HIGHLAND
CARDINAL CONNECTION
Nurture • Explore • Soar

Highland Announces Valedictorian, Salutatorian

Highland High School announces the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2026: Faith Hoffman is the Valedictorian, and Addison Bedward is the Salutatorian.

Faith has been an outstanding student throughout her high school years, finishing with a high GPA and a long list of extracurricular accomplishments. When Faith was asked who she attributes her academic success in high school to, she said, "I credit my success in high school to my mom, Amanda Hoffman, for pushing me beyond what I thought to be my limits because she knew I could achieve more. She has always held my academic success to a high standard which carried over to me holding myself accountable. She has always believed in me for everything I do, and I couldn't be more thankful for her support." Faith is the daughter of Amanda and Tim Hoffman. Faith states that being involved in clubs and sports was the thing she enjoyed most about high school. She enjoyed this the most because these activities brought her close to many important people in her life. People who taught her many life skills that she uses all throughout her life now. A lesson that Faith has learned during high school is that you do not have to be friends with everyone, but you can always be kind. She learned that being a good person is far more important than being popular or successful. And that the better human you are, the more success that will follow you in your future. Faith plans to find much success in her future as she pursues a degree in Nursing. Her goal is to one day be a Nurse Practitioner in a NICU.

Addison Bedward, this year's Salutatorian, has been equally impressive over the past four years. Addison is the daughter of Katie and Derik Bedward. Addison also has a long list of extracurricular accomplishments to go with her scholastic achievement. When asked about her success in high school Addison said she is grateful to all of the teachers who were so approachable and answered every question she had. She stated that they took the time to make sure she understood the content, not just getting things done. She also believes her success came from all of the hard work she put into every class. When asked what advice she would give to Freshmen, Addison said, "Apply yourself to every opportunity that comes your way. Work hard in every class, because it all adds up. Lastly, it is important to enjoy high school so don't overwhelm yourself with too many things on your plate. " A lesson learned in high school that Addison feels will help her in her future is that every problem one faces will have a solution." Addison states that participating in so many activities throughout high school taught her very good time-manangement skills, and how to stay organized to get everything done. This lesson learned will serve her well as she heads to UW-Madison in the fall to pursue a double major in Finance and Marketing.

Mission: The Highland School District aspires to be a challenging and exciting school district in which students achieve personal responsibility, social maturity, and academic success.

The Highland School District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Faith Hoffman > **Valedictorian**



Addison Bedward > **Salutatorian**

Last Day for Students

The last day of school for students will be Friday, May 29th. Students will have a full day of school on that day.

Board Meetings

May 13, 6:00 p.m.

June 10, 6:00 p.m.

July 8, 6:00 p.m.

Meet the Class of 2026



Riley Anderson
Parents: Jason & Becky
Taking a few months off to work and hang out with buddies, then go to college for 2 years for photography and/or enter the trades.



Payton Bach
Grandson of Tom Stanek
He plans to join the Army after graduation.



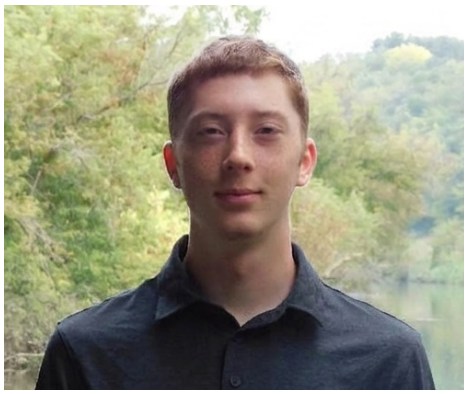
Addison Bedward
Parents: Derik & Katie
Attending the UW-Madison School of Business, where she plans to pursue a double major in finance and marketing.



Evan Bettner
Parents: Nicole (Todd) & Ross
He plans to farm after graduation.



Brinleigh Bollant
Parents: Brantly & Chantel
Attending UW-Platteville, she is still deciding between early childhood education or physical therapy.



Benjamin Ford
Parents: Benjamin & Tressie
He plans to join the military after graduation.



Caitlyn Fritsch
Parents: Robert & Victoria
Attending UW-Platteville for forensic investigation.



Sumaryn Halverson
Parents: Travis & Ginger
Attending UW-Oshkosh with a major in medical imaging and an emphasis in radiological science.



Cora Healy-Dougherty
Parents: Nicole (Troy) & Ryan
Attending UW-Platteville with a major in biology, then going on to continue my education to become a radiography technician.



Faith Hoffman

Parents: Tim & Amanda

Pursuing a degree in nursing, first two years at SWTC, later going on likely to UW-Madison to earn her doctorate to become a nurse practitioner that works in the NICU.



Hilary Hying

Parents: Curt & Barb

Attending SWTC to earn an associates degree in nursing, then continuing on at UW-Oshkosh to pursue advanced degrees with the goal of earning a Doctor of Nursing Practice.



Hunter Kelsey

Parents: Westley & Colleen

He plans to join the workforce after graduation.



Hailee Kohout

Parents: Phil & Kari

Grandparents: Steve & Joan

Attending UW-Madison to triple major in international business, finance, and Spanish to pursue a career in international investing.



Kelsi McGuire

Parents: John & Michelle

Attending a local college to major in animal science, and possibly furthering her education later on to become a large animal veterinarian.



Lucio Mondragon

Parents: Lucio & Claudia

Attending Project SEARCH at UW-Platteville, then joining the workforce.



Marcus Moore

Parent: Lindsay

Attending Project SEARCH at UW-Platteville to explore different jobs, possibly become an exterminator.



Javon Morales

Parents: Ryll & William

Attending UW-Platteville to study electrical engineering.



Trent Nankey

Parents: Steve & Leah

He plans to farm after graduation.



Cooper Oleson

Parents: Joel & Brooke

Attending UW-Platteville for health and human performance.



Emily Reilly

Parents: Michael (Sarah) & Kaitlyn

She plans to join the workforce after graduation.



Aaliyah Soto Wadel

Parents: Antonio & Amanda

Going to UW-Platteville for pharmacy.



Jack Tarrell

Parents: Jake & Lynn

Attending UW-Platteville for health and human performance.



Liam Thielorn

Parents: Tim & Tammy

Attending SWTC for automotive technician.



Tatum Thielorn

Parents: Tim & Tammy

Attending UW-Milwaukee to get a bachelors degree in architecture and urban planning.



Kaden Washa

Parents: Cole & Kristin

He plans to join the workforce after graduation.



Kolton Wehler

Parents: Terry & Jody

Attending SWTC for agricultural power.



Myles Welsh

Parents: Caleb & Terity

Working and possibly going to a trade school.



Koyer Zadrazil
Parents: Ben & Natasha
Working for Findorff with his dad.

HS Graduation
Saturday, May 23rd at 11:00 a.m.

8th Grade Promotion
Friday, May 29th at 8:00 a.m.

Last Day For Students
Friday, May 29th
The students will have a full day of school on that day.

Youth Apprenticeship Program

We would like to recognize our students who have been part of the Youth Apprenticeship program this year. The WI Youth Apprenticeship Program is part of a state-wide School-to-Work initiative. It is designed for high school students who want hands-on learning in an occupational area at a worksite along with classroom instruction. This year, we had three students participating in the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources career pathway: Evan Bettner, Trent Nankey, and Kelsi McGuire. Evan worked on Roum Farms, Trent worked for Nankey Farms, and Kelsi worked for McGuire Brothers Farm. Kaden Washa and Koyer Zadrazil held jobs in the Architecture and Construction career pathway. Kaden and Koyer worked for Melvin and Adam Kreul. Marcus Moore worked for Wal-Mart. He participated in the Marketing career pathway. Hilary Hying participated in the Health Science career pathway while working for Gunderson Boscobel Area Hospital. Fillback Ford in Highland employed Liam Thielorn as he participated in the Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics career pathway. Addison Bedward, worked for Foggy North, LLC. She focused on the Hospitality career pathway.

We also have students who have participated in other hands-on learning opportunities. We would like to recognize these students as well. There were four students who participated in Work Release: James Cleary, Lucio Mondragon, Emily Reilly, and Oliver Wolfe. James worked for Sandstone Land and Cattle. Lucio was employed by Mo's Bootleggers. Emily worked for Jumping Monkeys LLC, and Oliver worked for J&M Lumber.

These opportunities would not be possible without the support of local businesses. We are so grateful to the employers who have taken on our students and taught them so much. Thank you!

DAR Good Citizen Award

Hailee Kohout, a senior at Highland High School, was chosen to receive the DAR "Good Citizen Award" given by the Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter at Richland Center.

This is a very special honor; The student at Highland High School is chosen by the teachers and has demonstrated the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism. Hailee is the daughter of Kari McGuire and Phil Kohout and the granddaughter of Steve and Joan McGuire.

HIGHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT HONOR ROLL

Distinguished Honors: Grade point average 4.00 and above
High Honors: Grade point average 3.50 – 3.99
Honors: Grade point average 3.00 – 3.49

2nd QUARTER HONOR ROLL

GRADE 9

High Honors
Sadie Gates
Isaiah Pierick

Honors
Madison Aloisi
Trapper Hoffman
Bailey Kelsey
Bella Soto Wadeli

GRADE 10

High Honors
Samuel Biba
Adilyn Esser
William Fritsch
Ava Michek
Celia Oleson

Honors
Jana Buenacasa i Acosta
Elliza Kreul
Brady Nankey
Annabelle Smith

GRADE 11

Distinguished Honors
Marissa Biba
Sophia Tarrell

High Honors
Natalia Aguirre Mozaz
Lily Tarrell

Honors
Hailey Albarran
Hayden Albarran
Natalie Breiwa
Emily Laufenberg

GRADE 12

Distinguished Honors
Addison Bedward
Cora Healy-Dougherty
Faith Hoffman
Hilary Hying
Hailee Kohout
Kelsi McGuire

High Honors
Brinleigh Bollant
Caitlyn Fritsch
Sumaryn Halverson
Marcus Moore
Javon Morales
Jack Tarrell
Tatum Thielorn

Honors
Lucio Mondragon
Cooper Oleson

HIGHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT HONOR ROLL

Distinguished Honors: Grade point average 4.00 and above
High Honors: Grade point average 3.50 – 3.99
Honors: Grade point average 3.00 – 3.49

3rd QUARTER HONOR ROLL

GRADE 9

High Honors
Sadie Gates
Isaiah Pierick

GRADE 10

Distinguished Honors
Celia Oleson

High Honors
Samuel Biba
Adilyn Esser
William Fritsch
Ava Michek

Honors
Parker Brown
Jana Buenacasa i Acosta
Elliza Kreul
Brady Nankey
Annabelle Smith

GRADE 11

Distinguished Honors
Marissa Biba
Sophia Tarrell

High Honors
Natalia Aguirre Mozaz
Hailey Albarran
Natalie Breiwa
Emily Laufenberg
Lily Tarrell

Honors
Hayden Albarran

GRADE 12

Distinguished Honors
Addison Bedward
Faith Hoffman
Hilary Hying
Hailee Kohout
Kelsi McGuire

High Honors
Brinleigh Bollant
Caitlyn Fritsch
Cora Healy-Dougherty
Marcus Moore
Cooper Oleson
Jack Tarrell
Tatum Thielorn

Honors
Payton Bach
Sumaryn Halverson
Lucio Mondragon
Javon Morales
Trent Nankey
Emily Reilly
Aaliyah Soto Wadel

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Dear Community Members,

I am writing to share with you the meaningful work happening across our district as we continue to shape the future of education through our "Portrait of a Graduate." This vision is more than a framework, it is a promise that we will do our best to prepare every student not only for academic success, but for life beyond our classrooms.

At the heart of our work is a commitment to building strong, authentic relationships between students, families, educators, and the business community. Through our Youth Options Program, our Academic and Career Planning (ACP), and our Senior Exit Projects (SEP), we are intentionally creating opportunities for students to connect with businesses, gain real world experience, and begin to understand what it means to contribute meaningfully to a workplace and a community. These partnerships are essential. They allow students to see fi rsthand how the skills they develop in school translate into the expectations and responsibilities of the workforce.

I have the privilege of speaking with many employers each year as they reach out to reference check our graduates. Without fail, the questions always come back to a few key qualities: Was the student respectful? Did they demonstrate a strong work ethic? What was their attendance record? These are not just checkboxes, they are reflections of character, responsibility, and readiness. They are also the very qualities we are working to instill in every student who walks through our doors.

Today's students are entering a world of expanding opportunities. Many are stepping directly into the workforce after high school, while others are earning up to 18 college credits before they graduate. Our responsibility is to ensure they are prepared for whichever path they choose, whether that be entering the workforce, the trades, enrolling in a technical school, or pursuing a four-year degree.

To do this, we are focusing on developing students who are resilient, responsible, and proactive. We want them to be confident in their abilities, proud of their work, and ready to adapt to the challenges they will inevitably face. Creativity, drive, and a sense of ownership over their learning are no longer optional; they are essential.

Our Portrait of a Graduate reflects these priorities. It guides our instruction, our partnerships, and our expectations. Most importantly, it reminds us that education is not just about what students know, but who they become.

We are proud of the work happening in our district, and we are grateful for the continued support of our families and community partners. Together, we are preparing students not just for their first job or their next step, but for a lifetime of success and contribution.

Thank you for being part of this important work.

Sincerely,

Josh Tarrell
Superintendent/Principal
Highland School District

Summer EBT

If your child(ren) qualify for free or reduced price meals this school year, they are also eligible to receive Summer EBT benefits for this upcoming summer. Summer EBT provides funds for each eligible child to help with costs of food during the summer months. To learn more about this program, to update your contact information, or to opt out of receiving these benefits visit https://schoolpebt.wi.gov/s/SummerBenefitInfo

First Grade & High School Collaboration

Throughout the school year, Mrs. Rusch's first graders have participated in several collaborative projects with the high school Environmental Education and Agriculture classes.

In October, students collected seeds from our school's butterfly garden, and Mr. Moelling and his Ag Science students helped us cold-stratify them. In December, we met again to plant the seeds. In February, Horticulture and Landscaping students returned with our growing milkweed plants, which the first graders were excited to see thriving!

In another project, Ms. Whitaker's Environmental Education class visited to read a book about the life cycle of a pumpkin. Both classes then conducted their own **Pumpkin Jack** experiments. Later, we met again to check the pumpkins' progress and discuss what we observed as they decomposed and sprouted again.

Multiage experiences like these are one of the many reasons our small school is so special! They foster leadership, kindness, and authentic learning for both our youngest students and their "big kid" mentors.













A Note from the Music Department

Pops Concert

March 9 was our annual Pops Concert put on by the middle school and high school bands and choirs. Some tunes that were performed include *Thank You for Being a Friend, Old Time Rock and Roll, Black Adam,* and *Star Wars Saga.*



Solo/Ensemble

On March 21, several of our middle school and high school students attended Solo/Ensemble festival at River Ridge. What a wonderful day! A big round of applause to Natalie Breiwa, Vayda Havlik, Hailee Kohout, and Lily Tarrell who earned a *1 on their solos which advances them to the state level! They will perform at UW-Platteville on April 25. Way to go, ladies!

A special thank you to Connie Cody for accompanying our choir students. We appreciate all that you do!

Congratulations to all of our musicians! We are so proud of you!





MIDDLE SCHOOL RESULTS

***1st Place**

Vayda Havlik: Clarinet Solo

1st Place

Taylin Bollant-Dilley: Flute Solo
Laney Gates: Flute Solo
Finley Kalmerton: Vocal Solo
Bella Ortiz: Vocal Solo
Sofie Ramel: Vocal Solo
Mason Washa: Vocal Solo
Laney Gates and Taylin Bollant-Dilley: Vocal Duet
Vayda Havlik and Mason Washa: Vocal Duet
Bella Ortiz and Tessa Yanochik: Flute/Clarinet Duet
Aidan Tassoul and Ryal Bomkamp: Vocal Duet
Tessa Yanochik and Bella Ortiz: Vocal Duet

2nd Place

Taylin Bollant Dilley: Vocal Solo
Miles Bomkamp, Ryal Bomkamp, Aidan Tassoul, Mason Washa: Vocal Quartet

3rd Place

Patrick Fritsch: Piano Solo

HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

***1st Place**

Natalie Breiwa: Flute Solo
Hailee Kohout: Vocal Solo
Lily Tarrell: Musical Theatre Solo

1st Place

Hallie Amideo: Vocal Solo
Caitlyn Fritsch: Vocal Solo
Kayla Ford: Vocal Solo
Sadie Gates: Vocal Solo
Alfred Music: Vocal Solo
Lily Tarrell: Classical Vocal Solo
Sophia Tarrell: Vocal Solo
Tatum Thielorn: Vocal Solo
Natalie Breiwa and Bella Soto Wadel: Flute/Clarinet Duet
Sadie Gates and Hallie Amideo: Vocal Duet
Tatum Thielorn and Bella Smith: Vocal Duet

2nd Place

Caitlyn Fritsch: Euphonium Solo
William Fritsch: Tuba Solo
Kayla Ford: Piano Solo
Sadie Gates: Trumpet Solo
Hailee Kohout: Trumpet Solo
Caitlyn Fritsch and Hailee Kohout: Vocal Duet
Hailee Kohout and Tatum Thielorn: Trumpet/Clarinet Duet

Upcoming Events

- **April 25:** State Solo/Ensemble at UW-Platteville
- **May 6:** MS/HS Large Group Festival at Belmont
- **May 18:** MS/HS Band & Choir Concert at 7:00pm
- **May 21:** Elementary Spring Program at 2:00pm and 6:00pm

News from the Greenhouse

While many students were just getting back into the swing of school this year in early September 2025, Agriculture students were already thinking ahead to spring. In fact, plants for the May 2026 Mother's Day Plant Sale were being selected before fall had even officially begun!

The semester one Ag Science class and the semester two Landscape and Horticulture class have been busy calculating soil quantities for pots and hanging baskets, placing orders for soil, fertilizer, containers, and other greenhouse supplies, and carefully planning for the months ahead. Recently students have been filing pots, mixing soil, sowing seeds for starter vegetables, and planting plugs and starters for annuals. Throughout the process, students have gained hands-on experience in greenhouse management. They've learned to identify common plant diseases and pests, as well as the proper methods for prevention and treatment.

As a member of agriculture classes each student also becomes a member of FFA, opening up opportunities for students to compete in multiple competitions, leadership events, and apply for state awards and degrees based on agricultural related projects inside and outside of school.

Please mark your calendars!

The community is invited to come out and support our students at the greenhouse, located behind the school, during the week **before** Mother's Day.

Annual Highland FFA Plant Sale
Saturday, May 2nd: 8:00am - 3:00pm | Greenhouse Behind School
Monday, May 4th- Friday May 8th: 3:30pm - 5:00pm Daily* | Please park in Elementary Lot at South end of School
Saturday, May 9th: 8:00am-12:00pm* | Greenhouse Behind School
* Subject to change, or until Sold Out. Please check school social media for updates.

Come find the perfect gift for Mother's Day while supporting the hard work, dedication, and education of our Agriculture students!









VetsRoll Fundrasier

Highland students helped kick off the annual Lone Rock American Legion Auxiliary fundraiser for VetsRoll.org. The Cupcake Girls presented a check for $4,310, enough to send five veterans on the trip, a few elementary students helped lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and seventh grader Sofie Ramel sang the National Anthem. Great job representing our school and honoring our veterans!







Field Trip Reminder

There are many upcoming field trips planned. Please be sure to check the weather, dress your student appropriately, and send a nutritious lunch if needed.

3 Year-Old Program

In the 2026-2027 school year we will be offering a play based 3-year-old program at Highland Community School. The program will run daily and follow the school calendar. There will be a cost associated with attending. Please call the district office if you have any questions or would like to be added to the enrollment list for the upcoming school year.

Summer Library

The elementary library will be open on Mondays from 4:00-6:00 during the summer. A read-a-loud will be shared each Monday at 4:30. Check out is available for all students.

Elementary & MS/HS Lost and Found

The lost and found collection is VERY full! A variety of sweatshirts, hats, sleds, etc have accumulated and need to find their homes! Items not claimed will be donated.

Highland Back to School Supplies 2026-27

The 2026-27 Highland school supply lists for elementary and middle school students can be found online by scanning this QR code or by visiting: tinyurl.com/mexphrph

Helen Farnsworth Mears Art Contest

Every year the Dodgeville Public Library and the Dodgeville Federated Woman's Club host the Helen Farnsworth Mears Art Contest in honor of the famous Wisconsin Sculptor. This contest is only for 7th and 8th grade students. This year Hunter Albarran, a 7th grader at Highland Schools, has not only placed in the local competition, but also at the next level in Deerfield, WI competing against over 10 other schools. His paper mache Greek vase will be competing in the state competition in Baraboo, WI on April 22-25. We look forward to seeing what this young artist can accomplish and we are very proud of his hard work.

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Dear Highland Families and Community Members,

I am writing to you today with both gratitude and reflection as we continue conversations about the future of our athletic programs, including the consideration of co-oping in certain sports.

First and foremost, I want to sincerely thank our families and community members who have supported our efforts. Your encouragement, your engagement, and your trust mean more than words can fully express. It is clear that we all share the same goal; to provide the very best opportunities we can for our students.

As we look ahead, co-oping presents possibilities that are difficult to ignore. With our current enrollment numbers and participation levels, it has become increasingly challenging to sustain some of our programs in the way our students deserve. A cooperative arrangement could open doors to additional sports offerings, giving more students the chance to participate, compete, and grow. It also provides opportunities for our student-athletes to build new relationships, experience different team dynamics, and represent their school in ways that may not otherwise be possible.

That said, I fully recognize that these decisions are not easy. For some families, this path may not feel like the right one for our students or our community. I understand those concerns, and I respect the deep pride and tradition that exist here. These are not decisions made lightly, and they never will be. No matter what direction we take, there will be a percentage of our community who feel we should never co-op, and another percentage who believe we should co-op and should have done so years ago. That reality is what makes the decisions so difficult.

I want to be very clear about something that will never change: I am incredibly proud to say that I am from Highland. I am proud of the countless accomplishments of our students, past and present, and of the traditions that have shaped this school and this community. If circumstances allowed, I would not change a thing. What we have built here is special, and will always be.

However, we must also face the realities before us. With declining numbers and reduced participation, doing nothing is not a sustainable option. Change is difficult, but it is sometimes necessary to ensure that our students continue to have meaningful and enriching opportunities.

Please know that every decision we make is guided by one central question: What is best for our kids? That will always remain our focus.

I will continue to be a proud alum of Highland, and I remain committed to moving our district forward in the best direction possible, with the greatest benefit for our students at the heart of every step we take.

Thank you again for your continued support and dedication to our school community.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Sincerely,

Josh Tarrell
Superintendent/Principal
Highland School District

Reminder

The end of the school year is quickly approaching and we would like to remind parents to have any unpaid fees and breakfast/lunch accounts brought up to date. Please remember that the breakfast/lunch program is a prepaid program. Families should not accrue more than 5 charges. You can check your family balance in the Infinite Campus Portal. Breakfast/lunch notices are sent via the Infinite Campus Portal.

2026 Hall of Fame & Distinguished Alumni Nominations

Hall of Fame and Distinguished Alumni nominations opened April 1, 2026. Please see Highland Community Schools website for more information.

Physicals for 2026-27 Sports

Reminder to all students: If you are planning on participating in sports next year, you need to schedule an appointment for a physical. Student-athletes will need to get a physical or have an alternate year card filled out **before** they are allowed to practice. Physical forms are available on the WIAA website or the Highland Schools website. It will be very hard to get an appointment, so try to schedule early. Get it done and turned in so it isn't forgotten. If you are not sure if you need a physical, call the high school office at 929-4525

For all **6th through 11th grade** students interested in participating in football or volleyball next year, grades at the end of this semester are very important. **The grade requirements apply to all 8th graders** becoming freshmen, as well as any high school student. It also applies to the **6th and 7th grade girls** interested in Middle School volleyball at the beginning of the school year. Each student is responsible for making sure that they have **at least 3 C's and no F's** for their **2nd semester grades.** Do not look at the fourth quarter grades to determine if you are eligible. The WIAA requires that schools use the last grading period to determine your eligibility. It is very important for our students to continue their hard work in all classes to guarantee that they will be successful, and if interested in sports, be able to participate from the first day of practice next fall. Please remind your student(s) that now is the perfect time to begin thinking about next school year!

Sports Dates to Remember

Parent/Athletic meeting – H.S. Gym 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 28th. **Required for all MS & HS (incoming 6-12) athletes and parent(s).**

Following above meeting there will be a meeting for all Volleyball and Football parents.

August 4 - Football practice starts

August 17 - Volleyball practice starts

Physicals Offered at School

UHH will once again provide sports physicals at the school for students entering grades 6-12 planning to play sports. No appointment is needed. Physicals will be conducted on Tuesday, June 2nd from 1:00-4:00. The cost is $30.00 and they accept cash or checks only.

Immunization Reminder

Students entering 5K, 7th, and 12th grade have required immunizations due prior to school entrance. You may call the Iowa or Grant County Health Departments to make an appointment. If your child has health insurance, vaccinations need to be done by your health care provider/clinic. The Health Departments are no longer able to provide immunizations to those with coverage. If your child is covered by BadgerCare/Medicaid, or are uninsured, then you may receive immunizations at the Health Departments. A letter was mailed home informing you of what vaccination(s) your child needs. Any questions, please contact Sharon Frederick, school nurse, at 929-4525.

SPORTS AWARDS

WRESTLING



All-Conference

L-R: Colton Williams - Honorable Mention, Maria Schafer - 2nd Team, Ty Cutts - 2nd Team, Griffin Wineski - 1st Team, Jaxon Busse - 1st Team, Rohwen Aultman - 1st Team, Tanner Degenhardt - 1st Team, Oliver Christiansen - 1st Team, Brock Hinderman - 1st Team, and Trapper Hoffman - 1st Team.

Team Awards

L-R: Colton Williams - Hardest Worker
Jaxon Busse - Most Valuable Wrestler
Trapper Hoffman - Most Valuable Freshman
Brock Hinderman - Steve Hoffman Dedication Award
Griffin Wineski - Most Improved





Letterwinners

L-R: Colton Williams, Jaxon Busse, Blake Schauff, Cole Schauff, Ty Cutts, Max Kelley, Oliver Christiansen, Tanner Degenhardt, Trapper Hoffman, Brock Hinderman, Braden Vacha, Hayden Aultman, Griffin Wineski, Maria Schafer, and Rohwen Aultman

BOYS BASKETBALL



All-Conference

Kaden Washa - 2nd Team
Jack Tarrell - 1st Team and Sportsmanship Team



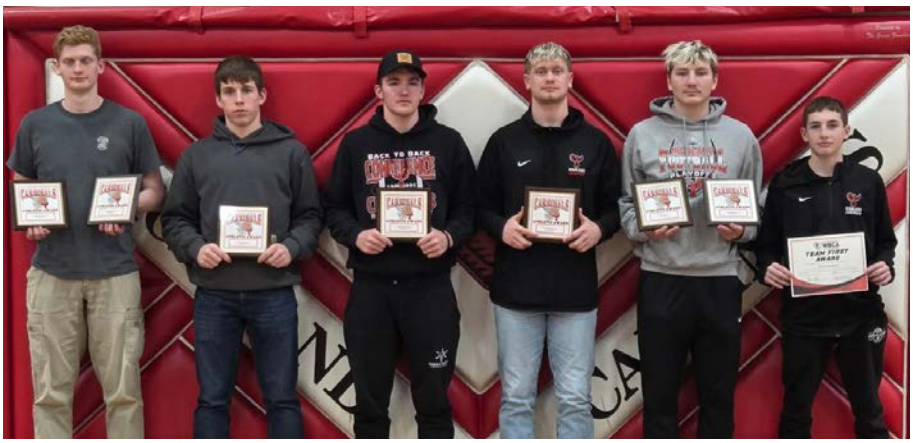
Academic All-State

L-R: William Fritsch, Isaiah Pierick, Jack Tarrell



Letterwinners

L-R: William Fritsch, Brady Nankey, Liam Thielorn, Koyer Zadrazil, Bryce Bedward, Jack Tarrell, Arthur Hay, Isaiah Pierick, Cooper Oleson, Kaden Washa



Team Awards

L-R: William Fritsch - Most Improved and Scout Player of the Year
Brady Nankey - Most Improved
Kaden Washa - Defensive Player of the Year
Cooper Oleson - Coaches' Award
Jack Tarrell - Most Valuable Player and Offensive Player of the Year
Bryce Bedward - Team First Award

SPORTS AWARDS

GIRLS BASKETBALL



All-Conference

L-R: Brinleigh Bollant - Honorable Mention, Celia Oleson - Honorable Mention, Sophia Tarrell - First Team and Sportsmanship, Adilyn Esser - First Team, Addison Bedward - Second Team



Team Awards

L-R: Brinleigh Bollant - Defensive Player of the Year, Lily Tarrell - Most Improved, Adilyn Esser - Most Valuable Player, Offensive Player of the Year, Addison Bedward - Coaches' Award, Hailee Kohout - Team First Award



Letterwinners

L-R: Hailee Kohout, Caitlyn Fritsch, Lily Tarrell, Celia Oleson, Ava Michek, Adilyn Esser, Brinleigh Bollant, Sophia Tarrell, Marissa Biba, Addison Bedward, Emily Laufenberg



Academic All-State

L-R: Hailee Kohout, Caitlyn Fritsch, Lily Tarrell, Celia Oleson, Ava Michek, Adilyn Esser, Brinleigh Bollant, Sophia Tarrell, Marissa Biba, Addison Bedward, Emily Laufenberg

Drivers Ed Program

The classroom portion of the Driver Ed program has been incorporated into our summer school. This allows the District to receive additional state aid, so the district will cover the $130.00 student fee for the 30 hours of classroom training. If your son/daughter will be 14 by June 1, 2026, he/she is eligible to attend the course. Older students are also welcome.

The Driver Education course will be held June 1 through June 19 Monday through Friday from 12:30-2:30. If you have questions, please contact the school or Mrs. Halvorson at ahalvorson@highland.k12.wi.us.

Please see the information below regarding the Act 86 Driver Education Grant.

DMV Driver Education Grant Program Launch – April 13, 2026

Who is eligible for the grant:

- Students ages 14.5–17
- Students who are receiving free and reduced lunch or eligible to receive free and reduced lunch.

The grant covers the full cost of both the Driver Education Theory and Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) courses. The total cost for both courses is $520 if paying out of pocket.

Students, parents, and anyone interested in receiving a notification closer to the launch date can sign up using their email through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Driver Education Grant Program.

Please note that the grant is available on a first-come, first-served basis, so it is important to apply as soon as it opens on April 13, 2026.

If you receive the grant, follow these steps to use it:

1. Receive a confirmation email with "coupon" codes for the courses
2. Share the coupon codes with a licensed driving school to cover course fees (For SWTC these will be asked for at the time of registration or before you will be fully registered.)
3. The driving school will use the codes for reimbursement

If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Leffler, SWTC Driver's Ed Coordinator, at 822-2466 or driversed@swtc.edu

Summer 2026 Driver's Education at SWTC

There will be one session of driver education this summer for Highland HS. Classes are Monday - Friday, starting Monday, June 1st - Friday, June 19th, from 12:30-2:30pm. You can miss one day, if necessary, but it needs to be made up. **All** registrations are to be completed **prior** to the first day of class via our website. Use this QR code or vist: tinyurl.com/z67m3a96

Students who are not registered **prior** to the first day of class will **not** be allowed to attend.

Driver Education Program Requirements and Information

- If you miss more than one day you must drop the class.
- Thirty hours of classroom instruction. **Attendance is mandatory** for the entire class and 30 hours of instruction.

Behind the Wheel Information

- $60.00 is charged for any missed driving lessons.
- Driving instruction will begin after the behind-the-wheel fee of $400 is paid
- There will be 6 driving appointments, each 2 hours long
- **Permit applications** will be distributed to students by Mr. Buchholz after payment of behind-the-wheel fee
- Mr. Buchholz will schedule driving lessons for all eligible students.
- **Completion Certificates** will be electronically submitted to the DMV once students are completed with both classroom and behind-the-wheel phases of Driver Education.

If none of these dates or times are convenient for you, there is an on-line course available that meets the classroom state requirements. The fee for the class is $130.00 with an additional fee of $400.00 for behind-the-wheel instruction.

Please contact the Driver's Ed Coordinator, driversed@swtc.edu for more information



MAY 2026

www.highland.k12.wi.us

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				30 HS Gym Closed	**1** HS Gym Closed SB at Potosi/ Cassville 5:00 BS at Potosi/ Cassville 5:00	**2** Prom Dance - 8:00-11:30 Grand March-8:30 Post Prom-11:30-1:00
3	**4** SB-H-River Ridge 5:00 BS-H-River Ridge 5:00	**5** SB at Barneveld 5:00 BS at Barneveld 5:00	**6** Large Group Festival at Belmont	**7** Creativity Expo TBA	**8** Creativity Expo Early Release-4K-10 12:30 BS-H-Belmont 5:00 SB-H-Belmont 5:00	**9**
10	**11** SB at Benton/ Shullsburg 5:00 BS at Shullsburg/ Benton 5:00	**12** SB-H-Argyle/ Black Hawk 5:00 BS-H-Argyle/ Black Hawk 5:00 MS Track at Lancaster 4:00	**13** School Board Meeting 6:00 Book Fair & K-12 Art Fair 3:30-6:30	**14** Book Fair & K-12 Art Fair 3:30-6:30 MS Track at Platteville 4:00	**15** Academic Awards and Pride Day SB-H-Juda/ Albany 5:00	**16** BS at Riverdale 9:00 am
17	**18** MS/HS Band/ choir Spring Concert 7:00	**19** SB at Monticello/ New Glarus 5:00 BS at Monticello/ Albany 5:00	**20**	**21** Elementary Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal-2:00 Concert-6:00 MS Track at Richland Center 4:00 SB Regionals	**22** 5K Graduation 8:15 am	**23** High School Graduation 11:00
24	**25** NO SCHOOL-Memorial Day	**26** SB Regionals	**27**	**28** SB Regionals BS Regionals	**29** Last Day for Students 8th Grade Promotion 8:00 am	**30**
31						

JUNE 2026

www.highland.k12.wi.us

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Teacher Work Day Drivers Ed 12:30-2:30	**2** Professional Development UHH Sports Physicals 1:00-4:00 Drivers Ed 12:30-2:30 SB Sectionals BS Regionals	**3** Teacher Work Day Drivers Ed 12:30-2:30 BS Regionals	**4** SB Sectionals Drivers Ed 12:30-2:30	**5** Drivers Ed 12:30-2:30	**6**
7	**8** Summer School 8:00-12:00 STEM 3rd-5th 12:00-4:00 Drivers Ed 12:30-2:30	**9** Summer School 8:00-12:00 STEM 3rd-5th 12:00-4:00 Drivers Ed 12:30-2:30 BS Sectionals	**10** Summer School 8:00-12:00 STEM 3rd-5th 12:00-4:00 Drivers Ed 12:30-2:30 State SB School Board Meeting 6:00	**11** Summer School 8:00-12:00 STEM 3rd-5th 12:00-4:00 Drivers Ed 12:30-2:30 State SB	**12** Summer School 8:00-12:00 STEM 3rd-5th 12:00-4:00 Drivers Ed 12:30-2:30 State SB	**13** State SB
14	**15** Summer School 8:00-12:00 STEM K-2nd 12:00-4:00 Drivers Ed 12:30-2:30 State BS	**16** Summer School 8:00-12:00 STEM K-2nd 12:00-4:00 Drivers Ed 12:30-2:30 State BS	**17** Summer School 8:00-12:00 STEM K-2nd 12:00-4:00 Drivers Ed 12:30-2:30 State BS	**18** Summer School 8:00-12:00 STEM K-2nd 12:00-4:00 Drivers Ed 12:30-2:30 State BS	**19** Summer School 8:00-12:00 STEM K-2nd 12:00-4:00 Drivers Ed 12:30-2:30	**20**
21	**22** Summer School 8:00-12:00	**23** Summer School 8:00-12:00	**24** Summer School 8:00-12:00	**25** Summer School 8:00-12:00	**26** Summer School 8:00-12:00	**27**
28	**29**	**30**				

Highland School District
1030 Cardinal Dr.
Highland, WI 53543

The Cardinal Connection is published by Highland Community Schools. Available in alternative formats by request.

Coming in the next issue:



- Back to School Info
- Prom 2026



Have a great summer!

Summer School 2026

Highland Summer School will be held June 8-26 from 8:00-12:00 daily for all students in grades 4 year old Kindergarten thru grade 5. STEM Academy will be 3rd -5th June 8-12 from 12:00-4:00 and K-2nd June 15-19 from 12:00-4:00. Information on summer school will be sent home with students. Summer school classes will incorporate reading, math, arts, games, activities, projects and much more. Return your registration forms early to save your spot! You will want to be part of the action! Questions? Contact Jean Pierick at 929-4525.

Highland 7th Annual STEM Academy

This year's theme: Project Lead the Way!

Hosted by Mrs. Bowen and Mrs. Pierick

- **June 8-12, 2026 (Monday-Friday)**
  Grades 3-5: 12:00 - 4:00
  (following regular summer school)
- **June 15-19, 2026 (Monday- Friday)**
  Grades K-2: 12:00 - 4:00
  (following regular summer school)



Class of 2027

Please make sure to get your senior pictures taken this summer. The yearbook staff needs them in September. Remember, the photographer needs time to edit them and get them back to you.