



HONEY BADGER BULLETIN

EDITION #52

HIGHLAND PREP'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

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ACADEMIC CALENDAR



HOME OF THE HONEY BADGERS

HONEY BADGERS TAKE ON HOLLYWOOD HOMECOMING DANCE!

Our Honey Badgers brought the glamour and excitement to the Hollywood-themed Homecoming Dance, transforming the evening into an unforgettable night of fun, friends, and festivities! The event featured a photo booth where students struck a pose, a DJ spinning the best tracks, and a delicious food truck serving up savory food.

Students showcased their stylish side, wearing their finest red carpet looks. From elegant gowns to sleek tuxedos, our Honey Badgers dazzled and impressed!

The energy was electric, with friends laughing, dancing, and making memories that will last a lifetime. The highlight of the night was the announcement of our Homecoming Court winners: Sophomore Duke and Duchess: Greyson Collicott and Violet Maughan, Junior Prince and Princess: Austin Alvarez and Valeria Otero, and Senior King and Queen, Paxton Clarke and Mariah Victory. We're thrilled to have shared this special night with our students and staff. Thank you to our student council who made this evening so unforgettable.



EDITION #52 / SEPTEMBER 2024

Message from the Principal

Dear Highland Prep Community,

As we reflect on our first quarter, we are thrilled to share the many accomplishments and successes of our students, staff, and community.

Our athletics program has taken off this year! Our volleyball team has secured multiple wins, showcasing their dedication and hard work. Our soccer team is developing and fighting hard, while our football team has achieved a remarkable 4-1 record. Our cross country team has also excelled, setting multiple personal records.

We had a memorable Homecoming game, defeating Madison Highland Prep, and followed it up with an amazing Hollywood

Dance night. Over 300 students attended, enjoying dancing, food trucks, and creating lasting memories. Our annual student BBQ was another highlight, providing a fun-filled day of games and activities.

As this quarter draws to a close, we are honored to announce that Highland Prep has once again been named one of U.S. News & World Report's Top High Schools. This recognition is a testament to the exceptional efforts of our students, staff, and community members.

We are incredibly proud of our school and look forward to even greater achievements. Thank you all for your support!

Kind regards,

Shane Jones Principal



School Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2024

9/2 Labor Day (No School)
9/3 NHS Blood Drive
9/9-9/13 Homecoming Spirit Week
9/19 Fall Open House & STEM Showcase
9/20 School Picture Day

NOVEMBER 2024

11/1 Halloween BBQ
11/11 Veteran's Day (No School)
11/16 3rd Annual Aerial Drone Qualifiers
11/22 Fall Band & Choir Concert
11/27-11/29 Thanksgiving Break (No School)

OCTOBER 2024

10/8 Visual Arts Showcase- 1st Qtr.
10/14-10/18 Fall Break (No School)
10/21 Fall Sports Picture Day
10/25 Cap & Gown Picture Day
10/30 Academic Awards Assembly-1st Qtr.

DECEMBER 2024

12/10 Highland Prep Academies Science Fair
12/14 3rd Annual VEX Robotics Qualifiers
12/16 Visual Arts Showcase- 2nd Qtr.
12/20 2025-2026 Enrollment Packets Due
12/23-1/3 Winter Break (No School)

ACADEMIC BULLETIN



GCU CAMPUS FIELD TRIP

Our juniors and seniors embarked on an exciting field trip to Grand Canyon University (GCU), immersing themselves in campus life and exploring the vast opportunities that await them after high school. During their visit, students got a firsthand look at the academic programs and facilities offered at GCU. This enriching experience allowed our students to envision their future, ask questions, and spark excitement and curiosity about their postsecondary options.

UPCOMING COLLEGE VISITS

9/25	HBCU Fair Field Trip
10/1	University of Alabama
10/3	Embry-Riddle Field Trip
10/4	GCU Honors College

EXTRACURRICULAR SCHEDULE:

MONDAY

MEDIA AND JOURNALISM, 210
 DRAMA CLUB, 102
 DANCE CLUB, 203
 GAMEDAY OPERATIONS, 101
 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY, FAB LAB
 VR GAME DESIGN (AND TUESDAYS), 209
 ZOOLOGY (AND FRIDAYS), 210
 ESPORTS (AND FRIDAYS), FL 205
 VR GAME DESIGN (AND FRIDAYS), 209
 MATH TUTORING (AND FRIDAYS), 202
 YEARBOOK (AND FRIDAYS), 106
 PEP BAND (AND FRIDAYS), FL 106
 CHOIR (AND FRIDAYS), FL 106
 DRONES (AND FRIDAYS), 207

TUESDAY

SEAPERCH ROBOTICS, 210
 BOTANY CLUB, FL 206
 ENGINEERING, FL 206
 AEROSPACE, FL 205
 STUDENT COUNCIL, 206
 SPANISH CLUB, 103
 FASHION CLUB, 108
 VEX ROBOTICS (AND THURSDAYS), 208
 CHESS (AND FRIDAYS), 110

THURSDAY

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS, 109
 TABLE TENNIS, FL 205
 RECORDING STUDIO, FL 106
 SPEECH/DEBATE, 102
 MATH COMPETITION, 201

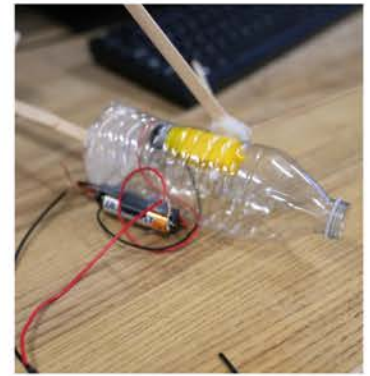
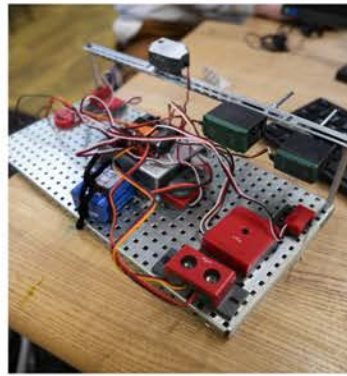
FRIDAY

FUTURE MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS, 110

STEM DIGEST

FALL OPEN HOUSE & STEM SHOWCASE

We warmly welcomed families from our school community to our Fall Open House and STEM Showcase! This engaging event offered a unique opportunity for families to explore our campus, learn about academic programs, and witness the incredible STEM talents of our students. Our Honey Badgers stole the show by displaying previous STEM projects such as their water bottle helicopters and civil engineering houses.



DESIGNING GLIDERS USING AERY COMPUTER SOFTWARE

Our aerospace engineering students took to the skies with a glider design project. They started by using AERY software to optimize the aerodynamics and performance of their glider. They then crafted their digital models into wooden reality, testing their creations for distance, accuracy, and structural integrity. This hands-on project bridged the gap between theory and practice, equipping students with invaluable experience in design, build, and test cycles- essential skills for future aerospace engineers.

ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT & DESIGN

Our Engineering Design and Development (EDD) students dove into their first class of the year by examining design processes, prototyping and testing, and problem-solving strategies. In this course, students spend the year using the Engineer Design Process to solve a problem. It is a 5th period course that students attend every Tuesday.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



MR. HEINZ

Mr. Heinz is our freshmen Algebra 1 teacher here at Highland Prep. Heinz received his bachelor's degree from Lesley University in Mathematics with a minor in Education

and Psychology. Right after, he got his master's degree in Health and Wellness Management from Merrimack College. He has been a teacher since 2023. As a former baseball player and swimmer, he shares his expertise as our cross country coach and will lead the baseball team in the spring season. Despite it being his first year at Highland Prep, Mr. Heinz has seamlessly integrated into our HPS community. Students and staff alike appreciate his dedication, kindness, and support.



STAGING MOCK TRIALS

In an immersive class activity, our AP world history students transformed into legal experts and historians, engaging in a captivating mock trial. As they presented arguments and evidence, our digital media students took on the role of journalists, conducting interviews with jury members, attorneys, and witnesses.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



9/11 MEMORIAL FENCE

On the morning of September 11, our students came together to honor the memories of the lives lost 23 years ago, creating a tribute on our school fence. They each planted an American flag on our school fence, symbolizing our unity and remembrance of the tragedy.



SURREALISM IN ART

Our studio art class dove into the captivating realm of surrealism art, unleashing their creativity and skill through visually striking and thought-provoking art pieces. Inspired by master surrealists, they pushed boundaries, blending reality and fantasy to create dreamlike scenes and one-of-a-kind masterpieces.

ATHLETICS



NEARLY UNDEFEATED HPS FOOTBALL SEASON

Our Honey Badger Football team's nearly undefeated 4-1 record is a testament to the players' unwavering dedication, resilience, and teamwork. Despite dealing with injuries early on, as well as other types of adversity, many players have stepped up their play on the field. Coach Shaw shares, "A winning record is something we have strived for every season and we're finally showing what we are capable of as a football program. The players have worked so hard and grown so much over these last 2-3 years. As we look ahead to the remainder of the season, 11/8/24 is our goal, as that is the first day of the playoffs. Players like Aeden Calini, Gil Camacho, Liam Coye, Macen Thompson and Michael De La Cruz have been crucial in keeping everyone's focus, that have propelled us to deliver victories week after week." Although the season is still young, we hope for more good things to come for the team.



ATHLETE SPOTLIGHTS OF THE MONTH



**MAKAYLA
NUNN**

Senior, Makayla Nunn (#4) is a four-year Highland Prep volleyball veteran and plays as outside hitter. With over 10 years of playing volleyball, Makayla exemplifies dedication and leadership. Her dedication is evident in her 20 hours of training per week, a testament to

her unwavering commitment to excellence. When asked why he chose Makayla to spotlight, Coach Harris said, "Makayla is the hardest working player on my team. She is through and through a true leader. This summer, she demonstrated exceptional dedication, showing up every single day to improve her own game and assist teammates. If I could describe her in one word, I'd say she's selfless. She truly cares about the girls in her team and she puts in the work- everybody loves Makayla."



GIL CAMACHO

Senior, Gil Camacho (#15) embodies the ideal student-athlete. An exceptional leader on and off the field, Gil has consistently demonstrated work ethic, character, and dedication.

"As a three-year Highland Prep football veteran, he has developed into one of the best quarterbacks our school has ever had," said Coach Shaw. "He is an inspirational role model for his teammates, demonstrating humility, sportsmanship, and a passion for the game." Currently ranking 2nd in passing yards and top 3 in touchdowns, Gil's impressive stats are a testament to his skill and perseverance. Gil's impact extends beyond his impressive numbers. Coaches and peers alike praise Gil's leadership, citing his ability to motivate and unite the team, driving the team's success.

HAPPENINGS @ HPS

HOMECOMING BBQ

Our Homecoming BBQ was a huge success, filled with excitement, friendly competition, and delicious treats! Our Honey Badgers cheered on their peers during the girls' flag football game, while others enjoyed the hilarious pie-in-the-face fundraiser, where teachers took one for the team and got pied. The Snowy Churro truck's sweet treats were the perfect complement to the afternoon, making for an unforgettable celebration of homecoming festivities and school spirit.



ACADEMIC AWARDS ASSEMBLY

We proudly celebrated academic excellence at our recent 4th Quarter Academic Awards Assembly. We honored the sophomores, juniors, and seniors who received honor roll and principal's list during the 4th quarter of the 2023-2024 academic year. Honor roll recipients were students with a 3.5 GPA and above, while our principal's list were those with a 4.0 GPA and above. Principal, Mr. Jones and Vice Principal, Mr. Walker presented certificates to these deserving students, acknowledging their achievements.

FALL NHS INDUCTION CEREMONY

Congratulations to our new National Honor Society inductees! NHS serves to recognize students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Surrounded by family, friends, and faculty, these students took the NHS oath, committing to uphold the organization's values.



Highland Prep
2024-2025 Academic Calendar

July 0 	August 20 	September 20 	October 9 9
November 17 	December 15 	January 19 	February 19
March 10 6 	April 21 	May 17 	June

First Day of Quarter
Finals/Last Day of Quarter
Holiday/Break
Graduation

First Quarter Days 49

August	05	First Day - First Quarter
September	02	Labor Day
October	11	Last Day - First Quarter
October	14-18	Fall Break

Second Quarter Days 41

October	21	First Day - Second Quarter
November	11	Veterans Day
November	27-29	Thanksgiving
December	20	Last Day - Second Quarter
Dec / Jan	23-03	Winter Break

Third Quarter Days 48

January	06	First Day - Third Quarter
January	20	Martin Luther King Day
February	17	Presidents Day
March	14	Last Day - Third Quarter
March	17-21	Spring Break

Fourth Quarter Days 44

March	24	First Day - Fourth Quarter
April	18	Spring Holiday
May	21	Graduation
May	23	Last Day - Fourth Quarter
		Instructional Days 182

School Events

August	Parent Academy
September	Fall Open House
February	Spring Open House

Teacher Start/End Dates

July	29	Teachers Start Date
May	30	Teachers End Date

In-service - No Students Days

All Staff In-service	5
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Early Release Days - 1:30 pm Days

Professional Learning Community (PLC)	26
Teacher In-service/Work/Grades	4

Student Coursework Testing Days Days

Midterms	4
Progress Reports	4
*Finals	4
*Finals/Last Day of Quarter	4

Blackout/Mandatory Attendance Dates

October	07-11	March	10-14
December	16-20	May	19-23
See Student Handbook			

State Testing Dates

Please see Assessment Calendar available on Canvas.
HP School Calendar will be modified to accommodate State Testing Calendar.

Special Dates

40th Student Day -	September	30 2024
100th Student Day -	January	17 2025

Open Enrollment

For Incoming Freshmen 2025-2026



2025-2026 Incoming Freshman Open Enrollment Deadlines

Pre-Enrollment Period: September 2, 2024 - November 29, 2024

Incoming Freshmen must complete and submit the Intent to Enroll form to begin the enrollment process for the 2025-2026 school year. The Intent to Enroll form is located and can be submitted through the HPS website at www.HighlandPrepAZ.net. The Intent to Enroll form is also available in the school office.

Enrollment Packets Due: Friday, December 20, 2024

Incoming Freshmen must complete and submit the Enrollment Packet to secure enrollment in the Class of 2029. Enrollment Packets may be returned to the school office, via facsimile, or via email to: tcline@highlandprepaz.org.

Placement Testing Date: Saturday, February 1, 2025

Incoming Freshmen must complete the 9th grade placement tests in Reading and Mathematics. Placement testing will be held on the HPS campus at 9:00 a.m. Incoming Freshmen that do not complete the placement testing may not receive an enrollment seat for the 2025-2026 school year.

Course Registration Date: Saturday, March 1, 2025

Incoming Freshmen must register for Fall 2025 honors-level and elective courses. Course registration will be held on the HPS campus from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Incoming Freshmen that do not complete the course registration may not receive an enrollment seat for the 2025-2026 school year.

If you have any questions please contact the HPS office at: 623-300-8385

Highland Prep

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