



# HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The **2009-2010** school year is well on its way. We have had a great start at Highland. I hope your students are coming home with upbeat reports about their classes, athletic, and other activity involvements. If a problem arises, please encourage your son or daughter to address the problem promptly with their teacher, adviser, or counselor. The whole year is most likely to be successful, if the problem is addressed early on.

It is truly a pleasure to be the principal at Highland High School and I appreciate your support.

Please feel free to call me or stop in to visit while at school. I believe in an open door policy and I will make every attempt to be available to you. You may reach me at 208-237-1300 or by email [rossda@d25.k12.id.us](mailto:rossda@d25.k12.id.us)

Respectfully,

David D. Ross  
Principal

## IMPORTANT ITEMS

### **“BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT” 6:30 PM, September 16, 2009.**

- Please familiarize yourself with your student’s schedule. Student schedules will be available at Back to School Night.
- **6:30 PM** Main Gym – Welcome Meeting
- **7:00 PM** Please take advantage of this time to meet with your son or daughter’s teachers and learn about their class curriculum.
- **7:00 PM** Media Center – College Information Meeting with Counselors - This meeting is for all parents with college bound students.

### **ATTENDANCE**

- Please communicate with your daughter or son the importance of school attendance. Research has proven students who have high rates of absenteeism have poorer grades and have a high chance of dropping out.
- Please remember to have your student **check in and out** of school at the Attendance Office when leaving the building, except for release time & lunch.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

- We also encourage all parents to become involved with our school. We need parent volunteers with the Highland High School Parent Advisory Committee, the Highland Foundation, and many of our student organizations need parent advisors and chaperones.
- If you are interested in volunteering or need more information, Please sign up in the Main Office or contact Dian Swanson, Asst. Principal 237-1300.

## **SENIORS**

- Seniors need to schedule an appointment with their guidance counselor as soon as possible to discuss college applications or other post-graduate plans. The best approach is for seniors and their parents/guardians to attend the meeting together. Contact Tracey Gunderson, Counseling Secretary to make an appointment. 237-1300
- Senior athletes that are looking at Division I Universities for scholarships need to register with the NCCA Clearing House. Talk to your counselor, or pick up an information packet in the counseling center.

## **INTOUCH**

- All "In-touch" grade software passwords will be available in the commons area during the back to school night or they can be picked up from the Register's Office during the school day.

## **CLUBS, ACTIVITIES, ORGANIZATIONS**

- Please encourage your son or daughter to become involved in all the different clubs, activities, and organizations. We want all of our students to have a great experience at Highland and have many warm and lasting memories of their peers after they graduate.
- List of Clubs can be found in the Front Office.
- Check out [gohighlandrams.com](http://gohighlandrams.com) for listing of other clubs, activities and organization.

## **CHINA TRIP**

- Mr. Lake and the Foreign Arts Department are arranging a trip to China during June 2010. This trip will be through EF Tours and is available to all students and even adults! It will be a great experience to travel to a different country with an interesting culture! For more information, contact Mr. Lake in Room B-17; [lakean@d25.k12.id.us](mailto:lakean@d25.k12.id.us); 208-232-2307.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

<i>September 19</i>	<i>Homecoming Dance</i>
<i>October 30</i>	<i>Halloween Dance</i>
<i>November 7</i>	<i>COED Dance</i>
<i>November 11-16</i>	<i>Musical "West Side Story"</i>
<i>January 16</i>	<i>Snow Ball Dance</i>
<i>February 13</i>	<i>Sweetheart Dance</i>

## **GRADING PERIOD – 1<sup>st</sup> TRIMESTER**

<i>September 30</i>	<i>Midterm</i>
<i>November 11</i>	<i>Finals</i>
<i>November 16</i>	<i>End of 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester</i>

# Counselors' Corner

## TESTING

### **ACT**

- Seniors are reminded that the ACT must be taken by October for some scholarship consideration. The 2009-10 cost for the ACT without the writing is \$32.00. With the writing it is \$47.00. Highland High School is the testing site for the October, December, and June tests. The February and April testing center is I.S.U. **The October 24 test deadline is September 18**; however, if a student misses the deadline and wants to do a late registration, h/she may do so through October 2 for an additional fee of \$21. A student may also register standby for the fee + \$41.00.
- The high school code number is **130-498** and the test center code here at Highland is **165080**.
- Registration packets are available in the counseling center or students may register on-line at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). If any student needs extended time or other accommodations for any national test, be reminded the application must be in early enough for the testing programs to send the clearance for testing to the appropriate testing center. The remainder of the testing schedule after the October test is in the chart below.

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
December 12, 2009	November 6, 2009 (Given at Highland)
February 6, 2010	January 5, 2010 (Given at ISU)
April 10, 2010	March 5, 2010 (Given at ISU)
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010 (Given at Highland)

- **ACT Preparation materials:** There are a variety of materials students may check out from the counseling center to help them prepare for the ACT. We have disks prepared by ACT which gives the students an interactive program to practice skills necessary for the ACT. Books of sample questions along with retired tests are also available for check out.

**SAT** Because Idaho is an ACT state, fewer of our students elect take the SAT; however, if a student is interested in a school on the East or West Coast, s/he should take the SAT. If a student is planning to stay in the Intermountain West area for school, the ACT is the only test s/he will need.

- You may check in the counseling center to determine whether or not you need one or both tests.
- The online registration for SAT is [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).
- Cost for the SAT is \$45.00. **Reminder:** Students needing accommodations for any test sponsored by College Board needs to get a special form in the counseling center to get filled out well in advance of the testing date. (AP, PSAT, and SAT are all College Board sponsored.)

### **SAT TESTING SCHEDULE** (Given at Pocatello High School)

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
October 10	September 9 (Late registration Sept. 10-23)
November 7	October 1
December 5	October 30
January 23	December 15
March 13	February 4
May 1	March 25
June 5	April 29

**When should students take the ACT and/or SAT?** These tests may be taken at the student's discretion; however, we recommend that students begin taking them no later than April of their junior year. This gives them plenty of time to retake if they choose to do so. For scholarship consideration students must have the tests taken by October of their senior year.

**ASVAB** The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery is an excellent vehicle for students to use to discover career areas they may have some strength in.

- The test will be December 8, 2009 and is free to any junior or senior who wishes to take it. There is a sign-up sheet in the counseling center.

**P-SAT** The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude/National Merit Qualifying Test will be administered at Highland on **Saturday, October 17.**

- This test measures critical reading, math problem-solving and writing skills developed over many years, both in and out of school. Students will not have to recall facts as this test measures reasoning and critical thinking skills. Taking the test gives students feedback about critical academic skills, is a good practice for the SAT test, helps students start getting ready for college, and is the test from which national merit scholarship winners are chosen. Also, some employee's children's scholarships require P-SAT. If a student missed the test the junior year, it may be taken the senior year even though the senior will not be eligible for National Merit status. We also encourage 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders to take the test as practice.
- Students may register in the counseling center. The cost of \$15 is payable upon registration. Booklets explaining the P-SAT and National Merit programs are also available in the counseling center. A full-length sample test is included with the booklet.

**PLAN** The PLAN for sophomores will be administered Friday, November 6 at Highland.

- Sophomores are encouraged to take the test as it is normed for the sophomore population. Freshmen are invited to take the test as a practice. It is sponsored by ACT who reports to us that students who take the PLAN generally score two points higher on the ACT than do students who do not take it. Each participating student receives a report that identifies academic strengths and weaknesses, helps him/her explore career interests, helps her/him focus on career goals and the preparation needed to achieve them, and provides a predictor of the ACT score the student may expect to achieve.
- The cost of PLAN is \$15.00. Students may register in the counseling center at Highland. They must pay the \$15 as they register. Any freshmen who would like the test as a practice is welcome to sign up for the test as well.

We know 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders feel some test "burnout" due to the ISAT testing; however, both the PLAN and the P-SAT are well worth considering due to the national scope of both.

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**SENIORS:**

Scholarship notices are coming in daily! These are posted and seniors should be coming in to check what is available. REMINDER TO ALL SENIORS AND PARENTS:

- Educational opportunities and scholarship information are printed each week in the *Uncle Peaches Bulletin*. Government and senior English teachers receive these and should be reading them in the classroom. (Parents who would like the Uncle Peaches Bulletin sent home may call and give us an e-mail address.) An Uncle Peaches bulletin board is also displayed in the counseling center. Students need to take responsibility for getting the information and coming to the Counseling Center to pick up application forms or e-mail addresses for scholarships and programs for which they may be eligible.
- **A REMINDER:** procrastination seems to be a common malady among our students and many scholarship and award applications take time and energy to fill out. Please help us "nag" your student to get applications done early.
- For the largest Internet free scholarship search go to [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com). Please be aware, however, that this source sells lists of names. Other good sources for career and college information are [schoolsintehusa.com](http://schoolsintehusa.com) and [www.idahocis.org](http://www.idahocis.org) For the latter you will need a user name and password. User Name is highland and the password is hirms5.

### **PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE ATHLETES:**

If you plan to participate in intercollegiate sports at the college level and have not done so already, be sure to get the NCAA Clearing House form filled out and submitted.

- You must download the form from [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net). After the form is filled out, you need to submit it to the registrar's office. Without the clearing house "ok" you cannot be recruited. NOTE: You are not eligible to play if you have not passed at least five classes the semester prior to playing or 4 classes in the trimester prior to playing

### **UNDERCLASSMEN:**

The *Cousin Sunny* bulletin is published periodically with information important for 9<sup>TH</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> graders. There is a bulletin board in the counseling center along with the *Uncle Peaches* board where materials applicable to underclassmen will be posted. It is recommended students check that board two or three times a month. There are certain scholarships which are for juniors only and a few programs open to freshman and sophomores as well. *Cousin Sunny* is given to each history and English teacher to be read in class.

### **PARENTS:**

The Ram Center (Resource and Materials Center) contains many guides to help students and parents. These materials include career, higher education and financial aid opportunities, opportunities for higher education for minority students and students with disabilities, and special services to help students succeed such as **TRIO** from Idaho State University.

- TRIO services include **Upward Bound** (designed to work with low achieving students) and **Educational Talent Search** (a post-secondary recruiting component providing assistance with admission, financial aid, and scholarship applications.) Students must apply for eligibility and may pick up applications in the RAM Center. Once a week, starting in October, a representative from *Educational Talent Search* is on campus to help those students who qualify for the program. Tutoring is also available for eligible students. Further information may be obtained by calling TRIO at ISU 236-3242.
- The IDLA (Idaho Digital Learning Academy) offers many classes in both core and elective areas. Courses are \$50 per class and are offered in either a 16 week or a 9 week session. IDLA information is on the web site <http://idla.k12.id.us> or Mr. Howe, the IDLA site coordinator, may be contacted at Highland. Other programs of interest to students include alternative educational opportunities such as **Job Corp**, **GED and correspondence study**.
- Students and parents of seniors need to be reminded that all correspondence classes must be completed by **April 15** of the graduation year in order to insure credit arriving in time for graduation.

### **CHALLENGE TESTING:**

Students may take a challenge test to receive credit for some classes.

- The challenge tests will be offered this year at Pocatello High School. **All tests except the May test will be at 4:00 P.M. The May test will be at 8:30 A.M.** Test dates are November 3 with a deadline of October 23; February 23, 2010 with a deadline of February 11; April 27, 2010 with a deadline of April 16; and May 28, 2010 with a deadline of May 21. Applications are available in the registrar's office at Highland.
- NOTE: *These are the only dates for testing and if a student fails to show up for a scheduled date, he will then have to wait until the next testing date. Students will not be allowed to "walk-in" to a test. They must be signed up or will not be testing. Also note that the final testing date is after graduation. The grade received on the challenge test will appear on transcripts.* Tests are \$50 per course. Checks should be made out to School District #25.

### **HONORS AT GRADUATION**

Every year there seems to be some confusion as to what constitutes graduating with honors. Please refer to pages 10, 16 and 17 in the current *Pocatello/Chubbuck School District High School Handbook & Curriculum Guide* for information. If you have questions, please call either a counselor or a National Honor Society advisor.

### **HOMWORK REQUESTS**

We have numerous requests for homework only to find that the student returns to school the day after the request is made or the work is never picked up. Students are afforded the opportunity to make up work missed to legitimate absences; however, to create more uniformity we ask parents to follow these guidelines: If a student is ill with stomach flu, for example, and will be out for just a day or two, have the student get homework from the teachers when he/she returns. If a student will be out for an extended period of time due to more serious illnesses, we need to examine the eligibility for homebound services. If the student will be out over a week, but not long enough for homebound services, parents can request and pick up work for the student to complete while recuperating at home.

### **WEB PAGE**

We invite you to take advantage of the counselor web page which has information for parents and students and links to scholarship opportunities etc. Go to the District web page at [www.d25.k12.id.us](http://www.d25.k12.id.us). There click on schools, then to school web sites, then to Highland High School, and then to Counseling "RAM" Center.