

THE COURIER

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The longest running middle school newspaper in the United States!

Courier Celebrates 85 Years of Greatness

by Brian LaPlaca

The WPMS Courier newspaper is currently in its 85th year. Over time, things have changed since the very first issue in 1925.

From the first issue on, The Courier has been on top of all kinds of news including, fashions, school events, world news and national news.

85 Years-As Reported by The Courier:



Our records start with Volume 1, Issue 2 coming out on December 11, 1925. In this issue, students talked about assemblies and a new schedule that went from 8:30AM to 3:30PM. This issue also contained jokes that honestly weren't funny: "Use the word gruesome in a sentence. He gruesome corn in his garden." It also talked about the next war and how they would be using nuclear weapons. His prediction was correct. In WWII, the US sent down 2 atomic bombs into Japan. At that time, the Eastview Campus



was called, "East View Junior High School."

During WWII, the Courier was becoming a big hit. It asked students to buy war bonds and stamps to support the army in a short poem:

*"BUY BONDS AND STAMPS!
By bonds and stamps for liberty!
We can and must, to keep us free,
To keep 'em flying
You do the buying,
And we will win, just wait and see.*

*The US needs help from you!
Every nickel and dime will do.
Buy your stamps here
And the skies will soon clear.".....*

This was one of the first issues that contained last wills and inquiring reporter which we still use today. It also states that the SO was in full swing with many activities being planned. Finally, gossip columns took up a lot of space in the paper.



The Courier changed its look as time flew by, modernizing and changing as new advisers and editors and staff got involved. Gossip columns were very popular during the 40's and 50's and there were entire pages dedicated to those columns. Over the years we added a sports page as well as many new features about clubs and school activities.

The 50's were very prosperous for the paper. In 1955, editors from the Courier visited Leonard Jr. High to compare news papers and realized that they needed to step it up a notch. A club that seems to be abandoned also existed: the Photography club. They held contests and picked the best photo, which was a picture of a cat looking into a bowl (lame).

The 1960s were all about peace. The Courier logo was changed so it read, "The East View Courier." Highlands was the High School at the time, until the 1970's. In this issue, the paper started looking like an actual paper, similar to the way we see it today. Before the 1960's, the paper



was in portrait, so it looked like an essay. Now it was landscape and looked like a modern paper. I have no clue how, but it states that the entire school, "100%", obtained SO membership. These students must have had a lot of school spirit! There is also an article that says



that the Yearbook was discontinued for two years then brought back successfully.

In 1975, The East View Courier participated in a newspaper competition by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association which scored the paper in 4 categories: Content Coverage, Writing and Editing, Make Up, and General Considerations. The paper got a 773 out of 1000 points! David



Sangler (Editor in Chief, 1975) wrote an article of the past fifty

I would personally like to thank anyone who has contributed to this amazing newspaper over the past 85 years. You have made this paper the longest, continuously publishing Jr. High/Middle School newspaper in the entire US. Here are some highlights from throughout the years:

years of the East View Courier since it had begun in 1925.

After the 1970's, the White Plains Middle School was created. It incorporated two campuses, the old Eastview Jr. High and the old senior high school at the Highlands. In the 1985 issue, an article in the paper was all about the Highlands principal, Mr. Cropsey's average day talking about what activities he participated in. Another inquiring reporter asked students what their favorite type of music was. Turns out it was disco! I don't think we'd see the same result if that question was asked today (at least I hope not...). At the end of the decade, the staff decided to write a page about the past 20 years that talked about the "new" computers and a time capsule set to open in 2285.



In 1996, The Courier announced that the Humanities school at the Eastview campus would be opening its doors to incoming 6th grades next fall. I don't think it worked out to well because we still call Eastview well... Eastview! In 1997, Ms. Diana Knight stepped into her office for the first time, replacing Mr. Cropsey as principle of the Highlands Campus.



In the December 2001 issue, a full page was dedicated to the 9/11 tragedy and all the people who died in this terrible act of violence.

Throughout the years, the Courier has been informing students and staff of school news, national news, and world news, while incorporating many features such as sports and fashion. And let's not forget the gossip and really corny jokes!

Choice Tours Kick Off at WPMS

by Brent Skeete

Warning Eastview, new sixth graders are approaching! Choice tours 2010 have already began. Staff, teachers and most importantly students are coming together to excite the new recruits. Future sixth graders get to choose what middle school they would like to attend, with the existing students encouraging and advising them.

"Who would you rather listen to, the guy that was in your seat last year or the guy that was in your seat 30-years ago," said Jared Rogovin an 11-year-old sixth grader. Rogovin believes that it's a good thing the students get to participate in the tours because they can give more of an inside scoop than the teachers. There's no one better to ask about Eastview than an Eastview student.

The Choice Program was started in 1988 by the White Plains Board of Education. Needless to say, this program has been around for

a long time. The students who attend Eastview now, were given choice tours themselves. "I chose to come to Eastview because my older brother was a student here and I thought Highlands was over populated," said Ian Caruso a 12-year-old seventh grader, who remembers when he got to go on the tours in fifth grade.

After the tours parents get to choose which of the two middle schools they'd like to attend and then "assignments are made based on parental choice, space available in each campus, and the Boards racial and ethnic balance policy," states an article on the school districts website.

"The best part about giving the tours was warning the 5th graders about how heavy their backpacks would be, and watching the look on their faces," said Caruso. Choice Tours 2010 started on Wednesday, January 27th and will continue until February 11th, 2010.

in it. It has to be a long time of practice, hard work, and dedication to do this. Applause to all the people who put their talent out there as this is very nerve wracking. I know from personal experience. I was in the talent show last year and almost died from the anticipation. This took a long time and it all paid off in the end. I think that this was a great show!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Kudos to Coach Walling and Coach Melillo who must have had their hands full with all of the planning and the auditions. A lot of behind the scenes effort was put into this show on the part of the staff and students. Highlands talent wasn't just on the stage; all the people that went into organizing this event have talent too!



Highlands Brings on the Talent

by Abby Lombino

Did you hear all the hustle and bustle around the talent show? Well I did, and it is pretty big. The talent show was full of all different types of talent. I give credit to anyone who tried out and was

Caroling

by Nick Dagher

A select group of the Eastview 8th grade band and the Highland's Advanced Choir went caroling before we all left for Christmas Break. We went and played at Ed-House, White Plains Hospital, New York Presbyterian and the Galleria, where we had lunch. The band played after the choir, and we performed three to four short, but fun pieces.

After a day of exciting mu-



sic, we all happily returned to our ninth period classes. It was great to be able to show off some of the talent that is present at the middle school!

WPMS Gears Up for a Magic Carpet Ride with Aladdin

by Melina Africano and Daniella McCarthy

Do you like to sing, dance and act? Well, come to the Middle School's Play! This year the show is Aladdin. Students from Highlands and Eastview come and participate every year in the school play. At the White Plains Middle Schools the plays change every year. These plays have been going on for 25 years. Everyone enjoys the school plays. Even we get to participate this year! But it takes a little bit more than just signing up. You have to audition. Students have to sing a part of the play, then sing their very own song. Based on your audition, they can decide which person or character you should be. When you audition, they look for enthusiasm, spontaneity, stage presence, spark, confidence

and listening skills. The show will be held on Thursday and Friday from 5:30 to 7:30. This is just the beginning!

To find a perfect play, teachers such as Ms. Irlen, Ms. Davila and Mr.Homez participate in the selection. This play was chosen because it had interesting challenges and it could be viewed by all ages. I remember the play "Aladdin" from when I was a kid. The romance, the jokes, and the adventure just bring this play to life. This year we have many leads such as

the Parrot Iago: Jacob Brady, for Aladdin we have: David Axelrod, for Jasmine we have: Daniela Poppe, for Sultan we have: Gabe Darmon, the Genie is: Will Socolof, Razoul is: Nicole Carosella, and last but not least Jafar is: Brian Park. Ms.Irlen has been a musical director for 3 years at Highlands. She loves it she said, "At the opening night of the play it is very exciting and nerve-racking." Everyone loves the plays. We hope you have a good time! See you there!!



Sportsmanship in the Stands

As athletes we are taught sportsmanship and if you do not handle yourself with proper sportsmanship at a game or practice a coach may bench you. But what if the problem is the parents? Even though the parents are not competing, they don't understand that having sportsmanship is key to supporting your child. The parents show others teams that they have sportsmanship. But competitiveness sometimes crosses

Playwriting

by Jared Roseman

Last December and January, the sixth graders at Eastview did a playwriting unit in their E.LA classes with Wendy Gross-Baker, a professional playwright. Wendy worked with the students first with improvisation, than with writing plays. Improvisation is when an actor reads from a script without further knowledge of the script. The students read many Greek and Roman myths, than had the experience to work with Wendy transforming the myth into a written play. The ratio was one myth to 4-5 students. The end results were spectacular.

Each student for the past few years has been able to be enriched by this experience. I thought the biggest challenge of this unit was trying to get the students to co

the line.

At a recent basketball game I was in charge of the timing system, and I pressed the wrong button and it was 13 to 13 and the score turned 13 to 20 a parent started to scream (on the other team) and then another parent was saying the it doesn't matter they can fix it. And this was a modified basketball game.

The whole point of modified sports is to try out that sport and see if you would like to excel in it, in high school. Aren't parents supposed to be role models for their children?

operate with each other. The struggle was quickly overcome by the students adding personality to their plays. For instance, we added a funny song, and made our own twist on characters. I made the goddess Aphrodite an impatient, snappy character.

Part of the fun was the play reading. Parents and teachers came in to help act out and listen to the students' plays. The parents acted out the parts nicely, wonderfully wrapping up the end of the playwriting unit. But don't worry Highlands students, Wendy's coming to you next!



Devastating Earthquake Rocks Haiti

by Allison Jasne

On January 12, a disaster rocked an already poor country to its roots. A 7.0 magnitude earthquake caused death and destruction throughout the country of Haiti. Though the actual number is unknown, the death toll estimate of 150,000 people is rising with each passing day, and the window of time to reach trapped survivors is dwindling. While aid is coming, the people of Haiti need food, clean water, and medicine - and fast.

Some have been saved. A 16 year-old girl, whose name was not released, was pulled from the rubble 16 days after the earthquake. She survived on water after being trapped in her bathroom. After a 45-minute effort she was finally freed and airlifted to the French hospital ship *Sirocco*. Rescuers believed one of her legs was broken, and she was dehydrated, weak, and had low blood pressure. She was heard to say "thank you" in French while being carried away on a stretcher.

While some may have lived, others have not. Anaika "Anna" St. Louis, 11, died after being pulled from the rubble after 3 days. Her right leg had been crushed and she had so much internal bleeding she died before making it to a hospital 3 hours away. She was buried in Liancourt in Haiti.



The world has been jolted into action. Many countries, including France, Spain, England, and the United States of America (to name a few) are stepping in, donating supplies, food, water, medicine, doctors, staff, and money. People from all over the world are stepping up, even in this extremely tight economy. One example is the "Hope for Haiti" telethon that ran on Friday, January 22. The event raised over 61 million dollars, and included over 100 celebrities, including Grammy winners Taylor Swift and Beyonce, Mary J. Blige, Justin Timberlake, and even Madonna!

Students at both Eastview and Highlands are lending a hand! Eastview had donation bins in the auditorium and cafeteria,

ending with a final sweep just after the pep rally, in total raising almost \$4,000. In Mrs. Slavins' class at Highlands, students placed containers in the main office and in the cafeteria. Her goal was for everyone to donate \$1, and since there are about 1100 students she is shooting for \$1270. She has said that with the students and staff being so generous they may surpass their goal!

You can help outside of school by donating money to organizations like the Red Cross or by being supportive to those in our school community who have been personally touched by this tragedy. Ultimately, when the world has a problem, it's EVERYONE'S responsibility to chip in.



Students wore red in support of the Haitian relief effort.

Eastview Students and Staff Weigh In on Global Issues

by Annick Tabb

Many people have different opinions about what the world should be doing to make itself a better place. That is because we are all different. I asked some people about their take on it, and I got some interesting answers. Erica Pope, 6th grade said "Global

warming is very important because if we don't recycle, the Earth's atmosphere gets thinner; we will all die."

Wendy Gross-Baker, our resident playwright said, "The environment is very important because so many issues are affected by this matter."

Arielle Hazi, 8th grade said "World hunger is important because people in America have so much and we should give it to poorer, more less-fortunate countries than ourselves."

Nicole Carosella, 8th grade, said "People should be more aware of HIV AIDS in Africa."

Mrs. Pastore said, "People should be more aware of world peace because all people should treat everyone the same."

Josephine Mercado, 6th grade said "There are so many issues that I can't choose one."

When you think about global issues, there are sometimes too many to count. But all of them are important and you can do a lot to help.



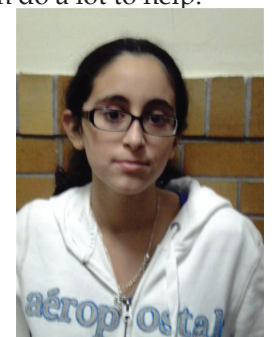
Arielle Hazi says that world hunger is a big issue.



Nicole Carosella thinks people should be more aware of AIDS.



Erica Pope wishes people would give more attention to Global Warming



Josephine Mercado says there are so many issues she can't decide on just one!



THE COURIER

White Plains Middle School

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TEACHERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Eastview's Mr. Hommez

by Victoria Szabo

Mr. Hommez is the music teacher at Eastview. He teaches both chorus and general music, but we can't forget the fact that he squeezes advanced chorus and the musical into his already busy schedule.

Mr. Hommez always looks out for his students and makes sure that everyone realizes the importance music has in the world. It's those listening samples he gives his students! At those times we, the students, are able to calm down and think about music we might not even have bothered to listen to otherwise.

Mr. Hommez is a fun teacher, but he is also strict yet fair. And no matter what, he always makes sure that everyone works to the best of

their ability. There's always room during lunch for those who love to sing, and Mr. Hommez is willing to help with anything from talent show auditions to NYSSMA solos.

Mr. Hommez has become an important part in many students' lives, and for that he deserves his moment in the SPOTLIGHT.



Mr. Hommez is always willing to help students, even at lunch time!

Highland's Mr. Hotchkiss

by Scott Louis

Mr. John Hotchkiss is this month's teacher in the spotlight. Mr. Hotchkiss is an eighth grade math teacher here at Highlands for the past nineteen years. He also worked at Eastview for nine years. Additionally, he worked in New Hampshire as a math teacher for nine years.

Besides teaching, Mr. Hotchkiss was in the United States Navy for thirty-three years. Mr. Hotchkiss went to college at University of New Hampshire where he earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He also attended college at Iona where he earned a master's degree in mathematics. Mr. Hotchkiss decided to go into teaching during college. Originally, he was majoring in business administration, but decided

that he would rather talk to people instead of computers.

For those who don't know, Mr. Hotchkiss is the Highlands ski trip organizer. He has been the adviser for these trips for twenty-seven years. Mr. Hotchkiss started attending these trips as a chaperone in 1982 and became the adviser the next year. He has taken over eight thousand students on these ski trips!

Mr. Hotchkiss has one of the most important jobs at Highlands. In case of emergency like a fire, Mr. Hotchkiss is in charge of evacuating all the children from the building. He risks his life in these situations. Mr. Hotchkiss puts his life on the line to save other people before himself.

In addition to all these things you can find him cooking at the 8th grade picnic, supervising Homework Center, firing off a musket during Civil War Day, and answering



Mr. Hotchkiss is not only a great math teacher, he's an important member of our school community. the call whenever the Highlands community needs him.

Mr. Hotchkiss would like to say that he is very grateful for the opportunity to teach in White Plains. We're grateful to have had such a wonderful man with us for all of these years.

Profesora Restrepo Breaks Language Barrier

By Catalina Martinez

Ms. Catalina Restrepo is the new Spanish teacher at Highlands. What makes her unique is that Ms. Restrepo was once an ESOL student here at Highlands! We talked to her about her experience coming to this country, the struggles she faced, and her decision to become a teacher.

Where were you born?

I was born in Colombia and arrived to the United States when I was 14 years old.

Was it hard coming to this country?

It was hard to be without my parents. Also, it was hard to become accustomed to the new way of doing things in

school. Learning the language was the most difficult, but at the same time I had fun learning it.

Did you teach in Colombia before?

No, I didn't because I was only a teenager when I came here. I decided to become a teacher once I was in college here in USA.

Why did you want to teach?

I decided to teach in the USA, first of all because I reside here and most importantly because I wanted to help people of other languages to be able to communicate with Spanish speaking people. In addition, maybe one day my students will be teaching Spanish.

What do you like to do in your free time?

In my free time, I love to go to new places even if they are nearby. I like to go hiking and anything that involves the outdoors. I also enjoy films but mostly independent foreign films. I love to read and dance. It's hard to do all of that, yet there's much more that I'd like to do.



Profesora Restrepo

Nuestra nueva maestra de Espanol Rompe Las Barreras

Por Alejandra Alberto

Este artículo es acerca de la Srta. Catalina Restrepo, y de su vida como una estudiante de ESOL, así como de su vida escolar y como maestra en esta escuela. También acerca de como aprendió Inglés y como logro ser una persona importante en la sociedad; una maestra.

¿Cuántos años tenía cuando vino y porque vino a los Estados Unidos?

Cuando llegue yo tenía 14 años y la razón por la que yo vine a este país con mi familia fueron los problemas políticos y económicos de Colombia.

¿Usted hablaba inglés cuando llego a este país o lo aprendió aquí?

Yo no sabía ni como decir

hola, todo lo aprendí en la escuela de los E.E.U.U y otras clases extras.

¿Le fue difícil el aprender a hablar un nuevo idioma?

Al comienzo si fue un poquito difícil, pero con el tiempo se fue volviendo más fácil.

¿Le afecto en algo el no poder hablar Inglés cuando vino?

Claro, me afecto porque no me podía comunicar como quería y ni siquiera mi familia se podía comunicar bien. Cuando teníamos que ir al médico o a otros lugares era súper difícil para comunicarnos.

¿Qué piensa de las personas que no hablan Inglés y no lo quieren aprender?

Yo, pienso que esto es una

decisión muy personal y creo que al tiempo se dan cuenta de la necesidad de hablarlo. Sin embargo creo que se ha vuelto más fácil el no saberlo.

¿Usted cree que si hubiera venido en este tiempo; hubiera aprendido Inglés?

Yo creo que si por qué cuando yo llegué había muchos hispanos, sin embargo yo lo aprendí y ahora hay muchos hispanos. El que quiere aprende.

¿Cómo fue que usted llego a ser la maestra que es ahora?

Cuando yo estaba en el colegio hacia preguntas por que la universidad era un misterio para mí. Luego, mis amistades fueron a la universidad y comencé a aplicar a las universidades. Decidí ir a SUNY NEW PALTZ a estudiar música

6th Graders Get Jazzy

by Lauren LaPlaca

Something so amazing hit Highlands Middle School. Can you guess what it was? If you guessed the 6th grade winter concert, you're right. This year's 6th grade concert was really great. Presenting the 6th grade orchestra, band, honor choir and special guests, 7th and 8th grade Jazz Band. It was very, very great. Since we're all in 6th grade now, we sounded soooooo much better than last year. I, Lauren LaPlaca, play the flute in the 6th grade band. We worked for months on these songs. It was hard work but it was definitely worth it. Enough about me, I would like to give many thanks to our fabulous teachers. Ms. Seigler, who strings together

the orchestra's music, Ms. Luck, who makes it possible for the audience to be blown away by the band, Ms. Irlen, who puts together the magical songs for the choir. Mr. Veeder and his marvelous Jazz Band stole the stage.

I interviewed one person from each music type; I asked the same question, "What was your favorite part of preparing for the concert?" Nicole VanDerveer, orchestra violinist said, "My favorite part is practicing the songs we have been preparing." Rachel Cutsumpas, French horn player said, "My favorite part was being able to get to practice on the stage and get the full affect." Brian LaPlaca Jazz Band trumpet player said, "It was fun watching everyone mess up and then get better." Together the concert was really, really spectacular. Both, the audience and the musicians went home with a song stuck in their head.

ca pero decidí la maestría.

¿Fue difícil la universidad?

Sí, pero aprendí mucho tanto personal como académicamente, las lecturas eran difíciles porque eran en Inglés, a veces la leía hasta 2 veces; pero con tiempo y dedicación todo se hace posible y se convierte más fácil.

¿Qué consejo les daría a todos los estudiantes de ESOL para continuar en su futuro?

Es muy importante que tengan persistencia, dedicación y paciencia. Esta es la clave de mi éxito hasta este momento. Habrá momentos difíciles pero también momentos buenos llegan. Hagan preguntas, no se den por vencidos y no se limiten por la causa del Inglés.

Eastview Hosts Logo Contest for New Website

by Jack Ryan

Eastview has been hunting for the perfect logo for our new website. Sra. Plant and Ms. Kennedy have been looking for a logo that has a tiger because that is our school mascot combined with something else that shows that Eastview is very globally involved. This logo is very important to Eastview because it will represent us for a very long time. Many students have shared their ideas for the new logo. May the best logo win, and good luck to anyone who submitted a one!

Features

The History of Valentine's Day

by Teddy Chomiak

Valentine's Day is a widely celebrated holiday on which people give gifts and flowers to show their appreciation towards loved ones and friends. But not many people know exactly why we give our friends and family boxes of chocolate and cards on February 14th. What's really behind Valentine's Day?

According to legend, Valentine was a priest who served in Rome. The Emperor Claudius II decided that single men would make better soldiers than ones emotionally attached to families, so he banned marriage. Being a priest, Valentine opposed this new law. So, he decided to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. Unfortunately, Valentine's illegal actions were discovered and he was put to death. There were at least three Saint Valentines, though. Other stories were told of a Saint Valentine helping people escape from Roman prisons. They were also killed for their beliefs.

Now, we remember their acts of kindness by giving each other gifts to show our love and appreciation.



Students Become Obsessed with The Craziest Things!

By Allison Jasne and Nicole Carosella

Certain students at Eastview (naming NO names) have made it clear they are obsessed, with everything from a celebrity to made-up characters. IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHO THE PERSON IS, PLEASE DO NOT EMBARRASS THEM!!!

First, we look at one student who is obsessed with emo rock music. This student particularly enjoys the music by bands such as Tokyo Hotel, Hollywood Undead, and mainly Slipknot. They are often seen wearing shirts depicting these bands.

Next, we turn to a student mesmerized by David Archuleta. This student can't stop talking about him, and has about a million t-shirts with David or David-related pictures and words. This student's favorite songs include



NYSSMA's Shining Season

by Victoria Szabo

New York State Schools Music Association, or NYSSMA, is coming back again this year! NYSSMA is an organization that helps improve music education and create music programs in schools that are part of their membership. In spring, approximately 100,000 students participate in the NYSSMA festival, where students perform solos in front of judges and receive a score based on their performance.

Eastview Goes... to Cleveland?

by Megan M. Caceres

On Thursday, January 28, 2010, Eastview's 8th grade Wings class held a video conference with the Cleveland Museum of Art. The video conference took place in the L.G.I. room all through 4th period and the beginning of 5th period. Students were shown different art pieces and sculptures by one of the museum's tour guides. The whole video conference was interactive. The tour guide was quite fascinated and impressed with

There are overall six levels, one being easiest and six being the hardest. You can do a NYSSMA solo by singing or playing a musical instrument. You don't really need to even be in the school band, orchestra or chorus, just know how to sing or play your instrument. But to apply, you have to pay a fee to be in the festival. Once you're in the room, you play a NYSSMA song in front of a judge, some scales and a new piece to sight-read. Then, a few weeks later, your results arrive and you start working on next year!

But NYSSMA isn't just for soloists. Groups can be entered as well. For example, Eastview's Advanced Chorus went to the NYSSMA contest and came back with a plaque hanging in Mr. Hommez's room. Overall, NYSSMA is a fun way to test your abilities and practice music! To everyone that's doing it this year: good luck!

all the knowledge that the 8th grade Wings students shared. Students learned more about their pop artists as well as other artists too. Favorite pop artists discussed were Julian Beeber, Red Grooms, Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, George Segal, and Jasper Johns. The whole point of the video conference was to really get into art mode since the 8th grade Wings were currently studying different pop artists and pop art. A special thanks to Wings teacher, Mrs. Turk, who helped set up the conference between Eastview and the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Crush (by Archuleta), Save the Day (again by Archuleta), and Zero Gravity (get the idea?).

"I'm lovesick" best describes this popular student. They are enchanted by the curly haired cutie Nick Jonas. This student's writer's notebook is covered with pictures of the teen heartthrob and they have many shirts depicting him and occasionally with his brothers (Joe and Kevin) as the Jonas Brothers. Need I say more?

"Wingardium Leviosa!" Let the words and spells of Harry Potter fly! This student makes their obsession known everywhere - you can talk to this student about anything and she will bring something about the famous character or related to the series. Twi-hards beware - an HP Head is coming!

Here's a shocker - teachers have obsessions too!

SPORTS

Athlete's of the Month

Brittanie Etienne



by Brian LaPlaca

This issue's girl athlete of the month is Brittanie Etienne. She is an 8th grader at the Highlands Campus. Since second grade, she has participated in many sports. Her favorites are basketball, volleyball, swimming, and field hockey. She enjoys playing all sports.

From everyone at the Courier we hope and encourage her to continue following her dreams.



Boys' Swim Team Takes the Plunge

By Drew Smiley

January 22nd marked the end of a long season for our school's boys' swim team. Ever since November we, (I was a member too), have practiced every day with our coach from the High School, Coach Fahey-Doherty. She has been a great coach (she had to be to be able to manage a group of seventh and eighth graders every day for two hours!) During the season we

Ski Trips

by Louisa Abbott

Though the temperature was low, the turnouts were high for our January and February Ski Trips. Two coach buses packed with both students and teachers loaded up and set off on January 9th and February 5 (it was moved to this date due to an impending snowstorm). The conditions were slightly windy and icy, but that didn't make any difference to anyone there. We spent about five hours on the slopes. There are the green circles for the beginners, blue squares for the intermediate, and black diamond slopes for the advanced. When we got back on the bus, everyone was exhausted, but filled with memories that will last for a very long time. If you're interested in starting snowboarding or skiing, and you

Brian DiSanto



By Drew Smiley

Brian DiSanto is a seventh grader on the Modified Swim Team. I have been swimming alongside him for two months and I can honestly say that he's one of the best swimmers in the water. Brian takes practices and competitions seriously, but he always has room for humor. While he may be a lightning bolt when it comes to freestyle, Brian isn't too bad at breaststroke either. When I talked to Ceara Gilmartin about Brian she said, "He is a good swimmer and a good sport." We are all waiting to see if Brian continues his "Phepsian" journey next year, but until then, congrats Brian!



Members of the swim team (l to r) Drew Smiley, Coach Fahey-Doherty and Brian DiSanto

did not have many competitions but in the ones we had the team went 2-1. The swimmers were all hard working and, to be honest, fast! I will miss the chlorinated waters of the high school pool now, but I know I'll be back and swimming again next season!

want to go on one of the future ski trips, there is still one left on March 13th. Beginners and advanced skiers and snowboarders are welcome! By Nick Dagher

The middle school ski trips take place three times a year. Every year we go to Bellayre Mountain, a ski resort about 2-3 hours from Highlands. On the way there, we watch movies.

The whole day can be spent skiing/snowboarding, but you need to check in for lunch at the lodge. Most of the ski lifts have pretty short lines and a joyful time is had by all. Every year it's a fun filled experience with plenty of trails for skiers and snowboarders of all levels.

If you haven't reserved your spot yet, please see Mr. Hotchkiss at Highlands or Mr. Baker at Eastview.

Book Reviews



Catching Fire

by Suzanne Collins

Reviewed by Allison Jasne

Imagine walking into Hell - again.

She's going back in.

Katniss Everdeen, against all odds, has won the 74th Hunger Games with fellow Tribute Peeta Mellark in Collins' first novel in the Hunger Games trilogy. She now has a home in Victor's Village, buckets of money, and more than enough food. She is happy - until President Snow comes knocking at her door.

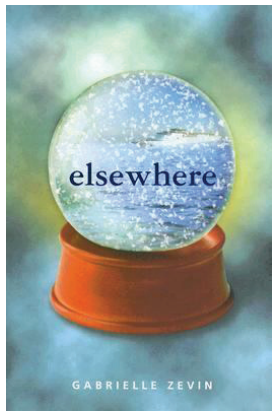
When she pulled out those deadly berries, she started a rebellion. District 11 is rioting, and people are being openly killed. Everywhere else, there are whispers and talks about rebelling, uprooting the Capitol and Panem itself—all because of Katniss' defiance.

She can try to stop them on the Victory Tour, but her efforts are futile. And her name will soon be on a gravestone.

She is going back in the arena.

And this time, only one Tribute can live. She knows who it will be.

Follow her story in *Catching Fire* - and in the next installment, coming in August: *Hunger Games; Book 3*. If you missed the first, check out the *Hunger Games*.



Elsewhere

by Gabrielle Zevin

Reviewed by Hadar Arens

In a fiction story called "Elsewhere" by Gabrielle Zevin, a teenage girl named Elizabeth Marie Hall (Liz), has a serious car accident, which has changed her life. She wakes up unexpectedly on a cruise to get to Elsewhere. She is puzzled about where she is and what is going on around her. When she arrives in Elsewhere she meets her grandmother Betty, which she never met when she was alive, who is now in her thirties. This upsets Elizabeth because instead of growing older in Elsewhere people get younger until they are infants to be sent back to Earth and live a brand new life. Liz meets a man named Owen who is married to someone that is still alive on planet Earth. Although he is married they begin to have a close relationship and fall in love.

I truly recommend this book because when I read it for the first time, it always led me to the next page to see what would happen next. A few months after reading this book, I continued to think about what the "Afterlife" really meant.

Will Liz be able to go back to Earth and live her new life? Will her relationship with Owen cause problems? How does her friendship with her grandmother Betty turn out? Read this book and you will learn a lesson that will stay with you throughout your life. It's stayed with me.

Movie Review

The Lovely Bones

by Tori Cignarella

The Lovely Bones came out into theatres on January 15th, 2010. It is based on the novel written by Alice Sebold. After reading both the novel and seeing the movie, I was able to make comparisons.

Susie Salmon, a fourteen year girl living in 1973 is murdered on December 6th. This was confusing, in the movie because they didn't show the actual death because they wanted to keep it PG-13. The movie also misses some key components are in the book. It also mentioned some untrue facts.

Overall, this movie (in my opinion) wasn't entirely bad, but it definitely disappointed me in parts. Also, it was slightly boring at times, and it was a 2 hour 15 minute movie. The novel was very descriptive and I was hooked the entire way through. I did think the graphics were very good for this movie, although, the script and the way it was put together could have been better.

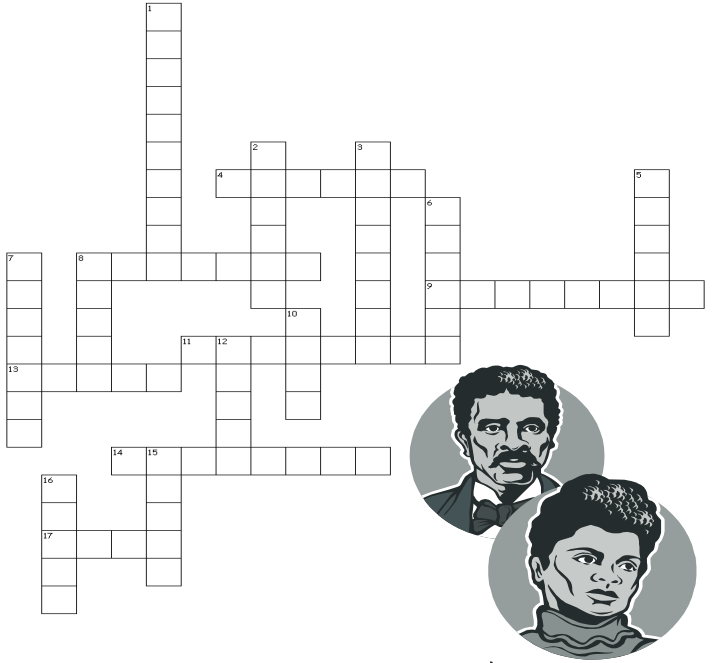
Math Challenge

	-		x		-11
+		+		+	
	+		+		22
x		x		x	
	x		+		20
36		22			51

Try to fill in the missing numbers.
Use the numbers 1 through 9 to complete the equations.
Each number is only used once.
Each row is a math equation. Each column is a math equation.
Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

Black History Month

Famous African Americans



Crossword Clues

- Across**
- 4. Founder of the NAACP
 - 8. Talk show host and philanthropist
 - 9. Supreme Court justice
 - 11. Baseball's barrier breaker
 - 13. Famous sitcom actor and comedian
 - 14. Female African slave poet
 - 17. Former Secretary of State, female

Down

- 1. First teacher and principal of the Tuskegee Institute
- 2. Harlem Renaissance poet
- 3. Superstar tennis sisters
- 5. General and former Secretary of State
- 6. Underground Railroad leader
- 7. Boston Massacre figure
- 8. The world's most famous golfer
- 10. Peaceful civil rights activist
- 12. Mr. President
- 15. "Roots" author
- 16. She refused to give up her seat, and she sparked a movement

Valentine Word Search

S J H B N Q T F G S C H P J P
B P C U V D R X E P N T E L W
H K I N R I R N V R A N E H M
V S D H E O I A P E G E I T V
F Z U N S T S Z I S Z E C D B
S B D F N N W E N E D T D Y T
I S L E E O O S K N K R I M V
G B L Z R B G I P T K U P H L
U A X R Q G R E T P J O U V K
V E A C P H T U B A X F C S M
F T R N P D E R A J L O V E K
D I G N I R A C A R S E E O A
A L L N L M Q L I E Y D R Y U
C H O C O L A T E P H K E M T
Q Q V V N W M U A P S A R X Q



- ARROW
- CARING
- CHOCOLATE
- CUPID
- FEBRUARY
- FOURTEENTH
- FRIENDS
- HEART
- LOVE
- PINK
- PRESENT
- RELATIONSHIPS
- ROSE
- VALENTINE

S.O. Announcement: 7th & 8th Grade Dance!!!

When: Friday, March 5th

Where: Highlands Gymnasium

Time: 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Tickets are \$4.00 and will be on sale in the cafeteria

Poetry Corner

Color

By Amanda Cantú



Red is the love, Yellow is the sun, Blue is the sky above,
And Orange is the fun.

Pink is the happy, White is the ice, Brown is the earthy,
And Purple is the nice.

Green is the brilliant, Gray is the tear, Magenta is the pleasant,
And Black is the cheer

Lazily
You drift
Into a world that
Is your own
The winds howl
And claws at you
But in your sleep
You're safe
You're world
Disappearing in a flash
Then you realize
It's morning
The sun
raining down
on you
you'll sleep
a sleep again

Sleeeeeeep

By Sebastian Vignone



Song De

Mrs. Knight dedicates "Thank You for Being a Friend" by Andrew Gold to Mr. Cloherty

Anonymous dedicates "Love Song" by Sara Bareilles to Marcelo Garcia

A Secret Admirer dedicates "Beautiful Eyes" by Taylor Swift to Jemma Freed

Kit Devine dedicates "You Belong With Me", by Taylor Swift to Olivia Brockavics

Francesca Fonzetti dedicates "You've Got a Friend in Me" by James Taylor

to Charlotte Greenslade.

"Someone Special" dedicates "P.S. I Love You" by The Beatles to Joseph Terrigno

Jack Steinberg dedicates "One Time" by Justin Bieber to Kate Trujillo

Luis Aguirre dedicates "Crazy in Love" by Beyonce to Liana Shirley

Laura Thola dedicates "Single Ladies" by Beyonce to Carly Schwartz

A Secret Admirer dedicates "You Belong With Me" to Margot Nissenblat

Gabby Pinto dedicates "Forever" by Chris Brown to Robyn Moss

Maria Castro dedicates "Party in the U.S.A." by Miley Cyrus to Victoria Torres

Jamonne dedicates "You've Got a Friend in Me" by James Taylor to Mrs. Lyons

Gabby Pinto dedicates "All You Need is Love" by The Beatles to Jemma Freed

Dana Jensen dedicates "A Little Help from my Friends" by The Beatles to Giulia Capicotto

Elana Mariani dedicates "You Belong With Me" by Taylor Swift to Cara A.

Rose Reiken dedicates "The Climb" by Miley Cyrus to Elana Mariani

Brianna Brown dedicates "Party in the U.S.A." by Miley Cyrus to Asia Williams

Laurin Smith dedicates "Just Dance" by Lady GaGa to Rebecca Liebson

Lina El-Saieh dedicates "You Belong With Me" by Taylor Swift to Minni Arzen

Your "bestie" forever, Lashanae, dedicates "Forever" by Chris Brown to Raina Kadaville and Arya

Alisha McCrae dedicates "One Time" by Justin Bieber to Jasmine Randall

Tyrin Miller dedicates "I'll Be There" by The Jackson 5 to Alana Lyons

Karla dedicates "One Time" by Justin Bieber to Tiana

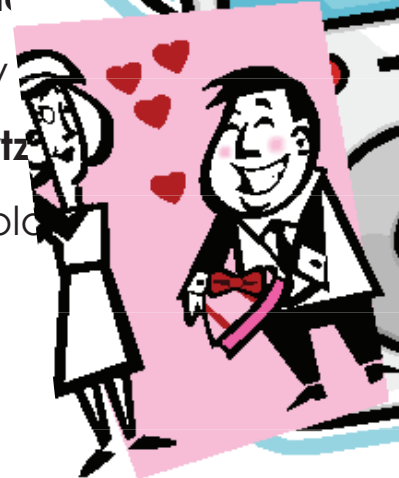
Ashley Dallas dedicates "Just Dance" by Lady GaGa to Lizzie Lee

Charlotte Greenslade dedicates "I Gotta Feeling" by The Black-Eyed Peas to Francesca Fonzetti

Anonymous dedicates "Love Story" by Taylor Swift to Francesca

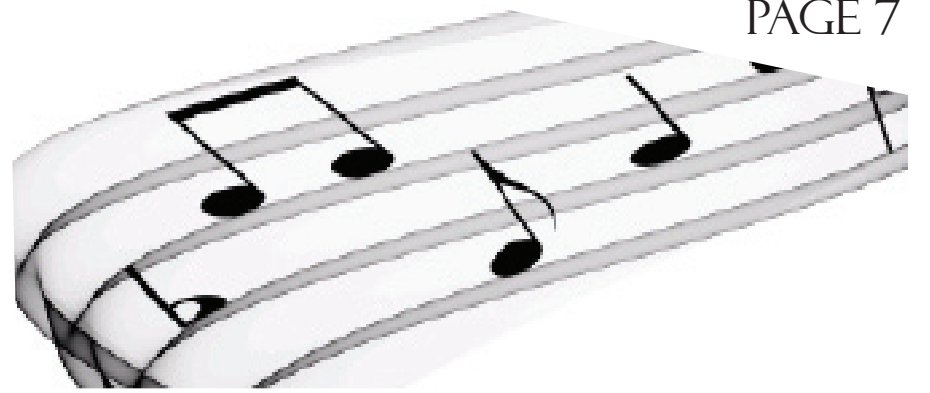


Brian C



Brian

edications



Jamoni Johnson dedicates "Diva" by Beyonce to Mrs. Simmons

Jack Steinberg dedicates "You Got a Friend in Me" by James Taylor to Mark Selk

Ceara and Charlotte dedicate "Nothing Compares to You" by Sinead O'Connor to Mrs. Irlen

Taylor Edmonson dedicates "Just Dance" by Lady Gaga to all her friends

Phil dedicates "Heartless" by Kanye West to Bryce Mitchell

Hadar Arens dedicates "I'll Be There for You" by The Rembrandts to Robyn Moss, Margot Nissenblatt, Tatiana Mercuri, Melina Africano and Gabby Pinto

Robyn Moss dedicates "Bubbly" by Colbie Caillat to Gabby Pinto

Sheyla dedicates "Just Friends" by the Jonas Brothers to Sandra Sandoval

Laura Thola-Torres dedicates "Diva" by Beyonce to Melissa R., Katie T., Samantha S., Mayra Z. and Ameronie

Daniella McCarthy dedicates "Thank You for Being a Friend" by Andrew Gold to

Melina Africano, Lauren LaPlaca, Jennifer Cheitel, and Laura Thola

Laura Thola-Torres dedicates "Single Ladies" by Beyonce to Nathaly S., Nicole Ahrens, Rebecca R., Alexis A.

Zhane Fields dedicates "You Belong With Me" by Taylor Swift to Rashon White

Dejon dedicates "I Gotta Feeling" by Black Eyed Peas to Jackie Rayo

Laura Thola-Torres dedicates "Single Ladies" by Beyonce to Daniella McCarthy, Melina Africano and Elizabeth V.

Victoria dedicates "Just Dance" by Lady Gaga to Jahaira Cruz

Thanh Kha and Odalis dedicate "Thank You for Being a Friend" by Andrew Gold to Sandra Sandoval

Davaughn Roberts dedicates "You Belong With Me" by Taylor Swift to Laura C.

Victoria dedicates "No One" by Alicia Keys to Maria

Mrs. Herzog dedicates "Ease on Down the Road" from "The Wiz" to her 8th Graders

Jessica Simpson dedicates "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It) by Beyonce to Tyler Dingle

Davaughn dedicates "We Belong Together" by Mariah Carey to Jenny Moss

Nick Barone dedicates "I Wanna Hold Your Hand" by The Beatles to Valerie Orlate

Nick Dagher dedicates "I Caught Fire" by The Used to Amanda Cantu

Ciera 521 dedicates "Always Be My Baby" by Mariah Carey to Jonathan Coporan

Amanda Cantu dedicates "Must Have Done Something Right" by Relient K to Nick Dagher

Rowan Lynch-Samant dedicates "Beggin'" by Mastodon to Rachel Mascia



Ms. Knight

would like to wish the entire Highlands community a happy and restful winter break!



From Linda Vecchiolla and the Food Services Staff...

Roses are red, Violets are blue, Eating school lunch is good for you. By doing so, you should know The vitamins and minerals help you Go! Go! Go!



The Food Service Staff Works hard and long So you can grow up to be Strong! Strong! Strong!

So, please accept our Valentine wishes And remember to try all of our dishes!

SHOW



MRS. HOLDER, MRS. LYONS AND MRS. SIMMONS



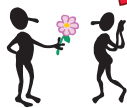
Happy Valentine's Day! WOULD LIKE TO WISH THE ENTIRE STAFF OF THE COURIER A HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!

To Richard Jamal Hollis

RJ, what's good??? It's Bailey and Daniel. Hope you have a good year!

From Bailey

To Josh Siwek



I just wanted to tell you that I love you soooo much! Sadly, we never met 'cause I'm very SHY and I don't want anyone to know. Well, you will find me soon! Kisses!

Love, Anonymous

To Maritza

Hey, watz up???

Happy Valentine's Day!

From, Diana Rosado

To Stephanie Subelza



Happy Valentine's Day!

I hope you're doing well in school!

From Kimberly Nolli

To J.J.

Roses are Red, Violets are Blue There's no one as cool, And awesome as YOU!

To Susanna Schuler

S uper U nique S illy A mazing N ice N utella-ey A lex and Shoshi and Rose say hi!



We miss you!!!

To

Nancy Maria Becerra

Happy Nancy,

Happy Birthday!

Hope you have a great day!



Sami

To Nancy Balestra

Happy Birthday

And

Happy Valentine's Day!



From, Julissa

To All my Eastview friends...



Heyyyy to everyone I know at Eastview..

I love you!

OK, BYE!

Love,

Rebecca Zdanoff

To Alisia Ortiz

Hey Alisia!

I hope you are having a fun time at Eastview!

See you soon!

From, Jerry Roneo

To Marissa Grande and Kyrin Rosdil



You are a great friend! I will always be your friend!

From, Jackie Gershman

Dear Caraboo,

Elena says "hi"

From Aunt Artie & Emily.



Meredith says

"How's Stew Cat?"

From

EriLena and Meredith

To

Melina Africano Lauren LaPlaca Jennifer Cheitel and Laura Thola



YOU GUYS ROCK! YOU ARE AWESOME! THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND!

From, Daniella

To Maria Paula Ramirez

Thanks for being a good friend!

From, Gisselle

To Yasmin Orazuna

I just wanted to know how you are doing and I wanna know what you are doing Saturday.

Maybe we can go ice skating!



Love your Sister, Vanessa

TO MR. LAMBERT,

WHAT'S GOOD???

FROM, GISSELLE

To all my friends:



Daniella M. Caroline W. You-Wha K. David M. Carly G. Daniel K. Rose B. Seth S.

HHHHHEEEEEYYYYY! From Jacob

To Cristina, Jessica, Vanessa, Dejun, Ryan, Alexis and Deirdre,

LUV YOU GUYZ!!!

From, Jackie Rayo

SHOUT OUTS

Yessica D.
Happy Valentine's Day!



To Caroline, Carlin,
Ashley, Nicole, Viki,
Nick, Nikki, Sarah,
Jenie, and whoever I
forget...

Hearts, Allison



Tyler G.

I heard you are great at
Tae Kwon Do.

Can you teach me?

From,
Anonymous



To Ben Kanas
**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY!**

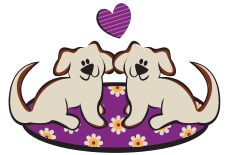
From
Deirdre Raggo



To Diana Rosado,
**YOU OWE
ME A SPIT
GAME 😊**

From,
Gisselle

To Team 7F



Happy Valentines Day!

From, Miss DiCamillo,
Mrs. Drabek, Mr. Iasiello, Mrs.
Lyons, Mrs. Principe, Mrs.
Rondinelli, Mrs. Simmons and
Mrs. Staar

To
All My Friends



Hey guys! Thanks for
being my friends through
thick 'n thin!
I luv ya!

From Viki Szabo

Angelo T.

I really like your time
capsule.



To
Karla Escobar

What's up BFF?
Thanks for sending me a
"Shout Out"
You're the best lol
Thanks!

From,
Ashley Dallas

To Jackie Rago and
Imani Elting

I love Jackie and
Imani!

They're two of the
best people I know!

I'll love them forever!

Love,
Cristina

To Valerie Orlate
Happy
Valentine's Day
Valerie!

From
Nick Barone



TO RJ HOLLIS

WHITE PLAINS IS
GOING TO WIN
THE CHIP FOR
SURE!

FROM,
MICHAEL GILES JR.

Hey Alyssa S.

I saw you on the
cheerleading squad
and I think you are
really cool!



To
Jalen Jamison

I hope you have a
Happy 13th Birthday

Jalen!

From,
Anthony Mubiala

To Javi V:
Can we go to the mall
with you and Juan C.?
We asked Mr.
McGuinn and he said
you were cool.

Love, 
Tina and Isabel

To
Clara S.

I would like to go
skiing with you
sometime!



To
Cara Andreassi

C is for caring
A is for awesome
R is for radical
A is for amazing

We miss you!!!

From,
Merzith Abato and
Shoshi Weinger

To Julie,
**YOU WERE A GOOD
FRIEND!**
Happy Valentine's Day!

From,
Gisselle

To Jemma Freed, Laura Thola Torrez,
Elizabeth Velasquez, Margot Nissenblatt,
Rumi Koike, Mei Wong, Myriam Natute,
Maria Paula Ramirez, Tatiana Mercuri,
Hadar Arens, Kit Devine, Brianna Steibling
and Nancy Maria Becerra

YOU GUYS ARE SO
AWESOME!

I LOVE YOU! 

Melina Africano

To The Media Center
Helpers,
**Thanks for your
help at lunch and
during the book
fair!**



From,
Miss Nugent

To
Maritza Xelo

Hey Maritza,
Can you and Keysi go
ice skating on Friday?

Bye!

From,
Vanessa Plata

I.L.Y



Ashley Dallas
Imani Thomas
Alexis Peralta
Tommi Robinson
And
Rashon White

From,
Lizzie Lee

TO
EMILY S. CUBE

I HOPE YOU ENJOY
YOUR BOAT RIDE!

FROM,
CARA ANDREASSI



To
Nadine Schiefer

I love you!



From
Ross Van Doren

To
Tyler Dingle and
Winter Smith
**Happy
Valentine's Day!**

From
Jessica Simpson

To
Bobby Lovitch
**YOU
KILLED
KENNY!**

From,
Phil Tortoriello



ATTENTION YOU HAVE

The staff of the Courier

FROM THE HIGH

How much time do we have between classes to gather our things? Can we go to our locker on the way to our next class?

Highlands has four minutes in between classes. You should plan your visits to your locker – at the beginning of the day, before and after lunch and at the end of the day. This prevents you having to run in between every class.

What happens if you do not bring your homework in?

It depends on the individual teacher's homework policy.

When can you decorate your locker?

You can decorate your locker anytime as long as you don't put tape on your locker. It's fun to decorate lockers for birthdays.

Describe the cafeteria food.

It depends on your taste. Some days are better than others, but there is a lot of variety. You can have pizza, salad, fruits, custom sandwiches, the hot lunch and we have a snack bar. The snack offers pretzels, popcorn, cookies, muffins and bagels. We also have vending machines with snacks, drinks and ice cream.

Do the students have recess time? If so, how long is recess? If there is no recess, what are our options? What happens if there is recess and it rains?

During the last twenty minutes of the lunch period, students have the option to go outside if the weather is ok. Students may also do work in the media center, go see a teacher or sign up to play basketball in the gym. If they want, they can just stay in the cafeteria the whole time too.

What classes are you required to take? Which are electives?

Math, ELA, Science, Social Studies, Health and PE are required.

You can choose Foreign Language, Technology, Art, Music, Chorus, Band, Orchestra, Computers or Family/Consumer Science

How many types of clubs are there?

There is a whole variety of clubs. Some of them are S.O., Animal Lovers Club, The Courier, the Math team, Cheerleading, Chess club, Clubmen, Community Service Club, Tiger Productions and many more. There are over 20 clubs and sports.

How long can a student stay in the special duty room/detention room?

We are going to keep it positive and not address this question. We know it won't happen to any of you.

Do we ever have any free periods? Is there a study hall?

Some students have a ROAR period which is time to catch up on your work, get help or read.

Is there time to start your homework during the school day?

You can do work during lunch or if you have a ROAR period. We also have homework center three days a week after school. The teachers are there to help you.

Is there a cafeteria food card for your lunch or do we have to carry money? Can we bring our own lunches?

Every student receives a lunch card or you can use your fingerprint scan to pay for lunch. You may bring your own lunch.

Are there any school parties, dances, plays, or social events?

There are two sixth grade dances.

There are two seventh and eighth grade dances. There is also the eighth grade formal dance. There is a school play, the eighth grade picnic, the spring musical and every team has their own activities.

Will there be any type of theme days during the school year? If so, what are they?

Spirit week (which ends with a pep rally) is really fun. For example, there is a sports day, a school spirit day, a pajama day, a twin day and a crazy hat day.

What should we do to get organized? What will we need for school next year to be organized?

You need to use your school planner. Clean out your folders and binders, but be sure to save your work for your finals! Use your team calendar and turn in your work on time.

Are there any bullies at school? What discipline action is taken when there is a bully?

Bullying is not a problem at this school. Administrators, teachers and staff will help you with any issues as long as you speak up. All issues are dealt with immediately.

Will we dissect frogs or any other type of animal in science?

We don't actually do the dissecting, but we are able to look at dissections that have been preserved. We sometimes dissect flowers in seventh grade.

Are there any maps around the school to help you find your way?

There is a map in the front of the building, but you will quickly learn your way around. The teachers really help you get used to the building.

Do the different grades have different lunch times?

The sixth grade has lunch period five (10:45-11:27).

The seventh grade has lunch period six (11:31-12:13).

The eighth grade has lunch period seven (12:17-12:59).

What happens if you are disruptive in class?

Teachers do not accept disruptive behavior at the middle school. You have to be mature. You will get a few warnings and then you may have to go to Special Duty, lunch detention or meet with the assistant principal.

Are there uniforms?

We do not have uniforms, but we have a dress code. All students have to follow the Code of Conduct and dress appropriately or you will be sent home or asked to wear a PE uniform.

Can hats be worn indoors?

Hats are not permitted unless you have a medical note or a religious reason.

How many classes does a student have?

There are eight class periods a day. The ninth period is your lunch period.

How early is the first bus?

The first afternoon bus leaves campus at 2:30. The late bus is 4:15.

What classes are more than one period?

English Language Arts is often two periods in a row. You might also have two periods of Math (a regular class and a lab). If you take Earth Science, you will have an additional lab period.

About how many hours of homework do we get?

It depends on how many projects or tests you have. On average you will have an hour of homework, plus independent reading. If you have a ROAR period, you can get some work done before you get home.

How long is a f

School starts at 7:35 and ends at 2

Will there be any s

There will be plenty of trips. During their ti
eval Times, Philadelphia, Ski Trips, Bear M

Are lockers assigned

You will receive your locke

Is there locke

We have locker clea

Do we have to

You will not have to share a locker and you
tio

What happens if someone gets into

This is rare and there will be an investig

Are there fights

The school is a very safe place. There ar
stop trouble b

What happens if someone brings

This would demand immediate disciplinary
dent and poss

Is there a school new

There is a newspaper club (The Cou

When can we use the library? Can v

The media center is located on the garde
lunch with a pass or when you go to the h
also reserve the media center througho

Are there classes at school that have th

At times the laptops are used in the class
laptop. We have a bunch of laptop carts th

Do the eighth graders get to ask questi

We hope to do that this y

Can we bring electronics to school, fo

No, they are not a
etc

Can we bring a cel

Cell phones are permitted, but they must b
the end of the

What happens if yo

You will get a warning ar

Are there ha

The teachers monitor the halls in between
during

Is it difficult to travel

You will quickly get the hang of moving cla
located close together but all your other c

QUESTION 5TH GRADERS: QUESTIONS? WE HAVE ANSWERS!

er answers questions from our incoming 6th graders

LANDS CAMPUS

Full school day?

2:30. It is a little over seven hours.

School field trips?

come here, students go ice skating, to Medicine Mountain State park and many other places.

What happens before school starts?

er the first week of school.

Inspection?

out once a quarter.

Share lockers?

are not allowed to give out your combination.

Who has your locker and takes your books?

gation. Keep your combination a secret.

What happens at the school?

so many teachers around that they can't find before it starts.

Can you bring a bb gun to school or a dart gun?

any action by administrators, the superintendent or the police.

Newspaper or yearbook?

Courier) and a yearbook club (Visions).

How do we use the library during our lunch?

en level. You can use the media center at the Homework Center after school. Teachers assign projects.

Can we bring our own laptops? Can we bring our own mp3 player?

room. You will not need to bring your own mp3 player that the teachers reserve for their students.

What are the questions about high school, like we just did?

ear with the high school.

For example, cd player, walkman, iPod, etc.?

allowed in school.

Can I bring my phone to school?

be turned off. If not, they may be held until the end of the day or worse!

What happens if you are late for class?

and then lunch detention.

How many monitors?

every class, in the morning, afternoon and during lunch.

How do you get from class to class?

ss to class. Your team classes are usually in the same classes are all over the building. It's easy

once you learn your way around.

Are the middle schools really big?

Highlands is the larger campus with over 1,100 students on 13 acres.

Are different grades on different floors of the school?

Typically, most of grade six classes are on the top floor, seventh grade on the middle floor and eighth graders are on the bottom floor.

Do you have try out for sports teams?

The modified sports teams you need to try out for. The intramural sports allow you to come and sign up.

Are there different classes for each subject?

Yes. You will have a different teacher for each subject.

Is it hard to remember your locker number/combination?

You can write it down in your planner and a teacher has a copy of it. You will learn it quickly.

What time does the bus pick you up?

EARLY! Depending on where you are from the school, the bus will pick you up at different times.

How long is the lunch period?

Lunch is 42 minutes long.

What time is your lunch?

Grade 6 lunch is from 10:45-11:27. Grades seven and eight eat during the periods that follow.

What kind of food do they have?

There is a lot of variety. The food is really good at the middle school. You can have pizza, salad, fruits, custom sandwiches, the hot lunch and we have a snack bar. The snack bar offers pretzels, popcorn, cookies, muffins and bagels. We also have vending machines with snacks, drinks and ice cream.

Do we get to have free time besides lunch/recess?

You have ROAR, which is like a study hall, but not everyone has it.

Do you go on any field trips and if so, where?

Yes, there are ski trips, ice skating, Bear Mountain, Medieval Times, Lake Compounce and a lot of other ones.

Are the halls really busy?

Yes, but Highland's halls move nicely because of our ROAR program.

What clubs and sports can you join?

The S.O., Courier, Yearbook, Animal Lovers Club, cross country, track and field, kickboxing, the step team and modified football and baseball for 7th and 8th graders are some of the sports and clubs you can join. There are over twenty clubs.

Do you have a lot of HW each night?

Sometimes there is a lot, but since you are on a team, the teachers try to plan it so everyone doesn't give out lots of work at the same time.

What is it like to get from class to class?

There isn't a lot of time to fool around. You pretty much have to get your stuff and get right to class or you'll be late.

Do you have morning meetings?

No, we have morning and afternoon announcements.

What is band like in middle school?

Mrs. Luck is your teacher for 6th grade band; it's really fun! Mr. Veeder also teaches band and he is also cool.

What's homeroom like?

There is no homeroom, so you report straight to first period.

How do you keep organized with so many teachers and classes?

Keep two binders and keep them organized. Take advantage of your planner, monthly calendar and the teacher's web pages.

What is your library like?

Our library has a large variety of books. They will be very helpful when you need to research for projects. It's really big and has lots of resources. We have a lot of books and about 50 computers.

Is it hard to find your locker?

Eventually you learn where it is, and your teachers will help you.

Do you have lots of projects?

It depends on the team and even then it is still balanced out.

How do you get ready for concerts?

You practice A LOT, go early that night and you dress in a special way.

What are the goals for the middle school?

The goals of the middle school are to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. At Highlands, we ROAR!



EASTVIEW CAMPUS

How much time do we have between classes to gather our things? Can we go to our locker on the way to our next class?

We have 2 minutes to get from class to class. You can go to your locker 4 times: before 1st period, before lunch, after lunch, and at the end of the day. You can also go to your locker if you ask your teacher.

What happens if you do not bring your homework in?

It depends on your teacher, but try to stay organized and make sure you have it every day.

Do the students have recess time? If so, how long is recess? If there is no recess, what are our options? What happens if there is recess and it rains?

Yes. Recess is between 15-20 minutes during your lunch period. If there is inclement weather, you stay in the cafeteria or go to the gym(s).

What classes are you required to take?

You are required to take ELA, math, science, and social studies every year, but you also have

the school day?

Some teachers will let you start homework in class, but you can always work on it at lunch or after completing a quiz or test.

Is there a cafeteria food card for your lunch or do we have to carry money? Can we bring our own lunches?

You receive an ID card that serves as your lunch card and you can bring your own lunch.

Are there any school parties, dances, plays, or social events?

Yes, there is an annual play for which you audition and two dances a year for each grade (6th and 7th/8th).

Will there be any type of theme days during the school year? If so, what are they?

Yes, there is Spirit Week. Some of the themes (from 2010) were pajama day, twin day, fashion disaster day, fun in the sun day, and black and orange (the school colors, Tigers) day.

What should we do to get organized? What will we need for school next year to be orga-

Threepersons.

Are there any maps around the school to help you find your way?

No, but before the year starts you can walk your schedule and see where you go. Also, in the first week or two, teachers are lenient if you're late because they know you're figuring it out. Don't worry; you'll get the hang of it.

Do the different grades have different lunch times?

Yes, the 6th graders eat during 6th period (11:32-12:15) and the 7th/8th graders eat during 5th period (10:47-11:30).

What happens if you are disruptive in class?

Teachers have different

FAMILY

ways of dealing with bad behavior; most often they will (in order): warn you, give you detention, call home, and then have a conversation with your parents/ the principal or assistant principal.

Are there uniforms?

No, there are no uniforms.

Can hats be worn indoors?

Only on special theme days, and for religious or medical reasons, but otherwise no.

How early is the first bus?

The first bus to go home is at 2:30.

About how many hours of homework do we get?

It depends on the night, but no more than one usually, but it depends on the teacher, time of school year, grade and speed of doing homework

RESPECT

How long is a full school day?

The school day is from 7:35 to 2:30, and until 4:15 for extracurricular activities.

Will there be any school field trips?

Yes, in 6th grade you go ice-skating at Ebersole Ice Rink, and Medieval



Times.

Do we have to share lockers?

No, lockers are assigned the first day, first period (some teachers assign them, others may let you choose). Locks are assigned and you may not use one from home, but it is a good idea to practice using a combination lock.

Are there locker inspections?

No, there are no locker inspections.

Do we have to share lockers?

No, everyone gets their own locker.

What happens if someone gets into your locker and takes your books?

Stealing is rare, but if it does happen inform your guidance counselor, principal or assistant principal about when you noticed your things were missing, who (if

When can we use the library? Can we use the library during our lunch?

You can use the library at lunch.

Are there classes at school that have their own laptops? Can we bring our own laptop?

We have a laptop cart that teachers can request to work on things (like projects and other assignments), and you can only use a laptop if you have talked to the school and have permission.

Do the eighth graders get to ask questions about high school, like we just did?

There is a high school orientation, but they don't have the same opportunity.

Can we bring electronics to school, for example, CD player, walkman, iPod, etc.?

No, you can't use any electronic device in

COMMUNITY

other classes like two years of health and 3 semesters of technology. You can request electives, including technology, art, music (orchestra/band/chorus), general music, and more.

How many types of clubs are there?

There are a lot of clubs, like the Courier school newspaper, art club, animal lovers, chess, multicultural, dinner and a movie, international, S.O., step team, yearbook, and various sports.

How long can a student stay in the special duty room/detention room?

It depends on what type of detention (e.g. after school or lunch).

Do we ever have any free periods? Is there a study hall?

There is a period called ROAR, but only certain students have it.

Is there time to start your homework during

nized?

There are several ways, but you have to find a method that works for you personally.

Are there any bullies at school? What discipline action is taken when there is a bully?

Not really, but if you are being bullied you should talk to a trusted adult, like your guidance counselor, teacher, principal, assistant principal, or parent/guardian. Disciplinary action includes apologizing, detention, or even suspension, but it all depends on the specific details of the situation.

Will we dissect frogs or any other type of animal in science?

You dissect a pig's eye and frog in 6th grade.

What are the names of the principal and assistant principal at Eastview?

The principal at Eastview is Mr. Joseph Cloherty and the assistant principal is Mr. Dwight

GLOBAL INVOLVEMENT

school.

Can we bring a cell phone to school?

Yes, but it has to be out of sight and off during school hours and on school grounds.

What happens if you are late for class?

If you are late to class, some teachers will disregard it, some will mark you as late, and some will make you go back and get a pass from your last period teacher.

Are there hall monitors?

No, there are no hall monitors. That doesn't mean you should fool around, though.