

Welcome to Highland Park Middle School



8

Newcomer Handbook

Welcome to Highland Park

Welcome To Our Schools!



Dear Families:

Welcome to Highland Park Schools! We are thrilled to have you join our community. Moving to a new country and discovering a new community is an exciting journey, and we're here to make your transition into our schools as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

This handbook is filled with helpful information and resources to answer many of the questions you may have about our schools and community. We are dedicated to supporting both you and your child(ren), so please feel free to reach out to us with any additional questions or needs.

We are excited to welcome you and look forward to all the wonderful experiences we will share together as part of the Highland Park family!

Sincerely,

Amy Coppola

Supervisor of Educational Services

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District/School Information

Mission Statement

The mission of the Highland Park School District is to provide the community with the finest educational services through respect for diversity and commitment to collaboration, continuous improvement, and achievement of excellence.

Highland Park Public Schools

The Highland Park School District has four schools:

- Irving School (Pre-Kindergarten-1st Grade)
- Bartle Elementary School (Grades 2-5)
- Middle School (Grades 6-8)
- High School (Grades 9-12)

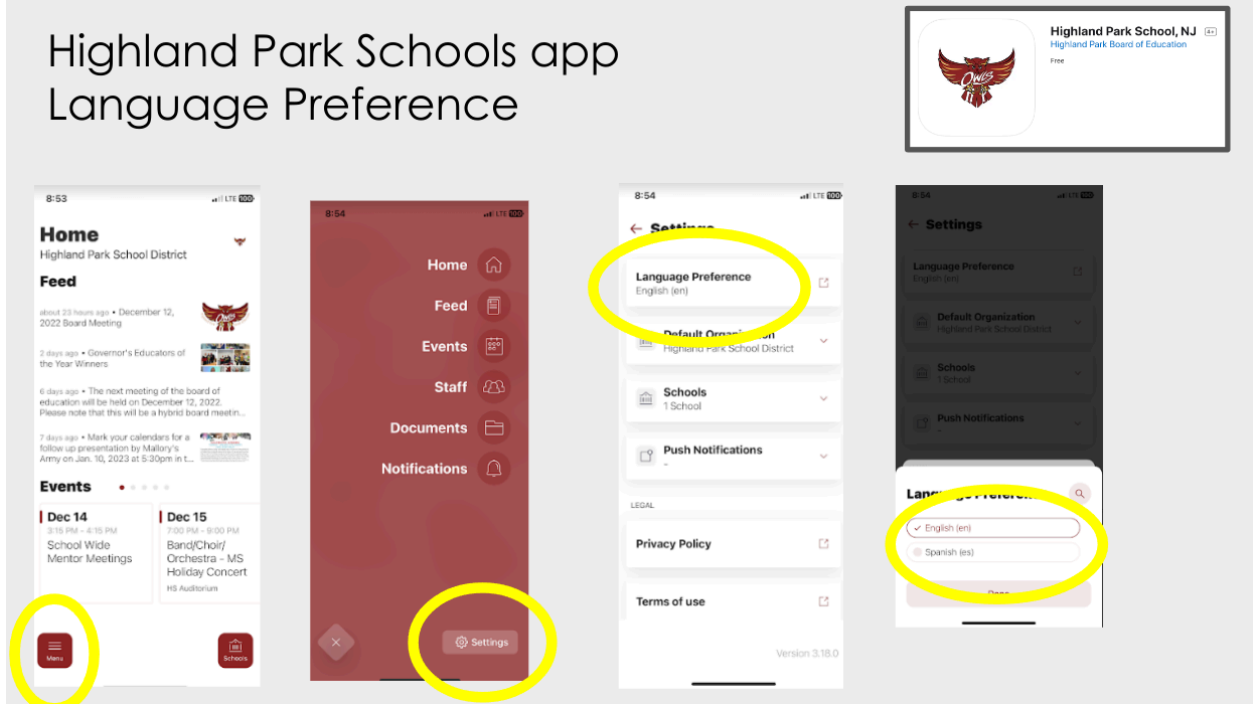


Download for updates:

Phone App:

- Download the Highland Park App
- Download for Android: <https://bit.ly/3gfCXCcr>
- Download for iPhone: <https://apple.co/3V9xr3e>
- Translate into 17 languages:

Highland Park Schools app Language Preference



Your child will be attending Highland Park Middle School

- Address: 330 Wayne Street, Highland Park, NJ 08904
- Phone number: 732-572-2401
- School website: <http://ms.hpschools.net/>
- School hours: All students should be in school by 8:10 a.m. and present in their homeroom by 8:12 a.m. Students are dismissed to go home at 3:00 p.m.



Attendance policy

Regular attendance is required for all students enrolled in the schools during the days and hours that school is in session, except for:

- illness/injury
- religious holidays as designated by the State of New Jersey
- court appearances
- death in the family
- school-related activities (field trips, competitions, and other school events)



To report your child's absence:

- Call the attendance hotline at 732-572-2401 extension 3002
- Or, you may send an email to Ms. Santiago msantiago@hpschools.net
- Please include your child's first and last name, grade, and the reason for his/her absence
- Genesis: <https://parents.c1.genesisedu.net/hpschools/sis>



Genesis Parent Portal

The Genesis Parent Portal is a safe and secure way to view your child's school record for the current school year. The website helps improve communication about student progress and attendance and allows the school and home to work together more closely to ensure student success.

Your email address will be your User Name for the system. You will be given a password by your child's school. You will need only one account to access all of your child/children's records, even if your children attend multiple schools in the district.

The Parent Portal can be accessed from the district webpage (hpschools.net). Click on Genesis and it will bring you to the log-in page.

HIGHLAND PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOME OF THE OWLS
435 Mansfield St, Highland Park, NJ 08904
Phone 732-572-2400

SCHOOLS FAMILY RESOURCES DISTRICT INFO DEPARTMENTS BOARD EVENT FLYERS PROGRAMS DIRECTORY

- Calendar 2019-2020
- Calendar 2018-2019
- Genesis
- Enrollment

The Latest News



Middle and High School World Language Program Concerns

Site 6, 2019 Board Meeting Talking Points (Dr. Taylor)

1. We chose Mandarin because a survey of incoming Grade 6, 7, 8 parents/guardians showed 72% felt Mandarin should be offered.
*Survey included only 45 respondents because we were in an urgent spot (we had to send out in July when we realized we were not going to be able to offer a second language to students), we wanted to offer a second language for the 2017-2018 so students would not be limited.
2. We cannot sustain a French program for the long term for the following reasons:

Dr. Taylor's World Language "Talking Points"

HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

How Changing Demographics, Rising Costs and the State's Disinvestment in Public Education Over the Last Decade is Impacting the District

The State's Disinvestment in Public Education

The Genesis Parent Portal is easily translated from the login page.

Website: <https://parents.c1.genesisedu.net/hpschools/sis>

How to Translate Genesis

Note: also works on a mobile device

Highland Park School District
Parent Access

User Name:

Forgot My Password

Select Language

- Afrikaans
- Albanian
- Anharic
- Arabic
- Armenian
- Assamese
- Aymara
- Azerbaijani
- Bambara
- Basque
- Belarusian
- Bengali
- Bhggpuri
- Bosnian
- Bulgarian
- Catalan
- Cebuano
- Chichewa
- Chinese (Simplified)
- Select Language

Powered by Google Translate

Highland Park's Genesis Student Information System. Send an email to the support team if you need support: hpgenesis@hpschools.net.

Summary Attendance **Grading** Discipline Fees And Fines Gradebook Scheduling Forms Conferences Letters School Information

SELECT STUDENT:

DAILY ATTENDANCE CLASS ATTENDANCE **NOTIFY OFFICE** PICKUP

Notify Attendance Office
You may only notify the attendance office about today and/or future dates.

-Student will be:

-On Date:

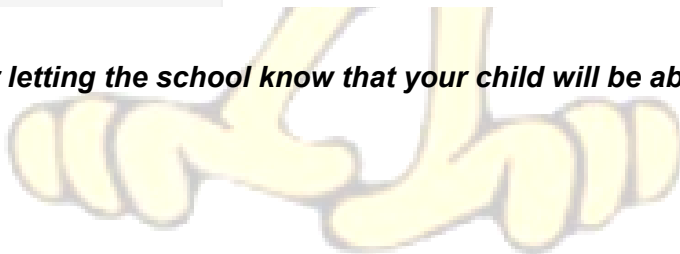
Up through and including (may leave blank):

-Check off each student for whom this pertains:

-Please leave a brief reason for the attendance request:

Submit to Office

Sample note for letting the school know that your child will be absent:



_____ (student's name) will be absent from _____
(date) to _____ (date) because he/she _____
(reason: celebrates _____ religious holiday; has doctor's appointment; needs to
attend a family event, etc.)
Parent's name _____ Date _____
Parent's signature _____

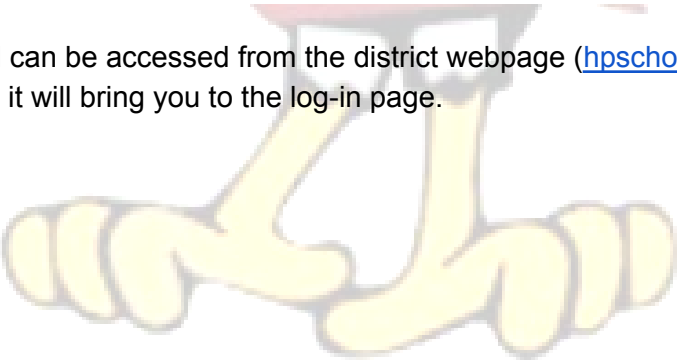
Leaving Early/Coming Late

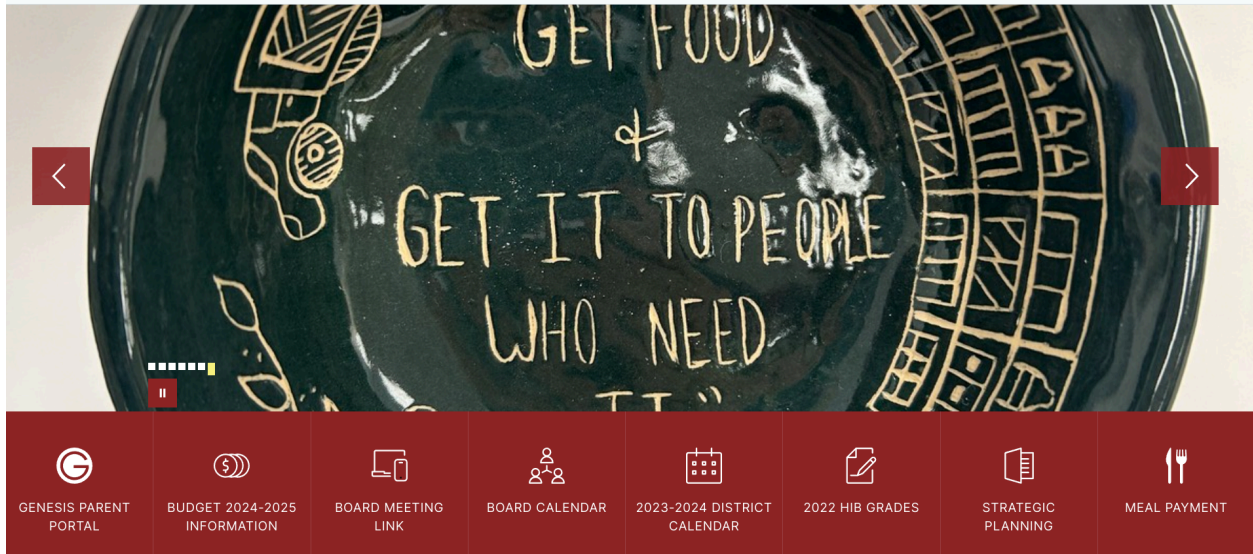
- If it becomes necessary for your child to leave school earlier than regular dismissal time or come in after the regular opening, a note must be sent to the main office.
- Students must be picked up (and signed out) or dropped off at the main office by parents/guardians or other designees.

Sample note for letting the school know that your child needs to leave early:

_____ (student's name) needs to leave at _____ (time) on
_____ (date) because he/she _____
(reason: has an immigration appointment; has doctor's appointment; needs to attend a
family event, etc.)
Parent's name _____ Date _____
Parent's signature _____

The Parent Portal can be accessed from the district webpage (hpschools.net). Click on Genesis Parent Portal and it will bring you to the log-in page.





Directions for the parent portal can be found on the ESL webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/33bcncpn>

Religious Holidays

- Students may miss school for important holidays but must give the school secretary an excuse note signed by a parent or guardian or email to Ms. Santiago. msantiago@hpschools.net

Emergency Closings and Delayed Openings

- If the school has to close early due to bad weather or another unexpected event, students will begin their classes at 8:10 a.m. and students will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m.
- If the school has to open late due to icy roads, dangerous amounts of snow, or another reason, then the classes will start at 10:17 a.m. and finish at 3:00 p.m.
- Please make sure that the school has your most recent phone number in case an early closing or a delayed opening is called by the superintendent.
- All parents will be informed about such events by an automated system that uses the phone numbers from Genesis (our district-wide student information system).
- Please talk to your child ahead of time about what he or she should do in case of a delayed opening or an early dismissal.



- **Early Dismissal 8:10am - 12:30pm**
- **Delayed Opening 10:17am - 3:00pm**

Transportation information

Bus Information

- Students who live on Cedar Lane, Forest Glen Drive, Maple Court, Walnut Court, Bartle Court, Leia Lane, Ethan Lane, Gabriel Lane, Ella Lane, L'Ambiance Court, and 433 River Road (Merriewood Community) are eligible for free bus services to school in the morning and from school in the afternoon.
- The bus company will be notified soon after you register your son or daughter in the Highland Park School District. About one week after the registration, you will receive a letter in the mail with the information that your child needs in order to take a bus to school.
- Please note that if your son or daughter needs to stay after school for homework help or to participate in a club or sport, you will need to make sure that someone can drive him/her home.



Walking, Biking, or Taking a Car

- Students can walk or bike to school.
- They can also be dropped off by car at the Middle School main entrance on 330 Wayne Street. Please plan on having your child arrive by 8:10 a.m.

Arrival

- All students should arrive to school by 8:10 a.m. and must enter the building through the main door (next to the main office).
- Students may go to their lockers before their first period class.
- All students must report to the first period class by 8:12 a.m. for daily announcements and attendance.
- Students who arrive to school earlier than 8:10 a.m. will be asked to wait in the cafeteria (across from the main office) or the gym (after the cafeteria on the right).



Dismissal

- All classes end at 3:00 p.m. Students can go to their lockers and then go home. Only students who are staying for scheduled activities such as sports or clubs are allowed to be in the building after 3:00 p.m.
- ***Please note that for the safety of our students, they are not allowed to leave the building during the school hours for any reason.*** Students may exit the building **only** if they are instructed to do so by one of the school staff members. This could happen during fire drills (practices in exiting our school building that are required by the state of New Jersey), outdoor school events, gym classes, etc.
- If there is a change in the way your child will be getting home (for example, in a car with a parent of another student instead of the bus), you must send a note to the main office or email Ms. Santiago at msantiago@hpschools.net to authorize the change.



Guidance and Class Schedule

- Every student at the middle school has his or her own class schedule. This schedule is created by one of the guidance counselors. Mr. Lo Bianco is the guidance counselor.
- The middle school has **eight periods** each day. Each student is scheduled for seven required classes and lunch. Required classes are math, science, social studies, language arts and/or ESL, physical education, makerspace (project and technology based class), and art. During the OWL period, students take band, choir, or orchestra. If your child tests out of ESL, he or she will study Spanish.
- The Highland Park Middle School bell schedule will be available on our website at www.hpschools.net
- In addition to creating a class schedule, the guidance counselor helps students with any difficulties that they might have with other students, in classes, or during lunch/recess.
- Mr. LoBianco is happy to talk to your son or daughter and help them find a good solution for their problems.



A DAY SCHEDULE

PER 1	8:10 - 8:59 AM
PER 2	9:02 - 9:51 AM
PER 3	9:55 - 10:44 AM
PER 4	10:48 - 11:37 AM
PER 5	11:41 - 12:30 PM
LUNCH	12:34 - 1:14 PM
PER 6	1:18 - 2:07 PM
PER 7	2:11 - 3:00 PM

You can reach Mr. LoBianco at 732-572-2401 extension 3018 or email him at mlobianco@hpschools.net

Health Services

Contact Info

- Middle School Nurse Karen Kelly, 732-572-2401 **extension 3003**
- The middle school nurse is in the building every day during school hours. Her office is located next to the main office. She is ready to help you and your child with any medical needs or questions.
- Please make sure that all health forms for your child are up-to-date. Inform the nurse about any changes in your child's medical history as soon as possible.
- Please note that in addition to the required health forms, as of September of 2008 **all sixth grade students when they turn 11 years old** must get a booster vaccine for Tdap (diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis) and meningococcal vaccine (Menactra). Please send a letter with the proof of these vaccinations to the middle school nurse.



Computer Kiosk

For your convenience, the middle school main office has a computer available for parents' use. All parents are welcome to use the computer kiosk to complete forms and documents required for school, sign up for Genesis, check their child's grades, and more. If you need any help using the computer kiosk or have questions about it, please ask the main office staff.



Meal information

Highland Park Middle School has a free Breakfast After the Bell program

Every school day, any student who would like to eat breakfast is welcome to free breakfast items in the cafeteria. Pricing: \$1.00 (reduced fee is \$0.30)

The choices usually include:

- bagels with cream cheese
- french toast sticks with sausage and potatoes



- sausage, eggs and cheese sandwich with potatoes
- variety of cereals

All breakfast meals are served with milk and fruit or juice.

Students must finish eating their breakfast before the start of the homeroom at 8:10am. All students who do not finish eating their breakfast before homeroom must sign an attendance sheet in the main office.

Highland Park Middle School snacks

Please note that there is no scheduled time for a snack break at the middle school. In addition, students are not allowed to bring any food or snacks into their classrooms. This is a school policy that helps us prevent possible allergic reactions in students and staff.

If your child is hungry between breakfast and lunch or requires a snack for a medical reason, please let the middle school nurse know. She will make sure that your son or daughter will be allowed to leave a classroom to eat a small snack in the cafeteria or the nurse's office. You can reach the school nurse by calling 732-572-2401 Extension 3003 or emailing kkelly@hpschools.net.



Highland Park Middle School lunch

All Highland Park middle school students eat their lunch in the middle school cafeteria (across from the main office). All students have one class period to eat their lunch. Lunch is supervised by several adult staff members at all times. Pricing: \$3.05 (reduced fee is \$0.40)



Your child may choose to bring his or her own lunch or may get a free or reduced lunch in the cafeteria.

Free or reduced lunch application

Parents should apply for free or reduced lunch each year. Link

- You can check if your family might qualify on the website for National School Breakfast and Lunch Program for New Jersey (<https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/2005>)
- Free and reduced lunch applications are available on Genesis Parent Portal or you can take a paper application from the main office.
- You, your children, and other household members (such as aunts, uncles, or grandparents living with you) **do not have to be U.S. citizens** in order for your family to apply for the free/reduced lunch program.
- If you believe that you may qualify for this program, please complete only **one form** for the district per family, listing all your children attending Highland Park schools.

- Your child will start receiving free/reduced lunch only after you get a letter from the district telling you that he or she is eligible for this program. Please make sure to send your child with food or money for lunch until you receive an official notice from the district.
- Please note that you may apply for the free/reduced lunch any time during the school year if your financial situation changes (for example, a job loss for one of the adult family members).
- The free/reduced lunch application is only valid only for one academic year. You must reapply for the free/reduced lunch every year.
- Please see the “Free and Reduced Meal Application” for the family income limits and the application form.
- <https://www.hpschools.net/documents/free-and-reduced-meal-application/387135>
- Questions? Email: foodservices@hpschools.net Phone: 732-572-2400, Ext. 4009

Lunch includes

- An entrée with protein (such as chicken, fish, or beef) and grain (such as rice or potatoes)
- A choice of side fruit or vegetables
- A choice of hormone-free milk (low-fat, nonfat, or chocolate)



If your child has a food allergy, please let our school nurse know. She will make sure that we take all necessary precautions during lunch. You can contact her at 732-572-2401 extension 3003.

The Teen Center (Middle School/High School)

- The Teen Center is a safe place where students can go to talk to a counselor if they are upset or experience problems in school or at home. The Teen Center is open to all middle school students and their families. The service is free.
- The Teen Center also offers free family counseling to help families solve problems and work together.
- It is located in Highland Park High School, Room 105. Teen Center staff is available to middle school students every day. They can also provide a translator for students whose native language is not English. Making an appointment is strongly recommended.
- Contact Dr. Scott Roth at 732-572-6990 extension 4021 to set up an appointment.



- The Teen Center's phone number is (732) 572-6990 extension 4125
- The Teen Center's website is: [Community Teen Center](#)

Technology Use

Middle school students are not allowed to bring technology and gadgets for entertainment purposes to classes. This includes cell phones, ipads, computer games, etc. The school is not responsible for damage to or loss of personal technology. Any and all technology brought to school may be confiscated (taken away) by staff members, especially if it disrupts a positive school environment or learning.

However, middle school ESL students are allowed to use bilingual dictionaries, translators, or cell phones for schoolwork related **translation only**.

With permission of staff members, students are usually allowed to use technology during lunch. Only positive use of technology is allowed **on school grounds and outside of classes**. No usage of social media websites, text message applications, or other forms of electronic communication that includes any form of harassment, intimidation, or bullying will be tolerated.

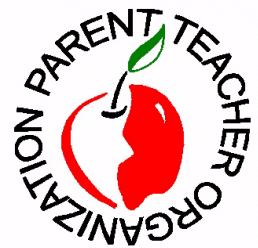


Volunteer opportunities

In the United States, parents are encouraged to take active roles in their children's education. There are several ways in which parents can participate.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Information

- The PTO is a group of parents and teachers working together to organize events and raise money for the school.
- Facebook: Irving School PTO
- Contact the Irving School main office if you would like to volunteer with the PTO.
- Joining the PTO is a great way to help our school become better while making new friends.



Board Meetings

- Parents are welcome to attend all public board meetings of the school district.

- This will allow parents to learn about what is happening in schools as well as to express their opinions, make suggestions, or raise any concerns.
- Board meetings are usually held two times each month (except for the summer months).

All board meetings have a public session beginning at 7:00 p.m. Most of the meetings take place in the Middle School cafeteria (across from the Middle School main office). For the exact dates and times of the meetings, please find the information on the website:

<https://www.hpschools.net/>
[HP Schools Board of Education](#)

Field Trips

Field trips are school-sponsored visits to places away from the school. Parents are welcome to volunteer as chaperones. Chaperones help supervise students during the field trip. If you would like to be a chaperone for a field trip, please email the teacher who is organizing your child's field trip.

New Parent Orientation Night

At the beginning of September, all parents of **new students** starting in Highland Park Middle School are invited to attend New Parent Orientation Night. During New Parent Orientation Night, you will learn about our building and the rules of the middle school, as well as meet some of the teachers and staff. This is a great opportunity to ask questions that you or your child might have about the school. In addition, this is a chance for you to meet parents of other students who are also new to Highland Park Middle School.

Back to School Night

- Parents are invited to school for an evening to meet with their child's teacher. Teachers meet with all the parents at the same time. This is not an individual conference.
- Teachers will explain the curriculum and school routines.
- Back to School Night will be in September or October.



Parent Teacher Conferences

Parents of all middle school students are also invited to meet with their children's teachers during parent-teacher conferences. Parent-teacher conferences take place in the fall and in the spring. Fall conferences are open to all parents. Spring conferences are usually by invitation from teachers only.



- Parent-Teacher Conferences are individual conferences between the teacher and the parents or guardians.
- Directions to request a conference will come to parents through email from our secretaries.
- Conferences are in the fall and again in the spring.
- Parents or guardians can ask questions about their child's progress.

Fall Conferences

Fall conferences are usually held during the **second week of November**. Parent-teacher conferences are opportunities for parents to discuss how their children are doing in each subject, ask questions, and get insights about academic and social strengths and weaknesses that their children display at school. In addition, teachers are always eager to learn about your child's strengths, interests, and challenges outside of school.

In October, parents are invited to sign up for time slots during the three sessions of parent-teacher conferences. Usually, there are two days of evening conferences and one day of afternoon conferences.

Parents can sign up for **10 minute time slots** with any teachers that they would like to see. For example, you can choose to see all your child's teachers. You can also choose to see just two or three teachers by signing up for two or three time slots. Please note that time slots do fill up quickly. Try to sign up for the parents-teacher conferences as soon as they become available.

Spring Conferences

Spring-parent teacher conferences take place during the third or fourth week of March. If teachers or administrators would like to meet with you (and sometimes your child as well) during spring conferences, they will contact you by phone or email to set up an appointment. If invited, please do your best to come to this important meeting.

Help with the Conferences

Parents' involvement in their children's education is very important to all Highland Park teachers and administrators. Research shows that one of the best predictors of academic achievement, school attendance, social skills, behavior, and ability to adapt well to school is parents' involvement in their children's education. Please see the attached article.

(<https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/what-research-says-about-parent-involvement/>).

Language Assistance



We welcome parents of all middle school ESL students to come to the conferences with their friends or neighbors to help translate. Most teachers would also allow your child to come into the conference room with you. Lastly, the school can also help by arranging one of the staff members to translate if necessary. Please know that almost all teachers in the middle school have experience with parents who speak little or no English. All teachers are more than happy to find ways to communicate with you about your child's progress.

Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee/ESL Parent Nights

- The ESL teachers organize four parent nights a year.
- Childcare is available for school age children and there is a pizza dinner.
- The ESL teachers will explain the ESL program and answer any questions that you have.



ESL Program

- If your child is identified as an English Language Learner (based on the Home Language Survey and the WIDA MODEL test given by an ESL teacher), a letter will be sent home informing you of his/her ESL placement.
- As a parent, you have a right to decline ESL services. However, being in the ESL program has many advantages such as learning English with a qualified ESL teacher in small classes, modified work in other classes based on your child's level of English proficiency, use of a dictionary and unlimited testing time during state exams, and of course meeting new friends who speak other languages.
- At the Middle School, two periods of ESL classes are offered to beginner English language proficiency students. The first period is a regular ESL class in which students will work on listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in the areas of language arts, math, science, and social studies. The second period is a high intensity ESL class in which students will be able to further practice their reading skills.
- In addition, students are encouraged to bring anything that they need help with (such as homework assignments, projects, or presentations for other classes) to the high intensity ESL class.
- Intermediate and advanced students take one period of ESL. They are also required to take a regular language arts class with their English-speaking peers.
- Students in New Jersey exit the ESL program based on multiple criteria which includes reaching a score of at least 4.5 on ACCESS for ELLs test (given each spring), ESL and other teachers' recommendations, and other relevant information.

ESL Website and Curriculum

Please visit this link to learn more about the ESL program and curriculum:

- <https://www.hpschools.net/page/esl-program>
- <https://www.hpschools.net/documents/departments/curriculum/esl/386572>
-



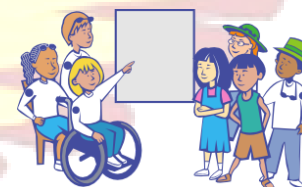
English As a Second Language

Extracurricular Activities/Clubs

All students are welcome to participate in a variety of **free** clubs and activities. It is a great way to make new friends, practice English, and become part of the Highland Park school community.

Students in Action

Students in Action Club teaches students to become leaders and make positive changes in the world. Students participate in two training workshops during the year. In April, the club members go to a competition to share all of their hard work.



Please contact Ms. Ailey railey@hpschools.net or Ms. Sterns ssterns@hpschools.net to join.

Student Council/Congress

Students Council/Congress is a group of students who plan special events for the middle school students such as Valentine's Dance or Snowflake Dance (in winter), 8th Grade Formal (special dinner and dance that takes place in June), class trips, movie nights, door decorating contests, and more. These students also work on improving our building.



Please contact Ms. Ailey railey@hpschools.net or Ms. Sterns ssterns@hpschools.net to join.

Science Bowl

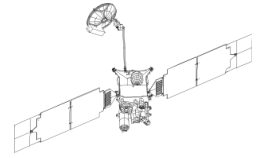
This club meets once a week. Students work on solving technical problems and answering all kinds of math and science questions. Members of this club participate in the Middle School Science Bowl Regional competitions and have a chance to go to the National Middle School Science Bowl competition.



Please contact Ms. Anand janand@hpschools.net to join.

Robotics Club

This club meets once a week. Students work in groups to come up with creative solutions to problems. Members of the clubs use a variety of technology (including sensors and motors) to build, test, and evaluate their creations.



Please contact Ms. Dunatov gdunatov@hpschools.net to join.

Band, Choir, and Orchestra

Students interested in music can become part of the Middle School band, choir, or orchestra. All students in band, choir, and orchestra travel to Dorney Park (an amusement park in Pennsylvania) for a competition in the spring.



The Middle School Band consists of students playing flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone/euphonium, and percussion. Students who need to rent or buy a musical instrument can contact:

The Violin Doctor (<http://www.theviolindoorinc.com/>) or Music & Arts (<https://www.musicarts.com/>).

The Middle School Orchestra The Middle School Orchestra program offers two non-audition orchestras; Concert Orchestra (6th graders) and Symphonic Orchestra (7th Grade and 8th Grade). Concert and Symphony Orchestras take place during the school day and students receive a grade. Orchestra includes the following four string instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass.

The students meet all together in one big group at least once a week during the school day. Students will meet in small groups during the school day based on a rotating schedule up to three times a week.

The orchestra students perform in two major concerts a year (winter and spring concert). Orchestra members go to annual competitions at amusement parks such as Six Flags, Dorney Park, etc.

If your family is financially able to rent your student an instrument, you can visit: Music & Arts (<https://www.musicarts.com/>).

For families who need it, the school has an inventory of instruments for students to borrow for no fee.

Chamber Orchestra is offered for more advanced musicians. The Chamber Orchestra meets after school once a week. Admission into the Chamber Orchestra is based on auditions.

Please contact Mx. Perez sperez@hpschools.net to register or ask any questions!

High School Drama Club

Students interested in learning about acting, play production, and stage work can take part in the High School Drama Club. Middle school students can audition and become part of the technology crew. High School Drama Club has two performances each year. Fall drama practices start in September and end with three performances in November. Spring musical practices start in January and end with three shows in March. Information about the drama club will be available at the school.



Community Arts Club

Students interested in creating community art projects should join this club. Finished art projects are displayed either in the middle school or elsewhere in the borough of Highland Park. The club meets once and sometimes twice a week.



Please contact Ms. Hawthorne mhawthorne@hpschools.net to join.

Middle School Newspaper

Our Middle School newspaper is the Parliament Press. Students can join the newspaper club to attend meetings, write and submit articles, photos, or story ideas. Students who wish to participate can contact please contact Ms. Luksa jluksa@hpschools.net to join.



Yearbook Club



Students interested in designing a yearbook (which is a printed photo album of all students, teachers, clubs, sport teams, and events at the Highland Park Middle School) meet once a month from October to April.

Please contact Ms. Luksa jluksa@hpschools.net to join.



Cheerleading

Students who are interested in supporting and cheering for Highland Park Middle School boys and girls basketball teams should join cheerleading. Students practice cheer in the cafeteria twice a week. They cheer at all home games. The practice season is usually October - April.

Please contact Mrs. Cia jcia@hpschools.net to join.

Athletics



At Highland Park Middle School students can participate in a variety of sports. In order to be on a team, each student needs to bring a completed "Mandated Paperwork for Athletic Participation" packet. Students can get the packet at the Middle School main office or from the middle school nurse.

Students can get their physical forms completed at one of the following walk-in clinics:

Name	Address	Phone Number	Notes
MedExpress	418 Route 18, East Brunswick	732-613-6168	
CVS MinuteClinic	330 Rues Lane, East Brunswick	866-389-2727 or 732-254-3900	
Brunswick Urgent Care	641 Route 18, East Brunswick	732-955-6765	Bills most insurance companies
Urgent Care of New Jersey	2090 Route 27, Edison	732-662-5650	Takes most insurances

All athletes are **required** to display positive behavior and sportsmanship at all times. In addition, all athletes **must** maintain passing grades in all of their classes.

Highland Park Middle School has the following sports in each season.

Fall (September and October):

- Boys Soccer
- Girls Soccer
- American Football

Winter (December, January, and first half of February):

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Wrestling

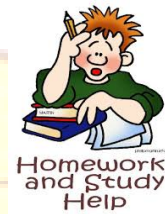
Spring (mid March, April, and May):

- Boys Baseball
- Girls Softball
- Co-Ed (boys and girls) Track and Field

For more information as well as coaches' names and email addresses, please go to <http://ms.hpschools.net/athletics>

After School Academic Support

Every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:05 to 4:05 p.m. students can stay in school an extra hour to receive academic support. More information will be provided at the beginning of the school year.



Middle School Learning Center/Study

The Middle School Learning Center is located on the second floor in Room 210. It is open to students before school every morning and stays open until 3:00 p.m. Students can borrow books to read at home (including popular fiction books in Arabic, Chinese, and Spanish). Students are also welcome to study, use computers, and print in the Learning Center.



Lost and Found

Lost and found is a table located in the cafeteria on the left side of the cafeteria as soon as you walk in.

If your child lost something in school (such as a notebook, a pencil case, a sweatshirt, etc.), he or she should go to the middle school cafeteria to look through lost and found items. If your child found something in school, he or she should bring it to the lost and found table.

If your child lost or found something **valuable** in school (such as a cell phone, money, or jewelry), please tell him or her to visit the main office. The main office staff will be happy to help.

Eighth Grade Formal, Awards, and Graduation Ceremonies

Eighth grade students have several special activities at the end of each academic year.

- **Eighth Grade Formal Dance:** Eighth grade formal is an evening with dinner and dance that takes place in the beautifully decorated High School Cafeteria. All students are encouraged to wear their best outfits. Many boys choose to wear suits, while girls wear elegant dresses. Students can buy tickets to the formal ahead of time from the teacher. They can also purchase their tickets on the evening of the formal at the entrance door.
- **Eighth Grade Awards Ceremony:** During the last full week of classes, the eighth grade awards ceremony takes place. If your child was chosen by one of his/her teachers to receive an award, you will receive a letter from the school inviting your family to come to the High School Auditorium to watch the ceremony. Bring your cameras and encourage your child to look his/her best.
- **Eighth Grade Graduation:** All eighth grade students participate in the graduation ceremony. The district's superintendent, the principal and the vice principal of the Middle School, the High School principal, the supervisors, and the teachers are there to celebrate your child's accomplishments and watch him/her receive an eighth grade graduation certificate. Bring your cameras and encourage your child to look his/her best.

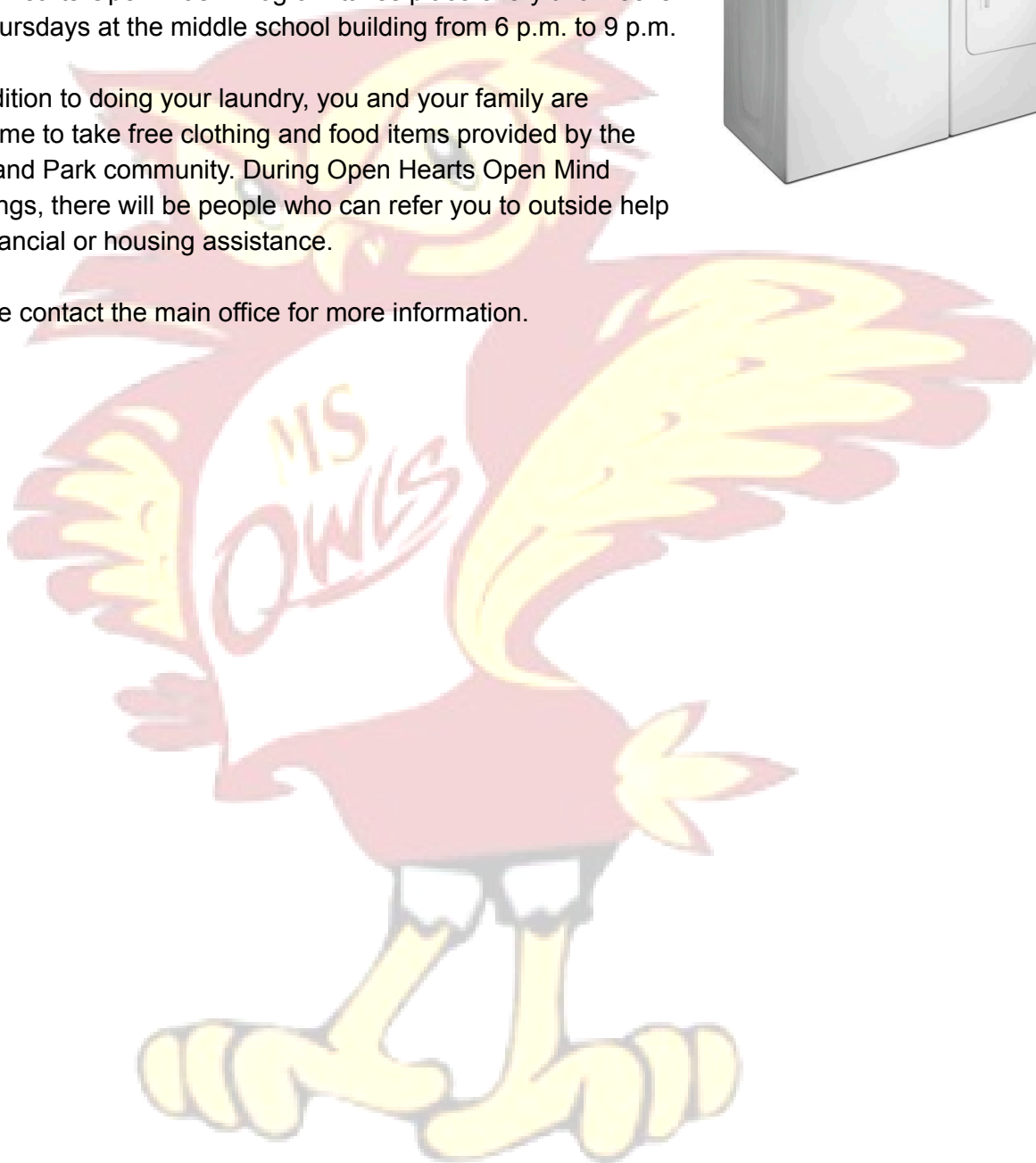


Open Hearts Open Wash Program

Highland Park Middle School is proud to offer families in difficult financial situations a place to wash and dry their clothes for free. Open Hearts Open Wash Program takes place every two weeks on Thursdays at the middle school building from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

In addition to doing your laundry, you and your family are welcome to take free clothing and food items provided by the Highland Park community. During Open Hearts Open Mind evenings, there will be people who can refer you to outside help for financial or housing assistance.

Please contact the main office for more information.



Community Resources



Highland Park Police Department

- Non-emergency telephone number: (732) 572-3800
- EMERGENCY telephone number: 9-1-1
- Address: 222 South 5th Avenue



Highland Park Fire Department

- Non-emergency telephone number: (732) 572-4323
- EMERGENCY telephone number: 9-1-1
- Address: 220 South 5th Avenue



Highland Park First Aid Squad

- EMERGENCY telephone number: 9-1-1
- Address: 128 South 11th Avenue



Highland Park Borough Hall

- Mayor's office and town government
- Address: 221 South 5th Avenue



Emergency Notification Systems

- Nixle: Emails or text messages about important information
 - Register: <https://www.hpboro.com/i-want-to/sign-up-for-alerts>
- Notify Me Weekly Update: Information about town meetings and employment opportunities
 - Register: <https://www.hpboro.com/i-want-to/sign-up-for-alerts>



Borough Information Kiosks

- Information about events and garage sales
 - South 11th Avenue and Woodbridge Avenue (near Irving)
 - North 2nd Avenue and Raritan Avenue



Downtown Living Rooms

- A place for people to relax and enjoy downtown Highland Park.



Little Free Libraries

- Take books for free! Locations in all areas of Highland Park.



Social Media, Websites, and News

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hpboro/>
- X: @hpboro
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/hptv15/featured>
- Highland Park Borough Website: <http://www.hpboro.com/>
- HPTV: <https://www.hpboro.com/departments/hptv>
- Highland Park Quarterly Newsletter:
<https://www.hpboro.com/departments/communications/highland-park-quarterly>
- Online Newspaper: Highland Park Planet <http://highlandparkplanet.org/>



Community Center -

- Address: 220 South Sixth Avenue
- Phone: (732) 819-0052
- Hours:
 - Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
 - Tuesday: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
 - Friday: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Website: <https://www.hpboro.com/departments/community-services>
- **Recreation Program**
 - Programs, activities and events:
 - Youth sports, adult sports, summer camp, activities, community events
 - Website: <https://www.hpboro.com/departments/community-services/recreation-programs>
 - Program information: <https://highlandparknj.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>
- **Senior Services**
 - The Department of Community Services Office of Aging offers a variety of valuable programming, services and opportunities for older adults 55 years old and older. Our programs and activities include events, classes, lectures and seminars, screenings, support groups, exercise classes, social services, and transportation, our office provides opportunities for older adults to stay actively engaged physically, mentally, and socially.



- **Social Worker**

- The Department provides an accessible system of services to all residents of Highland Park as well as seniors to help maintain their independence at home. Advocacy: The Department serves as an advocate and referral service to all residents of Highland Park that may qualify for entitlement programs such as PAAD, Home Energy Assistance, Homestead Benefit & Property Tax Reimbursement, Social Security, Medicare, Senior Housing, Home Health Care, etc.
- SHIP: State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) Our Social worker is available to assist seniors in all Medicare related issues and concerns. Counseling is also available on Medicaid and other health-care assistance programs.
- Call to make an appointment: (732) 819-0052

- **Teen Center**

- Address: 600 Benner Street
- The goal of the Zone 6 Teen Center is to provide a safe place for teens to develop themselves centered on four interactional aspects: everyday life; community connections, educational support, and mind/body wellness



Highland Park Food Pantry

- Address: 220 South 6th Avenue in the Community Center
- Website: <http://www.hpboro.com/foodpantry>
- Services: Help with food for Highland Park Residents
- Hours:
 - Second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 9:00 am - 10:45 am and 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm and on the Saturdays of those weeks from 9:30 am - 10:30 am



Zone 6 Free Groceries

- Free groceries to Highland Park families in need of support. Distributions are every Tuesday & Wednesday from 10:00 am – 11:00 am at the Zone 6/Teen Center, 600 Benner Street.



Global Grace Cafe (Highland Park Gives a Hoot)

- For all Highland Park children in grades Pre-Kindergarten until 12th grade and accompanying adults
- Lunch: Choose pizza or Global Grace's international dishes
- Address: Global Grace Café, 19 South Second Avenue (inside the Reformed Church), enter from the parking lot.
- Hours: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm when school is not open (summer, spring break, December break)
- Cost: Free or you can make a donation



Municipal ID Program

- Applicants must be at least 14 years old and a resident of the Borough of Highland Park.
- Parents/guardians must show proof of relationship for any minor applying for an ID card.
- Applicants must show proof of identity and residency.
- Identification Cards are valid for two years from the time of issuance.
- Identification Cards are intended to assist in the identification of the valid cardholder for the purpose of obtaining services from the Borough of Highland Park and at the discretion of businesses within the Borough of Highland Park.
- <https://www.hpboro.com/i-want-to/apply-for/municipal-id>



Highland Park Public Library

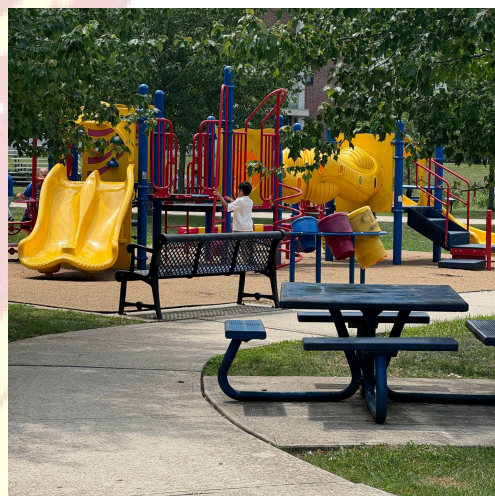
- Address: 31 North 5th Avenue
- Contact: (732) 572-2750
- Website: <https://www.hpplnj.org>
- Services:
 - Borrow books, audio books, and movies
 - Programs for children
 - Quiet study area
 - Computers with internet
 - Events for all ages
- Hours:
 - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10:00 am – 9:00 pm



- Wednesday: 10:00 am– 5:00 pm
- Friday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Saturday: 10:00 am– 5:00 pm
- Summer Saturdays: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Sunday: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Municipal Recreation Complex

The turf field, track, picnic tables, and playground are located behind the Middle School/High School complex. Residents of Highland Park are permitted to use these facilities outside of school hours.



Molimock-Graff Park

Molimock-Graff Park offers a play structure for children ages 5 – 12 as well as green space for small gatherings and other outdoor activities.

- Address: 100 – 199 Karsey Street
- Hours: Sunrise – Sunset



Felton Avenue Tot Lot

The Felton Avenue Tot Lot is a pocket park on the south side that offers a play structure for children ages 2 – 5.

- Address: 222 Felton Street
- Hours: Sunrise – Sunset



The Meadows Trail

The Meadows is the largest Borough owned natural area in Highland Park. Its 18 acres includes forested areas, wetlands, open streams, and important floodplain areas along the Raritan River.

- Address: Trail entrance at the bottom of South Fifth Avenue
- Hours: Sunrise – Sunset



Donaldson Park

- Address: At the bottom of South 3rd Avenue or South 2nd Avenue
- Playgrounds, dog park, basketball courts, tennis courts, pickleball courts, soccer fields, baseball fields, picnic tables, BBQ areas
- Website for information and reservations for picnic areas:

<http://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/about/parksrecreation/pages/pr/donaldson-park.aspx>



Johnson Park

- Address: River Road in Piscataway
- Playgrounds, tennis courts, soccer fields, baseball fields, cricket pitches, bike paths, zoo, East Jersey Olde Town Historic Village, picnic areas, BBQ areas
- Website for information and reservations for picnic areas:



<http://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/About/ParksRecreation/Pages/PR/Johnson-Park.aspx>

Highland Park Native Plant Sanctuary

The Highland Park Native Plant Sanctuary is a three-acre open space dedicated to the propagation and protection of native plants. It is open to the public and visitors can explore flowering meadows, woodlands and river views as they walk along its mowed areas and pathways. Dogs are welcome but must be leashed and kept on trails or mowed areas.



- Address: 50 River Road
- Hours: Sunrise – Sunset

Raíces Cultural Center

Raíces Cultural Center, a NJ Nonprofit Corporation, is dedicated to preserving cultural roots through the arts, history and ecology. Raíces Cultural Arts programs explore, teach and share the folkloric and traditional arts of the Caribbean through community classes, ensemble performances and presentations, and multimedia projects highlighting the artistic traditions we work to preserve.

- Address: 20 River Road
- Website: <https://raicesculturalcenter.org/>



Farmers Market

- An outside market for fruit and vegetables
- Fridays 11:00 am - 4:00 pm in the winter; 11:00 am - 5:00 pm in the spring, summer, and fall
- February - December
- 218 Raritan Avenue



Town Wide Garage Sale

- Highland Park has a garage sale every September or October. Many people sell used things such as books, toys, kitchen supplies, tools, furniture, bicycles, etc.
- Calendar: <https://www.hpboro.com/i-want-to/advanced-components/basic-pages/calendar-month-view>



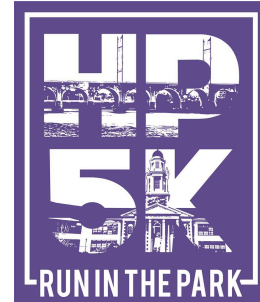
Street Fairs: Arts in the Park and Spring Street Fair

- On a Sunday in September and May
- Raritan Avenue between 2nd Avenue and 5th Avenue is closed to vehicles
- There is food, activities for children, and many things to purchase
- Website: <https://www.mainstreethp.org/artsinthepark>
- Calendar: <https://www.mainstreethp.org/#calendar-section>



5K Race/Walk

- Website to register: <http://www.runinthepark.org/>
- A 5 kilometer race that takes place on a Sunday in early May
- You can walk or run. There are also races for children.



Outdoor Movie Theater

- Website: <https://www.mainstreethp.org/outdoormovies>
- Saturday evenings in June, July, and August
- Bring a chair or blanket



4th of July Celebration

- Evening fireworks, food, and music to celebrate Independence Day!
- Address: Donaldson Park, bottom of South 2nd Avenue or South 3rd Avenue
- Bring blankets and chairs to sit
- Check this calendar for the date:

<https://www.hpboro.com/i-want-to/advanced-components/basic-pages/calendar-month-view>



SPAN Parent Advocacy Network

- Website: <https://spanadvocacy.org/>
- SPAN has information in 13 languages about:
 - Disabilities or special health/mental health needs
 - Poverty or financial instability
 - Discrimination
 - Other special circumstances



New Labor

- Website: <https://newlabor.org/>
- New Labor is an organization that educates, organizes and fights for better work conditions and social justice in the workplace.
- Services:
 - ESL Classes: Classes teach conversational English that covers topics that ESL learners could practice in their day-to-day lives. Classes accommodate beginner, intermediate and advanced levels of English language skills and knowledge.
 - Contact Amanda Dominguez at amanda@newlabor.org



ESL Classes at the New Brunswick Public Library

- Website: <https://www.nbfpl.org/esl-programs>
- Address: 60 Livingston Ave, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
- Contact: Kavita Pandey at: kavita@nbfpl.org



The Cave Afterschool Program

- An afterschool program for students who attend Highland Park Middle School only.
- Students can spend time with their friends after school in a safe and supervised environment, work on homework, play games, and participate in creative activities.
- Hours:
 - When school is in session:
 - Monday - Friday
 - 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm



- When school is not in session:
 - Closed
- Cost: Free
- Address: 19 South Second Avenue in the lower level of the Reformed Church
- The program is located inside the church but the program does not teach religion.
- Contact: Lara Arp
 - Lara@WholsMyneighbor.net
 - 732-379-0897 (office 9am-1pm)
 - 732-439-8928 (cell phone number)
- Contact: Austin Morreale
 - TheCave@WholsMyNeighbor.net
 - 404-944-1648 (cell phone number during Cave hours 3-5pm)

Zone 6 Teen Center

A teen center for students who attend Highland Park High School only.

- Address: 600 Benner Street
- Contact: Ashton Burrell, Teen Center Coordinator
 - aburrell@hpboro.com
 - (732) 317-2477
- Hours:
 - When school is in session:
 - Monday - Friday
 - 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 - When school is not in session:
 - Monday - Thursday
 - 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 - If it's a scheduled Borough Holiday the teen center will be closed
- Cost: Free - Please complete a membership application to participate at Zone 6. Parents physical signature will be required:

<https://www.hpboro.com/departments/community-services/teen-center>



Digital Resources

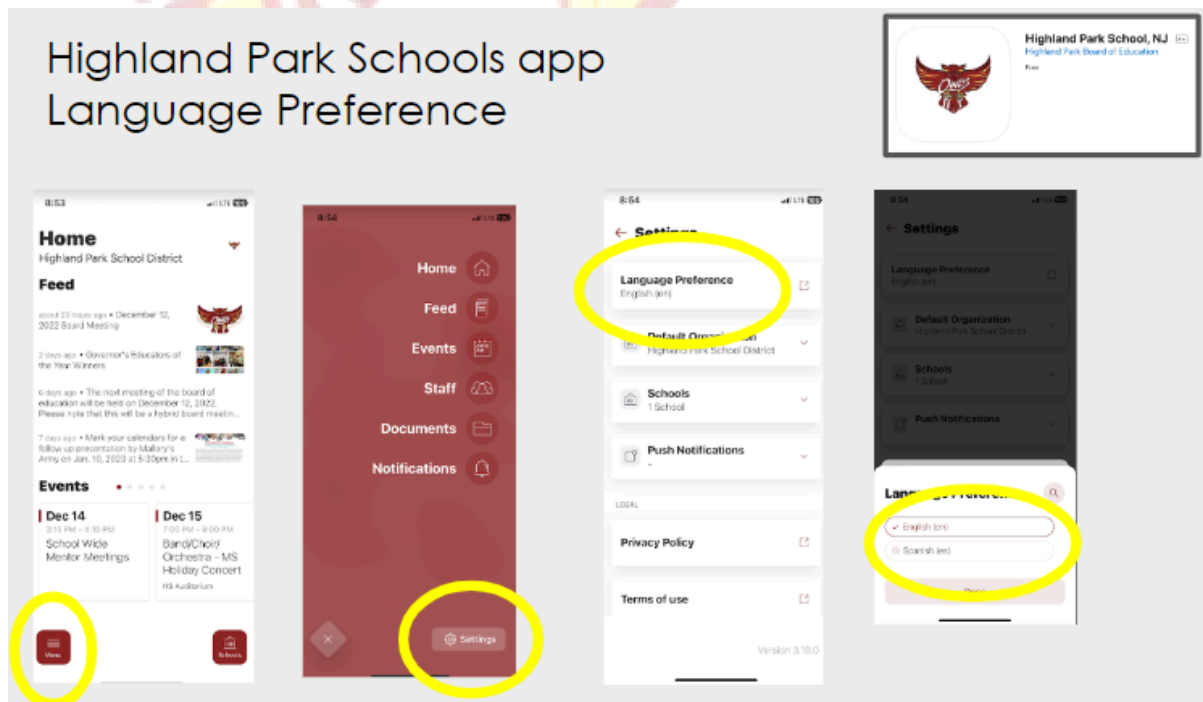


Highland Park Schools App

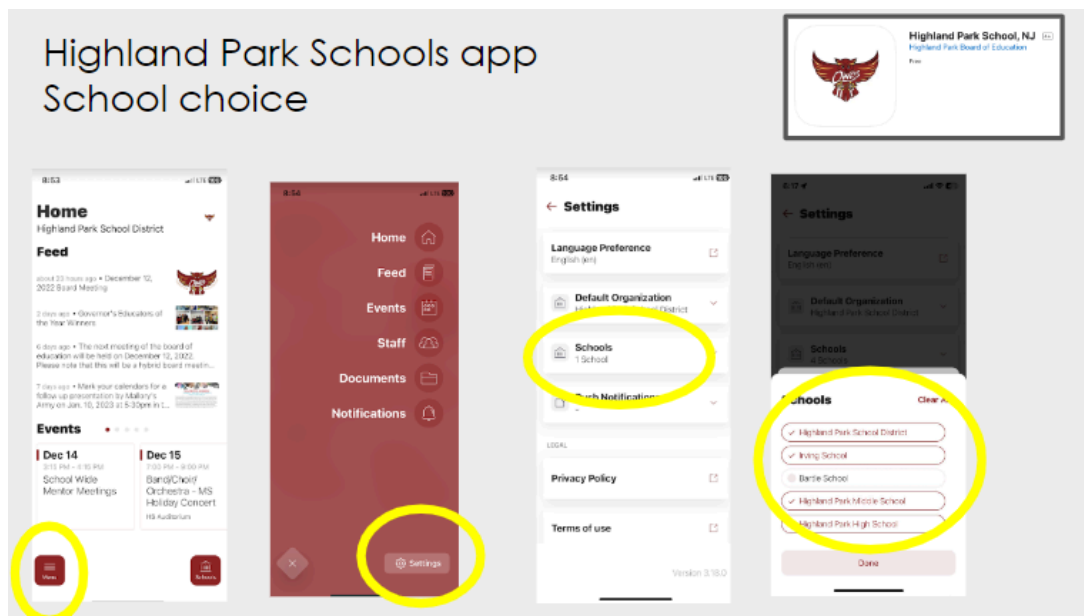
- Download the Highland Park app:
 - Download for Android:
<https://bit.ly/3gfCXCc>
 - Download for iPhone:
<https://apple.co/3V9xr3e>
- Translate into 17 languages:



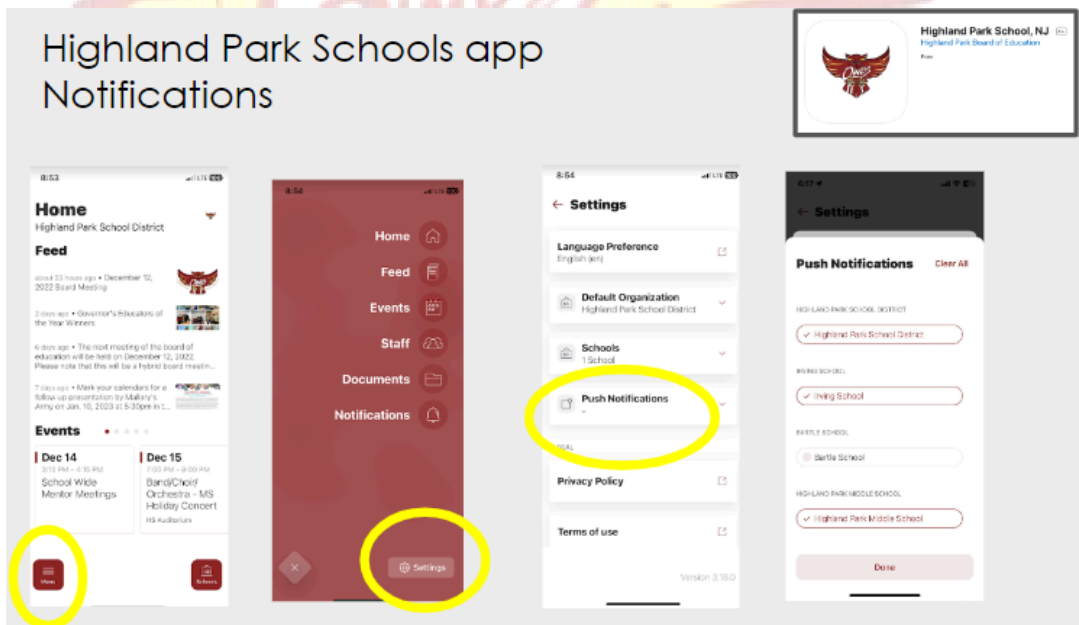
Highland Park Schools app Language Preference



- School choice:



- Notifications:

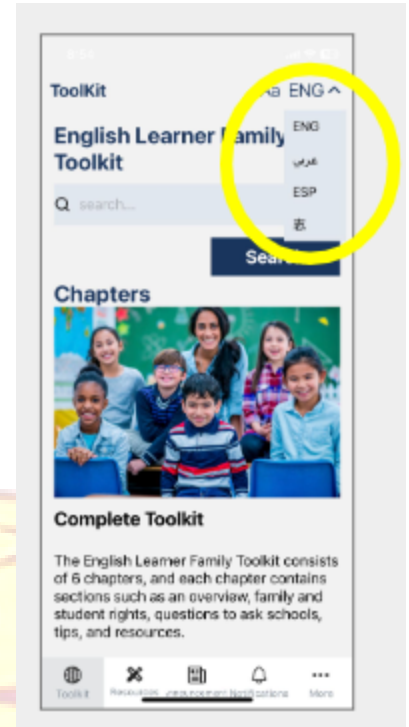


NCELA Family Toolkit

The English Learner Family Toolkit was created to help families choose education services that meet their child's needs. The toolkit is available in English, Arabic, Chinese, and Spanish. You can download the app to your phone. There is information on the following topics:

1. Enrolling Your Child in School
2. Attending School in the United States
3. Additional Educational Programs and Services to Support Your Child
4. Extracurricular Activities for Your Child
5. The Health and Safety of Your Child at School
6. Helping Your Child Be Successful in School

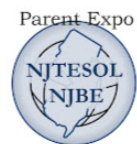
Website: <https://ncela.ed.gov/educator-support/toolkits/family-toolkit>



NJTESOL/NJBE Parent Expo Videos

NJTESOL/NJBE is pleased to provide these resources to the parents and guardians of New Jersey's multilingual learners. Informational videos about health resources, legal information, and career information.

Website: <https://www.youtube.com/@njtesol-njbeparentexpo8978/videos>



New Jersey Office of New Americans

Welcome packets in Spanish, English, and Haitian Creole with a set of resources intended to support you and your family. You will find information about resources and services including legal services, food and income assistance, health care and mental health services, school enrollment, getting a state identification card, and transportation.

Website: <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njnewamericans/newcomers/>



Reading Tips for Parents in Multiple Languages

One-page parent tips offer easy ways for parents to support their children's literacy development. The tips — for babies through grade 3 — are available in English and 12 other languages.

Website:

<https://www.readingrockets.org/literacy-home/literacy-tips-activities/parent-reading-tips-multiple-languages>



Unite for Literacy

Free online books narrated in multiple languages.

Website: <https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/>



Rosetta - online book project

Free online books narrated in multiple languages.

Website: <http://www.childrensbooksonline.org/library-translations.htm>



International Children's Online Library

Free online books written in multiple languages.

Website: <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>



World Stories

Free online books written in multiple languages.

Website: <https://worldstories.org.uk/library>



Learn the Signs. Act Early.

Download the Milestone Tracker App in English or Spanish:

- Interactive milestone checklists for children ages 2 months through 5 years;
- The ability to complete a checklist using corrected age for children born prematurely;
- Photos and videos to help parents and caregivers recognize milestones;
- Tips and activities for supporting early development;
- An easy way to share developmental progress with their healthcare provider and others;
- Appointment and developmental screening reminders.
- Download the app:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones-app.html>



Milestone Checklists from birth to age 5:

- How your baby plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves offers important clues about his or her development. Check the milestones for your child's age. Take this with you and talk with your baby's doctor at every well-child visit about the milestones your baby has reached and what to expect next.
- Available in 12 languages:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/freematerials.html#toolsfortrackingmilestones-2017>

