



# SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

December 8, 2017

## VISION

**PLAN** to succeed.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Highland Middle School is to provide all students with a **PLAN** for academic success by:

**P**racticing essential skills

**L**inking prior knowledge to future learning

**A**ccepting responsibility for achievement

**N**ever settling for less than the best

**Circle Drive:** The Circle Drive at the front of the building is for buses only before and after school. For the safety of all our students, please **do not** use the circle drive when dropping off or picking up students. The circle drive is also clearly marked as a No Parking Zone.

**PARENTS:** High School students have limited parking at our middle school and we are asking that you not park in their spots when you come to drop off or pick up your middle school students. **Please do not park in any spaces that are yellow in color.** We have 2 rows of spaces that are white in color for parents and staff. Thank you

**Website Highlights:** [www.highland.k12.in.us](http://www.highland.k12.in.us)

• Important Announcements • Lunch Menu

- School Calendar
- Athletics Schedule
- Meal Time
- Faculty E-mail Directory
- Homework Assignments
- Parent Access (Grades and Attendance)

## **SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE:**

### **DECEMBER**

- 12-13 HMS Holiday Choral Rehearsal – Monbeck (7:30a-3p)  
 13 HMS Holiday Choral Concert – Monbeck (6:30 p.m.)  
 18-19 HMS Band/Orchestra Holiday Concert Rehearsal – Monbeck (7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.)  
 19 HMS Band/Orchestra Holiday Concert – Monbeck Auditorium (6:30 p.m.)  
 19 School Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)  
 20-22 Early Release Days  
 22 End of 1<sup>st</sup> Semester  
 25-29 Winter Recess - No School

### **JANUARY**

- 1-5 Winter Recess - No School  
 8 Classes Resume  
 12 Grades Available Online  
 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School  
 16 School Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

The MS & HS Orchestra and Band will present their holiday concert on December 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Monbeck Auditorium. Admission is free and all are welcome to attend!

**Lost & Found:** Please take a minute to check the Lost & Found located in the office. All unclaimed items will be donated on December 22<sup>nd</sup>

**ABSENCES:** Parents are requested to call the office **(922-5620)** between 7:30 & 9:00 a.m. to report an absence. Students returning from an absence must bring a written explanation from home with the **Child's FIRST & LAST** name on the note, and it must be signed by the parent or guardian.

## **Sports:**

### **Boys Basketball**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Time</u>
12/11	Taft	Taft	5:00
12/12	(7AB) Munster	Munster	5:00
	(8AB) Munster	<b>Home</b>	5:00
12/14	LMSAC Play-In	TBA	TBA
12/16	LMSAC Tourney	Grimmer	TBA

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach: Aaron Bugajski**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach: Ed Fierek**

## **Wrestling:**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Opponent</u></b>	<b><u>Site</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>
12/9	LMSAC	Home	9:00am

## Wizard News

It's hard to believe the first semester is coming to a close. The Wizards have had a great school year up to this point.

The Wizards Ticket-to-Drama Enrichment Group will be putting on a holiday play the week before Christmas break called "The Trial of Santa!". Both the Olympians and Wizards teams will be the audiences for the productions on December 20th and 21st in the LGI.

Congratulations to the Ticket-to-Drama cast!! Lilijana Barron, Allycia Garcia, Phoenix Sowles-Barlow, Gabriella Garcia, Aaliyah Keil, Alondra Barajas, Julius Stribling, Joey Witham, Michael Varady, Colin Morgan, Natalie Ziadat, Kayla Kucginski, Ashley Cook, Thomas Bernhardt, Olivia Thomas, Sole' Jones, and Chelsea Parsley. These students have worked very hard on selecting the play, participating in auditions, creating scenery, props, music, memorizing lines, costume design, and creating the programs. Mrs. Weber is VERY proud of all of their hard work and dedication! Wonderful Wizards at their BEST!! Ho Ho Ho!!

The Wizard teachers are continuing to encourage students to continue work hard in class. The second grading period ends on Friday, December 22nd. There's still plenty of time to pull grades up and continue good behavior. Report cards will be available on Friday, January 12.

Here's an update on what's happening in **Explorer** classrooms as we barrel through December on our way to Christmas:

Mr. Kikalos, Language Arts: "Novel-reading continues in the English classes. The language arts students are just about finished with Walter Dean Myers' *Monster*, a unit that will culminate in a test and project before Christmas. The honors language arts students have completed their first book of Greek mythology, and they are moving on to the second novel, Rosemary Sutcliff's *Black Ships Before Troy*, a student-friendly retelling of Homer's famous *The Iliad*."

Mrs. Davis, Mathematics: "All students have been working with ratios and proportions. We are looking forward to viewing the Fairy Castle at the museum of Science and Industry where we can view a real life example of ratio, proportion, and scale factor. Next, students will be working with percents- just in time to find the sale price for Christmas presents!"

Miss Long, Social Studies: "In Social Studies we are beginning to talk about three monotheistic religions that developed in the Middle East. We will be studying maps and talking about present-day issues going on in the Middle East as well."

Mr. Furman, Physical Education: "Physical Education is wrapping up the semester by developing Lifetime Fitness Goals, finalizing Physical Fitness Tests, and learning two new games - ULTIMATE and TEAM HANDBALL. A special thank you to the parents and students of the Explorers for a great, cooperative year in PE/Health. Have a very Merry Christmas!"

### Additional tidbits:

- Check your student's grade on RDS regularly. If necessary, contact an Explorer teacher to set up a morning meeting with any or all teachers on the team.
- Christmas break (Dec. 25-Jan. 8) marks the end of the first semester. Grades for the semester will be available shortly after Christmas break.

### **Student Council**

The Highland Middle School Student Council has been well under way with fundraising efforts for the community. In November, HMS collected more than 2,000 food items for the Highland VFW. In December, Student Council will be collecting money in Discover for Salvation Army's Christmas Angels programs. We will shop for gifts on Thursday, December 14th after school at Target on Indianapolis Blvd.

### **Voyager Info**

The Voyagers will be taking their second of three field trips to the Field Museum on January 26th, 2018. If you have not yet paid \$25 or you have paid in part, be sure to give your payment to your discover teacher ASAP! Chaperones will be contact at the beginning of January with information and procedures.

### **Mr. Gough's Class**

The Voyagers have been working with a student teacher, Ms. Garcia, from the University of Indianapolis. The students have completed their investigation into the causes, events, and impacts of the American War for Independence. The students are not focused on the first government of the independent nation, the Confederation Congress, and how its limitations directly led to the powers granted to the three branches of government through the US Constitution.

**Reading:** In Reading we have been dissecting song lyrics to figure out the hidden meanings in some popular music. Its been a really fun way to practice citing textual evidence!

## **DREAM TEAM**

The **Language Arts** classes will be wrapping up our argumentative unit prior to the holiday break. Students have learned how to evaluate and write a clear claim, how to use reliable, relevant, credible and sufficient evidence to support their claim, and how to refute the counterargument. Hopefully, all of these skills will pay off as they make their claims to parents, grandparents, and Santa regarding their Christmas wish lists. :) Prior to the break, we will be taking cumulative assessments. Specific details regarding these tests will be coming home soon.

**Algebra** students are mastering how to write the equations of straight lines, including vertical, horizontal, and diagonal lines. Soon, students will be able to write the equations of lines that are parallel and perpendicular. **Pre-Algebra** students are learning how to use properties of inequality to analyze and solve problems. Did you know the United States exhibits wider inequalities of wealth between rich and poor than any other major developed nation?

**Science news!** Science is doing exciting stuff, like extracting DNA from strawberries! AND the students will be making their very own Highland DNA holiday ornament to help decorate around the house!

During the next month in **U.S History**, students will be learning about the structure and powers of the national and state governments. The students will be reading and analyzing the Constitution of the United States to help them gain knowledge on the structure and powers of the United States government. Also, the students will be reading and analyzing the Bill of Rights so they understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States.

**In P.E. class**, swimming has started! Students will be breaking down the "freestyle" stroke, and also working on backstroke. The last day in the water will be Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

The **Dream Team** would like to wish all Highland families a happy holiday season. We look forward to a new year with an exciting and productive second semester.