

FALL 2020

# schoolbell

HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2.0



Creative  
Problem Solvers  
in the Making

How to Be:

...Becoming who He wants us to BE

# from the COVER



Project Lead the Way provides transformative learning experiences for students of all ages at HCS. As students explore, discover and create solutions for these interdisciplinary projects, they are becoming creative, collaborative problem solvers!

## HCS MISSION STATEMENT

In order to honor God,  
we nurture and guide students  
to see the Father's creation  
to sense order in a world saved by Christ  
to serve God through the leading  
of the Holy Spirit

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## The Value of Experience

When we moved from Western Michigan to Northwest Indiana, my wife and I traded our home in the country for a historic home in Hammond. We missed the country, but quickly learned the ins and outs of our “new” urban setting. I, personally, also missed coaching high school tennis, so I decided to join a tennis league and keep up with this sport I dearly love.



On my first day of league, I headed out to the H-F Racquet Club in Homewood. I typed the address into my GPS and saw I had ten minutes to spare! Looking to learn more about my new community, I elected to take the back roads instead of the highway. I made my way through Hammond, South Holland, Harvey, Dolton and then Homewood; not so happily, I found myself in “the land of many trains.” After the third railroad gate lowered in front of me, my ten spare minutes had vanished, and I finally found myself at the club - 25 minutes late.

The moral of my story? **Experiences and feedback help shape our schematic approach, or said differently, the lens through which we view the world, and the systems by which we operate.** Had I been better informed about the location and timing of trains on my route, I would have been better equipped to meet my goal of arriving on time.

At Highland Christian School, our team is dedicated to utilizing the best data, research, and experiences to meet our goal: cultivating students who love the Lord and His world. Over the past six years, we’ve grown as a Professional Learning Community (PLC), all the while asking Rick DuFoir’s 4 Questions:

1. What do we want all students to know and be able to do?
2. How will we know if they learn it?
3. How will we respond when some students do not learn?
4. How will we extend the learning for students who are already proficient?

In this edition of the School Bell, we’ve shared stories that highlight the themes of innovation, creativity and learning this year. You will also read about the work we are doing with Questions 3 & 4. As always, we love and cherish our HCS family and thank the individuals, businesses, churches and ministries who’ve partnered with us this year.

*Kyle R. Weener*  
Kyle R. Weener  
Principal

*“I appreciate how available Chloe’s eLearning teacher was to the students in her classroom! She provided office hours , after the class had met... sometimes she would extend the time in order to help the kids that needed extra help. Ms. Julie Homans [goes] above and beyond in her teaching and made being in a Zoom class a joy!” Mrs. Kellee Rayburn*

# From the Heart of the Ukraine to the Hearts of Students

by Mrs. Sarah de Vuyst

Cameras on. Mics off. She enters the classroom to silence. Little faces framed in black stare back.

“Good morning, class!” This is not a scene out of a sci-fi movie. No, this is a scene from the eLearning classroom. With the uncertainty of the pandemic shadowing the start of the school year, Highland

Christian School offered a security some families needed: an option to keep their children at home and still receive the quality, Christian education they desired from HCS.

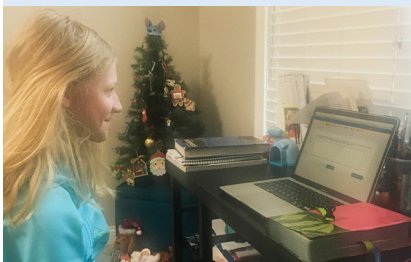


## Whose Heart

As an eLearning teacher, I have the privilege of teaching junior high history and 6th grade math. Over the internet, the students’ bedrooms connect to my room in Ukraine – 5,000 miles and 8 hours apart! Who could have imagined? As Christian Reformed missionaries in Ukraine, our family also found ourselves looking for online schooling and teaching opportunities. It is a blessing for me to be able to work for Highland Christian School.

## A Student’s Point of View

by Inara Hook



eLearning has mostly been a positive experience for me. In the beginning, I had some hard times getting into a routine with going to school online. It was difficult to understand that even though I was at home, I still needed to act like I was in

school. After I got used to my new routine, I started to really enjoy eLearning. I was still able to see my classmates on the Zoom calls, **I was still learning the same things as they were in the classroom, but I was also able to work on things at my own speed.** I could move quickly through things that I already understood and spend more time on things that I didn’t understand yet.

Two of my teachers use Google Classroom to assign work for the week. My assignments, quizzes, tests and projects are all done through the computer. I start my day by logging in and writing down what I need to accomplish. Then I sign on to my Zoom classes for the day. My teachers use Zoom to teach us like we were physically in the classroom at school. There are only a few kids on the Zooms, which allows the teachers to spend a lot of time making sure that we understand what they are teaching. After lunch, I start on my homework and usually finish it before school would normally be done for the day. Being able to work on my assignments at my own speed allows me to spend time working on things that I am having difficulty with and still have time to enjoy things outside of school.

eLearning has allowed me to work on some interesting projects. My favorite project was for history. Each person in the class was assigned a different pharaoh to research. We each had to create a slide about our pharaoh and then had to teach the rest of the class about what we learned. My eLearning teachers have worked hard to make learning interesting and fun!

## How Do We Do It?

With collaboration from the classroom teachers, I am able to keep the eLearning students in step with the classroom so that they can eventually return without any discrepancies in the instructional content. I utilize a number of online tools to make learning accessible and feasible. Through a daily 30-minute Zoom session, we cover the concepts and I am able to answer students’ questions. With Zoom’s breakout room feature, students work in small groups and collaborate together. Students follow up with practice and demonstrate their learning in much the same way they would in the classroom. Countless online tools provide many new opportunities, but sometimes it’s better to just open the textbook and learn the old-fashioned way!

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the students – to the extent that a Zoom classroom affords. **I love the diversity at HCS and how the students’ perspectives and experiences relate to the topics we cover. The world we live in has been impacted by the pandemic, but God has been faithful to provide a way through. eLearning is one such path.** Until we can be face to face in the classroom again, let’s unmute the mics, turn on the webcams, and learn together.

*“I appreciate that there is a daily schedule and routine and how the teachers have made themselves available for extra help outside of class time. My child’s grades are evidence that [HCS teachers] put a lot into the learning of our children.” Mrs. Dora Glover*

*"I appreciate EVERYTHING! The subjects, amount of work, support of our amazing eLearning teacher Mrs. Brouwer!! eLearning has been a pure blessing to my family..."* Jocelyn Pruitt

## Junior High Academic Support

by Mrs. Kathy Vant Hoff

"What is that bizarre contraption on the table?" Although the goal of meeting individual student needs is unchanging, the junior high academic support room may look different at different times of the day. During some class periods I am working with small groups of students, teaching grade level math or language arts to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Some of those classes might also include eLearners who are zooming in for instruction, while one 7th grade math class is comprised only of eLearners. Mr. Vander Woude found a flexible, sturdy iPad clamp that allows the iPad to be front and center in front of the whiteboard so our eLearners can see instruction and participate in discussion along with in-class students. At the end of each day, a supported study hall provides another opportunity for students to plan their homework and receive help on assignments. Every day in academic support is a busy day of encouraging students to stretch themselves to use their God-given talents and abilities to glorify Him.



## The Right Tools Make All The Difference

by Mr. Rick Vander Woude



The role of digital technology in education has been growing in quantum leaps in the last twenty years. For those who have resisted this trend, the recent shutdown of schools has issued a clarion call. Educators need to embrace the possibilities offered. Likewise, students and parents have learned to appreciate the power of technology while quarantined at home.

### Digital Resources

**Blackbaud (OnCampus)** provides the backbone of our digital learning management system with a robust tool through which parents are informed about learning activities, and students access and turn in assignments as well as complete assessments. It provides much data for the office staff as well. Teacher **Nearpod** accounts allow for an engaging exchange of information. Students can respond in various ways to information from teachers from writing to drawing. **Videos** can also be set to pause and offer questions, thereby more thoroughly engaging students in the content offered.

As a Professional Learning Community (PLC), HCS is naturally concerned with the questions dealing with *what if students do or don't learn what is expected of them*. This is where **IXL** comes in as a valuable resource, assisting those who need additional help and further challenging those who are mastering material. Another helpful addition to this list is that most of the curriculum, including math, reading, and social studies, is accessible online. These subjects also offer the text, assignments, and assessments.

### Human Resources

Probably one of the most important things the HCS Board did was to wisely hire additional staff to administer our eLearning program. **Specialized staff members assigned to eLearning students provide continuity, increased teaching time and assistance with virtual students**, and a welcome relief of stress to the full-time staff member administering to the actual students. Presently, HCS has eight part-time eLearning staff. Additionally, two leveled-reading teachers are assisting with reading and math, and an additional two full-time teachers have opted to either live-stream their classes or record them for later viewing by students.

We have been blessed with the digital resources available to us here. More so, we are grateful for the commendable work carried out by our most excellent eLearning staff. Their work has been a real blessing to our school.

*"... The lesson plans are very detailed and well done. Mrs. Sanner really takes the time to make sure each child is learning at their level, while still keeping up with standards. She gives extra recommendations to help keep kids engaged if they finish their work early. She makes sure that each child has a chance to speak during Zoom, so that she can evaluate their level and also allows time for questions. We are very thankful for her!"* Nicole Miniuk

# Completing Our Journey and Leading the Way

by Mr. Rick Vander Woude

Over the last three years, Highland Christian School has been on a journey to implement standards-based grading (SBG). This journey has been carried out gradually and carefully, as the entire staff has read books and engaged in seminars. This school year marks the completion of this journey, as grades 6-8 adopt the SBG method of evaluation.

As standards-based grading becomes more common throughout the United States, software companies are responding with development of software that accommodates this method. Over the last two years, our learning management provider, Blackbaud, has developed its answer to this request. It allows teachers to view standards, match them up with assignments, and issue report cards showing a student's learning progression in these standards.

Parents are able to look at how their students are progressing on specific standards. This provides an opportunity for parents to assist their students at home by instructing them to focus on various online resources like IXL. Presently, the Highland Christian IXL account includes math, language arts, science, social studies, and Spanish. Like the school standards, these standards match with those set by the Indiana Department of Education.

## Mr. Vander Woude Represents at Blackbaud

We have witnessed a growing number of schools who have heard about SBG and have become interested in making the change to this system. Highland Christian has already been able to serve as a resource for these schools and assist them. Additionally, as the Director of Instructional Technology, Mr. Vander Woude served on a panel which was part of a webinar sponsored by the Blackbaud Corporation, which has developed an SBG grading system which we are using. This webinar offered interested schools practical information on how other schools have transitioned to SBG, and how the Blackbaud learning management system has assisted in communicating standards and grades to parents.

What is always meaningful in these webinars is the ability for interested attendees to submit questions. The five members of the panel were able to offer invaluable information about the best ways to begin this SBH journey and helpful resources for informing teachers. The Highland Christian staff is excited about where it's come on this journey and how it has been able to assist others get on the road. It hopes to continue to serve as a resource to others in the future.

*"I like how organized the lessons are. My daughter finds it easy to track all of her assignments and submit them accordingly. I also appreciate the option of eLearning classes during these times." Crystal Johnson*

# Professional Development

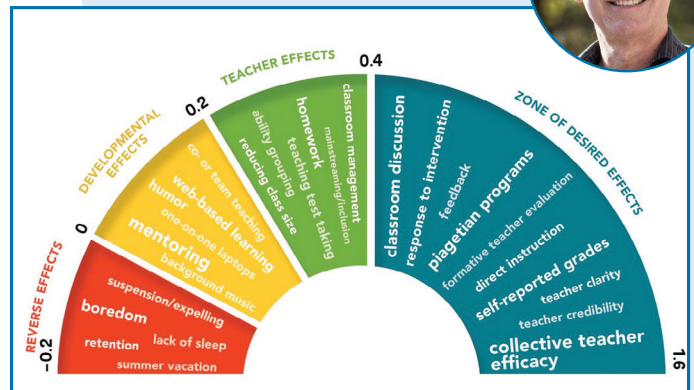
by Mr. Kyle Weener, Principal



When it comes to teaching and learning, many of us have strong "gut feelings" and opinions. PLC legend, **Dr. Anthony Muhammad**, challenged our staff and guests to

subjugate these opinions and instead use evidence based practices to guide decision making during our start-of-year professional development sessions. His teaching boosted and emboldened our teachers, compelling them further on our journey into evidence based practices.

In addition to adopting Rick DuFoir's PLC framework, Highland Christian's faculty is exploring Dr. John Hattie's research on the factors that play into academic success. **Dr. John Hattie**, a world-wide educational leader and researcher, studied that relationship between educational factors and academic success.



In his text, *Visible Learning*, Dr. Hattie unpacked a meta-analysis of millions of studies that scale effects on student learning. At Highland Christian, our goal is to find the most efficient and student-centered way to achieve high levels of learning for ALL of our students. Thankfully, Dr. Hattie's findings allow us to make informed decisions so we don't get "stuck by the train" as the research and methods have already been evaluated.

It is a privilege to work at a school that utilizes the best tools and professional collaboration to equip students to live a life for the Lord. By faithfully pursuing the best instructional methods, we are able to better showcase the world that God has created for each of us.

# Celebrating Fall at Windmill Acres

by Mrs. Karen van Belle

In preschool we learn about God's faithfulness through the seasons. Sonshine Enrichment Center students, parents, and staff were thrilled to be able to enjoy a beautiful fall day at the pumpkin patch! It was a great day to be outside, pick pumpkins, and experience fall.

We all met at Windmill Acres pumpkin patch in Beecher. We started our time there by watching a puppet show. The Pumpkin Princess taught us a little about pumpkins and told us some fun jokes. (What do you call a beautiful pumpkin? "Gourd"-geous!) Then we divided up into groups and went through the different greenhouses and activities.

We got to feed and touch some of God's creatures that you usually see at a farm. Goats, rabbits, and kittens were so much fun to watch. The hungry goats wanted to gobble up the food we had for them!

One of the best parts of the day was taking a tractor ride into the pumpkin patch. We each got to pick a pumpkin to take home with us. It was amazing to see how different all the pumpkins and gourds were! We found bumpy ones, white ones, green ones, and orange ones of all shapes!

We also had plenty of time to play on giant spider slides, take a barrel train ride, and explore the playground. We love to be outside!

Another highlight was the GIANT corn pit in the games greenhouse. We got to take off our shoes and dive right in! There was corn in our pockets, in our socks, and in our hoods, but it was so much fun to get buried in the corn kernels.

Some of us ended the morning at the shop with fresh pumpkin donuts and other treats.

**It was a lovely morning of fellowship and celebration of God's creation. We're so thankful that God created Fall!**



## Upcoming Events

December TBA . . . . . Christmas Concert 7:00p.m.  
 Beginning Band and Junior High Band/Choir  
 December 18 . . . . . 1:45 Dismissal  
 December 18 . . . . . End of 2nd Qtr.  
 December 21-January 2 . . . . . Christmas Vacation  
 January 4. . . . . School Resumes  
 January 7. . . . . etc Sort Night, grade 8-6:00-8:00p.m.  
 January 11 . Kdg. & SEC Open House 6:30-8:00p.m.  
 January 15. . . . . PTO Movie Night  
 January 18. . . . . Martin Luther King Day-No School  
 January 19. . . etc Sort Night, grade 7 - 6:00-8:00p.m.  
 TBA . . . . . ISSMA-Instrumental  
 TBA . . . . . ISSMA-Vocal, Piano  
 February 3. . . . . Late Start 10:00a.m.  
 February 4. . . etc Sort Night, grade 6 - 6:00-8:00p.m.  
 February 5. . . . . Preview HCS 1:30-3:00p.m.  
 February 11. . . . . Skating Party 6:30-9:30p.m.  
 February 12. . . . . In-Service - No School  
 February 15. . . . . Presidents' Day - No School  
 February 18. . etc Sort Night, grade 5 - 6:00-8:00p.m.  
 February 25. . etc Sort Night, grade 4 - 6:00-8:00p.m.  
 March TBA. . . . . D.E.A.R. Week and Book Fair  
 March 2. . . . . PTO HCS Dinner Event  
 March 3. . . . . Late Start 10:00a.m.  
 March TBA . . . . . Illiana Jr. High Choir Festival  
 March 9. . . . . etc Sort Night, grade 3 - 6:00-8:00p.m.  
 March 10. . . . . Kindergarten Screening  
 March 12. . . . . End of 3rd Qtr.  
 March 12. . . . . Preview HCS 1:30-3:00p.m.  
 March . . . . . SEC Dad's Night  
 March 23. . . . etc Sort Night, grade 2 - 6:00-8:00p.m.  
 March 24. . . . . PTO Donuts for Dudes  
 March 29-April 2 . . . . . Spring Vacation-No School





# Math Pentathlon

by Mrs. Caitlin DeBoer

Imagine a classroom where 2nd and 3rd graders are all participating in games. With a board game between them, you see some lounging on the ground, some crouched on the rug with a “judge,” and some are at the table challenging the next opponent on their bracket. Welcome to the after school Math Pentathlon Club!

Students here learn five different games that use concepts like problem solving skills and logical thinking that match up to National and State Math Standards. And while I’m sure the students are there to make sure that they are learning skills that correspond with the Standards, mostly I think they just enjoy learning new games to play with their friends. Learning while playing!

Last year was the first time this math program was started. The class filled up in eight minutes! It was awesome to see that the excitement was still there and we were able to fill up two classes this year: a Tuesday class with Mrs. DeBoer in the preschool room and a Wednesday class with Mrs. Zandstra in the library.

We have learned three of the five games and enjoy challenging new opponents from each game’s bracket in order to determine the ultimate winner. There’s a competitive side to it, but an important skill is learning how to lose and win graciously. They are encouraged to say at the end of a game, “Good game, I’ll get you next time” to show it’s okay to lose, and “I am going to try some new skills next time to win.” I also overheard a student say to her opponent, “That was a close game and you tried really hard.” Winning with grace. We look forward to learning the next two games as well. Hope you’ll join us in next fall’s session!

# BIGS & littles

by Mrs. Christine Hoekstra

Last year we started the Big Brother Little Brother and Big Sister Little Sister program at Highland Christian. This year it has adopted the name “Bigs and Littles.” One of the goals for this program is to set aside time for students to have a positive experience at school. **It is a great opportunity for students to build relationships within the school, as well as build confidence with**

**their peers.** Bigs and Littles targets students that may benefit from additional positive attention. It has already made an impact on our elementary and junior high students.

Students meet twice a month with me. We have become creative with our activities this year to ensure each student is able to safely participate. Our name tags include students tracing their hands on construction paper with the ability to high five their buddy. One of our meetings was postponed, so the junior high students decided to give a postcard to their buddy. There were instant requests from the Littles to reciprocate. In our upcoming meetings we plan to incorporate a study session. We look forward to watching God’s work as the year unfolds.



# THE DAY THE PUMPKIN PATCH CAME TO HCS

by Mrs. Shirleen Brown

What do you do when you can't take a field trip to the pumpkin patch? Well, you bring the pumpkin patch to you! That is what the kindergarten students did this fall. Thanks to a generous donation from Elzinga's Farm and Greenhouse, 50 fine looking pumpkins were delivered to Highland Christian School. Then a big shout out of thanks goes to some of the eighth grade students who scattered the pumpkins out on the front lawn of the school. This allowed the kindergarten students and their teachers to go and pick a pumpkin from the "patch". We bagged up the pumpkins and took them to our classroom.

The next day was Pumpkin Extravaganza Day in kindergarten. All of our learning activities were centered around our pumpkins. We weighed, measured and determined the circumference of our pumpkins. We practiced our numbers with pumpkin ten frames and orange paint and Q-tips. We read books about pumpkins and wrote sentences about the book. We practiced writing words that we could sound out. We watched videos that helped us learn how God makes a pumpkin grow. We decorated the pumpkins with stickers so they had cool faces. At

snack time we enjoyed pumpkin muffins and orange Rice Krispie treats in the shape of a pumpkin. We really enjoyed all the learning we could do with our pumpkins.

One of the videos we enjoyed the most was a book called *The Pumpkin Patch Parable* by Liz Curtis Higgs. It is the story of a farmer and all the vegetables he grows, but it focuses on the growth of the pumpkin. In the end, the farmer chooses a special pumpkin to be made into a jack-o-lantern. It then describes the steps the farmer takes to carve a pumpkin. The lesson we learned from that book was that being a Christian is just like being a pumpkin. God picks us from the patch and brings us in to Him. He washes us off, opens us up and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate and greed and all other sins. Then He carves us a new smiling face and puts His light inside us to shine for all the world to see. Thank you God for pumpkins to enjoy but also for loving and choosing us to shine Your light to the world.





# Transportation Need



This year our need to replace one full size bus has come sooner than expected, so the full cost is not accounted for in our savings. This, paired with increasing bus prices, has left us with a \$25K shortfall. If God should lead you to contribute to this need, we would be so grateful!

Please contact Mr. Kyle Weener (x157) or Miss Jodi Lineburg (x165) if you would like additional information.

## Wish List

### Mrs. De Young – 1st Grade

United Art & Education gift cards . . . . . \$20.00 to \$60.00  
 Books and/or games for classroom . . . . . \$60.00

### Mrs. Otte – 1st Grade

3 - \$25.00 Walgreens gift cards to develop pictures for 1st grade journals . . . . . \$75.00  
 Blurt! game . . . . . \$21.99  
 Safari Animals puzzle . . . . . \$13.99  
 Animals Get Together puzzle . . . . . \$21.99

### Mrs. Verkaik – 2nd Grade

Math games . . . . . \$50.00  
 Math manipulatives . . . . . \$50.00  
 Indoor recess activities . . . . . \$50.00

### Mrs. Wiltjer – 3rd Grade

SpellingCity Vocabulary Premium Membership . . . . . \$118.80  
 Math materials and activity guides . . . . . \$183.02

### Mrs. Jabaay/Miss Rogalske – 4th Grade

Christmas Crafts . . . . . \$56.15

### Mrs. De Young – 5th Grade

30 copies of the book Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson . . . . . \$219.42

### Mrs. Achterhof – Discovery Center

Reading games . . . . . \$111.00

### Mrs. Huizenga – Bible, ELA, History

40 copies of Parallel Journeys, 7th grade novel . . . . \$7.50 each  
 25 copies of The Bronze Bow, 8th grade novel . . . . \$9.00 each  
 \$10.00 per 6th grade student to offset the cost of the Field Museum of Natural History . . . . . \$400.00  
 \$5.00 per 7th grade student to offset the cost of the Holocaust Museum . . . . . \$200.00  
 \$5.00 per 8th grade student to offset the cost of the DuSable Museum . . . . . \$200.00

### Mrs. Harvey – Curriculum Director

Safco Adjustable Heights Stand-Up Workstation . . . . . \$349.99

### Technology

Educational Apps for iPads. . . . . Any Amount  
 Reserve fund for iPad replacement when needed. . . Any Amount

### Building & Grounds

Playground basketball hoops . . . . . \$10,000.00

### Administration

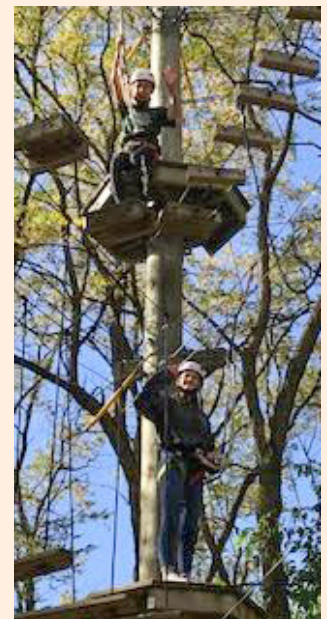
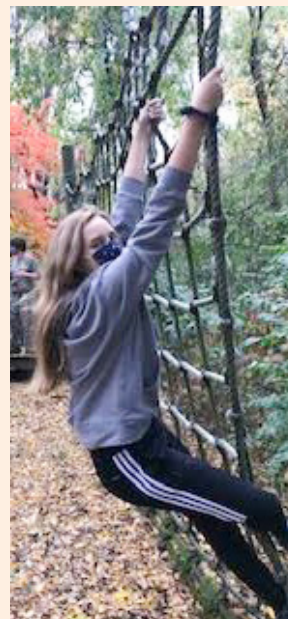
2 Office shredders for Admin. and Dev. Dir. . . . . \$200.00 each  
 Office chair for Administrator . . . . . \$100.00

## 8th Grade Camp Manitoqua Trip

by Mrs. Patricia Scheeringa

Acid rivers? High ropes? Whale watching? These are just some of the challenges the Class of 2021 faced at Camp Manitoqua. On Oct. 16, a beautiful fall day, the eighth graders traveled to Frankfort, Illinois, to engage in a day-camp program. The students had been apart for so long that this was a rare treat: something normal.

Upon arrival, students were divided into groups, each with its own camp leader. The groups then dispersed into the woods to face many challenges that would require coordination, teamwork, problem solving, and sometimes courage. Throughout the many stations, students encouraged each other, tested their skills, and learned to work as a team. Everyone returned home exhausted, but happy. What a great day!





## Chess Club at HCS

by Grant Sitter & Jonah Van Ek

*"The beauty of chess is it can be whatever you want it to be. It transcends language, age, race, religion, politics, gender, and socioeconomic background. Whatever your circumstances, anyone can enjoy a good fight to the death over the chess board."* – Simon Williams, chess master

Chess Club is an after school club where two fifth grade students took on the role of junior chess masters and taught the old game of chess to other students. The club was created by Grant S. and Jonah V. They created this club because they like chess and wanted to teach chess to other students. They hosted the event in the library on every Monday from late September to mid-November. Twenty students from third through fifth grade participated. The club featured friendly competition that everyone enjoyed.

Grant and Jonah came up with the idea when they were playing chess. Then, they contacted Mr. Weener, and they came up with a plan. Chess Club would happen on Mondays for 8 weeks. Then, faster than ever, the first meeting came. It went well and the kids learned the name of every game piece and how they move. Then they split up into groups and played games of chess. All in all, the first meeting went well. After that, each meeting had a lesson and time for game play. Lessons included how to use castling and the secrets of the two bishop checkmate.

The players all learned a lot. Some knew nothing about chess before they started. Now, they are extraordinary players! To finish the season, we held a tournament for all the students to see how everyone had improved. All the students enjoyed chess club together and became better friends. For the record, there were many intense games, but we are happy to report that no players actually fought to the death.



## WIN/Power Hour (Student Opportunity, Student Accountability)

by Mrs. Andrea Harvey

This year in junior high we have incorporated into the Monday-Thursday daily schedules time to work with students in individual and small group settings by modifying the junior high schedule to include WIN time and Power Hour.

On Mondays and Wednesdays, all junior high students participate in WIN time. WIN time, or "What I Need" time, is for all students to participate in ability level groups that focus on strengthening their skills in math, reading and writing. Students are placed in ability groups based on their NWEA MAP scores. In these groups, students work on specific skills such as reading comprehension, writing summaries, algebraic functions, geometry, and more. These small groups are led by teachers, and students are mixed between grade levels when they meet. Most recently in WIN time, students have been working on identifying themes and main ideas, while strengthening their skills of comprehension, as they read nonfiction stories. Our next upcoming topic of study in WIN time will focus on mathematical computation and statistics.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, students who need to be held accountable, participate in Power Hour. Power Hour is time for students who need to complete missing or late assignments, who need additional academic support, or who need to re-do their work. This individual work time is supervised by teachers who offer guidance and help to students as they complete their work. If students are not in Power Hour, they are participating in junior high intramurals. The junior high teachers have been noticing how Power Hour has developed into a beneficial time for our junior high students who are struggling and may need additional support beyond the normal class time.

Ultimately, both of these times allow students to have the opportunity to complete work at their level, strengthen their skills, and further develop life-long academic skills. The inclusion of both WIN time and Power Hour into the junior high schedule have been a great new addition to the junior high schedule for this school year.

# Student Athletics

## The Coronavirus Game Plan

by Miss Jodi Lineburg & Mr. Neil Krooswyk

Faced with canceling or creating a new vision, Highland Christian opted to create a new vision for student athletics for the 2020-2021 school year. Restricted by governors' orders from both Illinois and Indiana, we opted to continue student athletics at whatever level was possible. We appreciate our Athletic Director, Mr. Neil Krooswyk, our coaches, student athletes and parents who have gone the distance this year!

**Intramurals** Intramurals have been a great addition to our junior high this year. Junior high students get to participate in intramurals on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. Students are split into four teams that are a combination of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Thus far, we have played soccer, ultimate frisbee, kickball, and wiffle ball. It has been great to see our students have fun and compete with one another. When students take ownership of their schoolwork, they get to enjoy this time together.



**Cross Country** This cross country season was one of accomplishments and new beginnings. We had many students run cross country for the first time. The team improved drastically from our first meet. Some of our highlights were each student improving their time in the last meet and Jaden Poortinga winning the girls meet outright. I am very proud of our team and thankful for their effort. The team included Jaden Poortinga, Kendall Van Prooyen, Nadine Koutz, Addy Mills, Mallory Otto, Natalie Bantsolas, Vivienne Tebben, Ari Smit, Myles Miller, Jayden Dupuy, Zinabu Bosman, James Dillon, and Micah Wierenga.



**Volleyball** The 7th and 8th grade volleyball team made the most of their season. They were not able to have any games this season due to COVID, but they worked hard and had fun. The girls had "practices" Monday through Wednesday, and Thursday was a "game day." The girls worked hard and improved their skills. We were impressed with their effort and good sportsmanship. Thanks to Coach Otto and Coach Koutz for all that they did. The team included Nadine Koutz, Kendall Van Prooyen, Grace Dyke, Kamryn Taylor, Atikilt Bosman, Mariangel Mhoon, Lydia O'Riley, Autumn Powell, Lainey Schoon, Lorelai St. George, Natalie Bantsolas, Riley Jellema, Mallory Otto, Emma Poninski, Abigail Smith, Jady Spraggins, and Lailoni Staten.

**Soccer** The A and B soccer teams had great seasons. They only played two league games and a few scrimmages, but they showed great effort and skill in each contest. Coach Mike spent time in prayer and devotion with the team each day. It was fun to see the limited games and how hard the students worked. We thank the students for their hard work and hope that

next year we have a full season! The team included Adam Molenaar, David Antunez, Wyatt Bussema, Jaydon Colar, Alan Kuzmar, Kayla Mills, Caleb Mock, Nick Neibert, Cavin Porter, Dane Scheeringa, Avery Van Laten, Logan Van Prooyen, Jared Antunez, Manny Avila, Zinabu Bosman, James Dillon, Justin Jackson, Addy Mills, Ari Smit, Jordan Smith, Levi Vander Woude, Zarek Vazquez, and Micah Wierenga.



# Grant Writing

by Mr. Kyle Weener

Throughout the course of 2020, Highland Christian's administrative team collectively worked together to pursue partnerships with public schools, state organizations, and federal programs to support student services, school security, and COVID-related needs. Through the hard work of the Highland Christian administrative team, Development Director, and School Board, HCS was awarded:

June 2020 - **\$363,885.75** Paycheck Protection Forgivable Loan

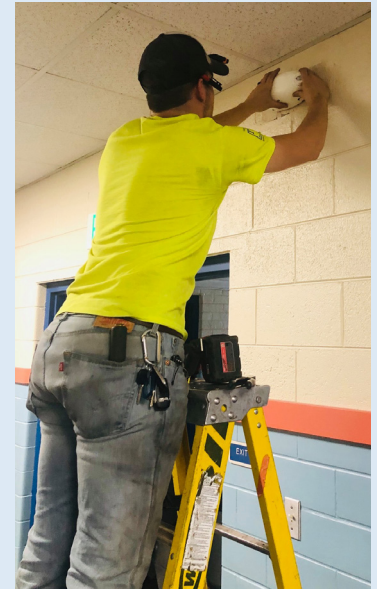
July 2020 - **\$97,851.71** CARES Award

August 2020 - **\$32,100** Department of Homeland Security Grant

August 2020 - **\$4,479.84** Formative Assessment Grant

September 2020 - **\$119,285** 11 Title I, II, and IV through 12 LEAs

October 2020 - **\$5,798.46** FFRCA Sick-Leave Program



## SSSG Grant | Minutes Matter!

by Miss Jodi Lineburg

In an active emergency event, every minute matters. Highland Christian was awarded the Indiana Department of Homeland Security **Secured School Safety Grant** in the amount of \$32,100! We praise the LORD for this provision and thank an anonymous donor who provided the 25% match required by this grant.

With this award, we are able to improve the security of entryways and windows, enhance emergency communication, and better equip staff to act as first responders. Over fall break,

- Munster Glass replaced existing glass windows in our main office foyer and (4) gym foyer windows with laminate glass, and reinforced glass doors and windows throughout our building.
- D & G Electric installed exterior lighting in the "U" parking area, added emergency light fixtures in all hallways, and repurposed existing emergency lights to other essential areas.
- Access Master installed (3) panic buttons, giving us direct access to the Sheriff's Office in the event it is ever needed.

We are currently working with Mr. Gary Voogt (Access Master) to install an integrated, exterior PA system, and additional video surveillance and look forward to the completion of all related projects by Spring 2021.

These structural modifications complement the crisis management training and emergency response protocols we already have in place, and address the highest priorities identified in Highland Christian School's Physical Security Assessment (Summer 2019).



Current Pending Applications:

October 2020 - **\$207,112**

FEMA Funding

As a result of these endeavors, Highland Christian was able to upgrade video surveillance, provide PPE resources to students and staff, compensate employees during pandemic closures, and hire eLearning teachers to support the greater constituency throughout COVID-19. Many thanks to Jodi Lineburg, Roberta Huitsing, and Glen DeYoung for organizing and managing many of these funding sources to better support our school family.

# alumni INfOCUS

**IMPACT**. In many ways that has become a buzzword throughout our society today. Young people want it to be the cornerstone of their working existence. An older generation wants to see it defined in terms of their life story. People want to know that who they voted for made an "IMPACT".

**Biblical Mandate** Our family's view of impact, however, does not reside in what we have done ourselves but grows out of the scriptural mandate God gave Moses and the Israelites. It directs us toward using our time, talent, and resources to teach God's precepts and "tie them as symbols on the hands and foreheads" of God's covenant children. This mandate also aligns directly with the foundation of Highland Christian School. From its genesis to present day, HCS has remained committed to the long term goal of instructing, preparing, and equipping future Christian leaders in the fear and knowledge of the Lord.

In a world and society that becomes increasingly secular, this commitment to Christ centered education must continue. As a family, we would submit that it is in fact, a mandate we cannot ignore. God laid down a gauntlet for Moses to pass on to the Israelites. He wanted every part of His commandments to literally surround and "bind up" every aspect of his children's lives. Today more than ever, we need to be deeply involved in the work of equipping Christian young men and women to serve as "salt and light."

**Generational Impact** We have seen firsthand the benefits of generational impact occur in our family through our association with HCS. As a graduate of the class of 1978, I learned "life lessons" that have aided me all my adult life. The real blessing came home to my wife and me when we saw the story repeat itself decades later when our two sons received the same faithful instruction at HCS.

Our encouragement to those of you that have experienced this, or are currently seeing it is to consider the same question we asked ourselves! What does it mean to "do more" especially when considering scripture?

For us, establishing a Family Legacy Fund was one way to do just that. Our fund will continue to provide for the faithful training of our covenant youth and support the ongoing operations at HCS. As we enter a testing and "turning point" time in the life of Christian education we must rally together as a Christian community!

When you choose to participate in establishing a Legacy Fund you continue to support the critical work begun at HCS over a hundred years ago. The funds are self-directed

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*"These commandments I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road. When you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates."*

Deut. 6:6-9

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so you can choose however you want your resources to benefit the school. They are easy to set up and Jodi Lineburg did an awesome job answering our questions and guiding us through the process.

As a family we hope you will consider joining us in establishing a Legacy Fund. Highland Christian School is worth the time commitment. It is worth the talent commitment. It is worth the treasure commitment. Commitment leads to engagement, and engagement leads to impact. It's incredible what can be done when our Christian community comes together - let's keep the momentum going!

*The Jonkman Family*



# Spiritual Nurture COMMUNITY Partnerships

by Miss Jodi Lineburg & Mrs. Vicki Huizenga

We are delighted with the thoughtful discipleship that is occurring at Highland Christian School. While the Holy Spirit must bring faith to fruition, we appreciate our partnership with parents and the local church as we seek to cultivate, inspire and ground faith in a solid understanding of Biblical truth.

Following a thorough review of our junior high Bible curriculum, Mrs. Huizenga created standards for Bible instruction at Highland Christian School bringing one of our essential School Improvement Goals to life in grades 6 -8. Teachers in grades K-5 will use these standards to guide their process of aligning & teaching Bible curriculum at these levels.

Another exciting element of spiritual nurture is taking place in chapel. Beginning this year, we increased chapel participation to two times a month for students in grades K-5. From asking hard questions, to the exploration of doctrine and Biblical themes, ALL of our students have been diving deep into the reality that faith comes through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and it should change our WHOLE life.



Culture gave us a great canvas this summer and drove us back to the foundational truths of scripture as we sought to respond to students' questions about police brutality, sin, racism, politics and the pandemic. We praise God that He is both, loving and just; our Father and our Judge. We are grateful that His Word is living and active, sharper than a double-edged sword. We are grateful for God's "Ahavah" love towards us in Jesus and the opportunity we have to demonstrate this love through opportunities in our communities.



"Come As You Are" We provide places where all are welcome and programs that care for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of Chicago's Roseland Community.

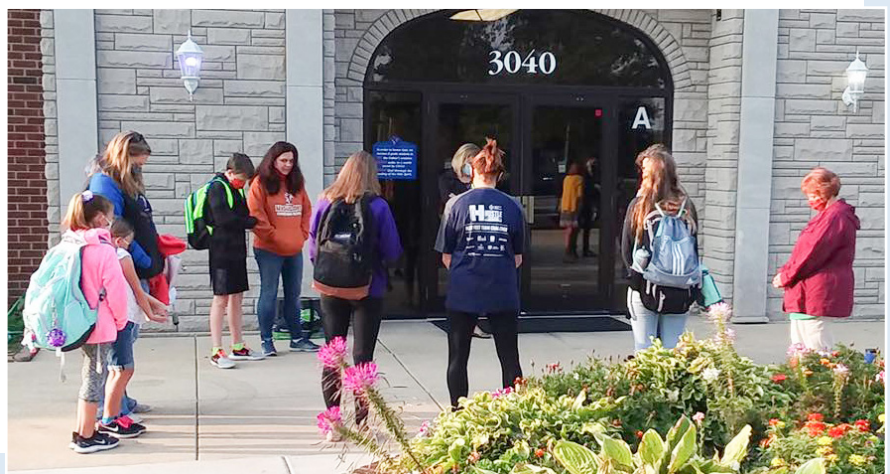


Serving the under-resourced Church with Bibles and training to transform lives worldwide through God's Word.



## The Beautiful Act of Intercessory Prayer

Parents are the primary instruments of spiritual nurture in a child's life and they play a huge role in the community of Highland Christian School. We are especially grateful for our Prayer Group. Every Friday, these women come together to bring our requests before the LORD and to pray scripture over our school community. In their words, "We believe it is our privilege to speak to the God of the universe and Jesus his Son and the Holy Spirit on behalf of our kids and school." Each time they meet, these women bring faith into focus through their confidence in the character and wisdom of God. Through their faith, quiet yet profound, these women bless us with strength, grace, protection and joy.



# Will You Stand in the Gap with Us?

by Miss Jodi Lineburg

For 35 years, the HCS Foundation has been here for us. Like a beloved grandparent, they have been here for us working quietly to nurture faith, inspire vision, and provide stability. They listen, learn, and invest joyfully to see God glorified and to ensure that faith has every opportunity to take root in the hearts of our children.

How do they do that, you ask? The members of our Foundation are visionaries who have the long game in mind. They understand that today's decisions affect tomorrow's outcomes. While central activities revolve around fundraising and finance, **the HCS Foundation is so much more than a fund!** In many ways, it is the guardian and caretaker of Highland Christian School, complementing the school board and building the community of faith that supports her.

## Fundraising Update

by Miss Jodi Lineburg

We are ever so grateful that God goes before us, knows all things, and controls all things. As we come to the end of calendar year 2020, we raise our Ebenezer to commemorate the help God has granted us. Our "stone of help" truly is our cornerstone, Jesus Christ. Thank you for your witness and partnership as together, we make known the glory of God at Highland Christian School.

### School Improvement Appeal

We received 40% of the funding we need in the first two weeks of our appeal! We are encouraged by this strong initial response and look forward to seeing how God will supply the balance.

### SGO Scholarships

Praise be to God! Because of your great generosity last year, we already had the funds needed to grant scholarships for the seven eligible applicants in 2020-2021!

### Auction Sponsors 2021

Are you an artisan? Do you own a business or boutique? If you love HCS, we invite you to support this work with a donation for our auction.

### Foundation Membership Appeal

Coming in February 2021!

### Tuition Assistance & HOPE FUND

Each year we provide aid for families who experience financial need. Your gift provides hope and stability for HCS families.

For more information, visit us online at [highlandchristian.org](http://highlandchristian.org) or contact me at 219-838-0356 x165.

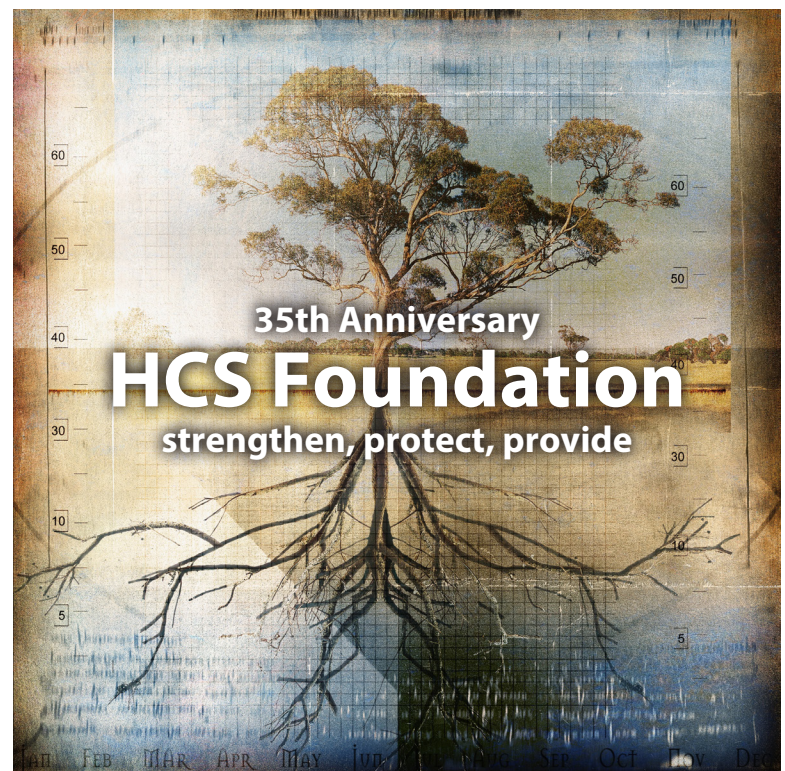
As we work to advance mission – *to academically equip, Biblically ground, and spiritually nurture kids* - we must note that fewer than 40% of our families have the explicit support of their church and extended family in their pursuit of Christian schooling. First generation Christian school families often don't have the blessing of strong spiritual heritage. The HCS Foundation stands in this gap. We do it

- to **STRENGTHEN, PROTECT, & PROVIDE** for Highland Christian School
- to **PRESERVE** Christ-centered education at Highland Christian School, and
- to **PROMOTE** the good of others and make known the glorious deeds of the LORD for generations to come.

Will you help us grow faith and leave a legacy?

To learn more, visit [highlandchristian.org/foundation-35-years](http://highlandchristian.org/foundation-35-years)

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP ~ TRIBUTE GIFTS ~  
BE A SUPPORTING FAMILY ~ LEAVE A LEGACY**



# SUPPORT HCS

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Foundation Fund  
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PTO  
School Improvement Fund  
SGO Scholarship Fund  
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Tuition Assistance Fund  
Wish List Fund



HIGHLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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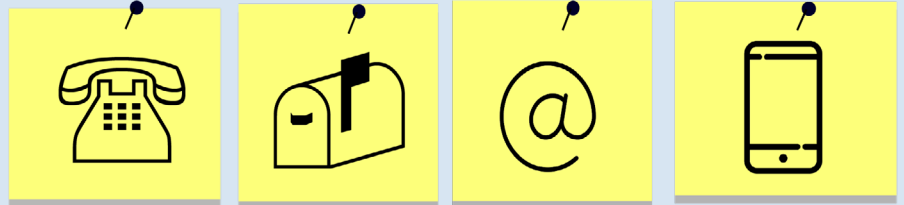
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# SAVE THE DATE!

2021

**HCS Auction  
is scheduled,  
Lord willing,  
for Saturday,  
April 17**



## Time to UPDATE?

**STAY SAFE! STAY STRONG!  
STAY CONNECTED!**

Community became a precious commodity this year.

In truth, it always has been a precious commodity,  
but this year, social distance made our hearts grow fonder!

Your experience and insights can impact kids for Christ at HCS.

**WILL YOU BE PART OF THE PACK THAT COMES BACK?**

Update your information with us today!

We want to stay connected with you!

[www.highlandchristian.org/alumni](http://www.highlandchristian.org/alumni)

Getting your children's mail? Let us know!

We'd love to send it straight to them!

Give us a call (219.838.0356) or go online  
to update their address.

"Train up a child in the way he should go  
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

- Proverbs 22:6