



Highland High School

Back to School Guide

2026-2027

Step-By-Step Packet

Carefully read and follow the step-by-step directions to ensure student schedules are complete, class fees are paid, and optional items (yearbook and parking) have been purchased early to save money. Payments can be made online using the Infinite Campus Parent Portal, under *InTouch Payments*. Student fees and purchases can only be paid through a parent portal account. All fees must be paid in full. Unpaid class fees may result in schedule adjustments prior to the start of school.

STEP 1 – WELCOME LETTER

STEP 2 – STUDENT SCHEDULES

STEP 3 – SCHEDULE CHANGE INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 4 – PARKING PERMIT

STEP 5 – PAYMENTS (Fees & Purchases)

Dear Highland Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! I hope you have had a great summer break so far. We are excited to welcome you back to campus on Tuesday, July 28th, for our first day of school. We look forward to a year filled with all the things that make Highland a great place to be - dances, pep assemblies, concerts, games, performances, and club activities. We hope you will come ready to dive in and get involved!



Prior to the start of the school year, the campus will be open from 3:00 pm -5:00 pm on Thursday, July 23rd, and again on Friday, July 24th, for students to walk schedules. Counselors and teachers will not be available on either day.

Freshman orientation is a great opportunity for our incoming 9th grade students to familiarize themselves with the campus, meet some of their teachers, and connect with our Link Crew leaders. Orientation will be held on July 23rd and July 24th in the HHS auditorium. The schedule overview is below, and detailed information is included in this packet.

Freshman Orientation Info: Thursday, July 23rd or Friday, July 24th*

The orientation will be split by last names beginning with:

****A-L attend on July 23rd, 8 am - 11:30 am**

M-Z attend on July 24th, 8 am - 11:30 am

***Orientation will start at 8:00 am PROMPT**

*****Marching Band students will attend orientation on July 23rd, regardless of last name.***

Toward the back of this guide, there is some important information and reminders about new and recent policy changes, including IDs, cell phones, weapons detectors, and clear bags for athletic events for the upcoming year.

In the meantime, please follow us on Instagram @highland.hawks or on Facebook to stay connected to the campus happenings and updates. Please get back into the habit of opening your HHS emails, as we will be sharing weekly Parent Newsletters with important information. Enjoy the remainder of your summer, and we'll see you in a few short weeks!

Regards,

Brian Yee

Brian Yee
Principal of Highland High School

Schedule changes must be submitted by July 22, 2026
Payments (other than parking permit) due by July 28, 2026

STEP 2 – STUDENT SCHEDULES

The master schedule is built on student requests from spring registration. Our counseling department spends a great deal of time each year, from January to May, meeting with students, teachers, parents and collaborating with our feeder junior highs to ensure that each student chooses courses that best fit their academic needs and goals. Creating a robust master schedule based on the specific needs and goals, while offering a multitude of academic programs for a student body of 3,00 students, is a complex and delicate balance. Other key components that impact the master schedule are facility/room limitations and teacher content-specific certifications. Due to these factors, we must limit schedule change requests as we approach the start of the school year.

At Highland High School, we do our best to ensure that our students receive their requested courses or noted alternatives. We realize, however, that there are still circumstances that may allow for a schedule change. Answer the questions below to see if you are eligible for a schedule change. Please keep in mind that, at this point, we do not make changes for switching lunch hours, switching teachers, or changing electives that were not requested initially during course registration.

Student schedules will be available to view on Infinite Campus portal at 8 am on **July 14th, 2026**. If you do not have an Infinite Campus login, please visit the HHS website and follow the instructions under HHS Information.

Alternative classes may be listed due to the following reasons:

- student did not meet the course prerequisite
- course availability restrictions (ex. A hour class did not make, class is full)
- unavoidable conflict(s) in the student's schedule
- staffing availability

If you would like to request a **schedule change**, answer these questions:

- ✓ Is my schedule missing a period during the day?
- ✓ Am I missing a course I need for graduation?
- ✓ Am I missing a lunch period? (Lunch hours will not be changed)
- ✓ Do I have a course listed on my schedule that I took over the summer?

If you answered **YES** to any of the questions above, the schedule can be considered for a change. Follow the Schedule Change instructions below. If no change is needed, skip to Step 5:

Payments.

Once the school year starts, students who wish to make a level change can initiate an [Academic Success Plan](#) at any given time, in the first or third quarter. However, the change won't be made until after the first grading period (4.5 weeks) in each semester. Level change requests will not be honored after the first quarter or third quarter (this has always been our standard practice). We want students who initially challenged themselves to enroll in rigorous coursework to remain committed to their choice. In order to support student choice, we view this as an opportunity to establish a relationship with the teacher and peers in the class and gain specific skills before deciding that the placement is incorrect. If you need to create an Infinite Campus login, please click on the link [here](#).

STEP 3 – SCHEDULE CHANGE INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete the form located in the blue link below, according to the beginning of your last name, by July 22, 2026. Please **DO NOT** submit more than once for the same schedule change.
2. An email will be sent indicating your change in schedule. Please check Infinite Campus for your updated schedule.

Schedule Change Forms

[Request for Schedule Change: A - ARC \(Anderson\)](#)

[Request for Schedule Change: ARE - COP \(Van Holten\)](#)

[Request for Schedule Change: COR-GRI \(Obregon\)](#)

[Request for Schedule Change: GRO- LE \(Gorton\)](#)

[Request for Schedule Change: LI-PAP \(Rios\)](#)

[Request for Schedule Change: PAR-SOK \(Horrocks\)](#)

[Request for Schedule Change: SOL-Z \(McMahan\)](#)

STEP 4 – PARKING PERMIT

We are limited to a specific number of parking spaces, which will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis. Parking permits are limited to Juniors and Seniors **ONLY**. Priority will go to Seniors who submit their completed Parking Permit Registration form by the due date. Any remaining permits will go to Juniors who have completed their Parking Permit Registration form by the due date. The following are directions to apply for a parking pass:

Complete the online Parking Permit Application by July 20, 2026, located in the blue link below. Submitting an application form online indicates acceptance of parking information and rules. Filling out the form does not guarantee a parking space for the 2026-2027 school year; however, the form needs to be filled out in order to be eligible for a parking spot. You will be notified via school email by July 22nd, 2026, regarding your parking application. The parking registration fee will be assessed through the Infinite Campus parent portal. Parking permits must be purchased through the parent portal in Infinite Campus to pick up your parking permit. Please bring your driver's license with you to claim your parking permit on your scheduled day (see next page).

Parking Permit Application

If Parking Permits sell out, you will be notified and placed on a waiting list. As of July 31st, 2026, you will no longer be able to apply for a parking permit online. We will, however, still accept paper registration forms throughout the school year. Parking Permit registration forms are available in the Bookstore.

Payment for parking permits can be made online once you have been notified by email. If payment is not made by Friday, August 7th, the student will be put on the waiting list.

If parking permits are not picked up by the end of the first full week of school, the permit will be released on August 10th, 2026. Students are eligible for a full refund for the parking permit up until October 2nd, 2026. Parking is a privilege, not a right. Please ensure parking rules and

information have been read and understood.

Parking Permit Pick-up Schedule

Seniors and Juniors may pick up their **prepaid** permits in the Bookstore according to the following schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Alpha Split</u>
Thursday, July 23, 2026	12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	A – L
Friday, July 24, 2026	12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	M – Z
Monday, July 27, 2026	12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Make-Up

NOTE: Due to a limited number of parking spaces, Freshman and Sophomore students are not eligible for parking permits. There are no exceptions.

STEP 5 – PAYMENTS (Fees & Purchases)

To make a payment for your student at HHS, please follow the online payment directions to ensure your child's fees are paid correctly. Unpaid fees could result in a child being removed from the class(es). All fees and purchases must also be paid in full; no partial payments will be accepted. Click [here](#) for access to the Parent Portal or to set up a Parent Portal account.

Credit/Debit Card Payments:

Online payment is preferred. This method of payment ensures that payments will be processed in a timely manner. Debit/Credit Card purchases must be made through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal under *InTouch Payments*. All fees must be paid in full to reserve classes.

Optional Purchases are as follows:

Parking Permit – Parking is strictly limited to Juniors and Seniors due to space availability. *Unpaid parking permits will not be held.*



**BUY A
HIGHLAND
YEARBOOK AND
SENIOR AD
TODAY!**

Three ways to order yearbooks: Highland Bookstore, Infinite Campus, or [Varsity website](#) (school code 26294). Yearbooks start at \$80, but will increase in price after August 2nd, 2026, so hurry and order your book now!

Senior Ads are **only** able to be purchased online through the [Varsity website](#) and start at \$50. Prices for Senior Ads are based on size and will increase in price starting November 1st.

Questions? Please contact Vanessa Mayberry, Highland Yearbook Advisor, at vanessa.mayberry@gilbertpublicschools.net

SPECIAL NOTES

✓ **Freshman Orientation**

Please see the attached flyer regarding our exciting Link Crew program. The following will be sold during orientation: PE shirts (\$15.00) & shorts (\$15.00). PE HHS drawstring bags are sold separately for \$12.00. Students and parents can stop by the Spirit Store for purchases on 7/23 - 7/24 and 7/27, from 8 am to 11 am. Normal store hours start **TBD**, 7 am- 12:30 pm, M, T, Th, F, and Wed 7 am-11:50 am. Debit/Credit card accepted. We do not accept American Express.

✓ **First Day of School**

Tuesday, July 28, 2026. School starts at 7:30 AM.

✓ **Curriculum Night/Open House**

Thursday, August 13th, 2026, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. More information to come.

✓ **ID Photos/Cards, Locks & PE Clothes**

Locks (\$7) are sold daily in the Bookstore. ID Photos will be taken the first few weeks of school to allow for HHS Student ID's to be distributed. PE shirts (\$15.00) and shorts (\$15.00) are sold in the Spirit Store during the first week of school. HHS drawstring bags may be purchased separately for \$12.00.

✓ **Bell Schedules** Please check out our bell schedules, located at the back of this packet.

✓ **Chromebook Distribution**

FRESHMEN: ONLY incoming Freshmen will receive their Chromebooks during Freshmen Orientation on July 23rd & 24th.

NEW to HIGHLAND Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors:

Please come to The Commons on Friday, July 24th, between 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm to pick up your Chromebook.

✓ **Chromebook Insurance (Device Protection Plan – DPP):**

GPS District offers an optional Device Protection Plan for \$25.



You can learn more about DPP by scanning the QR code and how to pay online, or go to Gilbert Public School [website](#) (click on Quicklinks, then District Policies, Handbooks & Videos).

The deadline to purchase the Device Protection Plan is Monday, August 31, 2026.



Welcome to our Highland High Family Class of 2030!

We are very excited that your child will be attending Highland High School, and we look forward to meeting them on Orientation Day! As you may know, our school participates in the nationwide Link Crew Program. The organization's sole purpose is to help freshmen feel more comfortable as well as help them achieve success in their first year of high school.

The Link Crew freshman transition program is designed to both welcome and support freshmen by connecting sophomore, junior, or senior Link Leaders with our incoming freshman class. Our Link Leaders are hand selected from a large pool of applicants who have met specific qualifications. Our leaders are responsible, demonstrate positive leadership qualities, and ultimately are great role models for all students on campus.

The following are important dates for you and your student(s). Please make sure your freshman can attend the date assigned to their last name. We will have Link Leaders waiting to meet your student on the assigned day. If your student needs to change days or will not be able to attend on their day, please contact us at the emails below.

Freshman Orientation is located in the Auditorium: (drop-off in student lot on Hawk Drive):

Freshman Orientation Info: Thursday, July 23rd or Friday, July 24th

The orientation* will be split by last names beginning with:

****A-L attend on July 23 8 am-11:30 am**

M-Z attend on July 24 8 am-11:30 am

****Marching Band students will attend orientation on *July 23rd*, regardless of last name.**

***Orientation will start at 8:00 am PROMPT**

- 1) Please do NOT bring backpacks, purses, or other like items as the day is quite active.
- 2) Because the day is active, please make sure that your child wears comfortable clothing that does not restrict movement. We will be sitting on floors and moving around - mini skirts or short shorts are not advisable.

This is a **student-only function**, and we highly encourage you to allow your child to attend on his or her own. We are very sensitive to the fact that this transition is a big step for some parents. We strive to make sure your student has a positive experience and returns home happy!

If your student has special needs that may require support, please contact us (at the emails below) and inform us of the accommodations needed or suggestions to help your student have a successful day.

If necessary, student Chromebooks will be available for pick-up in the Commons during/after orientation. In order to pick up Chromebooks, families must have returned their previous Chromebook, completed all technology release forms in Infinite Campus, and show an ID (your junior high ID works).

We look forward to meeting your child on orientation day! Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions, comments, or concerns. We are excited to have your student "Linked" into Highland. Welcome to the Hawk Fam!

Your Link Crew Coordinators,

Jared Smith

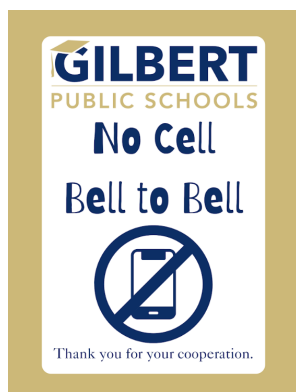
jared.smith@gilbertschools.net

Renee Landis

renee.landis@gilbertschools.net

Additional Information & Updated Policy for the 2026-2027 School Year

Cell Phone Usage in GPS High Schools:



Gilbert Public Schools Governing Board approved policies regarding student use of cell phones during the school day. For high school students in a 9-12 building, the expectation is that a student's cell phone is off and put away while in the classroom. No Cell. Bell to Bell.

The Why: Promote student learning and well-being by reducing distractions, improving focus, and enhancing overall student well-being during the school day.

What does this mean for your student? During instructional time, cell phones must be turned off or set to silent and stored out of sight (for example, in a backpack or cell phone pocket provided by the teacher), unless instructed otherwise by a staff member for educational purposes.

Weapon Detectors Information:

Link to [Weapons Detector Screening Process](#)

Link to [Video](#)

Clear Bag Protocol at all Athletic events & all Performing Arts events:



GPS has a clear bag policy at high schools for all athletic and performing arts events on our high school campuses. Our goal is to enhance public safety at our venues while still providing a great game day and/or event experience.

Additional Fee for 7 or more classes:

According to the Gilbert Public Schools Course Description Book, students who wish to take an additional class above the 6-course limit will be charged an additional course fee. The additional fee for the 26-27 school year is \$250 per 0.5 credit semester course. This fee pays for the cost of the teacher for that extra course. There are a few situations where the additional course fee will not be charged to students taking more than six courses.

- If participation in a program requires concurrent enrollment in two or more classes, as stated in the Course Description Book, the extra course fees will not be charged. (i.e., Performing Arts, ROTC Drill & Ceremonies, Toybox Class, and Lab I)

Dress Code Expectations:



Gilbert Public Schools supports dress standards that ignite a culture of learning and well-being. Students are expected to dress in a manner that is appropriate for the school day or for any school-sponsored event. Dress standards will be applied consistently and enforcement of these standards will minimize the loss of educational time.

General requirements

- Student ID Badges are required to be worn and visible.
- Clothing must include a top and a bottom (such as pants, skirt, shorts or the equivalent), or a one-piece outfit (such as a dress or jumpsuit).
- Clothing must cover all private body parts and must not be see-through.
- Tops and one-piece outfits must be secured with material at the shoulders or neck.
- Clothing may not cover a student's face to the extent that the student is not identifiable (except clothing worn for health and safety, medical, or religious purposes).
- Footwear such as shoes, sandals or boots shall be worn in the school buildings at all times, and must be both safe and non-destructive to

Prohibited apparel and

Students are not permitted to wear jewelry, or personal items that

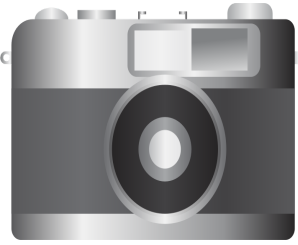
- Substantially disrupt the learning environment
- Contribute to a hostile environment
- Advocate, promote, or act
 - Violence or act
 - Criminal activity
 - Pornography or
 - Use of drugs or
 - Profanity
- Use or depict hate speech
- Threaten the health or safety of staff or students

Gilbert Public Schools supports dress [standards](#) that ignite a culture of learning and well-being. Students are expected to dress in a manner that is appropriate for the school day or for any school-sponsored event. Dress standards will be applied consistently, and enforcement of these standards will minimize the loss of educational time.

Student IDs Expectations:



Students are expected to wear their student ID badges at all times. Students are provided with their badge and lanyard during the first weeks of school. Please work with your students to ensure they bring their ID badge with them to school every day and wear it in a visible area on their body. When students arrive at school, they will enter through a secured door or gate and will be required to **wear** their ID badge for entrance. Bus riders will use the barcode on their ID badge to get on and off the bus. Students also use the barcode on their ID badges to access nutrition services (cafeteria), the library, and the bookstore. Last, if a student forgets their badge, they will be issued a replacement ID badge. The cost for replacement badges (lost IDs) will remain at \$5.00



Attention Seniors!

It's time to take your senior pictures!!

When: NOW!

Where: Lou Coopey Studio
202 N Lindsay Rd, Mesa, AZ 85213

How: Set up an appointment online [here](#) or go to www.loucoopey.com and click on the *Book Your Appointment* button.

What to Wear: Dress your best! Collared shirt, tie, suit jacket, dress, and/or professional blouse. Clothing must be free of logos/signage/text and should not be transparent or too revealing. Head wear is not permitted (except in the case of religious or medical purposes).

Lou Coopey will be on campus on October 26th and 27th to take senior pictures for those students who are unable to schedule an appointment; however, times will be limited.

Student ID photos taken at the beginning of the year **WILL NOT** be used in the yearbook. You **MUST** get a **specific senior photo** at the Lou Coopey Studio or on campus on October 26th and 27th in order to have your photo in the yearbook.



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Senior Ads are **only** able to be purchased online through the [Varsity website](#) and start at \$50. Prices for Senior Ads are based on size and will increase in price starting November 2nd. To guarantee a senior ad space in the yearbook, **submit your ad by Dec. 21, 2026**.

Questions? Please contact Vanessa Mayberry, Highland Yearbook Adviser, at vanessa.mayberry@gilbertschools.net

Varsity Website URI: <https://yearbookordercenter.com/>





2026 CHROMEBOOK PREPARATION GUIDE

for returning Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors

FRESHMEN will receive their Chromebooks and chargers
during Freshmen orientation on Thursday, July 23rd and Friday, July 24th

NEW STUDENTS (10, 11, and 12) will receive their Chromebooks and chargers
Friday, July 24th between 1:00-3:00pm in THE COMMONS

Welcome back to Highland High School! To ensure a smooth start to the academic year, please follow these steps to prepare your school-issued Chromebook. Having your device ready will allow you to access online resources, assignments, and communication platforms from day one.

Essential Preparations

1. Power Up and Update:

- Connect your Chromebook to a reliable Wi-Fi network.
- Turn on the device and allow it to fully boot up.
- Chrome OS will update automatically during this time.
- *Important:* Do not turn off your Chromebook while updates are installing.

1. Log In and Verify Account:

- Log in using your student Gilbert Public Schools Rapid Identity portal.
- Ensure you can access your school email and Google Drive.
- If you have forgotten your password, please see Ms. Maready, HHS Media Tech, in The Commons for assistance.

Software and Application Checks

Many of the applications you'll use are managed by the school. Ensure they are accessible and functioning correctly.

- **Google Workspace Apps:** Verify that Docs, Sheets, Slides, Classroom, and Drive are accessible and syncing properly.
- **Other School-Approved Apps:** Check for any specific educational apps or platforms that will be used this year. Instructions on accessing these will be provided by your teachers in your classes.
- **Web Browser:** Ensure Google Chrome is updated. It's the primary browser for accessing most school resources. The Gopher pop up is your reminder to update. Here is a link with directions: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/15hEa7a37qt0TpSJhYoSeBNL3uww5C4Z-/view>

Troubleshooting and Support

Common Issues & Solutions:

- **Slow Performance:** Restart the Chromebook. Close unnecessary tabs and applications. Ensure no large downloads are running in the background.
- **Wi-Fi Connectivity:** Forget the network and reconnect. Ensure you are within range of a strong signal. Try connecting to a different network if possible to rule out network issues.
- **Login Problems:** Double-check your username and password for typos.

Where to Get Help:

- **Highland High School Media Tech:**
 - **Email:** catherine.maready@gilbertschools.net
 - **Phone:** (480) 813-0051, ext. 2323
 - **In-Person:** The Commons (during school hours)

Device not charging?

REFRESH:

Hold down the refresh key () and the power key () at the same time to restart the device.

Final Checklist

Before the first day of school, please ensure your Chromebook:

- ☐ Has completed all system updates.
- ☐ Can successfully log in with student credentials.
- ☐ Can connect to your home Wi-Fi.
- ☐ Has all essential Google Workspace apps accessible.
- ☐ Has been physically cleaned (screen and keyboard).
- ☐ Battery is charged to 100%.

We look forward to a productive and successful school year! Thank you for your cooperation in getting your Chromebook ready.

HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULES

REGULAR

PERIOD	Start Time	End Time	Duration
A	6:30 AM	7:25AM	55
1	7:30 AM	8:29 AM	59*
*Announcements & Moment of Silence			
2	8:34 AM	9:28 AM	54
3	9:33 AM	10:27 AM	54
4	10:32 AM	11:25 AM	53
Lunch/Class			
5	11:30 AM	12:23 PM	53
Lunch/Class			
6	12:28 PM	1:22 PM	53
7	1:27 PM	2:20 PM	53

EARLY RELEASE

PERIOD	Start Time	End Time	Duration
A	6:30 AM	7:25AM	55
1	7:30 AM	8:10 AM	40*
*Announcements & Moment of Silence			
2	8:15 AM	8:55 AM	40
3 RST Advisory	9:00 AM	9:40 AM	40
	9:45 AM	10:20 AM	35
4	10:25 AM	11:05 AM	40
Lunch/Class			
5	11:10 AM	11:50 AM	40
Lunch/Class			
6	11:55 AM	12:35 PM	40
7	12:40 PM	1:20 PM	40

ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

PERIOD	Start Time	End Time	Duration
A	6:30 AM	7:25AM	55
1	7:30 AM	8:15 AM	45
2	8:20 AM	9:05 AM	45
3A*	9:10 AM	10:05 AM	55
3B*	10:05 AM	11:00 AM	55
*Pledge & Moment of Silence			
4	11:05 AM	11:50 AM	50
Lunch/Class			
5	11:55 AM	12:40 PM	45
Lunch/Class			
6	12:45 PM	1:30 PM	45
7	1:35 PM	2:20 PM	45

HALF DAY RELEASE

PERIOD	Start Time	End Time	Duration
A	6:30 AM	7:25AM	55
1	7:30 AM	8:03 AM	33*
*Announcements & Moment of Silence			
2	8:08 AM	8:36 AM	28
3	8:41 AM	9:09 AM	28
4	9:14 AM	9:42 AM	28
5	9:47 AM	10:15 AM	28
6	10:20 AM	10:48 AM	28
7	10:53 AM	11:20 AM	27

