



# HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – August 18, 2025

*“Scripture Follower”*

II Timothy 3:16-17

## **FROM THE DESK OF DR. WEENER:**

Is it just me, or can you feel the excitement in the air? Although a number of changes have occurred around campus, what excites me the most is the opportunity to pour into our students and school community as we academically equip, Biblically ground, and spiritually nurture to impact the world for Christ. It will be a pleasure to serve you and your children this year - all for God's glory!

As we embark upon the 25/26 school year, **we are thrilled to serve 709 students from preschool to kindergarten.** It is with great excitement that we welcome you to HCS for the first-time or first time since last year. As we seek to effectively communicate with you, please take time to thoroughly read the weekly “Parent Note”, which includes pertinent information about Highland Christian. I will include an update on the first newsletter of the month, which will showcase our mission and vision, as we love your children, communicate well, and grow in the body of Christ.

This year, **our theme is Scripture Follower from II Timothy 3:16-17** - “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” Our theme is very special, as it is year two (of nine) showcasing our nine roles of our Portrait of a Graduate. These nine roles were reviewed at Convocation Chapel this morning. Feel free to check out our [Facebook](#) Live video showcasing these nine roles. Outside of sharing school chapels, our Facebook page is a great place to see exciting happenings at school or view school reminders - such as our [‘How to Utilize Drop-Off and Pick-Up video’](#). In such formative years, our deep hope is that students connect with the Lord and His incredible story.

As we start the year, here are five quick tips that will help your child(ren) find success this year:

1. **HCS does not recommend students have smartphones or social media.** For years, we have seen the negative impact this has on children. This includes: lack of sleep, depleted self-worth, friendship problems, exposure to inappropriate content, and infiltration of sin. If you are thinking about getting your child a smart device or allowing forms of social media, saying no will be best for your child. That is a promise!
2. **Arriving at school at 8:05am** sets children up for success. When students are on-time, they are able to collect themselves before the day begins, spend time in community, and be prepared for the upcoming day.
3. At home, **establishing routines** is critical. This includes finding consistency when homework is done, packing lunches the night before, and prioritizing nightly family time.
4. **Practice saying ‘no’.** We live in a world where so much is expected out of kids. Consider minimizing extracurricular activities to leave room for breath in schedules. You won't regret it.
5. **Get involved!** HCS is a terrific community. I have learned this through the hundreds of relationships that our family has intentionally developed over the course of many years. In addition to attending school events, my encouragement to each family (new or old) is to find another family who you don't know well and invite them over for dinner in the first month of the school year. You will be surprised how much it is a blessing to you and the other family! And if you're afraid of cooking, there is nothing wrong with a Hot'n Ready Little Caesars pizza.

As a collective community, we will be praying for you - for wisdom and discernment as you raise your children with the fear and knowledge of the Lord. It is an honor and privilege to partner with and serve your family this school year!

Dr. Kyle Weener  
Head of School

**\*\*The Parent Note will be posted in FACTS under the Resource Documents, on our Website, and sent via email on the first school day of every week. This note is where you will find important information on what is happening at HCS every week – don't forget to view it!\*\***

## **SCHOOL NEWS:**

- **Welcome Back Huskies!** We hope all of you had a great summer and are ready to start the new school year!  
**Reminder: School will dismiss at 1:45 today.**
- **This Thursday, August 21 is Parent Night at HCS.** K-5 parents may go to their child's classroom from 5:00-5:30 or 5:30-6:00 to meet the teachers and review important start of the year information. JRH Parents should meet in the gym at 6:00 to receive information for their junior high student. After the junior high meeting all 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents and new junior high parents should remain in the gym to receive their child's laptop.
- **FACTS:** Later this evening, you will be receiving a 'Welcome Email' from FACTS - alongside information about setting up your parent account. Should you need assistance, please contact [awieringa@highlandchristian.org](mailto:awieringa@highlandchristian.org) or call the front office and they will be able to assist you.. Furthermore, the billing system will be changing on Tuesday, September 2 - with the last day for making payments on [Tuition Management](#) on Monday, August 25.
- **Farewell to OnCampus:** As a reminder, HCS will be transferring the last three years of report cards, MAP scores, and state assessments for currently enrolled students. If you would like to download any other data from previous school years, it is **your responsibility to access OnCampus prior to Thursday, August 28, 2025** to download these materials. If you need support, please reach out to the HCS office prior to August 28.
- **Parent Student Handbook:** [The Parent/Student Handbook outlines expectations for students, parents, and policies at HCS.](#) It is important that all parents thoroughly review this document, as it contains guidance on important school matters such as dress code, attendance, student expectations, and school guidelines.
- **Foundation Gift:** Should you be seeking to obtain the 25/26 [Foundation Gift](#), please complete the online form by Friday, September 26, 2025. The Foundation Gift is given to families seeking financial support for their K-8 tuition obligations.
- With **Indiana and federal legislation**, there are some **AMAZING opportunities to save for Christian education** (K-12) and college expenses. Not only can you save for the future, but your family can realize significant tax benefits now! For those living in Indiana, HCS would recommend Indiana 529 Direct: <https://www.indiana529direct.com>. Now is the time to begin saving for your child's future!

## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

- **ATTENDANCE AND TARDIES:**  
School attendance is highly correlated with student success. For this reason, **tight policies** are in place for attendance and tardies, as seen in the [Parent/Student Handbook](#). **Parents MUST call or email the office (219-838-0356 or [hcsoffice@highlandchristian.org](mailto:hcsoffice@highlandchristian.org)) by 8:25 a.m. to inform the school of a student's absence and the reason for the absence.** Please leave a message if the office is closed. Notifying the teacher is helpful and encouraged, but the official call off must be done through the school office.
- **BUS RIDERS:**  
If your child **will not be riding the bus on any given day, please let the driver AND the office know.** This will

alleviate confusion, especially at dismissal time. Thanks!

- **DROP-OFF INSTRUCTIONS**

- **Students should be dropped off no later than 8:20 a.m.** as the tardy bell rings at 8:25. It is strongly recommended that parents who drop off their children try to be at school at 8:05 when the doors open.
- There is **no left turn onto Ridge Road from the hours of 7:45-8:45 am and 2:30-3:30 pm.**

- **PICK-UP INSTRUCTIONS**

- Parents are encouraged to **space out their arrival, or park in the east lot and walk up** to pick up their child.
- When picking up your child via the pick-up line, please remember to **place your car sign in the left side of the front window.** If you need additional car signs, please contact the office.
- Pick-up lasts from 3:10 - 3:25. Arriving later in the pick-up window will not only help HCS, but will save you time as well!
- **In the event cars are backed up on Ridge Road, please circle the block!** This is something the Highland Police Department monitors and enforces! We do not want anyone to have an accident or receive a ticket.
- Any student remaining in the pickup line after 3:25, will be sent to Before and Aftercare (BAC).
- There is **no left turn onto Ridge Road from the hours of 7:45-8:45 am and 2:30-3:30 pm.**

## **ATHLETIC NEWS:**

### **Fall Sports Tryouts and Medical Reminders**

- 6th-8th grade students are invited and encouraged to try out for fall sports. During the fall season, the following sports teams are offered:
  - 6th-8th Co-Ed Soccer (Coached by: Mr. Josh Blocker and Mr. Tonny Sserwadda)
    - Tryouts: Tuesday, August 19 and Wednesday, August 20 from 3:15 - 4:30 pm
  - 7th & 8th Girl's Volleyball (Coached by: Mrs. Maddie Schaaf and Mrs. Darcy Nichols)
    - Tryouts: Tuesday, August 19 and Wednesday, August 20 from 3:15 - 4:30 pm
  - 6th-8th Co-Ed Cross Country (Coached by: Mrs. Ashley Kruithof)
    - Tryouts: Tuesday, August 19 and Wednesday, August 20 from 3:15 - 4:00 pm
- Sports Physicals
  - HCS requires a current sports physical to be on file for each student-athlete. The physical will expire one year from the date it was performed. If an athlete does not have a current sports physical on file, they will be allowed to try out, but will not be allowed to practice or play until all required forms have been received. Sports physical forms can be obtained in the school's Main Office or by clicking [HERE](#) to print out a copy. You may also use the form that your pediatrician provides.

## **ETC NEWS:**

**ETC.... thrift store is a "thrifty boutique" store that is a ministry effort of Highland Christian School and its Foundation.** The monies raised at etc go directly to the HCS Foundation Board which exists to provide long term stability to Highland Christian's future. The store is located at 1650 US Rt. 41, in Schererville, IN. Our store hours are Mon-Thurs 10-7 and Fri-Sat 10-4. You can support etc by shopping or donating here! We would love for you to stop by for a visit!

## **PTO NEWS:**

Please save the date for **Donuts for Dudes** which will be on **September 10** at the soccer fields. More information will be

coming home soon!

### **T.R.I.P NEWS:**

- **Lower Your Tuition Costs with TRIP!** Everyone is eligible to join our Tuition Reduction Incentive Program (T.R.I.P.). To learn more, visit our page on the HCS website (quick link [here](#)). For any questions or to schedule a phone meeting contact Sherry Hiatt at [trip@highlandchristian.org](mailto:trip@highlandchristian.org).
- **Re-registration:** Do you want your order to go home with your child again? Did you move or change contact information? Do you want to change your earnings to a different family or fund? If any of these apply to you, please re-register before or with your first order. Registration forms are located in the main office or available to print one [here](#). No changes? No need to re-register!
- **Reminder:** Physical gift card orders are now due on designated WEDNESDAYS, at 3:30pm. Click [here](#) for the 24/25 schedule.
- **TRIP Schedule:** Next order for physical cards is due on Wednesday, August 20 at 3:30pm. This order will be ready for pick up on Tuesday, August 26 after 2:45pm. Online ordering for e-gift cards and reloadable cards is available 24/7 on [raiseright.com](http://raiseright.com).
- **TRIP Volunteer Schedule:** Aug. 26-Team A, Sept. 2-Team B, Sept. 9-Team C, Sept. 16-Team D