



# HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – February 23, 2026

*“Scripture Follower”*

II Timothy 3:16-17

## SCHOOL NEWS:

- **Saturday Serve Thank YOU:** Thank you to all who showed up for Saturday Serve to make fleece blankets for Phil’s Friends, Pass Pregnancy, and Something to Hold. What a terrific and productive morning we had!



Our wonderful group of volunteers - including several alumni - cut and tied fleece to create beautifully crafted blankets. These blankets will be distributed by the three organizations, each of which ministers by bringing comfort and hope to individuals and families going through difficult circumstances, including cancer, unexpected pregnancy, and the loss of a baby.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time and talents to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

- **Chapel:** Everyone is invited to the all-school chapel this Friday at 8:30 a.m. led by our 3rd grade students.
- **Donut Day:** Donut Day is this Wednesday, February 25. Donuts will be \$2.50 each and we will have chocolate, strawberry, vanilla and glazed donuts. All proceeds will go to the 8th grade class trip.
- **Re-Enrollment:** Re-enrollment packets were issued last Friday via FACTS and are due by 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](mailto: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](mailto:khernandez@highlandchristian.org) and share your tax timeline.

- **HCS Listening Sessions:** Our last 6th-8th grade listening session will be held this 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. 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](#).

- **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 a reminder that all white envelopes are due on FRIDAY!** 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:** Book Week is HERE!! 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 and THANK YOU to everyone who has signed up to volunteer!  
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).
- **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!
- **K-5 Spring Program:** The K-5 Spring program is on March 19 and we have adjusted the performance schedule. Below you will find the updated times:
  - K-2nd Students should be in the classroom at 5:40 pm. Performance begins at 6:00 pm
  - 3rd-5th Students should be in the classroom at 6:25 pm. Performance begins at 6:45 pm
- **Hot Lunch Menu-** [February Lunch Menu](#), [March Lunch Menu](#)
- **Employment Opportunities:** To view all of our current openings, please visit our [website](#).



## ATHLETIC NEWS:

**Boys Volleyball Tryouts:** Tryouts for boys volleyball will be held this 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 is the first full week 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:** How does it feel to give a gift?  
If you had \$10 or \$100 to spend on someone else, what would you buy?  
What are three things you can do at school tomorrow to help someone else?

**Bible passage: Mark 12:38-44 - Warning Against the Teachers of the Law & The Widow's Offering**

### **Warning Against the Teachers of the Law**

*As he taught, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets.*

*They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely."*

### **The Widow's Offering**

*Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.*

*But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.*

*Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."*

**Thoughts:** During Lent, one way to grow in faith is to give to others. Giving pleases God, but not many of us actually give sacrificially. Do you give your "leftovers" - *whatever you don't want or need anymore? whatever is left after your needs are met?* During Lent, instead of holding tightly to what you have, ask God to help you hold everything loosely so you can give generously. Sacrificial or generous giving is a way to give thanks to God for His great sacrificial gift, Jesus.  
-What does it mean to give your very best, rather than just leftovers, to God or others?  
-When you see a need, how can you help, even if it costs you time, money, or comfort?

**Activities:** As a family, create a **Giving Jar or a Giving Box**. Talk about ways your family can save money between now and Easter: *giving up a coffee, not spending your allowance on stuff, not eating out as a family, etc.* Put that money in the **Giving Jar/Box**. Discuss how to give this money away - *to church, local ministry, or a family in need*. Pray and watch for an opportunity to give.



## PTO NEWS:

- The PTO Fun Night for 6th-8th grade is on Friday, March 6 and they are having a Nacho Game Night! PTO is in need of quite a few volunteers. If you are interested, please sign up [HERE!](#)

## T.R.I.P NEWS:

- **Spring Break Travel Bonuses:** Spring Break prep starts here! Make every mile count with limited-time bonuses from top brands. Travel bonuses end 2/27. Visit [Raiseright.com](http://Raiseright.com) for participating vendors and details. For any questions, email Sherry Hiatt at [trip@highlandchristian.org](mailto:trip@highlandchristian.org).
- **T.R.I.P. Schedule:** Our next order for physical gift cards is due on Wednesday, Feb.25 at 3:30pm. This order will be available for pick up on Tuesday, March 3 after 2:45pm. Cash & Carry is available by email request at [trip@highlandchristian.org](mailto:trip@highlandchristian.org). Available Cash & Carry Vendors: Amazon (\$25), Aurelios (\$20), Beggars (\$20), Chick-fil-a (\$10), Culver's (\$10), Dunkin Donuts (\$10), Edwardo's/Miner Dunn (\$10), Hohman Hallmark (\$10), Starbucks (\$10 & \$25), Strack & Van Til (\$50 & \$100), Teibel's (\$25).
- **Upcoming T.R.I.P. Order Dates:** March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25
- **T.R.I.P. Volunteer Schedule:** Feb. 24-Team B, March 3-Team C, March 10-Team D, March 17-Team A

## 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](mailto:jdutton@illianachristian.org)
- **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.