



HONEY BADGER BULLETIN

EDITION #66

HIGHLAND PREP'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

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HOME OF THE HONEY BADGERS

HIGHLAND PREP COMPETES IN GLOBAL ZERO ROBOTICS FINALS!

Highland Prep is proud to announce that its Zero Robotics team earned a prestigious spot in the International Coding Competition Finals, an achievement reached by only a select group of schools worldwide. The team's journey began with months of intensive virtual simulations, where they competed against hundreds of international teams to develop autonomous algorithms for NASA's Astrobee robots. By successfully navigating multiple elimination rounds and optimizing their code for the unique challenges of microgravity, our students

proved their technical mastery and secured the opportunity to have their work physically deployed aboard the International Space Station (ISS). During the finals, the team had to move beyond theoretical programming, refining their strategies to manage complex orbital mechanics and mission objectives like the "Galactic Greenhouse". We are incredibly proud of everything these students have accomplished this season and cannot wait to see what they achieve next as they continue to push the boundaries of innovation and excellence.



EDITION #66 / FEBRUARY 2026

Message from the Principal

Dear Highland Prep Community,

As we wrap up another outstanding month at Highland Prep, I want to take a moment to celebrate the achievements of our students, staff, and families.

First, we are thrilled to share that 100% of our seniors have been accepted to a college or university. Even more exciting, Highland Prep ranks in the top 10 in Arizona for FAFSA completion, making college more accessible for our graduates. Along with that, our senior class has earned over \$9 million in scholarships so far, and we are still counting.

We are also proud of our students who continue to shine on national and

international stages. Our Zero Robotics team competed in the International Coding Competition Finals, representing Highland Prep with excellence and high-level STEM learning.

In athletics, our Cheer team earned 2nd place at the Arizona Pink State Cheerleading and Pom Competition, and also placed 2nd at the Duel in the Desert Classic. In addition, 10 of our student-athletes received regional awards for this past sports season, a testament to their performance on the field.

Thank you for continuing to support Highland Prep. Your encouragement, involvement, and belief in our students make all the difference. The best is still ahead.

With gratitude,
Shane Jones • Principal



School Calendar

FEBRUARY 2026

2/3 Parent Workshop: Completing the FAFSA
2/10 Spring Open House & STEM Showcase
2/16 President's Day (No School)
2/17 NHS Blood Drive
2/28 Incoming Freshmen Course Registration

APRIL 2026

4/3 Spring Holiday (No School)
4/7 ACT Testing (11th Grade)
4/13-4/17 Prom Spirit Week
4/17 Prom BBQ/Pep Rally
4/18 Prom Dance

MARCH 2026

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

MAY 2026

5/8 Senior Trip
5/8 End-of-the-Year BBQ
5/18 Senior Sunset
5/19 Graduation
5/22 Last Day of School

ACADEMIC BULLETIN



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH: MACEN THOMPSON

We are thrilled to spotlight senior Macen Thompson, who has earned acceptance into an impressive list of colleges and

universities, including Mississippi State University, Texas Tech University, Ottawa University, and Beloit College. During his time here, Macen has been an active participant in Football, Volleyball, Soccer, Golf Club, and National Honor Society. This fall, he plans to pursue a degree in Electrical Engineering and has accepted a football scholarship to play at Ottawa University University (OUAZ). Congratulations, Macen! We are so proud of you and excited to see all you accomplish in your next chapter.



OUR SPRING NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION CEREMONY

Congratulations to our new inductees who were recognized at our Spring National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony! NHS serves to recognize students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. We are proud to have more of our Honey Badgers join the organization!

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

OUR SPRING OPEN HOUSE & STEM SHOWCASE

Our Spring Open House & STEM Showcase was a resounding success! It was a joy to welcome so many new and returning Honey Badger families to campus to tour our facilities, meet our dedicated staff, and see our mission in action. The energy was high as visitors got hands-on with some impressive student-led STEM activities, showcasing the innovation that happens every day.



GEL ELECTROPHORESIS LAB

Our AP Biology students utilized Gel Electrophoresis for a fascinating exploration of Color Chromatography. By loading various dyes into an agarose gel, students were able to witness firsthand how different pigments separate into their primary components. This experiment provided a perfect visual representation of a "molecular sieve" in action, as the pigments migrated through the gel at different speeds based on their unique molecular weights and electrical charges. Great job, young biologists!

HEART DISSECTIONS IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

Our Biomedical Science students recently got up close and personal with the circulatory system. In a hands-on sheep heart dissection, students explored the intricate chambers and vessels to learn exactly how the heart pumps, flows, and functions. Our students applied their theoretical knowledge to complex biological structures, gaining an understanding of cardiac physiology.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT **OF THE MONTH**



MS. HANCOCK

Ms. Hancock teaches Civil Engineering, Cybersecurity, and Digital Electronics at Highland Prep. She holds a Bachelor's in Business Administration from McMurry University in Abilene, TX.

She was born and raised in Kingman, AZ. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, baking, and video games. Beyond the classroom, she serves as the advisor for Engineering Club and Botany Club. We are proud to spotlight Ms. Hancock, who challenges her students daily, holding them to rigorous standards while building the kind of relationships that inspire respect and effort. Her impact extends far beyond engineering content — she is shaping resilient, capable problem-solvers.



FUTURE MED CLUB VISIT SURPRISE FIRE STATION

Our Future Medical Professionals club had the opportunity to visit the City of Surprise Fire Station! Students engaged directly with local first responders, gaining firsthand insights into the critical occupation of firefighting medical care.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



GCU ADMITTED STUDENTS

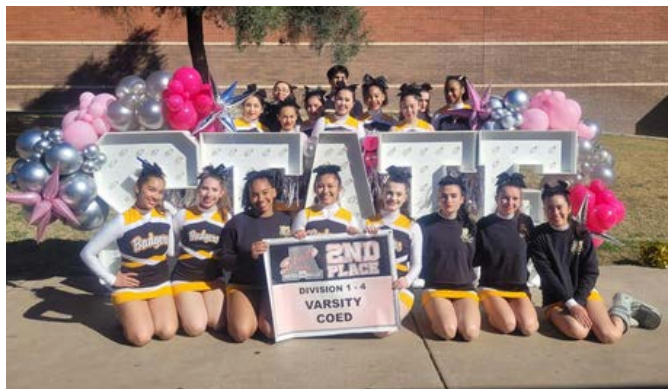
Grand Canyon University (GCU) recently surprised our GCU committed students with lunch, snacks, and a goodie bag filled with cool university merch. Thank you GCU! We can't wait to see all the amazing things our Future Lopes will do at Grand Canyon University!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SEAL OF ARTS RECIPIENTS!

Congratulations to our Seal of Arts recipients on earning this prestigious diploma recognition! This honor signifies a high level of achievement in artistic literacy. From filming media to creating art, these students have gone above and beyond to earn this seal.

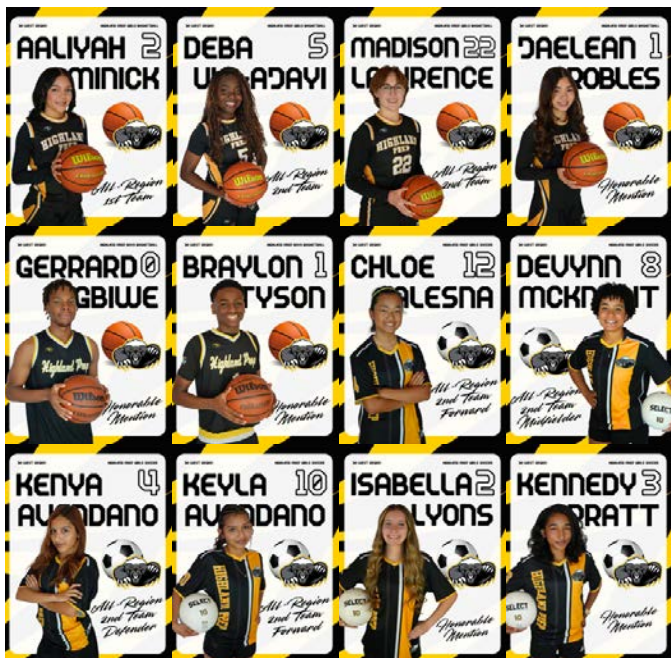
ATHLETICS



HPS CHEER WINS BACK-TO-BACK MEDAL FINISHES

Huge shoutout to our cheer team for an absolutely dominant run this season! Our athletes brought the heat to the floor, securing a Silver medal at the prestigious Duel in the Desert and following it up with a stellar 2nd place finish at Pink State. We are beyond proud of their Badger spirit and dedication.

AIA REGION RECOGNITIONS:



UPCOMING GAMES SCHEDULE:

Baseball	3/3	3:45 PM	Odyssey Institute	A
Softball	3/3	3:45 PM	Odyssey Institute	A
Boys VB	3/5	5:30 PM	St. John Paul II	H
Baseball	3/6	3:45 PM	Tonopah Valley	A
Softball	3/6	3:45 PM	Tonopah Valley	A
Baseball	3/9	3:45 PM	Somerton	A
Softball	3/9	3:45 PM	Somerton	A
Tennis	3/10	3:00 PM	Odyssey Institute	H
Boys VB	3/10	5:30 PM	Odyssey Institute	H
Baseball	3/17	3:45 PM	River Valley	H
Softball	3/17	3:45 PM	River Valley	H
Baseball	3/18	3:45 PM	Chino Valley	A
Softball	3/18	3:45 PM	Chino Valley	A
Tennis	3/19	3:30 PM	Valley Lutheran	A
Baseball	3/20	3:45 PM	Kingman H.S.	A
Tennis	3/23	3:00 PM	Veritas Prep	H
Softball	3/23	4:00 PM	Arizona Lutheran	A
Baseball	3/24	3:45 PM	ALA-West Foothills	H
Softball	3/24	3:45 PM	ALA-West Foothills	H
Boys VB	3/26	5:30 PM	North Valley Christian	H
Tennis	3/27	3:00 PM	Kingman H.S.	A
Baseball	4/1	3:45 PM	Yuma Catholic	A

HAPPENINGS @ HPS

INCOMING FRESHMEN COURSE REGISTRATION

Incoming Freshmen Course Registration is officially a wrap! We had an incredible morning welcoming our newest Honey Badgers to the family as they signed up for their first round of high school classes, sports teams, and summer camps. The energy on campus was electric as these future leaders took their first steps toward their Highland Prep journey. They are officially all set for success, and we couldn't be more excited!



HIGHLAND PREP NHS BLOOD DRIVE MAKES A MASSIVE IMPACT

We had an amazing turnout at our recent blood drive! Thank you to every student, staff member, and local community neighbor who rolled up their sleeves to donate at our NHS Blood Drive. The event was a success, and because every pint donated has the potential to save up to three lives, our collective effort provided a vital lifeline to those in need. Our community truly proved that when we all come together, we can make a massive difference!

SIGN UP FOR THE STUDENT COUNCIL TALENT SHOW!

Student Council is thrilled to announce that Highland Prep will be hosting a Talent Show on Friday, March 27th from 5:00pm- 7:00pm in the Fab Lab. Students are invited to showcase their skills by scanning the QR code on the event flyer posted around campus. We can't wait to see the incredible talents our Honey Badgers will bring!



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