

FALL 2024

SCHOOLBELL

HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



PROFILE OF A GRADUATE

**LEARNING AT A HIGH LEVEL:
IREAD RECOGNITION**

BEAT OF THE DRUM



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 27
Thanksgiving Chapel

NOVEMBER 28-29
Thanksgiving Vacation

DECEMBER 12
Christmas Concert

DECEMBER 20
Christmas Chapel

DEC 23-JAN 3
Christmas Vacation

JANUARY 24
First Semester Gifts Chapel

MARCH 20
K-5 Spring Program

MARCH 31-APRIL 4
Spring Break

APRIL 17
Easter Chapel



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!

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, and to serve God through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

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NEW INSTRUMENTS

This past summer, the Middle Schoolers have received a class set of Remo tubano drums, along with several xylophones and other auxiliary percussion instruments.



Students start the school year.



Matt Maher at Fusion 2024.



70 different churches were represented while the leaders showered our kids with love.



Honoring the legacy of Grandparents over 3 days.

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PROFILE OF A GRADUATE

Highland Christian School's **VISION STATEMENT** states that students are *Academically Equipped, Biblically Grounded, and Spiritually Nurtured to Impact the World for Christ*. We do well in measuring the Academic Equipping of students through a variety of academic assessments. But we are left with the questions: How do we measure the Biblical Grounding and Spiritual Nurturing of HCS students? What is the portrait of a Biblically Grounded and Spiritually Nurtured student?

In order to answer these questions we looked at the **MISSION STATEMENT** of Highland Christian School:

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.

Then, we articulated some of the lifelong discipleship habits and practices that form our students and transform God's world. We imagined how HCS students would continue to develop and grow in their relationship with God, His world, and His people. We narrowed our list to a group of **NINE** roles that shape the learning in each classroom and subject area, and ignite a desire in each HCS student to live into God's story. These nine roles composed our **PROFILE OF A GRADUATE**.

Over their nine years at Highland Christian School, students develop their personal relationship with Jesus and express it through these roles:

CREATION CARETAKER describes students who celebrate and care for God's creation.

SCRIPTURE FOLLOWER describes students who actively connect to God's calling upon their life by applying Scripture.

GOD WORSHIPER describes students who exalt God's name through worship and service as led by the Holy Spirit.

IMAGE REFLECTOR describes students who individually and uniquely reflect God's image.

TRUTH PROMOTER describes students who spread God's truth.

SERVANT WORKER describes students who demonstrate God's love by serving others.

BEAUTY CREATOR describes students who use their creativity and efforts to glorify God.

JUSTICE ADVOCATOR describes students who recognize and Biblically respond to injustice.

COMMUNITY BUILDER describes students who promote unity and collaboration around them.

CREATION CARETAKER is our first role in the Profile of a Graduate. God gives us this role in Genesis 2:15: "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." A Creation Caretaker describes students who celebrate and care for God's creation. During their years at HCS, students will learn to nurture and respect all of God's creation.

Students practice being a **CREATION CARETAKER**:

- by caring for the garden in Science.
- when practicing the skills needed to play sports and learning how to respect and care for their physical bodies as God's creation.
- by seeing themselves in God's Story of redemption to understand, celebrate, and live into their role as image bearers of God.
- when thinking about how to respect and care for their hearts and minds as they examine social media in light of God's Word.

- by caring for others when they wash the desks after lunch, return supplies in Art or PE, and pick up after themselves.

Through the roles demonstrated in a Profile of a Graduate, Highland Christian students learn to SEE, SENSE, and SERVE God while living in God's Story.

Vicki Huizenga
8th Bible Teacher &
Homeroom/
Faith Formation Director/
Spiritual & School Life
Sponsor

Vicki



PROFILE OF A GRADUATE





Highland Christian was invited to the State House in Indianapolis on Wednesday, September 25, to be given special recognition for achieving above a 95% pass rate on the I-READ3 assessment.



Scan QR code to watch the iRead Announcement Video. 

LEARNING AT A HIGH LEVEL: IREAD RECOGNITION

When was the last time you met someone who accidentally picked up a world-class skill? My hunch is that you probably haven't. Individuals and organizations that move from 'Good to Great' do not do so by chance, but these achievements occur through intentional, daily improvements and the repeated execution of effective strategic plans.

Educational guru Mike Mattos, in his book Learning by Doing, shares this statement: "When a preponderance of evidence proved that a particular process, protocol, or procedure is most effective, professionals are not merely invited to use it, but instead are expected to conform to these technical and ethical standards" (Mattos, et al, 2018, p. 3). As we pursue excellence, Highland Christian remains dedicated to ensuring that thoroughly researched pedagogy and best practices are enacted to ensure all students learn at their highest level possible.

Once the right inputs have been put into action, effectiveness is then measured by results over time. As we examine the results of the strategic plans we put into place, we are excited to have observed the following academic growth:

- Over the past three years, we have tracked expected growth of all students building-wide. Every year, our percentage of expected growth continues to exceed expectations - with 120% growth last year (100% would reflect one grade level of growth).
- New formative assessments have been put in place to progress-monitor student growth. After implementing researched best practices in our classrooms, these assessments have shown remarkable growth and achievement in our students. Caitlin DeBoer, one of our 1st grade teachers, shared, "It is clear that the methods we are now using to teach reading are leading to tremendous growth. The 1st graders that come from HCS' kindergarten classes are prepared so well." Leaving Highland Christian with high levels of skill, students are equipped for high school and beyond.

To add even more to this series of exciting news, Highland Christian was invited to the State House in Indianapolis on Wednesday, September 25, to be given special recognition for achieving above a 95% pass rate on the I-READ3 assessment. The award was presented by Governor Holcomb and Secretary of Education, Dr. Katie Jenner. In seven of the past eight years, Highland Christian has met or exceeded this 95% pass rate. The state's goal is that every school in Indiana would meet this mark by 2027. God has blessed our school community with amazing teachers, hard-working students, and invested families.



Throughout Highland Christian's 115 year history, the culture of our school community has been one of excellence. Through innovation and the implementation of strategic decisions, the students at Highland Christian continue to be served in a manner where their gifts and talents are able to shine!

Dr. Kyle Weener
Principal

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.



STAFFING UPDATES



Faith Best
Before & After Care



Sebastian Fuerte
Before & After Care



Andrea Muñoz
Before & After Care



Deborah Delaney
Student Support Assistant



Destiny Garza
Discovery Center



Nicole Van Dyke
1st Grade Aide

BEAT OF THE DRUM.

Highland Christian Middle Schoolers have received an incredible new musical experience thanks to a recent, generous donation. This past summer, the school received a class set of Remo tubano drums, along with several xylophones and other auxiliary percussion instruments. This exciting new addition has provided the opportunity to launch a new elective course. "Pulse" is a class designed to foster well-rounded musical individuals using Orff Schulwerk, World Drumming, and Feierabend music teaching strategies. The purpose is to teach a variety of musical skills that can follow students into any music experience they will have the rest of their lives.

This 7th and 8th grade ensemble incorporates instruments, singing, and movement. The unique and engaging nature of the tubano drums has been a driving force behind the course's popularity. Mr. Shellhaas' "learning through play" teaching strategy has been a hit as students immediately engage and participate as they explore new sounds, instruments, and dances. Every class, "Pulse" works together to create expressive performances as they take dynamics, balance, beat, articulation, and "staying in the groove" into account.

As the class has already been a hit, HCS looks forward to a larger number of participating students in the future.

Nate Shellhaas,
K-1 Music, 6th Grade Bible,
Music Ministry &
Pulse Ensemble



IN AUGUST, WE WELCOMED 675 PRESCHOOL-8TH GRADE STUDENTS!

THANKS TO ALL WHO JOINED US FOR FUSION 2024 WITH MATT MAHER!

It was a great night full of fun and fellowship celebrating Christian education and our school communities!

GOD KNOWS WE STUMBLE AND FALL





NEW OFFICE EXPANSION

While not as noticeable as the 18,000 SqFt expansion project in 2023, Highland Christian had a busy summer completing an office remodel and expansion project. This project included the following developments:

- Improved office layout
- Strengthened safety features
- Remodeled administrative office for Mr. Ritzema and Mrs. Harvey
- Creation of two new offices and common space for office meetings and storage
- Addition of a sick room and private toilet
- Upgraded fixtures and furniture.

This \$500,000 project was funded through internally saved funds from federal COVID dollars, various tax credits, and strategically invested donor resources (HCS' Future Large Project Fund). It is important to note that no tuition dollars or appeals were used to complete this project.

As a result of this work, we are confident that our school is more secure, flows in a way that is more welcoming to the community, and provides a space for office personnel to operate in an effective and efficient manner. If you have not seen the new office project and would like a tour, Jodi Lineburg (jlineburg@highlandchristian.org) would be happy to show you how these spaces are being used for God's glory!

We want to thank all of the community vendors who helped make this project a reality. If you have a connection to any of the individuals listed, we want to encourage you to thank them for their support and the pivotal role they played in supporting the vision and mission of Highland Christian.



Thank you to the following vendors:

- Southland Excavating
- B&K Concrete
- Illiana Masonry
- VL Construction
- Schillings
- Cabinets Unlimited
- Eenigenburg Roofing
- Momper Insulation
- Seal Tight Exteriors
- Lazzaro
- Pella Windows
- Chicago Bulletproof
- Trout Glass
- Commercial Specialties
- Towne Interiors
- Prism Painting
- Action Plumbing
- Lincoln Mechanical
- South Suburban Heating & Air Conditioning
- Boender Electric
- Quality Alarm
- Mark Groen – Midwest Office Direct
- Rainmaker
- Countryside Landscaping
- Highland Lock and Key
- Access Master
- Revelation Systems

Dr. Kyle Weener
Principal

Kyle



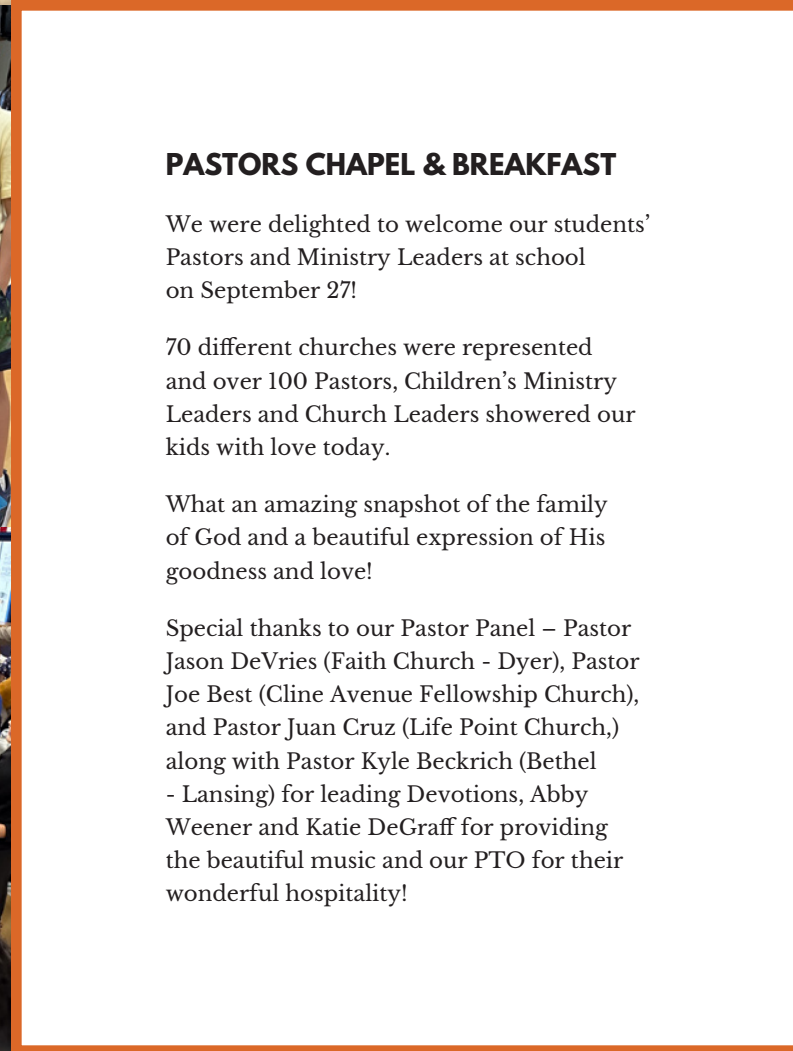
PASTORS CHAPEL & BREAKFAST

We were delighted to welcome our students' Pastors and Ministry Leaders at school on September 27!

70 different churches were represented and over 100 Pastors, Children's Ministry Leaders and Church Leaders showered our kids with love today.

What an amazing snapshot of the family of God and a beautiful expression of His goodness and love!

Special thanks to our Pastor Panel – Pastor Jason DeVries (Faith Church - Dyer), Pastor Joe Best (Cline Avenue Fellowship Church), and Pastor Juan Cruz (Life Point Church), along with Pastor Kyle Beckrich (Bethel - Lansing) for leading Devotions, Abby Weener and Katie DeGraff for providing the beautiful music and our PTO for their wonderful hospitality!





NO FORES HERE!

Highland Christian School's community knows how to show up! One hundred and forty-four golfers, thirty-one sponsors, and an amazing bunch of volunteers gathered, and gave generously, to support Christ-centered education through the 2024 HCS Foundation Golf Outing. The sun was bright, the energy level was high, and the wind (while welcome!) added a special level of challenge for game play. This "challenge" was lightened by the fun holes which elevated comradery and competition among friends. Great thanks to all who contributed to the success of this day!

Our Annual Golf Outing is just one of things we do to shine a spotlight on the HCS Foundation. A fund, a Board, and a people group, the Foundation works to strengthen, support, and protect Christ-centered education at Highland Christian School. This is accomplished through relationship building, opportunity development, and investment management.

The game of golf just happens to be a great analogy for this work! To play golf well, one must develop a level of physical fitness, mental focus, and technical skill. To improve your game, you must play with others who are better than you. To win, one must be agile, strong, laser-focused, and able to envision what's ahead, blocking out distractions and adjusting strategy based on the variables you encounter. To serve our community best, the Foundation Board must also be, and do, all these things as well.

The School and Foundation Boards work in tandem to ensure that our community always has a Christ-centered school available where students learn who God is, who they are, and to whom they belong. To this end, the Foundation Board continues to promote accessibility through the identification of new business ventures, support of etc... Thrift Store, and donor stewardship. Our investment model reflects appreciation and understanding of the fact that we are stewarding gifts and partnering with stewards for God's glory. Through our partnership with the Barnabas Foundation, we have access to professionals who provide technical knowledge, specialized tools, guidance, and services that equip us to serve our constituent stewards well.

Thanks again to all who invested their time, energy, and gifts in this year's Golf Outing! It's exciting to see a mix-up of the generations – young and old, inspiring the next generation to take this mantle of leadership. After all, the children we serve today will be the Church in 2050! For now, we will band together knowing that through Christ-centered education we enable world-shaping impact, one student at a time!

Jodi Lineburg
Development Director



GRANDPARENTS DAYS





SOCCER: A TEAM
COACH: JOSHUA BLOCKER

Guiliana Arrellano, Gabriel Bautista, Brody Boomsma, Nelson Contreras, Daniel Julian, Adelia Eriks, Xavier Hughe, Tyler Hutton, William Jellem, Caleb Katz, Collin Kramer, Evan Kuzmar, Joshua Neibert, Caleb Porter, Leo Smit



SOCCER: B TEAM
COACH: TONNY SSWERADA

Jay Aardsma, Maria Blauw, Tyce Blocker, Zion Campbell, Zeelan Constantino, Ryker Evanson, Moises Garcia, Seth Hadley, Kayden Johnson, Analisa Kalnynas, Matthew Neibert, Cameron Parks, Brandon Pierce, Noah Ravesloot, Andrew Schutt, Paxton VanderPol, Dominic Warga



Athletics at Highland Christian are off to a great start in 2024. On the second day of school, our fall coaches held tryouts for the three fall sports we offer at HCS. Those three sports include co-ed soccer, co-ed cross country, and girls volleyball.

The soccer program had two teams this year, an A team and a B team. Joshua Blocker was the head coach of the A team, and Tonny Sswerada was the head coach of the B team. Both teams had great seasons filled with learning, comradery, and overall improvement as a Program. The highlight of the A team's season was three-peating as League Champions! The Huskies beat Crown Point Christian (3-1) in the semifinals and then the undefeated Calvin Christian Tigers in the finals (3-1). The A team improved all year long, and it showed in their ball control and stellar defense. The B team is a young squad that has shown great upside for the future. The highlight of the B team came on September 17th when they defeated a very talented Calvin team. More importantly, both teams have displayed great teamwork and character and have represented Christ through their sport.

The 7th grade girls volleyball team had a year full of tremendous growth led by head coach Maddie Schaaf. The girls improved greatly from their first game to their last regular season game. They played their best volleyball of the year in a win over Chicago Christian Oak Lawn on September 10th. Our 8th grade girls, coached by Darcy Nichols, volleyball team grew dramatically over this season as well. They had many competitive games in which they battled and displayed a 'never give up' attitude. The highlight of their season came in a dominant win over Lansing Christian to win the match in two straight games. Both volleyball teams, including coaches, have done a great job of representing Highland Christian well.

Finally, our co-ed cross country team, coached by Ashley Kruthof, competed fiercely at all five of their meets. The highlight of the season came at the league championships when both teams finished in second place. Being a part of the cross country team is a joy for students because of the camaraderie that comes through facing adversity with others and the encouragement that each student gives and receives in practices and meets.

Luke Hillegonds,
Athletic Director & 3-8 PE Teacher



CROSS COUNTRY
COACH: ASHLEY KRUTHOF

Jonah Alicea, Gabe Bautista, Olivia Boender, Aiden Brouwer, Noah Cubelo, Cody DeBoer, Eddie DeVries, Briar Dotson, Logan Downs, Trey Everse, Joshua Friend, Nina Goubeaux, Seth Hadley, Addy Haitisma, Braylin Hamby, William Jellema, Evan Kuzmar, Victoria McClenahan, Alex Molina, Norah Natelborg, Josh Oostman, Shayley Summers, Sam Thompson, Paxton VanderPol, Ally Vela, Danice Vander Meyden, Bode Wognum, Amiya Wright



VOLLEYBALL: 8TH GRADE
COACH: DARCY NICHOLS

Hope Aardsma, Annika Burney, Melina Casares, Isabella Casillas, Lelani Celio, Rowan DeBoer, Taylor Kinkade, Carina Miller, Addison Mock, Danica VanderMeyden, Rosalind VanderWoude, Abby Wieringa



VOLLEYBALL: 7TH GRADE
COACH: MADDIE SCHAAF

Amani Clayton, Erin DeYoung, Gabrille Dobyne, Alli Dykstra, Mikayla Dykstra, Katelyn Julian, Autumn Long, Layla Okrasinski, Ellie Oostman, Hallie Sitter, Lily VanderWoude, Maddie Wieringa, Emma Zoeteman

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

DONUTS FOR DUDES



IMPACT GROUP ENJOYS FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHT
AT THE WHITE SOX GAME



DONUTS FOR DUDES



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

5TH GRADE CHAPEL

