



# HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – December 15, 2025

*“Scripture Follower”*

II Timothy 3:16-17

## SCHOOL NEWS:

- **Saturday Serve:** Thank you to those who came out on Saturday afternoon to encourage our seniors or shut-ins by making cards. We had a hardworking, creative bunch of people who completed many cards that will bless and encourage our seniors and shut-ins. Thank you to the families who came to share God’s love with others.

**Reserve this date:** Saturday, January 24, 2026

9am - 11am

**etc . . . Thrift Store** to sort, hang, size, and color code clothing. Since we will gather before the store opens, we may have the opportunity to organize and clean some of the displays. This is a great family event. What a great way to show our support and thanks to this organization who gives back to the families of HCS.

- **Late Start:** This Wednesday, December 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.
- **Early Dismissal:** School will dismiss this Friday, December 19 at 1:45 p.m. for the Christmas holiday and resume on January 5. Please note: There will be aftercare on December 19. **We pray that our HCS families have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!**
- **Important Announcement:** Parents who are volunteering for classroom parties or to serve JRH lunch on Friday, Dec 19 should pre-register [HERE](#). If you’re dropping off treats or gifts, please label the items with your students grade & teacher’s name. Extra staff will be at the front doors on Friday to assist delivering items to the classrooms.
- **Christmas Chapel:** Everyone is invited to our Christmas Chapel this Friday, December 19. You may enter through the gym doors at 8:15 a.m. and chapel should begin around 8:30 a.m.
- **Christmas Gift 2025: All gifts must be turned in by Friday.**  
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](mailto:vhuizenga@highlandchristian.org)



- **Christmas Spirit Week: School Life has put together dress up days on December 17-19 and they would love to have ALL kids participate.**
  - **Wednesday - 12/17-** Christmas Flannel or Fleece PJs
  - **Thursday - 12/18-** Ugly Christmas Sweater (or something "Christmasy")
  - **Friday - 12/19 -** Candy Cane Colors - Red & White (maybe green)

- **End of 2nd Quarter:** Friday, December 19, marks the end of the 2nd quarter. Report cards will be available for parents to view on January 16, 2026.
- **Christmas Break Office Hours:** The office will have limited hours over Christmas break.

**Monday, 12/22 & Tuesday, 12/23: 8am-12pm**  
**Wednesday, 12/24 - Friday, 12/26: Closed**



**Monday, 12/29 & Tuesday, 12/30: 8am -12pm**  
**Wednesday, 12/31- Friday, 1/ 2: Closed**

- **4th & 5th Grade - Math Pentathlon:** Math Pentathlon is entering its sixth year at Highland Christian. This after-school club started in 2019 to provide students with an opportunity to use their gifts and talents - in a fun and energizing way - to develop a variety of math skills and strategies! Information sheets will go home with ALL 4th & 5th graders.

**Who is invited:** any 4th or 5th grader

**When does the club meet:** Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 3:15-4:15 (We begin the week of January 12)

**Where does the club meet:** HCS library

**How much does it cost:** \$30.00

**Who are the coaches:** Mrs. Huizenga, Mrs, Julian, Mrs. Meter

- **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!
- **Vanilla:** Homemade vanilla is for sale in the office for all your holiday baking needs. Vanilla is \$3.00 for an 8 oz. bottle. If you have any empty 8, 10, or 12oz glass bottles, please send them to the office so more vanilla can be made.

- **HCS Listening Groups:** Your voice is important! In January, we are welcoming 4th and 5th grade parents to two listening sessions! Please note that space is limited to 12 parents in each session. As the year progresses, families from other grades will also have the opportunity to participate later in the school year. We are looking forward to hearing your valued and important feedback! To sign up, please complete the following [Sign-Up Genius Form](#).
- **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](#), [January 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:

- 🎉 **CONGRATULATIONS!!** 🎉 Our 6th grade boys basketball team won the league tournament on Saturday, December 13th. They won three straight games as the five seed to secure the title. The boys defeated Crown Point Christian in the first round, Lansing Christian in the semi-finals, and Chicago Christian Tinley Park in the championship game. Congratulations to Mr. Ritzema, Coach Schutt, and the 6th grade boys team!
- **8th-grade Boys Basketball Tournament:**  
Monday - 4:00pm at Chicago Christian vs Tinley Park  
Tuesday - 4:00 pm at Chicago Christian (if they win on Monday)  
Wednesday - 5:00 pm at Chicago Christian (if they win on Tuesday)
- **Girls Basketball Try-Outs:** Girls basketball tryouts are coming up on Tuesday, January 6th and Wednesday, January 7th. 7th grade tryouts will be from 3:15-4:30, 8th grade tryouts will be from 4:30-5:45, and 6th grade tryouts will be from 5:45-7:00. Each girl must have an active physical in order to participate in Highland Christian athletics. Please reach out to Mr. Hillegonds with any questions.

## FAITH CORNER:

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



What brings you **JOY** at Christmas?

- a crackling fire and hot cocoa
- Christmas caroling
- opening presents on Christmas morning

Like the hope and peace that God offers us, this **JOY** is different from what people normally experience in the world. Rather than depending on our circumstances, it is bright and unshakeable. It is based on who Jesus is and what he has done for us.

The first people to hear about the birth of Jesus were a group of shepherds guarding their sheep at night in the countryside near Bethlehem. When an angel appeared to them, accompanied by a shining display of the Lord's glory, the shepherds were understandably terrified. The angel quickly calmed their fears by bringing them good news of great **JOY** that would be for all people. The Savior whom God had promised had been born that day in Bethlehem. He was God in the form of a human baby.

The shepherds were not the only people who experienced great **JOY** when they saw that God had sent the Savior he had promised from the beginning. (Genesis 3:15) Simeon and Anna also responded with great **JOY** to God's promised one.

**READ SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2:21-40 - Jesus in the Temple

**TALK ABOUT SCRIPTURE:** Simeon and Anna were obedient to God and loved Him dearly. Even though Jesus was just a baby, it was clear to them that He was the Savior that God's people had been waiting and hoping for. Jesus brought **JOY** to all people who faithfully worshiped and waited.

**Younger Kids:** *What is your favorite thing about church?*

*How do you worship God?*

*What promises have you seen God keep this year?*

**Older Kids:** *Why is it important to go to church regularly?*

*How can you serve God at church?*

*How can you faithfully wait and trust God for His promises?*

*How can you bring this "Good news of great **JOY**" to others?*

**LIVE OUT SCRIPTURE:** Because of Jesus, we have the opportunity to bring **JOY** into the world.

-Throughout the year, write a note on a slip of paper when a prayer is answered or a family member serves someone in Jesus' name. Drop the note in a jar. At the end of the year, empty the jar and read the notes. Celebrate the ways your family has brought the "Good News of great **JOY**" to the world.

-Share some **JOY** with others: drop money into a Salvation Army kettle, send money to help families who experience poverty by partnering with World Renew, fill a Blessing Box, bring clothing to a homeless shelter

**PRAY SCRIPTURE:**

*I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:10-11*

God, the **JOY** you give us is so much richer than any joy on earth. Forgive us for the times we take it for granted. Help us to bring your **JOY** to the world. Amen.

**PTO NEWS:**

- The "**Favorite Things**" lists for all HCS Employees have been updated! You can access the google doc [HERE](#) or you can find it in FACTS under the Resource Document tab.

- **Please note the date change for the K-2 Family Fun Night!** The event will be on Friday, January 23, 2026 instead of Friday, January 16, 2026. More details to come!
- **Staff Appreciation Breakfast:** PTO is blessing the staff by providing breakfast on Wednesday, December 17. If you would like to serve, sign-up [HERE!](#)

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

- **Last chance to buy gift cards before Christmas!** Cash & Carry is still available!
- **There is no TRIP order for physical gift cards this week BUT Cash & Carry is available this Thursday!** Pop into the school office on Thursday Dec. 18 from 8-9am to purchase gift cards we keep in stock. Limited quantities are available. To ensure we have the vendor and quantity of cards you need, send an email in advance to [trip@highlandchristian.org](mailto:trip@highlandchristian.org) and 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~~ sold out), Teibel's (\$25). Online ordering (egift cards, reloads) are available 24/7. Questions or ready to order? Email Sherry Hiatt [trip@highlandchristian.org](mailto:trip@highlandchristian.org).
- **The TRIP Office wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**
- **January TRIP Order Dates:** Jan. 7, Jan 14, Jan 21, Jan 28
- **TRIP Volunteer Schedule:** Dec. 16-Team C, Jan 13-Team D, Jan-20, Jan 27

### **COMMUNITY NEWS:**

- **Red Oaks Ranch** invites you to their event “Christmas Fun with Horses” from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on December 11-13 or December 18-20. For more information, please visit their website [Red Oaks Ranch](#).
- **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](mailto:IllianaWrestling@gmail.com). Also look out for our first, ever Girls Only wrestling camp in January of this upcoming year.