



# SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

January 11, 2019

## VISION

**PLAN** to succeed.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Highland MS 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

**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.

**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.

**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.

# Thank you for sending in your BOX TOPS!

## **Spotlight on the Future:**

### **JANUARY**

11 Grades Available Online  
15 School Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)  
21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School

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

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

## **SPORTS**

### **2019 Girls Basketball**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Time</u>
1/24	Pierce (8AB)	<b>Highland</b>	5:00
1/24	Pierce (7AB)	Pierce	5:00
1/29	Willowcreek (8AB)	<b>Highland</b>	5:00
	Willowcreek (7AB)	Willowcreek	5:00
1/31	Kahler (8AB)	Kahler	5:00
1/31	Kahler (7AB)	<b>Highland</b>	5:00

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach: Courtney Condes

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Coach: Donna Scheidt

### **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.

### **Parking:**

As a courtesy to others, parents are asked not to park in the handicap parking spaces unless your vehicle is legally marked to park there.

## Olympians

Welcome back! It was so nice to hear the kids reminiscing about their holiday breaks, telling teachers and friends what fun was had, and getting back into the swing of second semester. We teachers are excited about being back at school and are looking forward to some special topics and activities in each of our classrooms.

**English** - Second semester started with MAPs testing. The students are now able to set some goals for themselves before the end of the year. Our next focus for writing is expository pieces. The students will have a chance to practice this skill writing a variety of genres. Our semester will end with a Multi-Genre Research Project - more information to come later. If anyone has old magazines at home, please send them to school!

**Social Studies** - In honor of Dr. King's birthday, we will be reading Freedom Walkers, a book which explores the history of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. After that, we'll be studying the Renaissance including a little bit of Shakespeare. "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears."

**Science** - For the second semester of the school year, we will start our exploration in space by studying the planets and objects in our solar system as well as the Sun-Earth-Moon System. When that is concluded, we will move onto the "Interactions of Life" unit where we will study various topics such as structures of life, biomes, and ecosystems. We will wrap up our year with health lessons in various topics.

**Math** - We will complete the second round of MAPS this first week back and be able to track our progress so far along with setting our goals for the spring test. Many students were showing growth in their math fact practice with either an increased percentage correct or a faster time and for some both. We will continue our math fact practice every week along with working in Math XL. We will finish the year with students creating game boards that require participants to use the math skills learned throughout sixth grade.

**Reading** - In reading class we began MAPS testing and those scores will help us set some second semester goals for reading.

We will have another round of Book Clubs! The students are excited to work with their peers to read a self selected novel.

We will begin Unit three in our Journeys book toward the end of January. It is a collection of informational text pieces to help us learn about places, events, and people from the past. Great America Reading Logs are due February 22nd 6 hours of free reading will earn you a free entry to the theme park!! Keep reading!

As always, please contact us if you have questions or concerns.

# DREAM TEAM

The **Language Arts** classes are starting the new semester with a focus on grammar and informational text. Students will be learning about parallel structure, verb tense consistency, informational text features, subjective/objective summary writing, and order of organization. This unit is a great way to review and practice some of those essential skills heading into the upcoming ILEARN testing sessions. The honors class will be working on these same concepts, as well as completing a TABA unit on the Concept of Change.

**Algebra** students just finished a project creating and graphing a linear drawing. The results were EXTREMELY IMPRESSIVE! Please ask your student to show off their project! Currently, students are applying their knowledge about graphing and solving linear equations to learn how to solve systems of equations and inequalities. Ask your student whether or not they beat the challenge of determining the number of pennies and quarters it takes to make \$62.00 with exactly 1,400 coins. **Pre-Algebra** students are learning about graphing and writing linear equations. Next, students will be preparing for a cumulative, midterm exam which will assess their knowledge of the first six chapters. Please be active in helping your student prepare for this exam by making sure they are reviewing.

What goes well with your DNA ornament? How about your very own fossil! Ask your student how they were able to make a fossil in **Science** class. Students will be making their own fossils to take home. We are coming to a close of our biology unit to be capped off with our world famous field trip to the Field Museum. What a great way to spend the day! (We are looking for chaperones)! What could be after biology? Get ready to take the mystery out of chemistry!

**U.S History** students will be learning about the presidency of George Washington and John Adams during the next couple of weeks in class. During this unit of study, the students will focus on the nation's economy, foreign policy, westward expansion, and the emergence of political parties during both presidential terms.

During the third quarter, many Dream Team students are taking **Computer Science**. In this course, the students are programming SPHERO! We are learning and will continue to learn programming skills such as sequence, looping, functions and selection. Please, give your student a folder to bring to class.

In **Gateway** this semester, students will explore the world of electrons and electrical devices. They are introduced to the design process and build circuits to find solutions to real-world problems. Students will need to bring a pencil, charged iPad, and headphones to class each day.

# Voyager News

In social studies, the Voyagers have finished their research of the American Revolution and the Articles of Confederation, the nation's first constitution. We analyzed economic, social, and political issues during the 1780s, and how the first government's inability to address these problems led to a stronger central power under the Constitution. We will continue to look at the new governmental system, including the systems of checks and balances and separation of powers. We'll then have a rubric to evaluate the first presidents of the United States and determine how well Washington, Adams, and Jefferson upheld the founding principles.

## Explorers

Mr. Kikalos, language arts: "In language arts, students have just finished up MAP testing, setting a new baseline for growth in reading and writing skills. From there, all language classes will finish novels started prior to Christmas: Monster and Black Ships Before Troy. As February approaches, the Explorers will flip the focus back to writing, developing their skills at informative writing."

Mrs. Davis, mathematics: "Explorer students have been working hard at the application of percentages in daily life. Practice examples include bank account interest, sales tax, income tax, mortgage payments, and more!"

Miss Long, social studies: "Social studies classes are continuing to work through the similarities and differences of the world's major religions. We are wrapping up Buddhism this week before moving into the major monotheistic beliefs: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism."

Mr. Gier, science: "In science class, the second semester brings with it studies of the physical earth. Currently, Explorer students are learning about plate tectonics through the lens of seafloor spreading at the bottoms of the oceans."

Mrs. Grinnell, reading: "Reading is a new class for the Explorers, lasting the entire second semester. Since we are at the beginning of our time together, we are starting with some of the basics that will help in all classes: reading and understanding informational texts, and citing text evidence in our written answers."

## GUIDANCE

8th Grade Students will be getting ready to schedule their HHS courses within the next few months. There will be a guidance activity in Discover to help them learn about scheduling.

All students will be learning about the new State of Indiana Graduation Pathway requirements.

Reality Store will be coming soon, so any parents that would like to volunteer please contact Mrs. Vis for this future event.

*Highland High School presents:*  
***Spaghetti Dinner Benefit***  
*for the Gambino Family*

*Sponsored by:*



***Where: Highland High School cafeteria***

***When: February 22nd, 2019***

***Time: 4:30pm-6:30pm***

***\$5 at the door***

***(or purchase through any HHS Student Council member)***