



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – March 23, 2026

“Scripture Follower”

II Timothy 3:16-17

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **Parent Satisfaction Survey: LAST CHANCE!** 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.
- **2026 March Madness Bracket Competition:** It has come to our attention that some entries were submitted using inappropriate or vulgar language. Unfortunately, due to the inability to remove only those specific entries, we will be deleting the entire ESPN Online Bracket for HCS. However, the competition will still continue for participants who followed the rules:
 1. One submission per person
 2. Full name must be used (no nicknames)

We have printed all valid entries and will continue to manually track the progress of those participants. We appreciate your understanding and pray for a different outcome next year.

- **Spring Break & Office Hours:** This is the last week of school before spring break. We pray that our families have a safe and restful spring break and a blessed Easter! The school office will have limited hours over break and will be open Monday- Thursday from 8am- 12pm. School will resume on Monday, April 6.
- **Donut Day:** Donut Day is this Wednesday. 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.
- **Chapel:** Everyone is invited to the all-school Easter Chapel this Friday at 8:30 a.m.
- **Report Cards:** 3rd Quarter report cards will be available for parents to view this Friday, March 27.
- **Lost and not-Found:** The lost and found is overflowing!! Please stop by and take a look before the end of the week. Anything left by the end of the day on Friday, March 27 will be placed in the ETC trailer.
- **Math Pentathlon:** Last Saturday, we had our **sixth** annual 4th & 5th grade Math Pentathlon tournament. Over 50 students came to compete in a variety of math games that assist in developing strategy, number sense, and math confidence. Students signed up to play their top two favorite games. Tournament play consisted of single elimination games. After many fierce battles, we had a champion for each of the five games. Let's congratulate our champions:
 - Contig 60 - **Kaleb Sserwadda**
 - Stars & Bars - **Owen Hiskes**
 - Juggle - **Milo Bouquet**

Fab-a-Diffy - **TJ Jacobs**
Queens & Guards - **Ethan Hines**

Every participant played well and grew in skill and confidence with math concepts throughout the season. It was a pleasure to see the kids use their gifts and talents to have fun, learn more about math, and honor the Lord through sportsmanship and great teamwork! This is an excellent program and a great experience for students.

We also would like to thank the Junior High students who mentored the mathletes throughout the season and assisted as judges at the tournament. Our Junior High mentors were Hayden Hiskes, Finley Lang, Zaiden Vargas, A.J. Verkaik, and Enyu Wang. Thank you so much!!!

- **Retirement Wishes!** Help us celebrate our special retirees by sharing your [well wishes here!!](#) We are collecting fond memories, words of encouragement and happy retirement blessings for **Joyce, Kathy, Gail, Diana, Laurie, and Cheryl.**



In addition to gathering your well wishes, we will be celebrating all of our retirees on **Thursday, May 7, 2026** with an Open House, serving cake and refreshments in the gym from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Stop by and wish them well!

- **Employment Opportunities:** Do you know someone who loves kids, loves Jesus, and would be an asset to our school community? We have several new openings for next year and we need your help to spread the word!! To view all of our current openings, please visit our [website](#).
- **Donate to BAC** - Now is the chance to declutter your home and start your spring cleaning early. BAC (Before & After Care) is looking for lightly used toys, games, and art supplies. All donated resources can be dropped off at the HCS Office. Thanks for helping the kids before and after school have some new and improved resources!
- **Email Communication:** It has come to our attention that a number of constituents are no longer receiving all-school communication. We are investigating why this may be happening and are working with our communications vendor to determine how to resolve this concern. Once we have more information, we will be sure to share it with you.
- **Hot Lunch Menu-** [March Lunch Menu](#), [April Lunch Menu](#)

ATHLETIC NEWS:

Track: Co-ed Jr. High track is just around the corner. The first track practice will take place on Tuesday, April 7th. Practices will be Monday-Thursday from 3:15-4:00. All students planning to participate must have an active physical on file. Please reach out to Mr. Hillemonds with any questions or concerns.

March 25: Boys Volleyball

- **7th grade @ Chicago Christian Tinley (AWAY) 4:00 p.m.**
- **8th grade @ Chicago Christian Tinley (AWAY) 5:00 p.m.**

March 26: Boys Volleyball

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

FAITH CORNER:

This is the fifth 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: Think about a time when you told a lie. Why did you lie? Did you want something? Were you scared? See the lie. Talk about the lie. Find the reason for the lie. The reason doesn't excuse the lie, but discussing it can help you find a way to forgive and build trust again.

Bible Passage: 2 Kings 5:1-16 - Naaman Is Healed of a Skin Disease

Naaman was army commander of the king of Aram. He was very important to his master and was highly respected. That's because the LORD had helped him win the battle over Aram's enemies. He was a brave soldier. But he had a skin disease.

2 Groups of soldiers from Aram had marched out. They had captured a young girl from Israel. She became a servant of Naaman's wife. 3 The young girl spoke to the woman she was serving. She said, "I wish my master would go and see the prophet who is in Samaria. He would heal my master of his skin disease."

4 Naaman went to see his own master. He told him what the girl from Israel had said. 5 "I think you should go," the king of Aram replied. "I'll give you a letter to take to the king of Israel." So Naaman left. He took 750 pounds of silver with him. He also took 150 pounds of gold. And he took ten sets of clothes. 6 He carried the letter to the king of Israel. It said, "I'm sending my servant Naaman to you with this letter. I want you to heal him of his skin disease.

7 The king of Israel read the letter. As soon as he did, he tore his royal robes. He said, "Am I God? Can I kill people and bring them back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be healed of his skin disease? He must be trying to pick a fight with me!"

8 Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes. So he sent the king a message. Elisha said, "Why have you torn your robes? Tell the man to come to me. Then he will know there is a prophet in Israel." 9 So Naaman went to see Elisha. He took his horses and chariots with him. He stopped at the door of Elisha's house. 10 Elisha sent a messenger out to him. The messenger said, "Go! Wash yourself in the Jordan River seven times. Then your skin will be healed. You will be pure and 'clean' again."

11 But Naaman went away angry. He said, "I was sure Elisha would come out to me. I thought he would stand there and pray to the LORD his God. I thought he would wave his hand over my skin. Then I would be healed. 12 And what about the Abana and Pharpar rivers of Damascus? Aren't they better than all the rivers of Israel? Couldn't I wash in the rivers of Damascus and be made pure and 'clean'?" So he turned and went away. He was very angry.

13 Naaman's servants went over to him. They said, "You are like a father to us. What if Elisha the prophet had told you to do some great thing? Wouldn't you have done it? But he only said, 'Wash yourself. Then you will be pure and "clean." ' You should be even more willing to do that!" 14 So Naaman went down to the Jordan River. He dipped himself in it seven times. He did exactly what the man of God had told him to do. Then his skin was made pure again. It became "clean" like the skin of a young boy.

For the word of the
Lord is right and
true;
he is faithful in all
he does.

- Psalms 33:4 NIV

15 Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. Naaman stood in front of Elisha. Naaman said, "Now I know that there is no God anywhere in the whole world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from me."

16 The prophet answered, "I serve the LORD. You can be sure that he lives. And you can be just as sure that I won't accept a gift from you." Even though Naaman begged him to take it, Elisha wouldn't.

Thoughts: Naaman offered Elisha a gift of thanks. Elisha would not take the gift. But his servant had other ideas. Gehazi thought that if he told a lie he would get all of Elisha's gifts. Gehazi thought he got away with it and even lied to Elisha. But he was found out and punished, losing everything, even his health.

Telling lies is never worth it. You might get something you want right now, but you lose the trust of other people. Even if **they** don't know you lied, **you** know you did. God knows too and that sin affects your relationship with him.

Questions: The Bible shows that the world is broken by sin and that this brokenness is not the way things are supposed to be. How can you talk about a lie so that you can work toward forgiveness and make things better? If you are the one who has lied, how can you earn back trust? Want to learn more about telling the truth? Read Psalm 33:4; John 14:6; Psalm 25:4-5

Prayer: Heavenly Father,
Your Word is right and true. You are faithful in everything.
Jesus, you even called yourself "the Tuth".
I have searched my heart and I know that you hate lying.
But you are a friend to people who are trustworthy.
Show me your ways Lord, and teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth.
For you are God, my Savior, and my hope is in you. Amen.

Activities: **Trust Paper Experiment:** Crumple a piece of paper (representing a lie) and then try to straighten it out, showing that while we can apologize, the wrinkles (effects of lying) can still be seen, teaching that truth-telling builds trust.

The T.H.I.N.K. Method: Ask these questions before you say something:

- Is it **True**
- Is it **Helpful**
- Is it **Inspiring**
- Is it **Necessary**
- Is it **Kind**

"Truth Shines" Black Light Lesson: Use a black light to show that some items glow and others do not, representing how honesty "shines" in a dark world, while lies stay hidden.

PTO NEWS:

- **K-2 Family Fun Night:** Our K-2 Family Fun Night is Friday, April 10th. Doors open at 6pm and the show will start promptly at 6:30p. Professor Wow's Space Adventures is a show designed to introduce basic concepts of astronomy to our little ones. It will be a night of fun and learning of cosmic proportions!
- **Muffins with your Miss:** Mark your Calendars! Wednesday, April 29th is our "Muffins with your Miss" event.

T.R.I.P NEWS:

- **There is no T.R.I.P order for physical cards this week!**
- **Cash & Carry is available!** Email your Cash & Carry request to trip@highlandchristian.org. Available 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).
- **Egift cards and reloads are always available on Raiseright.com.** Questions? Email Sherry Hiatt (trip@highlandchristian.org).
- **T.R.I.P. Schedule:** Our next order for physical gift cards is due on Wednesday, April 8 at 3:30pm. This order will be available for pick up on Tuesday, April 14 after 2:45pm. Upcoming Order Dates: April 15, April 22, April 29 and May 6
- **T.R.I.P. Volunteer Schedule:** March 24-Team B, April 14-Team C, April 21-Team D, May 5-Team A

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- **EPIC Volleyball: Interested in volleyball? Check out [EPIC camp opportunities](#) this summer.**
- **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 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/>
- **Theater Camp at Towle Theater:** This spring break we are offering a **Lights Up! Spring Break Theater Camp** for students ages 8-16, running **March 30 – April 3 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM** at the Towle Theater. Throughout the week, students will explore a variety of theater activities including **acting, improv, choreography, theater games, and scene work** in a fun and supportive environment. No previous theater experience is required.

