



HONEY BADGER BULLETIN

EDITION #62

HIGHLAND PREP'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

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ACADEMIC CALENDAR



HOME OF THE HONEY BADGERS

HP GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL KICKS OFF SEASON WITH EXCITEMENT!

This fall, Highland Prep made history by introducing girls flag football as a sport, providing a game-changing opportunity for young women to build confidence, strength, and teamwork in a supportive and empowering environment. Flag football has become a recognized scholarship sport for girls at the collegiate level and is now a sanctioned high school sport in many states. Although the season is just getting started, the girls have already shown remarkable improvement and growth in confidence. Through dedicated scrimmages and now games,

they've developed a strong foundation in the sport and are now showcasing their skills on the field. According to Head Coach Caleb Cajthaml, "It's been a really inspiring experience getting to watch our athletes approach flag football with the same dedication and commitment they bring to every other sport, if not more." The team's momentum is building, and their recent home game against Tuba City High School was a resounding success with a 26-6 win. With its inaugural season off to a strong start, the future looks bright for girls flag football.



EDITION #62 / SEPTEMBER 2025

Message from the Principal

Dear Highland Prep Community,

What an exciting month it has been at Highland Prep!

Our athletic programs have shown tremendous performance so far this season, highlighted by a thrilling Homecoming victory over Highland Prep West in a nail-biting 8–7 game. The celebration continued with our Homecoming Dance, where we welcomed record attendance and enjoyed a night full of school spirit and memories.

We are also proud to continue building opportunities for our students beyond the classroom. This fall, we will be welcoming college representatives from Princeton, NYU, Vanderbilt, and many others to

campus. These visits give our students a first-hand look at the diverse options available for their futures.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce the installation of new bleachers on our field, which will enhance the experience for our athletes, students, and community.

Finally, please remember that Fall Break is scheduled for October 13–17, 2025. Thank you for your continued support in making Highland Prep such a special place for our students to learn, grow, and achieve. We are proud of the momentum this year is bringing and look forward to even more successes ahead.

With gratitude,

Shane Jones • Principal



School Calendar

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

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

DECEMBER 2025

12/12 Polar Express Movie Night
12/13 HPS 4th Annual Drone Qualifiers
12/17 Winter Band & Choir Concert
12/17 Winter Visual Arts Showcase
12/22-1/2 Winter Break

ACADEMIC BULLETIN



CONGRATS MAX, OUR NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR SEMIFINALIST!

Congratulations to senior Max Henderson for being named a National Merit Scholar Semifinalist, placing him in the top 1% of the nation's high school graduating seniors! Each year, approximately 1.3 million juniors enter by taking the PSAT/NMSQT, and only about 16,000 students (roughly the top 1% of test takers) qualify as Semifinalists.

COLLEGE PRESENTATIONS:

9/22	Penn State University
9/22	Iowa State University
9/22	Saint Louis University
9/22	University of British Columbia
9/22	University of Oregon
9/24	Grand Canyon University (Campus Tour)

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

LAUNCHING GLIDERS IN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

Our Aerospace Engineering students designed and built their own gliders. After days of brainstorming, designing, and building, our students got the chance to launch them outside on the field. Students honed their skills in engineering design, structural integrity, and flight performance to successfully complete their gliders. Launch day allowed them to see their hard work in action.



CELL ORGANELLE CREATIONS

Our AP Biology students showcased their creativity and in-depth understanding of cellular biology by designing innovative projects that detailed the structure and function of cell organelles. Students worked in groups to bring complex cellular concepts to life, demonstrating their knowledge of organelle functions and interactions. This engaging project-based learning experience allowed students to take ownership of their learning and appreciate the intricate workings of cellular biology.



PRE-AP CHEMISTRY WITNESS IONIC SOLUTIONS IN ACTION

Our Pre-AP Chemistry students conducted an engaging lab experiment, observing chemical reactions by adding sodium hydroxide to nine distinct ionic solutions. The results were striking, with notable changes in color and formation of solids in various solutions. Through careful observations and thoughtful group analysis, students gained insights into chemical reactivity.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT **OF THE MONTH**



MR. CAJTHAML

Mr. Cajthaml teaches English 3-4, English 5-6, Drama, and Media and Tech. He earned his Bachelor's in Filmmaking and English Literature from Arizona State University and

joins Highland Prep with previous experience as a high school film teacher. He was born and raised right here in Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. Cajthaml's interests include reading, movies, and sports. Beyond the classroom, he is the Head Coach for Girls Flag Football and Track and Field, and helps as the advisor for Film Club. He is an outstanding educator who emphasizes positive communication and aims to give his students writing, speaking, and leadership skills. We are grateful to have him part of the HP team.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



THE ANNUAL HBCU FAIR

A large group of our upperclassmen attended the annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Fair to discover the academic programs and opportunities offered by HBCU's! Students got the chance to explore colleges from throughout the country.



CAP & GOWN PICTURE DAY FOR OUR CLASS OF 2026

Our Class of 2026 stole the show on cap and gown picture day! This bittersweet milestone serves as a great reminder of how far they've come and how quickly graduation is approaching. We couldn't be prouder of this incredible group of students.



NAU CAMPUS TOUR

Our seniors interested in attending Northern Arizona University (NAU) enjoyed a campus tour in stunning Flagstaff, Arizona, exploring facilities, student life, and Lumberjack spirit! What made the experience even more special was running into some of our very own Highland Prep alumni, who warmly welcomed us to the campus.

ATHLETICS

HP CROSS COUNTRY TEAM AT THE CHUCK HARDT MEET



FOOTBALL HOSTS TEACHER APPRECIATION NIGHT!



Our football team dedicated their first home game of the season to the incredible teachers who make an impact in our lives every day. Athletes gifted their teachers a jersey to wear for the game, in commemoration of their hard work and dedication.

UPCOMING GAMES SCHEDULE:

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
JV Girls VB	9/23	5:00 PM	Chino Valley H.S.	H
V Girls VB	9/23	6:00 PM	Chino Valley H.S.	H
Girls Flag FB	9/23	6:00 PM	Heritage Academy	H
Girls Flag FB	9/24	6:00 PM	Highland Prep West	A
JV Girls VB	9/25	5:00 PM	Kingman H.S.	H
V Girls VB	9/25	6:00 PM	Kingman H.S.	H
Boys Soccer	9/25	6:00 PM	Payson High School	A
Girls Flag FB	9/25	6:00 PM	Scottsdale Christian	A
Football	9/26	7:30 PM	Veritas Prep	H
XC	9/26	5:00 PM	Desert Twilight Festival	A
JV Girls VB	9/29	5:00 PM	ALA West Foothills	A
V Girls VB	9/29	6:00 PM	ALA West Foothills	A
Girls Flag FB	9/30	6:00 PM	Page High School	A
Boys Soccer	9/30	6:00 PM	BASIS Flagstaff	H
Football	10/2	7:00 PM	Desert Star Academy	H
JV Girls VB	10/3	5:00 PM	Somerton High School	H
V Girls VB	10/3	6:00 PM	Somerton High School	H
XC	10/4	5:00 PM	Glendale Showcase	A
JV Girls VB	10/6	5:00 PM	Tonopah Valley H.S.	A
V Girls VB	10/6	6:00 PM	Tonopah Valley H.S.	A

HAPPENINGS @ HPS

MOONLIGHT ON THE SAND HOMECOMING DANCE

Our Moonlight on the Sand Homecoming Dance was magic! Under the lights, our Honey Badgers danced the night away, creating unforgettable memories with friends. DJ Nic spun the perfect playlist, photo ops captured sweet moments, and the decor transformed the gym into a dreamy oasis. We're so grateful for our Honey Badgers who made this night unforgettable. A special thank you to our student council who planned the event.



OUR ELECTRIC HOMECOMING PEP RALLY & BBQ

Our Homecoming Pep Rally and BBQ were an absolute blast! From games like red light green light to our amazing cheer performance and announcing our Homecoming Court nominees, our Honey Badgers brought the best energy to our pep rally. For our BBQ event, we had an ice cream truck, table tennis, water balloons, GCU with a spin-the-wheel to win swag, and an epic students vs teachers volleyball game in the gym!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NHS FALL 2025 INDUCTEES!

We're thrilled to congratulate our Fall 2025 National Honor Society (NHS) Inductees! NHS recognizes students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, service, leadership, and character. May you continue to lead with integrity and inspire those around you. We cannot wait to see the impact you'll make in our school community.



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
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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

2026-2027 Incoming Freshman Open Enrollment Deadlines



Pre-Enrollment Period: September 1, 2025 - November 28, 2025

Incoming Freshman must complete and submit the enrollment application to begin the enrollment process for the 2026-2027 school year. The enrollment application is located and can be submitted through the HP website at www.HighlandPrepAZ.org. The enrollment application is also available in the school office.

Enrollment Packets Due: Friday, December 19, 2025

Incoming Freshman must complete and submit the registration packet to secure enrollment in the Class of 2030. Registration packets may be returned to the school office, via facsimile, or via email to: sbrazinsky@highlandprepaz.org

Placement Testing Date: Saturday, January 31, 2026

Incoming Freshman must complete the 9th grade placement tests in Reading and Mathematics. Placement testing will be held on the HP campus at 9:00 a.m. Incoming Freshman that do not complete the placement testing may not receive an enrollment seat for the 2026-2027 school year.

Course Registration Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026

Incoming Freshman must register for Fall 2026 honors-level and elective courses. Course registration will be held in the HP Gymnasium from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Incoming Freshman that do not complete the course registration may not receive an enrollment seat for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

HIGHLAND PREP

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Scan code to enroll

