



# HONEY BADGER BULLETIN

EDITION #55

HIGHLAND PREP'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

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## HOME OF THE HONEY BADGERS

### GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL WIN NEW YEAR'S TOURNAMENT!

Our Highland Prep girls varsity basketball team started the new year off right, taking home the championship title at the Epic Tourney's New Year Classic. The tournament, hosted by Benjamin Franklin High School, took place from January 2nd to January 4th.

The team demonstrated exceptional skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the tournament, ultimately emerging victorious. "I am incredibly proud of this hard working group of ladies," said

Coach Harris. "Their championship win is a reflection of their tireless efforts every game. They are able to outmaneuver their opponents and make crucial plays when it matters most."

The Highland Prep girls varsity basketball team's championship win at the Epic Tourney's New Year Classic marks an exciting beginning to the new year. With their sights set on a strong finish to the season, these talented athletes are sure to make a lasting impact in the Highland Prep basketball program.



EDITION #55 / JANUARY 2025

## Message from the Principal

Dear Highland Prep Community,

As we embark on the third quarter of the academic year, I am thrilled to share some exciting updates and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students.

I am incredibly proud to announce that our Aerial Drones Team has qualified for the Regional Championship! Their dedication, teamwork, and innovative spirit have soared to new heights.

Similarly, our VEX Robotics team has demonstrated exceptional skills and ingenuity, bringing home the Tournament Champion trophy and earning an invitation to represent Highland Prep at the State Championship. As we look ahead, we have much to anticipate. Winter Formal

promises to be a memorable evening filled with music, laughter, and camaraderie. Our upcoming BBQs will provide opportunities for our community to come together and enjoy good company. And our Junior students will be taking the ACT, marking a significant milestone in their academic journeys.

These events and achievements are a testament to the hard work, dedication, and talent of our students. They also reflect the unwavering support of our parents and community members, who play a role in fostering a positive learning environment. We look forward to another successful quarter of learning and the pursuit of excellence.

Kind regards,

Shane Jones  
Principal



## School Calendar

### JANUARY 2025

1/15 Academic Awards Assembly- 2nd Qtr.  
1/16 Parent Workshop: FAFSA  
1/21-1/24 Winter Formal Spirit Week  
1/24 Winter BBQ  
1/25 Winter Formal Dance

### MARCH 2025

3/1 Incoming Freshmen Course Registration  
3/10 Visual Arts Showcase- 3rd Qtr.  
3/12 Fine Arts Assembly- 3rd Qtr.  
3/17-3/21 Spring Break (No School)  
3/28 Spring BBQ

### FEBRUARY 2025

2/13 Fall Open House & STEM Showcase  
2/13 Spring NHS Induction Ceremony  
2/18 NHS Blood Drive  
2/26 Spring Sports Pep Rally  
2/28 Spring Sports Picture Day

### APRIL 2025

4/1 ACT Aspire Assessment (9th Grade)  
4/1 AzSCI Assessment (11th Grade)  
4/2 Academic Awards Assembly- 3rd Qtr.  
4/8 ACT Testing (11th Grade)  
4/18 Spring Holiday (No School)

# ACADEMIC BULLETIN



## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: HELENA GEZAHEGN

We are proud to highlight senior, Helena Gezahegn who has been admitted to all the in-state universities and is still waiting on

several of her out-of-state choices, including Boston University, UPenn, and University of Michigan! Helena has been a dedicated member of the Highland Prep community for the past 4 years. During her time here, she has been an active participant in National Honor Society. Moreover, she took the initiative to found her own club, Key Club, and currently serves as its President. She plans to pursue her passion for Software Engineering in the fall. We are incredibly proud of Helena's accomplishments and look forward to seeing the amazing things she will achieve.



## ASU TEMPE CAMPUS TOUR

A group of our juniors and seniors visited the Arizona State University Tempe campus and received a tour of the academic buildings, residence life, and student life opportunities. They got the chance to interact with current students and faculty and ask questions. They completed the campus tour by grabbing a meal at the Memorial Union.

## 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

# CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



## HISTORICAL MOCK TRIALS

Our Pre-AP World History students conducted historical mock trials to not only learn about the time period they were studying, but also lean into the study of law. Students took on roles of witnesses, attorneys, and jurors for the mock trial.



## PHOENIX ART MUSEUM

Our Studio Art students had the pleasure of taking a field trip to the Phoenix Art Museum located in Downtown Phoenix. The field trip allowed them to view the museum's remarkable art collection which includes over 19,000 works of art from around the world.



## ANTIGONE PRODUCTIONS

Our 10th grade English students brought their acting skills for their own production of the play, "Antigone". The class was split into 4 groups with each group in charge of writing and performing an act. For the performance, they wore white masks that they each decorated to match their character.



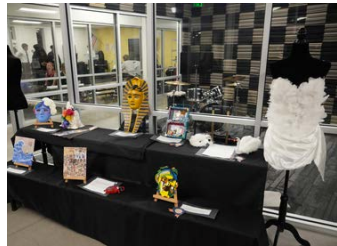
## BUILDING HELICOPTERS

Our Introduction to Engineering Design students learned how to successfully connect a motor and switch in their latest "Water Bottle Helicopter Project". Using simple materials such as a plastic water bottle, popsicle sticks, and electric tape, our young engineers learned how to turn their once digital design into a functioning system.

# HAPPENINGS @ HPS

## A SUCCESSFUL WINTER FINE ARTS SHOWCASE

We would like to applaud all of the students, volunteers, and staff who made our Winter Fine Arts Showcase a success. We had our amazing art students' projects displayed at the entrance of the Fab Lab which included everything from clothing to paintings. As for our concert, we enjoyed incredible performances from Beginning Choir, solo artists, and Beginning Band. Thank you to everyone who accompanied us for the showcase.



## OUR VEX ROBOTICS TEAM WIN TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS!

Our Highland Prep VEX Robotics Team 52311H, The Robotanists brought home the top prize: Tournament Champions at the recent Madison Highland Prep VEX Robotics State Qualifying Tournament! The Robotanists also came home with the Design Award! Additionally, our all-freshmen Highland Prep VEX Robotics Team 52311P, The Highland Prep Hacksaws, took home the Judges Award! We are so proud of our Honey Badgers!

## KEY CLUB VOLUNTEER AT GLOW ON MONROE PARADE

A few of our Highland Prep Key Club members assisted with the City of Buckeye's Glow on Monroe Christmas parade over the winter break. They helped by passing out glow sticks, keeping the crowd engaged, and spreading holiday cheer to the families in attendance. We are continually proud of key club's efforts to unite the community.



Highland Prep  
2024-2025 Academic Calendar

|                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>July</b> 0<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6<br>7 8 9 10 11 12 13<br>14 15 16 17 18 19 20<br>21 22 23 24 25 26 27<br>28 29 30 31  | <b>August</b> 20<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10<br>11 12 13 14 15 16 17<br>18 19 20 21 22 23 24<br>25 26 27 28 29 30 31   | <b>September</b> 20<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14<br>15 16 17 18 19 20 21<br>22 23 24 25 26 27 28<br>29 30  | <b>October</b> 9 9<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12<br>13 14 15 16 17 18 19<br>20 21 22 23 24 25 26<br>27 28 29 30 31 |
| <b>November</b> 17<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9<br>10 11 12 13 14 15 16<br>17 18 19 20 21 22 23<br>24 25 26 27 28 29 30   | <b>December</b> 15<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14<br>15 16 17 18 19 20 21<br>22 23 24 25 26 27 28<br>29 30 31 | <b>January</b> 19<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11<br>12 13 14 15 16 17 18<br>19 20 21 22 23 24 25<br>26 27 28 29 30 31 | <b>February</b> 19<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15<br>16 17 18 19 20 21 22<br>23 24 25 26 27 28             |
| <b>March</b> 10 6<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15<br>16 17 18 19 20 21 22<br>23 24 25 26 27 28 29<br>30 31 | <b>April</b> 21<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12<br>13 14 15 16 17 18 19<br>20 21 22 23 24 25 26<br>27 28 29 30       | <b>May</b> 17<br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10<br>11 12 13 14 15 16 17<br>18 19 20 21 22 23 24<br>25 26 27 28 29 30 31     | <b>June</b><br>S M T W T F S<br>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14<br>15 16 17 18 19 20 21<br>22 23 24 25 26 27 28<br>29 30           |

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 |
|----------------------|---|

**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 |

WORLD-CLASS, STEM COLLEGE-PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL

# BADGER BOUND



Spots are filling up fast for the Class of 2029!  
Secure your incoming freshman's spot for the  
2025-2026 school year.



**ENROLL NOW**

- ✓ COLLEGE PREPARATION
- ✓ STEM FOCUS
- ✓ PERSONALIZED LEARNING
- ✓ EXTRACURRICULARS



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO  
SECURE A SPOT NOW!**

**CONTACT US:**



623-300-8385



highlandprepaz.net



**HIGHLAND  
PREP**  
SURPRISE, ARIZONA

