



# HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – September 2, 2025

*“Scripture Follower”*

II Timothy 3:16-17

## FROM THE DESK OF DR. WEENER:

**Dear Families,**

At the heart of every strong school community is open and honest communication. As faith-filled educators and leaders, it's important that we not only speak—but listen. Listening to our families helps us understand what's working, where we can improve, and how we can better support every student's success.

That's why, throughout the school year, we'll be hosting regular listening sessions. These gatherings are opportunities for you to share your experiences, voice concerns, ask questions, and offer ideas. Whether it's about academics, school climate, or community engagement, your feedback helps guide our decisions and shape the future of our school.

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](#).

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## **Looking Ahead: Celebrating Faith and Family**

We're also excited about two very special upcoming events that reflect the heart of our mission and vision - **faith, family, and Christian community**.

Did you know that HCS is represented by over 100 unique churches? On **Friday, September 26**, we will gather for **Pastor's Chapel**, a meaningful time where we honor the spiritual leaders who support our students and families. It's a beautiful reminder of the strong connection between church and school as the students and pastors take turns praying over each other.

Fast forward to **October 9-10 (SEC) October 11 (K-8)**, as we look forward to celebrating **Grandparents' Day**, a cherished tradition where we welcome grandparents and special friends to experience a day of worship, learning, and joy with their grandchildren.

These events highlight the blessing of generational faith and the impact of Christian education in the lives of our students. As Deuteronomy 6:6-7 reminds us:

*“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.” – Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (NIV)*

We are honored to partner with you in nurturing your child’s faith and learning, and we look forward to sharing these meaningful moments together.

Dr. Weener - Head of School

## **SCHOOL NEWS:**

- **LATE START: This Wednesday, September 3, 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.
- **Donut Day:** Donut Day is replacing our weekly snack table and will occur twice a month. Our first donut day is **this Wednesday, September 3.** Donuts will be \$2.50 each and we will have chocolate, strawberry, vanilla and glazed donuts. All proceeds will go to the 8th grade class trip.
- **Saturday Serve:** What is Saturday Serve? Why would we participate in Saturday Serve?

In order to honor God, we nurture and guide students to:

- SEE the Father’s creation
- SENSE order in a world saved by Christ,
- SERVE God through the leading of the Holy Spirit.


Are these just the words in our Mission statement or do we live them? Are we, school and parents, intentional about nurturing students to SEE, SENSE, and SERVE? Do we create the opportunities to practice this? In order to live out our mission well we will continue with **Saturday Serve** again this year. This service opportunity allows families, parents and students, to participate in serving the community around HCS once a month on a Saturday morning.

Last year, we partnered with Flourish Church to clean rooms, organize materials, paint walls, and pull weeds around the church as they prepared to launch a community hub in the basement of their church. We also played Bingo and interacted with seniors at a senior center, we shopped for and filled Blessing Boxes with non-perishable goods, we created and wrote cards of encouragement, we raked leaves from front lawns around HCS, we partnered with the Highland Parks Department by cleaning a neighborhood park, and we sorted and displayed clothes and household items at ETC.

This year, we have plans to continue to provide opportunities for families (parents and students) to serve God by serving others in our community.

**Our first Saturday Serve for 2025-26 is on Saturday, September 27 at City Baptist from 8:30 - noon** (I know this time is earlier than past Saturday Serves - come when and as long as you can.)

- We will be meeting at City Baptist to work on a number of different important projects. We would love to have 100+ volunteers on this morning.
- Work Includes:
  - 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)
  - School beautification.
- There is work for everyone to do. Wear clothes and shoes for cleaning. Bring gloves to protect your hands.
  - Sign up using this link: [September Saturday Serve](#) There are other links going out about this service opportunity. Please sign up once.
  - Additionally, a free lunch from El Taco Real will be provided afterwards.
- **Pastor's Chapel:** Pastors' Chapel will be held on Friday, September 26. Information has been sent to the pastors and churches. Personal invitations will be created at school for students to hand-deliver. These invites will be sent home on Friday, September 12.  
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
- **Auction Committee:** We are looking for 2-3 volunteers to join the planning committee for the school's annual auction. **Most urgently, we need someone to learn Kitchen Lead to transition into the position for next year.** It's a great way to support the school and be part of a fun, high-impact event! Interested? Please scan the QR code!  

- **Child Safety Training (Parent Night):** 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. On **September 15 at 6:30pm** there will be a Parent Night for parents of HCS and CPCS at **Crossroads Community Church** in Schererville, IN to learn about each resource. We encourage all parents to come to the Parent Night to hear about the materials directly from the Fairhaven presenters.
- **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:**

A message went out to employees and current families on Monday, September 1, about Enrollment Intention Forms. You

can read that message [here](#). You can also fill those forms here: [Preschool](#) and [K-8 Intention Form](#).

## **ATHLETIC NEWS:**

- **Thursday, September 4:**
  - A Soccer - 4:00 pm vs. Calvin (HOME)
  - B Soccer - 5:00 pm vs. Calvin (HOME)
  - 7th grade volleyball - 4:00 pm vs. Calvin (HOME)
  - 8th grade volleyball - 5:00pm vs. Calvin (HOME)

**HCS will continue to have a concession stand at all home games!** We typically serve hot food, snacks, candy, and various drinks. 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).

**Coach Needed for Wrestling:** We are excited to be starting a Jr. High Co-Ed wrestling team. We are in need of a coach with wrestling experience and/or wrestling coaching experience to lead the program. The season will start the last week of October and run until the middle of December. Practices will be twice a week from 3:15-4:30. The season will consist of 3-4 matches. More information can be found here. [HCS Wrestling Position](#) Please reach out to Mr. Hillegonds with any questions.

## **FAITH CORNER:**

Last week we recognized that by reading God's Word and becoming a *Scripture Follower* this year, our hearts can be made **new**. Abiding with Jesus and learning from Scripture helps us grow in faith, build stronger friendships, and discover new ways to live and learn each day. This journey brings hope and joy, making each new beginning full of promise.

This week let's explore how God's Word can give us direction in our life journey..

**Psalm 119** is the longest Psalm in the Bible. Read the section labeled by the Hebrew letter **י Nun** (Psalm 119: 105-112). Pay special attention to **verses 105 & 106**: *Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*

*I have taken an oath and confirmed it that I will follow your righteous laws.*

In this Psalm, the writer uses a metaphor of a light to describe God's Word as providing guidance and direction for a person's life. The writer also promises to obey God's law. To follow God (Jesus) means to obey.

**God's Word is a lamp for our feet** - God's Word makes clear our next step, preventing falls in our daily words, actions, and decisions.

**God's Word is a light for our path** - God's Word reveals the overall direction for our future. It shows the direction and purpose for our lives, helping to avoid getting lost and providing a destination.

**God's Word demands a response** - God's Word inspires us to live by it, to walk in it.

**Try this:** Find a flashlight and head outside at night. Shine the flashlight down at your feet. What do you see? Can you see any rocks or stones on the path? Is there a bump in the sidewalk? Talk about how useful and important it is to have light shining on our feet so we don't stumble or trip or injure a toe.

Now shine the flashlight head at you. What do you notice about the path? Do you see the edge of the sidewalk? Can we see the corner where the path ends at the road? Do you see rocks or downed trees on the path? Talk about how useful and important it is to have light shining on our path so we know where we are headed.

God's Word does that for our lives. God's Word prevents us from stumbling every day - saying unkind words, telling lies, taking things that aren't ours, disobeying our parents, breaking promises, etc. God's Word also shows us where we are to walk - making decisions about friendships, finding meaning and purpose in life, choosing how to make godly choices and decisions, trusting God when we can't see the good, and believing in God's promise of eternal life.

**Prayer:** Father God, Your Word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. Give us wisdom and understanding when we read your Word. Help our hearts and minds to know you and your promises. Guide our thoughts and actions so we follow you. Teach us to turn away from evil to you. 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:**

- PTO GIFT CARD WINNERS: A big Congratulations to our lucky winners: Jamika Wilburn and Leslie Coulter. Thank you for your support and involvement in our school community!
- 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.
- **Donuts for Dudes** will be held on **September 10** at the soccer fields.

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

- **Reminder:** TRIP orders are now due by 3:30pm on designated Wednesdays. Please see the [TRIP schedule](#) or below for the next order date.
- **NEW:** Book your travel on Raiseright.com! You can now book hotels and car rentals through RaiseRight and enjoy low prices and higher earnings. Visit the 'Earn More' tab on Raiseright.com to check it out. You must be a registered family to acquire these earnings that go towards your tuition. For any questions, email Sherry Hiatt at [trip@highlandchristian.org](mailto:trip@highlandchristian.org).
- **TRIP Schedule:** Next order for physical cards is due on Wednesday, Sept.3 at 3:30pm. This order will be ready for pick up on Tuesday, Sept. 9 after 2:45pm. Online ordering for egift cards and reloadable cards is available 24/7 on [raiserright.com](http://raiserright.com). **Future Order Dates:** Sept.17, Sept 24, Oct 1 and Oct. 8.
- **TRIP Volunteer Schedule:** Sept. 2-Team B, Sept. 9-Team C, Sept. 16-Team D, Sept. 23-Team A