

Meet the Teacher Night Highlands Elementary Prairie Hills School District 144

Dr. Sharon Y. Alexander
Highlands Elementary
Principal

Wednesday, September 2, 2026



Tonight's Agenda and Objectives

Welcome

Introduction

Purpose of Meet the Teacher Night

Highlands Performance-Title I

School Information



Supply Drop Off Night

Objectives

Tonight's Purpose– School Improvement Goals 2026–2027



01 Increase Reading Performance

- **Highlands School will improve literacy achievement for K-5 students . By the End of the 26-27 school year, 60% of students, grades K-5 will meet their growth target in I-Ready Reading.**

02 Increase Math Performance

- **Highlands School will improve numeracy achievement for students. By the End of the 26-27 school year, 60% of students, grades K-5 students will meet their growth target using I-Ready Numeracy/Math.**

03 Increase Consistent Attendance

04 Focus on Scholar Identity

Highlands School will improve consistent attendance for Highlands students.

Year 1 Goal: Highlands Elementary School has an attendance goal of moving from 62.4% Consistently Attending to 70 for the 26-27 school year.

Year 2 Goal: Highlands Elementary School has an attendance goal of moving from 62.4% Consistently Attending to 75% for the 27-28 school year.

Using the research of GW Whiting, we will want our schools to understand what being a scholar truly means.

We host this evening to partner with families in understanding more about what your scholar is learning during the school year.

- Aligned to grade level standards
- Accelerated learning to catch up
- Share Title I Expectations
- Not a Parent Conference

Introducing the Highlands Staff



Meet the Highlands Team



Dr. Sharon Y. Alexander,
Highlands Principal



Mrs.
Kristina
Young

Instructional
Coach/Second in
Command



Mr. Randy
Goodwin

Interventionist



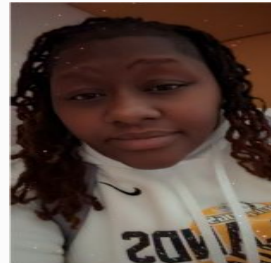
Mrs. Stacy
Magee

Administrative
Assistant



Mrs.
Davis-Young

Campus Monitor



Ms. Elaine
Williams

Media Specialist



Ms. T.
Hobbs

School Nurse

Meet the Highlands Team



Dr. Sharon Y. Alexander,
Highlands Principal



Ms. Patricia
Carter

Social Worker

Mr. Jon
Schulze

Resource Teacher



Ms. April
Doyle

Speech
Pathologist



Mr.
Christopher
Dixon Jr.

Music Teacher



Mr. Nick
Henry

Physical Education
Teacher



Nick Furtek

Occupational
Therapy Assistant

Meet the Highlands Team



Mrs. Stacy Magee

Administrative Assistant

Attendance
Tardies
Enrollment
Ordering/Purchases
Front Office Communication



Mrs. Davis

Campus Monitor

Restorative Justice
Peace Circles
Behavior Intervention
Social Emotional Support
Lunchroom Monitor

Meet the Highlands Team



Ms. Young

Instructional Coach and
Second in Command

Teacher Support and
Mentoring
Classroom Observations and
Feedback
Model Instruction
Data Analysis
Professional Development
Instructional Leadership
Administrative Backup



Mr. Randy
Goodwin

Interventionist

Small Group Instruction
Reading/Math Interventions
MTSS Team Member
ILT Team Member
Front Door Greeter :-)

Meet the Highlands Team

Ms. Elaine Williams

Media Specialist



Our Plan for the Coming School Year

Together, we will make the media center a welcoming, engaging place where students learn, explore, create, and connect.

Our Goals for Students

- Build excitement and a love of reading
- Help students become confident researchers and technology users
- Provide hands-on opportunities for creativity and exploration
- Make sure every student feels welcomed and included

Our Family & School Partnership

- Keep families informed about books, resources, and media-center opportunities
- Share ideas that encourage reading and learning at home
- Work closely with teachers to support classroom learning
- Create a media center that serves as a resource for our whole school community

Our vision: a media center where students are excited to come, teachers feel supported and families feel connected.

Elaine Williams • Media Specialist

Meet the Highlands Team

Ms. Hobbs

School Nurse



What is Title I?

What is Title I?

- A federal program administered by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Provides supplemental financial assistance to local education agencies (LEAs) and schools with high percentages of students from low-income families.
- Designed to help close achievement gaps and ensure all children meet challenging state academic standards.

GOALS

- Increase Parent and Family Engagement in our School
- Targeted Assistance Programs to improve Reading and Math
- Improve Consistent Attendance to be at school to learn
- **School-Parent Compact:** A jointly developed, written agreement
- outlining how parents, school staff, and students will share the
- responsibility for improved academic achievement-
- LOCATED IN THE DISTRICT 144 STUDENT HANDBOOK



Why does Highlands get Title I?

Title I at Highlands?

- Based on finances of our school community, we qualify for state and federal additional funding to support reading and mathematics improvement.
- The District has partnered with NIU to teach science of reading and with Sharon Rak for math foundational work
- .We are continuing to use these funds to support GROW tutoring

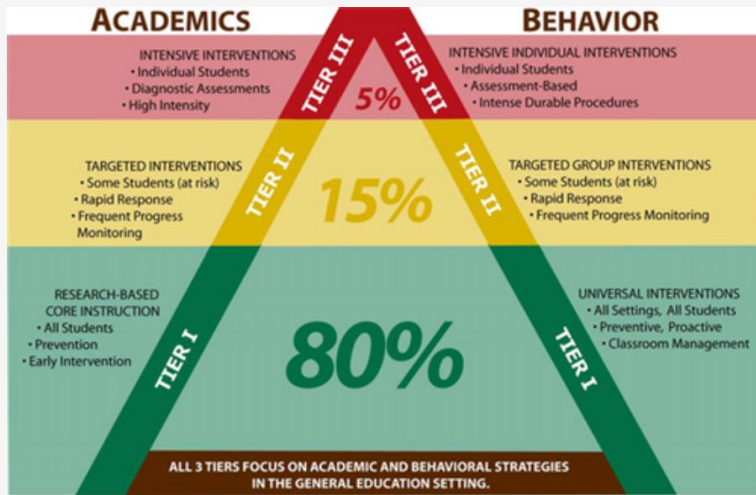




School Rally Cry



MTSS/PBIS/BAG Reports



Communication Home regarding Behavior, Attendance, and Grades

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Safety and Arrival and Dismissal

REMEMBER SCHOOL STARTS AT 8:45 AM



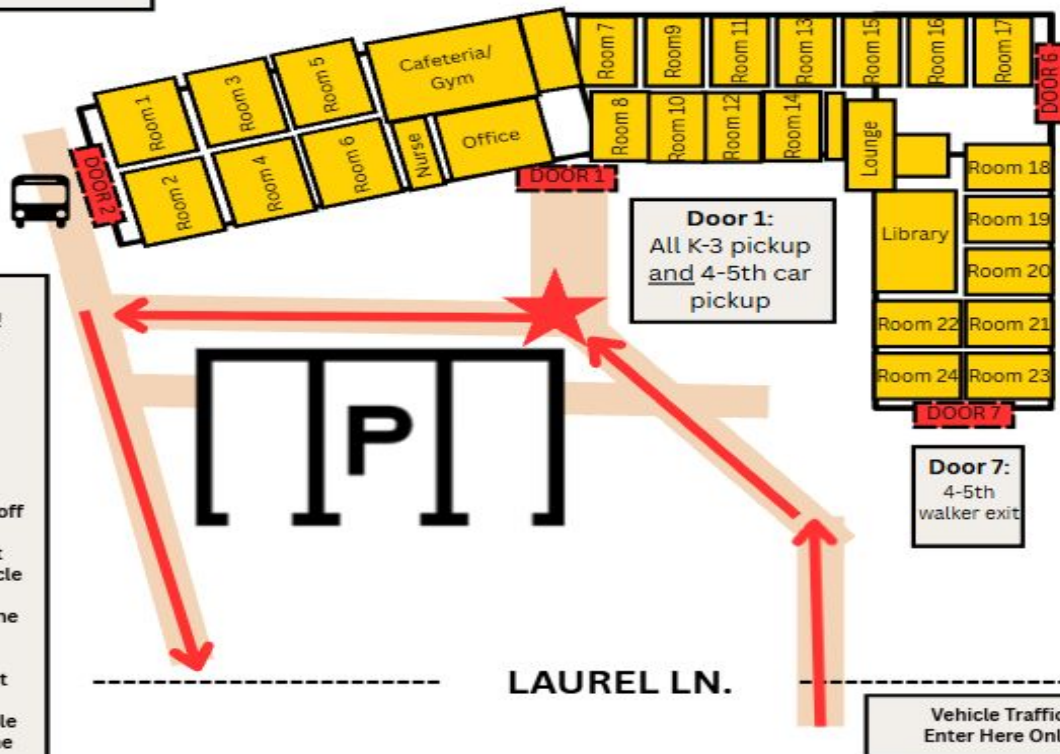
Staff parking only
*Do not pull
around the back*

HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY

Drop off/Pick up

Door 2:
Pre-K
pickup

Door 2:
Bus drop
off/pickup
only



REMINDERS:

SAFETY is our PRIORITY!

- School opens at 8:15 AM daily.
- School Pick-Up
K-5th-3:00 PM
Pre-K-2:45 PM
- Please be mindful of our
Neighbors and do not block
driveways.

VEHICLES

- Pull up to the Signage to drop off
your student (s) single file
- Students should enter and exit
the passenger side of the vehicle
only
- No Cell Phone Usage in Car Lane
- Share your Child's Name and
Grade with staff, and they will
call in for students to come out
to your vehicle.
- Please do not leave your vehicle
while in the vehicle pick up lane



No Cell Phones Statewide Policy

"bell-to-bell" ban on cellphones in schools

Per Governor Pritzker's New Law 2026



Special Upcoming Dates

Labor Day- No School-Monday, September 7

School Pictures-Monday, September 14

Pumpkin Farm Field Trip-PK-2- Friday,
September 25

3-5- October

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Any questions? Ask away!

Let's discuss any doubts or concerns.
If something comes up later, contact shalexander@phsd144.net

