



## **December 14, 2020-Update from Highland High School**

HHS Families,

We hope your family is doing well and staying healthy as the holidays are almost here. Students and staff are continuing to work hard during the final full week of the semester. As always, please contact the HHS office with any questions, feedback, or concerns. We wish your family a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and a blessed holiday season! Here are a few notes as we finish the term.

- ❑ **Thursday, December 17 is a PLC Day** at HHS and students can leave school at 11:22 am after 5th hour, or stay for study hall or tutoring. Students with missing work or assignments should stay in the Commons or with their homeroom or classroom teacher to work on improving grades before the semester ends. Buses run at the normal 12:35 pm dismissal.
- ❑ **The last day of regular classes will be Fri., Dec. 18th with optional Final Exams on Mon., Dec. 21 and Tues., Dec. 22.** Students are not required to attend on Dec 21 and 22 unless they are taking an exam or still need to complete required work or missing assignments. As a reminder, students resume classes on Wednesday, January 6, 2021.
- ❑ **Should your student take Final Exams?** Exams are encouraged, but optional in most cases. Students may take final exams for the experience and to potentially improve semester grades. See the link for the [Final Exam Calculator](#) to help review grades going into finals next week. A reminder that teachers may continue to enter grades this entire week and into the weekend. If a student is in doubt about a final grade before exams begin, the student should take the exam to be on the safe side. Please read the documents at the end of the letter for more [Final Exam](#) info.
- ❑ See the [FINAL EXAM TIPS VIDEO](#) created by HHS Counselors for some feedback on how to prepare for upcoming exams.

Educationally Yours,



Dr. Chris Becker  
Principal

Mr. Caleb Houchins  
Associate Principal

Ms. Amy Boscolo  
Assistant Principal/Athletics

**Semester I Final Exam Info- Final Exams are OPTIONAL in most cases.**

<b><u>Monday, December 21: Red Day Exams</u></b>	Hours 1, 2, 6, 7
<b><u>Tuesday, December 22: Black Day Exams</u></b>	Hours 3, 4, 5, 8th Hour Make-Up Exams
<b><u>Tuesday, January 5, 2021: Make-Up Exams</u></b>	By Appointment 8:00 am -3:00 pm

**Rationale:** Highland High School recognizes Final Exam adjustments are necessary to support students and staff during COVID-19 as we navigate learning with in-person, remote, and quarantined learners. Previous Final Exam exemption criteria for Juniors and Seniors associated with *Attendance, Grades, and the SAT Exam* are no longer appropriate as both teachers and students deal with the challenges of teaching, learning, and assessment during a pandemic. Although we hope to administer Final Exams on December 21st and 22nd, further adjustments may be necessary due to extenuating circumstances related to COVID-19. Due to these factors, Final Exams for 9-12 grade students are encouraged, but considered optional in most cases.

**Final Exam Format:**

- ❖ Final Exams for 9-12 grade students are encouraged, but considered optional in most cases.
- ❖ Final Exams take place Dec 21 and Dec 22 with the Regular [HHS Schedule](#)
- ❖ Students are only required to attend class on Dec 21 and Dec 22 if a Final Exam is taken
- ❖ Final Exams may be required for certain AP, Dual Credit (SWIC and SLU), Collinsville Vocational, PLTW, and other classes per teacher and course expectations.
- ❖ End of term course activities taken prior to or during finals may include cumulative and/or chapter tests, semester reviews, projects, skills assessments, portfolios, writing samples, course summary, reflection activities, etc.
- ❖ Students taking an OPTIONAL Final Exam can improve their overall grade, but not lower it
- ❖ Grading for Students Taking Final Exams: Qtr. 1 & Qtr. 2 40% each, Final Exam 20%
- ❖ Grading for Students Not Taking Final Exams: Qtr. 1 & Qtr. 2 each count 50%
- ❖ Remote Learners are encouraged to take Final Exams in-person when possible
- ❖ Students are required to take Final Exams on scheduled days
- ❖ Link for [Electronic Device](#) Info during exams
- ❖ Link for [Final Exam Calculator](#)



## DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10/15/2020	30	1 Black	2 Red	3 Black PLC Day	4 Red	5
6	7 Black	8 Red	9 Black	10 Red	11 Black	12
13	14 Red	15 Black	16 Red	17 Black PLC Day	18 Red	19
20	21 Red Exams 1,2,6,7	22 Black Exams 3,4,5,8	23 No School	24 No School	25 Christmas No School	26
27	28 No School	29 No School	30 No School	31 No School	1	2

## JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 11/10/20	28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2
3	4 No School	5 Teacher Institute	6 Return to Class Red	7 Black	8 Red	9
10	11 Black	12 Red	13 Black	14 Red	15 Black	16
17	18 M.L. King Day No School	19 Red	20 Black	21 Red	22 Black	23
24	25 Red	26 Black	27 Red	28 Black PLC Day	29 Red	30
31	1 Black	2 Red	3 Black	4 Red	5 Black	6



# Winter Dress Up Week

MAD ABOUT PLAID MONDAY



TOO TIRED TUESDAY

WHAT HOLIDAY IS IT? WEDNESDAY



TREE TOPPER AND TINSEL TOES THURSDAY



**UGLY SWEATER**  
party

FESTIVE FRIDAY



**[Check out the links for info on the HHS website & social media](#)**

**[Highland CUSD #5](#) and [HHS Web Pages](#)**

**HHS Smartphone App- [Apple App Store](#) & [Google Play](#)**

**HHS Twitter- <https://twitter.com/HHSbulldogsIL>**

**HHS Twitter Athletics- <https://twitter.com/HHSBulldogAD>**

**HHS Facebook-<https://www.facebook.com/Highland-High-School-IL-501479483667441/>**

**Highland CUSD 5 Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/highlandcud5/>**

**HHS Counseling-**

**<https://sites.google.com/highlandcud5.org/hhs-school-counselors/counselor-info>**

**PowerSchool Login- <https://ps.highlandcud5.org/public/>**

**[Athletic Website](#), [FALL SPORTS](#), [WINTER SPORTS](#) & [SPRING SPORTS](#)**