



HONEY BADGER BULLETIN

EDITION #67

HIGHLAND PREP'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

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ACADEMIC CALENDAR



HOME OF THE HONEY BADGERS

HIGHLAND PREP TAKES 1ST PLACE AT HPA TRACK INVITATIONAL!

Our Honey Badgers absolutely crushed it at the 1st Annual Highland Track & Field Invitational, taking home 1st Place Overall! It was an unforgettable day of competition as we competed with our sister campuses, Madison Highland Prep and Highland Prep West. From the first whistle to the final relay, the atmosphere was electric, and our athletes rose to the occasion to secure the top spot on the podium. The performance on the track was nothing short of dominant, with many of our runners beating their previous personal records in both individual and

relay events. We took home numerous awards across a variety of distances. Our relay teams also showed exceptional chemistry, clinching key points in the 4x100 and 4x400 relays that helped propel the team to our overall victory. Our success extended well into the field events, where our athletes demonstrated remarkable technical skill and strength. Honey Badgers earned top honors in the shot put and discus, while also sweeping several awards in the triple jump and javelin. It was a proud day for the entire Highland Prep community.



EDITION #67 / APRIL 2026

Message from the Principal

Dear Highland Prep Community,

It has been an exciting month at Highland Prep. Our Honey Badgers showed up in a big way across athletics, academics, and the arts. Our Track & Field team took 1st Place Overall at our Inaugural HPA Track and Field Invitational. Our SeaPerch robotics teams excelled at the HPA Competition, with the Loch Ness Monsters taking 2nd and the Honey Otters placing 3rd. We also celebrate artists Brea Scott, Valeria Alvarado, and Kamilah Calderon for their award-winning art at the Surprise Charter Schools Student Art Exhibit.

We also have some exciting news to share. For the 2026-2027 school year, I will transition to Director of STEM, while

Mr. Walker steps in as Principal. I'll remain a constant presence on campus and am dedicated to supporting our families through this next step.

Looking ahead, Summer Camp registration is now open for June and July. We have something for everyone, including sports, robotics, drones, and our new Strength and Conditioning camp. Forms and fees can be dropped off at the front office. Finally, please note that April 7th is a modified school day for ACT Testing. Juniors will test on campus, and 9th, 10th, and 12th graders will have an asynchronous learning day at home. AP Exams also begin in May.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Highland Prep.

With gratitude,
Shane Jones • Principal



School Calendar

APRIL 2026

4/3	Spring Holiday (No School)	5/8
4/7	ACT Testing (11 th Grade)	5/8
4/13-4/17	Prom Spirit Week	5/18
4/17	Prom BBQ/Pep Rally	5/19
4/18	Prom Dance	5/22

AP TESTING DATES:

5/4	AP Biology	5/8
5/5	AP Chemistry	5/12
5/6	AP English Literature	5/13
5/6	AP Physics	5/14
5/7	AP Statistics	5/14

MAY 2026

Senior Trip
End-of-the-Year BBQ
Senior Sunset
Graduation
Last Day of School

AP US History
AP Psychology
AP English Language
AP Spanish Language
AP Computer Science

ACADEMIC BULLETIN



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH: BROOKE BUTLER

We are thrilled to spotlight senior Brooke Butler, who has earned acceptance into an impressive list of colleges and universities, such

as Boston University, Pennsylvania State University, Augustana College, Baylor University, Ole Miss, and University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Brooke has earned an extraordinary \$729,495 in total scholarships. During her time here, Brooke has been an active participant in Varsity Tennis, National Honor Society, Game Day Operations, and Yearbook. This fall, she plans to attend Augustana College and major in Biology. Congratulations, Brooke! We are so proud of you and can't wait to see where life takes you.



JUNIORS MEET WITH U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY REPRESENTATIVE

We were honored to host the United States Air Force Academy on campus recently for an informative session with our junior class. The presentation offered valuable perspective on the academy's commitment to leadership and service, helping our juniors consider the high-level career paths available through this prestigious institution.

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

SEAPERCH WIN 2ND AND 3RD AT HPA COMPETITION!

Our HPS Loch Ness Monsters and HPS Honey Otters dominated the water, with the Loch Ness Monsters securing 2nd Place and the Honey Otters taking 3rd Place. Our student-robotics stars had to master both a high-speed Obstacle Course and a technical Mission Course. We are incredibly proud of their teamwork and celebrate the hard work and dedication displayed by all of our Badger teams!





NEW FLIGHT PROGRAM

DUAL ENROLLMENT AVIATION PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EMBRY-RIDDLE DESIGNED TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE FAA WRITTEN EXAM AND INTRODUCE REAL FLIGHT TRAINING SKILLS.

- DUAL ENROLLMENT
- EARN 5 COLLEGE CREDITS (ASCI 121 + ASCI 121L)
- PILOT CAREER PATHWAY
- FAA WRITTEN EXAM PREP FOR PRIVATE PILOT LICENSE
- SIMULATOR-BASED FLIGHT EXPERIENCE
- EARN FLIGHT HOURS TOWARD YOUR PPL



AVIATION ACADEMY PROGRAM

We are thrilled to announce a new flight program in partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, launching in Fall 2026! This unique opportunity allows 11th and 12th-grade students to jumpstart their professional pilot careers while still in high school. Participants can earn five college credits through dual enrollment, prepare for the FAA written exam, and gain vital simulator experience toward their private pilot license hours. Scan the QR code to join our interest list!

BIOLOGY CLASS USES STOP-MOTION TO STUDY MITOSIS

Our biology students brought the complexities of cell division to life through the lens of stop-motion animation! Using everything from classic whiteboard sketches and Play-Doh models to imaginative setups with Skittles and LEGOs, they meticulously animated each stage of the cellular cycle. We were impressed by the innovation and intricate detail they poured into every frame!



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



MR. LAGUIT

Mr. Laguit teaches Algebra 2 and Pre-Calculus at Highland Prep. He holds a degree in Secondary Education and a minor in Fashion from Arizona State University.

Known for his deep involvement in our campus community, Mr. Laguit serves as our Student Council Advisor, fostering leadership and school spirit beyond the classroom. He is a teacher who offers constant support and encouragement to help our Honey Badgers reach their goals. Mr. Laguit focuses on shaping well-rounded, resilient individuals by integrating 20th-century skills such as collaboration and critical thinking into his daily lessons. We are incredibly grateful to have him as a member of our faculty.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



SURPRISE ART EXHIBIT

We are thrilled to congratulate Brea Scott, Valeria Alvarado, and Kamilah Calderon for receiving prestigious awards at the Surprise Charter Schools Student Art Exhibit. We are so proud to see their artistic visions recognized at the Surprise City Hall!



NEW
WELDING & FABRICATION
PROGRAM

Step into the future of engineering and manufacturing with our brand-new Welding & Fabrication course, joining as a 5th-hour elective in Fall 2026. This course will utilize the industry-leading U-Link® curriculum from Lincoln Electric.

PROGRAM:

- ✓ Principles of Welding
- ✓ Welding Careers
- ✓ Robotics
- ✓ Plasma Cutting
- ✓ Thermal Cutting
- ✓ Blueprint Reading
- ✓ Fabrication




OPEN TO 11TH & 12TH GRADE STUDENTS | LIMITED SPOTS | COMING FALL 2026



SUNTEC CONCRETE HONORS MR. GULIAN WITH DONATION

A special shout out to Mr. Gulian for being recognized by Suntec Concrete as an extraordinary educator! They generously donated classroom supplies to support his classroom. We are grateful for their support of both our teachers and students' futures!

ATHLETICS

TRACK & FIELD SENIOR NIGHT



UPCOMING GAMES SCHEDULE:

Tennis	4/8	1:30 PM	Lincoln Prep	A
Tennis	4/10	3:30 PM	Glendale Prep	H
Baseball	4/10	3:45 PM	Odyssey Institute	A
Softball	4/10	3:45 PM	Odyssey Institute	A
Track & Field	4/11	All-Day	Valley Christian H.S.	A
Baseball	4/13	3:45 PM	River Valley H.S.	A
Softball	4/13	3:45 PM	River Valley H.S.	A
Boys VB	4/13	4:30 PM	ALA- Mesa North	A
Tennis	4/14	2:30 PM	Scottsdale Christian	A
Baseball	4/14	3:15 PM	Highland Prep West	H
Softball	4/14	3:15 PM	Highland Prep West	H
Boys VB	4/15	5:30 PM	Parker H.S.	A
Tennis	4/16	3:30 PM	Scottsdale Prep	H
Baseball	4/16	3:45 PM	ALA- West Foothills	A
Softball	4/16	3:45 PM	ALA- West Foothills	A
Track & Field	4/17	All-Day	Mingus Union H.S.	A
Baseball	4/20	3:45 PM	Chino Valley H.S.	H
Softball	4/20	3:45 PM	Chino Valley H.S.	H
Tennis	4/21	3:00 PM	Rancho Solano Prep	H
Boys VB	4/21	5:30 PM	Madison Highland Prep	H
Baseball	4/22	3:45 PM	Kingman H.S.	H
Softball	4/22	3:45 PM	Kingman H.S.	H

HAPPENINGS @ HPS

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS FOR 26–27 SCHOOL YEAR

We are excited to announce leadership transitions for the 2026–2027 school year! Mr. Jones will transition into a new and expanded role as Director of STEM for Highland Prep Schools. He will spearhead new and innovative programs for our schools, including this upcoming Fall's debut of Aviation and Welding and Fabrication programs. Mr. Jones will still be largely onsite operating out of Highland Prep's Fab Lab. Beginning in June of 2026, Mr. Walker will serve as Highland Prep's new principal. Mr. Walker has served as Highland Prep's Assistant Principal for the past two years and has over 25 years in public school education. This evolution reflects our school's commitment to providing the best opportunities for our students!



CLASS OF 2026 CPR TRAINING

Congratulations to our Class of 2026 for successfully completing their CPR training! Our seniors are now officially equipped with the life-saving skills and the confidence to act in emergency situations when it matters most. You have gained a vital tool that will truly make a difference in the future. Way to go, HPS Class of 2026!



HIGHLAND PREP STUDENT COUNCIL TALENT SHOW

What an incredible night at the Highland Prep Talent Show! From vocal performances to impressive instrumental acts and creative displays, our students truly took center stage. We want to give a huge thanks to all our amazing participants.



Highland Prep
2025-2026 Academic Calendar

July	0	August	20	September	21	October	8 10
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6 7 8 9 10 11 12	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13	9 10 11 12 13 14	9 10 11 12 13 14	10 11 12 13 14 15	10 11 12 13 14 15
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
	31						
November	16	December	15	January	19	February	19
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8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30	29 30 31	29 30 31	29 30 31	29 30 31	29 30 31	29 30 31	29 30 31
March	10 7	April	21	May	16	June	
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8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
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

New! 2026-2027 School Year



Principles of AI Course

PLTW Computer Science Pathway

We're thrilled to announce Highland Prep will be offering Principles of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the 2026-2027 school year! This semester-long course immerses students in key elements of AI.



Why Should Students Take Principles of AI?

- **Student readiness:** Bridges the gap between "using ChatGPT" and building future-ready data, modeling, and ethics skills.
- **Policy-aligned and safe:** Establishes responsible AI practices.
- **Workforce relevance:** Connects AI to in-demand careers across STEM, healthcare, and industry to provide clear pathway value.

- ✓ Prompt and context engineering
- ✓ Data literacy and classification
- ✓ Introductory model training
- ✓ Privacy and security
- ✓ Ethical decision-making

SCAN ME



2026 BADGER SUMMER CAMPS



STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

(SESSION 1)

Mon to Thu • June 1st - June 11th

11:30am - 2:00pm

Focusing on building a physical and mental foundation

Fee: \$100 | HPS Gym

(SESSION 2)

Mon to Thu • June 15th - June 25th

11:30am - 2:00pm

Fee: \$100 | HPS Gym

AERIAL DRONES

Mon to Thu • July 6th - July 9th

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Focusing on skills in preparation for 2026-2027 aerial drone season

Fee: \$75 | HPS Engineering Lab

SOCCER

Mon to Thu • July 6th - July 16th

4:00pm - 7:00pm

Conditioning, offensive and defensive skills, and teamwork drills

Fee: \$125 | HPS Field

BASKETBALL

Mon to Thu • July 6th - July 16th

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Conditioning, offensive and defensive skills, and teamwork drills

Fee: \$125 | HPS Gym

RECORDING STUDIO/ PEP BAND

Mon to Thu • July 13th - July 16th

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Building skills essential for both studio work and live sound instruments

Fee: \$75 | HPS Music Room

VEX ROBOTICS

Mon to Thu • July 13th - July 23rd

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Designing, programming, and building skills in preparation for 2026-2027 robotics season

Fee: \$125 | HPS Engineering Lab

CROSS COUNTRY

Mon to Thu • July 20th - July 30th

6:00am - 8:00am

Conditioning, running skills, and teamwork drills

Fee: \$100 | HPS Field

CHEER

Mon to Thu • July 20th - July 30th

8:00am - 11:00am

Conditioning, cheer and dance skills, and teamwork drills

Fee: \$125 | HPS Gym

FLAG FOOTBALL

Mon to Thu • July 20th - July 30th

4:00pm - 7:00pm

Strength and conditioning, team building, and football skills and drills

Fee: \$125 | HPS Field

FOOTBALL

Mon to Thu • July 20th - July 30th

4:00pm - 7:00pm

Strength and conditioning, team building, and football skills and drills

Fee: \$200 | HPS Field

VOLLEYBALL

Mon to Thu • July 20th - July 30th

4:00pm - 7:00pm

Conditioning, volleyball skills, and teamwork drills

Fee: \$125 | HPS Gym



HIGHLAND
PREP
SURPRISE, ARIZONA

Registration forms available at highlandprepaz.net

