



December 2018 Board Notes from Highland High School

From Dr. Chris Becker, Principal- The end of the semester is finally here and final exams begin Wednesday Dec. 19. We are excited to close the door on the term and turn the page to 2019. We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year, and hope you're able spend quality time with family, friends, and loved ones over Winter Break. As a reminder, students resume classes on Tuesday, January 8, 2019. Please see information below regarding Final Exams, the April SAT Test, Illinois State Scholars, and other important items. As always, please contact the HHS office with any questions, feedback, or concerns. We truly appreciate your continued support in making HHS a great place for students, staff, parents, and community.

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

- [Final Exam Schedule](#)
- [Final Exam Electronics Policy](#) (Phones/electronic use during exams may result in a '0')
- [Parent Signature Form to Leave After Exams](#) (Parents/Admin sign to leave early)
- [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 unless arrangements have been made. 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. Additionally, students must have a signed note each day to leave early after exams.



SAT Testing in April-HHS is planning a practice SAT test for Juniors on March 1 during the morning of the half-day Teacher Institute. English and math teachers will help their students register for Khan Academy practice sessions in January. The mandated SAT Test for Juniors is on Tuesday, April 9. Additionally, 9th and 10th grade students will take the SAT 9 and SAT 10 on April 9. Seniors will have a non-attendance College/Career Day on April 9. A parent letter will go home next semester providing families with important information and encourage students to prepare for their upcoming standardized tests.

Highland High School Announces Illinois State Scholars-

Illinois Student Assistance Commission Applauds the Success of 29 Highland High School Students: Highland High School Principal, Dr. Chris Becker, is pleased to announce that 29 students from the graduating class of 2019 have been recognized as Illinois State Scholars.

The [Illinois Student Assistance Commission](#) (ISAC), the state agency committed to helping to make college accessible and affordable for Illinois families, bestows this prestigious recognition to top Illinois high school students annually.

Illinois State Scholars possess strong academic potential and are chosen based on a combination of exemplary ACT or SAT test scores and sixth semester class rank. State Scholars rank in approximately the top ten percent of high school seniors, representing all high schools across the state. “We are extremely proud of our Illinois State Scholars and extend congratulations to students and families for achieving at such a high level. Their success is a result of collaborative efforts from students, parents, faculty, and community.” Dr. Becker said.

The following Highland High School students were named 2019-20 Illinois State Scholars: **Grayson Arnold, Alexis Banks, Michael Barth, Abigail Beyer, William Bondurant, Cole Diesen, Kayla Eads, Lexys Gilliam, Megan Griesbaum, Delaney Grimes, Alexis Hartman, Emilie Hoepker, Mackenzie Jones, Heather Kim, Brianna Korte, Kealy Korte, Trent Lammers, Katelyn Marti, Hailey Niebrugge, Emerson Nyquist, Megan Ramsey, Taylor Reidelberger, Mae Riffel, Samantha Segrist, Jennifer Taylor, Lauren Townsend, Baylee Wetzel, Audrey Wilke, and Brooke Wilson.**



“In this 60th year of the Illinois State Scholar Program, we commend another class of outstanding students that will lead us into the future,” said Eric Zarnikow, executive director of ISAC. “Congratulations to these Scholars for their hard work and accomplishments, and congratulations to the families, principals, teachers, counselors, coaches, mentors, and all of the other individuals who not only help our students find the path that will allow them to flourish, but also support them every step of the way.”

December 7 Teacher In-Service- HHS faculty and staff participated in a variety of professional development activities and training at the recent Teacher In-Service. PD sessions included Active Shooter Safety Training for new staff, Google Refresher tools such as Drive, Forms, and Classroom, SAT Kahn Academy Training, and Virtual Reality Goggles Training to enhance curriculum. Teachers also participated in faculty and department meetings focusing on multiple areas to improve teaching, learning, and professional practices.

5 Essential Survey- This is a reminder that the 2018-19 Illinois Parent Survey window will close on Feb. 15, 2019. Please see the link to complete:

<http://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/>

Participation in the parent portion helps us understand conditions at our school and guides improvement. Your identity and survey responses will be kept completely confidential and will never be connected to you or your child. If you have any questions, please call 5Essentials Client Services at 1-866-440-1874. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Social Media Info and Highland CUSD 5 App- Please check out the new and updated [Highland CUSD 5](#) and [HHS web pages](#). You may also download the district app to explore new capabilities and functionality. Links below provide 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/highlandcud5/>



From Mr. Caleb Houchins, Associate Principal: 7 Reasons to Leave the Party, Student Assembly-

On Thursday, November 29, Circuit Judge, Sarah Smith, presented the *Seven Reasons to Leave the Party* to all HHS students. Judge Smith is a lifelong public servant for Madison County. She joined the Illinois Army National Guard after High School and served two tours of duty with the Illinois Army National Guard. She used her GI Bill to attend Millikin University and Regent University earning her law degree.

The program highlighted the negative consequences that come with attending a party where drugs and alcohol are present. Judge Smith outlined possible legal issues that can arise with poor decisions and also shared the social and emotional setbacks associated with drug and alcohol consumption.

Smith's presentation was invaluable for students as it provided insight from a legal perspective. Students knew they were listening to a legal expert who had prosecuted and sentenced hundreds of people who had committed crimes. Our goal was to share this important information with students in hopes to improve decision-making and save lives. We are grateful that Judge Smith was able to spend quality time with our students and provide such great expertise on an important subject. Please remind your student to be safe and smart.

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

Winter Sports Update-

Our winter sports are well underway and athletes have had a great start to the season. The Varsity Lady Bulldog Basketball team has a current record of 8-1. The Lady Bulldogs won the Salem Thanksgiving Tournament and beat Edwardsville at home in the Coaches vs. Cancer Shootout. This was



Edwardsville's first home loss since February 2010. The girls will play in the Mascoutah Christmas Tournament over Winter Break along with an 8:30 am game against East St. Louis in the Optimist Shootout on January 5.

Boys Varsity Basketball won the St. Anthony Thanksgiving Tournament and is currently 8-1. They have had a couple of big wins over Chatham and Ladue. The boys compete in the Mater Dei Christmas Tournament over winter break along with a 3pm game against Poplar Bluff (MO) in the Optimist Shootout on January 5.

Varsity Boys (4-1 Conference) and Girls Bowling (3-1) are on a roll staying at the top of the conference with only one loss each. Bowling continues both conference and tournament play throughout Winter Break.

Wrestling is off to a slow start due to limited numbers across the southern part of the state and cancelled meets. They will compete in multiple tournaments over the holidays including the Lincoln Varsity Tournament and Carbondale Varsity Tournament. The wrestling team will be at home on Thursday, January 3 against East St. Louis and Althoff.

The HHS Dance Team competed in St. Louis on December 1 and took 2nd place for Varsity Poms and Lyrical. They will be competing in two Regional Competitions over winter break in Belleville and Edwardsville.

Cheer took first place in their division in the ICCA competition held at HHS on December 8. Cheer will compete again in the ICCA State Championship on January 5, in Springfield.

From Michele Heinz, Business Teacher- Mrs. Heinz's business education classes collected 326 cans of food for the Highland Area Christian Service Ministry (HACSM) Food Pantry. Another food pantry collection is planned for



next semester. Mrs. Heinz took 10 Business Education students to a "Business Night at the Ballgame" at the Southern Illinois University Carbondale campus. The evening was sponsored by the Business Department and included a reception, a few speakers, and attending the SIU Arena to see the Salukis play the St. Louis Billikens. Next year's Business Night at the Ballgame will start earlier and include a tour of the campus, housing tour, and the ballgame. Keep your eyes open for next year's date & time if you would like to attend!

From Mr. Bob Vance-PE, Personal Finance, and Blood Drive Sponsor: In early November, HHS students and staff participated in the first of two scheduled blood drives for the school year. Over 75 units of blood were collected that day, which according to the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Bank representatives, provide lifesaving assistance for over 300 people. Many of our donors were first timers. We are so thankful for all the amazing volunteers and sponsors who stepped up by putting others before themselves to save lives. A second blood drive is scheduled in late February.

From Mr. Gibb-Clark, HHS Choral Director: This has been a very busy and successful month for the HHS Choirs. Both the Madrigal and Chamber singers have performed in multiple community events. The Madrigal Dinner took place on Dec. 7, 8, and 9 with some amazing shows. The dinner, which was held at HMS this year, went extremely well and students did a phenomenal job showcasing their talents. We were able to sell out on just about all the shows! The annual Christmas Concert is scheduled for Dec. 17 in the HE auditorium at 7:00pm. It has been an amazing semester for the choirs and we are looking forward to continuing our success this spring!

From Mr. Steve Konopka and Ms. Jen Harsy, HHS Grief Group: The HHS Grief Group provides a safe place for students to express feeling of loss, while also learning effective coping skills. One goal of the group is to decrease the impact the loss has on their educational achievement and to promote academic



success. The group meets two times per month with Steve Konopka, School Social Worker, and Jen Harsy, School Psychologist leading as facilitators. Brie Overton and Rachel Gaglio from Heartlinks Grief Center partner with HHS staff to provide additional support for students.

Students in Grief Group expressed the desire to reach out to other students at school who were experiencing grief in an effort to provide support for peers. As a result, a student lead assembly led by the HHS Grief Group was held on Wednesday, Dec 5. This assembly was designed to provide an educational opportunity in understanding the grief process. Student leaders taught their peers about grief, how it affects them, and healthy/unhealthy ways to cope. During the assembly, Grief Group members were invited to share their own stories as part of the grieving process. Some students in the audience felt moved enough to share their own stories of grief as well. The assembly provided many students a meaningful and purposeful opportunity to understand the grief process, and we look forward to doing an assembly again next year.

From the School Counselors-Mary Jackson (Department Chair), Carrie Lieberman, and Amber Spaeth: In the month of November, 329 students signed in to see the school counselor individually. Of those students, 9.4% were freshmen, 6.7% were sophomores, 46.8% were juniors, and 37.1% were seniors. Students who signed in stated they were visiting their counselors for the following reasons: 55.8% for Academic concerns, 30.4% for College/Career concerns, and 4.3% for Personal concerns. The month of November was all about planning. School Counselors met with all departments to discuss and modify the 2019-2020 Planning Guide. They also met with current seniors who were still in the process of applying to colleges, trade schools, careers, and/or military. For the first time, the school counselors met with all current juniors for one-on-one appointments to choose their senior classes. The counselors plan to meet with all students in the high school building for one-on-one appointments to request classes for the '19-20 school year. See the counseling [December Newsletter](#).



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,

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Congratulations to our Madrigal performers. Outstanding job!



HHS Counselors at their professional development session today. Thanks Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Lieberman, and Mrs. Spaeth.

We had a great day at the Career and Technical School Counselor Workshop. We can't wait to bring this info back to our students!



Madrigal Dinner was outstanding this evening. Congrats to all participants and Mr. Gibb-Clark for directing. An amazing show full of phenomenal talent. Bravo!



Dr. Bonnie Gelly an OB-GYN from SOGA came into parenting class today to answer questions about pregnancy, labor, and delivery





This Week in Pictures

Students attend a seminar on financial literacy sponsored by Scott Credit Union to learn about budgeting, fiscal responsibility, & money management.



Highland Bulldogs
@HHSBulldogAD

It's the battle of the Bulldogs!
Waterloo vs. Highland! ❤️🐾🐾





HHS FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE-SEMESTER I –WINTER 2018

Day 1 Exam Schedule Wednesday December 19	Day 2 Exam Schedule Thursday, December 20	Day 3 Exam Schedule Friday, December 21
Period #1 Review/Exam 7:40 - 9:40 am	Period #4 Review/Exam 7:40 - 9:40 am	Period #6 Review/Exam 7:40 - 9:40 am
Morning Break - 10 mins.	Morning Break - 10 mins.	Morning Break -10 mins.
Period #2 Review/Exam 9:50 - 11:50 am	Period #5 Review/Exam 9:50 - 11:50 am	Period #7 Review/Exam 9:50 - 11:50 am
Lunch 11:50 - 12:30 Lunch (For all students and teachers)	Lunch - A limited lunch menu will be served in the cafeteria. * Students who do not have ride a home at 11:50 am should report to the Commons. They will be supervised until bus/parent pickup at 2:35 pm.	Lunch - A limited lunch menu will be served in the cafeteria. * Students who do not have ride a home at 11:50 am should report to the Commons. They will be supervised until bus/parent pickup at 1:50' pm
Period #3 Review/Exam 12:35 - 2:35 pm	Teacher Lunch 11:50 - 12:50	Teacher Lunch 11:50 - 12:50
	Teacher make-up exams/ Grading period 12:50-2:35 pm	Teacher make-up exams/ Grading period 12:50-1:50 pm

1. Students may leave at the completion of exams each day if they have a parent note signed by administration- A new note is required each day.
2. Students who need to miss exams must complete a SEMESTER EXAM CHANGE FORM with parent signature, PRINCIPAL approval, and then contact teachers for an alternative exam time OR utilize the scheduled makeup date for students on Monday, January 7, 2018.
3. Students who miss required exams will earn a "0" or an "incomplete" depending on the absence***



HHS students, staff, and community giving to others during the holiday season.



Varsity Girls Basketball-
Salem Tournament Champions
Girls Bowling in Action



Highland Bulldogs
@HHSBulldogAD

Our Varsity Boys Basketball team
WON the St. Anthony
Thanksgiving Tournament by
defeating Mattoon 60-49 in
overtime. Way to go! ❤️🏀🖤

#618basketball





New TV at the information desk to increase communication with HHS news, announcements, games, concerts, and events. Today we are running the Mattoon FB playoff game. Students take a quick look during passing periods and lunch.



Circuit Judge Sarah Smith presented to HHS students today on positive choices and good decision making. Please continue to encourage your student to be smart and to make healthy choices. We care about them so much.



Bulldogs 50-Chatham Glenwood 42. Boys took over in the 2nd half and owned it showing hustle, heart, and toughness to seal the game. A great win against a tough CSB opponent.



Highland High School
@HHSbulldogsIL

National Honor Society inductions. So proud of these students. Thank you teachers, parents, and community, and for the powerful keynote from Mrs. Duncan and thanks to our sponsor Mrs. Himself.





Egg Drop activity in Mrs. Golder's Physics class &
Mr. Durbin and students at the Energy Fair

