

HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL

www.highlandhs.org

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July, 2011

Welcome Back, Bulldogs!

It's great to welcome everyone back! We're looking forward to a new school year, and invite everyone to be an active participant in the Highland High School community. Whether you are a student, parent or member of the larger Bulldog community, we hope that you will plan to get involved: join a club, attend an event, or volunteer. Check our website regularly at www.highlandhs.org for important dates and information. Listen to our phone messages for important announcements. Or, just give us a call and we'll keep you informed. We are committed to working together with the entire Bulldog community to provide the best possible educational experience for every Highland student. Thanks in advance for your support. GO DAWGS!

Laura Herman
Principal

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MISSION STATEMENT

Challenging Students to Achieve Excellence

VISION STATEMENT

Each member of the Highland High School community:

- Commits to personal and academic excellence
- Takes responsibility for his or her actions
- Collaborates with others
- Respects one another
- Understands his or her own value to the school community
- Develops and demonstrates leadership skills
- Communicates effectively
- Ensures a safe and clean environment
- Welcomes outside community involvement and contributions
- Engages in ongoing self-assessment and reflection
- Adapts to new challenges

EXPECTED SCHOOL-WIDE LEARNING RESULTS

Highland High School graduates will:

- Know and appreciate their duties as citizens by making responsible, well-informed decisions and by participating in civic processes.
- Have the opportunity to acquire leadership skills enabling them to become responsible, goal-oriented, solution-minded leaders who can make appropriate decisions.
- Be self-directed, life-long learners who use critical thinking, academic skills, and technology to evaluate information and achieve their personal and professional goals.
- Show respect, be tolerant, and thrive within a culturally-diverse community and will succeed in a global market place.
- Demonstrate effective communication through their reading, writing, listening, speaking, and technology skills.

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BULLDOG BASICS

Classes start on August 8, 2011, which will be a **FLEX DAY**, and we will dismiss classes at 12:15 p.m. On regular school days, classes will begin at 7:30 a.m. and dismiss at 2:27 p.m.

Highland's 2011-12 bell schedules are listed at the end of this newsletter, on our website, and in the student planner.

AVUHSD Parental Notification – Important information from the Antelope Valley Union High School District will be distributed the first month of school. This information is also available through the District's website at <http://www.avdocs.org/display/SS/Annual+Parental+Notifications>.

Back to School Night – Please calendar **Thursday, September 8, 2011**, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., for Back-to-School Night. Additional information will be sent home prior to the event outlining the program and the schedule. You will also be able to vote for School Site Council and School Advisory Committee representatives that night. ***School will be dismissed at 12:15 p.m. on this date.***

Closed Campus/Off-Campus Passes/Senior Off-Campus Pass Lunch Privilege – Highland has a closed campus policy. Students requesting to leave campus during the school day must have a note signed by the parent in order to obtain an Off-Campus Pass, which is available from the Attendance Office. Seniors who are eligible may apply for an Off-Campus Lunch Pass through Highland's Campus Security Office (ext 242). Eligibility for this pass is based on a GPA of 3.0 and no unsatisfactory citizenship grades from the previous grading period.

Deliveries & Messages for Students: There are **no** deliveries to students. Please remember that Highland will not be responsible for any items left at the front desk for your student. This includes, but is not limited to, food, money, flowers, balloons, gifts, athletic equipment, clothes, homework, books, etc. Also, please remember we do **not** accept messages for students. If there is an *emergency* and you need to contact your student, please contact your student's vice principal or the switchboard.

Double Lunch Periods - Highland will continue with a double lunch schedule. Half of the students will have 4A lunch and then go to 4A class, while the other half of the students will go to 4B class and then to 4B lunch. We will **NOT** be able to accommodate program changes to allow students to have lunch with their friends.

Electronic Devices on Campus: Board Policy 5131.05 states that, while students may possess cell phones on campus, **in no instance shall use of a cell phone be disruptive of the educational process.** Highland will not be responsible for the loss or theft of CD players, cell phones, pagers, mp3 players, iPods, cameras, flash drives, memory sticks, or any other type of electronic device.

Graduation - Class of 2012: There will be two graduation ceremonies on Thursday, May 24, 2012, at Highland's Wilda Andrejcek Stadium: One at 2 p.m., the other at 6 p.m. More information will be available closer to graduation. Please email us with your input and concerns.

TeleParent Messaging System: During the year you will receive telephone messages from our messaging system. These automated messages will bring you reminders of Bulldog events and updates of campus news. This reduces the budgetary strains of postage costs. Please make sure we have your correct phone number.

Parent Volunteers: We are seeking parent volunteers. Parents who volunteer thirty (30) hours or more during the school year may meet with counselors in August to set up their student's schedule and select teachers. At the time of this writing, we do not have a permanent Volunteer Coordinator. If you are interested in helping out at Highland, please contact Mrs. Allen at extension 0.

School Site Council and School Advisory Committee: If you are interested in serving on the School Site Council or the School Advisory Committee, please submit your name to my secretary at ext 394 or contact her at pcurnow@avhsd.org by August 26, 2011. Elections will be held on Back to School Night on September 8 between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Student Store – Highland maintains a cash, money order, credit or debit card only policy. (If the student is using a debit card, the card must be in his/her name.) Checks will not be accepted. Prices are accurate as of this printing but are subject to change:

ASB Card	\$20	Includes tee shirt while supplies last	PE Shirt/Shorts Set	\$24	
ASB Card	\$20	No tee-shirt	PE Sweatshirt	\$23	With ASB Card - \$18
PE Tee-shirt	\$12.50		PE Sweatpants	\$16	With ASB Card - \$11
PE Shorts	\$13.50		Yearbook	\$100	Payment plan info - contact yearbook advisor, Mr. Vogler

Student ID's – Permanent ID's will be issued to 10th, 11th, and 12th graders; freshman who attended the freshman orientation will also receive their permanent ID. Make up pictures will be taken on August 18 for all students who do not have a permanent ID. Photo packages may be purchased at that time.

- All students are required to wear their ID badge everyday above the waist and outside of clothing.
- All students must wear the HHS lanyard only.

GUIDANCE OFFICE NEWS

Incoming Student Information: The final registration date for incoming **freshmen** who did not register last spring is **July 20 at 9:00 a.m.** Incoming **sophomores** who did not register last spring may do so on **July 20 at 1:00 p.m.** These are the final opportunities to register prior to the start of school on August 8. Please be prompt as once the door closes late arrivals will not be admitted.

Junior and **Senior** enrollments are by appointment only. Complete an appointment request card at the switchboard and you will be contacted after July 13 to schedule a time and date to register.

Please bring the following documents to register: (a) Two (2) utility bills reflecting the parent/guardian's name and address; (b) copy of birth certificate; (c) a copy of junior high diploma (9th grade); (d) a copy of the withdrawal and unofficial transcript from your previous school (10th–12th grades); and (e) a copy of your child's immunization records. As of July 1, 2011, students entering the 7th through 12th grade are required to have a **Tdap vaccine** for immunity to whooping cough (Pertussis). Also, if your child is coming from outside of California, he or she will need a TB (Mantoux) test. You cannot register your child without this information.

Comprehensive Guidance Program/Counseling: The counseling staff welcomes everyone back to school! Our counseling staff is here to assist you in any way we can.

Counselors

Ms. Susan Hickman – Grades 10 & 12, N-Z
 Ms. Elinor Kun – Grades 10 & 12, A-E
 Ms. Michele Machac – Grade 11, A-J
 Ms. Angela Robertson – Grades 10 & 12, F-M
 Ms. Gwen Shim – Grade 11, K-Z
 Dr. Bess Silverston – Grade 9

Counseling Staff

Mrs. Susan Andrews – Guidance Office Clerk
 Mrs. Ruth Lozano – Pupil Services Technician
 Mrs. Leslie Ortega – Pupil Services Technician
 Mrs. Keri Roberts – SB813 Clerk

We look forward to working with you during the coming year. To assure our availability, please call our office at extension 376 to schedule an appointment before coming in.

Schedules: All returning students had the opportunity to select classes during spring registration. Students will receive their class schedules the first day of school.

If you do not plan to return to Highland for the 2011-12 school year, please call us at 661-538-0304, press "0", and leave a message with our receptionist.

NOTE: Students must return all textbooks and library books from past school year(s) before textbooks can be issued for the new school year.

Freshmen Orientation (large gym): All Freshmen are invited to attend our Freshman Orientation on **Friday, August 5.** Fun activities include a pep rally, campus tour, BBQ, and the chance to make new friends. We hope to see you there! Parents and siblings can pick up their freshman at the student entrance (north doors) across from the student parking lot. By the way, beat the mad rush and purchase P.E. clothes, ASB cards and yearbooks during Orientation. You may also order photo packages at this time.

Student Store hours: Monday from 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; and Tuesday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact our activities VP, Ms. Prosser, at extension 397.

ATHLETIC CLEARANCE

Students involved in athletics must be cleared prior to any participation. Athletes must have a current physical exam, a minimum 2.0 grade point average, no more than two unsatisfactory marks in citizenship and complete a verification of insurance. This information is all contained on the “yellow” card that is a part of the athletic packet/folder. In addition, you must complete an emergency and consent (blue) card, as well as a Pre-participation Physical Evaluation form. These may be obtained from the Athletics Office and should be returned when complete. Athletic physicals may be arranged at our school site at a reduced price and will be announced. Physicals may also be obtained from your personal physician. Call the Athletic Office secretary, Mrs. Myers, at extension 391 after July 15 if further information is needed.

ATTENDANCE AND DISCIPLINE

Attendance Information: Board Policy 5113, Absences and Excuses. Parents may clear absences by phone or note. There is a 5-day window from the date of the absence in which parents may clear absences. After the 5-day window, a doctor’s note will be required to clear absences. Students may opt to attend Saturday School for a minimum of four hours to clear an all day absence that has not been cleared by a viable excuse. Students may attend Saturday School voluntarily up to five times per semester.

Tardy Policy: Highland High School recognizes that regular and prompt attendance plays an important role in student achievement. Highland recognizes its responsibility to ensure that students attend class regularly.

Tardiness is a failure to appear on time and is considered a form of absence. A student is tardy when he/she is not in the assigned classroom and in their assigned seat when the tardy bell rings. It is the student’s responsibility to see to it that he/she is in the classroom and ready to work before the tardy bell rings. Such common problems as oversleeping and repeated occurrences of car trouble are unacceptable reasons for tardiness to school and are considered unexcused tardies/absences. Tardies are a cumulative total and consequences are not limited to any one particular class.

Habitual tardiness is considered a form of truancy under the Education Code. Education Code 48260 provides that legal action may be taken against a student and/or parent when a student is declared a truant. The student shall be reported to the Community Attendance Worker or Administrator for disciplinary action.

Failure to appear for a Saturday School will result in the assignment of one day In-House Suspension.

Disciplinary Procedure Philosophy - The Board of Education has the responsibility to see that an appropriate educational program is available to each student in our schools. Rules and regulations are established to ensure a proper climate in which students may pursue their studies. School personnel have been charged by the Board to carry out these rules in a friendly, firm and fair manner and to safeguard each student's right to the finest education we can provide. The Board further feels that good discipline is a shared responsibility. Students, parents, teachers, and administrators all share in this endeavor and responsibility. At anytime, students may be disciplined and/or counseled by teachers, administrators or other staff members regarding their behavior and/or referred to other authorities in special circumstances.

- **Academic Probation** – 9th and 10th grade students who are behind in credits during the school year are required to make up core classes through Supplemental Instruction and may be placed on academic probation. For more information, please contact your guidance counselor or vice principal.

- **Alternative Programs** - Highland offers a wide variety of alternative programs to meet the needs of students who have severe health, academic, behavioral or attendance problems, are behind in credits, or pregnant. In addition, these non-traditional programs offer options that may better meet the needs of students or their families as they pursue a high school education. A guidance counselor or vice principal can assist you in pursuing these options.
- **Discipline & Dress Code** -- *All students will receive a Highland student planner.* Please review the school's discipline and dress code policy with your student. We ask the cooperation of all parents to ensure that students adhere to these policies. A copy of the school dress code is provided with this newsletter to assist you in purchasing appropriate attire.
- **Expulsion From School** – The Antelope Valley Union High School District operates on a Zero Tolerance policy towards weapons, drugs, graffiti, hate crimes and sexual harassment. Students who are involved in any of the above are subject to suspension or expulsion from school as per California Education Codes 48900 and 48915. If you would like a copy of this code, please call our security office. Copies of these violations are posted in each classroom and in each student's planner.
- You can access the **California Education Code** on the internet at www.leginfo.ca.

BAND CAMP

Anyone participating in Marching Band this coming school year **MUST** attend Band Camp. It will run from **July 18 through July 29 (Monday through Friday), from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Required: A good attitude, team work, and respect for your fellow band members. Wear a white tee-shirt, sun block and tennis shoes. Bring a hat, plenty of water, and a sack lunch or you may buy lunch. More details at a later date.

CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM (CAHSEE)

Beginning with the Class of 2006, all students in the State of California are required to pass this exam in order to receive a high school diploma. Seniors who have passed both portions of the exam have met the proficiency requirements for graduations. If you have any questions concerning the exit exam, please access the state's website at: www.cde.ca.gov/ta.

2011-12 School Year Testing Calendar: You will be able to access all testing dates (including CAHSEE, AP, IB, PSAT, SAT, ASVAB, STAR, etc.) at Highland's website – www.highlandhs.org – as soon as they are made available to us.

POWER SCHOOL

Parents have access to view their student's attendance and grades on line through Power School. Contact Peggy Fletcher at ext 236 for login information.

EVENTS CALENDAR

You may access our school calendar through our web page at www.highlandhs.org. Also, your student's daily planner will be issued during the first 2-3 weeks of school.

PARKING & STUDENT DROP OFF

Student drop off will be at the north parking lot. Students are to enter through the north student doors. Please do not double park in the street or the parking lots for any reason. Parents and students are asked not to park in the driveway at the front of the school. This is an emergency vehicle access area and is not to be blocked for any reason. **Please drive slowly and watch for pedestrians.**

TRANSPORTATION CHARGES

There is a charge for all students who ride the bus to and from school. Bus passes are available through the Antelope Valley Schools Transportation Agency. They can be reached at 661-945-3621.

Antelope Valley Union High School District / Highland High School
STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE POLICY

Highland High School students will adhere to the following guidelines for student dress on campus and at school-related activities off campus:

Note: Exceptions may be made for team uniforms with administrative approval.

PANTS, SHORTS

1. Pants and shorts must be worn at waist level and must fit at the waist. No sagging or low-riding will be permitted.
2. Legs of pants and shorts must be of equal length; for example, one pant leg cannot be rolled up to be shorter than the other pant leg.
3. Pants and shorts must be worn right side out, hemmed and cannot be ragged or torn. Non-factory produced cuffs are not allowed. Cutoff shorts are not allowed.
4. Shorts extending below the knee when worn with over-the-calf socks are prohibited.
5. Non-manufactured creases in pants or shorts are not allowed.
6. Shorts must be longer than finger-tip length or appropriate length between thigh and knee. Hemlines and slits on shorts above mid-thigh are not acceptable.
7. Bib pants or shorts must be fastened over both shoulders.
8. Pants shall not drag on the ground.

SHIRTS, BLOUSES, TOPS

1. Shirts or other clothing that depicts any “gang-style” writing; illegal activity, sexually-related or obscene gestures, pictures, logos, insignias, or wording; use or abuse of tobacco, drugs or alcohol; words, pictures, or phrases that depicts violence or intimidation may not be worn; or poses a threat to the physical well-being and safety of the students or others shall not be worn on campus or at any school-related activities.
2. Shirts cannot be buttoned at the top while unbuttoned at the bottom.
3. All shirts and tops must cover the midriff at all times.
4. The following shirts and tops are prohibited: tank tops, strapless, spaghetti straps, off-the-shoulder, cut-out designs, low-cut shirts, bare-back shirts and sheer or mesh clothing without a blouse or shirt underneath.
5. Undergarments worn under shirts, blouses, or tops must not be visible.
6. Non-manufactured creases in shirts are not allowed.
7. Sports jerseys, other than school jerseys, are not allowed.

SHOES

1. All students are required to wear appropriate footwear/shoes.
2. Slipper-type shoes steel-toed boots, and thongs/flip-flops and inappropriate writing on shoes are not allowed.
3. Only black, white, or brown shoelaces are permitted.
4. Black, red, or blue athletic shoes worn in combination with clothing of the same color are not allowed.

SKIRTS, JUMPERS, ONE-PIECE DRESSES

1. Skirts, jumpers, or one-piece dresses must be mid-length (waist to the knee) or longer (finger-tip length).
2. Transparent skirts/dresses and/or strapless or backless dresses are not allowed.
3. Skirts, dresses, or jumpers must be hemmed, worn right-side out, and not slit, frayed, ragged, or torn.
4. Hemlines and slits on dresses and skirts above mid-thigh are not acceptable.

HEADWEAR

1. Only Highland High School approved headwear are allowed on campus.
2. Hats must be worn with bills forward.
3. No writing is permitted on a hat except the owner's name on the underside of the bill.
4. No headbands, scarves, (associated with gang attire), bandanas, do-rags, hair nets, combs, curlers, rubber bands, clips, hair picks, or plastic bags may be worn or “displayed” by students.
5. Hats may be worn inside the classroom or office ONLY with the permission of the instructor or office personnel.

BELTS

1. Belts must be worn snugly without the ends hanging down.
2. Belt buckles must be free of any initials or inappropriate designs.
3. No studded belts and no spikes on belts.
4. Wearing an oversized belt with one end hanging down is prohibited.

CHAINS

1. Students may wear appropriate chains around their necks as jewelry.
2. Chains attached to wallets or hanging from a student's pants or shorts are not allowed.
3. Spiked collars or accessories are not allowed.

EARRINGS/JEWELRY

1. Body-piercing jewelry is limited to ears only.
2. No gang-related jewelry or insignias are permitted.

SUNGLASSES

Sunglasses may be worn on campus, but not in the classroom.

BOOK BAGS

Book bags/backpacks may be any color and identified with only the name of the student. Book bags/backpacks must be free of any other writing or graffiti.

TATTOOS

Tattoos that depict or suggest illegal activity; sexually-related or obscene gestures; logos, insignias, or wording which poses a threat to the physical well-being and safety of students or others; or creates a "gang like" image which may provoke others to acts of violence, shall not be visible at school or at any school-sponsored activity.

ADDITIONAL INAPPROPRIATE ATTIRE

1. Attire that may cause student unrest is not allowed.
2. Clothing with writing other than the original factory-produced letters and patterns is not allowed.
3. Clothing that represents gangs, racist/hate groups, or groups on campus not officially approved by Highland High School are not allowed.
4. Any clothing or styles of dress that may be construed to provoke fear, violence, or intimidation, including gang-related attire, is not acceptable.
5. Any clothing typically worn for sleep is unacceptable school attire.
6. Gang or tagger-crew writing on shoes, clothes or body, backpacks or accessories are not permitted.
7. Excessive color identities in combination with other gang attire are prohibited.
8. No handcuffs, safety pins and needles are permitted on campus.

Highland High School recognizes that students have a right to show their individuality by the clothes they choose to wear. We do feel, however, that the school has a responsibility to establish basic guidelines which are both reasonable and fair. Part of the school's responsibility is to prepare students to enter the work place with an idea of employer expectations. Good attendance, being at work on time, and a reasonable dress standard will be expected by an employer.



Welcome home, Bulldogs!
Have a great year!

HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL

2011-2012 BELL SCHEDULES *

REGULAR DAY

First Bell	6:25	
Period 0	6:30 – 7:23	53 minutes
Period 1	7:30 – 8:26	56 minutes
2A Break	8:26 - 8:36	10 minutes
2A Class	8:42 – 9:38	56 minutes
2B Class	8:32 – 9:28	56 minutes
2B Break	9:28 – 9:38	10 minutes
Period 3	9:44 - 10:46	62 minutes
4A Lunch	10:46 – 11:21	35 minutes
4A Class	11:27 – 12:23	56 minutes
4B Class	10:52 – 11:48	56 minutes
4B Lunch	11:48 – 12:23	35 minutes
Period 5	12:29 – 1:25	56 minutes
Period 6	1:31 – 2:27	56 minutes

FLEX / MINIMUM DAY

First Bell	6:25	
Period 0	6:30 – 7:23	53 minutes
Period 1	7:30 – 8:05	35 minutes
2A Break	8:05 – 8:15	10 minutes
2A Class	8:21 – 8:56	35 minutes
2B Class	8:11 – 8:46	35 minutes
2B Break	8:46 – 8:56	10 minutes
Period 3	9:02 – 9:37	35 minutes
4A Lunch	9:37 – 10:12	35 minutes
4A Class	10:18 – 10:53	35 minutes
4B Class	9:43 – 10:18	35 minutes
4B Lunch	10:18 – 10:53	35 minutes
Period 5	10:59 – 11:34	35 minutes
Period 6	11:40 – 12:15	35 minutes

SEMESTER FINALS

SPECIAL MINIMUM DAY SCHEDULE

Semester Finals Day 1: December 14 & May 23

1 st Bell	6:25	
Period 0	6:30 – 7:23	53 minutes
Period 1	7:30 – 9:30	120 minutes
Lunch	9:30 – 10:09	39 minutes
Period 2	10:15 – 12:15	120 minutes

Semester Finals Day 2: December 15 & May 24

1 st Bell	6:25	
Period 0	6:30 – 7:23	53 minutes
Period 3	7:30 – 9:30	120 minutes
Lunch	9:30 – 10:09	39 minutes
Period 5	10:15 – 12:15	120 minutes

Semester Finals Day 3: December 16 & May 25

Period 0	DOES NOT MEET	
Period 4	7:30 – 9:30	120 minutes
Lunch	9:30 – 10:09	39 minutes
Period 6	10:15 – 12:15	120 minutes

TESTING DATES - SCHEDULE TBD

CAHSEE Testing March 13 & 14, 2012
 STAR Testing April 24-26, 2012

Please check our website - www.highlandhs.org - for testing updates.

Flex Days

08/08/11	First Day of School
09/14/11	Club Rush Day
01/09/12	First Day of Second Semester
04/23/12	Monday of STAR testing week
04/26/12	Spring Fest

Minimum Days

09/08/11	Back to School Night
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Final Exam Days

12/14-16/11	First Semester Finals
05/23-25/12	Second Semester Finals

Holidays – Non Student Days

09/05/11	Labor Day
10/10/11	Columbus Day
11/11/11	Veterans Day
11/21-25/11	Thanksgiving Break
12/19/11-01/08/2012	Winter Break
01/16/12	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
02/20/12	Presidents Day
03/19-23/12	Spring Break

*All dates are subject to change.