



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – March 9, 2026

“Scripture Follower”

II Timothy 3:16-17

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **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](#).
- **Security:** In conjunction with the State of Indiana’s statewide Tornado drill on Tuesday, March 10, HCS will join hundreds of other schools and businesses across the state in practicing their severe weather preparedness. The National Weather Service will issue a test tornado warning alert which will be shared through most notification systems including the statewide Emergency Alert System. It is likely that HCS will hear the Town of Highland’s severe weather sirens during our drill.

March is Severe Weather Preparedness Month. Families are encouraged to talk to their students about the importance of drills and how your family can be prepared & remain safe during storms by visiting the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration at <https://www.weather.gov/>.

- **Chapel:** Everyone is invited to the all-school chapel this Friday at 8:30 a.m. led by our 1st grade students.
- **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.
- **Illiana Symphonia:** Our 7th and 8th grade Band Students are heading to Illiana on **Wednesday, March 11**. The Illiana Symphonia is a unique opportunity for students to gather together in community and share their God-given talents. The performance begins at 6:30 pm. We would love for you to come out and support them!
- **End of 3rd Quarter:** This Friday marks the end of the 3rd quarter. Report cards will be available for parents to view on March 27, 2026.

- **Donations for Before and After Care:** Now is the perfect time to declutter your home and get a head start on spring cleaning! B.A.C. is currently looking for donations of lightly used toys, games, and art supplies. If you have board games or other items that your family no longer uses, please consider donating them to our B.A.C. students. Your donations will help provide fun and creative activities for the children while giving these items a new life
- **Library News:** The “Dragons Girls” poster from the book fair is up for grabs. All students that are interested in bringing it home can enter to win. Here’s how to enter: for every book read, a student can fill out a ticket and turn it into the library. The winner will be announced on Friday at noon.
- **Building Christian Men:** Calling all 7th and 8th grade boys! We are excited to announce our next student event: **Beach Baking at the Indiana Dunes!** On **Saturday, March 21, 2026**, we will be taking a trip to the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan at the Indiana Dunes for a unique and memorable outdoor experience. More information can be found [HERE!](#) Any questions, please reach out to bcm@highlandchristian.org.
- **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.
- **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**.
- **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. If you forgot your username, please reach out to Amy Wieringa or the school office. **DO NOT CREATE ANOTHER ACCOUNT.**
 2. You need to use a desktop or laptop computer. Please make sure pop-ups and redirects are enabled.
 3. 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.
- **K-5 Spring Program:** We invite you to join us for our K-5 Spring Program on Thursday, March 19 in the HCS Gym. Our K-2 program will start at 6pm, and the 3-5 program will start at 6:45pm. Please enter through the gym door (Door F). Doors will open at 5:35pm.

Please note two items:

1. Families with only a K-2 student will be asked to vacate the gym at 6:30pm to make room for 3-5 families.
2. Please remain seated for the duration of each program. Excessive movement causes disruption to the performances.

- **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:** Our last Listening Session is 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 Huizenga vhuizena@highlandchristian.org
Sign-Up: [Sign-Up Here](#)
- **Hot Lunch Menu-** [March Lunch Menu](#)

ATHLETIC NEWS:

March 10: Boys Volleyball

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

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. Registration ends on March 18. Sign up [HERE](#).

FAITH CORNER:

This is the third 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: What if you could make a list of every sin you had ever committed?
 How do you think that would make you feel?
 Imagine if a teacher kept a list of every mistake students made. The kids would hate going to school.

Bible Passage: Psalm 130

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;

2 Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

3 If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

4 But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.



5 I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

6 I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

7 Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

8 He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Thoughts: Psalm 130:3 says that if God kept a record of all sins, NO one would be able to stand before Him.

Thankfully, the Bible also says in **I John 1:9**, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

When we confess our sins and accept God's forgiveness, God promises to "forget" our sins. He doesn't hold any of them against us. His love and Jesus' death on the cross washes them away.

Put your name in the place of **Israel** in verse 7. We find our hope with God and His unfailing love.

Lent is a good time to also confess sins to family and friends. When we experience forgiveness from others, it helps us understand even better what Easter and God's forgiveness are all about.

Activity: Is there something that has been making you feel bad? Confess it to God. Write it on a piece of paper and then rip it up into tiny pieces and throw it away. That is what God does with our sin. He doesn't hold it against us.

Read the story of the **Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32**.

Prayer: Father God, Thank you for loving us.
Thank you for the gift of Jesus who died to pay for every sin.
Forgive us when we get angry or disobey; when we are unkind or hurtful.
Thank you for washing away our sins and giving us clean hearts. Amen.

PTO NEWS:

- THANK YOU to our PTO for hosting our Jr. High Family Fun Night, "Nacho Average Game Night!" Parents and kids alike showed off their sweet game skills, and it was wonderful to see so many families come together for a fun evening. We put our fast-twitch muscles and dexterity to the test, showed off our Jenga-building skills, and wrapped up the night with an EPIC Knees, Feet, Ankles, CUP game! Thank you to the PTO for such an entertaining event, and to Mrs. Zandstra for MCing!



- Friendly Reminder: The rescheduled K-2 Family Fun Night, Professor Wow's Outer Space Adventures, is on Friday, April 10.

T.R.I.P NEWS:

- **Book Travel on Raiseright.com:** Still deciding on Spring Break plans? Be sure to check out Raiseright.com for some great travel options and save money on tuition at the same time!
- **Last T.R.I.P. 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, March 11 at 3:30pm. This order will be available for pick up on Tuesday, March 17 after 2:45pm. Cash & Carry is by email request at trip@highlandchristian.org. Upcoming Order Dates: March 18, April 8, April 15, April, April 22
- **T.R.I.P. Volunteer Schedule:** March 10-Team D, March 17-Team A, March 24-Team B, April 14-Team C

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
- **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/>

- **Illiana Community Choir:**



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