



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – May 19, 2025

“Creation Caretakers”

Genesis 2:15

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **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 27th with an Open House, serving cake and refreshments in the gym from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.** Stop by and wish him well!
- **GRAND FINALE:** Join us **this Thursday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m.** for the final concert of the year for 5th Grade Band, Junior High Band, and Junior High Choir.
- **DONUT DAY:** OUR LAST DONUT day is this Wednesday, May 21. Donuts will be \$2.50. We will have chocolate, strawberry, vanilla and glazed rings on that day. Your support is greatly appreciated!
- **CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP:** Don't wait! Choice Scholarship applications are ready for parent signatures. Please stop by the front office to sign your paperwork to guarantee your student's Choice Scholarship. Please choose from the following times:
 1. Monday, May 19 between 8:05 - 3:20
 2. Wednesday, May 21 between 8:05 - 3:20
 3. Friday, May 23 between 8:05; - 3:20
- **BUS SERVICE FOR 25/26 SCHOOL YEAR:** The deadline to request bus service for all HCS **re-enrolling families** is May 30th. Please submit the [Request for Bus Service form](#) by or before that date. If you completed this form during re-enrollment, you DO NOT need to do it again. For those who are still uncertain about your need for bus service next year, our suggestion is to submit the form and re-evaluate when it gets closer to the next school year. It is easier to remove a student/family from a route than to add them at the last minute. Please reach out to Michelle Herrell if you have any questions!
- **YEARBOOKS:** Don't forget to order your yearbook! They sell for \$18.00 and are almost sold out! Yearbooks will be handed out this 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! Come as a family and gather at Indiana Dunes State Park. We will have a table set up by the pavilion. Come spend the morning walking the beach or hiking through the dunes while collecting trash that litters the park. Stay and enjoy the beach after the work is done! What a great way to usher in summer! Thank you for your work in bringing God's Kingdom on earth.

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

Sign-up: [May Saturday Serve Signup](#)

- **SUMMER TUTORING AT HCS:** Weekly tutoring will be available this summer for Math and/or Reading for HCS students. Cost is \$25-30 for 60 minute sessions available in the mornings between 8am-12pm. We have 8 classroom teachers or aides available. Please review our [SUMMER TUTORING](#) document for all the details!
- **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 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.

As we reflect on this school year, we have the amazing opportunity to practice the Faith Practice of **Celebrating**. Through the Faith Practice of **Celebrating**, we delight in circumstances, relationships, and occasions that help us remember and anticipate God's goodness, creativity, faithfulness, beauty, and love.

This week and next we will look at three questions that can serve as an invitation into the faith practice of **Celebrating**.

1. When, where, and with whom do I catch glimpses of God's declaration that His creation is very good?

God says in Genesis 1:31, “*God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.*” Celebrating the antics of animals, enjoying the colors of the setting sun, and marveling at a mountain waterfall become occasions to remember God's delight of His “very good” work.

2. When, where, and with whom do I encounter a foretaste of the new heaven and new earth God has promised and secured for us in Jesus Christ?

The end of the Biblical story unfurls God's abundant goodness. Read Revelation 21-22 to see how the original Genesis garden becomes a garden/city where everything and everyone flourishes and ALL threats are removed. Celebrating new treatments for disease, resolutions to argument, and people joining in songs of worship deepen the hope and longing we have for the flourishing of life that only God can give.

LIBRARY NEWS:

It has been a wonderful year with your students and seeing the reading confidence grow within your children. Their excitement to take out books has been wonderful. If your student chose to sign up for the HCS Summer Reading Challenge, they will be bringing home a tracking sheet with more information soon. The sheet can be returned to Mrs. Zandstra in August. **All HCS**

books are due by Wednesday, May 21 and late books will accrue a fine. Any books not handed in by May 30th will be charged to the student's tuition account as per library policies. Have a great summer. Keep reading and enjoy all your family time. I look forward to seeing you all again in August - or sooner at the local library!

TRIP NEWS:

- Summer Break: There are 2 orders left for physical cards until we break for summer! Egift cards, reloads, shop online, local dining options are available 24/7 always.
- Reminder: Zandstra's Greenhouse gift certificates (physical only) are valid until 06/21/25. These are still available for sale for \$17 each (\$3 rebate) until the last day of school). Contact Sherry Hiatt trip@highlandchristian.org for any questions.
- TRIP Schedule: Next order: Due May 22nd at 10am. This order will be ready for pick up in the school office on Tuesday, May 27 at 2:45 p.m. Egift cards and reloads are available 24/7 at RaiseRight.com.
- TRIP Volunteer Schedule: May 20-Team B, May 27-Team C, June 3rd-Team D, August 26-Team A

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- **Soccer Shots is hosting a summer camp at HCS June 2nd thru 5th** for ages 3-5 and 5-8. More info and sign-ups can be found [HERE!](#)
- **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.
- **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.
- **First Church PCA invites you to Vacation Bible School!** This year's theme is "True North – Trusting Jesus in a Wild World", and it's going to be a fantastic week for the kids!
Dates: July 7–11
Time: 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Ages: Preschool through 6th grade (starting at age 3 if potty trained)
Location & Registration: firstchurchpca.org
Registration is now open, and we'd love to have your kids join us for a week filled with games, music, Bible stories, crafts, and more. If you have any questions, feel free to call Chelsea Niven at 219-779-1725 or contact our church office at 708-474-9610.
- **Camp Healing Hearts:** Golden Hope Ministries provides peer-to-peer grief support for children, teens, and adults in the Northwest Indiana area. In addition to their many support services, they will be offering a one-day grief camp this summer. Please visit [CAMP HEALING HEARTS](#) if you or someone you know is interested in participating.