



**PARENT NOTE – October 7 , 2024**  
**“Creation Caretakers”**  
**Genesis 2:15**

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK:**

Last month, I shared a direct and honest sentiment - **cell phones, social media, and kid messaging (group chats) are harming our kids**. Since then, we kicked off our book study of ‘The Anxious Generation’. On our first night (on September 30), we had 105 parents, grandparents, and community members join together to spend time in fellowship and to commit to doing what’s best for our children. Mrs. Jacobs, our school social worker, led part of the session and did an excellent job sharing resources and recommendations for those in attendance.

Here are a few stats I shared at the first book club meeting:

- 45% of teenagers report that they are online constantly
- The average age where students are first exposed to pornography is 12 years old. This does not differ significantly between girls and boys.
- The FBI estimates there are 500,000 predators (at all times) that are actively engaged in communicating, manipulating, and pretending to be children online.
- Every month, 23.2% of teenagers are bullied on social media platforms
- 40% of teenagers have sent sexually explicit photos, videos, or content.
- Data indicates that individuals that use technology an hour before going to bed results in sleep disruptions.

You might be wondering... how long is this guy going to keep talking about technology? I will keep sounding the alarm until I see a change! It’s not that I am crabby or have an axe to grind, I just care about your children so much. If you are wrestling with this topic, please reach out. I would be happy to be a resource for you and your family!

Dr. Weener

**SCHOOL NEWS:**

- **ETC sort night is TONIGHT!** Calling all parents of K-2 students- We can't wait to see you tonight at the store for your sorting night! Sorting will be between 5-7 pm, adults only! See you soon!
- **This Friday, Oct. 11 is Grandparents’ Day at HCS!** If your child’s grandparents did not receive an invitation, please extend one to them. Please make sure the grandparents know who their grandchildren’s teachers are. Doors (the gym door and the southwest door by the ramp) will open at 10:15 a.m. and the program will be from 11:00-12:15. Classroom visits will be 12:30-1:30. If your child doesn’t have a grandparent who is able to attend, they may have one special friend come in their place.

**Important Parent Information for Grandparents’ Day:**

- There is a **1:45 dismissal on that day**.
  - **There is no hot lunch on this day** – students should bring their lunch from home.
  - If you are picking up your child via the pick-up line, please arrive **after** 1:45. This allows for grandparents to leave safely.
  - If your child is going home with a grandparent, please notify the teacher and bus driver by Thursday, October 10.
  - K-5 students should wear dress clothes.
  - There will be aftercare on this day.
- **Grandparents’ Day Program for Parents on Monday, October 14**

The Parent Performance of the Grandparents' Day Program is Monday, Oct. 14 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Here is the schedule for the Monday night performance:

- 6:15: K-2 Students Arrive at Classes
- 6:30: K-2 Program Begins
- 7:00: K-2 Program Ends (Parents may pick up their child and leave if they don't have a 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade child performing in the program.)
- 7:15: 3-5 Students Arrive at Classes
- 7:30: 3-5 Program Begins
- 8:00: 3-5 Program Ends

- **Parent/Teacher Conferences – Nov. 6&7:** This year, we are again using Schoolbookings.net to let parents sign-up for the conference slot they would prefer. Like last year, 3rd-8th grade conferences will be student led. Pre-K - 2nd grade conferences will just be with the parents. You may sign up for conferences at <https://www.schoolbookings.net/code/szk44>. **Our school code is szk44.**
- **Saturday Serve: Come join us as we bless our Highland Christian neighbors by raking leaves.** Groups will be sent to different areas near HCS to rake leaves from the front lawn to the parkway. We will walk from house to house asking if we can bless them by raking the leaves.  
For this Saturday Serve, we will work outside raking. Please bring rakes, leaf blowers, brooms, gloves, etc. Please dress for the weather. We welcome any age to help with the clean-up.  
**Date:** Saturday, October 19  
**Time:** 9 am - 11 am  
**Place:** HCS parking lot  
[October Saturday Serve Sign Up](#)
- **ATTENTION ARTISANS AND VENDORS!** We are hosting a **Christmas Artisan and Vendor Fair** in the HCS gym on **Saturday, Nov. 23**. If you have lovely crafts, fantastic products, or yummy treats we'd love for you to register to rent a booth space to sell your products. You can find all of the event details and registration form [at this link](#). Or, stop by the school office to complete your registration in person. Proceeds from this event will go to offset the cost of the 8th grade trip.
- **Veterans' Day Chapel: On Monday, November 11 we will honor our veterans in our Veterans Day Assembly.** We would like to invite and recognize our HCS community veterans. If you are a veteran or have a family member who would like to attend, we need you to fill out the form **BY FOLLOWING THIS LINK - [Veterans Day](#)**. All of our veterans will be seated in the front and when their names are called, they will stand to be recognized. Please email any questions to [veterans@highlandchristian.org](mailto:veterans@highlandchristian.org).
- **Our lost and found is overflowing!!** If you're at school, please stop in the gym foyer and check if your child's items are there.
- **Parents, did you know you can get OnCampus message alerts sent to you via your email and/or text?** You just need to choose that in the OnCampus settings. Doing this can help make sure you don't miss important messages from your child's teachers. The directions for changing these settings can be found [HERE!](#)
- **SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS!** Shop at Strack & Van Til Food Market or Van Til's in Hammond, save your receipts & send them to school with your student to help us earn free classroom equipment, courtesy of Strack & Van Til Apples for Students Program. All receipts dated between September 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025 are eligible. Last year, your receipts earned blessings for all the specials classrooms. Thank you for your faithful support!

## **FAITH CORNER:**

Celebrating family and family traditions is a great way to pass on the stories of faith. Around your table, in your car, or before bed, share one of these questions about **family**:

- What is/was your favorite playground activity at school?
- What is/was your favorite subject in school?
- What is your favorite fall activity?

Remember to spend time praying for family, especially Grandparents this week.

## **ATHLETIC NEWS:**

### **Tuesday, October 8**

- **Cross Country meet @ Illiana Christian (AWAY) 4:30 p.m.**

### **Wednesday, October 9**

- **8th grade Girls Volleyball @ Crown Point Christian (AWAY) 4:00 p.m.**

**UPDATE: 6th, 7th, and 8th Boys Basketball Tryout dates have been changed.** There will be no tryouts on Monday, October 14th. The schedule is as follows.

### **Tuesday, October 15th - 1st Day of Tryouts**

- 8th grade - 3:15-4:30
- 7th grade - 4:30-5:45
- 6th grade - 5:45-7:00

### **Wednesday, October 16th - 2nd Day of tryouts**

- 6th grade - 3:15-4:30
- 7th grade - 4:30-5:45
- 8th grade - 5:45-7:00

Due to the large number of students interested in trying out for basketball, cuts will have to be made for each team. Making cuts is never easy for coaches, but it is necessary for our basketball program. After tryouts, the daily practice schedule will look like this.

Practice - Monday-Thursday

- 6th grade: 3:15-4:30
- 7th grade 4:30-5:45
- 8th grade 5:45-6:00

**Please Note:** An active physical is required for any student to participate in athletics at Highland Christian. Students will be able to try out without a physical, but will not be able to play or practice until a physical is turned in.

## **PTO NEWS:**

Save the date for our next Family Fun night for 3-5th grade which will take place on November 15. More details will follow soon!

## **TRIP NEWS:**

**There are three more** weekends of extra bonus rebates coming up for the RaiseRight Fall Fest. Check out the extra bonus rebates from different retailers!

**TRIP Voucher Vendors** - TRIP has several businesses on a Voucher Vendor list. Businesses participating in the TRIP voucher program can be found on the HCS website under the TRIP tab. Voucher forms can be picked up in the school office before you shop at these businesses. Contact Ann Lynch if you have any questions.

**Did you know** TRIP buys gift cards from these local restaurants/retailers: Aurelio's Pizza, Beggars Pizza, Chick-fil-A, Culver's, Edwardo's Pizza, Hohman's Hallmark (Munster), Miner-Dunn Rest., Teibel's Rest., and Walt's Food Centers. They are available to purchase on the weekly TRIP orders or as a cash and carry option if you contact Ann Lynch at [trip@highlandchristian.org](mailto:trip@highlandchristian.org).

**TRIP orders** for physical gift cards are due (online and paper order forms) this week, Thurs., Oct. 10th by 10 a.m. TRIP will be accepting physical gift card orders on Oct. 17, **Tues., Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>**, 31, Nov. 7, 14 and 21. Online ordering is available 24/7. Contact Ann Lynch at [trip@highlandchristian.org](mailto:trip@highlandchristian.org) for more information.

**Team B** (Jamie Paul, Olivia Ridder, Karen Christoffels, Jessica Johnson) will be putting the TRIP orders together on Tuesday Oct. 8th. Orders will be ready for pick up in the school office on Tuesday by 2:45 p.m.

**TRIP Teams for Stuffing Orders:** Team C – Oct. 15; Team D – Oct. 22; Team A – Oct. 29; Team B – Nov. 5

### **COMMUNITY NEWS:**

- **Calvary Church in Orland Park is hosting a "Overcoming Anxiety" seminar on Saturday, October 12** from 9am-1pm. Learn ways to regulate your anxiety and stop intrusive thoughts. Go to <https://www.ronovitt.com/calvary> to register. (Use promo code CCCC for \$10 discount).
- **Faith Church Highland will be hosting a Marriage Seminar on Saturday, October 19 from 8 AM - Noon.** We are located at 8910 Grace Street, Highland. The Marriage Workshop will help struggling and solid couples increase from bad to good or good to great. If you are engaged, newly married, or chasing the Golden Anniversary, this conference will bless you. Childcare will not be available. Snacks provided. There is a \$10 fee per person to sign up. Go to [wearefaith.org/workshop](http://wearefaith.org/workshop) to register.
- **Looking for a volleyball camp?** Epic Volleyball has Volleykids camps held at the Lincoln Center in Highland and Epic Training Center in Crown Point throughout the school year. Our program is open to K-8th graders. Every week we strive to teach new skills and grow current skills. We adjust our plans to fit the skills for each level. Volleykids teaches the correct fundamentals and concepts of the game while having fun and meeting new people. Can't make all of the dates? We can prorate. Information can be found at: [www.epicvolleyball.org/volleykids](http://www.epicvolleyball.org/volleykids)