



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT NOTE – August 24, 2026

“God Worshipper”

Psalm 34:1-3

IMPORTANT LINKS	
JRH Bulletin Board 26/27	26/27 School Year Calendar
Athletic Schedule 26/27	Calendar of Events
FACTS Parent Login	SAFE Visitor Pre- Registration Link
Hot Lunch: August and September	Parent/ Student Handbook

FROM THE DESK OF DR. WEENER:

As another school year begins, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve alongside you as we academically equip, Biblically ground, and spiritually nurture students to impact the world for Christ. It is a privilege to partner with your family, and we look forward to all that God has in store for Highland Christian School this year—all for His glory!

As we embark on the 2026-2027 school year, we are thrilled to welcome our students and families, whether this is your very first year at HCS or your first day back after a wonderful summer. One of our highest priorities is cultivating strong partnerships with our families through intentional, transparent communication. We encourage you to thoroughly read our weekly *Parent Note*, which contains important school information, upcoming events, and opportunities to stay connected. I will continue to share a monthly Head of School update highlighting our mission, celebrating what God is doing across campus, and providing important school updates.

This year's **theme is God Worshipper, based on Psalm 34:1-3 (NIV):**

"I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. I will glory in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together."

Our theme is especially meaningful as it marks year three (of nine) highlighting the nine roles of our Portrait of a Graduate. As we focus on becoming God Worshipers, we desire for our students to recognize that worship extends far beyond music or chapel. True worship is a daily response to God's goodness—a life that glorifies Him in our words, our actions, our relationships, and our service to others. During these formative years, our deepest hope is that students develop hearts that delight in the Lord, proclaim His faithfulness, and invite others to join in exalting His name.

As we start the year, here are five quick tips that will help your child(ren) find success this year:

1. **HCS does not recommend students have smartphones or social media.** For years, we have seen the negative impact these have on children. This includes lack of sleep, depleted self-worth, friendship problems, exposure to inappropriate content, and increased temptation. If you are thinking about getting your child a smartphone or allowing access to social media, waiting is one of the greatest gifts you can give them. This year, you will notice

that technology is pulled back in various ways at HCS. That is an intentional decision.

2. **Arriving at school by 8:05 a.m. sets children up for success.** When students are on time, they are able to settle in before the day begins, spend time in community, and prepare themselves for a productive day of learning.
3. **At home, establishing routines is critical.** This includes finding consistency with homework, packing lunches the night before, maintaining healthy bedtime routines, and prioritizing intentional family time. It is a positive thing for your children to have chores and responsibilities at home.
4. **Practice saying "no."** We live in a world where so much is expected of children. Consider minimizing extracurricular activities to leave room for rest, family, church, and simply breathing. You won't regret it. I will go one step further and encourage you to consider if travel sports are in any way an idol. If sports begin to overtake family or church time, we would urge you to consider making some changes.
5. **Get involved!** HCS is a tremendous community. I have experienced this firsthand through the hundreds of relationships our family has intentionally developed over the years. In addition to attending school events, I encourage every family—whether new or returning—to find another HCS family you don't know well and invite them over for dinner during the first month of school. You may be surprised by how much of a blessing it is to both families. We've done this for the past eight years and what a blessing it has been!

As a school community, we will be praying for your family throughout the year—for wisdom and discernment as you raise your children in the fear and knowledge of the Lord. It is an honor to partner with you in your child's education and spiritual formation.

As we journey through this school year together, please know that we greatly value your partnership and your voice. We are committed to communicating well and to continually seeking feedback from our staff, parents, and school community. Your perspectives help us celebrate what is going well, identify opportunities to grow, and better fulfill our mission. Thank you for your trust, your encouragement, and your willingness to walk alongside us as we strive to glorify Christ in all that we do.

We are grateful to serve your family and look forward to seeing how God works in and through Highland Christian School during the 2026-2027 school year.

In Christ,

Dr. Kyle Weener
Head of School

SCHOOL NEWS:

- **Welcome Back, Huskies!** We hope all of you had a great summer, are getting back on your feet from the storm, and are ready to start the new school year! **Reminder: School will dismiss today at 1:45 pm.**
- **Parent Night:** This Thursday, August 27, is Parent Night at HCS. K-5 parents may go to their child's classroom from 5:00- 5:30 or 5:30-6:00 to meet the teachers and review important start of the year information. JRH Parents should meet in the gym at 6:00 to receive information for their junior high student. After the junior high meeting all 6th grade parents and new junior high parents should remain in the gym to receive their child's laptop.
Thursday, August 27 - Parent and Tech Night
 - Evening Schedule:
 - **5:00 - 5:30pm:** K-5 (1st Session - Classrooms)
 - **5:30 - 6:00pm:** K-5 (2nd Session - Classrooms)
 - **6:00 - 6:45pm:** 6-8 (In the Gym)

- **6:45 - 7:00pm:** 6-8 (All 6th Graders and New 7th/8th Graders - Tech. Distribution)
- **Foundation Gift:** If you wish to obtain the 26/27 Foundation Gift and did not complete this during the reenrollment process, please complete the online form by Friday, September 11, 2026. The application only needs to be completed once per family. The Foundation Gift is given to families seeking financial support for their K-8 tuition obligations.
- **Tuition and Billing:** Should you have questions about your tuition invoice or incidental billing, making a payment, or seeking K-8 Tuition Assistance, please contact April VanderMeyden (avandermeyden@highlandchristian.org).

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- **Attendance Tips:**
 - A parent/guardian **must call or email the school office by 8:25 a.m.** if a student will be absent.
 - The reason for the absence must be provided.
 - The official notification **must go to the school office**. Contacting the teacher is encouraged, but does not replace notifying the office.
 - Office phone: 219-838-0356 (If the office is closed, parents should leave a voicemail.)
 - Office email: hcsoffice@highlandchristian.org
- **Bus Riders:** If your child **will not be riding the bus on any given day**, please let the driver **AND** the office **know**. This will alleviate confusion, especially at dismissal time. Thanks!
- **Morning Drop-off Instructions:**
 - **Students should be dropped off no later than 8:20 a.m.** as the tardy bell rings at 8:25. It is strongly recommended that parents who drop off their children try to be at school at 8:05 when the doors open.
 - There is **no left turn onto Ridge Road from the hours of 7:45-8:45 am and 2:30-3:30 pm.**
- **Afternoon Pick-up line Instructions:**
 - **PLEASE REVIEW OUR NEW PICK-UP LINE PROCEDURES!**
 - Parents are encouraged to **space out their arrival, or park in the east lot and walk up** to pick up their child.
 - When picking up your child via the pick-up line, please remember to **place your car sign in the right side of the front window**. If you need additional car signs, please contact the office.
 - Pick-up lasts from 3:10 - 3:25. Arriving later in the pick-up window will not only help HCS, but will save you time as well!
 - Any student remaining in the pickup line after 3:25, will be sent to Before and Aftercare (BAC).
 - There is **no left turn onto Ridge Road from the hours of 7:45-8:45 am and 2:30-3:30 pm.**
- **New Life Pick-up Instructions and Families with a student at Illiana:** Families who are on the approved list to pick-up their children in the New Life parking lot and families who are waiting for Illiana students may not use the HCS playground until the pickup is complete at 3:25 on normal dismissal days and 2:00 on early dismissal days.

ATHLETIC NEWS:

- **Fall Sports Tryouts:** 6th-8th grade students are invited and encouraged to try out for fall sports. During the fall season, the following sports teams are offered:
 - 6th-8th Co-Ed Soccer (Coached by: Mr. Josh Blocker and Mr. Tonny Sserwadda)
 - Tryouts: Monday, August 24 and Tuesday, August 25 from 3:15 - 4:45 pm

- 7th & 8th Girl's Volleyball (Coached by: Mrs. Maddie Schaaf and Ms. Taylor Reid)
 - Tryouts: Monday, August 24 and Tuesday, August 25 from 3:15 - 4:45 pm
- 6th-8th Co-Ed Cross Country (Coached by: Mr. Andy Jellema)
 - Tryouts: Monday, August 24 and Tuesday, August 25 from 3:15 - 4:00 pm
- **Sports Physicals:** HCS requires a current sports physical to be on file for each student-athlete. The physical will expire one year from the date it was performed. If an athlete does not have a current sports physical on file, they will be allowed to try out, but will not be allowed to practice or play until all required forms have been received. Sports physical forms can be obtained in the school's Main Office or by clicking [HERE](#) to print out a copy. You may also use the form that your pediatrician provides.
- **Concessions Stand:** HCS offers a robust concession stand during home games, and we are always looking for parent volunteers and responsible junior high students to help serve! If you or your student would like more information about volunteering, please reach out to Kristy Tebben at ktebben@highlandchristian.org.

PTO NEWS:

- Save the date! **Wednesday September 9th, 2026 is Donuts with Dudes.** More information to come.

T.R.I.P NEWS:

- **Lower Your Tuition Costs with T.R.I.P.:** Earning through T.R.I.P. (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program) fits into your daily life! Simply buy gift cards to use on everyday expenses with brands (over 600!) that give back to the school. All HCS families (including extended family and friends who want to help support your family) are eligible to join. Contact us for more information at trip@highlandchristian.org.
- **Volunteers Needed:** We are looking for 2 volunteers to join one of our T.R.I.P. Teams! Our teams meet once every four weeks on Tuesdays between 8:30am to 9:30am to fill gift card orders. Don't shy away if you have young kiddos still at home...you can bring them with! We would love for you to join our wonderful family of 13 dedicated volunteers that serve our HCS community throughout the school year. Please reach out to Sherry Hiatt at trip@highlandchristian.org for more information.
- **T.R.I.P. Schedule:** Our next order for physical gift cards is due on Wednesday, August 26 at 3:30pm. This order will be available for pick up on Tuesday, September 1 after 2:45pm. Online ordering is available 24/7 at [Raiseright.com](https://www.raiseright.com). Upcoming Order Dates: Sept. 2, Sept. 9, Sept 16, Sept 23.
- **T.R.I.P. Volunteer Schedule:** Sept. 1-Team C, Sept. 8-Team D, Sept. 15-Team A, Sept 22-Team B

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- **Illiana's P.I.E. Committee is selling those beautiful fall mums!** They are 9" pots, \$10 each and available in red, white, purple, yellow, orange, and pink. Proceeds from the sale will purchase special classroom supplies for teachers that are not covered by tuition. **Orders are due in the Illiana school office by Wednesday, September 9** and the mums will be available for pickup on campus in the south parking lot on Wednesday, September 16 from 2-5pm. More information can be found [HERE](#)!