



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – September 22, 2025

“Scripture Follower”

II Timothy 3:16-17

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **Admissions:** The Application Portal for Preschool-8th grade for the 2026-27 school year opens today at 7pm. The cost is \$100 per application.
 - If your child will be in PreK-3, PreK-4, Kindergarten, or transferring from another school into 1st-8th grade, **you need to apply**.
 - If your child(ren) is currently attending HCS in 1st-8th grade, **you do not need to re-apply**, as re-enrollment will occur in the spring.
- **Picture Day: HCS K-8 Picture Day is tomorrow, Sept. 23.** A flyer was sent home with your student last week. 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.
- **See You at the Pole:** 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!
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*
- **Pastor's Chapel:** Friday, September 26 at 8:30 am.
Thank you for delivering the invitations to your pastors! Please join us for a special and impactful chapel and pray that this day may be a meaningful blessing to students and pastors. May God be glorified as His church gathers.
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
- **Saturday Serve: **We NEED YOU!**** There are currently 117 volunteers, but we are in need of additional adults that are good with tools OR can lift heavy objects. We would really benefit from a few electricians.
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 by **Wednesday:** [September Saturday Serve](#) We need to get people assigned to work groups and get out the information about what you will be doing.

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

- **Math Pentathlon:** Last week 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. **We still have spaces available on Monday and Wednesday** and each session is filled on a first come/first served basis. 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. We are excited to have your child in this program and look forward to a positive math season.
- **Last Chance- 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](#).
- **New Mom Meet Up:** Is this your first year at HCS? Join us in the gym foyer on Tuesday, October 7th after you drop off your kids! Take a pause and enjoy the company of other first year moms at HCS. [RSVP Here!](#)
- **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 list of all of our current openings, please visit our [website](#).
- **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 or call the front office and they will be able to assist you.
- **FUSION: SAVE THE DATE!** Fusion is beyond excited to host nationally acclaimed speaker and #1 bestselling author **John O’Leary** for a special in-person event on **Friday, February 6th**. John’s incredible journey—from being given just a 1% chance to survive a childhood fire to now inspiring millions around the world—is a powerful testimony of hope, faith, and living with purpose. His story is the focus of the upcoming film [Soul on Fire](#). This **family-friendly** event is open to the entire community. We encourage you to mark your calendars and invite others to join you for what will surely be an unforgettable night. **More details to come.**
- **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! To sign up, please click [HERE](#). If you need additional information, please email Rick VanderWoude at 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.

ATHLETIC NEWS:

GAMES THIS WEEK:

- **Monday, September 22:**
Cross Country Meet @ Chicago Christian- 4:00 pm
- **Tuesday, September 23:**
A Soccer - 4:00 pm @ Lansing Christian (AWAY)
7th grade volleyball - 4:00 pm @ Lansing Christian (AWAY)
8th grade volleyball - 5:00 pm @ Lansing Christian (AWAY)
- **Thursday, September 26:**
A Soccer - 4:00 pm @ Demotte Christian (AWAY)
B Soccer - 5:00 pm @ Demotte Christian (AWAY)
7th grade volleyball - 4:00 pm @ Demotte Christian (AWAY)
8th grade volleyball - 5:00 pm @ Demotte Christian (AWAY)

Cheerleading Try-Outs: 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Cheerleading tryouts are coming up. Tryouts will be held in the commons. The coaches of the cheerleading team are Anna Haan and Erica Gillespie. All students participating in sports must have an active physical on file. Please turn those into the office or into Mr. Hillegonds.

The dates and times are as follows:

October 2nd - 3:30-5:30

October 3rd - 3:30-4:30

FAITH CORNER:

Let's look again at Deuteronomy 6:6-9 to examine God's design for families on how to be Scripture Followers.

Read this passage from **The Message**:

Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts.

Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children.

Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night.

Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates.

Since discipling our kids is far too important to entrust it solely to others, here are **three** more ways to disciple your kids to be Scripture Followers:

First, see family discipleship as a way of life, not a program to follow.

There is nothing wrong with an organized time of family worship. But we can't see our role as disciplers as a program; we have to see it the way it is described in Deuteronomy 6 - **a way of life**. Discipling your kids needs to happen in the everyday and ordinary events of life. You want to talk about Jesus as naturally as possible.

Here are some starting points for conversation:

-Go outside. Listen together. What do you hear? How does God speak through what you are seeing? Read a psalm of creation (Psalm 8; 19; etc.) while you are outdoors.

-Be attentive to God's voice God speaks to us through the Word, through other people, through creation, and more! Model listening for God in these ways. Read the Bible together and talk about what God is saying and doing. Include listening pauses during prayer. Point out to each other how the beauty of creation praises God. Listen for how God might be speaking to your family.

-Ask questions - This is a great way to talk about faith. Some questions might include:

Tell about a time when you felt like God was very close to you or your family.

If you could talk to someone in the Old Testament, who would it be, and why?

If you could talk with Jesus in person, what one question would you like to ask him?

Second, teach by example.

Your kids are learning far more from what they see you doing than from what you say they should do. Ask yourself these questions:

How is the gospel of Jesus framing how you live in your home, in the community, at work, and beyond?

Is God's love, joy, peace, and mercy working their way out of you?

Is the fruit of the spirit evident in increasing measure?

Are you obeying God with gratitude and joy?

Although it is difficult to examine our own attitudes, habits, and actions, we must model the transforming power of the Gospel to our kids.

Third, connect with your church.

While God designed parents to be the primary disciplers, He did not intend for us to be the only disciplers. He has given us the church-our local community of faith-to come alongside us, encourage us, and echo what we are teaching in our homes.

Ask your kids what they heard in the sermon or learned in Sunday School or Children's Worship.

Get to know the names of the teachers. Ask them about the lesson. Pray for them with your kids.

Read the story again at lunch. Have your child fill in the story in his/her own words. Ask wondering questions about the story: I wonder why . . .

PTO NEWS:

- **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:

- **Cash & Carry:** Take advantage of purchasing gift cards from a select list of vendors without the wait! These cards are available for purchase during TRIP Office hours (Thursdays 7:30 to 10:30am). Limited quantities are available. If you would like to secure your purchase, email us your order. We will confirm availability and set it aside. Available Vendors: Aurelios (\$20), Beggars (\$10 & \$20), Chick-fil-a (\$10), Culver's (\$10), Edwardo's (\$10), Hohman Hallmark (\$25), Miner Dunn (\$5), Strack & Van Til (\$50 & \$100), Teibel's (\$25) and Walt's (\$100). ****COMING SOON (October)*:*** Dunkin Donuts (\$10), Starbucks (\$10 & \$25) and Amazon (\$25). You must be registered to receive earnings. ****NEW!**** If you do not want to register but still want the ease of purchasing gift cards you can designate the earnings to HCS Tuition Assistance! Simply check the box on the Cash & Carry form when making your purchase.
- **TRIP Office Hours:** *Thursdays 7:30 to 10:30am. Please reach out to Sherry Hiatt at trip@highlandchristian.org for questions or concerns at any time! *TRIP is a volunteer-led program. Hours may vary from time to time.
- **Reminder:** We process TRIP orders after the main office is closed. Please place all TRIP orders in the secure TRIP mailbox located on the left wall after you walk through the first set of glass doors of the main entrance to ensure we will receive your order. Thank you.
- **TRIP Schedule:** Next order for physical cards is due on Wednesday, Sept.24 at 3:30pm and available for pick up on Tuesday, Sept. 30 after 2:45pm. Online ordering for egift and reloadable cards is available 24/7 on raiserright.com. **Future Order Dates:** Oct 1, October 8 and Oct. 15.
- **TRIP Volunteer Schedule:** Sept. 23-Team A, Sept. 30-Team B, Sept. 7-Team C, October 14-Team D.

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 or email Ashley Krygsheld at info@goldenhopemin.org for more information.
- **EPIC Volleyball:** If you have a 3rd-8th grade GIRL or BOY interested in playing on a local volleyball team for 3 or 6 months during the winter, please reach out to Tracy Summers at epicunitedvbc@gmail.com or 708-703-1266. There are also weekly camps available. Learning the skills can really go a long way when playing volleyball and make it a LOT more fun! Practice locations offered in Lansing, Dyer, Crown Point, or St. John. Camp location offered in Highland, Lansing, and Crown Point.