



# HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – January 5, 2026

*“Scripture Follower”*

II Timothy 3:16-17

## **FROM THE DESK OF DR. WEENER:**

Dear Highland Christian School Community,

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” — *Lamentations 3:22–23*

Welcome back from winter break! We pray that your Christmas break was filled with rest, joy, and meaningful time celebrating the birth of our Savior with family and friends. As we return to school, we do so with renewed energy and gratitude, ready to embrace the opportunities God has before us in the months ahead.

This midpoint of the school year provides a natural moment for a fresh start—reestablishing routines, setting new goals, and refocusing our hearts and minds on learning and growth. We are thankful for the continued success of our students, who are flourishing academically, spiritually, and relationally. Their hard work, perseverance, and growth are a reflection of God’s faithfulness, as well as the dedication of our teachers and staff who faithfully serve and shepherd them each day.

I also want to take a moment to express sincere gratitude to the many individuals and families who so generously supported Highland Christian School through year-end gifts toward our expansion debt. Your generosity has been extraordinary. Because of your faithfulness, the original \$5,600,000 project cost has now been reduced to an outstanding balance of \$1,510,370. Every gift, whether large or small, makes an incredible impact on the 707 students (PreK - 8th grade) that are served at HCS. This is a powerful milestone and a testament to God’s provision through a committed and generous community. Thank you for your partnership and belief in the mission of HCS.

As we look ahead to the rest of the school year, our focus remains steadfast: meeting the needs of every student, supporting our community well, and continuing to nurture faith that is deeply rooted in Christ. We are excited for the growth still ahead—academically, spiritually, and as a school community—and we trust that God will continue to guide and sustain us.

Thank you for the privilege of partnering with you in Christian education. We look forward to finishing this school year strong, together, for God’s glory.

Dr. Kyle Weener - Head of School

## **SCHOOL NEWS:**

- **Thank You!** The faculty and staff of Highland Christian School would like to thank all of our HCS families for the wonderful goodies, gifts, and Christmas wishes this holiday season. We pray that all of you had a joyous Christmas season!

- **Christmas Gift:** This year our school theme is “**Scripture Followers**” from II Timothy 3:16-17: “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*” As our students and teachers waited to celebrate the amazing gift of Jesus, we welcomed the opportunity to *care* for the family of God around the world who experience oppression, hunger, illness, and poverty by bringing hope, peace, love, and joy.



I searched the 2025 Gift Catalog to find gifts that gave us the opportunity to partner with others as **Scripture Followers**. Students in Spiritual Life chose to purchase trees, seeds, kitchen gardens, soap, water filters, and latrines. We looked at ways we can help with food security, safe sanitation and soil management.

Our Christmas chapel included the promised messages from God about Jesus. We created a mailbox where students could place their messages of love, peace, joy, and hope for families around the world. At chapel I was able to reveal to students that we collected \$2767.00 to help others as they care for their families and for their land.

Thank you for sharing the hope, peace, love, and joy of Jesus with others. Thank you for giving Highland Christian students and families the opportunity to share in the joy of being “**Scripture Followers**”.

- **Late Start:** This Wednesday, January 7, 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.
- **26/27 School Year Calendar:** An email was sent earlier today regarding an important update to next year’s calendar. You can view the updated version [HERE](#).
- **Report Cards:** Friday, December 19, marked the end of the 2nd quarter. Report cards will be available for parents to view on January 16, 2026.
- **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!

**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

**Registration must be completed by Friday, January 9.** Click the following link for registration and more information: [4th-5th Grade Math Pentathlon](#)

- **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.
- **Saturday Serve:** January’s Saturday Serve will focus on supporting the HCS community by serving at our thrift store. Come as a family and gather at *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. Thank you for your work in bringing God’s Kingdom on earth. Questions? Contact Vicki Huizenga [vhuizena@highlandchristian.org](mailto:vhuizena@highlandchristian.org)  
**Date:** Saturday, January 24  
**Time:** 9 - 11 am  
**Place:** etc . . . Thrift Store 1650 US-41, Schererville, IN 46375  
**Sign-up:** [Saturday Serve Signup](#)
- **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-** [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:

- **Girls Basketball Try-Outs:** Girls basketball tryouts are 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. Unfortunately, due to the amount of girls trying out, cuts will have to be made at all levels. Please reach out to Mr. Hillegonds with any questions.  
**Practice times for the season are as follows:**
  - **6th grade - 5:45-7:00**
  - **7th grade - 3:15-4:30**
  - **8th grade - 4:30-5:45**

## FAITH CORNER:

### **Devotional:**

**"BECAUSE OF THE LORD'S GREAT LOVE WE ARE NOT CONSUMED, FOR HIS COMPASSIONS NEVER FAIL. THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING; GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS." LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23**

One thing that brings me great joy is watching the sun light up the sky. No matter how chaotic or discouraging the previous day was, the sun still rises each morning. It's as if God paints a reminder across the sky: You can start again.

This passage from Lamentations reminds me that God's compassion/love is better than the sunrise. "His compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Not just once or twice, but every morning. That is a promise that brings great joy.

God doesn't recycle old grace. He gives us fresh mercy for the day. Even when we feel overwhelmed or stuck in the rut of sin, God shows up with compassion.

We may not be able to erase what we said or did yesterday, but we can begin again. Let God's faithful love reset our hearts. God is not finished writing the story of our lives.

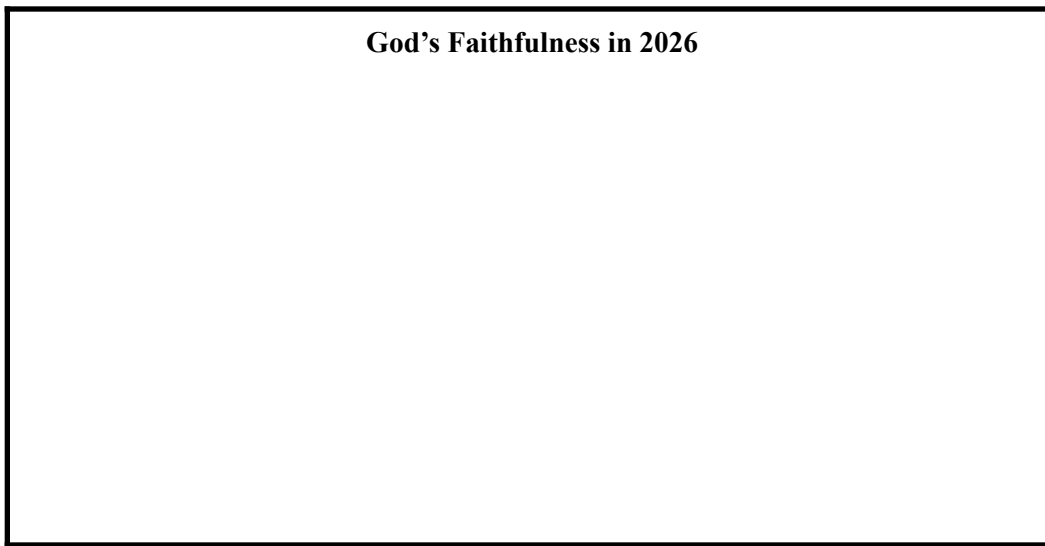
**Prayer:**

*Lord, Thank you for your compassion and faithfulness. When I feel helpless and hopeless, remind me of your love and faithfulness. Help me to embrace each day as a new morning and a fresh start. Amen.*

**Activity:**

At New Years, many people decide to make positive changes in their lives. Some people vow to exercise more or to break a bad habit. Others set goals, like reading one book per month or doing one act of kindness per week. What if this year you decided to focus on documenting God's faithfulness in your life?

**This Memory Jar activity** can help you and your family commit to creating a habit of remembering God's faithfulness all year long. First, use the **label** provided to help decorate a jar or container you already have.



**Then,** begin collecting memories of God's faithfulness.

Collecting memories is easy. Place your jar in a prominent place in your family's home. Each day, write a memory on one of the memory cards below or simply place a memorable item in the jar, such as a school program, a newspaper article, hospital ID, class assignment, your report card, or cards or notes.

Your jar will fill with both happy and sad memories, showing God is with you in both good and difficult times.

**Memory to share:**

**YOUR FAITHFULNESS ENDURES TO ALL GENERATIONS; YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED THE EARTH, AND IT STANDS FAST. Psalm 119:90**

By December 31st, you will have 365 memories of God's faithfulness! Then, on New Year's Eve, you and your family can take turns pulling items out of the jar and reflecting upon God's presence in your life during the past year.

### **PTO NEWS:**

- **Get ready for a family fun night that's out of this world!** K-2 students and their families are invited to join us on Friday, January 23rd for Professor Wow's Outer Space Adventures, a show that introduces the basic concepts of astronomy to space explorers. The show starts at 6:30pm and is located in the HCS gym.

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

- **T.R.I.P. Schedule:** Our next order for physical gift cards is due on Wednesday, January 7 at 3:30pm. This order will be available for pick up on Tuesday, Jan. 7 after 2:45pm.
- **Cash & Carry:** C&C is available this Thursday! Pop into the school office on Thursday 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), 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).
- January T.R.I.P. Order Dates: Jan. 7, Jan 14, Jan 21, Jan 28
- T.R.I.P. Volunteer Schedule: Jan 13-Team D, Jan-20, Jan 27-Team B, Feb. 3-Team C