



# HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – September 15, 2025

*“Scripture Follower”*

II Timothy 3:16-17

## SCHOOL NEWS:

- **Late Start: This Wednesday, September 17, 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.
- **Child Safety Training (Parent Night):** **Tonight, September 15 at 6:30pm, is the Parent Night for parents of HCS and CPCS at Crossroads Community Church in Schererville, IN.** In a joint partnership with Fairhaven Agency (Highland, IN) both Highland Christian School and Crown Point Christian School will welcome Fairhaven presenters into K-8 classrooms during the months of September and October, as they teach students about child safety regarding abuse and neglect. This training is required of all Indiana schools. Students in grades K-5 will have a course called *Child Safety Matters* and students in grades 6-8 will be using *Teen Safety Matters*, created by the Monique Burr Foundation. We encourage all parents to come to the Parent Night to hear about the materials directly from the Fairhaven presenters.
- **Math Pentathlon: Today a sheet was sent home with the 2nd and 3rd grade students for the after school Math Pentathlon club.** Students will be put into teams to learn various math games that assist in developing strategy, number sense, and math confidence. This program has been around since the 1990's and has substantial qualitative research to support its effectiveness in the classroom. This is one of the reasons the program was selected. We are offering three sessions on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 3:15 - 4:15. The groups are capped at 24 participants. The cost to participate is \$30.00. If you decide to enroll your child in this program, **please return the form WITH your money to the office.** Each session is filled on a first come/first served basis. We are excited to have your child in this program and look forward to a positive math season.
- **Picture Day: HCS K-8 Picture Day is next Tuesday, Sept. 23.** A flyer will be coming home with your student. Like last year, Interstate Studio is requesting that parents order online at [Flyer Entry - Shop \(inter-state.com\)](https://www.inter-state.com). This event's **Order Code is 0131HRB**. Online ordering is available before and after Picture Day. Shipping and handling charges may apply to orders placed after Picture Day.
- **FACTS- Tuition Payments:** An email was sent to all parents last Thursday that included information about our transition from Tuition Management to FACTS Financial. As a provider, FACTS requires that all tuition paying parents set-up an autopay via ACH withdrawal or credit card/debit card payment. **This process must be completed by Tuesday, September 16.** Any family that does not complete this process will be charged \$25 as a policy instituted by FACTS. It is not an option to not set-up an autopayment plan.

### Steps to Complete Auto-Payment Set-Up:

1. Navigate to your FACTS Family Portal via the following link: [HCS FACTS](#)
2. Click the “Financials” tab on the left side. Click “Financial Home.”
3. Click the blue “use authenticator app” button. Complete authentication steps, set authentication questions, review contact preferences, and set pin number as required.
4. In order to receive email payment reminders, please select the appropriate boxes and opt in to receive

email payment notifications.

5. View details. Review your tuition charges, bus fees, technology fees (6th-8th grade only), milk fee and Indiana Choice discount, if applicable. Billing has been prorated across the remaining 8 months (September 2025 - April 2026).
6. Select your payment plan. HCS offers the option to pay monthly, semi-annually, or in full.
7. Add banking account information or credit/debit information. HCS does not charge a fee for ACH payments. Click "save."
8. Read and accept the FACTS terms and conditions.
9. Click "view schedule" to see your plan and due dates.

- **FACTS Family Portal:** Please review the "**Family Demographic Form**" under the "Family" drop down menu. **Please click on EVERY TAB to make sure all of your data is correct.** Under the "Physician and Insurance" heading, please make sure "Permission to treat" is toggled to "yes". 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.

- **Saturday Serve: We NEED YOU!**

**DATE:** Saturday, September 27

**PLACE:** City Baptist

**TIME:** 8:30 - noon (This time is earlier than past Saturday Serves - come when and as long as you can.)

**PROJECTS INCLUDE:**

- Taking down ceiling tiles
- Painting
- Dumping trash
- Yard clean-up
- Weeding
- Scrapping old lockers (we could use some very handy and strong guys for this)
- There is work for everyone to do.

**EQUIPMENT:** Wear clothes and shoes for cleaning. Bring gloves to protect your hands.

**SIGN UP LINK:** Sign up using this link: [September Saturday Serve](#) There are other links going out about this service opportunity. Please sign up once.

**FYI:** A free lunch from El Taco Real will be provided afterwards.

- **Employment Opportunities: We're Hiring!** HCS has an **immediate need** for a substitute Night Custodian, Before/After Care worker, and Wrestling Coach. For more details or to see a full list of all of our current openings, please visit our [website](#).
- **HCS Listening Groups:** Our first two listening sessions will be held on **Tuesday, September 23, from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM** and **Monday, September 29 from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM** and are open to families of **Kindergarten and 1st grade** students. Space is limited to **12 parents** in each session. If both sessions fill up, we will provide additional opportunities. As the year progresses, families from other grades will also have the opportunity to participate later in the school year - as we meet with 2nd/3rd, 4th/5th, and Jr High parents. We are looking forward to hearing your valued and important feedback!  
**To sign up, please complete the following [Sign-Up Genius Form](#).**
- **See You at the Pole:** Wednesday, September 24 at 7:45am.
  - Date: Wednesday, September 24
  - Time: 7:45am - 8:00am
  - Place: Flagpole out front of school (gym - inclement weather)

Theme: Awe

*LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD.*

*Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.*

*Habakkuk 3:2*

As we gather around the school flagpole in prayer we accept that we are, and always will be, wholly dependent on God for everything. Let's gather to lift up our families, our school, our churches, our communities, our nation, and our world before the throne of Almighty God. Please join us.

- **Pastor's Chapel: Friday, September 26 at 8:30 am.**

Personal invitations came home on Friday, September 12.

If you haven't already done so, please deliver the invitation to your pastor, youth pastor, Sunday School teacher, Bible leader, etc this weekend. Pastors have already received information from HCS about this event. They are expecting this personal invitation. Thank you for making this community-building event so successful.

**Pastors are invited for:**

- devotions and fellowship over coffee and light breakfast foods.
- chapel in the gym with the entire school
- classroom visits with the students from their churches

- **Grandparents' Day:** Grandparents' Day is on Friday, October 10. The day includes the K-2 program, the 3-5 program, K-8 classroom visits and more. Coffee, water, and snacks will be provided. Invitations will be mailed out to grandparents this week!
- **Building Christian Men Group:** Our first Building Christian Men (7th and 8th grade boys) activity will be held on Saturday, October 11. Detailed information will be emailed to parents in the coming weeks, but we will be off campus and likely leave HCS at 8:00 am and return before or at 2:00 pm.
- **Veteran's Day Chapel:** On Tuesday, November 11, at 8:45 am, we will honor our veterans in our Veterans Day Assembly. Our speaker will be Mr. Brandon Hiatt, a U.S. Navy veteran and HCS parent. An email will be going out this week with more information about how veterans in our HCS community can participate. We look forward to this event to honor our veterans! If you need additional information, please email Rick VanderWoude at [veterans@highlandchristian.org](mailto:veterans@highlandchristian.org).
- **JRH Musical: The musical this year is Disney's Mary Poppins Jr.** We are so excited about the enthusiasm shown by the students. We know their energy will make it a great show again. Auditions are scheduled for the week of December 15th, after school. We will have the audition packet and links to songs soon. We are still trying to find the best way to share this information since FACTS does not use a resource board. Stay tuned, we will let you know as soon as we know. For now, the best way to prepare for the auditions is to watch Julie Andrews and Dick VanDyke in the movie "Mary Poppins".
- **Artisan Fair:** Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual HCS Christmas Artisan and Vendor Fair! This event will be held on Saturday, November 15, from 9am-2pm in the school gym. All proceeds from this event will be used to help offset the cost of the 8th grade trip to Philadelphia. Artisans and vendors, if you have lovely crafts, fantastic products, or yummy treats we'd love for you to register to rent a booth space to sell your products. You can find all of the event details and registration form at this link. Or, stop by the school office to complete your registration in person. Registration Form: <https://forms.gle/gYbME3CHu4DSUZwL7>
- **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.
- **Vanilla:** Homemade vanilla is for sale in the office - \$3.00 for an 8oz bottle. If you have any empty 8, 10, or 12oz glass bottles, please send them to the office so more vanilla can be made.

## **ADMISSIONS NEWS:**

Admissions 2026-27:

The application portal for the 2026-27 school year opens in ONE WEEK on September 22 at 7pm.

If you are interested in preschool, your eldest is headed to kindergarten, or you have another child you are looking to enroll K-8 in 2026-27, apply between September 22-October 20 for the priority window.

Please note, application fees have changed. Applications are now \$100 per student PS-8 (they are no longer \$40 per student in preschool and \$365 per family in K-8).

## **ATHLETIC NEWS:**

- **Monday, September 15:**  
Cross Country Meet @ Illiana Christian- 4:15pm
- **Tuesday, September 16:**  
A Soccer - 4:00 pm vs Chicago Christian Oak Lawn (HOME)  
7th grade volleyball - 4:00 pm vs Chicago Christian Oak Lawn (HOME)  
8th grade volleyball - 5:00 pm vs Chicago Christian Oak Lawn (HOME)
- **Thursday, September 18:**  
7th grade volleyball - 4:00 pm vs Calvary Christian (HOME)  
8th grade volleyball - 5:00 pm vs Calvary Christian (HOME)

**HCS will continue to have a concession stand at all home games!** We typically serve hot food, snacks, candy, and various drinks. We are now accepting cards and apple pay! Stop by and support the Athletic Department! **We are in need of volunteers for the concession stand.** If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Kristy Tebben at [ktebben@highlandchristian.org](mailto:ktebben@highlandchristian.org).

## **FAITH CORNER:**

Last week we explored Deuteronomy 6:4-9 which gives great insight into how to walk with each other on our journey of following God:

### **Deuteronomy 6: 4-9**

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

*Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

*These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.*

*Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

*Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.*

*Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

Let's further explore how we impress God's commands on the hearts, souls, minds, and strength of our kids.

Far too often, I think we often feel unprepared and inadequate to disciple our kids. *Where do we begin? What do we say? Do I know enough about God and His Word to do this well?*

This week I will share **three** tips to help you disciple your kids. Next week, I will share some more.

**First, set realistic expectations.**

One of the main problems we have is that we expect too much of ourselves when it comes to disciplining our kids. When we can't live up to our expectations, we feel like failures and often quit.

Find a great Bible storybook or devotional book that you can use at the dinner table during the week. Spend 15 minutes reading and talking about the Bible story before you scatter for evening activities.

Some great books include: [The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd Jones](#)  
[The Biggest Story Bible Storybook by Kevin DeYoung](#)  
[Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing](#)  
[One Year of Dinner Table Devotions by Nancy Guthrie](#)

Many teachers are using the last two of these for devotions in the classroom this year.

### **Second, focus on Jesus.**

Our goal should be to point kids to Jesus. It is easy to fall into the trap of moralism-focusing on behavior. God is concerned with our kids' hearts before their behavior. The way kids develop hearts that love God and want to obey Him is through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Their behavior matters—but why they behave matters far more. Talk about Jesus and what He has done and is continuing to do in your life and in their lives.

### **Third, pray with them and for them.**

Just as you want to talk about Jesus throughout the day, you also want to pray with and for them. Think about the opportunities you have each day, such as in the car on the way to school, before they step out the door to board the bus, at mealtimes as a family, and as a part of bedtime routines. Use this time in the day to pray together.

### **Prayer for you:**

Lord, lead and guide us as we parent our children. May we point them to Jesus so they learn to love you with their heart, soul, mind, and strength. Help us to lead with love, patience, and wisdom. Amen.

### **LIBRARY NEWS:**

Good News! **September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month!** Every child -preschool - 8th grade - who gets a new card or shows their current card to a public librarian will get a small prize from the public library and be entered in a drawing for a gift card! Students from this school - who choose to - can get a slip of paper from the school librarian to bring to the public library. At the library they can get this paper signed by the public librarian to verify that they went to the library and got a card OR have a current card. When they return this slip to the school librarian they will get a sweet treat. All us librarians would like to encourage everyone to utilize the many resources available at the Public Library!!

### **PTO NEWS:**

- **Thank you** to all who came out for Donuts for Dudes last week! It's a joy to celebrate the men in our student's lives.
- **Mark your calendar for 3rd-5th grade Family Fun Night happening on Friday, November 21st.** More details will come!
- **Want to get involved too?** Our PTO is still looking for new members and volunteers to help with fun and meaningful events throughout the school year—like family night, fundraisers, and teacher appreciation activities. Join the PTO today!! Click [HERE](#) to become a member or [HERE](#) to volunteer for events.

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

- **New:** Earn 7% with new brand Crumbl! Shop eGift cards in \$5-\$500 amounts and physical gift cards in \$10 and \$25 amounts, then dive into fresh-from-the-oven cookies.
- **TRIP Schedule:** Next order for physical cards is due on Wednesday, Sept.17 at 3:30pm. This order will be ready


for pick up on Tuesday, Sept. 23 after 2:45pm. Online ordering for egift and reloadable cards is available 24/7 on [raiseright.com](https://raiseright.com). Future Order Dates: Sept 24, Oct 1 and Oct. 8

- **TRIP Volunteer Schedule:** Sept. 16-Team D, Sept. 23-Team A, Sept. 30-Team B.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS:**

Golden Hope Ministries is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a safe, compassionate space for peer-to-peer grief support for children, teens, and adults in the Northwest Indiana area. Our mission is to equip individuals and families with the tools and resources they need to acknowledge, adapt, and heal after the death of a loved one in a healthy way.

You don't have to grieve alone. We would love for you to join us as we walk our grief journeys together.

 Groups meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month at 909 E. Greenwood Ave, Crown Point, IN (Crown Point CRC) from 6:00-7:30pm (Dinner provided). Registration is required

 Please visit [www.goldenhopemin.org](https://www.goldenhopemin.org) or email Ashley Krygsheld at [info@goldenhopemin.org](mailto:info@goldenhopemin.org) for more information