

SPARTAN

SPOTLIGHT

October 12, 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:

Practicing essential skills

Linking prior knowledge to future learning

Accepting responsibility for achievement

Never settling for less than the best

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 st 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

4	Daylight Savings Time Ends
6	E-Learning Day - NO STUDENTS WILL BE IN SCHOOL
12	PTO Meeting (6:00)
20	School Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
21-23	Thanksgiving Recess - No School

Remember to set clocks back on Sunday, November 4th



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**.



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Give that special educator an apple!

Make a contribution to the Highland Education Foundation, and an individual of your choice, affiliated with the School Town of Highland schools, will be honored. He/she will receive a specially designed card, with your name, your special greeting and an apple pin.

Complete the form below and drop it off in your school's office along with your check or send your check payable to:

Highland Education Foundation, 9145 Kennedy Avenue, Highland, IN 46322

Donors who provide an e-mail address will receive an acknowledgement with a receipt for this tax-deductible donation. Forms and donations must be received no later than Thursday, October 25 in order for honoree to receive gift the week of November 12, 2018.

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Name of Person Being Thanked _____

School/Building/Bus # _____

(Teacher, support staff/administrator/Bus driver) Student Name & Grade _____ Phone _____

(Name as you want it to appear on card)

Parent Name _____

Address _____

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Amount Enclosed _____

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Suggested donation: \$10.00 or more

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Highland Middle School Yearbook
Buy Now and Save!

All Students who purchase a yearbook by October 26th will be entered into a drawing to win a HMS Hoodie!

\$25 through October 26th

or Order at: **Jostens.com**

Back to School Price!

Pick up a form in the office

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"The Voyagers want to thank all the chaperones who made our field trip to Millennium Park memorable! Students have been working hard on creating their "Millennium Park Anthology" with their field trip groups, using figurative language and sensory details to craft a collection of poems based on locations at the park. For their second unit in language arts, students are continuing to work with descriptive writing, and are beginning to read classic tales of suspense and the supernatural from masters of the genre such as Edgar Allan Poe, H.P. Lovecraft, W.W. Jacobs, and more to see how descriptive writing can help create powerful moods."

Mr. Gough's social studies classes have spent the last month investigating the economies, cultures, religions, governments, and daily life of the British colonies in North America. We used primary and secondary documents to answer driving questions and to look for bias, reliability, and author's purpose. We've worked on making observations and inferences in order to prime background knowledge and encourage critical thinking. We also explored the Atlantic Slave Trade, addressing the stark realities and misperceptions regarding life for enslaved Africans and the Middle Passage. Students were also shocked to learn that more slaves are alive today than any other time in history. In an effort to make history relevant, we compared and contrasted historical slavery with contemporary slavery. Next, the students will be exploring the events leading up to the American Revolution. We'll be exploring the term revolution and assessing how revolutionary the American Revolution actually was.

DREAM TEAM

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Mrs. Davis, math: "The students are learning to write and solve equations in math class. This is foundational for all higher level math courses so it is very important! With the end of the quarter, we will go back and review all the material we have covered so far this year and take a Cumulative Review Test."

Miss Condes, FACS: "Explorers are wrapping up their first Encore rotation in FACS class with a Unit on Financial Literacy! Important information on spending plans, decision making, needs versus wants, and credit and savings/checking accounts are being explained and discussed! Talk to your son/daughter about opening a savings account or the importance of decision making and credit cards! The students will be moving on to Coding for their next rotation of Encore during the second quarter!"

Miss Long, social studies: "Explorer students just finished up the first unit that prepared the students to start thinking like geographers. This next unit, we will begin by looking at ancient river valley civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, India and China."

Mr. Kikalos, language arts: "Looking forward, seventh grade language arts students will be moving on to their first literature/novel units of the year. In most periods, we'll be reading Walter Dean Myers' *Roll with It*, while the honors classes take a look at some Greek mythology, including a retelling of the famous *Odyssey*."

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The All-Star Language Arts classes are in the middle of a unit on Argumentative Writing. As we move into the second quarter, they will finish up those essays and begin work on their first novel this year. Novels for all classes should be in class by October 15th.

In Social Studies class, students are finishing up 1st quarter with a high 5 paragraph on energy resources. Then, we will be moving on to Unit 2: Southwest and Central Asia. Beginning with the earliest civilizations, we will study Mesopotamia and the religions whose origins began in this region. We will continue with current day countries in this area.

Students in science class have been investigating how energy is transferred from one form to another. They have also been discussing the positive and negative environmental impacts of obtaining and utilizing various renewable and nonrenewable resources. Which energy resource do you think are the most beneficial and efficient?

The All-Star MATH7 students are just finishing a unit on Algebraic Expressions and Solving Equations. They will then begin a unit on Writing, Solving, and Graphing Inequalities.

The Honors Pre-Algebra students have just begun their unit on Algebraic Expressions and Equation Solving. They will be learning to solve 1-step, 2-step, multi-step, and equations with variables on both sides.



WIZARD

WATCH!

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Add...subtract....multiply...oh my! As we progress through our year there is one thing that is evident our students need to practice and that is the basic math facts. Students need to be able to instantly recall the answers to basic math problems without using a chart or their fingers. Students should also know these problems so well that they can look at two numbers and say what the common denominator is without even really thinking. This is called math fact fluency. If your child is not fluent in their math facts, they will continue to struggle in math. Please practice with them at home.

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Book Clubs have started!! Students watched a keynote presentation in class, which contained exciting information about a variety of different books. They selected their top three choices and then were placed in a group with others who share an interest in that book. They set daily goals to ensure they complete their novel in ten days. In class, in addition to having meaningful discussion about their nightly reading, they work on a specific reading skill, and then apply that skill to their group's book.

It's amazing what happens when students have a choice in what they want to read. Please support Book Clubs at home by asking your child about the novel they selected. Remind them to read daily and talk to them about what exciting things are going on in their books.

Happy Reading!!

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Our 6th grade scientists began the year learning all about the Scientific Method and how to properly use Scientific Tools when collecting and analyzing data. They are currently wrapping up 6 S H H G D Q ~~Copyrighted~~ by Writing Connections to locations, calculating and graphing the speed and velocity of objects, and analyzing distance-time graphs. 6th grade Wizards are in High Speed!

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Social Studies classes have been busy with individual and group projects. Each student was charged with the task of researching a world climate region and sharing a Keynote presentation with classmates. We learned a lot about the climate, landforms, and animals in each region!

