



# TROJAN TODAY

YOUR SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SOURCE FOR NEWS AND EVENTS | JUNE 2021

**2019-nCoV**  
coronavirus

SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SPECIAL REPORT

## “We survived this most unconventional year”

Before we close the books on 2020-21, I am extending big thank-you's and congratulations to those who helped make it a great school year.

To the **Highland parent volunteers** who organized the donation drive for cleaning, masks, classroom safety and other supplies: You showed us how much our great community pitches in when the need arises.

A big thank you to our **custodians**, who put in the extra time to ensure our buildings were consistently disinfected throughout the year.

Our **food service department** continued to guarantee our in-person and virtual students had the meals they needed during the entirety of this pandemic year. Their service and eagerness to go above and beyond was greatly appreciated.

A big thank you to our **administrators, bus drivers, nurses, aides** and **office staff** for pivoting when we needed to be flexible.

An extreme thank you to our **outstanding teachers** who taught both virtual and in-person students. I can't imagine a better group of teachers to work with.

Finally, a big thank you to **parents** and **students** for working through difficult times. One day,



### HIGHLAND STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE THINKING GREEN

Weeks after fifth-graders at Warren Elementary planted a dogwood sapling to improve air quality and memorialize Arbor Day, Highland Town Council President Roger Sheeman named Michael Burns and Sarah Krick the newest members of the town Tree Board. The two are also the first high school students to be named to a Highland board or commission. “These students have demonstrated a remarkable interest and understanding in the environment and the role trees play in the reduction of our carbon footprint,” Sheeman said. “They are exciting additions to the Highland Tree Board, which has a mission to increase and diversify the tree canopy in our town.” [photos provided].

we will remember this school year – not with fondness perhaps – but with a sense of accomplishment because we survived it.

I want to end by noting big accomplishments among our staff. **High School Principal John Zack** was named 2021 Region 1 High School Principal of the Year

while **Food Service Director Lisa Hayes** was named 2021 Region 1 Support Staff Employee of the Year. We applaud their efforts and thank them for their service.



**Brian Smith**  
Superintendent  
School Town of Highland

## GRAB & GO SUMMER MEALS

This year, for the first time, the School Town of Highland will be offering free daily summer meals to anyone in our community ages 18 and younger. Participants will receive a nutritious hot lunch for the day and a breakfast to consume for the next morning.

The Summer Food Service Program is a federally funded program that ensures access to healthy meals when students are not in school. The program is open to any child and is not based on income or need. Curbside meals will be offered at the following locations:

**Johnston Elementary:**

Noon-1 p.m. June 7-July 29 Monday-Thursday

**Merkley Elementary:**

11 a.m.-noon June 7-July 29 Monday-Thursday

**Highland Middle School:**

Noon-1 p.m. June 1-30 Monday-Thursday

The Food Service Department is also teaming up with Highland Community Partners for weekly curbside “Fun Days” at both Merkley (M) and Johnston (J) elementary schools.

**Note:** giveaways are while supplies last.

**June 7:** Zandstra’s Plant Giveaway – M, J

**June 16:** Highland Parks & Recreation – M, J

**June 23:** Tri Kappa – M, J

**June 28:** NWI Indiana Food Bank – J only

**July 7:** Indiana Dairy Association – M only

**July 14:** Girls on the Run – M only

**July 21:** Superhero Training & Supply – J only

**July 26:** Franciscan Health – M, J

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## HIGH SCHOOL MURAL CALL-OUT

Murals on display in the halls of Highland High School were created to better represent the student body. Some were created by uber talented students right here at the high school. Aching to be part of the project? Mural submissions will be accepted through **July 31**. Please look for specific information regarding the call-out in your graduating class Google Classroom announcements.

## HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT RECOVERY

Credit Recovery assistance for seniors was so popular, High School Principal John Zack said a decision was made to open it up to all high school students lacking credits to graduate.

“This summer course gives any students who is credit deficient the opportunity to make it up,” Zack said. “Lacking grade-appropriate credits without a remediation plan is a compounding problem, which many students try to deal with the last few weeks of their senior year. It just doesn’t work that way.”

In addition to English and Algebra I, students who need help in science, advanced math, history, government or economics will receive teacher assistance to master that class.

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## FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

Incoming freshmen and students new to the high school in the 2021-2022 school year are invited to attend orientation between **July 26-July 29**. Students will get RDS access, tours of the building, introductions to staff and mentor students along with information key to student success. Please check **highland.k12.in.us** to find out which session your student should attend. **Questions?** Email Asst. Principal Andrew Locke at [alocke@highland.k12.in.us](mailto:alocke@highland.k12.in.us).

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## SUMMER REMEDIATION

Johnston Elementary Principal Amy Harrington said a series of summer courses for K-5 will offer students an opportunity to catch up to grade level with an added dose of fun this summer.. “Many students benefit from an extra dose of learning. That is especially true following COVID,” she said. “A boost in confidence comes with mastering additional skills, which helps make learning fun.”

- **iREAD Remediation:** 8-10 a.m. June 1-11
- **Camp Invention:** 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. June 7-11
- **Pre-K Summer School:** 8:30 a.m.-noon Monday-Thursday June 7-24 and July 12-29
- **Jumpstart Summer School:** 8-11 a.m. Monday-Thursday July 7-29