



## August 2018 Board Notes from Highland High School

**From Dr. Becker, Principal: Amazing Start-**HHS had an amazing back to school week! Teacher in-service days kicked off on August 13 and 14 setting the tone for the start of the school year with multiple faculty and staff activities. The opening HHS faculty meeting provided opportunity to establish a strong framework for the 2018-2019 school year that focuses on teaching, learning, and school culture. Please see the opening day [Faculty PowerPoint](#) which highlights goals and priority targets for the year.



Faculty and staff stepped up and welcomed students to the 2018-2019 school year. Their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm was showcased and appreciated. From faculty meetings, *Meet the Staff*, welcoming students, and establishing positive culture and expectations, a positive energy was felt throughout the building. Students noticed it, parents noticed it, and faculty noticed it. We are excited for an amazing 2018-2019 school year at HHS where positive school culture truly matters.

On August 16, HHS administrators presented the PowerPoint, [Success at HHS: Student Handbook Review & Class Meetings 2018-2019](#) to all students during class meetings. The assemblies went very well as students were attentive, engaged, and receptive. Material was condensed this year in order to present in a more purposeful, meaningful, and impactful manner. Students also took the HHS Handbook quiz on August 15 to review policies, expectations, and procedures.

**Exchange Students-**Highland High School is honored to have two foreign exchange students this year who are staying with host families. Damaris from Estonia and Max from Thailand have been welcomed with open arms and are transitioning well to their new school and community.

**Hall Area of Fame-**Congratulations to Mr. Joel Hawkins for being elected into the *Highland Area Schools Alumni Association Hall of Fame*. His induction will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 29 in the HHS commons. Hawkins began his teaching career in Highland in 1985 and has coached multiple sports, sponsored FCA, and won a few IHSA titles along the way. His leadership, passion, and influence have shaped students, faculty, and our community for over 30 years.





**Perfect ACT!**-Congratulations to HHS senior Emilie Hoepker for scoring the highest possible ACT composite score of 36. On average, around one-tenth of 1 percent of students who take the test earn a top score (per ACT). This is an amazing accomplishment for Emilie, her family, and the HHS community.

**HHS Events and Happenings-** Please see the following links for [HHS Important Dates 18-19](#) and [Meetings and PLC Assemblies](#) that will take place during the school year. Notes that dates and activities are subject to change.

**From Ms. Amy Boscolo, Assistant Principal Athletic Director: Fall Athletics-**As we start the fall season we have 241 student athletes participating in sports! Ashley DeSelm led the girls golf team to their first win, and her first ever win as a head coach, against Triad on Monday, August 13. We are teaming up with *Power of the Giraffe* again for our September 21st football game against Triad. The school that sells the most tee shirts will win \$250. We are also going to honor Chief Bell with a moment of silence and 50/50 raffle with proceeds going to *Shop with a Cop* in honor of Chief. Here is the HHS [Athletic Website](#) and [FALL SPORTS](#) info which includes schedules and contact information.

**From Mr. Caleb Houchins, Associate Principal: School Safety-** Highland High School conducted a Code Red Drill at 10:30 on August 23. School safety is the number one responsibility of our school district, and having SRO Chris Flake on site is a huge benefit. Officer Flake has been able to conduct one-on-one meetings with the staff, as well as to help train students on safety procedures and protocols. Officer Flake helped to coordinate the *Code Red Drill* with the Highland Police Department and assisted running a quick, effective, and seamless drill. Highland High School continues to strive for the safest campus possible, and students, faculty, and administration are all better trained because of the addition of Officer Flake to the Highland High School campus.

**From the School Counselors-Mary Jackson (Department Chair), Carrie Lieberman, and Amber Spaeth:** The School Counselors have had a busy, yet productive start to the 2018-2019 School year. The Counselors led a training session for the Ambassadors on August 6th and hosted Freshman Day on August 7th. During freshman day, 53 Ambassadors led tours, ice breaker sessions, and a question and answer session to 176 freshmen. The Counselors welcomed 21 new students and two exchange students to the district with a breakfast with the Ambassadors before the first day of school. The Counselors have been busy completing schedule changes and preparing for our college and career senior presentations. For additional information about upcoming events check out our newsletter: <https://www.smores.com/5wkbg>



**From Mr. Steve Konopka, School Social Worker-Snowball** Highland High School is now an accredited *Chapter of Operation Snowball, Inc.* The following students attended the CGTI Leadership Training at Eastern Illinois University over the summer: Maddie Adolph, Jakob Clark, Peyton Strong, Megan Vidmar, Jack Beiermann, Olvia Jansen, Ashley Knackstedt and Tess Korte. Students developed a Community Action Plan of events and activities to implement at HHS and in the Highland community during the 2018-2019 school year. The group is currently planning these events and recruiting new members to the club.

**From Andy Gibb-Clark, Choir Teacher**-The choral department at HHS has gotten off to a great start! Choir camp took place the week before school started. During the camp, Madrigal Singers, Chamber Singers, and Show Choir made great strides towards achieving excellence for this year. Students are excited to be back and look forward to the *Kansas City Renaissance Festival* trip as it quickly approaches. As always, thank you for your wonderful support of the program and students!

Educationally Yours,

Dr. Chris Becker  
Principal

Mr. Caleb Houchins  
Associate Principal

Ms. Amy Boscolo  
Assistant Principal/Athletics