FALL 2026

HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PUBLICATION

SCHOOL BELL



2026/2027 Theme 04

Student Services 09

Joint Board Commission 12

HCS Foundation 14

HCS MISSION STATEMENT

In order to honor God, we nurture and guide students to see the Father's creation, to sense order in a world saved by Christ, and to serve God through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

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Small hands, pure praise!


HCSF Golf Outing : one generation for the next and another epic event is in the books!


219 Grounds blessed our guests with a specialty coffee bar at Pastor Appreciation 2026

WELCOME LETTER

written by Dr. Kyle Weener, Head of School



I am often asked how the start of the school year is going. And let me tell you, it hasn't been good…it has been great!

While school started seven days later than we expected, it was incredible to see God's people at work. Since the storm, I have repeatedly shared that I believe God used that difficult season to teach each of us—not just our students—important lessons about serving others, caring for those in need, and being the body of Christ.

Since the start of the school year, we have continued to see our theme, "God Worshippers," come to life in meaningful ways. We have seen it through:

- **Mrs. Postma's English class**, which began the school year by writing notes of gratitude to people throughout HCS. What a simple but powerful reminder that worship includes recognizing and encouraging others.
- **The generosity of our board**, who provided a $200 gift to each staff member to assist with storm-related needs. Many of our staff members turned around and used their gift to bless someone else.
- **Our staff members**, who have jumped in headfirst, embracing the mission and vision of HCS and demonstrating care for students, staff, and the broader community.
- **A terrific school culture**, led by Mr. Ritzema, Ms. Delaney, and so many others. New students are acclimating well, relationships are being formed, and the heart of HCS is beating strong.

Just earlier this month, I met someone who lives outside our area and had heard about Highland Christian. I asked what they knew about our school. Their response was wonderfully telling: they had heard that Highland Christian is known as a community that cares well for one another and seeks to honor the Lord in all we do.

What more could we ask for?

That response affirms more than a reputation—it is a calling. It is a calling that is lived out through the everyday actions of our students, staff, parents, board members, churches, and entire HCS community.

Paul reminds us in Galatians 6:10, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Thank you for being a special part of His incredible story. Thank you for helping make caring for others, serving faithfully, and honoring the Lord part of who we are. This is what it looks like to be God Worshippers.

Kyle

HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 25
Thanksgiving Chapel

NOVEMBER 26-27
Thanksgiving Vacation

DECEMBER 10
Christmas Concert

DECEMBER 12
Saturday Serve

DECEMBER 18
Christmas Chapel

DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 1
Christmas Vacation

JANUARY 15
First Semester Gifts Chapel

JANUARY 23
Saturday Serve

MARCH 18
K-5 Spring Program

MARCH 25
Easter Chapel

MARCH 26 - APRIL 2
Spring Break



Psalm 34:1-3 *"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."

GOD WORSHIPPER

written by Mrs. Vicki Huizenga, Director of Faith Formation

Three years ago, we set out to build a **Portrait of a Graduate** using the HCS mission statement: ***See** the Father's Creation → **Sense** order in a world saved by Christ → **Serve** God through the leading of the Holy Spirit.* Highland Christian honors God by nurturing students to move from understanding God's creation, to recognizing and embracing their place in God's story, and then actively participating in God's work through the power and leading of the Holy Spirit.

During our first year, we learned to ***See** the Father's Creation* as Creation Caretakers (Genesis 2:15 *The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*). Students **practiced** nurturing and respecting creation by feeding and caring for chickens, raising vegetables, and releasing monarch butterflies. Students also learned to respect their minds and hearts while using social media, to practice the skills needed in PE and on sports teams, and to see their life-story as part of the larger story of God and His people.

In year two of our Portrait of a Graduate, we learned to ***Sense** order in a world saved by Christ* as Scripture Followers (II Timothy 3:6-17 *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*). Students **examined** God's story in Scripture and **recognized** their place within that narrative. Students were empowered to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus by committing God's Word to memory and sharing it with the student body, by praying over their teammates and competitors before games, and by celebrating the body of Christ's diverse gifts, cultures, and nationalities.

We are in year three of our Portrait of a Graduate. We are learning to ***Serve** God through the leading of the Holy Spirit* as God Worshippers (Psalm 34:1-3 *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.*). Students are discovering that worship is more than singing songs or participating in chapel—it is responding to who God is with our whole lives. As God Worshippers, students are learning to recognize God's presence and work in their lives, listen for the leading of the Holy Spirit, and respond with lives of gratitude, obedience, humility, and service.

Students are **responding** to God through worship when they recognize and celebrate His goodness, faithfulness, holiness, and grace. They are learning to express their love for God through prayer, Scripture, music, creativity, and the everyday choices they make. Students are also learning that worship involves both gathering together as the body of Christ and living faithfully when no one is watching.

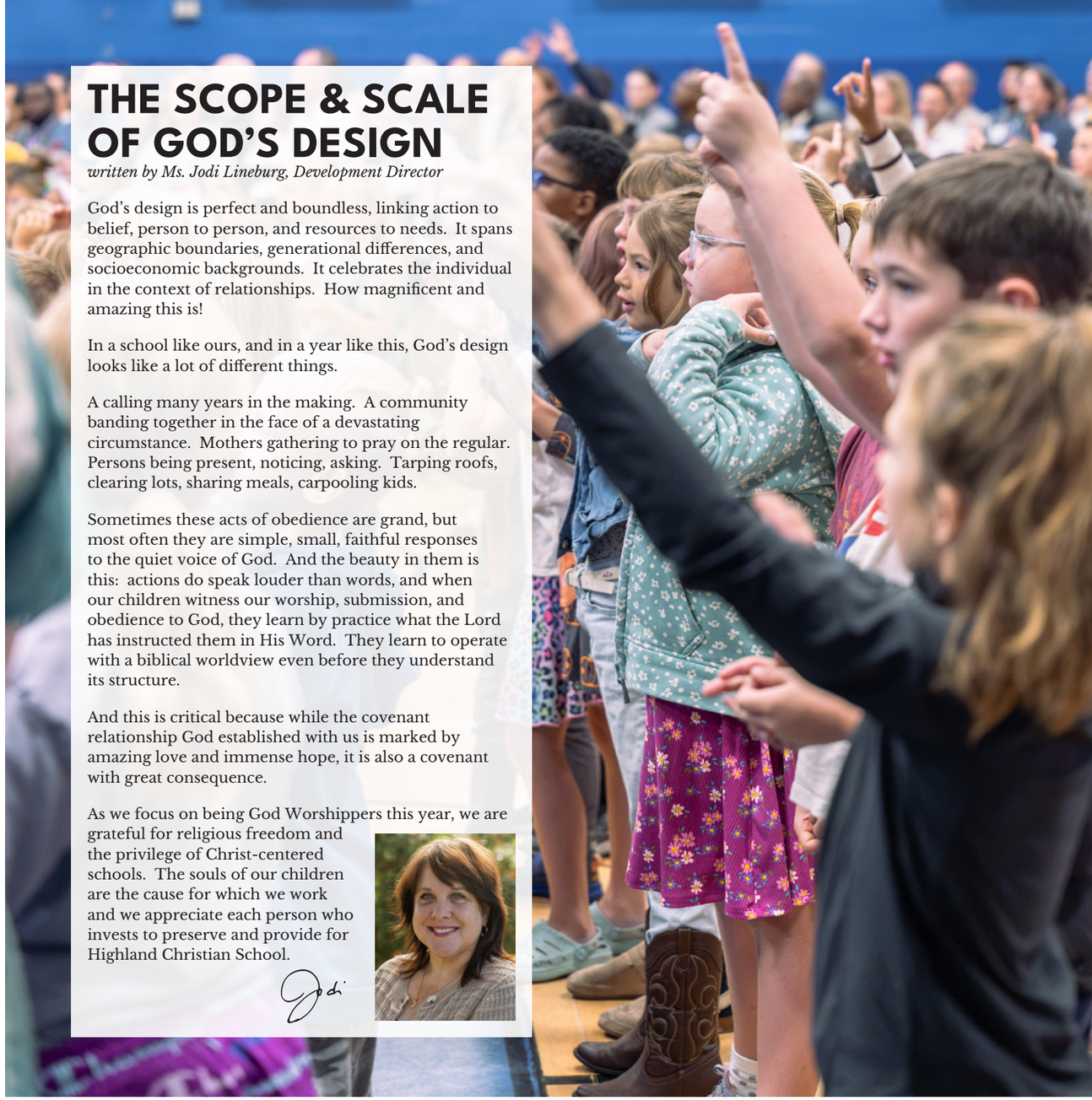
As God Worshippers, students are being encouraged to **respond to the Holy Spirit**, using the gifts and abilities God has given them to bless others. They are learning to recognize opportunities to serve through Saturday Serve and as classroom helpers, encourage students and teachers with written notes, forgive each other, show compassion by inviting others to join in recess activities, speak God's truth in chapels and in the hallways, and bring hope to those around them through mentoring and prayer. Through these experiences, students are discovering that the Holy Spirit equips and empowers them to participate in God's work in the world.

Our hope is that HCS students will leave Highland understanding that worship is not simply something they do—it is a **way of life**. They will increasingly recognize God's presence, respond to the Holy Spirit's leading, and use their gifts to honor God and serve others. In this way, they are being prepared to **impact the world for Christ**.



Vicki

26-27



THE SCOPE & SCALE OF GOD'S DESIGN

written by Ms. Jodi Lineburg, Development Director

God's design is perfect and boundless, linking action to belief, person to person, and resources to needs. It spans geographic boundaries, generational differences, and socioeconomic backgrounds. It celebrates the individual in the context of relationships. How magnificent and amazing this is!

In a school like ours, and in a year like this, God's design looks like a lot of different things.

A calling many years in the making. A community banding together in the face of a devastating circumstance. Mothers gathering to pray on the regular. Persons being present, noticing, asking. Tarping roofs, clearing lots, sharing meals, carpooling kids.

Sometimes these acts of obedience are grand, but most often they are simple, small, faithful responses to the quiet voice of God. And the beauty in them is this: actions do speak louder than words, and when our children witness our worship, submission, and obedience to God, they learn by practice what the Lord has instructed them in His Word. They learn to operate with a biblical worldview even before they understand its structure.

And this is critical because while the covenant relationship God established with us is marked by amazing love and immense hope, it is also a covenant with great consequence.

As we focus on being God Worshippers this year, we are grateful for religious freedom and the privilege of Christ-centered schools. The souls of our children are the cause for which we work and we appreciate each person who invests to preserve and provide for Highland Christian School.

Jodi







NEW HIRES FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR



Arie DeYoung
8th Grade 1:1 Aide
Church: Bethel Church- Lansing
Education: BA Anderson University - History
Favorite Verse: Romans 5:8 *"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
Favorite Thing About Working at HCS: After having attended HCS as a student, I am excited to return to help new students learn and grow in God.



Savannah Marquez
Interventionist & BAC
Church: Living Hope Church
Education: BS Ball State University - Psychology, Valparaiso University - Elementary Education
Favorite Verse: Romans 8:37 *"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."*
Favorite Thing About Working at HCS: I am honored that I have the opportunity to help students in both their educational and spiritual journeys!



Alexa Van Beek
Jr. High Social Studies Teacher
Church: Faith Church- Dyer
Education: Bachelor of Arts - Calvin University Professional Educator's License, SL endorsement - Trinity Christian College
Favorite Verse: 1 Peter 5:7 *"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."*
Favorite Thing About Working at HCS: I love working alongside a community of fellow believers to help students understand that the God who created the heavens and the earth cares deeply for each of us.



Christina Book - Jr. High Aide
Church: Faith Church- Highland
Education: Associates Degree in Biblical Studies - Charis Bible College
Favorite Verse: John 10:10 *"I have come so they may have life abundantly."*
Favorite Thing About Working at HCS: The friendly and encouraging staff!



Kenadee Contreras - SEC Teacher
Church: Munster Church
Education: AA Liberty University - Early Childhood Education, AA Liberty University - Creative Writing
Favorite Verse: Ephesians 2:8-9 *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."*
Favorite Thing About Working at HCS: I am excited and blessed to be working with an amazing group of Christ followers.



Angeles Carreto - Before and After Care
Church: Casa de Gracia
Education: Hyles Anderson College - Bachelor's Degree
Favorite Verse: Jeremiah 33:3 *"Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."*
Favorite Thing About Working at HCS: I'm most excited about being part of the BAC team and getting to spend time with the kids. I'm looking forward to building relationships with the students and being part of their time at HCS!



Amarilis DeLaGarza - Bus Driver
Church: House of Hope
Education: East Chicago Central High School
Favorite Verse: Psalm 91:1 *"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."*
Favorite Thing About Working at HCS: The Christ centered environment. It's everything to me. I love that culture! And I especially love that my immediate family is part of it as well. My grandchildren and daughter are my heart. I love the HCS amazing people. They are the makeup of this great organization. So happy and proud to be part of it. I enjoy driving the kids to and from school.



Megan Kamp - Director of Finance
Church: Crown Point Christian Reformed Church
Education: BS Trinity Christian College - Accounting
Favorite Verse: Romans 8:28 *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."*
Favorite Thing About Working at HCS: I enjoy working in a Christ-centered community and contributing to the work of nurturing students' faith through Christian education.



Jim Latsoudis - Recess Monitor
Church: Munster Church
Education: Bachelor's Degree of Culinary Arts
Favorite Verse: Titus 3:5 *"He saved us not because of works done by us in righteousness but according to his own mercy by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit."*
Favorite Thing About Working at HCS: I enjoy working in a Christ centered environment. The professionalism, care and support the staff and faculty show to each other and especially towards the students that attend HCS.



Ashley Cook - ELL Aide
Church: Mission Bible Church
Education: Associates Degree in Science - Waubonsee Community College, Bachelors of Arts in Elementary Education - Moody Bible Institute
Favorite Verse: Proverbs 18:10 *"The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run to it and are safe."*
Favorite Thing About Working at HCS: I have the privilege of working with amazing students and staff at HCS. It's a joy to help students do their very best in their studies.



Danielle Rizzo - Kindergarten Aide
Church: LifeWell Church
Education: BS Lincoln Christian University - Bible/Elementary Education, BA University of Illinois - Psychology
Favorite Verse: Hebrews 10:23-24 *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works."*
Favorite Thing About Working at HCS: As a parent at HCS, being a part of a Christian community that works together to strengthen students academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually is a joy!



Jocelyn Winters - Special Education Teacher
Church: Faith Church- Cedar Lake
Education: BA from Purdue Northwest in Elementary and Special Education
Favorite Verse: Psalm 73: 26 *"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."*
Favorite Thing About Working at HCS: I love having the chance to work alongside such amazing HCS staff members to help students grow and succeed using their God given talents and abilities.



Katelynn Wiltjer - School Nurse
Church: Munster Church
Education: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) — Purdue University Northwest | Registered Nurse (RN)
Favorite Verse: Romans 12:2 *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*
Favorite Thing About Working at HCS: My favorite thing about working here is the opportunity to combine my nursing skills and faith to care for, nurture, and uplift the next generation.

CHANGE IN POSITIONS
FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

Faith Best ~ SEC Aide

Jennifer Kotynski ~ SEC Teacher

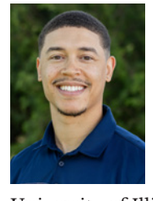
Jennifer Kooyenga ~ SEC Aide

Kelly Burney ~ Academic Support Teacher

Megan Bennett ~ Title One Teacher



Jocelyn Nunn - Before and After Care
Church: Crossroads Community Church
Education: Illiana Christian High School
Favorite Verse: Psalm 139:16 *"Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."*
Favorite Thing About Working at HCS: I went to HCS up until 6th grade. I still remember all the amazing teachers that taught me. I am so excited to be working at HCS and helping out with the new generation of students.



Jerime Mason
Jr. High Bible and Academic Support Teacher
Church: Bethel Church, Crown Point
Education: BS University of Illinois Urbana Champaign - Animal Sciences - Graduate Certificate, Covenant Theological Seminary - Biblical and Theological Studies
Favorite Verse: Proverbs 4:23 *"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."*
Favorite Thing About Working at HCS: I've heard such great things about the students, staff, and larger community. I am excited to be a team member at HCS.

FROM EARLY LITERACY TO HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS: A YEAR OF DISTINCTION AT HCS

written by Mrs. Andrea Harvey, Academic Principal



We are bursting with joy to celebrate another remarkable year of growth and achievement at HCS! For the second year in a row, 100% of our 2025-2026 third graders passed the Indiana IREAD3 test! Achieving a perfect pass rate two years running continues to surpass the state average of 88.7% pass rate on the IREAD3 and reflects the dedication of our teachers and the perseverance of our students. Guided by our literacy coach, Mrs. Kristin Freel, and our partnership with the Indiana Literacy Cadre, our teachers cultivated an environment where a love for reading was nurtured and thrived last school year. Highland Christian has greatly benefitted from our partnership with the Indiana Literacy Cadre; however, the 2025-2026 school year was the conclusion of our two-year direct partnership. We know our teachers will continue to utilize the learned information to support early literacy for all of our young learners moving forward.

Furthermore, our commitment to academic distinction goes beyond early literacy. Throughout the 25/26 school year, our grades 3-8 teachers demonstrated true nimbleness by adapting to new state requirements by devoting countless hours to aligning their grade level math and reading curriculums to the new Indiana ILEARN checkpoint tests. These changes worked to ensure every student felt confident and prepared to complete the checkpoint tests which occurred in October, January, and March along with a summative test in April. The 25/26 school year was the first year the state required these tests and locally they replaced our previously used NWEA MAPs testing. We look forward to sharing the results later when they are released by the state of Indiana.

Finally, Highland Christian was also thrilled to expand opportunities for our middle schoolers last school year with the launch of our eighth grade Computer Science class taught by Mrs. Amy Wieringa. Developed in partnership with Illiana Christian High School, last school year this course allowed seventeen eighth graders to enter high school with a freshman course already on their transcript. This course addition joins Geometry and Algebra in our offered high school-level courses.

Congratulations to our students, educators, and families for partnering together to elevate and improve academic outcomes. By continually adapting, raising standards, and supporting one another, our school community continues to prove that extraordinary results follow when we work with purpose and passion!

Andrea





STUDENT SERVICES: A SEASON OF TRANSITION

written by Mrs. Melissa Brouwer, Director of Student Services

The 2026-2027 school year is one of transition for the Student Services Team. Following the retirement of many gifted and beloved Student Services Team members at the end of the last school year, we are thrilled to welcome new team members who have brought fresh energy, enthusiasm, and ideas to their roles. Beyond enhancing instruction, these additions to our staff will ensure our programs align with state mandates in math and reading. These individuals provide the consistency, support, and flexibility needed to ensure that every student thrives.

We are excited to welcome:

- **Josie Winters**: Special Education Teacher
- **Savannah Marquez**: Interventionist
- **Jim Latsoudis**: Recess Monitor
- **Katie Wiltjer**: School Nurse
- **Chrissy Book**: Jr High Aide
- **Arie DeYoung**: 1:1 Aide

Each of these staff members are already making a meaningful impact - whether providing steady support during unstructured times like recess or delivering individual academic assistance, to academically equip, biblically ground, and spiritually nurture all students.

In addition to new staff members, we have repurposed several spaces in the building to better serve the needs of our team and our students.

- **Student Services Office**: The former custodial closet was converted into an office that allows me to be accessible, while ensuring confidentiality for phone calls and meetings.
- **Discovery Center Division**: The former Discovery Center was divided into three distinct areas to allow for groups to run simultaneously with less distraction.
- **Special Education Room**: A dedicated office was turned into a welcoming space for Josie Winters to work with small groups and individual students.

With these new team members and spaces we are looking forward to a new school year. We are looking forward to partnering with families, teachers, and the community to ensure that every student is successful and has a true sense of belonging at Highland Christian School.

Melissa



FALL SPORTS RECAP

written by Mr. Luke Hillegonds, Athletic Director

VOLLEYBALL

The 7th grade girls' volleyball team had a great first year together as a team. The team was coached by first year coach Taylor Reid. Despite only having nine girls on the team, the 7th graders dominated all year long. They finished the regular season undefeated and won the league championship in dominant fashion!

The 8th grade girls' volleyball team enjoyed another fun year as a team. The team was made up of the same girls from last year including the coach, Maddie Schaaf, who moved up to the 8th grade level this season. The girls had a strong regular season and earned the number three seed in the tournament. They lost in the semi-finals to the eventual champions, but the girls played hard and represented Highland Christian well.

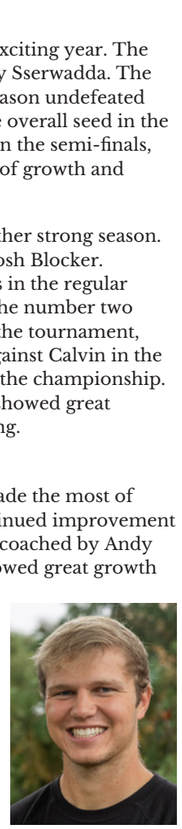
SOCCER

The B soccer team had an exciting year. The team was coached by Tonny Sserwadda. The team finished the regular season undefeated and earned the number one overall seed in the tournament. The team fell in the semi-finals, but they had a great season of growth and improvement.

The A soccer team had another strong season. The team was coached by Josh Blocker. Finishing with only one loss in the regular season, the A team earned the number two seed in the tournament. In the tournament, they had a dominant win against Calvin in the semi-finals before losing in the championship. The team fought hard and showed great determination all season long.

CROSS COUNTRY

The cross country teams made the most of their season with their continued improvement as a team. Both teams were coached by Andy Jellema. The boys' team showed great growth throughout the season by improving their times as the season progressed. The girls came up short in the first two meets but took home the league championship by one point. Both teams had a fun season with lots of improvement.





SOCCER: A TEAM
COACH: JOSHUA BLOCKER

Jay A., Josue A., Braelynn B., Tyce B., Caleb G., Moises G., Zoey G., Alyse H., Ryan H., Aiden P., Brandon P., Jeremy P., Noah R., Brendan S., Paxton V., Zaiden V., Chloe Z.



SOCCER: B TEAM
COACH: TONY SSERWADDA

Asher B., Isabelle B., Jake D., Caden E., Grant E., Jacelyn G., Noah G., Brandon H., Ethan H., Jay H., Caleb K., Kiersten K., Teagan L., Everett N., Hannah R., Kaleb S., Arie V., Kate V.



CROSS COUNTRY TEAM
COACHES: ANDY JELLEMA

Briar D., Troy E., Connor F., Camille J., Sadie J., Bri'elle K., Jayda L., Juliette L., Matthew M., Nate M., Victoria M., Vivienne M., Heather S., Maya S., Naomi S., Saya S., Lexi V., Asher W.



VOLLEYBALL: 7TH GRADE GIRLS
COACH: TAYLOR REID

Tatum D., Anna H., Kiley H., Olivia L., Riley S., Charlotte T., Gabrielle T., Hannah W., Morgan Z.



VOLLEYBALL: 8TH GRADE GIRLS
COACH: MADDIE SCHAAF

Faith B., Ruby B., Christina C., Briar D., Gracyn D., Hayden H., Lily L., Norah N., Remmie P., Shayley S., Enyu W., Amiya W.



Cross Country Champs

HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL | ILLIANA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL | Crown Point Christian School

JOINT BOARD COMMISSION
COLLABORATION, EXPANSION, ALIGNMENT

written by Dr. Kyle Weener, Head of School

There is exciting work happening across our shared Christian school community! As Christian education continues to grow throughout Northwest Indiana, Crown Point Christian, Highland Christian, and Illiana Christian are finding new and meaningful ways to collaborate, expand opportunities for students and families, and faithfully steward the resources God has entrusted to us.

Without a doubt, collaboration is creating new opportunities for our students. Over the past year, Illiana Christian has provided leadership in creating and then expanding football opportunities to both high school and middle school students. With flag football being introduced to both boys and girls over the past two years, we are excited that our 8th grade boys now have the opportunity to participate in tackle football. While extracurricular activities continue to be strengthened, academic excellence continues to be stewarded through educator collaboration, expanded services, and increased opportunities for enrichment and support.

At the same time, Christian education continues to expand into new communities. Just this fall, Hammond Riverside Christian School was launched and opened its doors to 52 students in grades K–5. With provisional accreditation, Indiana Choice Scholarship eligibility, staffing, generous financial support, its own board, and significant volunteer involvement, HRCS is off to an exciting start. The school is already planning for continued growth, with the anticipated addition of PreK–6th grade for the 2027–28 school year.

Meanwhile, in South Lake County, plans are also progressing for a new Christian school in Lowell. Just this fall, Crown Point Christian closed on a 40-acre property in Lowell where due diligence has been completed, and the Town of Lowell approved its development as a Christian school. With a slated open date of August 2028, there continues to be great momentum behind creating new opportunities for Christian education in Northwest Indiana.

Hammond Riverside Christian School

HAMMOND RIVERSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IS OFFICIALLY OPEN!

After many years of thought, prayer, and work, we are grateful to see this dream come to life! Today 52 children have access to Christ-centered education who previously did not. Praise be to God for His guidance, provision, and blessing in this process!



Finally, as our schools prayerfully explore opportunities for greater organizational alignment, we appreciate your prayers and engagement as we discern the future of Christian education in Northwest Indiana. As exploration of a potential merger is underway between Crown Point Christian, Hammond Riverside Christian, Highland Christian, and Illiana Christian, there is a concerted focus on listening, learning, and prayerfully examining whether greater alignment could strengthen our schools and advance our shared mission. Over the coming year, there will be opportunities to ask questions and dialogue about this possibility, while working groups will start to explore this possibility - drawing upon people from our communities with professional skills and expertise, with support from the Joint Board Commission.

We are grateful for the many ways God is opening doors and bringing people together. Please continue to pray for wisdom, unity, and faithfulness as we pursue Christian education together for the sake of present and future generations.

Kyle

BRIDGING OUR COMMUNITIES

written by Mr. Jerime Mason, Jr High Teacher, Highland Christian School
and Mrs. Devan Mason, Kindergarten Teacher, Hammond Riverside Christian School

The Lord is always at work and occasionally we get a glimpse into His plan! Having recently relocated from St. Louis, Jerime and Devan Mason are a living bridge between Highland Christian and Hammond Riverside Christian schools' communities. Jerime is employed by Highland Christian while Devan teaches Kindergarten at Hammond Riverside. Their children are enrolled at Highland Christian. A remarkable story of God's sovereignty and provision, we've asked them to share their story here.

We are the Masons! Before moving to NWI this summer, we lived in St. Louis for nearly a decade. Devan grew up in a small southern town, and I (Jerime) grew up on the South Side of Chicago. We met at the University of Illinois, and I eventually moved to St. Louis while Devan was completing Teach for America. Though we only planned to stay for two years, we built a home, found a community, and welcomed our three children.

During my part-time seminary studies, I began desiring more Christian education and more time in the Word for our entire family. As we asked the Lord to direct our steps, several areas of our lives shifted rapidly—my seminary timeline, my work environment, our kids' school, our family's health in Chicago, and eventually our home.

It became increasingly clear that leaving St. Louis was not just a possibility, but a priority.

We spent the next couple of years praying about where God was calling us. During a 'vision visit' to NWI in the summer of 2024, a close friend gave us a guided historical tour of the local towns. When we walked through Hammond, we felt our first real sense of "maybe this is our place." Hammond has many similarities with University City in Missouri, where we had been living; it is a place where people from all walks of life come together to create a community. We walked through the neighborhoods and prayed for the city of Hammond and for God's direction.

Knowing we wanted a Christian education for our kids, I (Devan) reached out to HCS with an open hand and a prayer. We were amazed when Dr. Weener called shortly after to share about HCS and a new school opening in Hammond; Devan had been specifically praying for an opportunity to serve students in communities with limited access to quality Christian education.

We could only laugh after that phone call—only God could plant a desire in your heart, nurture it for years, begin aligning logistical details, and then invite you to walk by faith into the yet to be known parts. The pieces miraculously came together for our transition over the next year.

Though our arrival in NWI was greeted by storms—causing unexpected housing and family hurdles that made the transition turbulent—we have been blown away, pun intended, by the HCS and HRCS communities in the midst of it all.

In just a few short months, we have watched this community be the hands and feet of Christ to a family they barely know. This difficult season has reminded us that storms don't come prepackaged with interpretations or 'next steps'—and that our purpose is far greater than simply enduring them. We chose NWI to plant, to water and be watered, and ultimately to watch God grow both our family and the body of Christ around us.

It is evident that God is doing a good work here in NWI, and we are incredibly grateful to walk alongside this community as He faithfully completes it. Thank you for welcoming and caring for us. We look forward to getting to know all of you more!





"...only God could plant a desire in your heart, nurture it for years, begin aligning logistical details, and then invite you to walk by faith into the yet to be known parts."

HCS FOUNDATION - ONE GENERATION FOR THE NEXT!

written by Ms. Jodi Lineburg, Development Director

Our Foundation continues to thrive! We ended fiscal year 2026 with a $100K gift from **ETC...a thrift store** and kicked off fiscal year 2027 with an additional $21K raised through our wildly fun and successful **HCS Foundation Golf Outing**. As we press forward toward our goal of $10M by 2030, we are grateful to have reached the 72% goal line.

With fund growth comes greater impact. Highland Christian School's Foundation generated a gift of $228,000 for the 2026-2027 school year. We distributed $156,866 in tuition awards for 294 students. Tuition awards were based on net tuition owed and ranged from $400 to $1,600 per student. The balance of the gift was invested in the Choice Contingency Fund.

We appreciate the intentional investment our community makes in Highland Christian School through the HCS Foundation. In addition to supporting families in their financial commitment to Christ-centered education, the Foundation - as a greater cloud of witnesses - contributes hope, encouragement, and strength to the Body of Christ at our School.

Here's what our families have to say:

"We are very appreciative of the financial help we received during the 2025-2026 school year. It is hard to raise a large family with rising costs but we are so thankful for a school that is committed to Christ and working with families to make it affordable. Thank you!"

"Thank you for always blessing families according to God's faithfulness."

"We appreciate this financial gift, and the generosity of the foundation over the years."

"[We're] Grateful for the foundation's support of our family's desire to educate our children at HCS!"

"We are a low income family who has benefited from the foundation gift each school year, and are grateful for all of the assistance we have been given to make Christian education possible for our first child. These gifts are not something we expect or take for granted, and we know God's hands were always at work any time we received one. We praise Him for His provision."

"We are trusting and believing that God will provide again this year, just as He made a way for us this past school year. We have faith that He will continue to guide and sustain our family. At the same time, we are humbly open [and appreciative] for this help [from the HCS Foundation]."

"My husband works [two jobs] and is beginning to build his pressure washing business. We are doing everything we can to steward what we have wisely. We're grateful for every opportunity, every blessing, and [every gift we receive from the Foundation]."

"We currently live in Illinois and are not eligible for the CHOICE scholarship from Indiana. With two kids at Highland Christian School this year, this gift from the Foundation is a huge help and encouragement!"

"We are a one-income family. We do receive the choice scholarship and that is an incredible help to our family, but having five kids in private school is still expensive. This gift will help us financially and we are very grateful for the Foundation!"

"[This gift from the Foundation] is deeply appreciated and has provided meaningful support to our household. It has eased some of our current burdens, contributed to our overall well-being, and made a lasting impact on our lives. We are truly grateful for this assistance."

"We lost my husband to brain cancer in May 2026. This gift has lifted a financial burden. Thank you for your thoughtful generosity."

"Our family moved to Indiana in August 2026 to follow the call God has placed on my husband's heart for pastoral ministry. He will be attending Mid-America Reformed Seminary for 3 years in order to complete the Master of Divinity Program and become better-equipped for pastoral ministry and, Lord willing, an external call to shepherd a church at the end.

We are so grateful to God for the many ways he has blessed us already in this process of uprooting our family to follow his call, but also feel the weight of this change as it requires almost total financial reliance on others to support our family for those years of training. We continue to trust in God for all things body and soul and thank you for considering us for this Foundation Gift."



FUNDABLE PROJECTS & YEAR END IMPACT

ANNUAL APPEAL

UPDATES

Many thanks to all who gave to our **Summer Tuition Assistance Appeal** and our **Storm Damage Campaign** in August! We received $29,820 for Tuition Assistance and just over $4,000 for storm recovery efforts.

School Improvement Appeal

We're making great strides toward our goal of being DEBT-FREE by 2030! Our goal is to raise $350,000+ this year, reducing our balance by another 25%. Our current loan balance is $1,228,169. Will you help us reach this goal? Large or small, every gift matters!

MAKE YOUR YEAR-END GIVING GO FURTHER!

As you consider your year-end charitable giving, remember that gifts through a **donor-advised Fund (DAF)** or an **eligible IRA charitable distribution** can be powerful, tax-smart ways to support Highland Christian School.

These gift giving strategies provide meaningful financial advantages and an opportunity to create an extraordinary impact on the students, programs, and plans for Highland Christian School's future. Contact your financial advisor to arrange a DAF or IRA gift before December 31.

Need more information? We're happy to help! Visit us online at **highlandchristian.org/give/planned-gifts/** or contact Jodi Lineburg 219.838.0356 x165 or jlineburg@highlandchristian.org

NEW! FUNDABLE PROJECTS

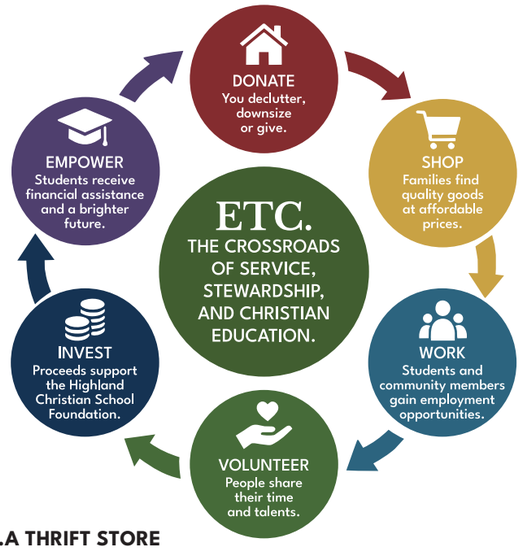
Do you have a passion for Christ-centered education and a desire to increase your impact at Highland Christian School? Fundable Projects might just be the ticket! These high-impact projects look beyond our immediate annual need to the horizon of what could be possible!

Learn more at **highlandchristian.org/fundable_projects**

- FUTURE-READY LEARNING & INNOVATION INITIATIVE
  Potential gift range: $75,000–$100,000
- TRANSFORMATIONAL TEACHER FUND
  Potential gift range: $50,000–$150,000
- LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM
  Potential gift range: $50,000–$200,000
- PRESCHOOL / EARLY LEARNING TRANSFORMATION
  Potential gift: $25,000–$100,000
- OUTDOOR LEARNING & PLAY INITIATIVE
  Potential gift: $100,000–250,000+
- ARTS, MUSIC & CREATIVE EXPRESSION INITIATIVE
  Potential Gift: $25,000–$150,000

The ETC Circle of Impact

One act of giving. Many lives touched.



ETC...A THRIFT STORE

Born for the good of Highland Christian School , ETC ... A Thrift Store has grown into a place where giving, opportunity, and Christian Education meet. As we lean into the fullness of our mission, we're excited to expand our existing pick-up service and grow our community network through special initiatives in 2027!

COMING JANUARY 2027!

EDUCATION FREEDOM TAX CREDIT

Highland Christian School will be participating in the federal Education Freedom Tax Credit Program!

Individual taxpayers may claim a 100% tax credit for qualifying contributions up to $1,700, subject to their individual tax situation.

For more information, visit our website or contact our Advancement Office.

WISH LIST: FALL 2026

Would you like to bless your student's classroom teacher this holiday season? Each year, we publish a school Wish List - items that weren't in the budget but would enhance instruction and learning! Here's a sneak peek:

- Bar Wind Chimes $195
- Document Camera $115
- Portable Round Kids Table & Chairs Set $300
- 4 My First Kids Microscopes & a set of Prepared Slides $28 each
- Set of Prepared Slides $40
- Magnetic Letter and Number Board Tracing Set $42
- Hundred Pocket Chart $18
- 24 Chair Pocket Seat Sacks $60
- 6 pack of Mini Whiteboards $22
- Three two-year subscriptions to Logos Bible Software; total cost $855
- One year subscription to EdPuzzle $165
- 3D Printer for PLTW projects $419
- Classroom Rug $270
- Coping Skills Game $33
- Sensory Activity Board $49
- 5 White Noise Sound Machines $20 each

VIEW THE FULL LIST BY TEACHER
WWW.HIGHLANDCHRISTIAN.ORG "WISH LIST"
OR SCAN THIS QR CODE

HIGHLAND
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
3040 Ridge Road
Highland, IN 46322



GRAND parents day











