



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – May 27, 2025

“Creation Caretakers”

Genesis 2:15

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE FOR RICK VANDERWOUDE:** TONIGHT we will be celebrating Mr. Vander Woude’s 45 Years with an Open House, serving cake and refreshments in the gym from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Stop by and wish him well!
- **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL:** This Friday is the last day of school for grades K-7 and there is a 1:45 dismissal. Aftercare will be provided on that day. We pray that our HCS families have a safe and blessed summer!
- **CHAPEL:** Everyone is invited to our 2nd Semester Gifts Assembly in the gym this Wednesday, May 28 at 8:30 a.m.
- **GRADUATION:** Highland Christian School’s 8th Grade Graduation is this Thursday, May 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the HCS gym. Congratulations to the Class of 2025!
- **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 remaining after the last day of school will be given to etc...Thrift Store.
- **STUDENT MEDICATION PICK-UP:** If your child has prescription medication, epi-pens, and/or inhalers in the office, please pick them up before school dismisses for the summer.
- **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 help our Choice team by signing by the end of this week!
Please choose from the following times:
 1. Tuesday, May 27 between 8:05 - 3:20
 2. Wednesday, May 28 between 8:05 - 3:20-come before or after Chapel
 3. Thursday, May 29 between 8:05 - 3:20
 4. Friday, May 30 between 8:05 - 12:00
- **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](#)

- **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!
- **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!
- **GOLF OUTING:** Registration is now open!!! Our annual golf outing will be on Monday, August 25 at Innsbrook Country Club. For more information and to register, please click this [HERE](#). We hope to see you there!
- **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.

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 we will look at the final question that serves as an invitation into the faith practice of **Celebrating**.

3. When, where, and with whom do I extend and receive God's providential care here and now?

When we "taste and see" God's abundant goodness, creativity, faithfulness, beauty, love, and other characteristics showing up in us, in others, in creation, and in our communities and structures, we long for more of it.

Celebrating leads us to join the Spirit in the ongoing work of reconciliation and restoration made secure in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. When we create art or music, design and build with Legos or wood, demonstrate patience in traffic or love to a neighbor- we seek to bring celebration to more people.

Take time this summer to celebrate God's abundant goodness, love, creativity, faithfulness, beauty, and joy. Celebrate these characteristics with walks on the beach, baseball games at dusk, picnics in a park, and great stories at bedtime.

Thank you for this opportunity to grow Faith weekly.

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 were due last Wednesday. 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!

PTO NEWS:

Interested in becoming a PTO board member and helping make these school events a success? We have a few opportunities opening up for the 2025-2026 school year. Click [HERE](#) to let us know you're interested!

TRIP NEWS:

- **TRIP Tip:** Did you know that 5 of our families that participate in TRIP saved over \$1,000 on tuition this year? We would love to see even more of our families achieve this! Invite all of your friends and relatives to join. Everyone in the U.S. is eligible as long as their rebate goes to a tuition account at HCS or SEC. If you have any questions, please reach out to Sherry Hiatt at trip@highlandchristian.org
- **Last TRIP Order:** Due May 29th at 10am. This order will be ready for pick up in the school office on Tuesday, June 3 at 10am. Last chance to purchase Zandstra's Greenhouse gift certificates!
- **TRIP Schedule: BIG change coming next year!** Physical gift card orders (paper forms or online-pay to coordinator option) will be due on **WEDNESDAYS at 3:30pm.**
- **The TRIP Office is on break for the summer.** Egift cards and reloads are available to purchase 24/7 on RaiseRight.com all summer long. Our next physical gift card order will be placed on Wednesday, August 20th at 3:30pm. This order will be ready for pick up on Tuesday, August 26th after 2:45pm.
- A **BIG THANK YOU** to each of our TRIP Team volunteers that work almost monthly throughout the school year. We could not run this program without you!
- **Team Leaders:** Mary Brinks, Jamie Paul, Julie Sitter, Jamie Vander Meyden. Our Teams: Annie Bouquet, Karen Cristoffels, Janell Eriks, Alexis Johnson, Jessica Johnson, Kim Laning, Amanda Moore, Olivia Ridder, Becca Trepton (who also serves in the TRIP Office), Larissa Vander Pol, Michelle Zoeteman. Last but not least Ann Lynch and Shelly Witham, who faithfully served our HCS families in the TRIP Office for over 15 years and although they "retired" this year, continue to support us!

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- **Soccer Shots is hosting a summer camp at HCS June 2-5 for ages 3-5 and 5-8.** More info and sign-ups can be found [HERE!](#)
- **EPIC Volleyball: Is your son or daughter interested in learning more about volleyball this summer?** Epic Volleyball offers summer camps for both boys and girls at both the Lincoln Center (Highland) and at the Epic Training Center (Crown Point). HCS families get 20% by using the code HCS25 for most camps. Reach out to Tracy Summers with any questions or for help with registering. See camp dates and details at www.epicvolleyball.org/camps .
- **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. If you or someone you know is interested in participating, please visit: [CAMP HEALING HEARTS](#)
- **VBS at Bethel Church in Lansing is back again this summer from June 16-19, 9:30-12!** Follow the [LINK](#) to register your kids ages 4- entering 5th grade! We can't wait to see you!
- **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.

- **VIKING ACADEMY:** Don't miss out on an opportunity to send your kids to one of the best day camps in Northwest Indiana! Viking Academy is offered through Illiana Christian High School and has over 24 options of different day-camps for elementary, middle-school and some high school aged students. Join us from July 7-25, for high quality classes and camps. We are excited to bring a long list of integrative and enjoyable classes to the local community. Click <https://www.illianachristian.org/life-ichs/viking-academy/> to read more about the camps we offer and register your child today.
- **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 Enelson@towletheater.org or visiting their website at <https://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>