



TROJAN TODAY

YOUR SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SOURCE FOR NEWS AND EVENTS | APRIL-MAY 2019



Thank a teacher



Let a teacher know how special they are by donating to the Highland Education Foundation in their honor

The Thank-a-Teacher program at Highland schools is a program that just keeps paying it forward.

Parents, students – even former students and grandparents – who donate at least \$10 to honor a teacher are helping finance educational grants throughout the district.

Highland Education Foundation President Judi Caddick encourages every nominator to include a personal note to the teacher.

“The pin and thank you card are nice but, for teachers, it is those personal notes that make the difference,” she said. “I can tell you from experience that teachers save the notes, take them out and reread them on tough days, cry a few tears and remember why they do what they do.” ❖

How does it work?

The foundation will give the teacher a card and an apple pin along with a personal message during Teacher Appreciation Week, which starts May 6.



How to participate ...

Visit the School Town of Highland website – www.highland.k12.in.us – and click on the Highland Education Foundation button. Under fundraising, you will find more information and a downloadable nomination form. Deadline is April 26.



Junior flautist first Highland student in 15 years to win state band spot

When Junior Philip Bock took his seat at Purdue University’s Elliott Hall of Music, he became the first Highland student in at least 15 years to perform as a member of the prestigious All-State High School Honors Band.

Band Director Brian Blocker has worked with the gifted flautist/piccolo player since sixth grade.

He said in every facet of the competition, his student has lived up to every expectation – and then some.

“This is a student who came in to the program with some musical abilities but has worked for everything he has achieved,” said Blocker, who attended the concert, which was part of an intense weekend of practice, rehearsals and performance before a packed audience at one of the largest auditoriums of its kind in the world.

“Phillip became a superstar flute and piccolo player after attending music camp following sixth grade,” he said. “The instructors at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp really lit a spark for him. From that point on, it has been all about him challenging himself with his music. The challenge for me has been to raise the bar to help keep him performing at that high level.” ❖

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SCHOOL BOARD

Patrick Krull, President

Luanne Jurczak, Vice President

Robert Kuva, Secretary

Victor A. Garcia, Member

Carol Green Fraley, Member

The school board meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Administration Building, 9145 Kennedy Avenue, Highland.

INFO: Visit hhs.highland.k12.in.us for the latest information, including meeting agendas, school policies, board mission, beliefs and values.

Highland Middle School launches first National Junior Honor Society chapter

When sixth-grade math teacher Amy Harmon began the paperwork to launch a National Junior Honor Society chapter at Highland Middle School, she was hoping to begin with 80 students with a 3.5 GPA.

By the end of March, Harmon had received 120 applications from qualifying students.

Through April, a team of six teachers will go through each application, evaluating it not only for academic achievement, but for leadership, citizenship, service and character, as well.

Students will be inducted into the society on May 6. That will begin a new chapter for HMS students, who will have a host of opportunities to perform service projects in the community and throughout the region.

"This is a perfect time to get students engaged in their communities in new ways," Harmon said. "It is a way for students to find their place, learn what makes great leaders and what giving back as a group feels like. It's just as valuable for college-bound students as it is for students who have other career plans." ❖



ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The National Junior Honor Society was founded by the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1929. Today, the organization has chapters in the United States, Puerto Rico, other U.S. Territories and Canada.

Nationally, the organization has ramped up what it considers important and education's role in helping foster well-rounded students. The National Junior Honor Society website has a database of service projects and welcomes other chapters to borrow ideas or submit projects of their own.

LEARN MORE: www.njhs.us

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

"Congratulations to our amazing students and talented teachers for yet another banner year at the School Town of Highland!"



With less than two months until this school year is complete, our students are anxious to finish while our seniors are eager to graduate.

Make no mistake: We still have a great deal of learning to do – iLEARN

and Advanced Placement testing is scheduled for later this month – but it's that time of year when every student begins to take stock of all they have accomplished, looking to move up and move on.

Congrats to students and teachers for another banner year. Here is just a sampling:

★ Standout swimmer Ethan Churilla, who spends as much time in the water as he does out of it, for becoming a state runner-up in both the 50 and 100 freestyle.

- ★ All-around talent Meet Patel – who excels in baseball, tennis, violin and academics – for becoming Highland's newest Lily Scholar.
- ★ Social Studies Teacher Eve Polivka for bringing Speech and Debate back to Highland High and Engineering Instructor Rodney Glenn and his students for launching a solid robotics program.
- ★ Sixth Grade Math Teacher Amy Harmon for bringing another level of excellence to the Middle School with the district's acceptance as a new chapter of the National Junior Honor Society.

We have a lot to be celebrating this spring at the School Town of Highland.

Brian Smith
Superintendent
School Town of Highland



CELEBRATION FEATURES TREE PLANTING, CONTEST WINNER

Warren Elementary is teaming up with the Tree Advisory Board to host Highland's Arbor Day celebration.

Recognizing the importance of hawthorns, tulips and red buds is the next step in town efforts to increase and diversify Highland's tree population.

Already, Highland Parks and Recreation organized and helped plant 18 saplings at Southridge Elementary School.

With the addition of Arbor Day activities – including a poster contest and take-home seedlings for every Warren student – Tree Advisory Board Secretary Richard Underkofler said the town is well on its way to making trees a priority.

“Warren students created 200 posters for the occasion,” Underkofler said. “We can't wait to choose the winning entries.”

“Arbor Day is a great time to remind all of us just how important trees are to the community,” Warren Elementary Principal Christina Davis said. “We are thrilled to be part of this celebration and look forward to watching our dogwood grow.”

THE CEREMONY

Warren Elementary will host an Arbor Day Ceremony at 1:30 p.m. April 26 featuring:

- 🌱 Presenting of Colors: Cub Scouts Pack 297
- 🌱 Welcome Town Council President Steve Wagner
- 🌱 Arbor Day Proclamation
- 🌱 Presentation about trees and the role they play in our lives
- 🌱 Present award to poster contest winner
- 🌱 Plant a tree provided by the Tree Board
- 🌱 Distribute seedlings provided by IDNR and Nipsco
- 🌱 Closing remarks
- 🌱 Retire the flag

GRADUATION COUNTDOWN

It's about pomp. It's about circumstance. It's about endings and new beginnings. Graduation season is upon us, filled with a flurry of activities that celebrate the very best of what Highland students have accomplished. Here are a few important times and dates leading up to the big day:

DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY

Prom will be held from 6 to 11 p.m. **April 27** at the Halls of St. George in Schererville. Date request forms for out-of-towners, freshman and sophomores are required.

RECOGNIZING THE BEST

Members of the National Honor Society will gather for an awards banquet at 6 p.m. **May 13** in the high school cafeteria to celebrate an academic career well done!

TOP 20% LUNCHEON

Students in the top 20 percent of the Class of 2019 will celebrate academic excellence during a luncheon in their honor from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. **May 19** in the high school cafeteria.

PICTURES & REHEARSAL

We'll take photos and rehearse for graduation from 7:45 to 11 a.m. **May 17** in the gymnasium and auditorium.

GEARING UP FOR FINALS

Seniors take final exams **May 22, 23 and 24**. Grades will be available online **May 24**.

POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE

The Class of 2019 gathers **June 2** for graduation. The ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the high school's Monbeck Auditorium. Every guest must have a ticket.



THE LITTLE MERMAID

PRESENTED BY THE HIGHLAND THEATRE COMPANY

Journey with Ariel and her friends as the mermaid is faced with life-altering decisions where she must choose a life above – or below – the sea.

This enchanting musical is an adventure for the ages as the coming-of-age mermaid realizes her dream of being accepted on her own terms.

DATES & SHOWTIMES

7 PM • FRIDAY • MAY 3

7 PM • SATURDAY • MAY 4

2 PM • SUNDAY • MAY 5

HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL'S MONBECK AUDITORIUM

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

www.HTC.BookTix.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

FAIRYTALE PRINCESS TEA

The Highland Performing Arts Boosters invite all little princes and princesses ages 3 and up to its Fairytale Princess Tea. Meet Belle, Ariel, Moana, Elsa and Cinderella! The afternoon features performances by your favorite princesses, a special craft project and photo opportunities. Autographs are \$5. Themed snacks and Princess Lemonade also will be served.

WHEN: 2 p.m. Saturday, **May 4**

WHERE: Highland High School

RESERVATIONS: \$20 for adult + 1 child, \$28 for adult + 2 children and \$36 for adult + 3 children. Email dmarkley@highland.k12.in.us to reserve your seat today!

SPRING CONCERTS

Join us as we celebrate spring with performances from our high school choir and our high school and middle school musical ensembles.

BAND: 6:30 p.m. **April 17**

ORCHESTRA: 6:30 p.m. **May 7**

HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR: 6:30 p.m. **May 8**

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR: 6:30 p.m. **May 21**

WHERE: Monbeck Auditorium

ADMISSION: Free

SPRING FLOWER SALE

Highland Athletic Booster Club is offering spring blooms at a deal too good to pass up. Buy a voucher. Buy two. Then head to Scheeringa Farms for all your flower needs.

COST: \$25 per voucher

INFO: Purchase vouchers from the Athletic Department or online at HighlandAthleticBoosterClub.com.

ATHLETICS GOLF OUTING

It's time to register for the Annual Highland Athletic Department golf outing. Proceeds benefit the entire Highland Athletic Department.

WHEN: 11 a.m. shotgun start **June 28**

WHERE: Wicker Park Golf Course

FEE: \$80 person/\$320 foursome includes golf, lunch and cookout.

INFO: Contact Athletic Director Ryan Harrington at (219) 922-5611 or rharrington@highland.k12.in.us.