



HONEY BADGER BULLETIN

EDITION #64

HIGHLAND PREP'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

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HOME OF THE HONEY BADGERS

HIGHLAND PREP'S AERIAL DRONE TEAMS WIN MISSION AWARD!

Two Highland Prep drone teams, 56433C and 56433D, have emerged victorious from the challenging timewarp simulation course, capturing the prestigious Teamwork Mission Award. Team 56433C, comprised of Perrin Cole and Emily Low, formed a crucial alliance with Team 56433D, featuring Liam Tytler and Kaden Noble. This collaborative effort proved to be a masterstroke, allowing the allied teams to navigate the complex simulation with exceptional partnership and ultimately secure the highest score among all teams.

Their victory highlights the invaluable importance of collaboration and communication in high-stakes, technologically advanced competitions.

The achievement of teams 56433C and 56433D is a testament to the dedication, technical expertise, and competitive spirit demonstrated by all four students. Their success not only brings recognition to their teams but also serves as an inspiration to aspiring drone enthusiasts. Congratulations to Perrin, Emily, Liam, and Kaden on this big accomplishment!



Message from the Principal

Dear Highland Prep Community,

Thank you for another strong month at Highland Prep. I appreciate the continued partnership from our families, students, staff, and community supporters. Your involvement helps make our campus a place where students can grow, achieve, and feel connected.

This month brought multiple highlights across campus. I want to recognize Student Council for hosting two great events, Line Dancing Night and Winter Wonderland, which brought strong energy and school spirit to our campus. Congratulations to Girls Soccer on an excellent win over Rancho Solano. I am also proud of our STEM programs and student leadership,

especially as VEX Robotics and RADC Drone Robotics host competitions. Students also have new opportunities like Zero Robotics, the international coding competition hosted by NASA and MIT.

As we move into the next part of the quarter, please help us prioritize strong attendance and staying engaged each day. A reminder that the last week of the quarter is a blackout week for early check-outs, except in emergencies, since finals and major projects are completed during that time.

Thank you for your continued support of Highland Prep. Let's keep the momentum going and finish strong.

With gratitude,

Shane Jones • Principal



School Calendar

DECEMBER 2025

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

FEBRUARY 2026

2/3	Parent Workshop: Completing the FAFSA
2/10	Spring Open House & STEM Showcase
2/16	President's Day (No School)
2/20	Student Council Mini-Golf Night
2/28	Incoming Freshmen Course Registration

JANUARY 2026

1/16	Senior Lock-In
1/19	Martin Luther King Day (No School)
1/22	ACT Practice Exam (10 th & 11 th Grade)
1/30	Winter Formal BBQ
1/31	Winter Formal Dance

MARCH 2026

3/16-3/20	Spring Break
3/25	SAT School Day (11 th Grade)
3/27	Student Council Talent Show
3/31	ACT Aspire Testing (9 th Grade)
3/31	AzSCI Testing (11 th Grade)

ACADEMIC BULLETIN



SENIORS EXPLORE ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Our juniors and seniors truly captured a glimpse of life at Arizona State University at their recent campus tour, where they learned about their majors, sports, and extracurriculars. They got to explore the vibrant campus, speak with current students, and even enjoy lunch at the ASU Memorial Union.



GCU “FUEL FOR FINALS” SURPRISE

Grand Canyon University showed tremendous support for our seniors by surprising them with awesome "Fuel for Finals" goodies. These thoughtful packages were designed to keep their energy high and their study game strong as they head into a demanding exam period. A huge thank you goes out to the representatives from GCU for swinging by.

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

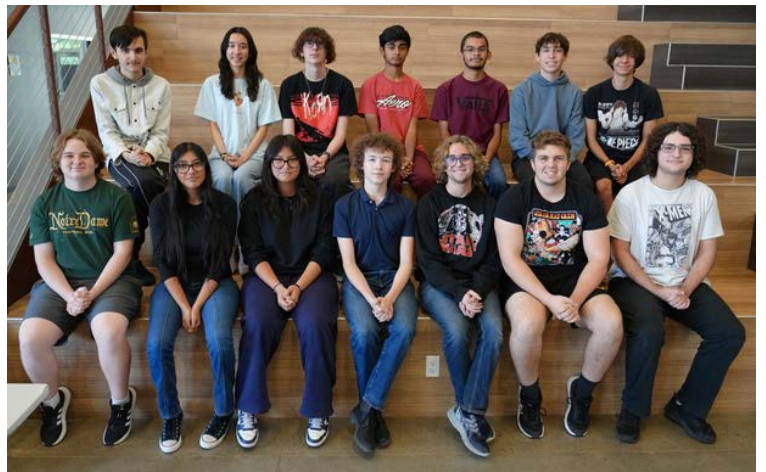
NIC KONIOR TAKES HOME AWARD AT HPA SCIENCE FAIR

A huge congratulations to junior, Nic Konior for a remarkable achievement, winning an honorary medal at the HPA Science Fair for his innovative "Mega Flashlight" project. His success is a shining example of the ingenuity, talent, and hard work that was prominently displayed by all participants during the event. The presentations and innovative projects showcased were truly impressive.



ON THE PATH TO RECF ENGINEERING CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to the 14 students who passed the first of 3 RECF Industry exams to earn their full certification! Kacper Dawid, Emily Low, Keaton Culver, Vivek Chatterjee, Quentin Bowens, Dylan Bodrogi, Soren Powell, Max Henderson, Joscelynn Valenzuela, Mariana Muniz Lopez, Perrin Cole, William Polvino, Logan George, and Patrick Heydenreich- we are so incredibly proud of you!



WATER BOTTLE HELICOPTERS

Our Introduction to Engineering and Design students have successfully taken their engineering skills to new heights with a practical, hands-on project. Utilizing core principles of design and electrical function, the students ingeniously constructed working mini-helicopters using simple materials: a water bottle for the body, a small motor, and a basic switch mechanism. This project demonstrated ingenuity in action, allowing students to apply theoretical knowledge to a moving creation.

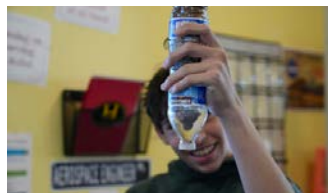
TEACHER SPOTLIGHT **OF THE MONTH**



MR. VAN DEN BRANDE

Mr. Van Den Brande teaches Geometry, Algebra 2, and Pre-Calculus at Highland Prep. He has a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Arizona State University and a Master's degree in Mathe-

matics from the same university. Mr. Van Den Brandt was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, reading, and math. Beyond the classroom, he serves as the advisor for E-Sports and the Math Decathlon Club. Mr. Van Den Brandt has a passion for teaching and enjoys helping students learn challenging concepts in a fun and accessible way. Highland Prep feels incredibly fortunate to have a teacher like him in our school community.



EDD STUDENTS BUILD WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS

Our Engineering Design and Development (EDD) took charge of creating functional water filtration systems. They designed and built their prototypes, and measured the purity levels of the filtered water to determine if they met the ideal safety standards.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



SURPRISE SCITECH FESTIVAL

Our Honey Badgers had an epic time connecting with families at the Surprise Sci-Tech Festival! The event was a fantastic opportunity for our students to engage with the Surprise community, share their 3D printers and VEX robots, and experience STEM in full capacity.



JOIN OUR FUNDRAISER!

Skip the stress of cooking during the busy holidays and grab dinner in minutes using Little Caesar's Meal Codes. Every purchase made directly supports Highland Prep. Order your codes online and use them at any U.S. Little Caesar's location, whether online or in the app. To purchase immediately, please scan the QR code above.

ATHLETICS



CHEER WINS 2ND PLACE AT HPA CHEER CLASSIC!

Our cheer team achieved a fantastic result at the Highland Prep Academies Cheer Classic, securing 2nd place. The team executed their full competition routine, incorporating high-energy stunts and difficult tumblers. Their hard work, coordination, and spirit truly shone during their performance.



GREAT FIRST SEASON FOR GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL

The Highland Prep girls flag football team made history by making it to the playoffs in their first year. Despite being a new team, they demonstrated remarkable skill and determination, ending the season ranked 2nd in their region and 14th overall. Congratulations ladies! We are so proud of you!

UPCOMING GAMES SCHEDULE:

Girls BB	12/15	5:30 PM	Bourgade Catholic	H
Boys BB	12/15	7:00 PM	Bourgade Catholic	H
Girls BB	12/18	5:30 PM	Fountain Hills	H
Boys BB	12/18	7:00 PM	Fountain Hills	H
Girls BB	1/6	5:30 PM	Chino Valley	A
Girls Soccer	1/6	6:00 PM	Tonopah Valley	H
Boys BB	1/6	7:00 PM	Chino Valley	A
Girls Soccer	1/8	6:00 PM	River Valley	A
Girls BB	1/9	5:30 PM	Kingman	H
Boys BB	1/9	7:00 PM	Kingman	H
Girls BB	1/13	5:30 PM	ALA West Foothills	A
Boys BB	1/13	7:00 PM	ALA West Foothills	A
Girls BB	1/15	5:30 PM	Tonopah Valley	A
Boys BB	1/15	7:00 PM	Tonopah Valley	A
Girls Soccer	1/16	4:00 PM	Somerton	H
Girls Soccer	1/20	6:00 PM	Yuma Catholic	A
Girls BB	1/22	5:30 PM	Yuma Catholic	H
Girls Soccer	1/22	6:00 PM	Odyssey Institute	A
Boys BB	1/22	7:00 PM	Yuma Catholic	H
Girls Soccer	1/26	4:00 PM	Somerton	A
Girls BB	1/26	5:30 PM	Odyssey Institute	H
Boys BB	1/26	7:00 PM	Odyssey Institute	H

HAPPENINGS @ HPS

A NIGHT OF HOLIDAY CHEER AT WINTER WONDERLAND

We transformed our campus into a festive paradise for our Winter Wonderland. The evening was packed with joy and holiday cheer, offering a wide array of activities including the chance to meet Santa Claus, fun games, and face painting. Guests also enjoyed delicious eats from local food trucks, engaged in holiday crafts, watched classic movies, and experienced a dazzling light show. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this magical event!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TURKEY TROT WINNERS!

We loved seeing our students come together to participate in our annual Thanksgiving tradition of friendly competition and community spirit, the turkey trot. Join us in congratulating our speedy top three finishers: Zhyion Newby, who took first place and was awarded a gift card; Connor Davis, who earned second place and is taking home a full turkey; and Zoey Sanborn, who secured third place and won a delicious pumpkin pie. Congratulations!



HPS CLASS OF 2030 FUTURE FRESHMAN NIGHT

Our Future Freshman Night was an absolute success! The evening featured student-led tours, informative tables dedicated to learning more about our sports and extracurriculars, and an exclusive inside look at our VEX robotics room and Makerspace. We are thrilled to have met so many wonderful prospective Badger families!



Highland Prep
2025-2026 Academic Calendar

July	0	August	20	September	21	October	8 10
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29 30 31	29 30 31	29 30 31	29 30 31	29 30 31	29 30 31	29 30 31	29 30 31

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

First Quarter Days 49

August	04	First Day - First Quarter
September	01	Labor Day
October	10	Last Day - First Quarter
October	13-17	Fall Break

Second Quarter Days 41

October	20	First Day - Second Quarter
November	11	Veterans Day
November	26-28	Thanksgiving
December	19	Last Day - Second Quarter
Dec / Jan	22-02	Winter Break

Third Quarter Days 48

January	05	First Day - Third Quarter
January	19	Martin Luther King Day
February	16	Presidents Day
March	13	Last Day - Third Quarter
March	16-20	Spring Break

Fourth Quarter Days 44

March	23	First Day - Fourth Quarter
April	03	Spring Holiday
May	20	Graduation
May	22	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	28	Teachers Start Date
May	29	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)	28
Teacher In-service/Work/Grades	4

Student Coursework Testing Days Days

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

Blackout/Mandatory Attendance Dates

October	13-17	March	09-13
December	15-19	May	18-22

See Student Handbook

State Testing Dates

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

Special Dates

40th Student Day -	September	29 2025
100th Student Day -	January	16 2026

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

15600 WEST HEARN RD. • SURPRISE, AZ 85379 • 623-300-8385
HIGHLANDPREPAZ.COM



Scan code to enroll





Incoming Freshmen 2026-2027

COURSE PLACEMENT TESTING

Testing for: English Language Arts & Mathematics

SATURDAY

**JANUARY
31ST**

**STARTS AT 9:00 AM
AT HPS CAMPUS**

**15600 W HEARN RD.
SURPRISE, AZ, 85379**

- ✓ Eat a good breakfast
- ✓ Check-in for testing no later than 8:45 AM
- ✓ Bring a water bottle

Incoming freshmen that do not complete the placement testing may not receive an enrollment seat for the 2026-2027 school year.

**HIGHLAND
PREP**



📞 623-300-8385 🌐 HighlandPrepAz.net