



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – September 29, 2025

“Scripture Follower”

II Timothy 3:16-17

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **Saturday Serve- THANK YOU!!** Thank you to all who showed up on Saturday morning at Riverside Christian School. What a terrific and productive morning we had! So much was accomplished in less than 4 hours by hardworking volunteers.
 - ceiling tiles were removed from 31 classrooms, offices, & hallways
 - weeds, leaves, branches, & plants were pulled from the playground and the front of the school
 - more than 200 whiteboards, chalkboards, and bulletin boards were taken off the walls and dumped
 - over 250 desks were removed from classrooms
 - sparks flew as lockers were removed from the hallways and placed in dumpstersThe crew of volunteers filled 6 dumpsters with trash and debris. An additional 3 containers were stuffed with lockers to be scrapped. This truly was a day to celebrate the goodness of God working in community to provide a place for Christian education to flourish. We could not have accomplished this without the willing hands and generous hearts of so many. [Photos from the work day at Hammond Riverside Christian School.](#)
- **Late Start: This Wednesday, October 1, 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.
- **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!](#)
- **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.
- **Grandparents' Day:** **The K-8 Grandparents' Day is Friday, October 10.** Grandparents should have received an invitation in the mail by now. If they did not, please let the office know the grandparents name and address and we will be happy to mail them one. Volunteers are needed to welcome our guests, direct traffic in the hallways, etc. Many hands make light work! If you are willing to help from 9:45/10:00 to 1:15, please contact Carly Murphy at cmurphy@highlandchristian.org. Adults only please, no younger siblings! The K-8 Grandparents' Day team is looking for volunteers to help with parking lot duty from 9:45 - 11:15 on Friday, October 10. If you'd like to help, please contact Gail Achterhof at gachterhof@highlandchristian.org.
- **Lost and Found:** The lost and found is overflowing!! Please stop by and take a look before the end of the week. Anything left by the end of the day on Friday, October 3, will be placed in the ETC trailer.
- **October Saturday Serve:** Come join us as we bless our Highland Christian neighbors by raking leaves. Groups will be sent to different areas near HCS to rake leaves from the front lawn to the parkway. We will walk from house to house asking if we can bless them by raking the leaves.

For this Saturday Serve, we will work outside raking. Please bring rakes, leaf blowers, brooms, gloves, etc. Please dress for the weather. We welcome any age to help with the clean-up. Since we need leaves to fall before we can rake, we have two possible dates. Sign up for the date(s) that work best for you. The first choice date is **Saturday, October 11** and an alternate date would be **Saturday, November 1**.

Date: Saturday, October 11 or Saturday, November 1

Time: 9 am - 11 am

Place: HCS parking lot

Sign-up here: [October Saturday Serve](#)

- **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.
- **Employment Opportunities:** **We're Hiring!** HCS has an immediate need for a substitute Night Custodian, Before/After Care worker, and Wrestling Coach. For more information or to see a list of all of our current openings, please visit our [website](#).
- **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.**
- **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>

ATHLETIC NEWS:

Game Schedules:

- **Monday, September 29:**
Cross Country Meet @ Crown Point Christian- 4:00 pm
- **Tuesday, September 30:**
A Soccer - 4:00 pm @ Calvin Christian (AWAY)

B Soccer - 5:00 pm @ Calvin Christian (AWAY)
7th grade Volleyball - 4:00 pm @ Calvin Christian (AWAY)
8th grade Volleyball - 5:00 pm @ Calvin Christian (AWAY)

- ***Thursday, October 2:**

A Soccer - 4:00 pm vs. Crown Point Christian (HOME)
B Soccer - 5:00 pm vs. Crown Point Christian (HOME)
7th grade Volleyball - 4:00 pm vs. Crown Point Christian (HOME)
8th grade Volleyball - 5:00 pm vs. Crown Point Christian (HOME)

***Concessions available and we now accept both cash and cards! Grab a snack and support the athletic department!**

- **Saturday, October 4**

B Soccer Tournament @ Crown Point Christian
7th grade Volleyball Tournament @ Calvary Christian

Cheerleading Try-Outs: 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Cheerleading tryouts are this week. 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

Boys Basketball Tryouts: 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Boys Basketball Tryouts start in two weeks. The two days of tryouts are Monday, October 13th and Tuesday, October 14th. All students participating in sports must have an active physical on file. Please turn those into the office or into Mr. Hillegonds.

Time slots are as follows:

6th grade - 3:15-4:30

8th grade - 4:30-5:45

7th grade - 5:45-7:00

FAITH CORNER:

What does it mean to Follow Jesus? How can we help our children know and follow Jesus? These are two big questions that need to be in the forefront of our thinking as we disciple our kids.

First, we need to begin with the end in mind. What is our **Deepest Hope** for our kids? Do we desire that our children *“Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength”*? (Deuteronomy 6:5) Do we desire that our children *“deny himself/herself, and take up his/her cross daily, and follow me.”* (Luke 9:23)

Second, if **Loving God and Following Jesus** is our **Deepest Hope** then we need to introduce our kids to and teach them about Jesus. They need to know Jesus who being in very nature God didn't take a position of divine privilege; rather, He humbled Himself as a servant. (Philippians 2:6-11) This God-made-flesh Jesus shows us how **knowing who we are in Him** leads to following HIM. It leads to a life of self-emptying humility and other-centered service.

Who are we in Jesus?

The Bible tells us in I Corinthians 8:3, *“Whoever loves God is known by God.”* We are **KNOWN** by God. We belong to Him. We are made in His image, as His child. God **KNOWS** me.

The Bible also reminds us that God loves us. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16) Jesus **LOVES** us so much that He was willing to die to pay for our sin.

The Bible nudges us to remember that God wants us to follow him. Jesus tells us in John 14:26, “ *the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*” When we choose to **FOLLOW** Jesus, we are led by the Holy Spirit.

Action Step: How can you teach the concept that **God KNOWS me?**

Write **GOD KNOWS ME** at the top of a paper.

Brainstorm as a family what God knows about each one of you. (your favorite color, your love for Math, your fear of spiders, your friends, your worry about bills, etc.)

Write these down. Remember to dive deep enough to list your feelings, bad choices, worries, concerns, fears also.

Pray over the list. Thank God that He knows us so well. Ask Him to step into **ALL** parts of our lives.

Hang this paper somewhere visible so you are reminded daily that **GOD KNOWS ME!!!**

Prayer: Have your family repeat the words after you.

Thank You, God, that You made me!

And I am Your kid!

Jesus loves me so much,

His love for me is big.

The Holy Spirit leads me

And I can follow You.

My life can tell Your story,

I'm a wonder, this is true. Amen.

Something to ponder this week: Are you a fan of Jesus ... or a follower? Following Jesus isn't a one-and-done decision. It happens hourly as you choose how to handle conflicts, do a job, or spend a paycheck.

LIBRARY NEWS:

It has been such a fun month handing out sweet treats to all those students who went to the Public Library to get a library card or show their old library card. How great to know that we have great readers in our school who know how to utilize the public library!! This is a reminder that tomorrow is the last day to trade a slip of paper signed by the public librarian for a sweet treat as it is the last day of the Public Library Card Sign-Up Month!!

PTO NEWS:

- **Custodian Appreciation Day** is this Wednesday, October 1! Let's show Eric, Nate, Chris, and Sandy how much we appreciate all the hard work they do around the school!
- **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:

- **Bonus Fest:** Take advantage of new online bonuses each weekend in the month of October! Vendors will be announced each Friday on the Raiseright Facebook page and through email. For every gift card purchased (from featured vendors) you will be automatically entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card. Orders must be placed online during promotion. If you are not receiving emails from Raiseright.com and would like to, email Sherry Hiatt at trip@highlandchristian.org.

- **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. Call/email ahead of time to secure your order! Available Vendors: Amazon (\$25), Aurelios (\$20), Beggars (\$10 & \$20), Chick-fil-a (\$10), Culver's (\$10), Dunkin Donuts (\$10), Edwardo's (\$10), Hohman Hallmark (\$25), Miner Dunn (\$5), Starbucks (\$10 & \$25), Strack & Van Til (\$50 & \$100), Teibel's (\$25). You must be registered to receive earnings or **NEW!** no registration is necessary if you want to allocate your earnings towards HCS Tuition Assistance.
- **TRIP Office Hours:** Thursdays 7:30 to 10:30am. For questions at any time contact Sherry Hiatt at trip@highlandchristian.org.
- **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, Oct. 1 at 3:30pm and available for pick up on Tuesday, Oct. 7 after 2:45pm. Online ordering is available 24/7 on raiserright.com. Future Order Dates: October 8, 15 and 22.
- **TRIP Volunteer Schedule:** Sept. 30-Team B, Sept. 7-Team C, Oct. 14-Team D, Oct. 21-Team A.

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.