



THE HORNET HYPE

EDITION #38

HIGHLAND PREP WEST'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

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ACADEMIC CALENDAR



HOME OF THE HORNETS

HPW MOTORMASTERS WINS VEX ROBOTICS DESIGN AWARD!

Highland Prep West's VEX Robotics team, Motormasters (Team 25099A), delivered a standout performance at the recent MHP 12th Annual VEX Robotics Tournament, capturing the prestigious Design Award. This achievement was driven by a dynamic five-member crew: seniors Gavin Aldrich and Michael Sullivan, junior Francisco Milan, and sophomores Fredy Gamez and Ronan Penner. The team operated with precision-tuned synergy, featuring Aldrich as driver and builder, Sullivan as coder and notetaker, Milan and Gamez as driving

coaches and builders, and Penner as a dedicated builder. Team 25099A secured the win by ranking at the top of the engineering notebook rubric, presenting a clear record of their iterative journey from initial sketches to the final robot. By proving that their physical robot was perfectly consistent with their documented designs, the team exemplified the high-level professionalism and engineering rigor demanded by VEX Robotics and the REC Foundation. This incredible accomplishment stands as a testament to their hard dedication and ingenuity.



EDITION #38 / JANUARY 2026

Message from the Principal

Dear Hornet Families,

January has been an exciting and high-energy start to the new year, filled with moments that highlight the pride, talent, and heart of our Hornets.

School spirit was on full display this month with an amazing spirit assembly that brought our campus together, followed by a Winter Formal with a great turnout and lots of memories made. We also took time to celebrate our seniors during Senior Night for men's and women's basketball, women's soccer, and cheer. As winter sports come to a close this week, we want to congratulate all of our student-athletes for a strong season. A special shout-out to Men's Varsity Basketball, who are looking

playoff-bound. We wish them the best as they head into the next phase of competition. Looking ahead, spring tryouts for baseball, softball, and track are just around the corner.

The weeks ahead are packed with exciting events. We will host our Spring Open House and STEM Showcase this Thursday, February 5th, along with our NHS Induction for new members. This Saturday, February 7th, we look forward to welcoming future Hornets for freshman placement testing. Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we move into the spring semester. The energy on campus is strong, and we are excited for all that's ahead. Go Hornets!

With appreciation,

Sharon Pozzi • Principal



School Calendar

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

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

APRIL 2026

4/10 Spring BBQ
4/23 HPA Science Fair @ Madison
4/24 Senior Trip to Disneyland
4/27-5/1 Spring Spirit Week

ACADEMIC BULLETIN



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH: MEADOW WINGFIELD

We are thrilled to spotlight senior Meadow Wingfield, who has been admitted to an impressive list of universities, including New

York University, Penn State, Baylor University, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the University of Oregon. During her time here, Meadow has been an active participant in NHS, Student Ambassadors, Best Buddies, Cheer, Musical Theatre, and has served as President of Show Choir. She has accumulated \$635,000 in scholarships thus far, with scholarships still arriving. In the fall, Meadow plans to major in Pediatric Nursing. Congratulations, Meadow! We can't wait to see where your future takes you!



HPW SENIORS EXPLORE ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY WEST CAMPUS

Our ASU admitted seniors went on a campus tour to the ASU West Valley campus. The future Sun Devils explored the Sun Devil Fitness Complex, the Fletcher Library, and learned more about their programs and facilities. This hands-on experience provided our seniors with a true taste of the close-knit community that awaits them this fall.

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

HPW AERIAL DRONE TEAM TAKES HOME JUDGES AWARD

Our sophomore team, 89658B, soared to success at the recent Aerial Drone Competition by securing the prestigious Judges Award! Our students demonstrated incredible poise and dedication under pressure, proving that their hard work behind the controls and in the pits has truly paid off. We are so proud of Aryana and Emma for representing HPW's drones program with such high standards of excellence and sportsmanship!



TUMBLE BUGGIES IN AP PHYSICS

Working in collaborative teams, our AP Physics students analyzed the core principles of constant velocity by timing their motorized "tumble buggies" at various distance intervals. By collecting precise data and translating their findings into position-time graphs, students bridged the gap between theoretical math and physics. It was a great display of data collection in action, proving that mastering kinematics is much more engaging when you can measure the laws of physics yourself!



PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING HANDS-ON SHOE PROJECT

Our Principles of Engineering students stepped into the world of product design with a hands-on shoe project! From conceptual sketching to the final assembly, our students demonstrated how engineering principles intersect with everyday fashion and functionality. The result was a diverse collection of innovative prototypes that showcased both technical skill and creative flair.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT **OF THE MONTH**



MRS. PAIGE

Mrs. Paige teaches English 1-2, English 5-6, and Media & Tech at Highland Prep West. She holds a Bachelor's in Secondary Education from Indiana University. She has been teaching at the Hive for three years now. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, attending concerts, and reading. Beyond the classroom, she serves as the Yearbook Club advisor. Mrs. Paige is a valued member of our HPW faculty whose passion for teaching shines through in every one of her classes. As yearbook advisor, she inspires creativity and collaboration, guiding students to document our school with Hornet pride. We are profoundly grateful for Mrs. Paige's contributions to our school community.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



ART CAPSTONE PROJECTS

Congratulations to our exceptional Arizona State Seal of Arts Proficiency candidates who have earned this prestigious diploma recognition! This honor signifies a high level of achievement in artistic literacy and a deep commitment to the fine arts at Highland Prep West.



BEGINNING DRAMA

DELIVERS ONE-ACT PLAYS

Our Beginning Drama students stepped into the spotlight for their debut round of one-act plays. These performing arts students delivered engaging stories and brought their scripts to life through creative theatrical techniques. Great job, Hornets!

SENIOR MEETING

Our seniors had a successful meeting to map out the final exciting stretch of their high school careers, covering everything from college applications and scholarships to planning their senior trip and graduation. The final months are packed with key milestones, and it's a critical time for every Hornet to stay focused and finish strong.

ATHLETICS

FAREWELL TO OUR HPW WINTER SPORTS SENIORS

The winter sports season has come to a close, and we proudly salute our exceptional senior athletes! Their remarkable dedication, perseverance and teamwork have forever left their mark on the HPW legacy. These exceptional individuals have embodied the Hornet spirit, inspiring us all. Seniors, thank you for an unforgettable winter athletic season. We will miss you dearly!



Desiree Nelson, Genesis Camacho, Aremy Coronel



Gianna Pacheco, Divina Hernandez, Lania Cunningham, Mariam Kamara, Aryana Andersen



Anisa Talavera, Jaelen Ordaz, Makayla Sison, Valentina Garcia



Brayden Patton, Dariyon Deen, Jordan Jefferson, Collin Aska, Brandon Burton, Davon Morris, Santana Brown

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHTS OF THE MONTH



MAKAYLA SISON

Senior, Makayla Sison, #14, has been a cornerstone of the varsity basketball program for the past four years. Her tenure on the court is defined by an unwavering dedication to the game and a bubbly energy that keeps the team's spirit high, no matter the score. As a four-year

starter, she has combined her athletic skill with a refreshing honesty, making her an invaluable teammate and a natural leader who leads by example every single day. Beyond performance on the court, Makayla is also an ambassador for our school and a cherished member of HPW girls basketball. The impact of her dedication reaches far beyond the sport, leaving a legacy of integrity and kindness that touches players and fans alike. Congratulations, Makayla! We'll miss you on the court!



COLLIN ASKA

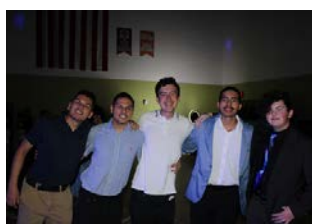
Senior, Collin Aska, #12, a dominant senior captain for HPW, has solidified his place as one of the premier basketball players in the state during the 2025-26 season. Currently ranked in the top three statewide in Player Efficiency Rating (PER), Collin leads the state in

rebounds and maintains a position in the top 10 for scoring. His exceptional consistency and elite play earned him All-Tournament Team honors in both tournaments he competed in this year. As a leader on the court, he has left an indelible legacy on the basketball program that will inspire future generations of athletes. While the team will deeply miss his presence, his impact as a teammate and competitor has set a new standard for excellence at HPW.

HAPPENINGS @ HPW

HPW PEP ASSEMBLY IGNITES WINTER FORMAL SPIRIT

The Pep Assembly served as the high-energy kickoff to our Winter Formal. Our Hornets filled the gym with spirit, chanting the fight song before diving into a series of games. The excitement reached its peak during the final reveal, where we announced this year's Prom theme: Once Upon a Time. It was the perfect way to bring our Hornets together for an afternoon of unforgettable fun.



MIDNIGHT IN THE SNOW WINTER FORMAL

Our Hornets shared a truly magical evening at the Midnight in the Snow Winter Formal, where the spirit of our community was on full display. The night was filled with non-stop energy as students spent hours dancing with friends to the sounds of a live DJ and capturing timeless memories at the photobooth. Everyone enjoyed food and drinks, but the highlight was simply the night of laughter and connection that brought our school together.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE

Our Winter Visual and Performing Arts Showcase was an incredible evening of creativity, passion, and skill, featuring everything from the stellar sounds of the band and choir to captivating drama and musical theatre acts. Every performance and display showcased the impressive growth and excellence within our diverse arts programs.



Highland Prep West
2025-2026 Academic Calendar

July	0	August	20	September	21	October	3 15
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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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March	5 12	April	21	May	16	June	
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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

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



SPRING OPEN HOUSE
AND

STEM SHOWCASE



- Join us for a night where we welcome students and families to Highland Prep West!
- This event will highlight our students' innovative projects and provide insights into our STEM programs.

See you at The Hive!



HIGHLAND PREP WEST
12235 W VAN BUREN ST
AVONDALE, AZ 85323

DATE/TIME:
FEBRUARY 5, 2026
5:00 - 6:30 PM





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