



THE HORNET HYPE

EDITION #38

HIGHLAND PREP WEST'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

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ACADEMIC CALENDAR



100% OF HIGHLAND PREP WEST SENIORS ACCEPTED TO ONE OR MORE FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES!

Highland Prep West is exceptionally proud to announce that every member of its graduating senior class has earned acceptance into one or more four-year colleges or universities. This monumental achievement is a testament to the students' unwavering dedication, intellectual curiosity, and rigorous academic commitment throughout their high school journey. The acceptances span a diverse and impressive range of institutions, from in-state universities and top-tier research institutions to STEM colleges and universities across the nation.

This milestone underscores the effectiveness of the school's challenging curriculum, the tireless support from faculty, and the robust counseling guidance designed to prepare every student for college.

This accomplishment reflects Highland Prep West's mission to foster academic excellence and equip students with the skills necessary to thrive in higher education and beyond. We celebrate the unique path each student has forged and look forward to their future contributions to their campuses and the world.



EDITION #38 / JANUARY 2025

CONGRATULATIONS!



VARSITY BOYS SOCCER WIN 2025 AIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!

The Highland Prep West varsity boys soccer team has made history by winning the fall boys soccer state championship, finishing the season undefeated with a 16-0 record. This is the first state championship title in the school's history, marking a remarkable achievement for a school that is only in its fourth year of operation.

The Hornets had a thrilling postseason run, highlighted by a dramatic 4-3 shootout victory over Show Low High School in the state semifinals, avenging last year's quarterfinal loss to the same team. In the championship match, Highland Prep West struck early and dominated the game, with goalkeeper Collin Aska earning MVP honors for his outstanding performance. Aska, who had 10 shutouts

this season, led a stingy line of defense that held Sedona Red Rock to few chances, securing the 2-0 victory.

Coach Blain praised the team's dedication, saying, "I'm really glad that it came full circle for the seniors. We went from begging kids to play to having 15 seniors and a stellar team win it all." Aska accepted the MVP award, saying, "This win meant a lot more to me because it meant a lot to my teammates. I feel very happy and grateful to be able to be MVP for a win like that."

The Hornets' undefeated season and state title mark a remarkable milestone for the school, and the team looks forward to continued growth and success.

Message from the Principal

Dear Hornet Families,

As we wrap up the semester, I am proud to reflect on what a fantastic and productive month it has been at Highland Prep West. Science and Engineering classes have been especially active, with students engaging in hands-on projects; some in preparation for our recent Science Fair. Their focus now shifts to preparing for their end-of-course assessments, and we are confident their hard work will shine through.

Winter athletics are also in full swing. This fall, we celebrated an unforgettable undefeated season culminating in a Boys' Soccer State Championship, and our Girls' Soccer team has carried that momentum forward with three strong wins.

Additionally, our VEX Robotics and Aerial Drone teams have competed in several events, with more competitions in January. These teams continue to demonstrate innovation, teamwork, and school pride as they proudly represent Highland Prep West.

Looking ahead, enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year is progressing well, with limited spots still available for our future freshmen. We encourage families to secure their place as soon as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. We are proud of all our students have accomplished and look forward to finishing the semester strong.

With appreciation,

Sharon Pozzi • Principal



School Calendar

DECEMBER 2025

12/6 HPW VEX Robotics State Qualifiers
12/9 Highland Prep Academies Science Fair
12/11 College Prep & Scholarship Workshop
12/16 Visual Arts & Fine Arts Showcase
12/22-1/2 Winter Break

FEBRUARY 2026

2/5 Spring Open House & STEM Showcase
2/5 Spring NHS Induction Ceremony
2/7 Incoming Freshmen Placement Testing
2/13 Winter BBQ
2/24 NHS Blood Drive

JANUARY 2026

1/14 Academic Awards Assembly- 2nd Qtr.
1/19 Martin Luther King Day (No School)
1/24 HPW 3rd Annual Aerial Drone Qualifiers
1/27 Picture Retake Day
1/30 Winter Formal

MARCH 2026

3/4 Fine Arts Assembly- 3rd Qtr.
3/21 Incoming Freshmen Course Registration
3/25 Academic Awards Assembly- 3rd Qtr.
3/28 HPA SeaPerch Qualifying Event

ACADEMIC BULLETIN



SENIORS EXPLORE NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Our seniors had an unforgettable trip up to Flagstaff for their college tour at Northern Arizona University! They were immediately greeted with snow, making the visit extra special. They explored NAU's academic and extracurricular opportunities, truly getting a feel for life as a Lumberjack.



COLLEGE PREP & SCHOLARSHIPS

Local non-profit Aliento stopped by The Hive for an incredibly helpful session designed to guide students through the college journey. The workshop covered crucial topics like finding scholarships, understanding financial aid, and smoothly transitioning to college life. A huge thank you to Aliento and all the students who joined us for the event!

EXTRACURRICULAR

SCHEDULE:

MONDAY 2:30 PM

GAME CLUB, ROOM 106

SHOW CHOIR, MUSIC ROOM

ENTREPRENEURSHIP, ROOM 101-107

SPEC, ROOM 105

MONDAY 3:30 PM

YEARBOOK, ROOM 109

MUSICAL THEATRE, MUSIC ROOM

TUESDAY 2:30 PM

AERIAL DRONES, ROOM 104

STUDENT COUNCIL, ROOM 110

AP SPANISH, ROOM 210

CHESS CLUB, ROOM 202

SPEECH & DEBATE, ROOM 108

TUESDAY 3:30 PM

SEAPERCH, ROOM 105

VEX ROBOTICS, ROOM 105

THURSDAY 2:30 PM

CYBERSECURITY, ROOM 211

SPORTS CLUB, GYM

AP SPANISH, ROOM 210

SPEECH & DEBATE, ROOM 108

NHS, COMMUNICATION STAIRS

SPEC, ROOM 104

THURSDAY 3:30 PM

YEARBOOK, ROOM 109

SHOW CHOIR, MUSIC ROOM

POETRY CLUB, ROOM 208

FRIDAY 2:30 PM

FUTSAL CLUB, GYM

SEWING CLUB, ROOM 205

FRIDAY 3:30 PM

VEX ROBOTICS, ROOM 105

STEM DIGEST

OUR HORNETS TAKE 2ND PLACE AT HPA SCIENCE FAIR!

Congratulations to Deborah Nebeyou, Owen Davis, An Nguyen, Samantha Vazquez, Sofia Flores, and Emma Schoger who won 2nd place at the HPA Science Fair! In addition, Genesis Camacho, Ariana Figueredo, and Meadow Wingfield's group won the "Most Innovative" award and Luis Plazola, Anthony Bernal, Jonathan Ho, and Octavio Canizalez's group earned the "Excellence in Scientific Method" award.



PHYSICS EGG COLLISION ACTIVITY

Our physics students tackled an engineering challenge, applying their knowledge of impulse and momentum in a hands-on project. They were tasked with designing protective systems to shield a raw egg during a severe collision. Using 20oz soda bottles as propulsive engines, pressurized with a staggering 80 lbs of air pressure, students launched their creations directly into a collision barrier. The creativity, ingenuity, and engineering skills displayed by the teams were fantastic to witness!



CELEBRATING VEX ROBOTICS CLASS OF 2026 SENIORS

The 3rd Annual HPW VEX Robotics Competition combined pride in our teams' incredible performance with a bittersweet farewell to our seniors at their final home competition. We are so proud of these students, many of whom have shaped our program over the past 4 years. Their commitment and passion for STEM were evident as they showcased fantastic skill and hard work.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT **OF THE MONTH**



MRS. FRANK

Mrs. Frank teaches English and Drama at Highland Prep West. She holds a Bachelor's in Secondary Education from Ouachita Baptist University. She has been working in education for thirteen years.

Mrs. Frank was born and raised in Bowling Green, Kentucky. In her free time, she enjoys hanging with her kids, playing and watching sports, watching NCIS, and reading. Mrs. Frank is a force of positivity, cultivating a welcoming and bright culture on our campus. Her commitment to teaching is further demonstrated as she plans the first-ever HPW drama production. Her infectious energy and genuine passion for teaching is truly valued, making a significant impact on our school.



CAROLING AT ESTRELLA HEALTH & REHAB CENTER

Our HPW Show Choir and Advanced Choir students spread holiday cheer at the Estrella Health and Rehab Center. Sharing their voices and festive spirit, they caroled holiday songs to the patients who were unable to leave their rooms.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



MESA ARTS CENTER

Our drama students experienced the magic that happens behind the scenes during a tour of the Mesa Arts Center. They explored the catwalks, operated spotlights, and gained a profound appreciation for all of the dedicated professionals required to bring a single show to life.



ON THE PATH TO RECF ENGINEERING CERTIFICATION

Owen Davis, Anthony Bernal, Maya Frias, Michael Sullivan, and Aidan Chacon passed the first of three RECF Industry exams toward their full certification. By pursuing this, these students plan to demonstrate their expertise and enhance their college and career prospects.

ATHLETICS



HPW CHEER SECURES A SPOT TO NATIONALS!

We are incredibly proud to announce that the Highland Prep West Cheer team is headed to Nationals! After rocking the Regional Competition and securing a coveted spot, the team is set to compete at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, California, from February 19th-23rd, 2026. This exciting achievement follows their recent triumph taking home 1st place at the HPA Cheer Classic. Keep up the great work, ladies! Your dedication and spirit are truly paying off.



GIRLS SOCCER 3-0 RECORD

Our girls' soccer team is off to an incredible start with a perfect 3-0 record! We wish them all the best as the season progresses and congratulate their outstanding hard work and dedication so far.

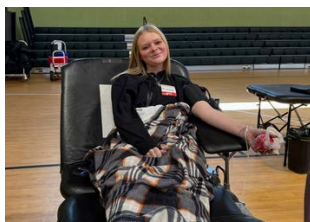
UPCOMING GAMES SCHEDULE:

Girls BB	12/15	6:00 PM	Gilbert Classical	H
Boys BB	12/15	7:30 PM	Gilbert Classical	H
Girls Soccer	12/17	5:00 PM	Madison Highland Prep	A
Boys BB	12/17	7:00 PM	Scottsdale Christian	H
Boys BB	12/18	7:00 PM	Arete Prep	A
Girls Soccer	1/6	5:00 PM	Gilbert Classical	A
Girls BB	1/6	5:30 PM	Kingman Academy	A
Boys BB	1/6	7:00 PM	Kingman Academy	A
Girls Soccer	1/8	5:00 PM	Wickenburg	A
Girls BB	1/9	6:00 PM	Glendale Prep	H
Boys BB	1/9	7:30 PM	Glendale Prep	H
Girls BB	1/12	6:00 PM	Mohave Accelerated	H
Boys BB	1/12	7:30 PM	Mohave Accelerated	H
Girls Soccer	1/14	5:00 PM	Mountainside	H
Girls BB	1/15	6:00 PM	Trivium Prep	H
Boys BB	1/15	7:30 PM	Trivium Prep	H
Girls Soccer	1/16	5:00 PM	St. John Paul II	H
Girls Soccer	1/20	5:00 PM	Kingman Academy	A
Girls BB	1/21	5:30 PM	Fountain Hills	H
Boys BB	1/21	7:00 PM	Fountain Hills	H
Girls Soccer	1/22	6:00 PM	Madison Highland Prep	H
Girls BB	1/23	6:00 PM	St. John Paul II	H

HAPPENINGS @ HPW

HPW CLASS OF 2030 FUTURE FRESHMAN NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Future Freshman Night at The Hive! We were thrilled to meet so many wonderful prospective Hornet families and share what makes our community so special. We cannot wait to officially welcome these outstanding students to our community next year, and we look forward to the incredible things they will achieve as Hornets!



NHS HOSTS A SUCCESSFUL BLOOD DRIVE AT THE HIVE

Our National Honor Society (NHS) hosted yet another successful blood drive! We extend a massive thank you to our entire school community who took the time to donate blood and potentially save lives. A big applause goes out to both the brave first-time donors and our dedicated regulars; your continued support and generosity are truly appreciated and make a significant difference! A special shoutout to those who helped organize and run the drive.

HOLIDAY SPIRIT WEEK FOR 12/8-12/12:

Monday



Pajama Day

Tuesday



Ugly Sweater Day

Wednesday



Holiday Character

Thursday



Winter Wonderland

Friday



Class Colors

Highland Prep West
2025-2026 Academic Calendar

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

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
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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

HIGHLAND PREP WEST

12235 WEST VAN BUREN ST. • AVONDALE, AZ 85323 • 623-274-2540
HIGHLANDPREPWEST.ORG



Scan code to enroll





Incoming Freshmen 2026-2027

COURSE PLACEMENT TESTING

Testing for: English Language Arts & Mathematics

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY
7TH

**STARTS AT 9:00 AM
AT HPW CAMPUS**

**12235 W VAN BUREN ST.
AVONDALE, AZ, 85323**

- ✓ Eat a good breakfast
- ✓ Check-in for testing no later than 8:45 AM
- ✓ Bring a water bottle

Incoming freshmen that do not complete the placement testing may not receive an enrollment seat for the 2026-2027 school year.

**HIGHLAND
PREP WEST**



📞 623-274-2540 🌐 HighlandPrepWest.org