



# HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – April 20, 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 today, 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.
- **Annual Society Meeting:** Our Annual Society Meeting is **TONIGHT 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.**

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](mailto:hhaitsma@highlandchristian.org)) or Dr. Kyle Weener, Head of School ([kweener@highlandchristian.org](mailto:kweener@highlandchristian.org)).

- 🎉 **It's AUCTION WEEK!** 🎉 Join us this Saturday, April 26 at 5:00 PM for an exciting evening filled with fun for the whole family! Online bidding is now OPEN, so be sure to check out the [Auction Catalog](#) and start placing your bids! Last year's spring auction raised over \$184,000 and helped to fund the new PA system, student activities, technology and transportation needs, 8th grade graduation expenses, and long-term strategic goals. Let's make this year even better – we can't wait to see you there!

### Auction Night Schedule:

5:00 PM – Doors open, kitchen opens, Silent Auction begins

5:30 PM – Live Auction begins

7:30 PM – Raise the Paddle

- **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.
- **Art Department:** Mrs. Evers is collecting **paper grocery bags with handles** for the students to take home their art projects from the year. She is also in need of **cereal boxes** for an upcoming project. 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.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4-8:** Teacher Appreciation Week is just around the corner! If you'd like to show some appreciation for our amazing teachers, consider blessing them with an item from their [School Bell Wish List](#) or the [HCS Employee Favorite Things List](#). Your generosity means so much and is always deeply appreciated! Thank you for supporting our teachers and helping make them feel loved.
- **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:** Thursday, April 23, at 4:00 pm at Illiana Christian High School.

**Flag Football Games:** Saturday, April 25 at 9:00 am at Illiana Christian.

## FAITH CORNER:

The truth of living as a Scripture Follower means that we recognize that God’s Story shapes the story of our lives. God’s faithfulness is revealed to us in His story that begins with creation and continues to new creation. This story is centered on Jesus. His death and resurrection stand at the center; our lives are shaped by dying and rising with him. Because of Jesus, we are part of God’s story. When we read God’s Story, we learn to live out the biblical patterns of God’s grace and truth in our daily tasks, relationships, and dreams.

**Bible passage: Read 119:103-105**

*How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

*I gain understanding from your precepts, therefore I hate every wrong path.*

*Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*

### **Thoughts:**

**Delight:** Verse 103 reminds us that God's Word is not merely educational but also brings delight. It is described as "sweeter than honey". When we have a spiritual appetite for God's Word, our souls are nourished in God's promises and we experience a deeper relationship with God.

**Discernment:** verse 104 - Through meditating on God's precepts, we gain spiritual intelligence that surpasses wisdom. We get discernment that helps us distinguish between right and wrong. When we read God's story, we begin to hate anything that goes against God's law.

**Direction:** verse 105 - God's Word is described as a lamp to our feet (immediate guidance for our next step) and a light for our path (direction for the future). Without God's light, we will walk through life stumbling in the dark. God doesn't give us a map that explains everything for our life. He promises to light our way when we follow His Word.

### **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, how sweet are Your words to my taste—sweeter than honey to my mouth. Thank You for the gift of Scripture.

Lord, through Your precepts, I gain understanding and wisdom. Help me to hide Your word in my heart so I may hate every false way and turn away from wrong paths.

I dedicate my steps to You. Let Your Word be a lamp to my feet and a light to my path, guiding my choices, decisions, and future. In Jesus' name Amen.

### **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.
- **Interested in PTO?** Want to learn more about Highland Christian PTO? View our short presentation and recorded overview below.



[PTO Presentation](#)



[Recorded Overview](#)



[PTO Interest Form](#) - Submitting the form does not commit you, it simply lets us connect with you and share more information. We'd love to hear from you!

### **T.R.I.P NEWS:**

- **Final Tuition Credit for 25/26 School Year is this week!** Tuesday, April 21st is the cutoff day for earnings to be applied for this year's tuition for HCS and ICBS. All orders placed after Tuesday 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 ICBS, please coordinate changes with Sherry Hiatt ([trip@highlandchristian.org](mailto:trip@highlandchristian.org), ext. 199)
  - If it is your child's last year at HCS and will not be attending ICBS, 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 22 at 3:30pm. This order will be available for pick up on Tuesday, April 28 after 2:45pm. Online ordering is available 24/7 at Raiseright.com. Cash & Carry is available by email request at [trip@highlandchristian.org](mailto: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) and Zandstra's Greenhouse (\$17).
- **Upcoming Order Dates:** April 29, May 6, May 13, May 20
- **T.R.I.P. Volunteer Schedule:** April 21-Team D, April 28- Team A, May 5-Team B and May 12 Team C

### 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/>

- **The Towle Theater** is excited to announce our 2026 Summer Theater Intensive, featuring *High School Musical Jr.* This two-week immersive program is designed for students ages 10–18 who are passionate about performing or interested in exploring theater. Participants will receive hands-on training in acting, singing, and choreography, all while working collaboratively to bring a fully staged production to life. This program is a wonderful way for students to build confidence, make new friends, and experience the joy of live theater in a supportive, professional environment.

Performance: Students will perform *High School Musical Jr.* on: June 20 at 6:00 PM (Final Performance). Each participant will receive two complimentary tickets to the final performance. Additional tickets will be available for purchase.



- **PM Hoops Academy:** The PM Hoops Academy is a 4-week basketball development program built for athletes ages 8–12, combining skill training, confidence building, and character development through a faith-based approach. Each session is structured to improve ball handling, footwork, finishing, and overall game understanding in a positive and focused environment. Spots are limited to maintain quality coaching. 15 players max. Early Bird registration is now open (2 spots already taken, 5 left). Contact Coach DB if interested or click [HERE](#).