



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – March 2, 2026

“Scripture Follower”

II Timothy 3:16-17

FROM THE DESK OF DR. WEENER:

Highland Christian School Parents,

At Highland Christian, we are continually reminded that the single greatest in-school influence on a child’s growth is the quality of his or her teacher. Curriculum matters. Facilities matter. Programs matter. But it is the heart, skill, and calling of a teacher that most powerfully shapes a child’s academic achievement and spiritual formation.

Scripture speaks directly to this sacred responsibility: *“Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly”* (James 3:1). Teaching is not simply a profession—it is a calling that carries weight, influence, and eternal significance. Our teachers understand this. They do not step into classrooms casually; they step in prayerfully, prepared to shepherd minds and hearts each day.

Research consistently shows that teachers account for a significant portion of a student’s academic growth in a given year. A highly effective teacher can dramatically accelerate learning, while years with less effective instruction can have lasting consequences. Beyond academics, teachers today serve in expanded roles: mentor, counselor, encourager, mediator, communicator, and spiritual role model. In many ways, they stand on the front lines of developing resilience, character, critical thinking, and most importantly - faith.

The broader educational landscape highlights just how valuable teachers truly are. Across the United States, there are more than 400,000 open public school teaching positions—a reflection of both the challenges facing the profession and the urgent need for committed, capable educators. In such a climate, it is no small blessing that Highland Christian is served by a stable, mission-driven faculty and staff who are deeply invested in their calling.

Our teachers are not here by accident. They are here because they believe in Christian education. They believe that every subject is an opportunity to point students toward truth. They believe that excellence honors God and that children deserve consistency, accountability, and love.

You see their work in carefully prepared lessons, thoughtful feedback on assignments, out of school tutoring, after-school events, patient emails, and steady encouragement. What may look ordinary on the surface is often extraordinary behind the scenes.

As we continue partnering together, here are several tangible ways you can support our teachers:

- **Pray regularly** for your child’s teacher by name—for wisdom, endurance, and joy.
- **Speak positively about teachers at home.** Children’s attitudes toward school are often shaped by what they hear from their parents.
- **Encourage responsibility in your child.** Ensure homework is completed, materials are organized, and your child comes prepared each day.
- **Communicate proactively and graciously.** When questions arise, reach out with a spirit of partnership rather than assumption.

- **Express appreciation.** An unexpected note, email, or kind word can be deeply encouraging.
- **Respect boundaries.** Allow teachers time for rest and family by honoring HCS' communication guidelines and response times.

When families and teachers stand unified, students thrive. Thank you for partnering with us to uphold, encourage, and strengthen the remarkable educators God has placed at Highland Christian. It is truly a privilege to serve alongside you in shaping the next generation for Christ.

Dr. Kyle Weener
Head of School - Highland Christian School

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **Late Start:** This Wednesday, March 4, 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.
- **Parent Satisfaction Survey:** As a learning community, hearing from our parents is very important to us. We are asking every household to complete the [K-8 Parent Satisfaction Survey](#). Your responses should reflect the collective experience of your family. With this feedback, we are best able to make plans that align with our parents' feedback & our vision to academically equip, Biblically ground, and spiritually nurture to impact the world for Christ. Thank you for completing this survey by **Monday, March 23**.
- **Book Fair:** Thanks to everyone who supported the BookFair - it was a huge success. Special appreciation to the women who helped during the day, supporting students who were buying and keeping the area neat. Such a joy to see the excitement when a child finds a new book to read and love. The fair continues online - if you need more books :) - just click the [LINK](#) and continue shopping. Our Husky readers ROCK!
- **Public Library Read-A-Thon:** Thanks so much for the huge support that you give to the public library and our school library. The response knocked me over!! FYI - a reminder that all white envelopes need to be turned in this week. Again a Huge Thanks!!
- **Re-Enrollment:** Re-enrollment packets 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.** 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.

A few troubleshooting tips for re-enrollment:

1. You need to use a desktop or laptop computer. Please make sure pop-ups and redirects are enabled.
 2. Amy Wieringa will have school laptops available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings if you need additional help submitting your application. Please contact her at awieringa@highlandchristian.org if you need assistance or would like to come and use a school computer.
- **Budget Meeting:** HCS parents and community members are invited to learn more about the 26/27 Budget and planning process on Monday, March 16 at 6:00pm in the HCS gym. We hope to see you there!
 - **HCS Listening Sessions:** 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](#).

- **March Saturday Serve : Hammond Riverside Christian School Work Day**

This month we are partnering with others doing work at Hammond Riverside in anticipation of its opening this fall. At the work day, projects will be assigned to small groups. There are a variety of indoor and outdoor projects that will be happening at the new school. Your support is greatly appreciated and will help families in North Lake County experience the blessing of a Christian Education. Your involvement will make a direct impact in the lives of so many children and families. Thank you!

Date: Saturday, March 21

Time: 8:30 - noon (Come when you can and stay as long as you can)

Place: HRCS 4925 Sohl Ave. Hammond, IN

Wear: clothes & shoes for working; bring work gloves

Questions: Contact Vicki Huizena vhuizena@highlandchristian.org

Sign-Up: [Sign-Up Here](#)

- **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-** [March Lunch Menu](#)
- **Employment Opportunities:** To view all of our current openings, please visit our [website](#).

ATHLETIC NEWS:

March 3: Boys Volleyball

- **7th grade vs. Southwest Chicago Christian (HOME) 4:00 p.m.**
- **8th grade vs. Southwest Chicago Christian (HOME) 5:00 p.m.**

March 5: Boys Volleyball

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

Expectations during Athletic Events: With boys volleyball games happening this month, please see the reminders on spectator conduct during home games. All students are expected to stay in the foyer or in the gym during games, students may not be outside if they are staying for the game. Please remind your student/s of the expectations.

1. All children or students (5th grade and under) must be in one of two places at all times:
 - a. In the bleachers under the watch of their parents/guardians.
 - b. In the hallways or in the gym foyer when heading to or from the bleachers, concession stand or bathroom.
2. JRH students may attend the games without their parents/guardians. In the event that their behavior is not appropriate, their ability to attend games without an adult will be revoked by an Administrator and their parents/guardians will need to attend future games with them. All K-5 students must be accompanied by an adult.
3. Children and students may not congregate in the bathrooms.
4. Locker rooms are strictly off limits to anyone except the players using them.
5. Children and students are not allowed on the court at any time.
6. Food is allowed in the bleachers and on the stage. Please be courteous and dispose of your trash in the proper

receptacles. Should anything spill, please clean up after yourself or ask a staff member for assistance. HCS appreciates your efforts.

Jr. Vikings Middle School Flag Football League: Iliana 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 second 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: Who is your best friend?
What do you like to do with your friends?
How do your friends support you in difficult situations?

Bible Passage: Jesus had many friends. Jesus brought 3 of His disciples up a mountain to see His transfiguration.
Read Luke 9:28-36

The Transfiguration

About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.

As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)

While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

Thoughts: “A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:12
This is a good thing when it comes to friends! Friends can bring much needed strength in hard times. Just like Jesus, we rejoice with our friends, cry with them, and worship God together. Do you ever talk with your friends about what you are learning from God? Lent is a great time to focus on building-up your spiritual community. When we are connected to other Christians, Satan cannot easily break us, because friends look out for each other and pray for each other. When we are in community with other Christians, we grow—in more ways than we can count!

Activities: Show that cords of three (or more) strands are not easily broken. During Lent, make friendship bracelets to remind you of your strength together. Have fun showing your friends how important they are to you.

Prayer: Dear God, *Thank you for surrounding us with friends and family who support us. Thank you for sending Jesus, who is our best friend.*



*Thank you for giving us opportunities to be a friend to others.
Help us be friends that encourage, rejoice, and worship together.*

Amen.

PTO NEWS:

- **PTO Fun Night:** The PTO Fun Night for 6th-8th grade is this Friday, March 6 from 6:30-8:30 pm and they are having a Nacho Average Game Night! PTO is in need of quite a few volunteers. If you are interested, please sign up [HERE!](#)

T.R.I.P NEWS:

- **Raise Days:** Four days of BIG earnings! Mark your calendar for earnings up to 25%. Earn extra on eGift cards, reloaded cards, and online shopping with 100+ brands on bonus, March 6-9. Visit Raiseright.com for details.
- **T.R.I.P. Schedule:** Our next order for physical gift cards is due on Wednesday, March 4 at 3:30pm. This order will be available for pick up on Tuesday, March 10 after 2:45pm. Cash & Carry is available by email request at 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 11, March 18, April 8, April 15
- **T.R.I.P. Volunteer Schedule:** March 3-Team C, March 10-Team D, March 17-Team A, March 24-Team B

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- **Illiana Viking Academy:** Illiana Christian HS Viking Academy Registration is officially OPEN for sign-ups! Whether your kiddo loves sports, arts, or adventure, we've got a spot just for them. Don't wait - spots will fill up fast! Sign up today and give your child a summer they'll never forget <https://www.illianachristian.org/life-ichs/viking-academy/>
- **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
- **Highland Girls Softball Registration is now open!** Please review their recent [flyer](#) for more information on their program.
- **Save the date for Dordt Discovery Days registration!** Every year, Dordt University, in Sioux Center, IA, offers a five-day academic camp for students who have completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. Camp will be June 22-26, 2026. This is a fun time for living and learning in an on-campus Christ-centered community while exploring new interests or diving deeper into familiar ones. Registration opens on Friday, April 10 at 10 a.m. (CT), and spots typically fill up in the first 20-30 minutes. Check out our website or follow Dordt Discovery Days on Facebook for

more information. If you have questions, email becky.ringsby@dordt.edu.

- **Illiana Community Choir:**



Illiana Community Choir
Calling
All Singers

Love to sing?
Come join the Illiana Community
Choir in their spring season.
Contact Kathy Sliemers with any questions:
ksliemers@illianachristian.org



Registration Form

The poster features a vibrant green background with light green wavy patterns. It includes several musical notes in various colors (pink, blue, orange, yellow) and a treble clef. There are also small white stars and larger orange stars scattered throughout the design.

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