Highland Announces Valedictorian, Salutatorian

Highland High School is pleased to announce the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the graduating class of 2020. Carlee Kosharek has been named this year’s Valedictorian, and Shelby Nechkash the Salutatorian.

Carlee has been an outstanding student throughout her high school years, finishing with a high GPA and a long list of extracurricular accomplishments. She credits her success in high school to her parents and her teachers. Carlee states that they have continuously pushed her to be the best she could be and provided her with endless support. She could not be more grateful for them. Some advice Carlee would like to share with the underclassmen is to set goals for yourself throughout high school because she feels it will help them push through long nights of studying and will motivate them to always work hard. Playing sports, attending sporting events with friends, school dances and making memories with friends are what Carlee enjoyed most about high school. Important lessons that Carlee learned in high school were how to work as a team and how important it is to always have a good work ethic. After graduating, Carlee will be attending UW-Madison. She will be majoring in either Pre-Pharmacy or Accounting. Carlee is the daughter of Tim and Jennifer Kosharek.

Shelby Nechkash, this year’s Salutatorian, has been equally impressive over the past four years. She is the daughter of Rob Nechkash and Katrina Lindahl. The thing that Shelby enjoyed the most about high school was the library. Being able to read all the time was a great way for Shelby to balance the stress of school. The advice she would give to students starting high school is to expect high school to be completely different from everything they are used to but not to let that overwhelm them. She said if they take it one day at a time, it will eventually all make sense again. She also recommends taking a fun class every semester because they help you get through those busy weeks at the end of the semester. Shelby credits her success in high school to her parents and her teachers. She feels they are the reason that she was able to become Salutatorian and she cannot thank them enough for their help and encouragement. Shelby feels one of the most important lessons she learned in high school was how necessary time management skills are. She states that being able to efficiently divide your time to finish the most pressing assignments is a necessary skill. She is sure that this skill will become even more important as she continues her education at Iowa State University where she will be pursuing a degree in Animal Science.
From the Desk of the Superintendent

Thank You for a Wonderful School Year and More…

I am always surprised at how quickly each school year comes to an end. But the end of the 2019-20 school year made its own unique and unforgettable impression for two key reasons:

- The Coronavirus Pandemic shut down school buildings across the country in March, and all of us had to learn on the fly how to keep learning going in an entirely new virtual environment. These past weeks have been fast-paced and slow-motion both at the same time. So much new to do and learn, while so much “normal” activity stands as memory only.

- The 2019-20 school year will be my last year as a public school employee, after 45 years in education and 30 years as a school administrator. I came to Highland eight years ago and found a community committed to its students like no other. I have been proud to serve your school and will miss all of the fine students and staff who work here. This is an exceptional place…always celebrate what you have and how lucky you are to be here.

While facing new challenges—as we all did this year—can allow us to grow and be stronger, there is one aspect of this unique 2019-20 school year that has been very regrettable. That is the real loses faced by the 2020 Senior Class. In spite of that, the school year has also been very memorable for this great group of young men and women.

The district extends a huge CONGRATULATIONS to the Class of 2020. Pictures of this year’s graduates are included in this newsletter. The unusual end to their school career notwithstanding, these students have worked hard, served well, and are fully prepared for their exciting futures.

The regular Graduation ceremony has been postponed. The district is working with the Seniors and their families to design what we all hope will be a meaningful alternative.

Please read the blog posting by Chris Dier, “Teacher Who Survived Katrina Has Advice for the Class of 2020” (Grown and Flown; March 16, 2020), that you’ll find elsewhere in this newsletter. It is impossible for us to share our feelings right now, but Mr. Dier seems to get it right.

I would also like to RECOGNIZE all of the professional and support staff who work for the Highland School District every day to provide instruction, guidance, inspiration and support for all of the Highland “kids” who depend on them in so many ways. Your efforts this year have been remarkable. I know you will continue to place Highland students’ needs first as you continue to navigate these remarkable times.

Please enjoy your summer but stay safe, follow all of the CDC and State Health Department suggestions, so everyone can stay well.

Nancy Hendrickson
District Administrator

Forensics 2020

The 2020 Highland Forensics season ended abruptly, but started strong! The season began with the students selecting a category and piece, and then starting practice all before Christmas break! Highland hosted the sub-district competition, our first meet, on March 1st. We had 17 students perform in five different speaking categories. Everybody did great! Their hard work was rewarded when the entire team earned scores high enough to move on to the District level. Although both District and State Forensics competitions were cancelled, we’re still extremely proud of our Forensics team! ✨
Teacher Who Survived Katrina has this Advice for Class of 2020

by Grown and Flown | March 16, 2020

Chris Dier, 2020 Louisiana Teacher of the Year & National Teacher of the Year Finalist, knows what it’s like to have his senior year of high school wrecked by a major crisis—Hurricane Katrina. Here are his thoughts for you, Class of 2020.

Dear High School Senior,

On Friday afternoon a few seniors came into my classroom after the last bell rang. They were concerned about prom and their senior trip. It broke my teacher heart to listen. As you’re reading this, you most likely have similar concerns.

This is supposed to be your year. The year for your senior prom, sporting events, cheer competitions, senior trips, clubs, and the rest of what senior year has to offer. You were supposed to be the captain of that team, the officer of that club, or that student who wanted to be with their friends one last year before venturing into the unknown. This was THE year that your entire schooling was building up to. But it was robbed from you because of this global pandemic.

Let’s be abundantly clear—you were robbed, and it’s unfair. If you’re upset, then you should embrace those feelings. Commiserate with one another. Some folks will downplay the situation because they won’t know what it feels like to have their senior year stripped at the last moment.

I, for one, will not downplay it as it happened to me. Hurricane Katrina devastated my community when I was a high school senior. I remember leaving my school on a Friday afternoon with my buddies only to never return to that school. I was supposed to be the captain of my soccer team, go to prom with my longtime crush, and finish the year with my lifelong friends. But it was all canceled.

Instead, I stayed in a shelter and finished my high school in a different state. It was tough, and I had to find solace in places I never envisioned. It was hard, but we made it through. And I’m reliving that pain as I think of your disruption to your senior year.

Most do not need to experience Katrina to know that this is tough on you. Those of us who work in schools do so because we care above all else. That caring does not stop once you leave those school walls. In situations like these, we worry more about you. There is a lot of uncertainty, but rest assured, districts across the nation are working in creative ways, from potentially abbreviated school years to organizing social events when this subsides, to make this situation the best they possibly can for you. Some educators are working endlessly to transfer to virtual learning and accompany those without the internet.

Administrators are working to get those meals together for those who need them. We are all in crisis mode but know that we are all doing everything we can to help during this tumultuous time. You are not forgotten. We are thinking about you. We are here for you. We care.

There’s nothing I, or anyone, can say to make up for that time you are losing in what is supposed to be one of the best years of your life.

But I can offer some encouragement. Right now, you have the power to make the most out of this unfortunate situation. If a decade of teaching has taught me anything, it’s that people your age are resilient and innovative.

Your generation can navigate multiple worlds and bounce between virtual and digital spaces with ease. You are part of the most racially and ethnically diverse generation, and you embrace those differences in ways adults seem to struggle. You courageously put yourselves out there for the world to see and criticize. You push boundaries and challenge norms.

You find ingenious ways to compensate for any gaps you may have accrued without the help of educators, whether it’s through Khan Academy or a sibling. It’s a small wonder why “post-Millennials are on track to become the most well-educated generation yet.”

I can also offer some advice. Help one another and your family. They need you. Do your grandparents or your elderly neighbors need groceries? Offer support. Some teachers may even need your help as many try to transition to online learning. We need you. Utilize your tech savvy ways to bring yourselves closer together. Practice “social distancing,” or physical distancing, but stay as social as ever. FaceTime. Text. Tweet. Snapchat. Make Tik Tok videos (I don’t know if that’s still a thing so don’t laugh if I’m already out of date). Use these platforms to connect and uplift.

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Meet the Class of 2020

Josh Bowen
Parents: David and Lisa Bowen
Post Graduation Plans: I will enter the workforce and will be joining the Operating Engineers this fall. (It’s a local operator union. Working construction and operating heavy machinery)

Elizabeth Brennum
Parents: Chad and Tiffany Brennum
Post Graduation Plans: Attend Southwest Tech to study nursing.

Marcus Hansen
Parents: Jonathan Hansen and Mikki Benish Hansen
Post Graduation Plans: I am undecided in what I want to do.

Jadyn Halverson
Parents: Travis and Ginger Halverson
Post Graduation Plans: Attend Southwest Tech for an apprenticeship in plumbing.

Jenna Corin Havlik
Parents: Michael and Tammy Havlik
Post Graduation Plans: Attend the University of Wisconsin Platteville for psychology with an emphasis on substance abuse counseling.

Joscalyn Hocking
Parents: Todd and Lisa Hocking
Post Graduation Plans: Attend a 4 year online college to study business and entrepreneurship to become an interior designer.

Class of 2021
Please make sure to get your senior pictures taken this summer. The yearbook staff needs them in September. Remember, the photographer needs time to get them back to you.
Grant Michael Hying
Parents: Curt and Barb Hying
Post Graduation Plans: Attend UW-Platteville to study an undecided major.

Haley Kleist
Parents: Rebecca Bremmer and Mark Kleist
Post Graduation Plans: Attend UW Stevens Point at Marshfield to complete my Gen-Eds, then I plan on transferring to UW Stevens Point to pursue a pre-veterinary degree.

Hannah Kroll
Parents: James and Jacqueline Kroll
Post Graduation Plans: Attend LIM College to study Fashion Marketing.

Iassac Kutzke
Parents: Brian and Waneta Kutzke, and Jennifer Bloom
Post Graduation Plans: Attend UW-Richland for physical education.

Carlee Kosharek
Parents: Timothy and Jennifer Kosharek
Post Graduation Plans: Attend the University of Wisconsin Madison to study pre-pharmacy or accounting.

Riley McMannes
Parents: Rick and Gina McMannes
Post Graduation Plans: Attend UW-Platteville for an undecided major.

LeTeicia Michek
Parents: Amanda Michek and Andy Lyon
Driver Education Program

The classroom portion of the Driver Ed program has been incorporated into our summer school. This allows the District to receive additional state aid, so the district will cover the $120.00 student fee for the 30 hours of classroom training. If your son/daughter will be 15 by October 31, 2020, he/she is eligible to attend the course. Older students are also welcome.

The Driver Education course will be held virtually this year. If you have questions, please contact the school or Mr. Tarrell at jtarrell@highland.k12.wi.us.

DAR GOOD CITIZEN AWARD

Grace Pustina, a senior at Highland High School, was chosen to receive the DAR “Good Citizen Award” given by the Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter at Richland Center.

This is a very special honor; the student at Highland High School is chosen by the teachers, and has demonstrated the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism. Grace is the daughter of Gary and Laurie Pustina.
HIGHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT HONOR ROLL

Distinguished Honors: Grade point average 4.00 and above
High Honors: Grade point average 3.50 – 3.99
Honors: Grade point average 3.00 – 3.49

2nd QUARTER HONOR ROLL

GRADE 9
Distinguished Honors
Grace Dreischmeier
Colton Frost

High Honors
Marissa Cleary
Harper Drury
Caden Lindner
Dax Smelzer

Honors
Ella Cody
Jackson Hebgen
Abbey Kraisinger
Abigail Murphy

GRADE 10
Distinguished Honors
Weston Frost
Jenna James
Katelyn Mueller
Margaret Tarrell
Maya Tarrell

High Honors
Paula Belling
Katelyn Esser
Malayna Fredericks
Josiah Greene
Gage Hying
Tristin Imhoff
Victor Montes
Andrew Nankey
Broderick Smith
Mason Welsh

Honors
Cloe Campbell
Baylee Carter
Lexy Havlik
Landon Shemak

GRADE 11
Distinguished Honors
Connor Riley

High Honors
Estee Goodwiler
Macey Kraisinger
Lyndsey Roum
Jenna Shemak

Honors
Myah Hennessy
Justin Miller
Ireland Tucker
Isabel Tucker

GRADE 12
Distinguished Honors
Carlee Kosharek
Shelby Nechkash
Grace Pustina

High Honors
Paula Belling
Baylee Carter
Katelyn Esser
Malayna Fredericks
Gage Hying
Tristin Imhoff
Victor Montes
Andrew Nankey
Mason Welsh

Honors
Jenna Havlik
Grant Hying
Olivia Welsh

I am sad for you; truly, I am. I feel deeply for you; truly, I do. It makes my heart hurt as I write. But if there is any group that can plow through this in creative ways, it is your group. There is no pandemic strong enough to silence you or dent the passion of your generation. Keep your head up and keep fighting. Our country needs you because you provide hope for our future. This year may not be what you envisioned, but I’m eager to see what you do with it.

After all, it is still very much your year.

Stay healthy,
Chris Dier, a high school teacher

3rd QUARTER HONOR ROLL

GRADE 9
Distinguished Honors
Grace Dreischmeier
Colton Frost

High Honors
Marissa Cleary
Harper Drury
Dax Smelzer

Honors
Bryce Bollant
Ella Cody
Caden Lindner
Abigail Murphy

GRADE 10
Distinguished Honors
Weston Frost
Josiah Greene
Jenna James
Katelyn Mueller
Maya Tarrell

High Honors
Paula Belling
Baylee Carter
Katelyn Esser
Malayna Fredericks
Gage Hying
Tristin Imhoff
Victor Montes
Andrew Nankey
Mason Welsh

Honors
Jenna Havlik
Grant Hying
Olivia Welsh

GRADE 11
Distinguished Honors
Connor Riley

High Honors
Estee Goodwiler
Macey Kraisinger
Justin Miller
Lyndsey Roum

Honors
Myah Hennessy
Jenna Shemak
Ireland Tucker
Isabel Tucker

GRADE 12
Distinguished Honors
Carlee Kosharek
Shelby Nechkash
Grace Pustina

High Honors
Riley McMannes
Megan Mueller
Olivia Welsh

Honors
Joshua Bowen
Jenna Havlik
Grant Hying
Hannah Kroll
Angela Reilly

Teacher who Survived Katrina continued from page 3...

Binge Netflix and Disney+. Make memes. Exercise. Read books – maybe even those boring ones your English teachers were stoked for you to read. Or just read manga. Read something! Reach out to those friends you know don’t have internet access. Call and check up on ‘em. Listen to podcasts. Make a podcast. Start a hobby. Journal for posterity. You’re living through history. Your bold reaction to this is going to make history.

Lastly, I can offer some support. You may not know me, but I feel your pain; it stings. We as educators mourn with you. Again, you are not forgotten. We see your hard work. We value your unique perspectives. We hear your audacious voices. We cherish all of it, and we will continue to do so even from afar.
Highland Updates

Summer School 2020
There will be some virtual Summer School course options for middle and high school students. Look for a flyer soon.

Due to the current unforeseen circumstances the Elementary Summer School dates have not yet been set. Information will be sent via Infinite Campus if we are able to hold this much anticipated event. Please watch for information as we know our students will be very excited to return to school. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Tarrell at jtarrell@highland.k12.wi.us or the school at 608-929-4525 when we are able to return.

2020 Hall Of Fame Nominations
Hall of fame nominations opened April 1, 2020. Please see Highland Community Schools website for more information.

School Website Information
Visit our school website for calendar dates, news stories, menus, and much more. Use Infinite Campus Parent Portal to check lunch balance, student grades, student assignments, and more. All this can be found at www.highland.k12.wi.us

Board Meeting
May 13, 6:00 p.m.
June 10, 6:00 p.m.
July 8, 6:00 p.m.

Highland School Board News
At the Spring Election this April, Andie Benish and Brent Drury were re-elected to three-year terms on the Highland School Board. Congratulations to you both, and thanks for your time and effort on behalf of the Highland community and our kids.

Physicals For 2020-21 Sports
Reminder to all students: If you are planning on participating in sports next year, you need to schedule an appointment for a physical. Student-athletes will need to get a physical or have an alternate year card filled out before they are allowed to practice. Physical forms are available on the WIAA website or the Highland Schools website. It will be very hard to get an appointment, so try to schedule early. Get it done and turned in so it isn’t forgotten. If you are not sure if you need a physical, call the high school office at 929-4525

For all 6th through 11th grade students interested in participating in football or volleyball next year, grades at the end of this semester are very important. The grade requirements apply to all 8th graders becoming freshmen, as well as any high school student. It also applies to the 6th and 7th grade girls interested in Middle School volleyball at the beginning of the school year. Each student is responsible for making sure that they have at least 3 C’s and no F’s for their 2nd semester grades. Do not look at the fourth quarter grades to determine if you are eligible. The WIAA requires that schools use the last grading period to determine your eligibility. It is very important for our students to continue their hard work in all classes to guarantee that they will be successful, and if interested in sports, be able to participate from the first day of practice next fall. Please remind your student(s) that now is the perfect time to begin thinking about next school year!

Physicals Offered At School
At this time, we are unsure if UHH will be available to provide this amazing community service. We are also unsure as to what the WIAA will require for 2020-21 student-athlete participants. There are just too many variables at this time. We will update this information as soon as possible.

Sports Dates To Remember (tentative)
Parent/Athletic meeting—
H.S. Gym 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 21st

Required for all MS & Hs athletes and parent(s)
Following above meeting there will be a meeting for all Volleyball and Football parents. This is a tentative date. Please watch the website for updates.
August 4 Football practice starts
August 17 Volleyball practice starts
Beat the Back to School Rush for Immunizations

Parent(s) of School Age Children can beat the back to school rush for required immunizations by scheduling appointments during the summer months. You may call the Iowa County Health Department to make an appointment at (608)-930-9870. If your child has health insurance, vaccinations need to be done by your health care provider/clinic. The Health Department is no longer able to provide immunizations to those with coverage. If your child is covered by BadgerCare/Medicaid, are uninsured or have insurance that does not cover vaccinations, then you may receive immunizations at the Health Department. The Health Department is located at 303 West Chapel Street-Suite 2200, Dodgeville WI.

Scheduled Summer 2020 Immunization Clinics:

June 15 9:00 am-11:00 am  
22 3:00 pm-4:30 pm  
July 20 9:00 am – 11:00 am  
27 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm  
August 17 9:00 am – 11:00 am  
24 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm  

**Note: Appointments must be scheduled during these clinics—no drop in’s!**

Children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or have a note from a parent and be accompanied by a person over the age of eighteen years of age.

Vaccine Requirements for 6th Graders

Students entering 6th grade need to have a Tdap (tetanus with the pertussis component) before school starts in the fall. Please send the date of the vaccination to school with your child.

If you have Badgercare or are uninsured, this vaccine is free of charge at the Iowa County Health Department (930-9870) and at the Grant County Health Department (723-6416). Iowa County requires that an appointment be made for immunizations. Grant County offers immunizations Monday-Friday 8am-4:30, no appointment needed. Those with health insurance must go to their health provider/clinic for immunizations.

Kindergarten Students need to have their immunizations completed by the first day of school in the fall. Each student received a note in the spring telling what shots he or she needs prior to school starting. Once again, immunizations are available at the Iowa or Grant County Health Departments.

I suggest you make arrangements to get these shots done early in the summer as there is a rush in August before school starts and vaccine supplies get short which results in a waiting list.

Medications at School

If you plan to send medications to school, all prescription meds (including short term antibiotics, inhalers, eye drops, ear drops, and ointments) must be in the original container with the appropriate form signed by the MD and the parent.

Over-the-counter meds must also be in the original container and require the appropriate form signed by the parent only. These forms are available on the school’s website. Go to District Information, click on District Resources and then scroll down to the form you need.

Teacher Appreciation

Mrs. Hendrickson and I would like to recognize our teachers and staff for their dedication and hard work serving our students and families. We can’t thank them enough for all the adjustments they have made to continue providing our students wonderful learning opportunities. We are so blessed to be able to work with such a dedicated, passionate, and caring staff.

On behalf of Mrs. Hendrickson and myself, thanks for all you have done, and all you continue to do for each of our wonderful students.

Sincerely, Mrs. Hendrickson and Mr. Tarrell
As this newsletter is being sent to the printer, we do have a final decision about the 2019-20 school year, but we still have unanswered questions about how long the Coronavirus will disrupt school activities. What follows is our most current information:

✔ **School Closure:** Governor Tony Evers issued Emergency Order #28, an update to the Safer at Home Order. Within this order, Governor Evers stated that “K-12 Schools shall remain closed for pupil instruction and extracurricular activities for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.”

While our school buildings will remain closed by this Order, Highland Community Schools will continue operating via distance learning through Friday, May 22.

✔ **The Governor also issued the Badger Bounce Back Plan** (Emergency Order # 31) on Monday, April 20. “Order #31 addressed K-12 schools in Phase One. Once the qualifying conditions necessary to reach Phase One are achieved, a new Order will be issued. As part of this new Order, K-12 schools will be able to resume in-person operation. At the time of this new Order, the Department of Health Services will outline what conditions will be necessary for any activities in schools and on school grounds.”

It is not anticipated that the conditions necessary to reach Phase One will be reached this school year. Local planning around Phase I will take place over the summer.

✔ **Graduation:** Since we will not re-open school during this school year, Graduation will be postponed from its current May 16 date. If restrictions change related to the number of people who can congregate at one location, we will explore options for holding a graduation ceremony at a later date, though with potentially a smaller audience than usual. We know this is a milestone event and will do everything possible to host Graduation. Seniors and their families will be invited to provide input into Graduation Ceremony options, as soon as we have more information about what will be allowed and when.

✔ **Spring Sports:** WIAA has cancelled the Spring Baseball and Spring Softball seasons. The WIAA Board also allowed for some potential summer activities for these sports, but any team activities would depend on the Safer at Home and Badger Bounce Back Orders that place restrictions on group size and facility use.

✔ **Summer School:** We will make a final decision regarding holding our summer school by mid-May. Our usual June Summer School for the Elementary School is not an option. We will consider a virtual summer school option for some middle and high school programs, as well as an August schedule option for the Elementary School.

✔ **Summer School Drivers Education** will be held online this year regardless of when schools reopen. Students would have received a letter regarding this option mid-April. Please register as soon as possible if you wish to take the classroom portion of Drivers Education this summer, so that you will be ready to get your permit in a timely fashion. There is no cost to Highland students taking the online course as a part of our Summer School.

✔ **General Public Access to Highland Schools:** The school buildings remain closed to the public due to the Safer at Home order. Even when that order is modified to allow greater public movement, the buildings will remain closed to public access until we can assure safe access for all and until we can assure that our cleaning/disinfecting procedures can be effectively performed for the staff/students who will be allowed back into the building first.

✔ We are publishing dates for next fall in this newsletter on the assumption that the 2020-21 school year and fall athletic activities will begin as normal. Please stay tuned to our website and Facebook for regular updates.

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**Closure and Calendar Updates**
Over the past eight years, Mrs. Hendrickson has been the Superintendent at Highland Community Schools. Words cannot express my gratitude and appreciation for everything she has done for our community, our district, our staff, and most importantly, our students. I have learned so much from her and her leadership. She has truly been our steward.

I first met Mrs. Hendrickson when I began my teaching career at Pecatonica Schools. She was our superintendent, and an amazing one at that! When she retired there, she became the Agency Director of CESA 3 where she provided leadership to all 31 schools in our area. Upon her second retirement, Highland Schools was in search of their next superintendent and the timing seemed perfect.

I still remember the day that Linda Hebgen and I drove to her house in Blanchardville to have a conversation and attempt to coax her back out of retirement. We stopped in Dodgeville on the way through and bought some donuts, Linda’s idea, and we sat and talked for an hour or so about Highland and what it would mean for us to have her work in our district.

Mrs. Hendrickson agreed to an interview and the following week the board offered her a part-time position. At that time, the board was hoping she would stay for at least two or three years. We are thankful each day she chose to continue leading our district longer. In the eight years Mrs. Hendrickson has been with us, she has transformed our school into what I believe to be the best rural school district in Wisconsin.

As many of you may know, Mrs. Hendrickson has a wonderful family. She and Don have raised four boys, and each are very successful. Marty lives in Dallas and is Vice-President of Strategic Initiatives at Tidel. Mitchell lives in Chicago and is the Program Director of Schools for Loyola University. Milt lives in West Salem and is the Assistant General Manager for the Green Bay Packers. Marcus lives in the Twin Cities and works as the Director of Player Personnel for the Minnesota Gopher Football Program. Three are married and have children, one is engaged to be married this summer. Mrs. Hendrickson and Don are very busy traveling to see their family, and of course follow their two favorite football teams - you can guess which ones.

In her last year with us, as she is wrapping things up, we are faced with this unprecedented COVID 19 pandemic. Education has changed dramatically from a classroom setting to distance learning. Not only have we adapted and adjusted to what many feel is going to change education forever, we have moved forward and made the best of an awful situation for everyone. It has been and continues to be due to the leadership of Mrs. Hendrickson. She gives us the strength to move forward and see the positive in this negative, sad, and dangerous situation. Since March 23rd, when schools were closed to students, Mrs. Hendrickson has worked 8 to 12 hours a day, every day, to make sure we have everything we need in place for our students. We are serving meals, getting devices to families, adjusting curriculum to meet students’ needs at every grade level, and making sure our seniors are prepared and have what they need to graduate.

Mrs. Hendrickson works diligently behind the scenes, but her work and accomplishments do not go unnoticed. She has received many awards for her dedication and commitment to education in Wisconsin, particularly, rural education. She has served on many committees to fight for rural schools and rural school funding.

We have been very very fortunate here in Highland to have a leader such as Mrs. Hendrickson. Her knowledge, drive, compassion for education, and the wellbeing of children are second to none. The community, the district, the staff, and the students have been so blessed to have had her in our lives for the past eight years. I know I will be forever in her debt.

Mrs. Hendrickson, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for teaching me more than any class or any book could have. Thank you for making my worst days bearable and my best days even better. Thank you for giving all of our students a great staff and a great place to learn. There is no limit to what our kids will be able to do or to accomplish thanks to your hard work and dedication to learning. You have made a difference in all of our lives.

Congratulations on your well earned and deserved retirement. You’ll always be a Cardinal and a member of our school family. We will truly miss you......

God Bless You,
Josh, School Board, and Staff of Highland Community Schools.
Girls’ Basketball Team Awards
Most Valuable Player: Carlee Kosharek
Most Improved Player: Malayna Fredericks, Jenna James
Offensive Player of the Year: Rachel Miller
Defensive/Hustle Award: Katelyn Mueller
Coaches Award: Olivia Welsh
Team First Award: Olivia Welsh
Years of Defensive Dedication: Megan Mueller

Girls’ Basketball All Conference
First Team: Meg Tarrell
Second Team: Katelyn Esser
Honorable Mention: Katelyn Mueller, Carlee Kosharek

Boys’ Basketball Team Awards
Team MVP: Max Oleson
Defensive MVP: Grant Hying
Offensive MVP: Max Oleson
Most Improved: Isaac Michek
Scout Player of the Year: Brody Smith

Boys’ Basketball All Conference
Second Team: Max Oleson
Honorable Mention: Isaac Michek, Grant Hying, Iassac Kutzke

Wrestling All Conference
First team:
152 Jason Sedbrook

Second team:
106 Mason Welsh
120 Caden Lindner
126 Treyton Starkey;
138 Andrew Winders
145 Colton Cutts
182 Cal Dorota;
220 Donald Laufenberg

Wrestling Team Awards
Most Valuable Wrestler: Cal Dorota
Most Improved: Josh Bowen
Hardest Worker: Jason Sedbrook
Steve Hoffman Dedication Award: Jason Sedbrook
Most Valuable Freshman: Caden Lindner
Olivia Welsh: For my Senior Project I traveled to Haiti in August to work with a group of kids. I taught the kids how to play kickball and how to speak a basic conversation in English. I spent a week in Haiti working with these kids, while spending a few days with these guys I made new friends. For my community connection I prepared a presentation about my trip and I presented that presentation in front of the High School.

Carlee Kosharek: My Senior Project was on the appreciation for veterans and the experiences that they went through for their country. I interviewed 11 veterans in the surrounding communities. The interview was either recorded and turned into a video or I wrote down the answers and wrote up an essay about the interview. I interviewed recent Afghanistan veterans as well as a World War II veteran. Then I created a website and displayed all of the interviews that I conducted on it.

Angie Reilly: My Senior Project was about global warming and climate change. I did roadside clean-up from Cobb to Highland for five hours. Then after that, I gathered over a hundred used shirts from the community. These shirts were cut up and sewn into reusable bags. I then set up times that worked with Mrs. Halverson, for me to go into her classroom and give the t-shirt bags to the students to color on. They then got to take them home and use those instead of plastic bags.

Owen Murphy: For my Senior Project, I chose to bring awareness to blindness and visual impairments. I interviewed two blind women who gave me an insight on their day to day activities and their difficulties due to their disability. I then worked with Mrs. Rusch’s second grade class. I taught them the history of braille and how to read and write it.

Haley Kleist: My Senior Project was about trying to bring severe weather awareness to the Highland Community. My mentor was Keith Hurlbert, the director of Iowa County Emergency Management in Dodgeville. He has helped me a lot during my project and so have my advisors Mr. Scanlan and Mrs. Straka. My community connection was handing out free weather radios to residents in Highland, and Iowa County. To raise this money to get the weather radios, my mentor and I co-wrote a grant that was funded by the United Fund of Iowa County. After writing the grant, I was awarded 1,250 dollars to go toward the weather radio costs, and I had over 40 people from Iowa County and the Highland Area that wanted a weather radio.

Jenna Havlik: For my Senior Project, I focused on the negative consequences of the overuse of social media. I hosted a social media detox for the middle school and high school students where I gathered specific research and information about social media use in the Highland Schools. To top things off, I invited a speaker from the Oregon Mental Health Services to talk to the middle and high school students about overall mental health and how social media can affect it.

Megan Mueller: For my Senior Project, I volunteered for the I-G SnoCats snowmobiling club. I helped put in trail signs and cleaned the trails in the fall. When we got some snow, I was able to groom the trails. The biggest part of my project was that I created a map for the club of their trails.

Shelby Nechkash: For my Senior Project, I trained a puppy for hunt tests. These are competitions overseen by the UKC that award dogs and measure their hunting ability and obedience. I trained my dog, Gunner, through basic obedience to simple hand signals. He can now memorize where at least two birds land and he knows hand signals so
I can direct him to hidden birds. Additionally, I invited my mentor and a few local trainers to help me host a Dog Sports Day at the school. During this, the high schoolers were able to observe and handle dogs in a variety of sports that they could compete in.

**Grace Pustina:** My Senior Project was dedicated to bringing a sense of unity among students and advocating for those with special needs. Through Special Olympics Wisconsin, I established Highland High School as a Unified Champion School. To do this, I met a list of qualifications and presented evidence of student body inclusivity to the Unified Champion Schools Manager. Throughout the year, I hosted a Unified Basketball Game in which students from Highland High played with Special Olympics Athletes, brought in Miss Wisconsin to discuss her campaign supporting those with disabilities, organized activities for students at a Unified Assembly, and led Unity Club meetings.

**Joscalyn Hocking:** My Senior Project was to work on the power of positive thinking. Because it was my senior year I knew that I had a negative mindset. It was very hard for me to be a positive person, but I knew that I wasn’t the only one in high school who struggled with being positive. Throughout my project I did different things for the students to make them more happy while going to school. I put up posters as well as positivity notes in the students lockers. I also wanted to take up the senior roll and make it my duty to make the students smile, so when I saw them in the halls I would do my best to bring a smile onto their face.

**Riley McMannes:** For my senior project, I focused on the topic of community service. My plan for my project was to do multiple different kinds of volunteering for the community. Some of the tasks I did were raking leaves with the middle school students, shoveling driveways in the winter and working at the food pantry. I also wanted to encourage others to volunteer. I did this by giving a presentation to the middle school students about the benefits of volunteering and the many ways they can support the community.

**Grant Hying:** For my senior project, I did numerous projects for the school. My first project was designing and building a frame to hold plaques. The frame was built to show all of the conference, regional, and sectional plaques. My second project was designing a memorial wall for Highland veterans. The company Suttle-Straus helped me with some designs and will install the memorial wall when the wall is paid for. My final project was updating the boys basketball stats from some old scorebooks that were located in the coaches office.

**LeTeicia Michek:** My senior project was based around construction. I renovated a house completely, but for my project, I documented all the major components that were done for one room of the house. I worked on the demolition, the drywall, the painting, the refinishing of the woodwork, and more. For my community connection, I presented to many of the classes at school at AG Safety Day. I summarized my project for them, and told them about many of the new things that I learned. I am grateful for all of the new things that I learned throughout the course of my project.

**Iassac Kutzke:** For my Senior Project, I wanted to give back to the sports at our high school. Shortly after I was told about making a ticket booth for the football field. I had to present to the school board to get the whole booth paid for. While on the drive to the meeting, it had crossed my mind how much Levi Linscheid loved the game of football and how he meant so much to the coaching staff. Instead of making just a ticket booth to give to the school, I had decided it would be in memory of Levi and his time spent in Highland. After many hours spent I hope the school and the community enjoys the use of the ticket booth for many years to come!

**Jadyn Halverson:** For my senior project I decided that I wanted to promote pet wellness with building affordable, strong, and safe homes for owners to give their loved pets. By working with Ron Benish and using affordable materials I built homes for peoples pets that would not only give them shelter, but were built with insulation to provide extra warmth during the winter. I also built cat scratchers to
provide pet cats a place to use their natural instinct without causing extra damage and stress for pet owners. In the end, the money from the sales of the dog houses and cat scratchers will be sent to the Humane Society in Dodgeville.

Hannah Kroll: For my Senior Project, I wanted to dive deeper into the world of fashion sustainability. Through my mentors at Lands End, I was able to get an insiders look on a very up-and-coming cause in the fashion industry. I decided to research more about what makes fabric sustainable, host a clothing drive for the less fortunate, and create and sew my own shirt made out of nearly 100% organic cotton. What I have learned throughout my experiences at Lands End will help me thrive in college while studying fashion business and I am very grateful and proud of the outcome I had.

Josh Bowen: For my Senior Project my main goal was to learn about the cattle side of the farming industry. For a material end product I raised 3 beef calves as well as built a shed for them to be raised in. During this project I toured dairy and beef operations and learned about each of them. I also learned about the process of AI breeding.

Elizabeth Brennum: My Senior Project was about bringing awareness to students about the negative effects vaping has on a person. I brought awareness to the subject by putting up posters in the bathrooms at the Highland school. I also made posters to put up in the hallways around the school. For my final project I planned to prepare a presentation to inform the middle and highschool about the negative effects of vaping, but was unable to complete it due to COVID-19.

VetsRoll was held at the Lone Rock Community Hall

On March 7, a fundraiser for VetsRoll was held at the Lone Rock Community Hall. VetsRoll is a non-profit organization that raises funds to send veterans and Rosie-the-Riveters to Washington, D.C. on a four-day bus trip to see their memorials. This year, the Highland Elementary and Middle School students raised $2,050 to help veterans find closure, gratitude, and respect on this trip of a lifetime. Elementary students worked concession stands and made and sold cupcakes to raise $1,800 and the middle school students donated $250, part of their Christmas store earnings, to this great cause. Students are pictured with Mark Finnegan, co-founder of VetsRoll, and Herman Kaldenberg, a World War II veteran who went on the very first VetsRoll trip in 2010. The event raised a total of $34,600 for VetsRoll.
To the 8th Grade Class

Although the last three years of middle school have flown by, you have grown and matured into amazing young people. This school year went by in the blink of an eye and although we can not change the way it ended, know that you will always be the class full of questions, charisma and charm.

May highschool be filled with fun, excitement and little bit of learning. Wishing you the best!

-The Middle School Team

The Class of 2024

Noah Benish
Elliott Biba
Jaydon Bomkamp
Joseph Bomkamp
Byron Buroker
Jamesie Carter

Harlee Fredericks
Jeptha Greene
Bronwyn Halverson
Haileigh Hendricks
Thomas Hermansen
Darren Laufenberg

Danette Meissner
Lillyana Michek
Bryce Nankey
Paula Roum
Dakota Sanchez
Maria Soto-Wadel

LiaLiz Thao
Chloe Tucker
Johnny Walski
Ryder Welsh
Water is Life

In early January, Highland Community Middle School students were notified that they were accepted to present at the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention in Stevens Point on April 3rd. A group of six students started preparing their presentation “Water is Life” which included highlighting the water projects they participated in over the last two years. These projects included water testing and trout surveys with the DNR and other experts at Otter Creek and Blackhawk Lake, building lunkers, invasive species studies, Trout in the Classroom, Walk for Water, storm drain magnets, canoeing, kayaking, and discussions on the importance of clean water.

Little did they know that they would be presenting from their own homes, 150 miles from Stevens Point to people all over the state. The students’ collaboration skills became very evident as they needed to switch from a live presentation format to a whole different platform - Zoom meeting. After only two live practice presentations, one with their peers and the other to the school board, they found that they had some work to do before the convention. They accepted the challenge and went to work preparing virtually.

The day of the event arrived, the students were ready, but nervous about possible technology issues. Everything came together, and the team did an excellent job presenting and an even better job answering the audience’s questions. All were truly impressed by the presentation skills, knowledge and passion of these students.

Congratulations to the team of 8th grader, Jamesie Carter, 7th graders, Davis Dorota, Tyson Imhoff, Kate Tarrell, John Dreischmeier, and 6th grader Hailee Kohout. Your dedication and passion give us all hope for the future. The team would like to thank all of the experts who helped them in preparing for the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention. A special thanks go out to Justin Haglund, Lloyd Meng and Kimberly Kuber with the Department of Natural Resources who shared their time, knowledge and data for the presentation.

If you would like to view the presentation, you can find it on the Highland Community School website.
Highland Fastpitch Fans,

So many great things come to mind when I think about Highland fastpitch, the smell of fresh cut grass, the sound of the ball hitting the bat or smacking the catcher’s mitt, the roar of the crowd in a big game, listening to the girls “peel bananas” during the pregame meeting, the singing on the bus rides home, watching the team celebrate a home run, and so many more. Unfortunately we will not get to experience these things as we had planned. Life once again teaches us that there are things more important than sports.

One thing I like to focus on as a coach is making the best of your next opportunity. In softball, it may be your next at bat, your next pitch, your next ground ball or fly ball. In this case, I hope that we all learn to not take things we love for granted. Play every pitch like it is your last, because it just might be.

This year’s team had very high hopes and had good reason for that. The last two seasons we lost in the sectional final and this year’s team was going to have a good chance to break through and play at the state tournament. We had a great group of experienced players returning and some talented Freshman and Sophomores who were going to mix in and help us be successful. The thing I am going to miss the most about this season is watching a great group of girls grow together as a team and as individuals.

I know this situation has been hard on all of us, but my heart truly aches for our seniors. Haley Kleist, Olivia Welsh, Carlee Kosharek, and Grace Pustina have been a big reason for the success of the Highland Fastpitch team the last two seasons. Together they have a career record of 40-9 and have won two Regional Championships!!

Grace is the most mentally tough pitcher I have ever met. I always knew we had a chance to win when she had the ball in her left hand. To some, it is just a softball but to Grace it is a yellow threaded gift from God. She is truly a master of her craft. In only two seasons on the mound she will go down as one of the best pitchers in school history and sets the bar high for future pitchers in the program.

Haley has a natural strength both in mind and body. She faced each at bat and every challenge presented her with a determination like no other. Haley was a go to player that we leaned upon for a big hit or big play. Her stability on the field will be hard to fill next season. This was never shown more boldly than her game saving shoestring catch vs. #1 ranked Belmont in extra innings or her game winning RBI double vs. Barneveld in the Regional Championship.

Olivia has put in a lot of hard work and because of that she is one of the best power hitters in the conference and led our team with 5 home runs last season. She always understood what it meant to be a great teammate. She was always willing to step in and mentor a younger player which was shown so powerfully in the offseason. In the early mornings of summer, you could find Olivia in the weightroom or the gym leading by example through every activity. Olivia’s efforts showed up in every girl who followed her. She made them stronger!

Carlee is one of the smartest softball players I have coached. Her knowledge of the game is unbelievable and made my job very easy. Although her strong suit was probably defense, my favorite memory of her was the game winning hit, walk off hit, in the regional championship game. I know Carlee was really looking forward to a season where she didn’t have to argue with a sister in practice.

These seniors will be greatly missed and I know they would have done everything in their power to reach their goals this season. I would like to thank them all for their commitment and dedication to our program over the past few years. I would like them all to know that even though they may never put on the Highland uniform again, they will always be a part of the Highland Fastpitch Club!

Looking forward, the WIAA is giving us an opportunity to possibly play some games in July with this group of kids. We will update that information as it becomes available. Please check out social media and the school website for those updates.

Our team has been very successful on the field and are great role models for future Highland Fastpitch players. I truly believe that the main reason these girls are successful is because of the people that they are off the field. We talk a lot about ERA: Effort, Respect, and Attitude. There is no doubt in my mind that this group of girls will be successful in life because they exemplify these core values in their everyday life.

For love of the game,
Coach Campbell
Hello Cardinal Fans,

I know most of you would love to be out at Tyler Field right now cheering on our student-athletes and giving them the greatest support any coach or player could ask for. As the baseball coach, I had really been looking forward to this season. We were looking at blending some talented young players with some established and experienced core guys and I believe we had the potential to be an extremely exciting and very successful team this season. But we have been thrown a tremendous curveball, and we are forced to adapt and change our outlook from hoping for an enjoyable and successful season to just hoping we can play “sometime”.

I know these dramatic changes have been difficult on many people, but I am particularly saddened by the loss of the season for our senior players. Jadyn Halverson, Grant Hying and Riley McMannes have been great additions to the Highland baseball program over the past 3 plus seasons. Each of them have made special contributions to our success on the field and have been outstanding persons as well.

Jadyn is one of the most versatile players I have ever coached. He can be used almost anywhere on the diamond and is willing to learn and always gives his best effort. His versatility and flexibility was going to be a key element to our success this year. Jadyn was always having fun, whether he was doing handstands in center field during a pitching change or noticing how wonderful the sunsets were from our home dugout.

Grant has been a very steady and solid player the past three seasons and he has worked very hard to put himself in position to be one of our conference’s top players. He has always shown himself to be one of the most dedicated players I have ever coached and he has a passion for baseball that I hope he never loses. I just wish everyone could have seen his swing in the cage this winter and hear the sound of the ball coming off of his bat. He was ready to be our anchor and lead us as far as we could go.

Riley is fast. Riley has always been fast. From his freshman year, when he ran the fastest 1st to 3rd time in practice, his speed has always been amazing. But I think what I will remember the most about Riley is his smile and positive attitude. No matter what we were doing, he was always willing to work and give his best effort. And as a team, we were really looking forward to seeing him slide “correctly” this year.

As a coach, it will be these little things that I will miss most about all of the seniors. The hours of practice and effort and watching them grow, learn and produce in their final season. I would like to thank each of them for their time and commitment to making Highland baseball the best it can be.

On a lighter note, we are hoping to be able to put a few games together this summer. The WIAA has allowed high schools to arrange summer games with their graduating seniors in July if conditions allow. The coaches in the conference have been discussing this possibility and are hoping we can bring this to fruition.

Hopefully everyone can stay healthy and I hope to see you soon at the park. I can’t wait to be out there again waving our boys around third and into home.

Yours in baseball,
Terry Cool, Highland High School Baseball Coach

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**Summer Food Service Program**

Did you know there are free meals available for kids and teens this summer? No cost or enrollment required. Open to all children under 18.

To find a site near you:
Call: 1-866-348-6479
Visit: www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks
Text: “Summer Meals” to 97779
Highland’s Meal Program
Since late March, Highland has been providing breakfast and lunch for our students. The program is a curb-side meal pick-up for five days of meals that are picked up two days per week. Families are welcome to begin participation at any time.

📍 **Location:** Highland High School

⏰ **When:** 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Monday & Wednesday
  - 2 days of meals on Monday
  - 3 days of meals on Wednesday

This service is available to all Highland families at no cost. Please utilize this resource to help your family or another family in need. Based on state and federal guidelines, we will only be able to provide this service through the regular school year. The last pickup for the Meals Program will be on Wednesday, May 20.

We are asking all families to use https://5il.co/e5q2 to register for meals. If you do not have access to the internet and would like to register for meals, please leave a voicemail at (608) 929-4525 ext 1405. If your entire family is needing additional meal assistance, please contact the Iowa County Food Pantry at (608) 935-2326 ext 603.

Our thanks to the staff members who have worked so hard to make this program a success. Pictured are Principal Josh Tarrell, along with cooks and servers Diane Kaiser, Natasha Zadrazil, and Kim Mensch. Behind the scenes planning and support was provided by Sharon Wolfe, Linda Hebgen, Barb Hying, Mike Aide, Sharon Friederick, and Brad Tucker. Thanks again to all.