



TROJAN TODAY

YOUR SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SOURCE FOR NEWS AND EVENTS | OCTOBER 2020

2019-nCoV
coronavirus

SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SPECIAL REPORT



Highland students return to classroom

It has been an exciting two weeks as most have returned as full-time, in-classroom students.

Athletics is in full swing with new safety protocols strictly adhered to and compliance by students and coaches. Our clubs and extra-curriculars are also ramping up.

As students get acclimated to being back in the school buildings, we have every confidence they will get back in the groove and that those, for whom at-home learning has been difficult, will get back on track.

Our Lake County superintendents continue working together to discuss strategies that are proving successful in each of our districts.

We have learned so many things during the pandemic – chief among them that virtual learning doesn't work for every student.

While some students can learn no matter what the environment, failure rates are higher when chil-



WELCOME BACK! Students returned to school with masks and social distancing rules in place. Hallways are one-way and many are marked to guide students in standing 6 feet apart. The lunch crew also got creative converting the middle school gymnasium, above, into a second cafeteria. "We moved mobile units into the area to allow for more physical distance while eating," Food Services Director Lisa Hayes said. [photos provided]

dren are not in the classroom.

Pre-emptive changes at our schools include alternating grade levels on playground and the black top during recess as well as mask breaks for elementary students.

We also implemented block scheduling in the upper grades to reduce the number of interactions.

Masks are mandatory – no exceptions. Many students seem relieved to be getting back into a routine. For us, it's simply a joy to see them in person.



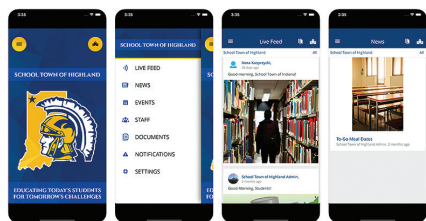
Brian Smith
Superintendent
School Town of Highland

IMPROV TEAM GOES VIRTUAL

A tight-knit group of high school performers are adapting their unscripted theatre to a new COVID-friendly medium. “Not Your Mother’s Improv” Team, under the direction of Coach Marc Ryser, is morphing the art form that relies on audience interaction into a possible run as a virtual art form until in-person performances resume. “Improv is all about reaction and an emotional connection to those in the audience as well as other performers,” Ryser said. “Improv sparks quick thinking and confidence. It helps them become better students.”

FREE MEALS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Thanks to the USDA, all students are receiving breakfast and lunch at no cost whether they are in-school or enrolled in the virtual classroom through Dec. 18. Each student can receive one free breakfast and one free lunch daily. Money already spent on qualified meals in September will be credited to student cafeteria accounts.



DOWNLOAD OUR OFFICIAL APP!

The official app for School Town of Highland allows users direct access to the most recent news, announcements and event calendars. Customize the app to display information relevant to a specific campus and to receive important notifications from the district. Users may also access the directory of district faculty and staff, view menus, locate district events, contact campuses and departments, follow athletic scores and updates and more.

INFO: Download the app on your smartphone.
Android: bit.ly/37eam7l
iPhone: apple.co/3czUVrv.



SPORTS UPDATE

A commitment by coaches and a willingness by players to protect themselves against COVID-19 has paid off.

Fall sports have proven it is possible to participate in competitive athletics without passing the virus. Athletic Director Ryan Harrington said, “Our plan is solid. We take nothing for granted. Our coaches have done a phenomenal job of continually tweaking our program to keep kids safe. In the process, they made it better.”

Trojan soccer, tennis, volleyball, golf and football are in the record books while wrestlers, swimmers and basketball players are conditioning. Of all sports, Harrington said wrestling is prompting the greatest concern. “The sport is all about close contact. Our wrestlers are conditioning with a focus on cardio,” Harrington said. “We haven’t figured out how to keep those athletes safe, but we are working on it.”

FLU VACCINE CLINIC

Highland High School, in coordination with Franciscan Health, will host a flu vaccine clinic from **noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16.**

The clinic is open to staff, students and their families. Please bring a copy of your insurance card and driver’s license. For those without insurance, the vaccine is \$10.

The clinic will be held outside the auditorium around the circular drive. If inclement weather, we’ll move to the auditorium.

QUESTIONS? For more information, email Dr. Sherri L. Mitchell, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum Instruction & Student Services, at smitchel@highland.k12.in.us