



HONEY BADGER BULLETIN

HIGHLAND PREP'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

Page 4

HOME GAMES

Page 5

ATHLETICS UPDATE

Page 6

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Page 7

SENIOR CLASS UPDATES

Page 8

SEPTEMBER RECAP

Page 9

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Page 10

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Page 11

ACADEMIC CALENDAR



HOME OF THE HONEY BADGERS

ECAP Extravaganza: Planning Big for Bright Futures

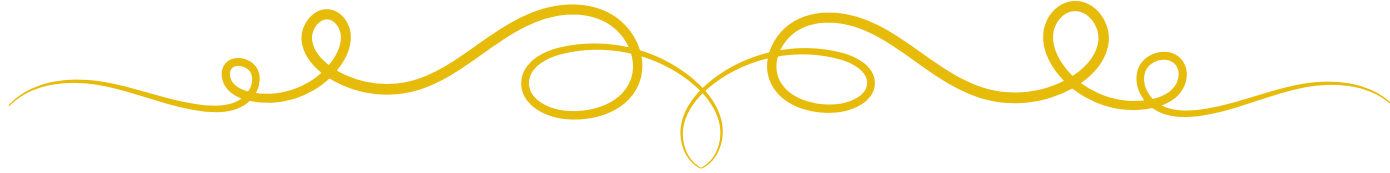
This October, Highland Prep students are kicking off the year with their Fall Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP) meetings, the first of three this school year, with more to come in February and April. In these meetings, every student builds a personalized four-year plan to explore colleges and careers, set goals, and get the most out of college acceptance and scholarship opportunities. A highlight this year is the new Major Map Decoder, which shows students exactly how their Highland Prep courses count toward a college degree. For example, a senior pursuing Biological Sciences at Northern Arizona University could arrive with 45 college credits already earned, saving about three semesters with \$0 spent in tuition. With 21 college-level courses on campus, including 14 AP and 7 Dual Enrollment classes through Embry-Riddle, Maricopa Community Colleges, and PLTW, students can earn up to \$10,000 in college credit before graduation.

There's even more ahead. Our Senior Internship program has doubled in duration, allowing our qualifying students to have the opportunity to participate in an internship and have twice the hands-on experience from a company of their choice. We have new courses in AP Business with Personal Finance, Welding and Fabrication, and Embry-Riddle Aviation, giving students real-world experience and a head start on their futures. ECAP meetings also help students understand their GPA and transcript, prepare for the SAT and ACT, and learn how activities, athletics, and community service help them stand out. That planning pays off: our Class of 2026 earned an incredible \$17 million in scholarships! Families, ask your student about their ECAP meeting, the goals they set, and the college major they explored. Together, we're building a future full of opportunity for every Highland Prep student.





MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Highland Prep Families,

It is hard to believe that the first quarter is quickly coming to an end! It has been an exciting and productive start to the school year, and I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of our students and staff.

One of the highlights of the quarter has been the opportunity for our upperclassmen to connect with colleges and universities from across the country. Representatives from a variety of institutions have visited campus to speak with our students about academic programs, career opportunities, admissions, and life after high school. Even more exciting, our seniors are beginning to receive college acceptance letters from colleges and universities across the country.

We are excited to celebrate their accomplishments and look forward to seeing where the Class of 2027 will continue their educational journeys.

I would also like to recognize our fall athletic programs for their hard work and dedication. A special shout-out goes to our Girls Volleyball and Girls Flag Football teams, who are having tremendous success this season. Please continue to come out, support our Honey Badgers, and show our student-athletes that their school community is behind them!

A huge thank you also goes to our Student Council and Booster Club for putting together an outstanding Homecoming Dance. These events take a tremendous amount of planning and effort, and we appreciate everyone who helped make the evening memorable for our students.

Finally, I want to address an important student safety concern involving tardies and driving on campus. We have noticed that students who are running late are sometimes speeding through the school parking lot and surrounding campus areas in an effort to get to class on time. This creates an unnecessary safety risk for pedestrians, other student drivers, staff members, and visitors.

I strongly encourage parents and guardians of student drivers to have a conversation with their students about allowing enough time to arrive at school, following posted speed limits, and driving responsibly on and around campus.

Let's finish the first quarter strong and continue to demonstrate what it means to be a Honey Badger

Go Badgers!

Mr. Walker M.Ed.
Principal





UPCOMING EVENTS

October Events





UPCOMING EVENTS



October Events

Mandatory Attendance Week	October 5 – 9	ALL DAY
Visual Arts Showcase	Monday, October 5	5 PM
Finals	October 8 – 9	ALL DAY
Fall Break	October 12 - 16	ALL DAY
PSAT 8/9 (9th Grade)	Tuesday, October 20	ALL DAY
PSAT/NMSQT (10th/11th Grade)	Tuesday, October 20	ALL DAY
BOC's 2 nd Quarter	Thursday, October 22	ALL DAY
Trunk or Treat & Fall Festival	Wednesday, October 28	6 PM

Parent Events

Parent Workshop - Preparing FAFSA	Thursday, October 1	5 PM
Parent Workshop - Completing FAFSA	Tuesday, October 6	5 PM

Senior Events

PSAT/Asynchronous 12 th Grade	Tuesday, October 20	ALL DAY
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HOME GAMES



FOOTBALL

HP vs Tanque Verde	Friday 10/9	7 PM
HP vs Mountainside	Friday 10/16	7 PM



VOLLEYBALL

HP vs Tonopah Valley	Thursday 10/1	5 PM
HP vs Chino Valley	Wednesday 10/7	5 PM
HP vs Kingman	Tuesday 10/20	5 PM
HP vs River Valley	Thursday 10/22	5 PM



FLAG FOOTBALL

HP vs Highland Prep West	Thursday 10/1	6 PM
HP vs Madison Highland	Tuesday 10/6	6 PM
HP vs St. John Paul II	Thursday 10/8	6 PM
HP vs Palo Verde Magnet	Thursday 10/15	6 PM
HP vs Santa Rita	Tuesday 10/20	6 PM
HP vs River Valley	Thursday 10/22	6 PM





ATHLETICS UPDATE

FOOTBALL

Friday nights have been full of heart for the Highland Prep varsity football team this fall. The Honey Badgers opened the season in style with a 6-0 shutout win over Madison Highland, a defensive performance that set the tone for a hardworking group. Since then, the team has taken on some of the strongest programs in the 2A ranks, and every week has been a chance to grow, compete, and gain valuable experience. The players keep showing up with grit and determination, and that effort will pay off as the season moves forward. October brings two home games under the lights at 7:00 pm, on October 9 against Tanque Verde and October 16 against Mountainside. Come out, fill the stands, and show our team what Highland Prep pride looks like!



FLAG FOOTBALL

Highland Prep's varsity flag football team is bringing big energy to the field this fall. After a hard-fought opener against Arizona Lutheran that came down to a single point, the team bounced back with a 22-6 road win at Tuba City and a 21-14 victory at Heritage Academy Laveen. The team keeps improving every week and is ready to make a strong push in the 3A West. October brings a big home stretch, with five home games at 6:00 pm: October 6 against Madison Highland, October 8 against St. John Paul II, October 15 against Palo Verde Magnet, October 20 against Santa Rita, and October 22 against River Valley. The team will also compete in the Duel at Dusk Tournament on October 17. Come out, fill the stands, and cheer on our athletes!



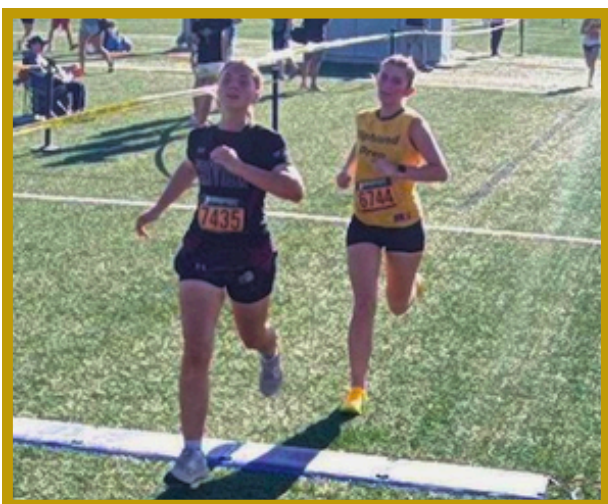
VOLLEYBALL

The Highland Prep varsity girls volleyball team, led by Coach Heinle, has had an exciting September. The highlight was a four-match win streak that included three straight sweeps of Madison Highland, Chino Valley, and Mohave, followed by a strong 3-1 win over Kingman. The team has also taken on some of the toughest programs in the state and keeps getting better every week. October brings a busy stretch of region play and a chance to climb the 3A West standings. Home matches are October 7 against Chino Valley, October 20 against Kingman, and October 22 against River Valley, all at 5:00 pm. The regular season ends October 28 with a matchup against Highland Prep West. Come out, pack the stands, and show your Highland Prep pride!



CROSS COUNTRY

Mile after mile, the Highland Prep cross country team has been putting in the work this fall. The Honey Badgers opened the season at the Western Equinox XC Invite in early September. They've since raced at the Fountain Hills Invitational, the Panther Invitational, and the Desert Twilight XC Festival, getting stronger with every course they take on. October is packed with chances to race, starting with the Epic Tourneys XC Invite on October 9, then the East Valley XC Invite on October 21 and the Talon Invite on October 24. All of that builds toward the AIA Sectional at Glendale on November 3, where our runners will look to finish the season strong. Cheer on our Honey Badgers as they chase new personal records this month!





STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



EMILY LOW
SENIOR

Highland Prep is proud to congratulate senior Emily Low on being named a National Merit Semifinalist, one of the most selective academic honors a high school student can earn.

Emily is a leader across our STEM programs. She is President of both the Botany Club and the RADC Aerial Drone team. She also competes in SeaPerch, building underwater robots, and in Zero Robotics, writing code for robots in space. She is also a member of the National Honor Society.

Emily plans to attend Arizona State University to major in Electrical Engineering. She's clearly on her way.



SOREN POWELL
SENIOR

Highland Prep is proud to congratulate senior Soren Powell on being recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program, one of the most selective academic honors a high school student can earn. Soren has also earned the AP Scholar Award from the College Board for strong performance on AP exams.

Soren is a leader both in and out of the classroom. Soren serves as President of the Scholarship Club and Vice President of the Engineering Club, and is also active in AP Business and a member of the National Honor Society.

Soren plans to major in Aerospace Engineering at either Arizona State University or Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.



KYRA PEARSON
SENIOR

Highland Prep is proud to spotlight senior Kyra Pearson, whose leadership reaches well beyond our campus.

Kyra serves as Lieutenant Governor of the White Tank Division for the Southwest District of Key Club International, and as Co-Chair of the district's Public Relations Committee. She served as a club officer last year, represented the district as an International Convention Delegate, and is a graduate of the Global Leadership Certificate Masterclass. She is also a National Honor Society member and an Erika's Lighthouse Ambassador, and runs her own small business on Depop.

Kyra is applying Early Decision to New York University to major in Political Science. Before then, she's looking forward to the Southwest District Convention and Kids Day at the Fair with Key Club.



SENIOR CLASS UPDATES



FAFSA

The 2027-28 FAFSA is open! Seniors and families should create their FSA IDs and file as early as possible, because many scholarships and grants are awarded first come, first served. Filing the FAFSA is the key to unlocking federal, state, and college financial aid. Need help getting started? Visit [College Ready AZ](#) for free FAFSA guides and support.

COMMON APP

If you're applying to schools through the Common App, now is the time to finish your personal statement, request letters of recommendation, and check each college's deadline. Many early deadlines fall on November 1 or November 15.

IN-STATE EARLY DEADLINES

Applying early to Arizona universities gives you the best chance at admission and merit scholarships. The University of Arizona's Early Action deadline is November 1, which gives priority consideration for admission, merit aid, and the Honors College. ASU and NAU also encourage early applications for the strongest scholarship consideration.

UPCOMING COLLEGE VISITS

College reps are coming to Highland Prep!

- Thursday, October 1, 8:30 am: University of Notre Dame
- Monday, October 19, 9:30 am: Arizona Christian University
- Monday, October 19, 6:00 pm: Rice University
- Monday, October 26, 10:30 am: Colorado School of Mines
- Friday, October 30, 12:30 pm: New Mexico State University
- Monday, November 16, 12:30 pm: University of Wyoming

College Trips

- Tuesday, October 27: Arizona State University (7:30 am to 3:00 pm)



SEPTEMBER RECAP

SPIRIT WEEK

Highland Prep went all in for Homecoming 2026 Spirit Week, and our Honey Badgers showed incredible school spirit from start to finish! The week kicked off on Tuesday, September 8, with a cozy PJ Day. On Wednesday, students played along with the card-themed week for Dress Like the Deck, coming to school as royals or numbers. Thursday's Poker Face Day brought out wigs, hats, and sunglasses, adding plenty of laughs and creativity to the halls. The week ended on a high note with Class Colors Day on Friday, as freshmen in yellow, sophomores in grey, juniors in white, and seniors in black filled the campus with color. Class Colors Day was the highlight of the week, capped off by an energetic pep rally that brought students and staff together to celebrate everything that makes Highland Prep special.

HOMECOMING

Highland Prep's Homecoming 2026 celebration came to a dazzling close on Saturday, September 12, with Casino Night! Just under 300 students and guests filled the dance floor for an unforgettable evening of music, dancing, and Vegas-style glamour, making it one of our biggest homecoming dances yet. The highlight of the night was crowning this year's Homecoming Court. Congratulations to Homecoming King Brandon Hillman and Queen Jayla Robles, Junior Prince Elijah Dobbs and Junior Princess Madison Lawrence, and Sophomore Duke Isaac Garcia and Sophomore Duchess Phoebe Johnson! Thank you to everyone who helped plan and support the event, and to all the students who came out to celebrate. It was the perfect ending to an amazing Spirit Week!

CAP AND GOWN PICTURE DAY

The countdown to graduation is officially on at Highland Prep! Our seniors recently stepped into their caps and gowns for Cap and Gown Photo Day, a milestone moment that made the dream of graduation feel real. Smiles filled the room as students posed for portraits that celebrate years of hard work, growth, and determination. These photos will become treasured keepsakes for students and families for years to come. It was a proud day for the Class of 2027 and for the whole Badger family, and we can't wait to see our seniors shine as they take the next steps toward walking across that stage in the spring!





ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

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

A: Since graduating from Highland Prep, I have been at Northern Arizona University for two years now, and I am starting my Senior year now. As soon as I got to college, I applied to and joined the NAU Green Fund, where I manage a \$1,000,000 fund distributed to sustainable projects, research, and events across NAU. As I serve on the committee, I have become President of the NAU Food Recovery Network (FRN), a member of the Student Alumni Advisor Board for FRN, a Campus Living Community Assistant, and an Honors Facilitator where I teach freshmen. Right now, life is a busy cycle of work, school, and family. I love how many side quests I can do and the opportunities I have gained here. Life is now consumed with Grad school applications, community service, and nature.

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

A: In high school, I was very active, participating in the Band Club and Seaperch Robotics and taking on leadership roles in Student Council, National Honor Society, and the Chief Science Officer program. My extensive engineering, environmental, and language classes gave me the technical and cultural competencies to succeed in my major. The leadership skills I gained at Highland Prep prepared me for the extensive verbal and written communication that comes with my everyday responsibilities for class facilitation, presentations, and research projects. Furthermore, the friends I made at Highland have been my lifelong connections, and my best friends from high school are still my best friends to this day. But I am here in college because I was well prepared for the application process, resume building, and building strong interpersonal relationships.

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: I would tell a current student to consider everything! Being a specialist in your field is very appealing to employers, but it is okay to have hobbies and a life outside of school. All of my extracurriculars and side interests have shown me what my true interests are. It's okay to try ideas and learn more about yourself before committing to a certain major or career. You will achieve what you set your heart out to do; sometimes the journey isn't a straight shot, and that is ok. Think about what you see yourself doing and start there, but being flexible is an important skill that you'll use throughout your whole life.



Makayla Harmon-McIntosh

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: I appreciate the small classroom and the flourishing opportunities to stand out from the crowd. I met a lot of people who went to bigger high schools for a better “experience”. I really appreciate having been someone who stood out and went for every opportunity I had, because now being 1 in 14,000 adults can make you feel small. I stand out now and go for what I want because I am used to a smaller setting. I got a lot more one-on-one learning in high school than I would have anywhere else.

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

A: I am especially proud of my research opportunity with the National Geographic Society, where I researched the local Flagstaff Rio De Flag watershed. This opportunity also let me work as a part-time program temp with the National Geographic Society SlingShot program. However, I'm proud to be the face of the Honors College fundraising efforts and to have been featured on the cover of NAU Thrive Magazine.

HIGHLAND PREP 2027-2028 OPEN ENROLLMENT



Incoming Freshman Open Enrollment Deadlines

Pre-Enrollment Period: September 1, 2026- November 27, 2026

Incoming Freshman must complete and submit the Intent to Enroll form to begin the enrollment process for the 2027-2028 school year. The Intent to Enroll form is located and can be submitted through the HP website at www.HighlandPrepAZ.org. The Intent to Enroll form is also available in the school office.

Enrollment Packets Due: Friday, December 18, 2026

Incoming Freshman must complete and submit the Enrollment Packet to secure enrollment in the Class of 2031. Enrollment Packets may be returned to the school office, via facsimile, or via email to: tcline@highlandprepaz.org.

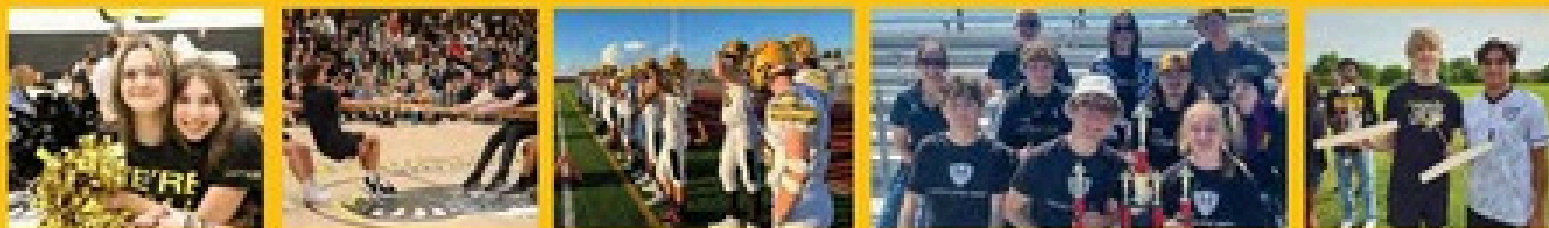
Placement Testing Date: Saturday, January 30, 2027

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 2027-2028 school year.

Course Registration Date: Saturday, February 27, 2027

Incoming Freshman must register for Fall 2027 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 2027-2028 school year.

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



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Highland Prep 2026-2027 Academic Calendar

July 0 S M T W T F S 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 16 S M T W T F S 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	September 21 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	October 7 10 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
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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
School Events		Instructional Days 182
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

Highland Prep
FAFSA
Parent Workshop

**October 1st
5-6pm**

Join us Thursday, Oct. 1st and/or Tuesday, October 6th to get hands-on support to complete the 2027-2028 FAFSA

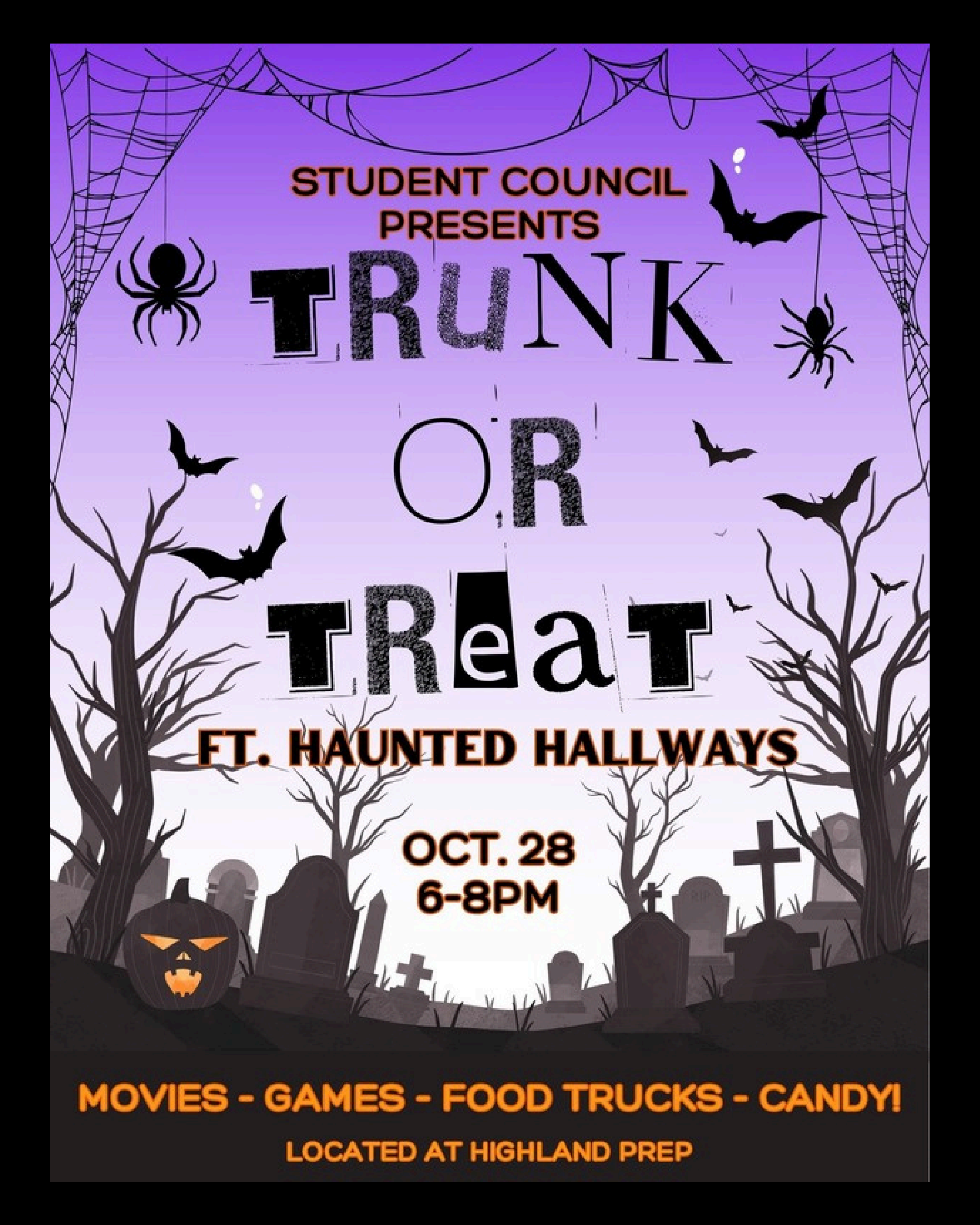
Please bring the following materials to make the application process as smooth as possible for you and your family.

Students

- Studentaid.gov account
- Social Security Number
- Current balance of cash, checking, and savings, account
- Net Worth of investments (if applicable)
- 2025 wages earned and tax info (if applicable)
- List of Schools you are considering

Parents

- Studentaid.gov account
- Marital status with month and year of marriage or seperation/divorce
- Current balance of cash, checking, and savings, account
- Net Worth of investments (if applicable)
- 2025 wages earned and tax info (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)



STUDENT COUNCIL
PRESENTS

TRUNK

OR

Treat

FT. HAUNTED HALLWAYS

**OCT. 28
6-8PM**

MOVIES - GAMES - FOOD TRUCKS - CANDY!

LOCATED AT HIGHLAND PREP