



**HIGHLAND PARK
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HIGH SCHOOL**

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December 18, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Quarter 2 Interim Reports for the 2020-2021 school year are now available through the Parent Portal of Genesis at <https://parents.genesisedu.com/hpschools/parents?gohome=true>. Please log in to review the teachers' comments about student progress this marking period. If you need assistance logging in, please contact the High School Main Office at the phone number above. We will be starting our winter break at 1:00p.m. on Wednesday, December 23rd and will return on Monday, January 4, 2021. Hopefully, we will all take extra precautions during this holiday season to remain healthy for the new year! We hope to return to in-person learning for those students and faculty able to do so starting on January 19, 2021 after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday celebration on January 18th when school will be closed. We will release updated information and details including our safety protocols for all students who are returning in person after winter break.

Let's all commit to these words of Dr. King as we prepare for 2021 – **“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”** There have been many discussions in our country and our community about the challenges education has faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the issue I reflect on consistently is the essence of this quote – **what are we teaching our students about character during this crisis?** **My consistent hope is that Highland Park High School's faculty and staff are teaching our students that character plus intelligence matters.** I believe that character is more important right now. Many of our students and faculty currently struggle with tremendous challenges, and we will remain committed to giving every student and staff member the support they need to be successful. If any student is failing, we have reached out in numerous ways to offer support. If you are one of these students or the parent of one of these students, please be sure to respond to our counselors', teachers', and administration's repeated offers of assistance. It is alright to be unsuccessful at times. The true measure of success comes from the character we show when we learn from our mistakes, address them, and move forward and follow through with a plan to improve.

Many of our students are doing amazing things! **The Highland Park Model UN and Congress club recently won Outstanding Large Delegation** at a virtual online conference titled ConnectMUN! Our **Cross Country Team won the State Sectional Championship** in their division! We had 246 students, more than half of our student body, make Honor roll or High Honor roll first marking period! Our Drama department was able to prepare our students to perform Shakespeare's **“A Midsummer Night's Dream”** virtually in order to make sure theater stays alive during these difficult times. **Our Music Department held the first ever combined Middle and High School virtual winter concert via YouTube that was viewed by at least 923 people at the time of this letter!** This is the most ever to attend a student music performance and the number is probably higher considering families probably gathered around a screen to enjoy this concert together during the snow storm Wednesday evening. Please follow this link to enjoy the efforts of our music program's students and their dedicated teachers - <https://youtu.be/w9N42ESAEBU>

On Wednesday, December 23, 2021, we will hold our annual winter assembly for students! It will be a virtual assembly like we have been holding monthly and will feature sing a longs and performances by our music ensembles for the entire student body and faculty to enjoy. We will run a special “B day” schedule with shortened periods and our students and staff will leave their 7th period class and go straight to the webinar assembly. A link for the webinar will be emailed out to all students and staff Wednesday morning and shared in 7th period teachers’ Google Classrooms as well. We encourage all students to participate and join in this community building event to support their peers!

Here is the schedule for the day:

Period 4	9:00AM – 9:49AM
Period 5	9:52AM – 10:41AM
Break	10:41AM – 10:49AM
Period 6	10:49AM – 11:38AM
Period 7	11:41AM – 12:30PM
Winter Assembly	12:30PM – 1:00PM

January 29, 2021 will be the last day of the second marking period. Students, please make the most of the lessons, assignments, and assessments your teachers are providing for you during remote learning. Times may be difficult, but you can rise to this challenge and overcome it! If you need help, we are very aware and have offered it. Now it is up to our young adults to show the character needed right now to succeed. We remain committed to helping each and every student achieve their full potential.

Please be aware that we will also be starting the student scheduling process during the month of February for our next academic year of 2021-22. It is already time to begin looking to next year as we begin 2021 after winter break. Please be sure to watch for information regarding our upcoming plans for scheduling and the release of our Program Planning Guide for next year’s courses.

I wish everyone a wonderful winter vacation with your family and friends and a Happy New Year! We look forward to the students and teachers returning refreshed and energized on January 4, 2021. May 2021 bring us all better days!

Sincerely,



CC. Dr. Scott Taylor, Superintendent
Mr. Jason Richardson, Assistant Principal