



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – February 17, 2026

“Scripture Follower”

II Timothy 3:16-17

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **Late Start:** This Wednesday, February 18, 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.
- **February Saturday Serve: Our Saturday Serve in February will focus on sharing God’s love through fleece blankets.** Come as a family and gather in the gym at HCS to create fleece blankets for various organizations: Phil’s Friends, Something to Hold, PASS, etc. We will be cutting and tying fleece to create blankets. This is a significant way to share God’s love with people in our community.

Date: Saturday, February 21

Time: 9:00 - 11:00 am

Place: Highland Christian School gym 3040 Ridge Road Highland, IN

RSVP: [February Saturday Serve signup](#)

This Saturday Serve is open to all ages. Cutting the fleece strips will require good scissors (If you have a pair that cuts fabric well, please bring them.) and excellent cutting skills (This will not be the task for preschool - primary students.) Tying the fleece strips would be an excellent parent-child activity. We will also be making cards for Phil’s Friends (an organization that supports people with a cancer diagnosis). Templates will be provided. These encouraging cards are sent to cancer patients monthly. **Thank you for your work in bringing God’s Kingdom on earth.** Questions? Contact Vicki Huizenga vhuizenga@highlandchristian.org

- **Email regarding the 26/27 HCS Budget:** Tomorrow, February 18, an email will be sent to all families regarding the 2026–2027 HCS Budget. Please be on the lookout for this important communication, as it will include details about next year’s tuition costs, as well as information about this year’s Annual Budget Meeting.
- **HCS Listening Sessions:** Our last 6th-8th grade listening session will be held on Friday, February 27 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. This session is open to families of 6th- 8th grade students. Space is limited to 12 parents in each session. We are looking forward to hearing your valued and important feedback! To sign up, please complete the following [Sign-Up Genius Form](#).

Additionally, we have added two evening sessions for any parent with a student in K-8th grade who was not able to attend a previous session. The dates are Wednesday, March 4 from 5:30-6:20 pm. and Tuesday, March 17 from 5:00-5:50 pm. To sign up, please complete the following [Sign-Up Genius Form](#).

- **Re-Enrollment:** Re-enrollment packets will be issued on **February 20 and due on March 16**. These packets include items such as applying for the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program, updating medical information, agreeing to HCS policies, signing up for bus, BAC, milk, and hot lunch, etc. **All items** within your re-enrollment packet must be completed in order for your contract to be submitted. **Failure to complete and submit the**

re-enrollment contract and packet by March 16, may result in the loss of a seat. If you need help logging into FACTS, please email awieringa@highlandchristian.org

For those applying for the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program, if you are unable to upload your completed 2025 tax return by March 16, you **must** contact Mrs. Katie Hernandez, Data Specialist, at khernandez@highlandchristian.org and share your tax timeline.

- **3-5th grade Parent Survey:** As a learning community, we deliberately seek feedback from our stakeholders to celebrate great work and understand opportunities for future improvements. Each year, we ask for feedback on a number of teachers. For the 25-26 school year, we are seeking feedback for the elementary department (3rd-5th grade) teachers. Thank you for taking the time to complete this [short survey](#). This survey can be taken multiple times for different staff members through Friday, February 27. Again, thank you for your feedback. Hearing from you is very important as we seek to serve your child and family well.
- **Library Read-a-Thon:** Thanks so much for all the students and parents that are a part of the Reading Team! This is just a reminder that all white envelopes are due back by the end of February - You may bring them in anytime before that. We appreciate the time and effort you are taking to support libraries in the community and in our school.
- **Book Week:** February 23-27 is this year's Book Week. We are celebrating the joys of reading and having the annual Scholastic Book Fair. The book fair will be open Tuesday, February 24 to Friday, February 27 from 8am to 4 pm. Reading will be done daily within the classroom and everyday will stress the fun of reading through an olympic dress up theme. Join us for the fun and establish a reading time at home too! Please click [HERE](#) for more information regarding the book fair!
Reading is an Olympic Sport:
Monday – “Speed or Sprint” to a library for a good book – wear team or country colors
Tuesday – “Curling” up with a book is the best – wear flannel or a cozy shirt.
Wednesday – “Luge” into a book – Wear something athletic
Thursday – Reading lets you be the best “you” you can be – Book Character Day!
Friday – “Ring” in Knowledge with books – Wear a color from the Olympic rings (blue, yellow, black, green or red).

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to volunteer! We still need help on Thursday, 2/26. Please reach out to Mrs. Zandstra in the Library if you are available!

- **7th grade Fun Night:** Come for a night of food, fun, and fellowship with other 7th graders from area Christian schools. There is NO cost for the event.
 - **When:** Friday, February 27
 - **Time:** 5:30 - 7:30pm
 - **Place:** Crown Point Christian School
10550 Park Place. St. John, IN 46373
 - **RSVP by February 20:** [HERE](#)



- **Morning drop-off Announcement:** Based on feedback from our parent listening groups, we're piloting a new drop-off procedure. For the remainder of February, buses will remain in the bus lane until 8:20 a.m. to help speed up the drop-off line. If this adjustment proves successful, we'll share whether it will become a permanent part of our morning procedures. Stay tuned!
- **Hot Lunch Menu-** [February Lunch Menu](#)
- **Employment Opportunities:** To view all of our current openings, please visit our [website](#).

ATHLETIC NEWS:

February 18: Girls 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.

February 19: Girls 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.

February 21: Girls Basketball Tournament

- 6th grade at Calvary Academy- [Tournament Information](#)
- 7th grade at Crown Point Christian - [Tournament Information](#)



Boys Volleyball Tryouts: Tryouts for boys volleyball will be held on Monday, February 23 and Tuesday, February 24 from 3:15–4:30 PM. Tryouts are open to 7th and 8th grade boys. We will have one 7th grade team and one 8th grade team. Each student must have an active physical on file with Highland Christian School in order to participate in athletics. Students may attend tryouts without a physical on file; however, they will not be permitted to practice or participate in games until a current physical has been submitted. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Hillegonds.

Jr. Vikings Middle School Flag Football League: Illiana Christian is thrilled to start our Middle School Flag Football program. This program is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boys and girls. More information and the registration link can be found [HERE](#).

FAITH CORNER:

This week marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a period of 40 days before Easter. Christians purposely use this time to prepare for the celebration and meaning of Easter. By spending time in God's Word thinking about **our need for God and Jesus' sacrifice for us** we will build strong faith practices and prepare our hearts for Easter.

Questions: What is something you need?
What is something you want from God?

Bible passage: Matthew 6:5-15 - Lord's Prayer

When you pray, do not be like those who only pretend to be holy. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners. They want to be seen by other people. What I'm about to tell you is true. They have received their complete reward. When you pray, go into your room. Close the door and pray to your Father, who can't be seen. Your Father will reward you, because he sees what you do secretly. When you pray, do not keep talking on and on. That is what ungodly people do. They think they will be heard because they talk a lot. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need even before you ask him.

This, then, is how you should pray:

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*



Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Some later manuscripts add: *for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

Thoughts: During Lent, one way to grow in faith is to pray daily.

Think about the things you pray for each day. Do you pray and then forget about it?

God wants us to pray, and then listen, in order for us to learn His heart. He also wants us to go take action as He leads.

Too often, we allow prayer to become routine. We get stuck praying the exact same “*thank you, God, for everything*” prayer, or we focus only on asking God for “*stuff*”.

In the weeks leading up to Easter, practice praying the way Jesus taught us in the Lord’s Prayer:

-Think about how you can **make God’s name** more holy.

-Ask God “**How can I do your will in school or at home?**”

-Thank God for your daily bread, clothes, home, toys, family, etc.(Make a list of all the things God has given you.)

-Ask for forgiveness from God and from others.

-Pray that God will protect you from danger **BUT** more importantly from choosing to do evil.

Activities: Make a **Prayer Chain** with 40 links (one for each day of Lent).

Write a different person’s name on each link. Pray for someone each night.

Find a need (a family, an organization) in your community.

Think about how you can be Christ’s hands & feet in this situation. Take action & do it.

T.R.I.P NEWS:

- **New!:** The AnyCard is now available for purchase (physical or egift card) with a 7% rebate. This is a multi vendor card that offers over 300 vendors to choose from. Perfect as a gift for that person who is hard to buy for!
- **Last TRIP Tuition Credit for 25/26 School Year Information:** Mark your calendars! April 21st is the cutoff day for earnings to be applied for this year's tuition for HCS and ICHS. All orders placed after April 21st will be applied to next year's tuition. If this is a transition year for your family, please see the following 3 options to ensure your account is up to date or closed.
 - If it is your child's last year at HCS but will be attending ICHS, please coordinate changes with Sherry Hiatt (trip@highlandchristian.org, ext. 199)
 - If it is your child's last year at HCS and will not be attending ICHS, please coordinate your final TRIP credit with Roberta Huitsing (ext. 152) or April Vander Meyden (ext. 166).
 - If it is your child's last year at ICHS, please coordinate your final credit with Kathy West (219-558-7066, ext. 111).
- **T.R.I.P. Schedule:** Our next order for physical gift cards is due on Wednesday, Feb.18 at 3:30pm. This order will be available for pick up on Tuesday, Feb. 24 after 2:45pm. Cash and Carry is available by request. Please email all Cash and Carry requests to trip@highlandchristian.org. **Upcoming T.R.I.P. Order Dates:** Feb. 25, March 4, March 11 and March 18
- **T.R.I.P. Volunteer Schedule:** Feb. 17-Team A, Feb. 24-Team B, March 3-Team C, March 10-Team D

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- **Preview Illiana:** Please join us on Thursday, March 12 for our last PREVIEW ILLIANA of the year! Preview Illiana is an opportunity for prospective students and their families to experience Illiana. Meet with faculty and administration, tour our campus, and have all your questions answered.
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.org
- **Boys Basketball Skills Session:** The Performance and Mobility Lab is hosting a basketball skills session on February 21 for boys ages 8-12. This skill session is free, all they have to do is register for it. For more information, please see the [attached flyer](#).
- **P.I.E Fundraiser at Illiana: Tuesday, February 24, 2026** will be our annual P.I.E pizza & pie fundraiser to support the Excellence in Education Fund. Money raised is used to purchase educational tools for every department. We approved nearly \$65,000 this school year!
 - **We are offering Rosati's Take and Bake Deep Dish Pizza (10" - 4 slices) - cheese, sausage, or pepperoni - and Rise 'n Roll Apple or Cherry Pie.**
 - Pick-up will be in the Commons at Illiana between 2:00 - 5:00 pm ON February 24. Note that these pizzas come frozen and can be stored for several months.
 - There are three ways to donate: check or cash at pick-up or via credit card in the space provided on the form. Please consider a minimum donation of \$20 per pizza and \$20 per pie.
 - After ordering, please make sure you receive a confirmation email to show when you pick up your order on February 24.
 - If you have any questions please contact Cortney Housman at 708.653.1345
 - **Please fill out the [form](#) to place your order!** Order deadline is February 18, 2026
- **Highland Girls Softball Registration is now open!** Please review their recent [flyer](#) for more information on their program.