



THE HORNET HYPE

EDITION #35

HIGHLAND PREP WEST'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1

NEW STEM CLUB ON CAMPUS

Page 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Page 3

ACADEMIC BULLETIN

Page 4

STEM DIGEST

Page 5

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Page 6

ATHLETICS

Page 7

HAPPENINGS @ HPW

Page 8

ACADEMIC CALENDAR



HOME OF THE HORNETS

HPW STUDENTS LAUNCH NEW INNOVATIVE STEM CLUB, SPEC!

Three Highland Prep West students, Carter Watson, Jonathon Mak, and Fabian Vega, have taken the initiative to create a new club, SPEC (Science Programming Engineering Club), where students can collaborate on individual interest STEM projects. Recognizing the need for a space like this, the trio successfully gathered interest from fellow students and secured teacher advisors to launch the club.

The idea for SPEC was born out of the founders' own experiences trying to work on individual STEM

projects at home, where resources and collaboration were limited. SPEC meets on Mondays and Thursdays afterschool, providing a regular opportunity for students to come together and work on their projects. Currently, the founders are using club time to build a video game from scratch.

We applaud Carter, Jonathon, and Fabian for their innovative spirit in creating a club that didn't previously exist at HPW, and look forward to seeing the incredible talents that will emerge from SPEC.



EDITION #35 / SEPTEMBER 2025

Message from the Principal

Dear Hornet Families,

September has brought celebration, connection, and school pride to Highland Prep West! Our Fall Spirit Week filled the campus with energy, creativity, and excitement, culminating in a lively Pep Assembly and a memorable Homecoming Dance. We also welcomed parents to our GPA & Study Habits Workshop, giving families valuable tools to support student success. In addition, our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament was a fantastic day of community fun and support for our programs. At our Fall Open House & STEM Showcase, our talented teachers highlighted the engaging projects and learning opportunities happening in their classrooms, and we celebrated our newest

National Honor Society inductees for their leadership.

As we head into October, there's even more to look forward to. Our Fine Arts Assembly on October 1 will highlight the talents of our student artists and performers. Black Out Week (Sept. 29–Oct. 3) will set the stage for important end-of-course assessments. Fall athletics are also in full swing, and we are thrilled to see many of our teams on track for playoff runs!

With Fall Break on the horizon, let's stay focused on finishing the quarter strong. I would like to personally thank the continued support and encouragement of our community that make all the difference to ensure every student's success.

With appreciation,

Sharon Pozzi • Principal



School Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2025

9/6 Homecoming Dance
9/9 Parent Workshop: Understanding GPA
9/13 2nd Annual HPW Golf Tournament
9/16 Fall Open House & STEM Showcase
9/16 Fall NHS Induction Ceremony

NOVEMBER 2025

11/6 NHS Blood Drive
11/11 Veteran's Day (No School)
11/14 Winter Athletic Picture Day
11/18 Parent Workshop: Preparing for FAFSA
11/26-11/28 Thanksgiving Break

OCTOBER 2025

10/1 Fine Arts Assembly- 1st Qtr.
10/6-10/10 Fall Break
10/20 Parent Workshop: Scholarships 101
10/29 Academic Awards Assembly- 1st Qtr.
10/31 Fall BBQ

DECEMBER 2025

12/6 HPW VEX Robotics State Qualifiers
12/8 Parent Workshop: Completing the FAFSA
12/9 Highland Prep Academies Science Fair
12/16 Visual Arts & Fine Arts Showcase
12/22-1/2 Winter Break

ACADEMIC BULLETIN



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NHS FALL 2025 INDUCTEES!

We're thrilled to congratulate our Fall 2025 National Honor Society (NHS) Inductees! NHS recognizes students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, service, leadership, and character. May you continue to lead with integrity and inspire those around you. We are so proud of these students and can't wait to see the impact they'll make in our school.

COLLEGE PRESENTATIONS:

9/24	Rice University
9/30	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
10/22	University of Nevada- Las Vegas
10/22	University of Southern California
10/22	Iowa State University
10/23	Vanderbilt University

EXTRACURRICULAR

SCHEDULE:

MONDAY 2:30 PM

GAME CLUB, MS. ROBERTS

SHOW CHOIR, MS. LOCKE

SPEC, MR. IMBUS & MR. BAKER

MONDAY 3:30 PM

MATHLETES, MS. FILLBRANDT

YEARBOOK, MS. PAIGE/MR. CONTI

TUESDAY 2:30 PM

AERIAL DRONES, MR. IMBUS

STUDENT COUNCIL, MS. KERSH

CHESS CLUB, MR. BERNARD

SPEECH & DEBATE, MR. CONTI

TUESDAY 3:30 PM

SEAPERCH, MR. BAKER

VEX ROBOTICS, MR. DUNN

THURSDAY 2:30 PM

CYBERSECURITY, MR. DEDECKER

SPORTS CLUB, COACH BLAIN

SPEECH & DEBATE, MR. CONTI

NHS, MS. WILSON

SPEC, MR. IMBUS & MR. BAKER

THURSDAY 3:30 PM

YEARBOOK, MS. PAIGE

SHOW CHOIR, MS. LOCKE

POETRY CLUB, MR. NARRON

CULTURE CLUB, MR. ARELLANO

FRIDAY 2:30 PM

FUTSAL CLUB, MS. KERSH

SEWING CLUB, MS. FILLBRANDT

FRIDAY 3:30 PM

VEX ROBOTICS, MR. DUNN

STEM DIGEST

A SUCCESSFUL FALL OPEN HOUSE & STEM SHOWCASE

Our Fall Open House and STEM Showcase was a resounding success! Current and prospective Hornet families explored our vibrant classrooms, engaging with our exceptional teachers and discovering the STEM curriculum and the hands-on learning experiences that our students enjoy. It was also wonderful to see the excitement and curiosity as families and community members watched our choir and band students perform.



BUILDING WINCHES IN PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING

Our Principles of Engineering students rose to the challenge and delivered outstanding results with their winch project! By applying mechanical principles and electrical circuits, students worked in groups to design and build devices capable of lifting small weights. The project allowed students to think creatively and develop problem-solving skills as they worked to optimize their winches' design and performance. Great job, Hornets!



CREATING MOVIE SCENES USING HYDRAULIC INGENUITY

In a creative and hands-on project, our Principles of Engineering students worked in teams of two to bring movie scenes to life using water pressure from a tube and syringe. By harnessing the water pressure, students designed and built a system that allowed objects or characters to move, recreating iconic movie scenes. The end results were impressive displays of hydraulic ingenuity.



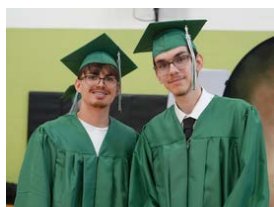
TEACHER SPOTLIGHT **OF THE MONTH**



MR. BROWNE

We're excited to introduce Mr. Browne, our newest addition to the faculty, who is teaching Pre-AP Chemistry and AP Chemistry. Born and raised in Arizona, Mr. Browne brings a passion for

chemistry and a commitment for student success. He earned his bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences from Northern Arizona University and previously worked as a research assistant. Outside of the classroom, Mr. Browne enjoys swimming, cooking, and playing video games. We look forward to Mr. Browne's contributions to our school and are confident that he will inspire and make an impact on our Hornets. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Browne, to our HPW faculty!



CAP & GOWN PICTURE DAY **FOR OUR CLASS OF 2026**

HPW's first-ever senior class stole the show on their recent cap and gown picture day! It was wonderful to see our Hornets dressed in their cap and gowns. We're honored to be a part of their journey and cannot believe they're almost done!

CLASSROOM **CONNECTIONS**



9/11 FLAGS MEMORIAL

The morning of September 11th, 2025, our students came together to honor and remember the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Students created a memorial on the west-facing fence of our basketball courts. A small but meaningful symbol of unity, resilience, and respect.



NAU CAMPUS TOUR

Our seniors had an unforgettable experience on their tour of Northern Arizona University (NAU)! Students got a glimpse into their potential future, exploring NAU's academic programs, extracurricular activities, and student life. They gained valuable insights into the college experience as they get closer to decision time.

ATHLETICS



GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL KICKS OFF THEIR SEASON

We're thrilled to announce that our Girls Flag Football season has officially kicked off, and the impact on our young athletes has been tremendous! The season has brought out the best in our girls, teaching them valuable lessons in teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship. As they take on the field, they're not only showcasing their skills but also building confidence, camaraderie, and a sense of community.

We invite the community to come out and support our athletes! Attend one of their upcoming games and witness the excitement and passion firsthand. We look forward to seeing you at the games and cheering on our Girls Flag Football team!

For a list of upcoming games, dates, and times, please visit <https://azpreps365.com/schools/2318>.

*Scan the QR code to
start purchasing your
tickets for upcoming
HPW sports games!*



UPCOMING GAMES SCHEDULE:

JV Girls VB	9/22	5:00 PM	Heritage Academy Laveen	A
V Girls VB	9/22	6:00 PM	Heritage Academy Laveen	A
JV Girls VB	9/23	5:00 PM	Glendale Prep	H
V Girls VB	9/23	6:00 PM	Glendale Prep	H
Boys Soccer	9/23	6:00 PM	Madison Highland Prep	H
Girls Flag FB	9/24	6:00 PM	Highland Prep	H
JV Girls VB	9/25	4:00 PM	Mohave Accelerated	A
V Girls VB	9/25	5:00 PM	Mohave Accelerated	A
Girls Flag FB	9/25	6:00 PM	Mohave Accelerated	A
Boys Soccer	9/26	4:00 PM	The Gregory School	H
Football	9/26	7:00 PM	Tonopah Valley H.S.	A
JV Girls VB	9/29	5:00 PM	Trivium Prep	H
V Girls VB	9/29	6:00 PM	Trivium Prep	H
JV Girls VB	9/30	4:00 PM	San Tan Charter H.S.	H
V Girls VB	9/30	5:00 PM	San Tan Charter H.S.	H
JV Girls VB	10/1	5:00 PM	Mountainside H.S.	H
V Girls VB	10/1	6:00 PM	Mountainside H.S.	H
Boys Soccer	10/1	6:00 PM	Payson High School	A
Girls Flag FB	10/1	6:00 PM	Gilbert Christian H.S.	H
JV Boys Soccer	10/2	4:00 PM	Show Low High School	H
V Boys Soccer	10/2	6:00 PM	Show Low High School	H
Football	10/3	7:00 PM	Antelope Union H.S.	H

HAPPENINGS @ HPW

THE GOTHAM CITY GALA HOMECOMING DANCE

Our Gotham City themed Homecoming Dance was a magical night! Our student council transformed the gym into the iconic city, immersing themselves in the fun Batman decor. With stunning outfits and high energy, our Hornets danced the night away, creating lasting memories with friends. The night was filled with laughter, excitement, and the joy of celebrating, making it a truly special evening.



AMAZING HORNET SPIRIT AT THE HOMECOMING PEP ASSEMBLY

Our Homecoming Pep Assembly was the perfect kickoff to an epic weekend! We got the crowd pumped with an energetic performance by our cheer team and proudly introduced our fall sports teams. Students and staff alike had a blast participating in fun games like musical chairs and tug of war, building excitement for the football game and dance that weekend. The amazing Hornet spirit definitely made this pep assembly one for the books.



THE 2ND ANNUAL HPW GOLF TOURNAMENT WAS A HIT!

The 2nd Annual Highland Prep West Golf Tournament was a success, thanks to the support of our golfers, volunteers, and donors! The event featured a range of exciting activities, including a 50/50 raffle, longest drive contest, and a silent auction. We're grateful to everyone who made this year's tournament an unforgettable experience.



Highland Prep West
2025-2026 Academic Calendar

July	0	August	20	September	21	October	3 15
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13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
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27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30 31
	31						
November	16	December	15	January	19	February	19
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9 10 11 12 13 14 15	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	28 29 30 31	28 29 30 31	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30 31		
30							
March	5 12	April	21	May	16	June	
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15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30	28 29 30	28 29 30
				31			

First Day of Quarter
Finals/Last Day of Quarter
Holiday/Break
Graduation/Early Release

First Quarter		Days	44
August	04	First Day - First Quarter	
September	01	Labor Day	
October	03	Last Day - First Quarter	
October	06-10	Fall Break	

Second Quarter		Days	46
October	13	First Day - Second Quarter	
November	11	Veterans Day	
November	26-28	Thanksgiving	
December	19	Last Day - Second Quarter	
Dec / Jan	22-02	Winter Break	

Third Quarter		Days	43
January	05	First Day - Third Quarter	
January	19	Martin Luther King Day	
February	16	Presidents Day	
March	06	Last Day - Third Quarter	
March	09-13	Spring Break	

Fourth Quarter		Days	49
March	16	First Day - Fourth Quarter	
April	03	Spring Holiday	
May	21	Graduation	
May	22	Last Day - Fourth Quarter	
		Instructional Days	182

School Events	
August	Parent Academy
September	Fall Open House
February	Spring Open House

Teacher Start/End Dates	
July	28 Teachers Start Date
May	29 Teachers End Date

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

Early Release Days - 1:30 pm		Days
Professional Learning Community (PLC)		28
Teacher In-service/Work/Grades		4

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

Blackout/Mandatory Attendance Dates			
Sep/Oct	29-04	March	02-06
December	15-19	May	18-22
See Student Handbook			

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

Special Dates			
40th Student Day -	September	29	2025
100th Student Day -	January	16	2026

OPEN ENROLLMENT

2026-2027 Incoming Freshman Open Enrollment Deadlines



Pre-Enrollment Period: September 1, 2025 - November 28, 2025

Incoming Freshman must complete and submit the enrollment application to begin the enrollment process for the 2026-2027 school year. The enrollment application is located and can be submitted through the HPW website at www.HighlandPrepWest.com. The enrollment application is also available in the school office.

Enrollment Packets Due: Friday, December 19, 2025

Incoming Freshman must complete and submit the registration packet to secure enrollment in the Class of 2030. Registration packets may be returned to the school office, via facsimile, or via email to: swilliams@highlandprepaz.org.

Placement Testing Date: Saturday, February 7, 2026

Incoming Freshman must complete the 9th grade placement tests in Reading and Mathematics. Placement testing will be held on the HPW campus at 9:00 a.m. Incoming Freshman that do not complete the placement testing may not receive an enrollment seat for the 2026-2027 school year.

Course Registration Date: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Incoming Freshman must register for Fall 2026 honors-level and elective courses. Course registration will be held in the HPW Gymnasium from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Incoming Freshman that do not complete the course registration may not receive an enrollment seat for the 2026-2027 school year.

If you have any questions please contact the HPW office at: 623-274-2540

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Scan code to enroll

