



HONEY BADGER BULLETIN

EDITION #61

HIGHLAND PREP'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025

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ACADEMIC CALENDAR



HOME OF THE HONEY BADGERS

HPS RANKED 35TH AMONG THE BEST HIGH SCHOOLS IN ARIZONA!

Highland Prep is proud to announce its ranking as 35th among the best high schools in Arizona, according to U.S. News & World Report. This prestigious recognition is a testament to our school's commitment to academic excellence and its focus on preparing students for success in college and beyond. The rankings are based on rigorous criteria, including test scores, graduation rates, and college readiness, making this achievement a significant milestone for our school. This honor not only reflects the hard work and dedication of our students

and faculty, but also underscores our reputation as a leader in education.

As a STEM certified school and a continuous PLTW Distinguished School, Highland Prep is dedicated to providing our students with a comprehensive education that emphasizes critical thinking and problem-solving skills. This honorable recognition solidifies our mission to empower students to become successful members of an increasingly innovation-driven society and global marketplace.



EDITION #61 / AUGUST 2025

Message from the Principal

Dear Highland Prep Community,

As we open the doors to a brand-new school year, I want to extend a warm welcome back to all of our returning students and a heartfelt greeting to those joining us for the first time. The start of the school year is always filled with energy, optimism, and a shared sense of purpose.

This year, we are proud to share that Highland Prep was ranked 35th among all high schools in the state by U.S. News & World Report. This recognition reflects the hard work of our students, staff, and families, and it inspires us to keep raising the bar together. Alongside academics, we are thrilled to kick off our fall sports season. Our Honey Badger athletes are

ready to compete in cheerleading, football, girls volleyball, boys soccer, and for the very first time girls flag football. Each of these teams embodies the spirit of teamwork, perseverance, and school pride, and we look forward to cheering them on throughout the season.

As we begin this semester, I invite you to stay connected, attend our events, and celebrate the many achievements both in the classroom and on the field that make Highland Prep such a special place. Together, we can continue building a strong community rooted in learning, leadership, and school spirit. Here's to a successful semester ahead! Go Honey Badgers!

Warm regards,

Shane Jones • Principal



School Calendar

AUGUST 2025

8/8 Welcome Back Pep Rally
8/19 Parent Workshop: Freshman Year
8/20 Academic Awards Assembly- 4th Qtr.
8/26 Fall Picture Day
8/28 Club Rush

OCTOBER 2025

10/1 FAFSA Opens
10/6 Visual Arts Showcase- 1st Qtr.
10/13-10/17 Fall Break
10/24 Trunk or Treat
10/31 Halloween Costume Contest

SEPTEMBER 2025

9/2 Parent Workshop: Scholarships 101
9/9 Fall Open House & STEM Showcase
9/9 Fall NHS Induction Ceremony
9/19 Homecoming BBQ
9/20 Homecoming Dance

NOVEMBER 2025

11/7 Student Council Line Dancing Night
11/13 Future Freshman Night
11/15 HPS VEX Robotics State Qualifiers
11/26-11/28 Thanksgiving Break
12/2 Parent Workshop: Completing FAFSA

ACADEMIC BULLETIN



GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE PRESENTATION

Grand Canyon University recently visited our campus to give a college presentation to some of our juniors and seniors. They shared insights on the university's academics, admissions, tuition, and more. We're grateful for their visit and look forward to more great presentations this year!

UPCOMING COLLEGE PRESENTATIONS:

8/22	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
8/22	Wake Forest University
9/2	Princeton University
9/4	Northern Arizona Univ. (Campus Trip)
9/5	Ottawa University
9/11	University of Arizona

EXTRACURRICULAR

SCHEDULE:

MONDAY 2:30 PM

YEARBOOK, MS. HEATH (DURING LUNCH)
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY, FAB LAB
GAMEDAY OPERATIONS, MR. MERRILL
(AND TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS)
ZOOLOGY, MS. CHANDLER (AND FRIDAYS)
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS, MR. CAPUTO
CHESS, MS. RENCKLY
RECORDING STUDIO, MS. HOLLAND
(3:30PM)(AND FRIDAYS)

TUESDAY 2:30 PM

STUDENT COUNCIL, MR. LAGUIT
VEX ROBOTICS, MS. KOOKLANI
(AND THURSDAYS)
ESPORTS, MR. VAN DEN BRANDE
(AND FRIDAYS)
KEY CLUB, MR. HOFFMAN, MS. MORENO
SPANISH, MS. DUEÑAS
CARD GAME, MR. GULIAN
SEAPERCH ROBOTICS, MS. CHANDLER
(AND THURSDAYS)

THURSDAY 2:30 PM

BOTANY, MS. HANCOCK
ENGINEERING, MS. HANCOCK
MATH DECATHALON, MR. VAN DEN BRANDE
VIDEO GAME DESIGN, MR. GULIAN
TABLE TENNIS, MR. HARB
FILM, MR. CAJTHAML

FRIDAY 2:30 PM

DRONES, MR. TAGHIKHANI
FUTURE MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS, MS. RENCKLY
GAME NIGHT, MR. MOELLER
SCHOLARSHIP CLUB, MS. KING

STEM DIGEST

BUILDING SHOES IN PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING

Our Principles of Engineering students stepped up to the challenge, designing innovative shoes for their teachers. From running shoes to work attire, our engineers worked in groups to come up with designs that demonstrated their problem-solving skills and outside-the-box thinking. They had to consider crucial factors such as comfortability and material for their assigned teacher's needs.



BIOLOGY MASTERS MICROSCOPY

Our biology students honed microscopy skills, mastering the art of using microscopes to explore the microscopic world. As they start to dive into hands-on labs, they learned to navigate the intricacies of specimen analysis, developing a keen eye for detail and precision. With each slide, they are able to zoom in on the tiny wonders of the natural world, building a strong foundation for scientific discoveries. These skills will serve them well as they continue to explore the fascinating world of biology.



CREATING AN EFFECTIVE RICE LAUNCHING DEVICE

Our Introduction to Engineering Design students were given the task of designing and building a device to launch a small rice bag and send it as far as possible. To do this, they started by building the device and then running numerous trials to record the distance traveled. After they ran these tests, they worked to refine their design and reach a longer distance with small modifications they did.



Join the Highland Prep Parent Booster Club!

Support. Volunteer. Connect. Make a Difference.

Who We Are

The Highland Prep Parent Booster Club is a parent-run organization supporting our school's mission to shape future leaders. We raise funds and organize volunteers to support academic clubs, extracurricular activities, school-wide events, and staff appreciation efforts. We're here to bridge the gap between school resources and the real needs of students and staff.

Why Join?

- Help fund programs in sports, arts, STEM, and more
- Participate in events that build school spirit and community
- Show appreciation for our amazing teachers and staff
- Stay in the loop and have a voice in how we support the school

Stay Informed & Connected

Get Real-Time Updates Through Our Communications Channels:



Parent Facebook Group



Booster Club Band App Group



Highland Prep Facebook Page

Pro Tip: School email blasts from Infinite Campus sometimes don't get through to AOL, Yahoo, and some other email systems. To ensure you stay informed, consider setting up a Gmail address for school communication or make sure you're connected to our other communication channels listed above. And check Mr. Jones' weekly newsletter, The Badger Buzz.

Highland Prep | Building Bright Futures for Arizona's Best & Brightest

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



LOU MALNATI'S FUNDRAISER

Join us at Lou Malnati's Pizzeria (13382 N Prasad Parkway) on Monday, August 25th, 2025 between 11:00 AM- 10:00 PM and make a difference. With every order you place, 20% will be donated to Highland Prep. RSVP details here: <https://grouprai.se/s308825>



EXPLORING THE NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION

In Pre-AP World History, students explored the Neolithic Revolution, discovering how this period shaped human societies. Working in groups, they crafted an engaging presentation highlighting the positive and negative effects of this crucial time.



CREATIVITY IN FULL BLOOM

Our art students have been unleashing their creativity, bringing vibrant visions to life through optical illusion projects and stunning still life artworks. They are mastering colors, shading, and composition, showcasing their unique perspectives. The results are truly mesmerizing, with each piece bursting with creativity.

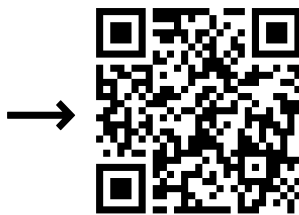
ATHLETICS

FALL SPORTS ARE OFFICIALLY IN SESSION

The wait is over, and fall sports are officially in session. Our athletes trained hard with fall tryouts, and we can't wait to see them in action this year.



*Scan the QR code to
start purchasing your
tickets for upcoming
HPS sports games!*



GOFAN FOR TICKET SALES

Highland Prep is all-digital for admission into athletic games. Spectators who would like to attend a home athletic game must purchase tickets through GoFan. Tickets can be purchased by visiting gofan.co and searching for Highland Prep. Tickets cost \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. Tickets are required for entry and must be shown at the admission table. With our digital ticketing system, spectators can now purchase tickets online in advance, access tickets directly on their mobile device, and enjoy a seamless and convenient experience when going to school games. To follow our Highland Prep teams and stay up-to-date on schedules, scores, and news, visit <https://azpreps365.com/schools/2235>.

UPCOMING GAMES SCHEDULE:

Football	8/22	7:00 PM	Madison Highland Prep	A
JV Girls VB	8/27	5:00 PM	Madison Highland Prep	H
V Girls VB	8/27	6:00 PM	Madison Highland Prep	H
JV Girls VB	8/29	4:00 PM	Somerton High School	A
V Girls VB	8/29	5:00 PM	Somerton High School	A
Football	8/29	7:00 PM	Chino Valley H.S.	A
JV Girls VB	9/4	5:00 PM	Odyssey Institute	H
V Girls VB	9/4	6:00 PM	Odyssey Institute	H
Football	9/5	7:00 PM	Phoenix Christian H.S.	H
Boys Soccer	9/9	4:00 PM	Williams High School	H
Boys Soccer	9/11	4:00 PM	Northland Prep	H
JV Girls VB	9/11	5:00 PM	Tonopah Valley H.S.	H
V Girls VB	9/11	6:00 PM	Tonopah Valley H.S.	H
Football	9/12	7:00 PM	Trivium Prep	A
Girls Flag	9/16	6:00 PM	Arizona Lutheran	A
JV Girls VB	9/17	5:00 PM	Seton Catholic Prep	A
XC	9/17	5:00 PM	Estrella Foothills	A
V Girls VB	9/17	6:00 PM	Seton Catholic Prep	A
Girls Flag	9/18	6:00 PM	Tuba City High School	H
Football	9/19	7:00 PM	Highland Prep West	H
JV Girls VB	9/22	5:00 PM	River Valley H.S.	A
V Girls VB	9/22	6:00 PM	River Valley H.S.	A

HAPPENINGS @ HPS

CLASS OF 2026 CELEBRATES WITH SENIOR SUNRISE

Our Highland Prep seniors celebrated the start of their final year with Senior Sunrise, a special morning featuring a delicious coffee truck, freshly baked bagels, and tons of fun photo opportunities! This memorable event marked the beginning of a year filled with excitement, growth, and achievement. We are proud to be a part of their journey and can't wait to see what the incredible Class of 2026 accomplishes this year.



KICKING OFF THE YEAR WITH OUR EPIC PEP RALLY

We kicked off the year with an epic pep rally! We proudly introduced our dedicated student council board, setting the stage for a fantastic year. The excitement continued with an egg race, where student volunteers had a blast dressed in inflatable costumes, showcasing their teamwork and spirit. The grand finale featured our class spirit competition, where each class brought out their best spirit, fostering a sense of Honey Badger competition.



Upcoming Dates at Honey Badger Country:

- 8/18-8/22: NHS Clothing Donation Drive
- 8/19: Parent Workshop- Freshman Year
- 8/25: Lou Malnati's Restaurant Night Fundraiser
- 8/26: Fall School Picture Day
- 8/28: Club Rush



Highland Prep
2024-2025 Academic Calendar

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