



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – December 1, 2025

“Scripture Follower”

II Timothy 3:16-17

FROM THE DESK OF DR. WEENER:

As 2025 comes to a close, it is incredible to reflect on the ways God has blessed the Highland Christian School community! Here are the ‘Top 5 Moments from 2025’.

1. God has blessed our school community with **707 students (PreK-8th grade), 110+ staff members**, and an incredible community of kids, parents, grandparents, and churches. God’s faithfulness is certainly present in the lives of the individuals who are a part of Highland Christian School.
2. Our monthly **Saturday Serve continues to be a blessing**. Whether filling ‘Blessing Boxes’, raking leaves for local residents, or preparing Hammond Riverside Christian School, these opportunities continue to support those in our community and showcase one of our strategic goals - to grow service at HCS! In the upcoming year, we are excited to share about some new service opportunities and programs!
3. Last year, our students showed **135% growth in math, 106% in reading, and 133% on language usage** on NWEA tests. This is well above one year’s worth of growth! HCS’ Professional Learning Community remains strong and focused on the following four questions:
 - a. What do we want students to learn?
 - b. How do we know they have learned it?
 - c. What do we do if they do not learn it the first time?
 - d. What do we do if they already learned it before they came to class?
4. In our third year with the new Jr. High expansion, we have seen how the community continues to go above and beyond to support our school’s mission and vision. With a total cost of ~\$5,500,000, the loan for the project will be paid down to under \$1,600,000 by the end of 2025. HCS has been continually blessed with supporters who love and cherish the students, families, and mission of HCS.
5. We continue to see strong enrollment with **120+ applicants in the first 12 hours of enrollment for the 26/27 school year**. While many of these applicants will not be able to access Highland Christian due to full classes, we are thrilled to support the launching of Hammond Riverside Christian School (Hammond, IN) - a new K-5 Christian school, which is opening for the 26/27 school year. Our partnerships with Crown Point Christian and Illiana Christian High School continue to benefit the opportunities and landscape of accessing Christian education in Northwest Indiana.

Thank you for being a special part of the HCS community. We wouldn’t be the same without each and every student and family. God is faithful!

Dr. Kyle Weener
Head of School

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **Thanksgiving Thank You:** Thank you Highland Christian School for taking the time to reflect upon the many blessings God has given and to share those blessings with others. Over 200 boxes filled with food for Thanksgiving or Christmas meals were presented to Roseland Christian Ministries, ensuring that numerous families will experience not only the gift of nourishment but also the love of Jesus.

Additionally, many more boxes and bags were packed to stock the shelves of Beacon Light's food pantry, providing meals along with the hope and love that can only be found in Christ. We are grateful for your generosity and for your commitment to bringing God's Kingdom to earth through meaningful acts of kindness.



- **Late Start: This Wednesday, December 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.
- **Christmas Worship Chapel:** Everyone is invited to our Christmas Worship Chapel this Friday, December 5, at 8:30 a.m. in the HCS gym!
- **Christmas Gift 2025:** We have an opportunity to be Scripture Followers who help people experiencing oppression, poverty, hunger, and illness, by purchasing :

- **trees** - providing food, income, medicine, shade, & environmental protection
- **seeds** - providing a varied diet necessary for good health
- **gardens** - providing fresh produce for a family's diet
- **soap** - providing instruction in health & hygiene
- **water filter** - providing access to clean water
- **latrines** - providing safe sanitation & eliminating the spread of disease;



How to share the message of God's love:

- Follow the directions to create & decorate an envelope.
- Put money (cash or checks-payable to World Renew) in the envelope & seal.
- Place your envelope in the mailbox by the Christmas tree.
- Pray for the people around the world. **Ephesians 6:18:** "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people".

Students received a template of an envelope with this information on the page. If you would like to participate in sending a message of God's love to people around the world, follow the directions on the paper and return the envelope to school. Questions - contact Vicki Huizenga - vhuizenga@highlandchristian.org

- **December Saturday Serve: This Saturday Serve will focus on encouraging our seniors or shut-ins by making cards.** Come as a family to create and write Christmas messages to senior citizens or shut-ins. Caring, encouraging messages in a hand-made card can really make a difference. This is a significant way to share God's love with people in our community. This Saturday Serve is open to all ages and creative ability. Templates to

create cards will be provided. There also will be printed cards to color. Thank you for your work in bringing God's Kingdom on earth.

Date: Saturday, December 13

Time: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm NOTE: time change

Place: Highland Christian School 3040 Ridge Road Highland, IN
We will meet in the Commons. (small gym in the Junior high wing)

RSVP: [December Saturday Serve Sign-up](#)

Questions: Contact Vicki Huizenga vhuizenga@highlandchristian.org



- **Devotionals:** In response to a request for Christmas gifts that nurture our students' faith, Mrs. Huizenga has gathered a [list of great devotional books](#) for students. These are organized by age levels and include the link to Amazon so you can read their description of the book. We hope this is helpful if you are looking for a stocking stuffer or gift this Christmas that will grow relationships with Jesus and His Word.
- **School Bell Wish List:** The holidays are upon us, and deals are popping up everywhere! If you would like to bless our amazing teachers with something from their wishlist, they would be so grateful. Here is the [LINK](#) to the wishlist!
- **HCS Employee Favorite Things lists have now been refreshed and updated!** You can access the google doc [HERE](#) or you can find it in FACTS under the Resource Document tab.
- **Philadelphia Trip:** 7th grade parents— Mark your calendar for the 7th grade Parent Night for 2027 Trip to Philadelphia. This meeting includes a presentation, comments on cost and safety, and opportunity for questions about fundraising. The meeting is on January 12, 2026 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.
- **Fusion: You're invited to a night of inspiration with John O'Leary!** Join us for an evening of hope, healing, and heart. John's storytelling is known to stir tears, laughter, and resolve — a powerful reminder that our pain can become purpose. Get your tickets [HERE](#)! Seats are limited — reserve yours today, and bring someone you care about. Let's gather, listen, and be changed together!
When: February 6, 2025 7:00 pm
Where: Faith Church Dyer, 100 West 81st Ave, Dyer, Indiana.
Who: John O'Leary — bestselling author, inspirational speaker, and survivor whose story reminds us that even the darkest moments can spark life.
- **Hot Lunch Menu-** [December Lunch Menu](#)
- **Employment Opportunities:** HCS is seeking a part-time [Director of Finance](#). Do you know someone with strong financial leadership skills who would love serving in our Christian community? We'd love for you to help us spread the word! For more information and to view all of our current openings, please visit our [website](#).

ATHLETIC NEWS:

December 2: Boys Basketball

- 6th grade vs. Calvin Christian (HOME) 4:00 p.m.
- 7th grade vs. Calvin Christian (HOME) 5:00 p.m.
- 8th grade vs. Calvin Christian (HOME) 6:00 p.m.

December 4: Boys Basketball

- 6th grade vs. Crown Point Christian (HOME) 4:00 p.m.

- 7th grade vs. Crown Point Christian (HOME) 5:00 p.m.
- 8th grade vs. Crown Point Christian (HOME) 6:00 p.m.

FAITH CORNER:

At this time of the year we recognize that our hearts were created to be filled with **HOPE**. But in this world our hearts can get easily distracted.

What does your heart **HOPE** for?

I hope I get everything on my Christmas list.

I hope I get everything decorated and wrapped before Christmas Eve.

I hope there is snow on Christmas morning.

May our **HOPE** be focused on the gift of Jesus in the manger. This Advent we will focus on the **HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE** that Jesus brings to our lives. Take some time during the week (it can be broken up over several days) to read the Scripture passage, to talk about Scripture, and to live out Scripture during this season.

When the time came, God began to fulfill His promise to send the Messiah. But before Jesus came, God sent a special messenger to prepare the way. A herald is someone who brings an important message, and this is what John would be. He would grow up to be a prophet who told people the Savior was coming.

READ SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:1-25; 57-66 - the story of Zechariah, Elizabeth, & John

TALK ABOUT SCRIPTURE: Even though Zechariah and Elizabeth waited many years for a child, God was working behind the scenes to prepare the way for Jesus' birth. It was God's perfect timing.

Younger Kids: *Can you think of a time when you had to wait for something important?*

How does it feel to wait for something?

How does it feel when it finally happens?

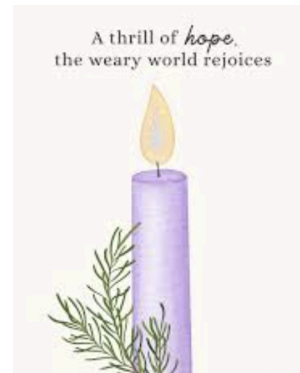
God keeps His promises, and He promises good for those who follow Him!

Older Kids: *How can we help prepare the way for Jesus' second coming?*

What do we need to do while we wait?

Do these verses change your attitude toward waiting?

How does the truth that God keeps His promises encourage you?



LIVE OUT SCRIPTURE: There are many people who need to be reminded of the good news of Jesus.

-Make cards (use store bought cards), include a note about the good news of great joy for all people: Jesus was born so we can have life!

-Share the cards with neighbors or members from church.

-Include store bought or homemade Christmas cookies with the card.

PRAY SCRIPTURE:

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. Psalm 27:14

T.R.I.P NEWS:

- **Holiday Countdown/TRIP Schedule:** There are only 2 orders that will be placed before Christmas!!! These orders will be placed on December 3rd (pick up on Dec. 9) and on the 10th (pick up on Dec.16). Online ordering is available 24/7. Cash & Carry will be available on Dec. 4, 11 and 18 from 8am to 9am.
- **Cash & Carry:** C& C is available this week. Pop in on Thursday 8-9am to purchase gift cards we have available for immediate purchase. Limited quantities are available. Email ahead of time to secure your order! Available Vendors: Amazon (\$25), Aurelios (\$20), Beggars (\$20), Chick-fil-a (\$10), Culver's (\$10), Dunkin Donuts (\$10), Edwardo's (\$10), Hohman Hallmark (\$10), Miner Dunn (\$5), Starbucks (\$10 & \$25), Strack & Van Til (\$50 & \$100), Teibel's (\$25). Do you want to order but you don't have a registration on file? No Problem! Register today or support our Tuition Assistance Fund! Email Sherry Hiatt at trip@highlandchristian.org for orders or questions.
- **Dazzle Days (Nov. 29-Dec. 12):** It's the most wonderful time of the year—for earning, that is. Take your holiday budget further and earn even more with bonuses on popular brands for holiday shopping. Plus, watch your email and Facebook for daily surprise flash bonuses.
- **Chick-fil-A Update:** Schererville Chick-fil-A has generously increased its rebate percentage from 5 to 10%!!! Available for Cash & Carry and Online Ordering when you select Chick-fil-A-HCS \$10 cards.
- **VISA/American Express gift cards:** Did you know that if you buy Visa or American Express gift cards through TRIP there are **NO ACTIVATION FEES** (you receive them ready for immediate use!). Earn money for tuition and your giftee saves on the fee! Registration is open year round. Email Sherry Hiatt at trip@highlandchristian.org for any questions.
- **TRIP Volunteer Schedule:** Dec 9-TRIP Office Team, Dec. 16-Team C, Jan 13-Team D

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- **Living Hope Church invites you to “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical”:** This weekend, join us for a funny, heartwarming, family-friendly Christmas production that will make you laugh, cheer, and remember what Christmas is all about. And the best part? Admission is completely FREE! Bring your family, invite your neighbors, and make Christmas memories with us! For more information, please visit our [website](#).
- **Illiana Wrestling Club:** We're excited to invite you to join the Illiana Wrestling Club. We have hosted week long camps previously but this is our first year of a full season club. With the start of wrestling teams at Crown Point Christian last year and Highland Christian this year, we are very excited to see the sport of wrestling growing in this community. Whether you're an experienced wrestler or completely new to the sport, our club offers a supportive, high-energy environment where athletes can grow, learn and develop confidence and a competitive spirit.

Our winter season is available to boys and girls of all skill levels from ages 5 through 8th grade. We meet every Monday and Thursday in the wrestling room at Illiana Christian High School from 5:30 - 7:00 PM. There is no requirement to be at every practice every week.

What do you need to join and how much does it cost? We have no cost for membership to our club, but you must have a USA Wrestling card with an Athlete membership that will cost you \$45.00 for the calendar year. This will allow you to practice and compete at tournaments as those opportunities arise. Don't want to commit yet? Come to a practice and check us out first!

If your student is looking to challenge themselves, build strength, discipline and become part of a community that pushes each other to be their best, we'd love to have them with us. Don't forget to bring a friend!

If you're interested or have any questions feel free to reach out to us at IllianaWrestling@gmail.com. Also look out

for our first, ever Girls Only wrestling camp in January of this upcoming year.

- **Preview Illiana: The next Preview Illiana day is Thursday, March 12.** Preview Illiana is an opportunity for prospective students and their families to experience Illiana. You'll be able to hear from our Head of School and Principal, meet teachers and students, attend informative sessions about Illiana's curriculum and learning opportunities in music, art, STEM, and core subjects, learn how Illiana builds college, and career-readiness, and experience Illiana's mission to develop a passion for God, people, and the world. All middle school students and prospective high school transfer students will receive a free Illiana t-shirt! [REGISTER FOR PREVIEW HERE](#) Questions can be directed to our Director of Admissions, Jenna Dutton at jdutton@illianachristian.or
- **Highland Girls Softball:** Registration for Spring 2026 is now open and there is a Cyber Monday deal. Please visit their [website](#) for more information.
- **Highland Soccer Club:** Registration for the Spring 2026 season is now open. Please visit their [website](#) for more information on how to register.