



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – April 13, 2026

“Scripture Follower”

II Timothy 3:16-17

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **Supporting the Gomez Family:** This past month, Luis and Eva Gomez (parents at HCS) received the news that Luis was diagnosed with stomach cancer. Their children, Victoria (Grade 4) and Natalia (Grade 1) are enrolled at HCS. Currently, Luis is in Mexico receiving treatment. We turn to you, the HCS community, to come together and support this incredible family. Through Monday, April 20, the office will be collecting cash, checks (made payable to Highland Christian), and gift cards for restaurants and groceries. All proceeds will be given to the Gomez family. Most importantly, please pray. We know that God works through the prayers of His people.
- **Late Start:** This Wednesday 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.
- **Chapel:** Everyone is invited to the all-school chapel **this Thursday at 8:30 a.m.** led by our Kindergarten students.
- **Camp Invention Discount Code:** This summer, Highland Christian School is excited to host Camp Invention®, a hands-on STEM program that empowers children to spark their creativity through fun, real-world challenges. As we celebrate National Siblings Day, unlock the biggest savings when registering more than one child for camp. For a limited time, you can save \$80 with code SIBDAY40 on two registrations or \$150+ with code SIBDAY50 on three or more registrations. **Don't wait – this exclusive discount is only available April 10-14.** Register siblings today!
- **March Madness Bracket Winner:** Congratulations to the 2026 HCS March Madness Bracket Challenge winner - Melissa Warga, 3rd Grade Teacher!
- **Art Department:** Mrs. Evers is collecting paper grocery bags with handles for the students to take home their art projects from the year. Please send any donations to the office. Thank you!
- **Musical Requests:** The Drama department is requesting help acquiring some props. We would like a wooden rocking horse and a wooden doll house. They must fit into a nursery of the early 1900's so we cannot have anything that looks plastic. If you are able to help make our scenes pop with life and realism please let Judy H Zandstra (the lady in the library know). Thanks in advance for your help.
- **School Bell Wish List: Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4-8.** If you would like to bless our amazing teachers with something from their wishlist, they would be so grateful. Here is the [LINK](#) to the Wishlist!
- **Annual Society Meeting:** Our Annual Society Meeting will take place on Monday, April 20, 2026 from 6:00-7:30 pm in the gymnasium at Highland Christian School. **As a parent of a K-8 student at HCS, you are a member of the Society and expected to review these materials and cast your ballot at the meeting or via absentee ballot.**

Why do we have this meeting: Highland Christian School is a parent-governed school. As such, we hold an annual meeting in the spring of each year for the purpose of considering and approving the annual budget of the Association, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

What to expect: At this meeting, representatives of the acting Board and Administrative Team provide State of the School reports, propose a budget, and introduce Board nominees. In response, the Society receives the information, provides feedback for the Board's consideration, and casts their votes with regard to the budget, Board nominees, and other proposed changes.

All Society members are encouraged to review the [agenda](#), which includes reports, proposed new board nominees, and the proposed budget for the 2026/2027 school year. For those not able to attend the Budget Meeting on Monday, March 16, we would encourage members of the Society to [view the budget presentation here](#), which is also posted on the website. During the Society Meeting, we will be voting on the slate of new Board nominees as well as the budget for the 2026-2027 school year.

Voting requirements are listed [on our website](#). In the event you are a qualified Society member and cannot attend the Society Meeting, an [absentee ballot](#) can be submitted. Absentee ballots can be cast until Monday, April 20 at 5pm. Questions in advance of the meeting can be made to Holly Haitsma, Board President (hhaitsma@highlandchristian.org) or Dr. Kyle Weener, Head of School (kweener@highlandchristian.org).

- **April 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. At the conclusion of our work morning, a FREE lunch will be provided!

Date: Saturday, April 18

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 vhuizenga@highlandchristian.org

Saturday Serve Signup: [April Saturday Serve](#)

- **Spring Auction:** HCS' Auction is right around the corner! Come join the fun on Saturday, April 25 at 5pm. Bidding will be live (and lively!) in the HCS Gym. If you aren't able to join us in person, you can still bid online from wherever you are! Instructions and links for online bidding will be available during the week of Auction.
5:00 - Doors open, kitchen opens, 1st Silent Auction begins
5:30 - Live Auction begins!

- **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](#).

- **Choice to Give Choice to Bless:** Great news! As part of our “Choice to Give Choice to Bless” campaign, a Friend of Highland Christian School has given a **\$1,000 matching gift for new Foundation Gifts!** Each first time Foundation gift received during the month of April will be matched. Gifts given to the Foundation continue our legacy and better the future of Highland Christian School’s community.

Want to double your impact? Give your gift online [HERE](#) between now and April 30 and be sure to choose “Foundation Fund” in the drop down menu!

- **Hot Lunch Menu-** [April Lunch Menu](#)

ATHLETIC NEWS:

Track Meet: The first Track Meet of the season is tomorrow, April 14, at 4:00 pm at Chicago Christian High School.

Flag Football: The first Flag Football Game is this Saturday, April 18 at Illiana Christian.

Athletic Opportunities at Illiana Christian:

1. Girls Basketball (Middle School): Middle school girls are invited to join spring training sessions focused on skill development, speed/agility, and building a strong mindset. Come ready to work hard and encourage one another! Practice Schedule (6:00–7:30 p.m.):

- April 7, 14, 21, 28
- May 5, 12

Practices will be held at Illiana Christian High School (enter through the south doors). For questions, contact Aubrey Colvin at acolvin@illianachristian.org.

2. Co-Ed Tennis Club (Grades 6–8): Students interested in learning or improving their tennis skills are invited to join the new co-ed tennis club led by Coach Karen Blaauw.

- Season: April 8 – May 16
- Practices: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (with occasional Tuesdays/Thursdays for matches)
- Time: 5:00–6:30 p.m. (may begin as early as 4:45 p.m.)
- Location: Illiana Christian tennis courts
- Includes: 5 matches vs. other schools + 1 Saturday home tournament
- Cost: \$60 per player (tennis balls provided; racquet required)
- No cuts
- Interested students should complete the [registration form](#).

FAITH CORNER:

What’s Your Word

The words we say (and even the words we think) are consequential; they have the power to shape our lives.

Faith is built when we align our thoughts, attitudes, actions, and words to what is Christ-like.

Philippians 4: 8 reminds us, *“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”*

Here is an activity to help us build Christ-like character.

1. Choose a **WORD**. It might be an attitude or character trait that is difficult: patience, peace, kindness, joy, forgiveness, etc.
 2. Search a concordance (Blue-Letter Bible has an online search <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>) for a Bible passage that corresponds to your **WORD**.
 3. Illustrate your **WORD**.
 4. List how you will allow God to shape your life with this **WORD**.
1. Hang this somewhere you can see it for the next month. (We would love to hear what God is doing.)

WORD	Bible passage
Illustration of WORD	How will God shape your life with this WORD?

PTO NEWS:

- **Muffins with your Miss:** Mark your Calendars! Muffins with your favorite Miss will be Wednesday, April 29 at 7:30am on the soccer field. All students may invite their favorite Miss to school. Bring a blanket or chair. PTO is also in need of volunteers for this event. Sign up [HERE](#) if you are interested.

T.R.I.P NEWS:

- **Back Again!** Zandstra’s Farm & Greenhouse seasonal gift certificates are now available on Raiseright.com, paper order form or cash & carry for a limited time only. Gift certificates are \$17 each with a \$3 rebate. Valid 4/10-6/20.

- **Last TRIP Tuition Credit for 25/26 School Year Information:** 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, April 15 at 3:30pm. This order will be available for pick up on Tuesday, April 21 after 2:45pm. Online ordering is available 24/7 at Raiseright.com. Cash & Carry is available by email request at trip@highlandchristian.org. Upcoming Order Dates: April 22, April 29, May 6 & May 13
- **T.R.I.P. Volunteer Schedule:** April 14-Team C, April 21-Team D, April 28-A and 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/>
- **Illiana Spring Flower Fundraiser:** Illiana's P.I.E. (Parents in Education) Committee is excited to offer their annual Spring Flower Fundraiser to support the Excellence in Education fund.
 - 10" Hanging baskets \$24.
 - Variety of options and colors available .
 - Orders due April 30th
 - Pick up May 7. 2-5pm South parking lot of Illiana.
 - Order online or pick up a flyer in your school's office and return to Illiana.<https://pci.jotform.com/form/260635013341142>