

SUMMER 2024

schoolbell

HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 2.0



ONWARD

HCS MISSION STATEMENT

In order to honor God, we nurture and guide students to see the Father's creation to sense order in a world saved by Christ to serve God through the leading of the Holy Spirit

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Jodi Lineburg

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Lithographic Communications

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George Van Laten
Darla Kinkade
Holly Haitzma
Howie Ridder
Jerry Kuiper
Jenn Neibert
Karen Sherwood
Shawn Evers

2024-25 FOUNDATION BOARD

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Brandon Boomsma
Al Evers
Serita Jackson
Caleb Jonkman
Jennifer Katz
Darla Kinkade
Nate Laning
Josh Scheeringa
Dave Sherwood
Deanne Van Rosendale

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HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

MATT MAHER
August 1

ICE CREAM SOCIAL
August 16

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (K-8)
August 19

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (SEC)
August 20 & 21

GOLF OUTING
August 26

PASTORS CHAPEL
September 27

GRANDPARENTS' DAYS (SEC)
October 9-10

GRANDPARENTS' DAY (K-8)
October 11



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP FOR THE HOWLER!

The Howler is a new monthly email publication designed to inform the community of the next month's events and recap the previous month at HCS. Within editions there will be photos, links, and information regarding admissions, fundraising, athletics, fine arts, events, and more!



IMPACT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

This spring, I had the opportunity to hear South Carolina's Senator, Tim Scott, provide the commencement address to thousands of college graduates. In his opening remarks, he shared that he did not graduate 'cum laude,' but 'Thank you, Lorde.' While a comical remark, Mr. Scott continued in his remarks that somehow a young boy, who failed history and civics in high school, was able to ascend to the ranks to be a US Senator. He attested his ability to overcome all the odds came through his faith and the discipline of a loving family.

As our graduates walked across the gymnasium, some students did so with ease. For others, this was the culmination of triumphs and the occasional battle over doing homework, learning Bible memory the night before it was due, and learning how to fit in. Every student's story is different, but they all lead to the special moment where their time at Highland Christian comes to an end and a new chapter unfolds.

GOD SIMPLY PROVIDES. HE ALWAYS DOES.

Behind every student is their support system. Whether it is a parent, grandparent, or sibling, each of our students has the incredible blessing to have a Christ-centered community pouring into them with words of encouragement, Scripture, and prayer. In my time at Highland Christian, I have found our school to be a place of prayer and guided by the leading of the Holy Spirit. We witness this through our incredible Women's prayer group, teachers praying for each other and over the student body, and parents who lead prayer walks around our treasured school.

Additionally, I have witnessed miraculous stories where families saw their prayers answered through an anonymous gift to pay their tuition, a student challenge that miraculously was resolved, and breakthroughs with emotional and psychological issues. God simply provides. He always does.

So what can you do? The answer is simple. Continue to pray. In a time where morality, life, and God's Truth are being fought, we need you to stand in the trenches to pray and act. John 16:15 states, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you". With an army of prayer warriors, I believe the fruit will be plentiful. **Thank you for joining with us, as we not only prepare for the upcoming school year, but for the impact Highland Christian will have on students for generations to come.**

Dr. Kyle Weener, Principal



GRADUATION

The 2023-24 school year finished at the end of May, and for the 49 graduates, this marked the end of an adventure that began in August 2015. More than 680,400 minutes of learning happened in the last nine years at Highland Christian School. These graduates learned their numbers and letters, they mastered verb tenses and inference, they comprehended inequalities and exponents, they studied patterns and systems, they acquired skill in design and organization. These graduates also became competent in interpersonal relationships on the playground, basketball court or soccer field, around the lunch table, and in the classroom. Our graduates learned to pray with and for each other, to serve alongside one another, to celebrate with each other, and to forgive one another.

The 2023-24 school theme was “Build on THE Firm Foundation” from I Corinthians 3:9-11: *“For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”* Highland Christian’s vision is to guide students along the path to becoming “Academically equipped, Biblically grounded, and Spiritually nurtured to impact the world for Christ.” This vision is only possible when we build our learning, our understanding, our service, in fact, our lives, on the FIRM Foundation of Jesus.

Since the beginning of their journey at HCS, these graduates have journaled about their faith using four important components: **Creed, Community, Calling, and Hope.** Highland Christian has been intentional in laying a foundation of the knowledge of God’s Word so students grow in faith. These graduates learned to **KNOW** God’s story and their place in it. This knowledge provided their identity and shaped them as they continue on their



journey. They also realized that they **BELONG** to God and to a community. Because they understand who God is and are part of a community that belongs to Him, these graduates understood that God **CALLS** them to grow in their relationship with Him. Finally, these graduates came to know that **HOPE** is critical to building a vibrant faith. Having **HOPE** and trust allows these students to live into a future with confidence that God is doing His work in the world and that they have a part in that work.

At graduation, we not only marked the end of an adventure that began about nine years ago when they entered HCS as kindergarteners, we also made a Commencement. These 49 graduates have been *equipped academically, grounded Biblically, and nurtured spiritually* during their time at HCS. We are now commencing them into a new adventure continuing to “Build on THE Firm Foundation” so that they can *impact the world for Christ.*

Mrs. Vicki Huizenga,
Jr. High Teacher
& Faith Formation Director

Vicki



OUR GRADUATES LEARNED TO PRAY WITH AND FOR EACH OTHER, TO SERVE ALONGSIDE ONE ANOTHER, TO CELEBRATE WITH EACH OTHER, AND TO FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER.



Kade Blocker



Tatum Boles



Abrielle Brown



Jaiden Budna



Leo Bussema



Samirah Carter



Sebastian Chavez



Zachary Clark



Mikayla Colar



Hayden Cristler



Gabe DeVries



Aquanis Dixon



Gatlyn Dotson



Noah Falvey



Anthony Flowers



David Friend



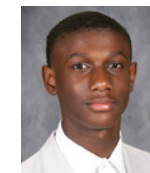
Xochitl Garcia



Lana Gibson



Ian Hadley



Dekai Harris



Ava Hoogstra



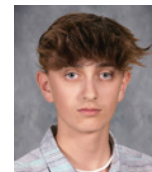
Miracle Johnson



Xavier King



Elliot Molenaar



Nathan Sherwood



Kinley Vander Pol



Nathanael Koutz



Jozef Nelson



Grant Sitter



Julieta Villamar



Jaya Okrasinski



Jasmyn Spraggins



Juliana Villamar



Jayden Parks



Jacob Stevens



Wren Weinberg



Chloe Rayburn



Maxwell Van Laten



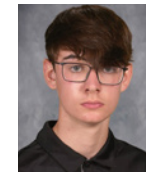
Zion Williams



Jordyn McGuire



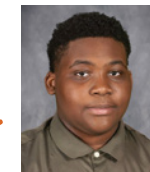
Colin Schaap



Jonah Van Ek



Connor Zandstra



Rashawn Johnson



Cameron Katz



Leona Middleton



Liv Scheeringa



Arend van Belle



Gabel Zoeteman

Congratulations CLASS OF 2024



TAKING TURNS: GRADUATING PRESCHOOL & ACCREDITATION

The Sonshine Enrichment Center congratulates our 2024 preschool graduates! These kindergarten-bound students are ready to take the next step in their education.

This year we worked hard on getting along with each other. Alongside our usual academic skills, we developed abilities that will help us to be part of a learning community. With the help of Mrs. Hoekstra, we talked about caring for others, personal boundaries, and friendship. We practiced taking turns, learned about what happens when we don't get our way, and used our words to tell others about how we're feeling. These skills will help us in many situations as we continue in school!

This year also brought us to the start of our accreditation journey. We are excited to have been accepted as a candidate for accreditation through ACSI. There is much work ahead, but we are excited to find ways to improve our preschool program even more! Please be in prayer for us as we continue on this path.

We are grateful for God's blessings throughout this school year. There are so many, but we are especially appreciative of all the wonderful families who sent their children to Sonshine, the great staff who pulled together through all the events this year brought, and the broader HCS community who support and include us in events. Thank you also to all those who have prayed for SEC throughout the year. It is an honor to work with these children of God every day! All praise and thanks to God!

Karen van Belle,
SEC Director
and Teacher



"MOANA JR" THE MUSICAL

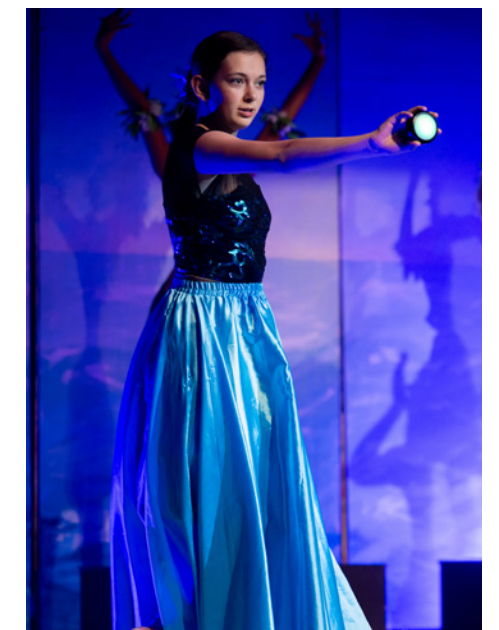
"Moana Jr" The Musical rode into our gym on a wave of enthusiastic talent this year! With 40 junior high students involved, it was the biggest production the school has had in a long time! 20 actors sang and danced on stage, 15 students moved around sets and kept track of props, and 4 students oversaw the lights and sound to show a story that was based on the creation myth of the South Seas. As in all things, God is visible. His world was not seen as an accident and historically, creation myths were created to explain how this world was made. In this story, a young girl must save her island with a reluctant hero. They both have insecurities and reasons for why they feel unable to complete the quest, but together they are able to strengthen each other and place the heart of TeFiti where it belongs.

The drama department is especially grateful to Sarah VanDrunen for joining the production and bringing extra lights and sparkles to the play. Her energy and motivation bolstered this performance from the moment she stepped into the music room. The actors responded to her encouragement and guidance, becoming the best they could be.

It is with reluctance that we say goodbye to the 8th graders who will be going on to high school next year. From the stage **Miracle Johnson, Kinley VanderPol, Ava Hoogstra, Jordyn McGuire, Mikayla Colar, Liv Scheeringa, and Julieta Villamar**. From backstage, **Samirah Carter, Jayden Parks, and Leona Middleton**. The curtains are also closing on **Gabe DeVries, Jacob Steven and Connor Zandstra** from the tech booth. **We are excited to see what the future holds for these talented students, as we know that they are not done impressing us yet!**

We would also like to give thanks for all the support we received from the community as we had record attendance. Everyone loves a happy musical ending, and happily the drama department was able to provide two nights of stellar entertainment.

Mrs. Judy Zandstra, Librarian



CURIOSITY COMES TO LIFE



James 1:17 says *“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights...”*

The generosity of this community has been tremendous and has provided my class with the resources to adopt two classroom bearded dragons, have students and staff view the recent solar eclipse, grow edible mushrooms, start a mealworm farm, create a hydroponics garden, plant an outdoor school garden, build an augmented reality sandbox, get a 3D printer, and operate a robotics program. We have also utilized your generosity to do fun and enriching activities like building cardboard chairs and designing water clocks.

I regularly tell my students that my desire as their science teacher is that they love God, appreciate His creation, and understand how things work, in order to see the amazing display of God’s glory in His creation. Teaching science is awesome because

our God is awesome! How wonderful it was to see the solar eclipse this year! We were able to study solar eclipses and the amazing phenomenons that happened during this unique event. While scientists and mathematicians can calculate how and why the solar eclipse happens, the marvel and wonder of the math God used when He created this universe is just spectacular! We were also able to use what we learned about solar eclipses to prove that the three hours of darkness that occurred during the crucifixion of Christ could not have been a solar eclipse (at least not a natural one). Students are learning about His creation, maturing in their faith, and diving deeper into studying the events in the Bible.

A science room should be a place where students can observe the science they are learning, which is why I have all of these living organisms in the classroom. Students can see how energy is cycled from the

sun, to the plants, to the mealworms, to the bearded dragons and then to the decomposers– like mushrooms. Students can see and experience the earth systems that are at work when they interact with the augmented reality sandbox like erosion, runoff, plate tectonics, and the rock cycle. They see the water cycle in the hoop houses that were built in the courtyard. They see photosynthesis in action while the young vegetation they planted form their first leaves after germination. **By bringing it into the classroom, I believe students will begin to see these parts of creation in their everyday lives and gain more appreciation for the magnificence of our God.** Again, this is all due to the generosity of this community. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it.

Vince McClenahan, Jr. High Science



WISH LIST QR CODE

Please scan the QR code to view our staff’s wishlists. If you decide to fulfill wishlist items, please drop off your financial donation to the HCS office. The office will order the item(s) and deliver them to the appropriate staff member. Thank you.



A YEAR IN REVIEW AND A YEAR TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

We've had another great year and look forward to all that lies ahead in 2024/2025! As we celebrate accomplishments, recognize milestones, and share forward looking plans, we pause to rejoice. Anchored in faithfulness and entrusted with a legacy, we are thankful to ALL who have loved the LORD, remained steadfast in faith, and engaged readily for the cause of Christ-centered education in northwest Indiana.

Jodi Lineburg, Development Director



HCS FINANCIALS

2023/2024 Budget Based on 495 enrolled students	2024/2025 Budget Based on 560 enrolled students
\$7,890 K-8 Tuition Rate	\$8,500 K-8 Tuition Rate
\$4,811,772 Income	\$5,835,251 Income
\$4,809,684 Expenses	\$5,835,251 Expenses
\$2,088 Net Income	\$----- Net Income

- Multiple, non-traditional funding opportunities in recent years have yielded additional resources in excess of \$2 million for advancement and upgrades.
- We will be wrapping up a full audit of FY 2023 this summer.

EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE

\$5,492,213 Original Loan	\$2,278,797 Cash Gifts Received as of 5/15/2024
\$2,488,577 Loan Balance as of 5/31/2024	\$496,088 Pledge Balance as of 5/15/2024

BUSINESS VENTURE UPDATE

This committee continues to explore opportunities to develop and maximize long-term income streams for the benefit of Highland Christian School.

FOUNDATION FUND GROWING FAITH, LEAVING LEGACIES

The HCS Foundation Fund was valued at \$5,260,423 as quarter three closed. As we work to increase the value of this fund to \$10,000,000 by the year 2030 we are grateful for your generous support in response to the Annual Foundation and Legacy Prayer Plaza appeals. We also appreciate the honor of your tribute gifts, involvement with **etc a thrift store**, and participation in our FUSION and GOLF events!

TRIBUTE GIFTS

In Memory

Louise Allen
Toni Bridges
Melvin DeBoer
Jake & Agnes DeGraaf
Audrey Huizenga
Audrey Koedyker

In Honor

E. Ken Leep
Loretta McQuery
Ed Rudenga
Gertrude Schepel
Linda Schoon
Loretta Sitter
Bill Verkaik

In Honor

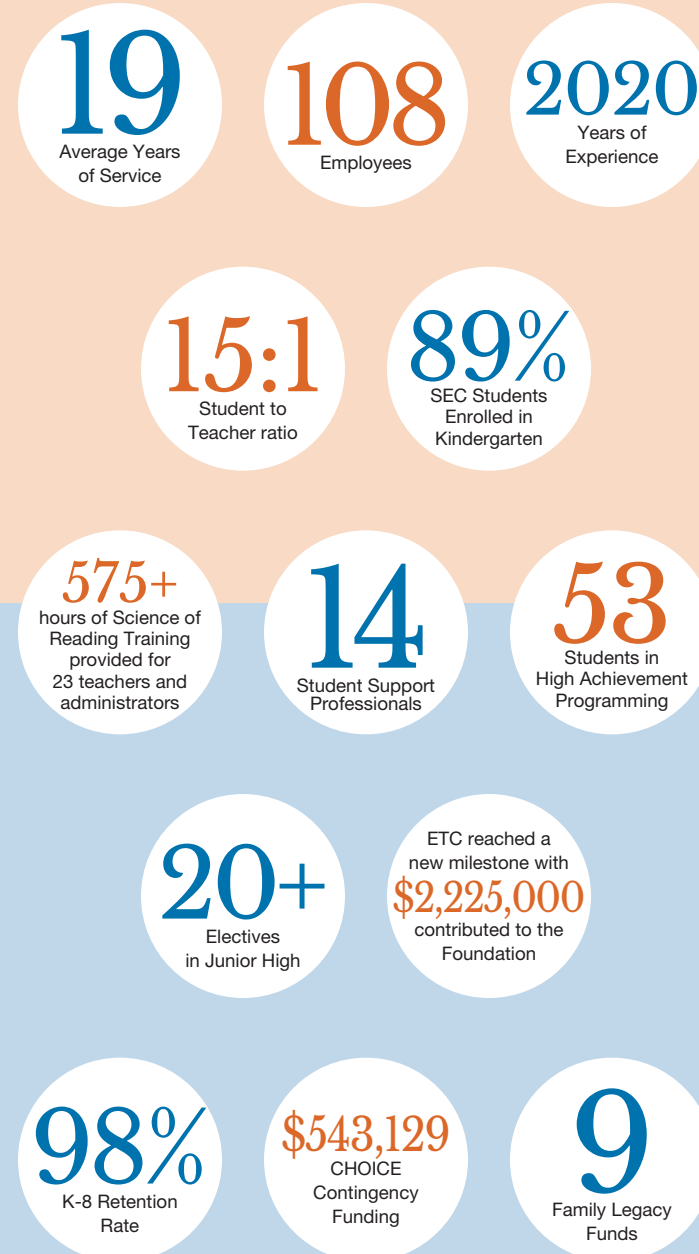
Henry Huitsing
88th Birthday
Ken VanTrease
85th Birthday
Jody Moes
Retirement



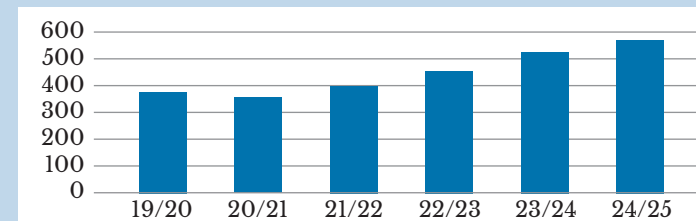
STRATEGIC CONVERSATIONS!

Strategic conversations continue within the leadership teams of our Christian schools as we seek to continue the legacy and vision each of our schools represents with greater fidelity, unity, and stewardship. Pray with us as we seek answers on how to best meet the needs of our local communities and pursue the best means for increasing access to Christ-centered education.

2024/2025 BY THE NUMBERS



ENROLLMENT 57% increase



NEW STUDENTS

HCS enrolls an average of **160 new students** (PreK-Gr 8) each year!

ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

22/23 Admissions closed in July 23/24 Admissions closed in May 24/25 Admissions closed in March

70% AT THE 70TH PERCENTILE

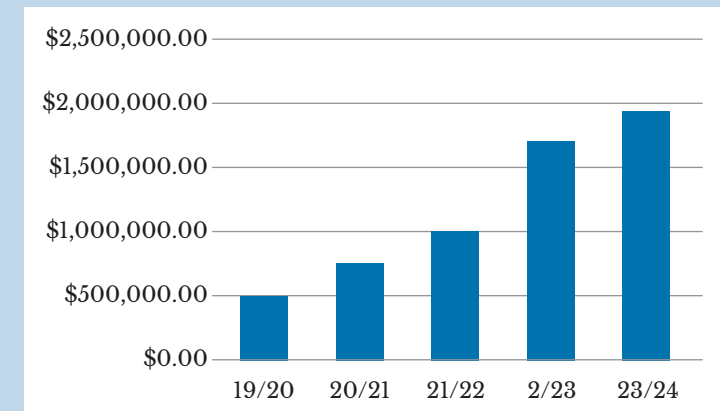
Ten years ago we set a goal that 70 percent of our students would perform at the 70th percentile or higher in Math and English Language Arts (ELA) on MAP testing. This performance level is a strong indicator of college readiness and puts kids on track to score a 24 or higher on the ACT exam. In a normal distribution model, 30% of students are expected to perform at this level.

In 2018, **48%** of our students were at the 70th percentile in Math. At the completion of the 2024 school year, **69%** of our students are at the 70th percentile!

Although our ELA results are less dramatic, we are excited about the steady, incremental gains that are being made and look forward to sharing some exciting assessment results this Fall when they are finally released by the State!

Thank you for another record year!

GIVING



SECURITY PROJECT FUNDING

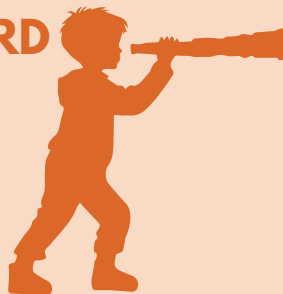
We were awarded a grant for \$13,000 towards security upgrades in 2024 and have applied for an additional \$30,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security in 2025! One key security project we look forward to in the coming year is the addition of a Playground Security Pole.



LOOKING FORWARD IN 2024/2025!

In 2024/2025, we will be:

- Adding a Geometry Class for 8th grade students
- Adding an advanced general music class called, PULSE
- Converting our 1:1 Technology devices from MacBooks to Google Chrome Books in order to achieve greater security and system compatibility with curriculum vendors



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

We're entering the third year of our 5-year School Improvement Plan with Christian Schools International! Key highlights of work completed this year include:

- Developing the Profile of an HCS Graduate
- Doubling the number of hours for job-embedded professional development
- Re-launching DIBELS testing in grades K-2 and as needed in grade 3-5
- Adding the positions Director of Faith Formation, Director of Marketing and Admissions, School Safety Officer, and Student Support Assistant
- Participating in **The Big Story – Teaching from the Reformed Perspective** training (all teachers)
- Launching "Saturday Serve!"
- Fully funding the Office Expansion Project with tax-credit funds
- Working to establish long-term performance indicators that reflect the school's strategic goals



BOYS TRACK & FIELD

Grant Sitter, Cameron Katz, Kade Blocker, Max Van Laten, David Friend, Zachary Clark, Connor Zandstra, Gabel Zoeteman, Nathanael Koutz, Arend Van Belle, Logan Tucker, Jonah Van Ek, Elliot Molenaar, Dekai Harris, Kellen DeVries, Sam Thompson, Sebastian Chavez, Rashawn Johnson, Jason Oostman, Josh Oostman, Cody DeBoer, Seth Hadley, Colin Kramer, Brody Boomsma, Gabe Bautista, Aiden Brouwer, Caleb Katz, and Tyson St. George



GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

Julianna Villamar, Jasmyn Spraggins, Abrielle Brown, Chloe Rayburn, Lana Gibson, Leah Eriks, Danica VanderMeyden, Rosalind VanderWoude, Addy Haitmsa, Olivia Boender, Emma Zoeteman, Vivian VanderWoude, Allison Clark, Ellie Oostman, Hallie Sitter, Ezra Hammersten, Hope Aardsma, Abby Wieringa, Maddie Wieringa, and Naomi Ajayi



LEAGUE CHAMPS TRACK & FIELD BOYS



BOYS & GIRLS TRACK

Our boys and girls track and field team had a great season. The teams consisted of 6th through 8th graders. The experience of the athletes proved very helpful, as four school records were broken: Boys 100-meter hurdles by Gabel Zoeteman, Boys 100-meter dash by Cameron Katz, Boys 1-mile run by Grant Sitter, and Girls 100-meter hurdles by Emma Zoeteman. The girls consistently got 3rd place in the meets and they will look to build on that next year as they had a young core this year. The boys had many great athletes and worked well together. They finished the season winning the league championship by 1 point! Students were coached by Neil Krooswyk, Darcy Nichols, and Ashley Kruihof. Special thanks to Rick VanderWoude operating the timer at meets.



RECORD BREAKER
Boys 1 mile record - Grant Sitter



RECORD BREAKERS
Boys 100-meter hurdles - Gabel Zoeteman
Boys 100-meter dash - Cameron Katz
Girls 100-meter hurdles - Emma Zoeteman



7TH GRADE BOYS VOLLEYBALL

7th grade: CJ Childress, Josh Neibert, Evan Kuzmar, Cody DeBoer, Jonathan VanderWoude, Mason Powell, Caleb Porter, and Bode Wognum



8TH GRADE BOYS VOLLEYBALL

8th grade: Kade Blocker, Nathan Sherwood, Cameron Katz, Noah Falvey, Nathanael Koutz, Gabel Zoeteman, Sebastian Chavez, Dekai Harris, Grant Sitter, and Arend van Belle

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Our 8th grade boys had a great volleyball season. They worked well together, including some exciting spikes, and a major highlight was getting second place in the league tournament at Illiana. They were coached by Lisa and Josh Blocker. Our 7th grade boys, composed of many first-time volleyball players, worked hard for a season above five hundred, including an excellent record in the conference. They were coached by Ethan Reynhout.

Mr. Neil Krooswyk, Athletic Director & Physical Education Teacher (3-8)

Neil

GOVERNANCE

Strategic decisions lead to intentional outcomes. In a season of growth, the board and administrative team have worked diligently to ensure the core of Highland Christian and the standards in which enrollment remains strong. Now serving 181 unique churches throughout Northwest Indiana and Illinois, the board tasked the Governance Committee and administration to create a system to verify each church aligned with our Statement of Faith and Policy on Human Sexuality. The Governance Committee, composed of several past board presidents and at-large committee members, partnered with administration to set a process where each church was reviewed. Employing the efforts of several respected area pastors, each church was reviewed by looking at the church's website, contacting the pastor, or meeting representatives from the church. As a result of this process, it was discovered that two churches now hold contrary views to human sexuality and will no longer be admitted to the school. In the future, should a new family apply that is a member at a church not reviewed, Highland Christian will employ our team of pastors to help review the church.

In addition to reviewing each church, communication was sent to each congregation to ensure current families at Highland Christian are actively engaged in on-site weekly worship and members at their named church. **In response, it is clear that our families are making a tremendous impact not only at school but also in their church communities.** Any families that were transferring churches or not in compliance with the school's policies were contacted to update records or set up a meeting to ensure an appropriate partnership is reestablished.

In a season where governmental resources become abundant, it is important our community knows Highland Christian remains committed to ensuring a covenantal model of Christian education. Our steadfast commitment is that we will continue to partner with mission-aligned families that are members at a Bible-believing Protestant church, actively attend in-person worship services, and live out their faith in a manner that aligns with the school's policies.

Dr. Kyle Weener, Principal

THANK YOU PASTORS

Tim Huizenga | Faith Highland
Andy Moore | Ross Baptist Church
Jim Hollendonner | Munster Church
Dexter Harris | Flourish
Nick Alons | Lynwood URC
Joe Best | Cline Ave
Steven Harrison | Grace Church
Kyle Beckrich | Bethel CRC



OFFICE BUMP OUT

Throughout Highland Christian's season of growth, proactive and strategic decisions have been made to provide additional resources that better support students and staff, create additional spaces for learning, and enhance the impact that Highland Christian is making for God's glory.

One specific prudent decision the Board made had to do with the current demands placed on the admissions team, Indiana Choice Scholarship team, development activities, and other front office functions. With consideration of the input from the Society (May 2022 special meeting), the School Board approved a secondary proposal in the spring of 2023 to add a front office bump out to our Expansion Plan. This plan adds two unique offices and a workroom to better meet the needs of these groups.

It is important to note that while this project was initially approved by the board of trustees last spring (2023), construction of this space was put on hold in order to ensure the new classroom spaces were

completed on time. Starting in April, the footers have been poured, electrical work has begun, and AC units have been moved. The project is under way and will be completed by the end of the summer!

In addition to this new construction project, funds were allocated to enhance the security and spacing of the front office through an office remodel. This project includes the addition of a sick room with an attached restroom for students that become ill during the day. These projects, totaling \$450,000, will be solely funded through already reserved pandemic dollars and \$60,000 from the proceeds from HCS' Auction on April 20, 2024.

Highland Christian is looking forward to completing this building enhancement as we best serve our entire school community. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We are excited to reveal this new space very soon!

Dr. Kyle Weener, Principal



PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE

Have your circumstances changed? If you're in a position to create or revise your will, or are interested in exploring strategies that save you money and maximize your giving potential, give our friends at the Barnabas Foundation a call!

Because Highland Christian School is a member organization of the Barnabas Foundation, YOU have access to their services at no charge. Their financial planners can provide materials, opportunities, and guidance, customized to you as you plan for your estate and charitable giving goals. Have questions? Give us a call at 219-838-0356 to learn more.



A FRIENDLY, FORWARD-THINKING THRIFT STORE

etc Thrift Store continues to be a huge success in our community. With its exacting standards, etc has developed a reputation for having high quality goods, well stocked shelves and racks, and competitive pricing. All of which reflects the store's philosophy that leads to brisk business on most days – especially Wednesdays and Saturdays!

etc also maintains a clean store with a friendly lay out on the floor, making shopping comfortable and enjoyable. This year the store invested in new lights! Initially, the expense was large, but within 10 months the utility savings have almost paid for the investment! This reflects the stewardship commitments of the management and board – to use resources well, to allocate profits to the foundation as quickly as possible, and to keep the Foundation's support of the school strong.

etc also hires a lot of Husky alumni in the store. These alumni support each other in the work environment, making the store a more enjoyable place to be employed. Employees have the opportunity to develop a work ethic that will carry them through to more permanent jobs in the future. Angeline – a Husky Alum – works at etc alongside many other alumni, and states that she “loves the positive work environment and the familial relationship that develops between the workers.” She especially likes the age difference between the workers and has learned from the older workers' experience. She elaborated that “The community at the stores includes customers, who come back often, and workers are able to develop relationships with them too.” She laughed when asked if access to a lot of clothing is a great perk about working at etc, and replied, “It is a nice part of the work here, but the relationships that develop within the store are the most important.”

Mrs. Judy Zandstra, Librarian




STORE HOURS:
10am-7pm Monday-Thursday
10am-4pm Friday & Saturday

DONATION DROP OFF TIMES:
10am-6pm Monday-Thursday
10am-3pm Friday & Saturday

TUESDAY RECURRING SPECIAL:
50% off adult clothing

WEDNESDAY RECURRING SPECIAL:
30% off most items for seniors 60+



IMPACT DAY

The Oxford Dictionary defines impact as the action of one object coming forcibly into contact with another—not exactly what we hoped to do on Impact Day. A second definition hit closer to our goal of having a strong effect on someone or something. When we **Build on the Firm Foundation** of Jesus, our words, attitudes, and actions should have a lasting effect on someone or something. Students at Highland Christian learn daily to **IMPACT** each other by encouraging one another, by choosing a servant attitude, and by treating others with forgiveness and grace.

On May 3, Highland Christian had the opportunity to go out into our community to **IMPACT** others. Second graders wove paper strips into placemats to serve our senior friends in a care facility. Later, first grade students visited that care facility and brought music and stories to those senior friends. Kindergarteners brought messages of encouragement and thanks to the Highland Police Department and learned about their work. Fourth grade students practiced love by filling food boxes at Feed My Starving Children. Students in third grade and junior high practiced compassion for people fighting cancer

by making blankets, decorating care boxes, and writing notes of encouragement. Other students got their hands dirty by picking up garbage, raking leaves, spreading mulch, planting flowers, creating “underwater scenes,” and removing ceiling tiles to bring order and beauty. Students learned about the impact of etc, Hearts in Motion, Fair Haven, and Operation Christmas Child while they sorted clothes, created craft packets, and loaded oxygen tanks into a van.

When we intentionally recognize our foundation is Jesus and our lives are built firmly on Him, mercy and compassion, love and faithfulness, kindness and gentleness become the effect we leave with someone or something.

On IMPACT Day, students at Highland Christian partnered with God and others to bring Shalom and restoration into people's lives, into communities, and throughout the world. God was truly honored by the life-changing and lasting IMPACT.

Mrs. Vicki Huizenga,
Jr. High Teacher & Faith Formation Director



SPECIAL THANKS!

PTO Recess Round-up

Our hearts are so full! We are grateful for the many ways PTO served up fun and created opportunities for meaningful connections this semester! We definitely enjoyed the Junior High Nacho Average Game Night, Muffins for Misses, Donuts for Dudes, Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, and organizing Teacher Appreciation Week. Our teachers are especially grateful for the recess round-up!

With your support and generous donations, PTO was able to bless every teacher with 3 to 5 new games/needs for their classroom! Those indoor recesses can get monotonous and having some new games, puzzles and activities to do help keep things fun and interactive for our kiddos! Huge thanks to all who contributed!

Interested in joining the PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) Committee next year?? Email pto@highlandchristian.org to find out more!



Retiring Staff Member
Jody Moes - Secretary, 29 years



Retiring Staff Members
Dori Dykstra - Kindergarten Aide, 9 years
Nancy Schoon - Kindergarten Aide, 23 years

AUCTION 2024

With \$180K raised, you knocked it out of the park and smashed another record! Highland Christian has the **GREATEST COMMUNITY** ever! Thanks for being so generous and going above and beyond to ensure that we have all the resources we need for the coming year!

2024 Auction Allocations

- \$ 5,000 8th Grade Costs (Graduation, etc)
- \$10,000 8th Grade Class Trip to Philadelphia
- \$10,000 Foundation Fund
(+Remaining Funds after final expenses are paid)
- \$18,000 Matching Funds for Secured School Safety Grant
- \$10,000 Engineering Class Supplies (VEX Kits, etc)
- \$60,000 Office Security Updates
- \$20,000 Scoreboard
- \$15,000 Furniture for New Offices & K-8 Staff needs
- \$10,000 Building Fund (Capital Improvements)

Jodi Lineburg, Development Director



CELEBRATING OUR TEAM

5 Years

- Caitlin DeBoer
1st Grade Teacher
- Dawn Meyer
3rd Grade Aide
- April VanderMeyden
School Security Officer
- Eileen Woodward-Goodson
Bus Driver
- Laurie Boer
2nd Grade Aide
- Kyle Weener
Principal

10 Years

- Cheryl Flory
Targeted Instruction
- Neil Krooswyk
3-8 PE Teacher & Athletic Director

15 Years

- Debbie Holderman
Before and After School Care

25 Years

- Joyce Groen
8th Grade Teacher

Furthering Education

- Melissa Brouwer
Masters in Special Education Leadership and Practice
- Kyle Weener
Doctorate in Educational Leadership
- Christine Hoekstra
Board Certified Behavior Analysis (BCBA)
- 23 Teachers participated in 25 hours of intensive Science of Reading training with the IDOE

STAFFING CHANGES

New Staff Members

- Luke Hillegonds
PE & Athletic Director
- Anna (Lenting) Haan
7th Gr Bible/
English Language Learners
- Amber Powell
Confidential Secretary
- Kathy DeVries
Kindergarten Aide for Mrs. Sikma
- Alesia Hinson
Kindergarten Aide for Mrs. Zandstra
- Sarah LaReau
Speech Language Pathologist
- Yolanda Ortega
Student Support Assistant

Retiring Staff Members

- Jody Moes
Secretary, 29 years
- Dori Dykstra
Kindergarten Aide, 9 years
- Nancy Schoon
Kindergarten Aide, 23 years

LEADERSHIP

Incoming Board Members

- Mr. Blake Evans
HCS Parent, Kingdom Faith Ministries, Associate Vice President of Patient Access, Rush University Medical Center
- Mrs. Carrie Hutton Latsoudis
HCS Parent, Munster Church, Associate Professor, Mathematics, Calumet College of St. Joseph
- Mr. George Van Laten
HCS Parent/Parent of Alumni, Community United Reformed Church, Owner, VL Construction Services
- Mr. Curt De Graff
HCS Parent, Faith Church
- Mrs. Julie Sitter
HCS Parent/Parent of Alumni, Redeemer United Reformed Church
- Mrs. Deanne Van Rosendale
HCS Parent, Faith Church

Outgoing Board Members

Incoming Board Members

Mr. Blake Evans



Mrs. Carrie Hutton Latsoudis



Mr. George Van Laten



ALUMNI NEWS PART OF THE PACK!

Any new babies in your family?
We have some new HCS Baby
swag we'd love to bless you with!

Share the good news of your
family's newest addition!

Email Jessica at
jhiskes@highlandchristian.org



HIGHLAND
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

3040 Ridge Road
Highland, IN 46322



FUSION 2024

August 1

Faith Church • Dyer, IN

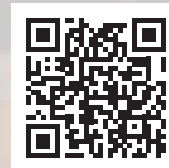
Matt Maher & his full band

General Admission
\$50/Adult • \$25/Student

Friends • Fellowship • Food Trucks
5-6:30pm

Doors Open 6:20pm

Tickets
fusionMattMaher.eventbrite.com
or scan the QR code



Preparations are being made for this collaborative effort by Calvin Christian School, Crown Point Christian School, Highland Christian School, Illiana Christian High School, and Lansing Christian School, and proceeds benefit the foundations of our Christian schools.

“TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO
AND WHEN HE IS OLD, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT.”
- PROVERBS 22:6