



November 2018 Board Notes from Highland High School

From Dr. Chris Becker, Principal- We hope you had a meaningful, enjoyable, and restful Thanksgiving Break with family, friends, and loved ones. Our school is so thankful for such a supportive community. It's been a school year to celebrate as HHS students captured MVC titles in football, girls' cross country and volleyball, qualified for IHSA State in girls' cross country and girls' tennis, and earned honors at HHS Band and Choir, Culinary, FFA, and Math Team competitions. Recently, the Highland Optimists recognized HHS club presidents at a dinner reception with Highland community leaders. Our school made strides academically as ACT scores improved and SAT scores remain above state averages. HHS students, teachers, and coaches are doing amazing things!

Winter sports are in revving up as the basketball, dance, cheer, wrestling, and bowling teams begin their seasons. Madrigal singers are busy preparing for their upcoming shows with dinner performances on Dec. 7 and Dec. 8, and an appetizer show on Dec. 9. Please see the [Order Form](#) for tickets. On November 29, students will experience the assembly "*7 Reasons to Leave the Party*" presented by Associate Judge, Sarah Smith to encourage good decision making and positive choices. Ask your student what they learned after the assembly.

A special thanks to Mr. Joel Hawkins and students for presenting at our annual schoolwide Veterans Day Assembly. Hawkins has a magnificent gift with his profound ability to craft such thoughtful and meaningful yearly assemblies that leave a lasting impact on all who attend. From the band and choir, to personal stories, to the recognition of those who served our country, students were engaged, attentive, and respectful throughout the program. You could tell that it meant something special for all who attended. It was a proud day for all. See Mr. Houchins expanded correspondence on the assembly later in the newsletter.



School counselors are busy preparing for 2019-2020 student scheduling and will meet individually with all students to guide with course selections. This is a change from previous years where counselors presented material in classrooms. We are excited about the adjustment as it provides a focused and specialized approach to selecting classes in order to prepare students for college and career opportunities. Please see the November [Counselor Newsletter](#) and check out the [HHS Counseling Page](#) for more details.

We look forward to the last few weeks of the semester as we prepare for final exams and some much needed rest during the holiday season. Although it's exciting to close the semester, the end of the term can be tough for some students as class workloads, activities, and final exams sometimes create challenges and stress. Please check how things are going with your student and support them as they work to complete the semester. There is great pressure on today's young people to succeed in all areas of life and we— faculty, coaches, parents, and community— need to be there to provide guidance and support. Sometimes young people just need us to be active and empathic listeners. And remember, one grade, project, or test result, positive or negative, does not permanently define our entire future. Something simple we started at HHS this year was asking students to make an effort “try and care” with everything they do, even when things get tough. And when that happens—success, confidence, and greatness tend to follow.

Final Exam Information- Exams are scheduled for Dec. 19, 20, and 21. Below are documents to help prepare for exams:

- [Final Exam Schedule](#)
- [Final Exam Electronic Device Policy](#)
- [Parent Signature Form to Leave Following Exams](#)
- [Final Exam Change Form](#)
- [ISA Science Assessment Flow Chart](#)
- [Final Exam Flow Chart](#)
- [Final Exam Handbook Info](#)



Please remember that HHS enforces an academic integrity policy all year – including during final exams. Students are expected to take exams on their scheduled exam day. If your child is not able to take their scheduled exam, the “final exam form change” is attached. Changes to final exams are used for unavoidable schedule conflicts and are due on Friday, Dec 7. Semester grades are counted as follows:

Qtr. 1 40% + Qtr. 2 40% + Final Exam 20% = 100% (Final Semester Grade)

NOTE-Qtr. 1 and Qtr. 2 are 50% each when students are exempt from Final Exams.

--Please see the [exam calculator](#) to calculate grades prior to Final Exams.

Midterms for Qtr. 2- You may view your child's 2nd quarter midterm grades after 3:00 pm on Monday, Nov. 26 by accessing PowerSchool at <https://ps.highlandcusd5.org/public/>. If you're having trouble accessing PowerSchool, need assistance, or have questions, please contact HHS Administrative Assistant, Jami Jansen at 618-654-7131 or email her at jjansen@highlandcusd5.org.

District Launches New App for Parents and Students- Please check out the new and updated [Highland CUSD 5](#) and [HHS web pages](#). You may also download the new district app to explore capabilities and functionality. Links below provide some new communication tools for HHS and Highland CUSD 5.

HHS Smartphone App- [Apple App Store](#)

HHS Smartphone App- [Google Play](#)

HHS Twitter- <https://twitter.com/HHSbulldogsIL>

HHS Twitter Athletics- <https://twitter.com/HHSBulldogAD>

HHS Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/Highland-High-School-IL-501479483667441/>

Highland CUSD 5 Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/highlandcusd5/>

From Mr. Caleb Houchins, Associate Principal- On October 25, Wendy Phillips and Red Ribbon Week sponsors organized an exciting assembly with



four-time Olympian Speed Walker, Debbi Sullivan. Sullivan used her unique perspective as an Olympian to preach the benefits of hard work, goal setting, and good decision making. The program catered to high school clientele and involved several interactions with students. Volunteers participated in trivia as well speed walking races. The student body heard a valuable message about making sound decisions and working hard to continue to be successful and productive citizens in our community.

The Veterans Day Assembly is a yearly highlight at HHS which honors the brave men and women who proudly serve the Highland Community. The assembly showcases our students' talents and shares the respect and gratitude our students have for Veterans. The assembly began with the *Presentation of Colors* and *The Star Spangled Banner* performed by Mr. John Case and the Highland High School Band. Dr. Chris Becker welcomed everyone, and provided a heartfelt story about his family and the role veterans played in his life. Mr. Andy Gibb Clark and the HHS Chorus performed the patriotic medley, *America the New Colossus*. Finally, Mr. Joel Hawkins provided moving remarks illuminating the stories of veterans, and the sacrifices many had made for their country.

During the ceremony, the VFW conducted a *Flag Ceremony* and *Gun Salute* honoring a World War II veteran who had passed away the previous week. It was a moving experience for all. As always, students were exceptional in being respectful and attentive. Special thanks goes to Joel Hawkins for creating the assembly, Chris Durbin, Josh Case, and the WDOG Media Group for the audio visual support, Dawn Jones and FCCLA for providing a delicious breakfast, and Rene Barr, Larry Jones, Don Schmitz, and the FFA for greeting our distinguished veterans. It was an honorable assembly and a proud day to show gratitude to those who served our great nation.



From Ms. Amy Boscolo, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director: Fall & Winter Athletics-

Cross Country

For only the third time in school history we had five girls run under 20:00 minutes on a three-mile course. There were 5 girls who ran their best three-mile time of the year. Those accomplishments are really something to get excited about.

Kate Marti had a day. She ran an 18:57 as a freshman and after three knee surgeries came back to run a 19:06 and be our #1 runner as a senior. She's been a jr. high state champ, a podium finisher in IHSA track, and two-time state qualifier in cross country. She will be signing on National Signing Day with Maryville University and they are getting a terrific competitor and super kid. Our program is going to miss her greatly.

Jessica Borrer finished her second state championship race as our second finisher. She's such a talented girl and a great teammate. She has the asset that many good distance runners lack, and that's foot speed.

Julia Loeh bounced back after a couple of tough finishes and put together a strong race. She was 0:28 faster when she ran in September. She's was a big difference maker for us all year.

Sam Hengehold really battled. She gave her team energy. She will benefit greatly by getting herself some rest and hitting the reset button on what's been a challenging season for her.

Grace Meyer, Britin Machuca, and Danielle Little rounded out the State team.

Volleyball

Volleyball ended their season with a loss to Taylorville in the first round of Sectionals. This loss did not define our girls this season. These girls battled to become the winningest team in Highland Volleyball history. They ended their season 33-3. On a side note we are very excited that, Clair Dierks will be continuing her career at McKendry University in the fall.

Football

Our Bulldog football team had an outstanding season finishing 11-1. The overwhelming support of the community was outstanding. We received unbelievable donations by



Jelly, Plocher, Korte, Jimmy Johns, and many others, throughout the season and saying thank you is all we can say, but it's not enough.

Winter Sports

Our winter sports have taken off just as fall was finishing up. Our Lady Bulldog Basketball team is in the middle of their first tournament starting their season 2-1. Clint Hamilton is in his first year as a varsity head coach and doing an outstanding job with the program.

Bowling is also on a roll...competing in their first tournament and earning their first conference win versus Triad.

Boys Basketball and Wrestling compete for the first time Thanksgiving week/weekend and Dance and Cheer start the following week. Stay tuned for updates on our winter success.

National Letter of Intent - Signing Day

On Wednesday, November 14, we had three Highland Bulldogs sign their letter of intent to compete at the college level.

- Payne Waldman will be competing in baseball while studying political science at Danville Area Community College for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Kate Marti will be competing in cross country and track and field at Maryville University while studying nursing for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Jacob Willis will be competing in baseball while studying business at Kaskaskia College for the 2019-2020 school year.

From Susie Martz, HHS English Teacher- Mrs. Martz's Literature of the Holocaust class Skyped in Mrs. Simone Liebster, a holocaust survivor who lives in Alsace, France. Mrs. Liebster was taken from her parents when she was 11 and put in a re-education penitentiary in Constance, Germany. Simone and her parents were Jehovah's Witnesses who openly opposed Hitler and the Nazis. In preparation for the interview, students researched Liebster's life, studied the role of Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany from the 1890s to the 1930s, read excerpts from her book Facing the Lion, and finally they met in groups to compile interview



questions. On Oct. 26, students took turns asking questions via *Skype* in Mrs. Martz's classroom. The interview was a success and students learned to view the events and people of the Holocaust from different perspectives. Here are a few samples of the students' written reactions to the interview.

"During the interview I learned many new important things. One of the most important things was Simone's view on revenge. She made it clear that nothing good comes from revenge and I love that she stuck to what she knew was best for her." -Megan Sapienza

"One of the biggest things that stood out to me was how if you turned in your parent or other family member for not complying to the Nazis, you were praised. Another thing I learned was that Witnesses just had to sign a contract saying that they will follow Hitler and they can leave the camps. Most did not sign this contract because they believed in their faith and refused to worship Hitler." -Brooke Geromiller

"Simone is and always will be a very amazing and good person. I'm very glad that I was able to have this experience and I hope other kids will get the same experience I got!" -Cameron Dennison

From Mr. Chris Durbin, Technology, Media, and Engineering- The WDOG

Media Group continues to make its mark. The team had 1,907 live viewers for the playoff football game against Joliet Catholic, with 193 views on demand. They had 36 live views of the Veterans Day Assembly with 179 watching it after the fact. Since August 24, WDOG Media has had 4,136 live views and 1,272 views on demand. These numbers include choir and band concerts, athletic events, and assemblies that were live streamed.

Since January of 2016, they have broadcast 105 HHS events. These numbers do not include the games broadcast on our *YouTube* Channel prior to switching



to the NFHS Network format. The high water mark for the WDOG Media group was showcased during the Chaminade basketball game at the Highland Shootout when current Boston Celtic Jayson Tatum played and over 3,500 people watched on *YouTube*. This semester there are 20 students in the Media Group, with another 6 planning to join after football and band draw to a close. WDOG Media officially meet on Mondays and Tuesdays afterschool and on Friday to set up for football games. The group continues to gain momentum and we are proud of their accomplishments.

The GEMS Club is hosting a "Renewable Emergency Energy Fair and Symposium" (REEFS) in the Highland High School Kennel on November 29, 30 and December 1. The event gives teachers at Highland Middle and High Schools an opportunity for an "in house field trip," and a chance to create activities using current events and relevant ideas as a springboard. On Saturday December 1, the fair will be open to the public with the expectation that St. Louis area companies promote the event throughout the Metro East.

The Technology Club will be forming multiple teams for the annual Trebuchet Competition at Lewis and Clark Community College. The club has entered up to 6 different teams in previous years and has participated since its inception. Students explore physics to research, design, and build trebuchets and compete against other high schools. The event will be held April 5th, 2019. If you're interested in helping students design "siege weapons," the GEMS Club, or WDOG Media, please contact Chris Durbin at the high school for more details at cdurbin@highlandcusd5.org or 618-654-2131.

From Mr. Gibb-Clark, HHS Choir- HHS Senior Tori Lynn was recently accepted into the *American Choral Directors Association National Honors Choir*. This is a tremendous honor and accomplishment as choir selections are made nationwide from high school and college auditions across the country. Acceptance to this



choir is considered a step beyond making all state. Congratulations Tori!

From the School Counselors-Mary Jackson (Department Chair), Carrie Lieberman, and Amber Spaeth: In the month of October, 232 students signed in to see the school counselor individually. Of those students, 22% were freshmen, 13.4% were sophomores, 16.4% were juniors, and 48.3% were seniors. The students who signed in stated they were visiting their counselors for the following reasons: 37.6% for Academic concerns, 23.3% for College/Career concerns, and 23.7% for Personal concerns. In addition to seeing students who walked-in the office, the counselors also helped register students for SWIC dual credit, pre-administered 35 students for the PSAT/NMSQT, administered the PSAT/NMSQT, met with all juniors in small group sessions to talk about steps for life after high school, and met with all freshman to complete an interest inventory and talk about starting to make plans for their future. Counselors are busy in the month of November preparing to start registration for the 2019-2020 school year.

HHS Events and Happenings- Please see the following links for:

[HHS Important Dates](#)

[2018-2018 School Calendar](#),

[HHS Meetings, Assemblies, PLC calendar](#),

[Athletic Website](#), [FALL SPORTS](#), and [WINTER SPORTS](#)

Please note that dates, times, and activities are subject to change. If you have questions, concerns, or feedback, please contact HHS at 618-654-7131.

Educationally Yours,

Dr. Chris Becker

Principal

cbecker@highlandcusd.org

Mr. Caleb Houchins

Associate Principal

chouchins@highlandcusd5.org

Ms. Amy Boscolo

Assistant Principal/Athletics

aboscolo@highlandcusd5.org



Culinary students in Mrs. Jones' class prepared a Thanksgiving Feast from scratch- start to finish. They also talked about table etiquette, having conversations instead of using phones, and family traditions. Amazing work by our students.



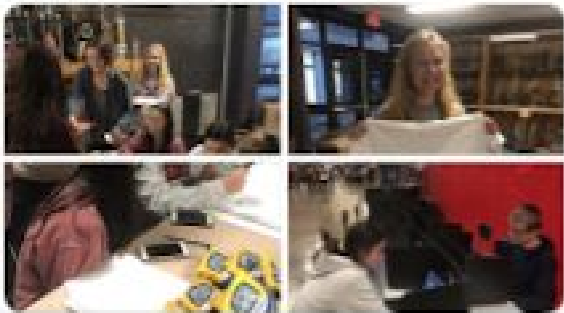


This Week in Pictures



Highland High School
@HHSbulldogsIL

HHS Blood Drive! Doing what we can to save a life and putting others before ourselves. Thanks to all who donated blood and volunteered to work today. Thanks to Coach Vance for sponsoring.

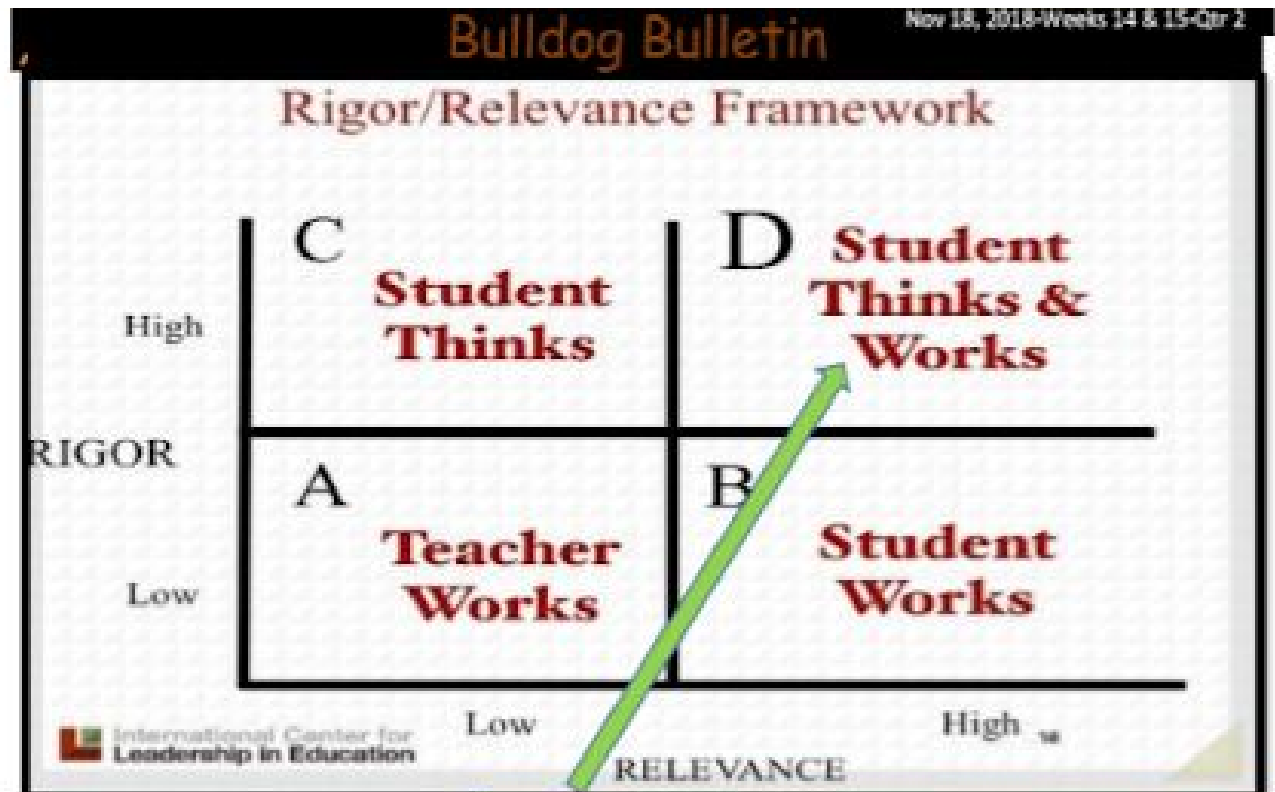


Highland High School
@HHSbulldogsIL

Students in Ms. Seelhoefers class working on a science activity simulating cell transport. They searched the room to crack the code with an engaging activity.



Greenhand Lunch with Mr. Jones & Students



Highland High School IL
November 9 at 9:25 PM · 🌐

An impactful lesson in Mrs. Bland's College Writing class as students crafted thesis statements and participated in learning conversations with peers. They are learning to take their writing to the next level with meaning and purpose.

👤 Cindy McCarty and 7 others

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Purposeful learning allowing students to **think and work** on their own can be more effective.



Mrs. Twyford's Spanish III class listening to a guest speaker share experiences with the Peace Corps in Columbia. Discussions ensue about culture, stereotypes, language, and way of life



Mrs. Ayer's Algebra class solving equations with the game "Deal or No Deal" as a learning activity.

A bulletin board in her room highlighting words of inspiration.





This Week in Pictures

HHS Counselors: Mary Jackson, Amber Spaeth, and Carrie Lieberman meeting with the class of 2022 discussing careers & resumes. Students also take an interest inventory.



Mrs. Jones and culinary students—3rd place out of 7 teams!

Best Dessert of the day!!!





Football Bulldogs Finish Amazing Season at 11-1

The Bulldogs take the field, Rowdy Crowd in action, and Coach Warnecke addressing his team after the JCA Quarterfinal game. So much to be proud of this year for our school and community.



Ms. Boscolo addressing students, parents, and coaches at the National Signing Day.





Bulldog Bulletin

Nov 9, 2018-Week 13-Qtr 3

Girls Cross Country State Meet in Peoria-21st Place



Highland Bulldog Football Headed to Quarterfinals vs Joliet Catholic



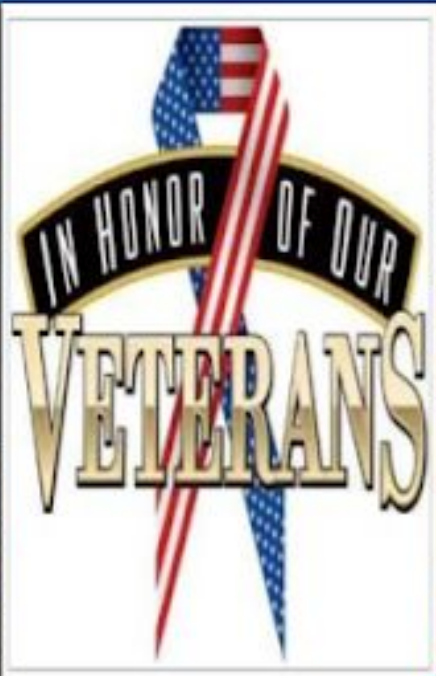


VETERANS DAY

Bulldog Bulletin Nov 9, 2018-Week 13-Qtr 2

This Week in Pictures

Our Honorable Veterans Students Watching Branch Colors



Veterans and HHS Band Members HHS Students and Veterans: Posting of the Colors





Mr. Hawkins Sharing the Stories
Mrs. Jones's Students Serving Breakfast



Honoring the Veterans and Eras
Veterans Eating and Talking About Old Times

