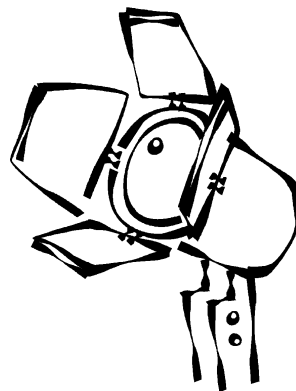


# SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

SEPTEMBER 21, 2018



## 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

## Follow us on Twitter @ HMSSpartan

**Absences:** Parents are requested to call the office (922-5620) between 7:30 & 9:00 AM 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.

### Attention parents!

Report Cards will be available via RDS Parent Access on the following dates:

Quarter One - Friday, Oct. 19      Quarter Two - Friday, January 11

Quarter Three - Friday, March 22      Quarter Four - Friday, May 31

### Emergency Contact Info.

Please remember to call the HMS office if you have a change in address or phone number. It is important for the school to be able to reach you in case of an emergency.

**Parents** of 6<sup>th</sup> graders **may not block traffic** on Erie. If you are waiting for your child, please pull into the parking lot. Please pull up if a car ahead of you leaves or form a second row – just leave room for others to exit. Thank you.

# Spotlight on the Future:

## OCTOBER

8	PTO Meeting (6:00)
10-11	HHS/HMS Orchestra Concert Rehearsal (grades 6-12) – Monbeck Auditorium (7:30a-3p)
11	HHS/HMS Orchestra Concert (Grades 6-12) - Monbeck Auditorium (6:30 p.m.)
12	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> grading period
15-16	HHS/HMS Choir Concert Rehearsal (Grades 6-12) – Monbeck Auditorium (7:30a-3p)
16	HHS/HMS Choir Concert (Grades 6-12) – Monbeck Auditorium (6:30 p.m.)
16	School Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
17-18	HHS/HMS Band Concert Rehearsal (Grades 6-12) – Monbeck Auditorium (7:30a-3p)
18	Picture Retakes
18	HHS/HMS Band Concert (Grades 6-12) – Monbeck Auditorium (6:30 p.m.)
19	Grades Available Online
26-29	Fall Recess - No School

## November

6      **E-Learning day - STUDENTS NOT IN SCHOOL**

## Football

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
10/3	Lowell	@ Highland	6:00
10/10	Grimmer	@ Kahler	6:00



Coach: Childress  
Grinnell  
Spoljaric

## Cross Country

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
9/24	Grimmer	@ Grimmer	5:00
9/26	Lowell	@ Highland	5:00
10/1	W. Wright	@ Highland	5:00
10/03	LMSAC-All Teams	@ Kahler	5:00

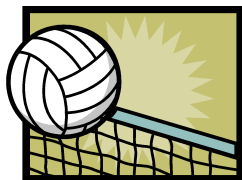
Coach: Scheidel      Coach: Bugajski

## **2018-19 Middle School Dances @ Lincoln Center**

September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14, January 18,  
February 15, March 15, April 19 and May 10

**Picture retakes will be  
Thursday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>**

# Highland Middle School 2018 Volleyball Schedule



<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Time</u>
9/24	Grimmer	@ Highland	5:00
9/25	Hobart	@ Highland	5:00
9/26	Clark	@ Clark	5:00
10/03	Wilbur Wright	@ Highland	5:00
10/06	LMSAC Invite	@ Wilbur Wright	9:00am

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach:** Vicki Weber  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach:** Hannah Long

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

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

## **Chess Club:**

Where: Room 31 (Mr. Gier's Room)

When: Tuesday's right after school 3:25-4:25

Who: Experienced players or beginners...ALL are welcome!

What: What can you expect from HMS Chess Club...

- A fun supportive group that encourages others to do their best.
- A place where learning and critical thinking are tested to the max.
- A ranking system that matches you against opponents of equal skills
- A very sportsmanlike group of individuals. We are humble in victory and graceful in defeat!
- Leadership positions
- Tournaments
- Did I mention fun!?

Builders Club is the Kiwanis Youth Organization at HMS. We complete service projects throughout the year that help support our school and the community. Builders Club always welcomes new members. We meet twice a month on Tuesdays. If you are interested in joining, see Mrs. Backs in Room 53. Continue to collect Box Tops and Pop Tabs to help support our service projects.



Thank you for sending in your BOX TOPS!

**Yearbook Club** meets every other Monday after school until 4:30 pm in Lab 7. Students, along with guidance from Mrs. Larson, create the Highland Middle School yearbook, while learning how to design, edit, proofread, photograph, interview, and market. Students in all grades are welcome to join in the fun at any time.

**Yearbook Drawing:** Any student that purchases a yearbook through October 26th will be entered into a drawing to win a special prize. Winner will be announced during SRT on Tuesday, October 30.

**Yearbooks are on sale now for the BACK TO SCHOOL price for \$25.**



Please click on the icon to purchase online



Spartan News Network meets Thursday mornings at 7:15 until 8:00 in room 25. Students investigate the happenings of the school and community and report back to their fellow students during a news broadcast. They highlight the different events and people at the school. Together, they explore the world of journalism and video editing. Students from all grades are welcome to join at any time!

## TABLETOP GAMING CLUB

**WHERE:** Mr. Kikalos' room, number 23.

**WHEN:** The first and third Monday of each month, from 3:30 to 4:30.

**WHO:** Anyone who is interested in card and board games! No matter your skill or experience, come play!

**WHAT:** The Tabletop Gaming Club is a fun and safe place to...

- learn and play some new card and board games
- compete in a friendly environment
- learn good sportsmanship -- how to be graceful in victory and defeat!
- participate in tournaments to see who comes out on top
- apply some school skills while having a good time

**WHY:** Card and board games ask you to read, think, calculate... Many of the things we're asking you to do in school, but with the added bonus of some fun competition built right in!

From the Music Corner:

"8th grade Music Concept students have been busy as they began the year with creating, performing, and analyzing many key elements of music. They started off with a creative writing project that allowed them to assign specific songs to important events or memories from their life to help explain the transition from life before to life after the event. In addition to writing, students have had the opportunity to compose rhythmic patterns for untuned African percussion instruments as well as melodic compositions for the xylophone. As we

head to the second half of the term, Music Concept students will learn about music from the 1920's to now and have the chance to compose, record, and distribute their own vocal recordings!"

"Choir students are preparing for their first concert of the year on, Tuesday, October 16th. This will be a combined concert including all choir members from 6th thru 12th grade as well as the "Remarkables". Choral pieces ranging from musicals to pop music, to Baroque adaptations to foreign language tunes will be performed. Students are eager to show how hard they've worked on their performance pieces as well as their music theory lessons during class rehearsals. The performance is free to the public and we invite you to join us for an evening of Fall Festive Fun!"

"Upcoming Musical Performances:

Thursday, 10/11: HMS/HHS Orchestra Concert in the HHS Monbeck Auditorium at 6:30pm  
Thursday, 10/15: HMS/HHS Band Concert in the HHS Monbeck Auditorium at 6:30pm"

## Olympians

Welcome back, students and parents! We have had a great start to the 2018-2019 school year. Students have all done a fabulous job learning locker combinations, schedules, and getting themselves acclimated to their new surroundings.

We teachers would like to stress the importance of homework completion. Students need to complete homework on time to turn in. When absent, it is crucial for students to ask what was missed. Poor scores can easily be avoided.

The Olympian team homework page is up and running. ALL homework assignments are posted on one page. To access this information, go through the Highland website. Go to "Highland Middle School" and then find the tab that says "academic teams". Scroll down to "Olympians" and find the page. This will be done on a daily basis for your convenience. (This is also helpful when students are absent!) Each teacher may add notes from class and homework worksheets to help when materials are forgotten at school so look at the bottom of the page for items that are "attached" each day. In addition, many classes have online access for textbooks so be sure to utilize that feature when books and workbooks aren't taken home. (Online access information went home so check with your child.)

We Olympian teachers want to thank parents and students for such a great start to the new year! The enthusiasm from students and parents alike make our jobs so enjoyable. We have many exciting things happening this year and look forward to a GREAT school year!

### **EXPLORERS**

**Mr. Kikalos, language arts:** In language arts, the Explorers are knee-deep in the first big academic unit of the year, argumentative writing. Students have practiced by writing arguments both silly and serious, and they are currently reading news articles and editorials in preparation for writing their final, major essay of the unit. After that, the Explorers will move on to their first literature unit of the year, reading Walter Dean Myers' *Monster*, as well as Greek Mythology selections in the honors class.

**Miss Long, social studies:** Explorers are finishing up the first unit of the year on becoming geographers. The G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) curriculum with Officer Hoffman has also just begun!

**Miss Condes, Family and Consumer Sciences:** The first part of the FACS sewing unit is all stitched up, with patterned pillows being produced by our junior weavers. The last few weeks of the FACS curriculum (remember, it's only a nine-week course!) will focus on financial literacy.

**Mrs. Davis, mathematics:** In math classes, the Explorers are working on a skill with some cross-over potential: exponents and scientific notation. Learning the correct order of operations when dealing with exponents and parentheses will serve students well in their future math and science classes.

**Mr. Gier, science:** The Explorers are just wrapping up their unit of study over Newton's three laws of motion. Ideas like friction, mass, acceleration and more help set a foundation for future science learning this year.

**Mr. Bugajski, physical education + health:** The Explorer students began the year in physical education by setting a skills baseline. That's right, we're talking Presidential fitness tests! Sit-ups, push-ups, pull-ups, the mile run, and more! Beyond their fitness tests, Explorers have enjoyed the good weather, going outside to play ultimate frisbee, soccer, and football.

### All-Stars News

In Language Arts classes have gotten off to a great start. They are learning the routines of the class, including learning to play the game Boggle in preparation for the end-of-the-year tournament against the Explorer team. Currently, students are working on an argumentative writing unit. They have looked at the pros and cons of year-round schooling and learned how to write the different parts of the essay, with specific emphasis on writing the opposing claim. Soon, students will be asked to write an essay of their own. They will choose from one of three topics, read and annotate their articles, plan a well-constructed argument, and write their essays.

A couple of quick tips for parents for helping your child succeed in Language Arts:

- All Google Classroom homework assignments (which is almost every assignment) is due by 8:12 a.m. Digital late work is still late work and our team policy is that we don't take late work.
- If you want to view what's going on in your child's classes, have them invite you as a guardian. You can see all their work on Google Classroom and have a better idea of what is going on in the class.
- If you haven't yet joined Remind for updates and homework help in Language Arts, see Mrs. Hayes's faculty page on the HMS website for instructions. You and your child can join.

In Computer Science, the students are working towards creating a program for a brand new Jurassic World! The students are learning computer programming principles such as variables, strings, numbers and comments to create programs that move the gyro-spheres through our model park.

In the math classes, students have just completed a unit that covered the operations with all the types of rational numbers (integers, fractions, decimals, etc.). Now the MATH7 students are beginning a unit on Expressions and Equations. They will be evaluating, writing and simplifying variable expressions, as well as solving one step and two step equations. The Honors Pre-Algebra class is beginning a unit on Exponents. They will be working with the exponent rules for multiplying and dividing exponents and will also be writing numbers in scientific notation as well as multiplying and dividing numbers that are in scientific notation.

The **Social Studies classes** have been investigating the tools geographers use as well as the levels in which they study the earth and its people. We looked at the different landforms on earth and what caused them and have also seen how landforms influence the lives and culture of people. Next we will be investigating the five main climate types of the world, where they are and how they affect the lives of people. Then we will look at the world's natural resources, where they are found and how they influence life.

Students in Ms. Frankenberger's classes just finished learning about the process of Scientific Inquiry and how to conduct a scientific investigation. They have also learned how scientists minimize bias in the lab. We have just begun learning about Newton's Laws of Motion. Ask your child to explain Newton's First Law using my golfing example!

In Reading we have been exploring [newsela.com](https://newsela.com) and [commonlit.org](https://www.commonlit.org). There we are able to learn about current events going on in the world.

# WIZARD WATCH

The Wizards enjoyed a memorable trip to Chicago on September 7th. While the weather was less than cooperative, with a steady rain punctuating the day, spirits remained high.

The Wendella boat trip along the Chicago River provided a unique perspective for viewing the Windy City's architecture—past, present, and future. Seeing the venerable Wrigley Building, built in the 1920s, as well as Trump Tower, constructed in the 21st century, proved that Chicago has respect for history, a flair for today, and a vision for tomorrow with ongoing construction.

Following are comments from some of our sixth graders regarding the initial school year outing:

**Emma Chavez** says, "The field trip was great! Even though it was raining, it was a very educational trip. Seeing all the architectural buildings and learning about them just makes you realize how important they are. Our tour guide was really nice. All in all I am glad I was on the trip because it is always great to learn something new."

From **Ayden Brown**: "My thoughts about the boat trip were great. I loved the sights, the information, the cool mist, and the company of friends. The Wendella boat trip was a great idea. My favorite part was the information and sights. Those are my thoughts about the Wendella boat field trip. Thank you."

Next up, **Caden Quigg** added, "My thoughts about the Wendella boat ride field trip is that it was cool being in the boat seeing all of the cool buildings and how tall they were. The cool thing is that we were able to see the tallest building a woman has made." *Editor's Note: This would be the Vista skyscraper designed by Jeanne Gang which is currently about half-way to completion.*

**Maylani Velazquez** concludes our review with the following remarks: "The Wendella boat was really fun! I loved seeing different types of buildings that I had never seen before and learning about those buildings. I had a nice time laughing with my friends and enjoying myself with my dad."

Finally, here's a shout-out of thanks to the many chaperones who helped keep our girls and boys on-task and safe. Wizards teachers and students appreciate you!

Voyager News:

The Voyager's first field trip will be Friday September 28. We will be going to Millennium Park in Chicago. Permission slips and money are due, Monday September 24.

Mr. Davis's Language Arts classes are midway through their first novel, *The Outsiders*, and are taking the opportunity to write their own personal narratives (and even dress up as either a greaser or a soc for extra credit). In addition, their first field trip to Chicago's Millennium Park on Friday, September 28, will have them writing their own sensory poems about a setting of their choice at the park, which they will publish as a group to begin our Descriptive Writing and Suspense Unit.

# The Dream Team

Information will be coming home soon regarding field trips for this school year. Please check with your student or ask to see their Dream Team Google Classroom for details. Our first trip will be to Millennium Park on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. We will need plenty of chaperones. Contact Mrs. Scheidt if you are interested or fill out the form when your child brings it home next week.

The **language arts** classes have been working hard on evaluating and writing narratives. Our current focus is on the personal narrative. After reading several examples in a variety of forms, students will select their own topic about which to write their personal narrative. As we finish this narrative unit, we will focus on *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. If you remember reading this great coming -of-age classic when you were young, be sure to reminisce with your student! Also, don't forget to remind the kids to STUDY THE ROOTS. These weekly root quizzes can become your "best friend" or "worst nightmare."

**Math** classes have been building a strong foundation for algebra. **Pre-algebra** students just finished learning how to compute with rational numbers, including integers, fractions, and decimals. Next, students will learn about graphs and functions which will be used in most of their future math and science classes. **Algebra** students just finished learning how to model and solve multi-step equations in one variable. Next, students will learn how to represent relationships between quantities that are not equal, including compound and absolute value inequalities.

In **science** land: We are currently in our EAS unit (that's earth and atmosphere science). Students will soon be learning all about the atmosphere and the impact upon our weather. Lots of labs in this unit! Remember no homework, no lab! Idea: discuss with your student a family vacation to the edge of space aka the stratosphere. Would you go? \$75,000 and the trip could be yours! For real!

During the next month in **U.S. History**, Dream Team students will be learning about the formation of the thirteen English Colonies. The students will be learning about the social and political developments that took place in Colonial America. Next, the students will be learning about how these social and political developments led to the Independence movement against Great Britain in the colonies and ultimately the American Revolution.

In **8<sup>th</sup> grade art**, students have explored the depths of perspective, examined the darker side of shading and are currently facing our skills with personal portraits.