



# HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**PARENT NOTE – May 12, 2025**

***“Creation Caretakers”***

**Genesis 2:15**

## **SCHOOL NEWS:**

- **THANK YOU!** The faculty and staff of HCS would like to thank our HCS families and PTO for the luncheon, goodies, gifts, and kind words given for Staff Appreciation Week. What a blessing to be a part of our HCS community! Thank you so much!
- **8TH GRADE TRIP TO PHILADELPHIA:** Tomorrow our 8<sup>th</sup> grade class will be leaving for their 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Philadelphia. Please remember to keep them in your prayers as they spend time away from their homes.
- **RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE FOR RICK VANDERWOUDE:** After 45 wonderful years of service, Mr. Rick Vander Woude, has announced his retirement from HCS. In celebration of the impact he has made on hundreds of students, we are collecting fond memories, words of encouragement and happy retirement blessings [HERE!](#) In addition to this, we will be celebrating **Mr. Vander Woude’s 45 Years on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> with an Open House, serving cake and refreshments in the gym from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.** Stop by and wish him well!
- **YEARBOOKS:** Don’t forget to order your yearbook! They sell for \$18.00 and are going fast! Yearbooks will be handed out next Friday, May 23.
- **MAY SATURDAY SERVE:** Let’s celebrate our final Saturday Serve with a **BEACH CLEANUP!!!** Help care for God’s creation as we join with others in cleaning up the beach at the Indiana Dunes State Park. What a great way to usher in summer!

**Date:** Saturday, May 31

**Time:** 9 - 11 am (Stay for a day at the beach.)

**Place:** Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N 25 E, Chesterton, IN 46304

**Bring:** water bottles, sunscreen, sandals or flip flops, plastic bag for garbage

I will have a HCS table near the pavilion. Look for more information about how to register in next week’s Parent Note. For questions, please contact Vicki Huizenga at [vhuizenga@highlandchristian.org](mailto:vhuizenga@highlandchristian.org)

- **GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT:** If you haven’t attended the GLS, you are missing something special. For the past many years, HCS and Faith Church have partnered together to send teachers and staff to this incredible two day training. This year the training is occurring on August 7 and 8 at Faith Dyer. Through our positive partnership, Faith Church has offered a \$40 discount for all HCS families. To register, visit [globalleadership.org/summit](http://globalleadership.org/summit) with the partner code 25TEAMGLS. Student tickets are always \$99 as well. Thank you for considering this opportunity to grow in whatever season and situation God has placed you in.
- **LOST AND FOUND:** Parents – please stop in and check out the “lost and not found” rack in the gym foyer. There are many items there and some of them might be your child’s. Items will soon be given to etc... Thrift Store.
- **VANILLA:** **Homemade vanilla is for sale in the office - \$3.00 for an 8 oz. bottle.** If you have any empty 8, 10, or 12 oz. glass bottles, please send them to the office so more vanilla can be made. Thanks!

## **FAITH CORNER:**

We need to reflect on how we can grow in faith, serve others, and deepen our walk with Jesus. Just like any new habit we try to build into our lives, developing Faith Practices take time and repetition to become godly habits.

Faith Practices are repeated actions that help us:  
grow in our love for God and our neighbor,  
listen to the Holy Spirit, and  
become more like Jesus.

The end of the school year is so busy with great things, but it often leaves us with little time to practice the discipline of **Listening**. As a Faith Practice, **Listening** involves training ourselves to recognize God's voice in the midst of all the other voices calling for our attention.

**Three** things can strengthen our practice of **Listening**:

1. **Consistency** creates space for learning to recognize God's voice.
2. **Patience** means extending grace as we realize that it can take time for us to recognize the cadences of God's voice.
3. **Seeking transformation** invites us to listen deeply in ways that reorient us to transform our relationships, character, and engagement with people and the world around us.

**Two** things to do this week as we practice **Listening**:

1. **Read** John 10:1-6  
"What I'm about to tell you, Pharisees, is true. What if someone does not enter the sheep pen through the gate but climbs in another way? That person is a thief and a robber. **2** The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. **3** The gatekeeper opens the gate for him. The sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When he has brought out all his own sheep, he goes on ahead of them. His sheep follow him because they know his voice. **5** But they will never follow a stranger. In fact, they will run away from him. They don't recognize a stranger's voice." **6** Jesus told this story. But the Pharisees didn't understand what he was telling them.
2. **Pray** - spend more time listening to God rather than speaking to Him.  
Go somewhere quiet.  
Read a Psalm or another Bible passage. Let the Holy Spirit work in your heart.

## **TRIP NEWS:**

- **New! Lego (6%), Quiznos (7%) and Spotify - e-gift card only (5%)**
- **Zandstra's Greenhouse gift certificates (physical only) are available for sale for \$17 each (\$3 rebate) and are valid until 06/21/2025.**
- **TRIP Schedule: Next TRIP Order: Due May 15th at 10am. This order will be ready for pick up in the school office on Tuesday, May 20 at 2:45 p.m. There are 3 orders left for physical cards until we break for summer. Egift cards and reloads are available 24/7 at RaiseRight.com.**
- **TRIP Volunteer Schedule: Team A-May 13, Team B-May 20, May 27-Team C, June 3rd-Team D**

## **COMMUNITY NEWS:**

- **The Towle Theater in Hammond, IN is hosting a two-week Youth Theater Camp on June 16-27th.** This camp is for ages 8-14. More information can be found by contacting Emily Nelson at 219.937.8790 or visiting [www.towletheater.org](http://www.towletheater.org).
- **Something to Hold's bake sale fundraiser is back this summer and we cannot wait to spend this time of fellowship with you once again!** Something to Hold is a Christian nonprofit based in Northwest Indiana that gifts hand-tied blankets to comfort & surround families that are grieving the loss of a baby from miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant loss. Join us from 9 AM to Noon on Thursday, **June 5** at the Wandering Wildflower Greenhouse (24161 S. Volbrecht Road, Crete, IL). Looking to get involved? Check out our website to sign up to donate baked goods or become a sponsor: <https://www.somethingtohold.org/bake-sale>