



Highland Highlights

Highland Elementary School (503) 665-7158

Today's Learners - Tomorrow's Leaders

Special Edition - April 2020

Dear Highland Families,

This is a special edition of our school newsletter filled with important information, resources, information on how to stay connected, and links to special videos. We miss all of you and we can't wait until we can see you in person again. Until then, stay healthy and keep learning!

Sincerely,

Shawnda Sewell
Principal

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Yearbooks

Order your Highland yearbook! Yearbooks are \$12 each. At this time we only have the option to order yearbooks online. Please order your yearbook by **April 30, 2020** by going to <http://ybpay.lifetouch.com/> and entering the Yearbook ID Code: 14113620. Yearbooks will be shipped to the school, and we will contact you when they're ready for pickup and how that process will work. If you have any issues using the online ordering system, please contact LifeTouch at 1-800-453-9764.

Contacting the Office

You can still reach the office staff by calling our school at 503-665-7158, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please leave a voicemail, if necessary, and your call will be returned as soon as possible. You may also email our office team at any time. Nina Thomas at thomas82@gresham.k12.or.us, and Elizabeth Pomykala at pomykala2@gresham.k12.or.us.

ParentVue

The district sent an email to all families with their key to register on ParentVue, but if you didn't get the email or need assistance with setting up ParentVue, please call the school at 503-665-7158. You can also email our secretaries at pomykala2@gresham.k12.or.us or thomas82@gresham.k12.or.us. Visit the ParentVue web page to login or sign up: <https://www.gresham.k12.or.us/domain/2443>

Kinder Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2020/2021 school year will begin on March 30th. Please register by June 1st. A child must be 5 years of age by September 1, 2020 to enter kindergarten. Parents must bring the following documents to the school for registration: the student's original birth certificate, proof of residence,

immunization records, and names and numbers of emergency contacts, doctor, and dentist. Registrations are now done online at: <https://www.gresham.k12.or.us/domain/2427>. If you need support or have questions about registration, please call the school at 503-665-7158 or email Elizabeth Pomykala at pomykala2@gresham.k12.or.us. Also, if you know of a neighbor who may have a student entering kindergarten in the fall, please pass this information along.

Highland's English/Spanish Dual Language Program

Our school launched two Dual Language (DLI) classrooms in Spanish/English this fall. Dual language instruction (DLI) is an instructional model with the goal of graduating students who can speak, read and write in *both* Spanish and English. As [stated](#) by the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), "The goals of dual language are for students to develop high levels of language proficiency and literacy in both program languages, to demonstrate high levels of academic achievement, and to develop an appreciation for and an understanding of diverse cultures."

- Our current DLI kindergarteners will move up to **DLI first grade** classrooms in the fall of 2020
- Parents of entering **kindergarten** students will be able to express interest to participate in DLI kindergarten for the coming year
- Native Spanish and native English speakers will learn together
- Instruction will initially primarily be in Spanish
- The Dual Language Program will move up one grade level per year

This K-12 program will continue to Clear Creek Middle School and then Gresham High School where participating students will graduate fully bilingual and biliterate in English and Spanish and achieve the district vision: Culturally responsive graduates who will thrive in an ever-changing global community.

For more information about participating, please contact the school office, or fill out the survey by clicking [here](#). More information at our website: <https://www.gresham.k12.or.us/domain/2459>.

New School Locator Tool

Families, to make it easier to check what home schools are associated with your address, we have added a new school locator tool to the website. The link to the tool is at the bottom of this message. You will also find it by going to the "About Us" then to the "District Information" page. On that page, the link will be named "School Finder". Once you click the link the directions for how to use the tool will immediately appear. After reading the directions, click the "I have read the directions" and you will be able to locate the school boundaries your address lies within. https://apps.flo-analytics.com/GBSD_School_Locator/

Update Contact Info

If your phone number, address, or email has changed, please call or email the office with the new information, so we can update our system.

RESOURCES

Friday Free Food Market

Free food distribution every Friday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Highland Elementary. We are asking families that are driving to stay in their vehicles and a volunteer will bring a bag to them. If walking, there will be a designated spot to wait 6 feet apart from others.

Internet Resources

Find the Free Xfinity wifi hotspots available closest to you. Xfinity has opened up free wifi hotspots to families throughout the community. You can view these free hotspots at the link below by typing in your zip code.

Access Free Xfinity Wifi Hotspots: <http://wifi.xfinity.com/>

Most Internet providers are waiving late fees and suspending data usage limits due to COVID-19. The following are Internet providers you can contact to activate Internet services:

- Comcast Basic Internet - Free for low-income customers for 60 days and \$9.99/month after that:
www.internetessentials.com/Apply
- Comcast: corporate.comcast.com/covid-19
- CenturyLink: <https://www.centurylink.com/home/>

Daily Meal Sites

Beginning Tuesday, April 7, in order to improve social distancing and convenience for families, our meal program will be combined and distributed during one time period a day. There will be no breakfast distribution or deliveries in the morning. Instead, a cold breakfast will be provided to families during lunch that can be eaten the next morning. This means during the lunch distribution/delivery, the cold breakfast for the following morning will also be handed out. [Click here](#) to view the updated schedules for meal distribution and delivery.

Local Resources

If you are in need of food, utility or housing assistance, please consider contacting 2-1-1 by phone or at their website <https://www.211info.org/> to find out the latest information about where you can get help. Additional resources can be found here: <https://www.gresham.k12.or.us/domain/1129>. If you receive SNAP benefits, please contact your local self-sufficiency office to inquire about assistance.

Attached to this email is a flyer with employment information and resources.

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis or need someone to talk to you, please consider contacting the following crisis lines. Support is available to you 24 hours a day.

Lines for Life: 1-800-273-8255

Youthline: 1-877-968-8491 or text "teen2teen" to 839863

Clackamas County Crisis Line: 503-655-8585

Multnomah County Crisis Line: 503-988-4888

The Trevor Project: 1-866-488-7386

Read-Out-Loud Extension for Chromebook

Here's a quick and easy training video about how to have a chromebook read text out loud through a district-approved extension. The video shows how to install the extension and use it. Watch the video here:

<https://youtu.be/7r2MCZrtIVs>.

STAY CONNECTED

Follow Us on Facebook

Follow and like Highland's Facebook page! Go to www.facebook.com/HIESGresham. Watch Morning Announcements Monday-Friday at 8:45 a.m. (9:45 a.m. on Wednesdays), and Teacher Story Time every night at 7:30 p.m.!

Send Your Photos!

We started a Facebook photo album called *Messages of Love*. Highland students and staff took photos of themselves holding a special message they wrote. Do you want your photo added to the album? Send it to Nina Thomas at thomas82@gresham.k12.or.us. View our album here:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/HIESGresham/photos/?tab=album&album_id=2602198850005040

Virtual Playgroups

Join us every Tuesday and Thursday for virtual playgroups using Google Hangouts Meet! Playgroups are facilitated in English on Tuesdays and in Spanish on Thursdays. PreK-2nd graders meet at 10:30 a.m., and 3rd-5th graders meet at 3:30 p.m. Here are the links to join:

- Tuesday PreK-2nd Grades @ 10:30 a.m. - meet.google.com/edo-tpwo-cbj
- Tuesday 3rd-5th Grades @ 3:30 p.m. - meet.google.com/ccs-saur-uvy
- Thursday PreK-2nd Grades @ 10:30 a.m. - meet.google.com/fsj-bcwb-cky
- Thursday 3rd-5th Grades @ 3:30 p.m. - meet.google.com/ocy-tsio-wbn

SPECIAL VIDEOS

A Special Video from Highland Staff

We miss our Huskies so much! Please watch this special video made by Highland staff for our students:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JB7qGOLl8F4>

In Lak'ech

In Lak'ech is a poem penned by Chicano playwright Luis Valdez that aims to instill ideals of empathy and integrity. Many of our Highland teachers use this poem to ground ourselves, our students, build community and share mutual love and understanding. We would be honored if you brought this tradition into your homes. This poem is meant to be read in a call and response fashion. Just repeat each line after each Highland teacher. So please join us as we come together, to connect and unite in our love and in our humanity. Check the video out here:

youtube.com/watch?v=K84pCiB_-r8&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1U7vGqCf98tiVRPFai0fcXAfRAaU7oOh8m10-l48uhzZRMruNV78ytc1Q

Every Student Prepared for Success

Gresham-Barlow School District recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups. It is the policy of this district and the board of education that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups in any educational programs, activities or employment.

Gresham-Barlow provides equal access to individuals with disabilities.