



THE HORNET HYPE

EDITION #31

HIGHLAND PREP WEST'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

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HOME OF THE HORNETS

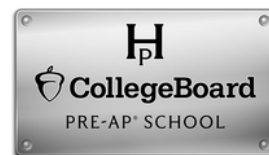
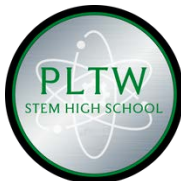
HPW SEAPERCH TEAMS QUALIFY FOR NATIONALS IN MARYLAND

We're thrilled to announce that two of our SeaPerch teams, team "Ghostie" and team "Henry" have qualified for the National Competition in Maryland! These talented students have worked tirelessly to perfect their underwater robotics skills and their dedication has ultimately paid off.

The "Ghostie" team, consisting of Clara, Dariyon, Lorenzo, and Iysis, took home first place in the Highland Prep Academies 2nd Annual SeaPerch Competition, earning them a spot at nationals. More

recently, team "Henry", comprised of Ruth, Maya, Jenson, and Kelly, dominated the Regional Arizona Championship, securing first place and a national berth. As they prepare for nationals, the teams will participate in another competition in San Diego.

If you'd like to support these talented students as they raise funds to travel to nationals, visit the front office. We're grateful for your support and look forward to cheering on our SeaPerch teams as they represent Highland Prep West on the national stage!



EDITION #31 / APRIL 2025

Message from the Principal

Dear Hornet Families,

Spring is in full swing, and our Hornets have so much to be proud of!

Our spring sports teams have been giving it their all. Track and Field athletes have especially stood out, bringing home numerous medals! Baseball celebrated a major milestone with HPW's first no-hitter, and our softball team continues to shine with impressive improvements and some exciting wins on the field.

Our SeaPerch teams are making waves—literally and figuratively! They dominated their first two competitions, taking both first and second place, and have now qualified for Nationals in Maryland at the

end of May. We couldn't be more proud of our teams.

We also wrapped up our state testing season this month. A big thank you goes out to our students and families—100% of our freshmen and juniors completed the ACT Aspire, ACT, and AzSCI exams.

Looking ahead, our juniors are gearing up for their second college visit of the year, this time to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, AZ. Meanwhile, all students will attend their final ECAP meeting of the year to finalize their course registration for the 2025–2026 school year. There's a lot of excitement in the air and we're already looking forward to what's ahead!

Sincerely,

Sharon Pozzi • Principal



School Calendar

APRIL 2025

4/16 No Early Release Wednesday
4/18 Spring Holiday (No School)
4/21-4/25 Spring Spirit Week
4/25 Spring BBQ
4/29 Science Fair @ Madison Highland Prep

5/9
5/15
5/15
5/19
5/23

MAY 2025

End of Year Dance
Visual Arts Showcase- 4th Qtr.
Band & Choir Concert
Academic Awards Banquet
Last Day of School

SUMMER SCHOOL & SUMMER CAMPS 2025

6/2-6/26 Summer School-Session 1
6/2-6/26 Future Freshmen Academy-Session 1
7/7-7/24 Summer School-Session 2
7/7-7/24 Future Freshmen Academy-Session 2
7/7-7/10 Aerial Drone Camp

7/7-7/10 Women's Volleyball Camp
7/14-7/17 VEX Robotics Camp
7/14-7/17 Musical Theatre Camp
7/14-7/17 Women's Flag Football Camp
Visit highlandprepwest.org for more!

ACADEMIC BULLETIN



ASU FIELD TRIP

Our juniors took a significant step towards their future as they embarked on their first college campus tour at Arizona State University's Tempe campus. This insightful experience gave them a sneak peek into college life, allowing them to envision their future. During the tour, they gained valuable knowledge about ASU's diverse programs and state-of-the-art facilities. We're beyond excited to support our Hornets as they prepare for this next chapter.



ACADEMIC AWARDS ASSEMBLY

We celebrated the outstanding academic achievements of our Hornets who earned Principal's List and Honor Roll recognition for the third quarter! Those who achieved a GPA of 4.0 and above were awarded Principal's List while students with a GPA of 3.5 and above earned Honor Roll.

EXTRACURRICULAR SCHEDULE:

MONDAY 2:30 PM

CHESS/GAME CLUB, C206

STUDENT COUNCIL, C205

YOUTH ALIVE, C201

SHOW CHOIR, C202

MONDAY 3:30 PM

GARDENING CLUB, C210

TUESDAY 2:30 PM

PERSONAL FITNESS, C102

SEAPERCH, C104

TUESDAY 3:30 PM

VEX ROBOTICS, C207

TENNIS CLUB, COURTS

THURSDAY 2:30 PM

CYBERSECURITY, C211

SPORTS CLUB, GYM

THURSDAY 3:30 PM

SHOW CHOIR, C202

YEARBOOK, C109

FRIDAY 2:30 PM

SPORTS FILM CLUB, C108

ACT/SAT MATH PREP CLUB, C206

FUTSOL CLUB, GYM

FRIDAY 3:30 PM

VEX ROBOTICS, C207

STEM DIGEST

DESIGNING FUNCTIONAL MECHANICAL JOINT TYPES

Our Introduction to Engineering Design students are showcasing their technical skills as they design and develop mechanical joint types. With a focus on both form and function, our engineering students are working diligently to create designs that not only resemble real-world mechanical joints but also demonstrate precise movement and functionality. Their hard work and attention to detail are truly impressive. Great work, Hornets!



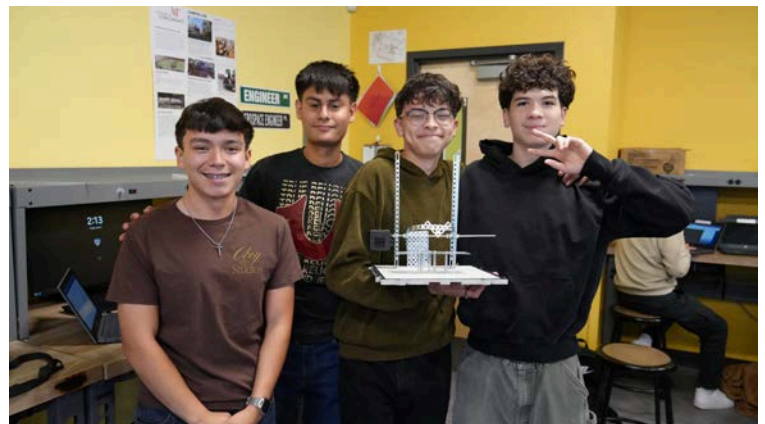
STUDENTS GET READY FOR HPA STEM SCIENCE FAIR

Our students have been hard at work bringing their curiosity and knowledge to life through exciting science fair projects! After testing hypotheses, analyzing data, and designing poster boards, they're now ready to showcase their work to our STEM faculty. The best projects will be selected to participate at the Highland Prep Academies STEM Science Fair on Tuesday, April 29th from 5:00-7:00pm at Madison Highland Prep. We're eager to see the innovative discoveries our students have to share!



BUILDING CONTRAPTIONS CONTROLLED BY SENSORS

Our Principles of Engineering students recently designed and built sensor contraptions that respond to movement. Using VEX robotics equipment and computer coding, our students created devices that can detect and react to their surroundings. One group's device cleverly enclosed a surrounding hand when the sensor detected its proximity.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



MR. CORTES

Mr. Cortes teaches U.S. History, Government and Economics, and Psychology at Highland Prep West. He holds a Bachelor's in History with a focus on Secondary Education from Arizona

State University. Mr. Cortes is a veteran of the United States Navy and is beginning his second year as a teacher in Arizona. His interests include spending time with his wife and four kids and riding his motorcycle. Beyond the classroom, he serves as the main lead of our homework support program. He has experience teaching history as well as teaching Special Education. We are so fortunate to have Mr. Cortes a part of the Hive and we thank him for his dedication and support.

SUMMER CAMP SPORTS

- FOOTBALL
- CHEER
- SOCCER
- GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
- GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
COMPLETE YOUR REGISTER
MY ATHLETE PROCESS



REGISTER MY ATHLETE FOR SUMMER CAMPS IS OPEN!

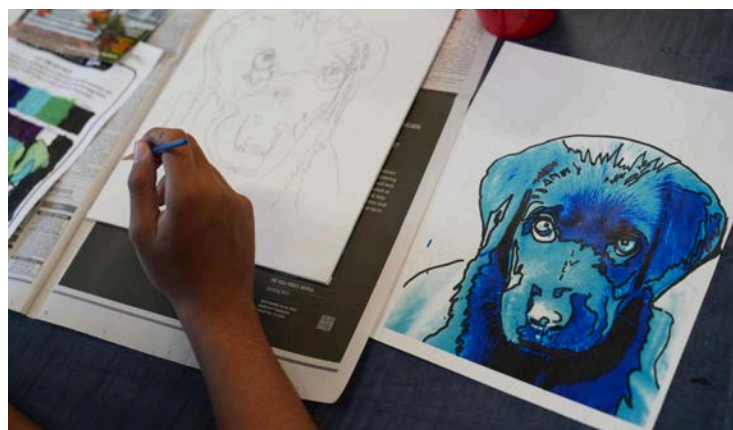
The Register My Athlete form for summer camps is officially open! Beat the rush and complete your process today. Don't wait until summer starts- get ahead of the game and register now! Scan the QR code or visit registermyathlete.com to register.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



PURCHASE YOUR YEARBOOK

Don't miss your chance to own the 2024-2025 yearbook! Yearbooks are in limited supply and this is your last opportunity to secure one before they're gone for good. Capture the incredible memories we made this year at the Hive. Visit jostens.com to order yours today.



PET PORTRAITS IN ART

Our art students are currently working on a fun pet portrait project! Starting with sketches, they're bringing their furry friends to life on paper. Next, they're tracing with dark ink to add bold lines and definition, before adding vibrant colors to their artwork. Many students drew inspiration from photos of their own beloved pets.

ATHLETICS



TRACK & FIELD MEDALISTS

Our track and field team recently delivered an impressive performance at the Inaugural Knight-Matador Track Invitational! The boys team earned a strong 2nd place finish, while the girls team secured 3rd place. With numerous athletes bringing home medals, the competition showcased the team’s depth and talent. We’re incredibly proud of these dedicated athletes. Keep it up, Hornets!



UPCOMING GAME SCHEDULE:

Softball	4/17	3:15 PM	Fountain Hills	H
Baseball	4/17	3:45 PM	Fountain Hills	A
Baseball	4/21	3:00 PM	Highland Prep	H
Softball	4/21	3:45 PM	Trivium Prep	H
Baseball	4/24	3:45 PM	St. John Paul II	A
Softball	4/24	3:45 PM	St. John Paul II	A

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHTS OF THE MONTH



**LINCOLN
BLANCO**

Junior, Lincoln Blanco (#17) is the ace pitcher for our HPW baseball team who is making waves on the diamond. He recently etched his name in HPW baseball history by throwing the first no-hitter in a thrilling game against Mountainside High School. Lincoln has excelled as a pitcher, earning praise from Coach O. “Lincoln is a true team player, consistently bringing his A-game to every game,” Coach O remarks. “Lincoln’s dedication, skill, and sportsmanship have been great assets to the baseball team.” All in all, we’re excited to see what the future holds for this talented young athlete. Congratulations, Lincoln, on this outstanding achievement!



**ALIYA
MALLINGER**

Sophomore, Aliya Mallinger (#14) is a standout athlete who has been shining brightly on the field this season. Her impressive growth in abilities has been matched by her unwavering dedication and passion for the game. Aliya consistently gives her all to every game, leaving everything she has on the field. She’s been instrumental in driving runs, scoring crucial points, and showcasing her speed with stolen bases. Her tireless work ethic and commitment to excellence have earned her a reputation as a reliable and formidable teammate. Coach Kersh praises Aliya not only for her athletic abilities but also for her exceptional character. “She’s an athlete that we can always depend on,” says Coach Kersh, “and is the most kindhearted teammate one could ask for.” With her impressive plays, great runs, and stolen bases, Aliya has proven herself to be a force to be reckoned with. We’re thrilled to spotlight her as one of our athletes this month.

HAPPENINGS @ HPW

COURSE REGISTRATION WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

Our Incoming Freshmen Course Registration was a resounding success! The HPW Class of 2029 is officially set for enrollment, having taken their placement tests and signed up for courses. During the event, they got the opportunity to sign up for sports and summer camps and explore various clubs and organizations. This exciting milestone marks the beginning of their high school journey.



HORNETS BUZZ WITH ENERGY AT EPIC SPRING PEP ASSEMBLY

Our recent Spring Pep Assembly was the most epic yet! Our talented show choir rocked the stage while our spring sports teams brought the high energy. The fun continued with a lively game of musical chairs that got everyone moving. But the real showstoppers were our teachers, who good-naturedly sported temporary tattoos and took a pie to the face- all chosen by our Hornets! It was a sweet way to kick off the spring season and unite our students!

Upcoming Dates at the Hive:

- 4/21-4/25: Spring Spirit Week
- 4/25: Spring BBQ
- 4/29: Highland Prep Academies Science Fair
- 5/9: End of Year Dance



Highland Prep West
2024-2025 Academic Calendar

July 0 	August 20 	September 20 	October 4 14
November 17 	December 15 	January 19 	February 19
March 5 11 	April 21 	May 17 	June

First Day of Quarter
 Finals/Last Day of Quarter
 Holiday/Break

First Quarter		Days 44
August	05	First Day - First Quarter
September	02	Labor Day
October	04	Last Day - First Quarter
October	07-11	Fall Break

Second Quarter		Days 46
October	14	First Day - Second Quarter
November	11	Veterans Day
November	27-29	Thanksgiving
December	20	Last Day - Second Quarter
Dec / Jan	23-03	Winter Break

Third Quarter		Days 43
January	06	First Day - Third Quarter
January	20	Martin Luther King Day
February	17	Presidents Day
March	07	Last Day - Third Quarter
March	10-14	Spring Break

Fourth Quarter		Days 49
March	17	First Day - Fourth Quarter
April	18	Spring Holiday
May	23	Last Day - Fourth Quarter

School Events		Instructional Days 182
August		Parent Academy
September		Fall Open House
February		Spring Open House

Teacher Start/End Dates		
July	29	Teachers Start Date
May	30	Teachers End Date

In-service - No Students		Days
	All Staff In-service	5

Early Release Days - 1:30 pm		Days
	Professional Learning Community (PLC)	26
	Teacher In-service/Work/Grades	4

Student Coursework Testing Days		Days
	Midterms	4
	Progress Reports	4
	*Finals	4
	*Finals/Last Day of Quarter	4

Blackout/Mandatory Attendance Dates				
Sep/Oct	30-04	March	03-07	
December	16-20	May	19-23	
See Student Handbook				

State Testing Dates	
Please see Assessment Calendar available on Canvas.	
HPW School Calendar will be modified to accommodate State Testing Calendar.	

Special Dates		
	40th Student Day -	September 30 2024
	100th Student Day -	January 17 2025

2025

Summer Camps

Aerial Drones at HPW Engineering Labs

Mon to Thu • July 7th – 10th
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

The staff will focus activities on technical skills in preparation for the 2025-2026 Aerial Drones competition. No equipment will be needed.

Fee: \$75.00

Women's Volleyball at HPW Gym

Mon to Thu • July 7th – 10th
8:00 am – 11:00 am

The staff will focus activities on conditioning, volleyball skills, and teamwork drills. No equipment will be needed.

Fee: \$75.00

VEX Robotics at HPW Engineering Labs

Mon to Thu • July 14th – 17th
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

The staff will focus activities on design, programming, and build skills in preparation for the 2025-2026 VEX competition game. No equipment will be needed.

Fee: \$125.00

Musical Theatre at HPW Music Room

Mon to Thu • July 14th – 17th
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

The staff will focus activities on a mini performance, including acting, singing, and dancing. Perfect for aspiring performers. Don't miss your chance to shine on stage!

Fee: \$75.00

Women's Flag Football at HPW Field

Mon to Thu • July 14th – 17th
8:00 am – 11:00 am

The women's flag football camp is open to all incoming and current student-athletes.

No equipment will be needed.

Fee: \$125.00

Football Camp at HPW Field

Mon to Thu • July 14th – 24th
8:00 am – 11:00 am

The football staff will focus camp activities on conditioning, offensive and defensive skills, and teamwork drills. No equipment will be needed.

Fee: \$125.00

Soccer at HPW Field

Mon to Thu • July 14th – 24th
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

The staff will focus camp activities on conditioning, offensive and defensive skills, and teamwork drills.

No equipment will be needed.

Fee: \$75.00

Cheer at HPW Gym

Mon to Thu • July 21st – 24th
8:00 am – 11:00 am

The staff will focus activities on conditioning, cheer and dance skills, and teamwork drills.

No equipment will be needed.

Fee: \$75.00



HIGHLAND
PREP WEST
AVONDALE, ARIZONA

Registration forms available at: highlandprepwest.org