



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – May 5, 2025

“Creation Caretakers”

Genesis 2:15

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK:

As my last ‘Blue Note Message’ for the year, I want to thank you for your partnership. God has placed each student and family at Highland Christian for a reason. Your child’s unique gifts are on display every day and serve as an important part of our school community. Please continue to share with your child their uniqueness and help them learn and celebrate their gifts. James 1:17 states, “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.”

Later this month, a communicator will be sent to all families outlining some important information for the 2025/2026 school year. This will include some information about a new Learning Management System (LMS) we will be implementing for next year (FACTS instead of OnCampus), next year’s theme, an outline of when important information for next year will be shared (Ex: Class Lists, Bus Routes, etc), and more! Please take note of this important communicator.

As we finish the year well, please be in prayer for our students, faculty, board, and broader school community. The past few weeks have been very difficult, as our Society has wrestled with some challenging decisions. For generations, the strength of HCS’ community has been one of its greatest assets. I would ask each family to commit to prayer that unity can be restored (Ephesians 4:2-3) and that God grants each of us continued discernment as we live into the calling He has placed on each of our lives.

Thank you for partnering with the staff, families, and students of HCS this year. We hope every family has a terrific summer, as we look forward to the 25/26 school year!

Dr. Kyle Weener

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **LATE START: This Wednesday, May 7 is a late start day.** Drop-off begins at 9:40 a.m. and classes begin at 10:00 a.m. Before care is available. Buses will run about 1.5 hours later than a regular school day.
- **TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: Teacher Appreciation Week is THIS WEEK!**
Monday: Bless our teachers with their favorite treat!
Tuesday: Bless our teachers with their favorite drink!
Wednesday: Bless our teachers with a new school supply for their classroom!
Thursday: We have so many teachers to be thankful for! HCS is blessed to have Music, Gym, Art, Student Support Services, Library, Speech, Technology, Counselors, BAC and Classroom Aides! Let's share the love!
Friday: Bring in a flower (fresh, fake or hand-drawn) or something with floral print!
If you need ideas for gifts, please check out the teacher's favorite things on OnCampus under PTO! Let's show our teachers how much we appreciate their hard work!
- **IMPACT WEEK:** This week, students have opportunities to serve at a variety of organizations:
 - Park Place
 - Phil’s Friends
 - Feed My Starving Children
 - Salvation Army

-churches - Faith, Flourish, Ross Reformed, Sweet Home Missionary Baptist
-Operation Christmas Child
-The Welcome Home
-thrift stores - etc & Hearts in Motion

We ask that you prayerfully support our endeavors to IMPACT our community for Christ. We are also looking for a few Junior High parents to help supervise students at some of our sites. If you have the time and are willing to serve, please contact Vick Huizenga at vhuizenga@highlandchristian.org . Thank you for your support and prayers.

- **SNACK DAY:** This week Wednesday, May 7 will be our last snack day for the 8th grade trip! We really appreciate your willingness to help with our class trip to Philadelphia, PA. We collect approximately \$4 per student per week. **THANK YOU!** Snacks will be discounted on Wednesday--the snack table will be \$1. Drinks will still be \$1.50 and candy will be \$2. **OUR LAST DONUT day will be 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!
- **MAPS TESTING:** MAPS testing is underway. It is critical that parents are vocal supporters to their children of these assessments. Please be sure to speak with your child about doing their best, ensure your child is at school by 8:15, and provide your child with a hearty breakfast.
- **YEARBOOKS:** The 2024-2025 yearbook order forms will be coming home today! They are for sale for \$18 (cash or check). If you would like to order a yearbook, please send the order form and money to the office. We have a limited supply of yearbooks, so they are first come, first served. Get them before they are gone!
- **JRH MUSICAL:** Musical: Thanks to all who supported the musical this year - especially the parents of the cast and crew who were supportive throughout the whole play. Thanks to everyone who made this a success!
- **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

- **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.

ATHLETIC NEWS:

Thursday, May 7 @ 12:30 pm : Track meet at Chicago Christian High School

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.

It is Impact Week so let's look at the Faith Practice of **Justice & Mercy**. These are the tangible expressions of loving our neighbors as God has loved us. **Justice & Mercy** are the ways we live like Jesus here and now. They also train us to recognize the image of God in others.

Here are four passages to read about Justice & Mercy: (Read these passages for family devotions this week.)

Matthew 22:37-39 - God's standard

Jesus replied:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’
This is the first and greatest commandment.
And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’
All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Ask questions: How can I love God with all my heart?
What can I do to love God with my mind?
Spend time with your family: read, talk, walk, play, eat, pray together.
Who is my neighbor? (Read **Luke 10:25-37**)
Make a list of what it looks like to love your neighbor(s).

Micah 6:8 - what God requires

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

Ask questions: What specific things can we do to act justly with people?
How can we show mercy to our neighbors?
How do we walk humbly with God?

Isaiah 10:1-2 - a warning

How terrible it will be for you
who make laws that aren't fair!
How terrible for you
who write laws that make life hard for others!
You take away the rights of poor people.
You hold back what is fair from my people who are suffering.
You take for yourselves what belongs to widows.
You rob children whose fathers have died. (NIRV)

Ask questions: What laws or circumstances make life hard for others?
How can we bring hope, flourishing (Shalom) to people who are suffering?

Isaiah 58:10 - a promise

Work hard to feed hungry people.
Satisfy the needs of those who are crushed.
Then my blessing will light up your darkness.
And the night of your suffering will become as bright as the noonday sun.

Ask questions: What are the needs of your neighbors? Come up with a list.
How can you pray for your neighbors?
How can you work with them to satisfy their needs?
Look for God's blessings for you and your neighbors.
Celebrate God's goodness.

TRIP NEWS:

- TRIP Tip: Save more \$\$\$ towards tuition by purchasing rebates with bonuses on RaiseRight.com (bonuses change weekly). Place your order online to make sure you secure the extra percentage. You do have the option to pay by cash or check (please see TRIP calendar for when the order payment is due and when it will be ready for pick up). If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Hiatt at trip@highlandchristian.org.
- Zandstra's Greenhouse gift certificates (physical only) are available for sale. Each certificate is \$17 each (\$3 rebate). Zandstra's gift certificates are valid until 06/21/2025.
- TRIP Order Schedule: Only four more orders for physical cards until summer break! Our next order is due May 8th at 10am. This order will be ready for pick up in the school office on Tuesday, May 13th at 2:45 p.m. 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.
- **ATTENTION MIDDLE SCHOOL AGED SOFTBALL PLAYERS:** We're excited to invite you all to Illiana for Middle School Softball Night on Tuesday, May 6, when we face the Whiting Oilers at 5PM!! Arrive at 4:30 to join us in the dugout and on field recognition! See you Tuesday!