

Highlands Middle School

SCOTTIE NEWSLETTER

Principal's Message

Dear Highlands Families,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year! This marks my 23rd year as an educator, but my first as Highlands Middle School's Principal and I am thrilled to be back. I say back because, while I've never actually worked in this building, this is not my first year at Highlands. Like your children, and perhaps like some of you parents, I also attended Highlands as a middle school student many, many years ago! A lot has changed since then, but I am proud to say that one thing that has not changed is the Scottie Way. We are still committed to impacting each other in a positive way, every day!

Our incredible team of custodians has been working hard throughout the summer to get our building ready for school and it looks fantastic. We appreciate the work that they, along with our secretarial and other support staff, do in order to ensure a smooth start for our students and staff. Please, join me in thanking them when you see them!

I know I speak for all Highlands staff when I say that we are excited to work with your students this year. All Scotties, staff and students alike, benefit by the Scottie Way, so we will continue to instill it throughout our classes and activities. One way that students and staff work toward the Scottie way is by being Safe, Responsible, and Respectful. We will be reinforcing these concepts throughout the year and look forward to partnering with you!

It's going to be an amazing year. Go Scotties!

Desiree Martinez
Principal

August 2023



Welcome Back Scotties!



HIGHLANDS
MIDDLE SCHOOL

425 S. Tweedt St.
Kennewick, WA 99336
(509) 222-6700

<https://highlands.ksd.org/>

Upcoming Events - Mark your Calendar!

all events are at HMS unless otherwise indicated

August 21 -- Yearbook Sales Begin

Yearbooks will be on sale beginning August 21, 2023, through February 1, 2024. Yearbooks are \$30.

August 28 -- WEB Training Day for WEB Leaders -- 8:30 to 12:30

Two snacks will be provided and a water bottle for each leader. No school supplies needed.

August 28 -- Fall Sports Begin (football only) -- 3 PM

August 28 -- Open House -- 5 pm to 7 pm

Stop by to see your child's classrooms, meet teachers, buy yearbooks, learn how to operate lockers, and more!

August 29 -- WEB 6th Grade Orientation Day -- 9 AM to Noon

All 6th Graders are encouraged to attend this special orientation designed just for them. Popsicles will be provided for all incoming 6th graders and WEB leaders. Parent drop-off and pick-up is at the front entrance of the building. This is a student ONLY event. No supplies are needed, students should just wear comfy shoes. **Please note - WEB leaders must arrive at 8 AM - 1 hour before all incoming 6th graders.

August 30 -- First Day of School

We are excited to welcome all of our students back for the 2023-2024 school year. WEB Leaders will be at 6th grade entrance/hallway to help with schedules/finding classes (WEB Leaders will be excused the first 15 minutes of 1st period).

August 30 -- All other Fall Sports Begin -- 2:45 PM

First practices for Cross Country, Volleyball, and Soccer

September 8 -- Picture Day

Picture packets will be sent home during in XYZ class, as well as available to pick up in the office. Pictures will be taken during XYZ class.

September 13 -- Drama Club -- 7 AM in Room 18

Any 6th, 7th, or 8th grade student is welcome to join. There are many spots needed other than being on stage ... curtains, lights, sound effects, stage design, etc.

September 14 -- ASB Meeting -- 2 PM in the Library



Fall Sports

Cross Country

Football

Soccer

Volleyball

Grading Policy Change 2023-2024

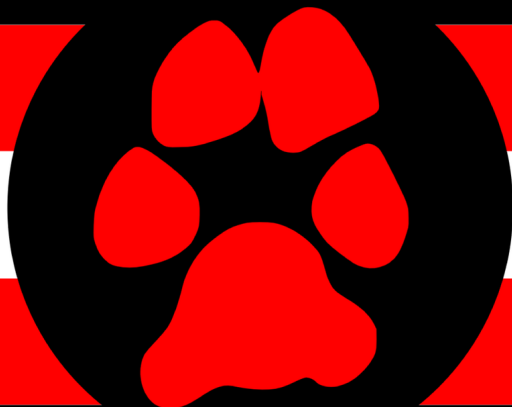
We would like to inform students and parents that there has been a change in our school's grading policy. In core courses (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies), classwork will account for 40% of a student's total grade and assessment will account for 60% of a student's total grade. This places more emphasis on the work students complete in their classes.

Elective courses will continue to be graded at 50% practice/participation and 50% assessment.

Safety

One way we achieve the Scottie Way is by prioritizing the KSD goal of every student feeling Safe, Known, and Valued. There are many resources at HMS designed to help our students, including our school counselors, a mental health therapist, security, a School Resource Officer, teachers, administrators, support staff, and more. Any adult in the school is available to be a trusted adult. Please contact our office at 509-222-6700 if need assistance making a report. You may also make an an anonymous report via the KSD website <https://www.ksd.org/report>.

SCOTTIES ARE



HIGHLANDS

MISSION

STATEMENT

Scottie Way:

Impact each other in a positive way, every day!

SAFE • RESPONSIBLE • RESPECTFUL