



TROJAN TODAY

YOUR SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SOURCE FOR NEWS AND EVENTS | AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2022

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

ARE YOU READY?

Highland High School students return to significant procedural changes

CELL PHONE USE

Because the use of cell phones and electronic devices has proven to be an obstacle to learning, high school teachers will have discretion over their use. "We know this may be a difficult change for some as we have all become addicted to our electronics," High School Principal John Zack said. "Still, it is definitely a worthy skill and necessary to master."

DROP-OFF, PICK-UP & PARKING

Students will park in the "C" lot unless they attend the Hammond Area Career Center or are Rule 10. Rule 10 and Area Career Center students will get special parking tags with parking designated. Parents may pick up and drop off their student in the parking lot west of the horseshoe. The horseshoe is reserved for buses only. Students will need a numbered tag to drive to school. White spaces in Lot C are reserved for middle school staff.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL TIMES

High school is starting earlier this year. For those who ride the bus, this is a very good thing. Most bus pick-up times will not change much, if at all. "We had been starting school 45 minutes after student arrival which didn't make sense to us," Principal John Zack said. "We are moving our start time to 7:30 a.m. This impacts our end-of-day dismissal time, which will be 2:40 p.m. Monday through Friday, with no more early-release Wednesdays."

Warren Elementary adopts former high school student's Army unit

Students at Warren Elementary will be adopting a local soldier and his battalion for the upcoming school year. As it turns out, the students and Army Specialist Luke Rhoades already share a common bond.

Rhoades is a Highland High School graduate class of 2021 who serves as a combat medic with the 2nd Battalion, 18th Regiment of the 75th Field Artillery Brigade

out of Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The unit, which provides support to infantry in larger operations, has been deployed in South Korea assisting that nation's military in providing security for South Korean citizens for the last four months. His mom, Bernadette Rhoades, is a kindergarten aide at Warren.

"Our students will be sending letters, cards and care packages throughout the school

year," Davis said. "It will be nice for them to know that they share a common background in Highland and realize the important, life-changing work our students perform when they graduate."

Want to help? Contact Warren Elementary Principal Christina Davis at (219) 922-5660 or email cdavis@highland.k12.in.us.

ADMINISTRATION

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SCHOOL BOARD

Robert Kuva, President
Victor A. Garcia, Vice President
Patrick Krull, Secretary
Luanne Jurczak, member
Allencia Ballard, 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 highland.k12.in.us for the latest information, including meeting agendas, school policies, board mission, beliefs and values.

Parents urged to complete free, reduced meal applications before school year begins

After two years of free and reduced meals operating on a federal waiver, the United States Department of Agriculture is returning to traditional applications where every student must qualify in order to receive free or reduced meals.

Food Services Director Lisa Hayes is encouraging families to apply for the free and reduced meal program for the 2022-2023 school year before students go back to the classroom Aug. 11.

“Often parents are reluctant to fill out the annual free-and-reduced application thinking they won’t qualify,” Hayes said. “However, families MAY qualify if they multiply the number of people in their household by \$20,000 and they make less than that total amount.”

Students who are not approved for the program before the start of the school year will be classified as paid status and meal charges may begin to accumulate starting the first day of school. Meal charges accrued before the approval of a meal benefit application will be the responsibility of the household.

You do NOT need to apply if:

- ✓ You receive notification that your child(ren) are directly certified.
- ✓ You know your household does not qualify for meal benefits.



Meal prices for the 2022-2023 school year will remain the same as 2019-2020 to assist families as we return to the normal meal pricing structure.

	Grade School	Middle School	High School
BREAKFAST			
Paid	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50
Reduced	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Free	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
LUNCH			
Paid	\$2.00	\$2.25	\$2.25
Reduced	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.40
Free	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Please have money in your child’s account on the first day of school.

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

“Welcome back students, parents, teachers and staff!”

There is an excitement in the air. Could the start of school be far behind?

Over the summer, an unexpected number of students decided to take fall sports on in a big way, so big that the football coaches were scrambling to find equipment for incoming freshman. It’s not just football. Girls golf and soccer along with both boys and girls cross-country have become very popular for this prep season.

A full two weeks before the beginning of instruction, our teacher rosters were very nearly full, a testament to the great reputation the School Town of Highland has among educators.

Most of our middle and high school special needs students are moving back from

Lake Ridge schools to attend classes in Highland. It’s something our parents have requested. The number of students requiring special services support the move. Having more of our students at our schools will be beneficial for them *and* their parents.

I am also happy to report that additions and changes to the guidance team last year were so successful we are continuing the program at full strength this year using Cares Act proceeds.

Welcome back students, parents, teachers and staff! It’s going to be a very good year.



Brian Smith
Superintendent
School Town of Highland

Welcome to the Trojan family!

Despite a statewide teacher shortage in Indiana, Assistant Superintendent Ryan Erdelac said teachers remain eager to move to Highland. "We have something very desirable, a medium-to-small district with an approachable administrative team and familial atmosphere," he said. "In late May, we advertised an opening for an elementary school teacher and we were gratified to see we had 40 applicants."

The administrative team is excited about the teachers who have already been hired. "Our applicants are familiar with the district and apply to our schools because they really want to be here," Erdelac said. "We are eager to welcome these teachers to our School Town of Highland family."

HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Brett Jennings	Computer Science
Jacob Spottiswood	Social Studies
Elizabeth Tsakopoloulos	English
Amy Wolfe	PE and Health

HIGHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Bridgette DeYoung	Reading
Ben Geffert	Physical Education
Mark Maldonado	8th Grade Math
Lisa Mendoza	Mathematics
Christian Zendejas	Social Studies

WARREN ELEMENTARY

Kolleen DeRolf	5th Grade
Gina Ensell	2nd Grade



More and more students are participating in Highland prep sports

When other school districts were posting declines in the number of students participating in prep sports, Athletic Director Ryan Harrington said Highland teams have bucked the trend.

This year will be no exception.

"Over the last five to six years, there has been declining participation in prep sports nationwide," Harrington said.

"Meanwhile, there is an uptick in participation in Highland. This year, we have significant increases in the number of girls going out for soccer and golf as well as huge numbers in both girls and boys cross-country. These numbers are going to

make for a fun season for our students."

A bonus for Highland students will be a change in Indiana High School Athletic Association classification from 4A to 3A.

The IHSAA classifications for team sports are determined by student enrollment. The goal is to have high schools of similar sizes competing for sectional, regional and state titles. Schools are reclassified in all class sports every two years.

"In 4A, we were competing against schools, like Carmel, which are five times our size," he said. "We are going to be in a division where our teams can compete on a more level playing field."

HIGHLAND INVITATIONAL

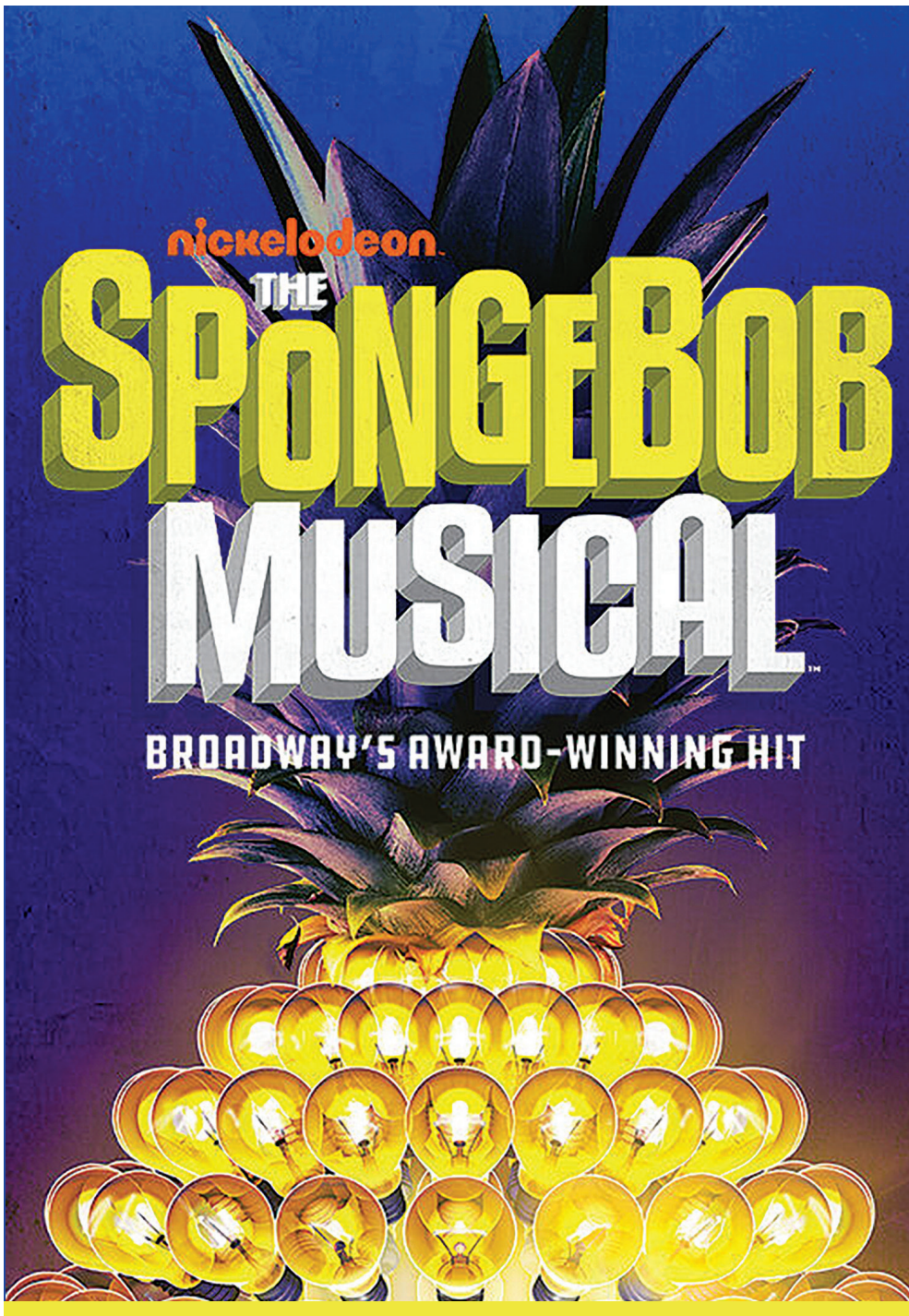
Highland High will host an open cross country race in September. The race is open to any male or female runner.

When: 8 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 24

Where: The race begins and ends at Highland High School, 9135 Erie St.

Fee: \$5

Registration: Begins at 7:15 a.m. by the concession stand at the football field. Anyone under the age of 18 is required to have waiver signed by parent or legal guardian. Forms may be picked up at the HHS athletic office or at the track on the morning of the race.



7 PM | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
 7 PM | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1
 2 PM | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

regionalperformingarts.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TICKETS

DEPENDENT CARE PROGRAM

Register your child for the 2022-2023 Dependent Care Program from 12:30-5:30 p.m. **August 8-10** at Southridge Elementary, 9221 Johnston St.

Children residing in Highland and attending Highland public schools – grades K-6 – are eligible to enroll.

The program is housed in all four elementary schools during the school year

The before- and after-school program is available for elementary students from 6:30-7:45 a.m. at Johnston Elementary School only and from 2:30 - 6:00 p.m. at the child's school on days school is in session. If your child is in middle school, he/she will be transported to his/her home elementary school for Dependent Care.

We encourage you to register early as available spots tend to fill up quickly.

The fee is determined by the number of hours a child is scheduled to attend.

INFO: For more information, please contact Lisa Hodge at lishodge@highland.k12.in.us.

FALL CONCERTS

Join us as we celebrate fall with performances from our high school and middle school choirs and musical ensembles.

MS/HS ORCHESTRA CONCERT
 6:30 p.m. **October 5**

MS/HS BAND CONCERT
 6:30 p.m. **October 6**

MS/HS CHOIR:
 6:30 p.m. **October 11**

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

ADMISSION: Free