



TROJAN TODAY

YOUR SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SOURCE FOR NEWS AND EVENTS | FEBRUARY 2018

“E-learning provides the district with a virtual option for uninterrupted education for our students.”

Dr. Sherri Mitchell, Director Curriculum, Instruction & Student Services



The School Town of Highland to pilot E-learning Days in 2018-19 school year

The School Town of Highland is exploring an e-learning program that could eliminate school-day disruptions because of inclement weather or early dismissals.

Approved by the state in December and led by Dr. Sherri Mitchell, the district is working through the details of both designated and occasional e-learning options.

The pilot would launch during the 2018-2019 school year.

“Our 1:1 Technology initiative put an iPad in the hands of every student and allows us to implement an e-learning program,” the director of curriculum,

instruction & student services said. “We are bringing all stakeholders to the table yet this winter to determine the best plan for the School Town of Highland.”

Engaging and communicating with parents is vital to e-learning’s success.

“We have been learning from districts that already have e-learning in place and know how important it will be for teachers to have good lesson plans in place in advance,” Mitchell said.

“Our intent for Highland is to create the highest quality distance learning for our students,” she said.

Longtime teacher Christina Davis named principal at Warren Elementary

When the School Town of Highland went looking for a new principal at Warren, the district cast a wide net.

Superintendent Brian Smith said the committee was fortunate to find the perfect candidate in its own backyard.

Longtime art teacher Christina Davis has been named the school town’s newest principal. Davis, who began her new position Jan. 29, replaces JJ Boylan, who left Highland to take a job as an education specialist with Apple.

“Christina is extremely talented — both in her position as an elementary art teacher and as an administrator,” Smith said of Davis, who began as an elementary art teacher in Highland in 2002 and earned her master’s in educational administration in 2007.

It was Davis, who was tapped to work with Merkley Principal Rose Alexander to hone in on performance data, which was the beginning of dramatic, sustained improvement. Together, they developed school improvement and staff development plans that transformed the school’s grade from a D to a B and then to a string of A’s.

“Christina is a valued member of our staff, both for her contributions in advancing the district’s arts program and her tenure as an administrator,” School Board President Carol Green-Fraleay said. “She understands the Warren technology culture and has the ability to look at the data and use that to make continual improvement.

“Our new principal is very kid-centered,” she said. “With her, kids always come first.” ❖

ADMINISTRATION

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SCHOOL BOARD

Robert Kuva, President

Carol Green Fraley, Vice President

Patrick Krull, Secretary

Vicki Crowe, Member

Luanne Jurczak, Member

The school board meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Administration Building, 9145 Kennedy Avenue, Highland.

INFO: Visit hhs.highland.k12.in.us for the latest information, including meeting agendas, school policies, board mission, beliefs and values.

Build Your Own Curriculum empowers teachers to develop courses that meet state standards

Six years in-the-making, Highland's Build Your Own Curriculum is fundamentally complete.

Dr. Sherri Mitchell, director of curriculum, instruction & student services, said the resulting documents provide consistency for every class.

"Our goal is to reduce variability in what is taught – and when," she said. "The BYOC is an aid that helps us prioritize and detail this school district's standards."

An outline of standards and curriculum mapping was followed with a breakdown of course by topic. The result was a detailed outline for every course K-12.

"We are proud of what we have created," Mitchell said. "Our Build Your Own Curriculum provides a way to share resources and improve the curriculum across the district." ❖



ABOUT BYOC

Build Your Own Curriculum is a living document that evolves with changing standards and the development of new best practices. The BYOC framework encourages teachers to develop high-level questions and share what they learn with their peers.

To learn more about the courses, visit highland.buildyourowncurriculum.com

QUESTIONS? Please email Dr. Sherri Mitchell, Director Curriculum, Instruction & Student Services, at smitchel@highland.k12.in.us.

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

"JJ Boylan leaves quite a legacy at Highland schools. Please join me in wishing the former principal the best!"

A FOND FAREWELL...

As we welcome a new principal at Warren, we bid a fond farewell to her predecessor. After 27 years as a teacher and principal, JJ Boylan has left Highland to take a job as an education specialist with tech giant Apple.

JJ was one of the visionaries who saw the value technology would bring to education. He got excited about it – and, in turn – so did we. What he learned about technology in education, he taught us. JJ developed the framework for our 1:1 initiative, which has placed an iPad in the hands of every Highland student.

His gifts to Highland school children and our teaching staff will be his legacy. Please join me in wishing him all the best.

STATE MUSIC FINALS ...

I also want to wish the very best to our music and vocal students, who are heading to



the Indiana State School Music Association finals this month.

Without fail, this talented group of students do themselves and the School Town of Highland proud. I wish them good

weather, safe travels and the best of luck at the ISSMA state competition.

FLU SEASON ...

Our students have been hard hit with influenza at a time when our teachers are hard at work preparing for annual testing.

When your child is feeling better, check in with their teacher to get missed work. ❖

Brian Smith
Superintendent
School Town of Highland

BOWLING SPOTLIGHT



The 2017-2018 season has been one of the high points for Highland Girls Bowling. The team was brought to Highland nearly 20 years ago by Claude Jackson, the longtime face of bowling in Highland. Pictured in the front row are: Sara Finke, Faith Zimmerman and Samantha Bugno. Back Row: Morgan Koble, Lexie Reyes, Lindsey Wilson and Morgan Vanderlee. [photo provided]

Highland Girls Bowling finish record season

When it comes to counting pins, Highland Girls Bowling has way more strikes than spares.

The girls, who have spent a healthy portion of their high school careers at Plaza Lanes, finished the regular season with a 9-3 record and a sectional berth. Coached by Phil Hajduk and Tim Bales, the team finished second in the conference to Lake Central.

Although their season ended at regionals, teammates Samantha Bugno and Sara Finke, who have bowled together since they were toddlers, advanced to the late January semi-state competition in Lafayette, where they were eliminated in tournament play.

Nancy Batliner, Northwest Indiana's bowling conference coordinator, said the girls are not only teammates, they are friends.

"The great thing about bowling in Northwest Indiana is that bowlers from all schools are the best of friends," Batliner said.

"They may be rivals on the lanes but when competition is over they can be seen hanging around— usually practicing on the lanes." ❖

COSMIC BOWLING

Join the Highland Athletic Booster Club for some wacky bowling while raising funds for high school athletics.

Cosmic bowling ideas include bowling with the opposite hand, bowling backwards, bowling in slow motion or even bowling between someone else's legs.

The event also features silent auctions and a 50/50 raffle. Don't miss out on your chance to walk away with some big prizes for little money!

WHEN: 7 -10:30 p.m. March 3

WHERE: Plaza Lanes, 101 Kennedy Ave.

FEE: \$30 ticket includes bowling, shoe rental, food, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. Purchase tickets in the Athletic Department, online at HighlandAthleticBoosterClub.com or call Stacy Steele at (219) 308-5943.

Time to register Highland children for kindergarten

The public elementary schools will hold kindergarten registration the week of March 19. Parents are urged to bring their children and the items listed below to the school that serves their immediate district according to the following schedule:

8:45 – 11 AM:
Last names "K" through "Z"

12:15 – 2:30 PM:
Last names "A" through "J"

MONDAY, MARCH 19
Southridge Elementary School
9221 Johnston St. • (219) 922-5650

TUESDAY, MARCH 20
Warren Elementary School
2901 100th St. • (219) 922-5660

THURSDAY, MARCH 22
Johnston Elementary School
8220 Fifth St. • (219) 923-2428

FRIDAY, MARCH 23
Merkley Elementary School
9340 Fifth St. • (219) 922-5640

AGE REQUIREMENT
Students must be 5 years of age on or before Aug. 1, 2018.

ITEMS FOR REGISTRATION:

- Five proofs of residency**
Two of the following:
NIPSCO, water, phone, cable (utility bills/deposit receipts)
Two of the following: Driver's license/state ID showing current address, vehicle registration, recent paycheck/unemployment check receipt.
One of the following: Lease and rent receipt, mortgage and homeowners insurance documents, notarized letter with three proofs of residency from the homeowner (parent/guardian must provide ID listed above)
- Proof of custody**, if applicable
- Birth certificate**
- Social security number**
- Current immunization records** (name and phone number of pediatrician)

HIGHLAND THEATER COMPANY PERFORMANCES

7 p.m. Friday, February 23 and Saturday, February 24
2 p.m. Sunday, February 25

The Desk Set

Join us for this telling comedy for anyone who has ever worked in an office. ... Bunny Watson is a library reference clerk stuck in a dead-end relationship with a boring television executive. ... Her life is thrown into turmoil when electronic brains are installed to do the work of people, soon replacing whole departments.



TICKETS: \$10 adults, \$8 students/seniors ... HTCBookTix.com
 or the Monbeck Auditorium box office one hour before curtain.
INFO: For more info about this production, call 219.922.5610.

UPCOMING EVENTS**ORCHESTRA CONCERT**

Join us as we celebrate spring's arrival with instrumentals provided by our high school and middle school orchestras.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. March 8

WHERE: Monbeck Auditorium at Highland High School, 9135 Erie St.

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: Email Orchestra Director Benjamin Leonard-White at bleonard@highland.k12.in.us or visit highlandorchestra.org,

MATTRESS SALE

Feeling like the Princess – or the Pea? It may be time for a new mattress. The choir, band, orchestra and theater students are hosting a mattress sale to raise funds for the fine arts department.

The fund-raiser offers everything a mattress store has to offer except the high prices. Not only can you save up to 50 percent off retail prices, but roughly \$100 to \$150 goes to the school for every mattress sold.

Mattresses – available in all sizes – include major brands like Beautyrest and Therapedic. Layaway, delivery and credit are also available.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 17

WHERE: Highland High School

INFO: bit.ly/beds4highland

TRIVIA NIGHT

Join the Highland Education Foundation for its second annual Trivia Night. Put a team together and attempt to take the traveling trophy away from our stellar middle school teachers, who will attempt to retain their championship title.

WHEN: 6 to 10 p.m. April 21

WHERE: The Room, 8353 Indianapolis Boulevard, Highland

TICKETS: \$30 includes dinner, wine and beer along with your tournament play. Tables of eight are available at a \$225 discounted rate.

INFO: For more information or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Foundation President Judi Caddick at (219) 923-7621 or hefdnevents@gmail.com