



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – April 6, 2026

“Scripture Follower”

II Timothy 3:16-17

FROM THE DESK OF DR. WEENER:

HCS Parents,

Whether you spent Spring Break at home or were traveling with family, my prayer is that the Lord used that time to refresh and fill you and your family. As we enter the final stretch of the 2025–2026 school year, we have several important community events that we want to encourage you not only to be aware of, but to actively participate in.

On **Monday, April 20 at 6:00pm**, HCS will hold its annual Society Meeting in the gym. Association meetings are a vital part of who we are as a school community. They provide an opportunity for transparency, shared responsibility, and collective discernment as we seek to steward the mission of Christian education well. Every Association member has a voice, and that voice matters. Your participation helps ensure that decisions reflect the wisdom, care, and commitment of the broader HCS community.

At the meeting, presentations will be shared by board and staff members. [Prior to Spring Break, the Society Agenda, reports, and resources were shared.](#) It is important that all members of the Society, both parents and donors, review these materials in advance of the Society Meeting and make it a point to attend this annual meeting. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, feel free to direct them to myself (kweener@highlandchristian.org) or HCS’ board president, Holly Haitsma (hhaitsma@highlandchristian.org).

On **Saturday, April 25 at 5:00pm**, HCS will hold its annual auction in the gym. Whether you are able to join us for fellowship and food, participate in the live auction, or contribute through the “Raise The Paddle” initiative (supporting improved gym technology and AV for concerts, performances, and chapel) your involvement is a meaningful support. This year, auction proceeds will go toward several important needs including HVAC improvements, SEC projects, new performance risers, upgraded kitchen equipment, student centered resources, the 8th grade fund, and the HCS Foundation. We remain grateful for how the Lord continues to use this event to bless the students and mission of HCS.

Thank you for your continued prayers and partnership as we seek to live out our vision to academically equip, biblically ground, and spiritually nurture students to impact the world for Christ.

Dr. Kyle Weener - Head of School

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **Welcome Back, Huskies! We hope all of you had a wonderful Spring Break!**
- **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.

- **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](#).
- **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.
- **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).

- **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:

Flag Football: Flag football starts this week! Practices will be held on the soccer field here at Highland Christian. Students are encouraged to go home after school and return for practice. Please be on time picking up your student from practice. All students planning to participate must have an active physical on file. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Mr. Hillegonds.

Practice dates and times are below:

- Wednesday, April 8th - 4:30-6:00
- Wednesday, April 15th - 4:30-6:00
- Wednesday, April 22nd - 4:30-6:00
- Wednesday, April 29th - 4:30-6:00
- Wednesday, May 6th - 4:30-6:00

Track Team: Co-ed Jr. High track begins on Tuesday, April 7th. Practices will be Monday-Thursday from 3:15-4:30. All students planning to participate must have an active physical on file. Please reach out to Mr. Hillegonds with any questions or concerns.

April 7: Boys Volleyball Game

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

April 11: 7th and 8th grade Boys Volleyball Tournament at Illiana Christian

Athletic Opportunities for Junior High Students at Illiana Christian:

1. Cheer Tryouts (Current 8th Grade Girls): Tryouts for both Competitive Cheer and Football Sideline teams will take place as follows:

- Tryout Clinics: April 6 & 8, 7:00–8:30 p.m.
- Tryouts: April 17 at 5:10 p.m. (Warm-up begins at 4:30 p.m.)
- Parent Meeting & Potluck: April 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Note: Basketball sideline tryouts will be held in September. For questions, please contact Carisa Beezhold at illianacheer@gmail.com.

2. 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! More in

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.

3. 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:

Yesterday was Easter (Resurrection Sunday). Over the past 5 weeks we purposely used the time of Lent 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 build strong faith practices and prepare our hearts for Easter.

Questions: What do we celebrate at Easter?
 What do we learn about Jesus through Easter?
 What do we learn about ourselves at Easter?

Bible Passage: I Corinthians 15:3-4 *3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*

What do we celebrate at Easter? We celebrate a historical and spiritual event - that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and was raised from the dead!

I Corinthians 15:5-7 *5 and that he appeared to Cephas (Peter), and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me (Paul)*

What do we learn about Jesus through Easter?

- He died and was buried.
- He rose from the dead.
- He appeared to many people in proof of His resurrection.

I Corinthians 15:13-20 *13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead*

What do we learn about ourselves at Easter? Paul asks the "What IF" question for us: **What if Jesus really didn't rise from the dead?**

Paul reminds us that Jesus has indeed risen from the dead.

We need forgiveness from our sins **BUT** we also need assurance that death is defeated.

Because of Jesus' resurrection we have:

- Faith in His gift of forgiveness.



- Life through His resurrection.
- Trust in a king who destroys His enemies, even death.
- Hope for an eternal home with Him.
- Peace in His power and protection.

Activity: Take a blank piece of paper and cut out a cross.
 Using paints or washable markers, color your thumb and make a thumbprint on the cross.
 As you do think about the sins that Jesus took on for you! Repeat with another color.
 As you fill your cross with colorful prints, think about how much Jesus loves **YOU!**
 Once your cross is beautifully colored, write the words “Jesus is **ALIVE!** He loves **ME!**”
 Display your cross where others will see it.

Prayer: If you have Resurrection Eggs that tell the story of Jesus from Palm Sunday to Easter, use some of the items in the eggs for prayer.

- (crown of thorns) Thank you Jesus, that you suffered cruelty for my sins.
 Help me to put you as King in my life.
- (cross/nails) Thank you Jesus for your love.
 Help me to love you with my whole heart.
- (stone) That you Jesus for enduring death.
 Help me to live for you.
- (empty egg) Thank you Jesus for defeating death by rising from the dead.
 Help me to joyfully remember that Your sacrifice has made me **NEW!!!**
 Amen.

PTO NEWS:

- **K-2 Family Fun Night:** Our K-2 Family Fun Night is **this 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:

- **Zandstra’s Farm & Greenhouse:** Zandstra's seasonal gift certificates are back! Available on Raiseright.com, paper order form or cash & carry. Gift certificates are \$17 each (rebate is \$3 and are valid 4/10-6/20). Opening day is April 10th!
- **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 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:** 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/>
- **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>