



HONEY BADGER BULLETIN

HIGHLAND PREP'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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ACADEMIC CALENDAR



HOME OF THE HONEY BADGERS

Recognized Among the Nation's Best

Highland Prep is proud to once again be recognized among the nation's best high schools by U.S. News & World Report. This year, Highland Prep was named the #1 High School in Surprise, ranked #26 among the Best High Schools in Arizona, and placed in the Top 7% of high schools nationwide.

These honors are a reflection of the strong academic community we have built and the dedication our students bring to their education every day.

This recognition would not be possible without the hard work of our students, teachers, staff, and families. We are proud of what our Highland Prep community continues to accomplish and grateful to everyone who contributes to making our school a place where students can learn, grow, and reach their full potential. As we begin another school year, we look forward to continuing this momentum and raising the bar even higher.





MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Badger Families,

We are off to an incredible start to the school year! While the thermometer continues to remind us that it's still summer here in Surprise (yes, it's still 115 degrees!), our campus is full of energy, excitement, and smiling faces. It has been wonderful welcoming our students back, and the positive atmosphere across campus has made for a fantastic beginning to the year.

We are especially excited to launch several new academic opportunities for our students. This year, we are proud to introduce our Aviation and Welding & Fabrication programs, providing students with hands-on experiences and pathways to high-demand careers. Through our partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, students in our Aviation program have the opportunity to work toward earning their private pilot's license right here in high school, an opportunity that makes our program truly unique. We are proud to be the only school in Arizona to offer this partnership and bring this level of aviation training to our students. In addition, our 5th Period AP Business and Personal Finance, AP United States History, and AP Spanish Language and Culture courses will be starting soon, expanding opportunities for students to challenge themselves academically while earning college-level credit.

Beyond the classroom, our extracurricular programs are thriving. Our clubs are officially underway and off to a great start, giving students countless opportunities to get involved, build friendships, and develop leadership skills. Whether through academics, athletics, service, or the arts, there truly is something for everyone.

Congratulations to our football team on kicking off the season with a 1-0 record! We are proud of their hard work and look forward to cheering them on throughout the season.

Believe it or not, Homecoming is only a few weeks away! Our student leaders are already hard at work planning a week filled with school spirit, traditions, and memorable events. We encourage everyone to get involved and help make this year's Homecoming a celebration of our school community.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we are creating an outstanding experience for every student. We look forward to an amazing year ahead!

Go Badgers!

Mr. Walker M.Ed.
Principal





IMPORTANT EVENTS

September Events

Labor Day (No School)	Monday, September 7th	ALL DAY
Fall Open House	Tuesday, September 8th	5 PM
NHS Induction	Tuesday, September 8th	6 PM
Homecoming Pep Rally & BBQ	Friday, September 11th	12 PM
Homecoming Dance	Saturday, September 12th	7 PM

Parent Workshop - GPA	Tuesday, September 8th	5 PM
Parent Workshop - Scholarships	Tuesday, September 22nd	5 PM

Senior Event



29
SEP

Senior
Cap & Gown
Picture Day

Say Cheese!

Senior year is here, and it’s time to celebrate! Students will have the opportunity to take their official cap and gown portraits at HP. These photos are a special way to capture this milestone and will be a memorable part of their senior year. Be sure to mark your calendar and come photo ready!



HOME GAMES



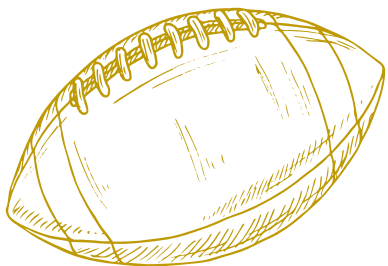
FOOTBALL

HP vs Trivium Prep	Friday 9/11	7 PM
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VOLLEYBALL



HP vs Rancho Solano Prep	Tuesday 9/1	6 PM
HP vs Andrada Polytech	Thursday 9/3	6 PM
HP vs Madison Highland	Thursday 9/10	5 PM
HP vs Mohave	Wednesday 9/16	5 PM
HP vs Odyssey Institute	Thursday 9/24	5 PM



FLAG FOOTBALL

HP vs Arizona Lutheran	Tuesday 9/15	6 PM
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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Joscelynn Valenzuela

Our Highland Prep senior spent her summer exploring her future in medicine through ASU's Summer Health Institute (SHI), a highly selective program that accepted just 100 students from more than 500 applicants. During the weeklong experience, Joscelynn stayed in the dorms and spent each day learning about a different area of medicine through field trips, demonstrations, and hands-on experiences. She met medical professionals, learned skills like working with medical equipment and suturing, and explored fields including occupational and physical therapy. She also had the opportunity to examine an animal brain and observe cadavers, giving her a deeper understanding of the science and work behind healthcare.

One of Joscelynn's favorite parts of SHI was being able to learn by doing while meeting other students who share her interest in the medical field. She and her group also took part in a murder mystery-style medical project, where each student was assigned a disease to research before presenting their findings to professionals in the field. Beyond the hands-on learning, Joscelynn made lasting friendships and gained a valuable preview of college life by living on campus and participating in daily learning sessions. The experience gave her the opportunity to explore the many areas of medicine while building connections with peers who share her passion for healthcare. We are so proud of Joscelynn for taking advantage of this incredible opportunity and look forward to seeing where her passion for medicine takes her next.



AUGUST RECAP

Senior Sunrise

Highland Prep seniors kicked off their final year at Senior Sunrise, and it was a good one. Students spent the morning making crafts, grabbing drinks from the coffee truck, and hanging out with classmates as the sky turned. It was the perfect way to start a year full of lasts. Class of 2027, this is your year. Let's make it count.



Club Rush

Club Rush brought a packed crowd of students together to explore the many clubs and activities offered at Highland Prep. From academics and athletics to creative and interest based groups, students had the opportunity to meet club leaders, learn what each club has to offer, and find their people. It was a great start to building connections and community across campus.



Academic Awards Assembly

Highland Prep celebrated student achievement at our Academic Awards Assembly, recognizing students who earned a spot on the Principal's List and Honor Roll. We are proud to celebrate their dedication, hard work, and commitment to their academics as they begin another year of success.





NEWS ON CAMPUS

Taking Flight at Highland Prep

Highland Prep Academies is proud to announce a historic new partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the first partnership of its kind in Arizona. This collaboration brings exciting new opportunities in aviation education to our students, including the ability to work toward their private pilot's license while still in high school.

We're also proud to celebrate Mr. Jones, who is now a certified flight instructor and will help guide students through their aviation journey. With this partnership and dedicated instruction, Highland Prep is giving students the opportunity to turn an interest in aviation into real skills and experience for their future.



Building Skills for the Future

Highland Prep's new Fabrication and Welding program is officially underway, giving students the opportunity to learn hands-on skills in an advanced manufacturing shop. Using a U/LINC curriculum engineered by Lincoln Electric, students are learning to weld, cut, machine, and build real projects from design to finished product while working with industry-grade equipment.

We're excited to see our students get hands-on, build their skills, and create something they can be proud of!





ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Q: What have you been up to since graduating from Highland Prep, and what does life look like for you now?

A: I have mostly been focusing on school. I have recieved my bachelor's in Medical Studies and am working on a master's in Chemistry. Outside of that, I have been racing rally/cross.

Q: In what ways did your experience at Highland Prep prepare you for college, your career, or life after high school?

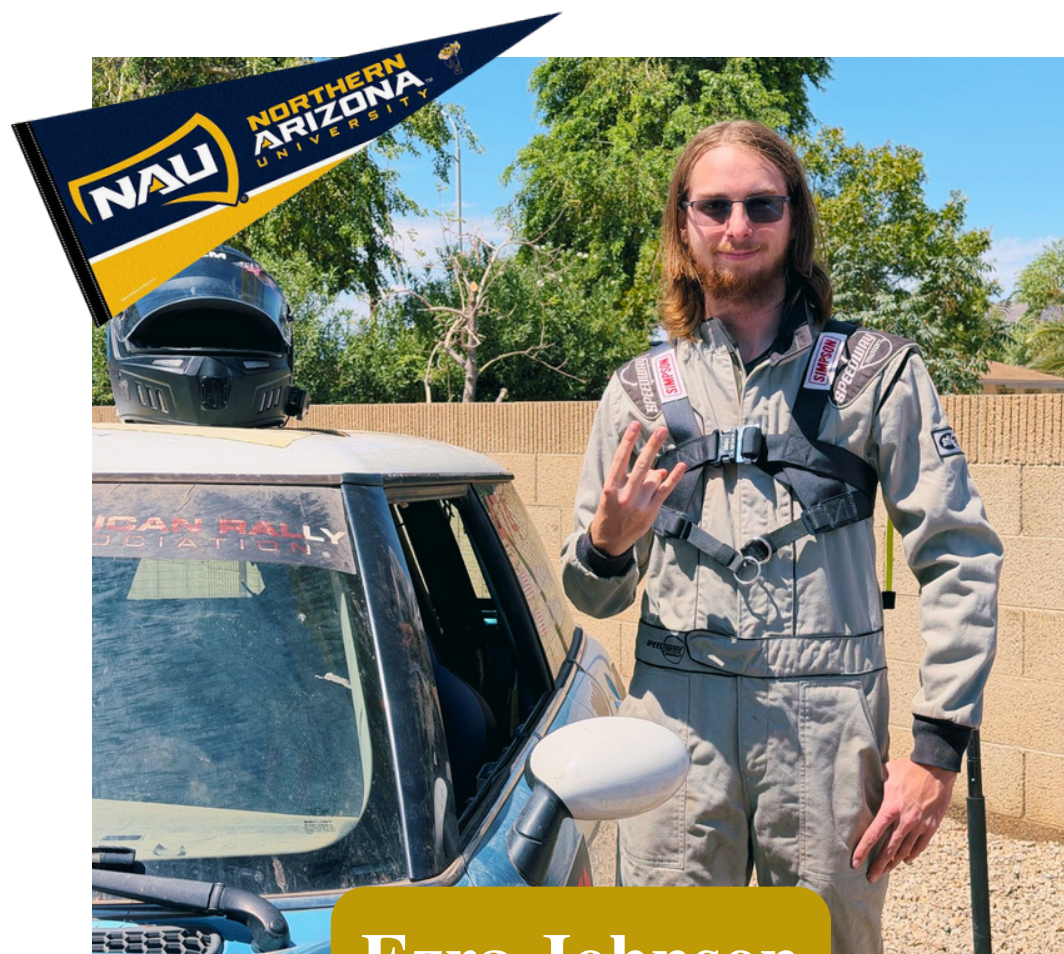
A: It taught me quite a few skills that translate quite well to college, such as managing course loads, choosing classes, and managing extracurricular activities.

Q: Was there a teacher, class, program, or experience at Highland Prep that had a lasting impact on you? Tell us a little about it.

A: My chemistry class with Iovino sparked my interest in chemistry, and I am now taking a master's in Chemistry largely because of that class.

Q: What advice would you give to current Highland Prep students as they think about their future and the goals they want to achieve?

A: Find the topic that interests you the most and chase that. There is so much more to learn in every discipline.



Ezra Johnson

Q: Looking back on your time at Highland Prep, what is something you appreciate now that you may not have fully recognized as a student?

A: Our ability to pick classes. It was a bit stressful at the time to pick a class that suited me, but it is a very important skill for college.

Q: What is one accomplishment or milestone since graduating that you're especially proud of?

A: As of last year, I'm the AZRA Stock Front Wheel Drive Champion. I have also built my own rally car that is capable of running in the ARA.



WINNING START



A Strong Start to the Season

Highland Prep football kicked off the 2026 season with a 6–0 victory over Madison Highland Prep in front of the home crowd. The Badgers came ready to compete, putting together a strong defensive performance and earning their first win of the season on their home field. Beyond the final score, our Badgers represented Highland Prep with great sportsmanship, teamwork, and respect throughout the game.

We are incredibly proud of the way they competed and carried themselves on the field, and we're excited to see what this team accomplishes as the season continues. Way to start strong, Badgers!





Highland Prep
2026-2027 Academic Calendar

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

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

First Quarter Days 44		
August	10	First Day - First Quarter
September	07	Labor Day
October	09	Last Day - First Quarter
October	12-16	Fall Break
Second Quarter Days 41		
October	19	First Day - Second Quarter
November	11	Veterans Day
November	25-27	Thanksgiving
December	18	Last Day - Second Quarter
Dec / Jan	21-01	Winter Break
Third Quarter Days 48		
January	04	First Day - Third Quarter
January	18	Martin Luther King Day
February	15	Presidents Day
March	12	Last Day - Third Quarter
March	15-19	Spring Break
Fourth Quarter Days 49		
March	22	First Day - Fourth Quarter
March	26	Spring Holiday
May	26	Graduation
May	28	Last Day - Fourth Quarter
Instructional Days 182		
School Events		
August	Parent Academy	
September	Fall STEM Night / Open House	
February	Spring STEM Night / Open House	

Teacher Start/End Dates				
August	03	Teachers Start Date		
June	04	Teachers End Date		
In-service - No Students		Days		
	All Staff In-service	5		
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	05-09	 March	08-12
	December	14-18	 May	24-28
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 -	October	05	2026
	100th Student Day -	January	25	2027

HOMEcoming 2026



CASINO NIGHT

SEPT 12TH



7 PM



SINGLES \$30

COUPLES \$55





NHS BLOOD DRIVE

✧ *Just one donation can save lives!* ✧

WHERE: HIGHLAND PREP FAB LAB
WHEN: SEPT 17 @ 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Sign up by scanning the QR code below!

