmark C Harper Positive Athlete Pittsburgh Program Awards Reception are Roberto Clemente Jr., Michael Calfe, HHS Asst. Principal Shawn Bennis, Atiya Adel Malik, HHS Principal Cathy Russo, PR Manager Misty Chybrzynski, and Hines Ward.

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 once a week or 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).
2. Follow the prompts to *create* a user name and password.
3. Once registered, **Sign In** to edit your account.
4. Click on **My Account** (upper right) then **Edit Account Settings**.
5. Click on **Subscriptions** then the **Manage Subscriptions** button.
6. Check the box for **Highlands School District** and the boxes for any other school page from which you'd like to receive E-Alerts.
7. 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.
2. Click on **My Account** and select **Edit Account Settings**
3. Click on **E-Alert Settings**.
4. Enter cell phone number, provider, and select Yes.
5. 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 Communications & Printing Services Coordinator Jennifer Goldberg at jgoldberg@goldenrams.com or 724-226-2400 x4535.



Pennsylvania State Rep. Frank Dermody, High School engineering teacher John Malobicky, and STEAMM students celebrate the implementation of the STEAMM Academy at the annual Public Education Rally in May.

Highlands Students Excel in Innovative Programs



Highlands High School continues to add innovative and opportunistic programs to its course offerings.

The STEAMM Academy at Highlands High School will begin its second year offering college-credit courses and opportunities for students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics and Medicine. New courses and programs will be added to expand the program for students interested in the manufacturing aspect of the engineering industry.

The Highlands High School STEAMM Academy is a forward-thinking concept in education. By creating a "school within a school", a cohort of Junior and Senior honors students are immersed in the applied science and engineering curricula with rigorous classes focused on career pathways in engineering, medicine, technical design, art and the applied sciences. STEAMM students are also afforded opportunities to observe manufacturing, healthcare, design and production operations with partner organizations in the local area to further their understanding "beyond the traditional classroom." Through required core courses and a designated engineering, medical or technological pathway, Highlands High School STEAMM Academy students may earn as many as 23 credits toward a college degree.

Highlands began to advance STEAMM education a few years ago by offering a three credit college-level engineering course to students through Robert Morris University.

Aside from building on mathematics and science fundamentals, students in this course complete a capstone robotics project used for competition in the Western PA Bots IQ. Students must research, conceptualize, and build a full scale mock up of their proposed machine and present their plan to local manufacturing companies which partner with the student teams to machine and fabricate the robot components. This course was the foundation of the STEAMM Academy vision.

This year, Highlands will partner with Oberg Industries. This partnership will train students in the manufacturing trade and eventually offer a position in the company upon completion of the training and high school.

Additions to the course list also include a music-producing course with a production classroom and a multimedia design program. Additional courses offered at Highlands that are unique at a state and national level include the Fire Service Training class and the 4D art and medical courses in the STEAMM Academy. In May, Mary Ann Eisenreich from Governor Tom Corbett's Pittsburgh office visited Highlands to learn more about the implantation and success of the STEAMM Academy. Mrs. Eisenreich noted that the STEAMM Academy at Highlands is unique from others within the state in that it includes the Arts and Medicine for a wider range of student interests and possible careers. In addition, the job shadowing and number of credits offered set the STEAMM Academy aside from similar institutions.

Reaching Every Student: Differentiated Instruction

Highlands School District aims to reach every student in a way that allows them to succeed at whatever path they choose – whether that means we are educating a future doctor, mechanic, entrepreneur, grocery store worker, secretary, chef, engineer or military service person. The world needs skilled tradesmen, corporate managers, laborers and store clerks. College and career readiness is a priority at Highlands.

In order to effectively teach and motivate each student, Highlands School District faculty uses Differentiated Instruction to engage every student in curriculum, lesson plans and projects. Differentiated instruction is a way to reach students with different learning styles, different abilities to absorb information and different ways of expressing what they have learned. It is a student-centered versus teacher-centered learning environment.

Here's what Differentiated Instruction looks like in your student's class:

- Teachers assess students and their work more often to identify strengths or areas that need improvement. Based on those assessments, your student's homework or exams may look different, or be issued differently.

- Students may be paired or separated into small groups. This peer-to-peer collaboration leads to discussions and opportunities to observe and learn from one another.

- Classroom discussion will be on issues or concepts instead of the actual book or chapter that was read.

- Teachers may offer students choices in how they complete tasks or projects, such as reading, writing or verbal presentation.

Faculty receives Professional Development to learn more about implementing Differentiated Instruction in their class lessons and plans. At the High School level, faculty maintain assessment binders that they are able to share with administration and peer teachers in order to observe student achievement as well as improve their own lessons and exams.

District-wide, programs such as Title I, RtII, SpellRead, Compass Learning, MAP testing, Co-Teaching and data-based decision making are applied to every student that is in need of improvement, remediation or even a more challenging curriculum program.

The Middle School's Holidays Around the World gave students the opportunity to learn about world cultures through research projects and verbal presentations.



Meet the 2014 Highlands School Board



Front Row: Jonathan Love, Eric Miles, Ryan Hanford (VP), Michael Masarik
Standing: Kerry Myers, Laura Thimons, Debbie Beale, Carrie Fox (Pres.), Ronald Lang

The 2014 Highlands School Board Agenda Planning Meetings are the second Monday of each month. Regular Meetings are the third Monday of each month. Both meetings are at 7pm in the High School Audion or Library. The 2015 Meeting dates and locations will be decided at the December Reorganization Meeting. Meeting agendas are posted for public viewing on the day of the regular monthly meeting on the district website, www.goldenrams.com. Meeting highlights may also be found on the web.

Beale Elected to AIU Board

Debbie Beale was elected to the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board of Directors at the annual AIU Convention in March by other school board directors from Allegheny County. As an AIU Board Member, Mrs. Beale represents Highlands School District and other Allegheny County districts. Intermediate units are regional educational service agencies. Created by the PA state legislature in 1970, they provide efficient, high-quality programs to public school districts and non-public/private schools. Intermediate units also serve as liaisons between school districts and the PA Department of Education (PDE).

Want to know more about Highlands
Happenings throughout the school year?

Visit our website often!
It's also mobile friendly.

www.goldenrams.com

Into social media? LIKE our Facebook
page and FOLLOW us on Twitter!



Middle School Selected to Pilot PA Family Support Program

Highlands Middle School is proud to pilot a program new to the state of Pennsylvania this year called the "Positive Family Supports Family Check-Up Program". Faculty **Jennifer Kosior** and **Erin Conley**, Principal **Charles Mort** and Director of Special Education **Debra Lehew**, have been busily preparing plans, training staff and setting up a Parent Resource Center in order to launch the program in August.

This school-based family-inclusive program will increase the effectiveness and decrease the stress of communication between home and school; encourage appropriate parent support, involvement and monitoring of their student's progress and academic issues; and provide a tested strategy of engaging families to address and re-mediate student behavior or academic difficulties.

Highlands is excited to bring this pilot program to our community in order to increase student productivity and success. The tiered program will be available universally to help parents and students with school success, building positive peer groups, making healthy decisions and coping with life's stress or anger. On another level, students

who may need intervention before behavior issues begin to affect academics will be selected for Family Check-Ups. Parents will receive videos, assessment packets and be able to discuss with professionals ways to better communicate with their student and the school staff. Students in need of direct assistance will be able to enter the program with their parents and be connected to behavioral health professionals and family therapy, monitoring systems, parenting groups and referral services that will assist in improving the student's home, school and community life.

Highlands was only one of three schools in the state of Pennsylvania selected to pilot this program. An award of \$30,000 financed the set-up of the program this summer. The program was so extremely successful in the state of Oregon that the Pennsylvania Department of Education picked up on the initiative. Our faculty and staff view this as an opportunity to connect parents to their child's school life and routine in a positive way. To learn more about this program, contact **Mrs. Lehew** at Grandview at 724-224-0300.



Support Love In A Backpack!

Highlands School District is excited to continue a collaboration with the Salvation Army of Allegheny Valley to bring the **Love In A Backpack** Program to Highlands in the 2014-2015 school year. This program provides students with backpacks stocked with easy-to-prepare food, drinks and snacks to take home on the weekends.

Here's how it works:

Guidance Department staff will target and reach out to students who could benefit from the weekend food program. Staff will enroll students in the program and assist in the distribution of the bags on Fridays. The food will be collected, packaged and delivered to the school by the Salvation Army. Each backpack will contain juice boxes, a pack of toaster pastries, 1 can of soup, 1 pack of crackers, 2 individual cereal boxes, 1 bag of popcorn, 2 granola bars, 1 applesauce or pudding and 1 bag of fruit snacks. Each backpack supply will be intended to supply one student only - the one enrolled in the program.

Highlands School District is seeking corporate and community sponsors for the Love In A Backpack Program. Please contact **Misty Chybrzynski** at 724-226-2400 x4550 or by email to mchybrzynski@goldenrams.com to support this program by hosting a collection drive or by sponsoring a backpack at a low cost of \$82 per child for the school year. With enough sponsorship, the district and the Salvation Army can afford to expand this program to more students at Highlands Middle School or to pilot a program at other district schools!

New This Year: FREE School Meals for ALL Students

Beginning on the first day of the 2014-2015 school year, Highlands will offer **FREE** breakfast and lunch for all students. Highlands School District has been approved as a district-wide free food program through the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act passed by President Barack Obama in 2010. The community eligibility allows all students to receive free breakfast and lunch items that appear on the school's monthly menu calendar. The purpose of this legislation and the program at Highlands is to improve overall student health by providing nutritious, healthy food. The program will continue in the district for four years.

A la carte and seconds will still cost students to purchase. The "My SchoolBucks" accounts will still be used to charge students for such purchases. SchoolBucks balances will carry over from last year for A la carte items. Parents will still receive bills for debts accumulated up to the last day of the 2013-2014 school year. **Parents will not need to fill out a Free or Reduced Lunch Application this year.**

This same legislation is the catalyst for improving nutritional guidelines in the Highlands cafes, resulting in meals with lower sodium, less fat and less added sugars. More fruits, vegetables and whole grains have been introduced to students in the lunch room. Snacks offered at the A la carte are also more nutritious, but still delicious.

ASK YOUR CHILD: What did you eat today? Did you try anything new? What vegetable or fruit were you offered? What drink did you have?

Children's nutrition and diet drives more than just their health and physical attributes. It also keeps their brains in high gear, allowing them to remain more focused and learn more! Please encourage your child to ditch the brown bag and jump in line for a nutritious and delicious meal in one of our Highlands Cafes! **QUESTIONS?** Contact **Sharon Conway**, Food Services Director, at 724-226-1000 x6109.

More than Reading...

Librarians Sponsor Visits & Activities

Highlands libraries have changed since you may remember them last. No longer is the library simply a storage space for old books or the quietest spot in the school. Highlands librarians **Mrs. Amy Eidenshink** (Highlands High School), **Dr. Sandra Reidmiller** (Highlands Middle School) and **Mrs. Laurie Malcolm** (Grandview Upper Elementary School and Fawn and Fairmount Primary Centers) have revived the library into a place to read, learn and DO!

The libraries of the Highlands School District function as a continuing unit, elementary 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.

District schools are serviced by a building library and librarian. The library areas in the primary centers and at Grandview Upper Elementary School are now Media Centers, equipped with new HP tablets, and are the location for the elementary computer classes taught by **Mr. Andrew Lynch**.

Highlands also partners with the Community Library of Allegheny Valley, which offers services, programs and seminars to students and their families. This past year, the TRL – Teen Reading Lounge – became a model program through the state, encouraging students to retain an eagerness for reading as they get older.

At any given time of the school year, students will actively engage in programs, presentations or projects their school library. Programs and projects that initiated in the libraries this year included



French & Indian War re-enactor **Wade Stoner** explains the parts of the French soldier uniform to Middle School students.

creating vocabulary puppets, engaging in Skype sessions with missionaries, listening to Pittsburgh Steeler **Charlie Batch** talk about self-esteem at World Dignity Day webinars, participating in mentoring programs, book fairs, recognizing Mix It Up day to combat prejudice and stereotypes, learning about fire safety and meeting local firemen and women during Fire Prevention Week and meeting foreign students during AFS International Days. These are just a few of the programs presented to create an exciting and inviting atmosphere in the library!

Cross curricular programs included the Wilderness Survival Course at the Community Center. Students learned about how to survive after reading *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen. This multi-school cross-



Elementary librarian **Laurie Malcolm** (left) and **Denise Kissell** (right), author of *Mr. Stinkbug Takes a Trip*, visit with our primary students.

curricular activity also involved discussion of the psychological impact on survivors with the High School AP Psychology students (direction of **Mr. Pat Hassler**) and sixth-grade students from the Middle School. A Search and Rescue obstacle course also made reading come to life as the middle school students learned how to make a debris hut and do first aid in the wilderness.

A cross-curricular activity with the Physical Education Department introduced the Arctic Winter Games to Highlands. Students participated in challenging games after researching about the Inuit people in the Arctic. Children played “games” that helped them survive in the Arctic, such as the Ear Pull, Cross Country Skiing (in boxes), a Marshmallow Nose Race and other fun events.

Several authors visited Highlands this year, also. **Siobhan Vivian** penned teen novels such as *Burn for Burn*, *I'm Not That Kind of Girl*, and most recently, *The List*. Siobhan hosted an intimate gathering at HHS with a Q and A and autographing session, and a school-wide assembly at HMS. Local author **Katie Schell** and her mother, **Pega Crimbchin** spent time at the High School telling Social Studies classes about living through the Korean War as an orphan and a slave and then becoming the bride of an American soldier. **Denise Kissell** read her story *Mr. Stinkbug Takes a Trip* aloud to students at Fawn and Fairmount Primary Centers and then spoke about the importance of following your heart and doing what you love! Principal **Heather Hauser** hosted a “Read Your Heart Out” event at Grandview Upper Elementary School and invited local government, police officers, firemen and students to read all day long with her for the Book It! Program event.



Author **Siobhan Vivian** autographs a copy of one of her young adult novels for a high school student. Vivian's book *The List* is in the process of becoming a television series on MTV.

Summer Learning: Highlands Camps Offer Academic, Extracurricular Opportunities

Students entering grades 1 through 5 this year were invited to attend COMPASS CAMP at Grandview Upper Elementary School for a 5-week school-based summer program that incorporated learning, camp-like activities, crafts and exploration of one of our district towns – Tarentum!

Teachers **Lauralee Milberger, Kristine Hrivnak, Jan Mazzotta, Sandra Reidmiller, and Patricia Meldon** and principals **Ian Miller and Heather Hauser** welcomed students June 30 to the camp. Students spent time logged on to Compass Learning, a web-based study platform that students became familiar with over the course of the school year. The teachers incorporated learning in fun camp-like activities, created crafts while discussing math and science and also took an exploratory walking field trip once a week.

Cool projects were paired with under-cover-learning, i.e. making root beer floats is the perfect way to teach about states of matter! Children created crafts reflecting the main themes of books that they read, using toothpicks, marshmallows, traditional art supplies and even balloons. Students wrote scripts, created puppets out of paper bags and drawing materials and performed plays for each other. Experiments included making beans dance, making rainbows with milk, making "ooobleek" goo, and making fireworks in a jar.

Field trips coordinated by the teachers and with the courtesy of our community included learning about fire safety and emergency responder's jobs at Eureka Hose Fire Hall; learning about civil duties, township management and police duties at the Tarentum Municipal Building and Police Department; dis-

covering the history and social work at the F & AM Masonic Lodge; learning about the Alle-Kiski Valley's origins and traits at the Alle-Kiski Valley Heritage Museum, and finding out all of Tarentum's amazing history and secrets in a Walking Tour.

Students can log on to Compass Learning all through the year to keep their skills sharp for school. Type in the following address: <http://www.compasslearningodyssey.com> enter the username which is first and last name, no space (i.e. Sue Snow is suesnow) and the password "compass". School codes are HSD-16 for Grandview, HSD-14 for Fawn and HSD-13 for Fairmount.

Other summer offerings at Highlands this year included the STEM Summer Program at Highlands Middle School offered through the Private Industry Council called "Passport to Adventures." This curriculum included activities, art and research about various countries all over the world. Students entering grades 6 to 8 participated in various STEM activities, learned about the cultures of each country, and completed projects working with a team. The program is presented through partnerships with Penn State "Kids in College" and the Education and Technology Institute.

Highlands students remained active through the summer in school programs. Highlands Middle School hosted a music camp for band and vocal activities, Highlands High School offered remediation for the Keystone Exam, Special Education Department hosted an Extended School Year program and the Athletics Department hosted a basketball camp.



Information for Parents

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 One Call Now phone 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 will operate 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.

Our 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.

FORBES ROAD CTC 2014-15 School Calendar

Aug. 11-14	New Teacher Orientation
Aug. 15	New Teacher Inservice
Aug. 18-21	Teacher Inservice / Clerical
Aug. 25	First Student Day
Sept. 1	Labor Day (No School)
Sept. 9	New Student/Parent Orientation Open House
Oct. 13	Teacher Inservice
Nov. 4	Teacher Inservice / OAC Mtg.
Nov. 27-Dec. 1	Thanksgiving Vacation (No School)
Dec. 24-Jan. 2	Christmas Vacation (No School)
Jan. 16	Beginning 2nd Semester
Jan. 19	Teacher Clerical Day
Feb. 13	Teacher Inservice
Feb. 16	Presidents' Day (No School)
Mar. 3	National Honor Society Induction
Mar. 13	Teacher Inservice
Mar. 19	Open House
Apr. 2-6	Spring Break (No School)
May 1	Staff Appreciation Day
May 20	Senior Certificate Ceremony
May 25	Memorial Day (No School)
June 2	Last Student Day
June 3-5	Weather Makeup Days if needed

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.

The *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 has partnered with the Seneca Valley School District to utilize the award-winning Education 2020 (referred to as E2020) as its 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 a Highlands employee and teacher, 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 www.GoldenRams.com or call the HVA Coordinator at 724-226-1000.

Gifted & 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 Lehew, Director of Special Education at 724-224-0300.

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 the district website, 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, programs and seminars to students and their families. For more information about Library Services, 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.

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.

Programs & Services cont.

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 for Dental Exam by the 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 for Medical Exam by the 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.



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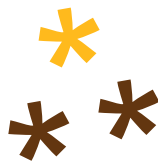
**ECRWSS
 POSTAL PATRON**

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**2014-15 Highlands School District
 Calendar of Events**
 School & Community News



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