



THE HORNET HYPE

EDITION #39

HIGHLAND PREP WEST'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

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ACADEMIC CALENDAR



HOME OF THE HORNETS

HPW WELCOMES INCOMING FRESHMEN FOR PLACEMENT TESTING

The Class of 2030 has officially entered the building, marking a successful start to their transition with our recent incoming freshman course placement testing. This milestone provided our newest Hornets the opportunity to showcase their academic foundations as they prepare for the upcoming school year. We extend a huge thank you to our dedicated staff and student leaders, whose hard work and enthusiasm ensured the process ran smoothly and that every incoming freshman felt welcomed to our campus community. With testing

now complete, we eagerly look forward to the final step in the enrollment process: Course Registration. On Saturday, March 21st, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, incoming freshmen are invited back to campus to finalize their schedules by registering for honors and elective courses. Families can also sign up for summer camps and browse our diverse selection of school clubs and sports teams. Please mark your calendars for this essential event, as it is necessary to secure your guaranteed enrollment seat for the 2026-2027 school year. We can't wait to see you there!



EDITION #39 / FEBRUARY 2026

Message from the Principal

Dear Hornet Families,

This past month was filled with meaningful events and celebrations. We welcomed families to our Spring Open House and STEM Showcase, highlighting the incredible work happening in our classrooms. We proudly inducted new members into the National Honor Society and continued to see our NHS students serve others through their recent blood drive. Our Valentine's Day BBQ brought our school community together for some well-deserved fun, and we officially kicked off our spring athletic season. It has been a month full of connection and school spirit.

As we look ahead, there is much to anticipate. We are excited to welcome the

Class of 2030 to our community for Incoming Freshmen Course Registration. On Saturday, March 21st, between 9–11 a.m. incoming freshmen will register for honors and elective courses, sign up for summer camps, and explore our sports and clubs. Our SeaPerch team is preparing for two upcoming competitions: one local and one in San Diego, and we are proud of the dedication they continue to demonstrate. And of course, we are all looking forward to a refreshing and well-earned Spring Break.

Thank you to our students, staff, and families for continuing to make our school such a special place. Let's make this final quarter one of focus, growth, and strong finishes!

With appreciation,

Sharon Pozzi • Principal



School Calendar

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

MARCH 2026

3/4 Fine Arts Assembly- 3rd Qtr.
3/9-3/13 Spring Break (No School)
3/21 Incoming Freshmen Course Registration
3/25 Academic Awards Assembly- 3rd Qtr.
3/28 HPA SeaPerch Qualifying Event

MAY 2026

5/2 Prom Dance
5/18 Academic Awards Banquet
5/20 Graduation
5/22 Last Day of School

ACADEMIC BULLETIN



SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS OF THE MONTH: DARIYON DEAN & JORDAN JEFFERSON

We are thrilled to spotlight two standout Hornet football athletes who are being recognized as

Scholar-Athlete Honorees by the Bill Ridder Chapter of the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame! They aren't just making plays on the field; they're crushing it in the classroom and leading by example every single day. Being recognized at the College Football Hall of Fame is a massive achievement that speaks to their character and grit. Congratulations, Dariyon and Jordan! It has been a joy to watch you grow, and we couldn't be prouder to call you Hornets. Go forth and do great things!



OUR SPRING NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION CEREMONY

Congratulations to our new inductees who were recognized at our Spring National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony! NHS serves to recognize students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. We are proud to have more of our Hornets join the esteemed organization!

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

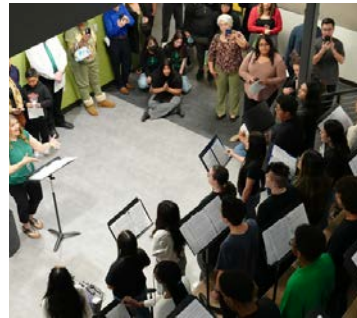
FRIDAY 3:30 PM

VEX ROBOTICS, ROOM 105

STEM DIGEST

OUR SPRING OPEN HOUSE & STEM SHOWCASE

Our Spring Open House and STEM Showcase was a vibrant celebration of student innovation and community. Current and incoming families joined the Hive to dive into interactive STEM activities, from engineering labs to hands-on experiments. The evening's energy was further elevated by moving performances from our talented choir and band students, showcasing the incredible breadth of our fine arts and academic programs.

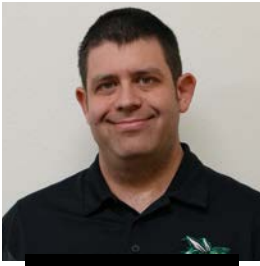


AEROSPACE ENGINEERING FLIGHT SIMULATORS

Our Aerospace Engineering students are taking their learning to new heights by stepping directly into the cockpit through immersive flight simulator technology. This hands-on experience allows them to learn the mechanics of takeoffs, landings, and complex in-flight maneuvers. It is inspiring to watch these future aviators gain a true "pilot's eye view" of the challenges and thrills that await them.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



MR. BAKER

Mr. Baker teaches Digital Electronics and Physics at Highland Prep West. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Science from Brigham Young University.

Mr. Baker was born in Columbus, Ohio and his life has taken him to over 20 countries around the globe. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, traveling, and playing D&D. Beyond the classroom, he serves as the SeaPerch and VEX Robotics advisor. Mr. Baker is a cornerstone of our STEM department whose dedication to innovation inspires our students everyday. We are incredibly fortunate to have his expertise and mentorship guide our students to build, compete, and always lead with excellence.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



ASU DOWNTOWN VISIT

Our seniors recently took a step into their future with an inspiring visit to the ASU Downtown Phoenix campus! They explored labs, seminar rooms, and the expansive ASU Library. With the city's lively energy, the future is looking bright for these soon-to-be Hornet graduates!



ONCE UPON A TIME PROM

Our "Once Upon a Time" Prom will be hosted at the Legacy Ballroom, located at 4530 E Gold Dust Ave, Phoenix, AZ. On May 2nd, from 7:00pm-11:00pm, our seniors and juniors will experience a fairytale brought to life. Keep an eye out for forthcoming details regarding ticket sales. Stay tuned to ensure you don't miss out!



SENIOR PAGES

Scan to secure your senior page!



FULL PAGE	\$75 (8-10 photos, 70 words max)
1/2 PAGE	\$50 (5-7 photos, 50 words max)
1/4 PAGE	\$25 (2-4 photos, 25 words max)

Deadline: All form submissions AND payments must be completed by April 3rd, 2026.

ATHLETICS



SEASON OPENER WINS FOR BASEBALL & SOFTBALL!

Our Baseball and Softball athletes brought home hard-earned victories on their season openers to kick off the spring athletic season. To celebrate the win, the teams enjoyed a well-deserved Dutch run to toast to their success. We can't wait to see this momentum carry through the season. Go Hornets!

AIA REGION RECOGNITIONS:



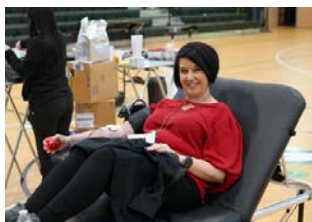
UPCOMING GAMES SCHEDULE:

Baseball	3/3	2:00 PM	Kingman Academy	A
Softball	3/3	2:00 PM	Kingman Academy	A
Baseball	3/3	4:00 PM	Kingman Academy	A
Softball	3/5	4:30 PM	Gilbert Classical	A
Baseball	3/5	3:45 PM	Gilbert Classical	A
Softball	3/20	3:15 PM	Heritage Acad Laveen	H
Baseball	3/20	3:15 PM	Heritage Acad Laveen	H
Track & Field	3/21	All-Day	Goodyear High School	A
Softball	3/24	3:15 PM	Gilbert Christian	H
Baseball	3/26	3:30 PM	Fountain Hills	H
Softball	3/26	3:15 PM	Tempe Prep	H
Track & Field	3/27	All-Day	Alhambra H.S.	A
Baseball	4/1	6:00 PM	Madison Highland Prep	A
Softball	4/3	3:00 PM	Mohave Accelerated	H
Baseball	4/3	3:00 PM	Mohave Accelerated	H
Track & Field	4/4	All-Day	Sabino High School	A
Baseball	4/6	3:15 PM	Glendale Prep	H
Softball	4/6	3:15 PM	Glendale Prep	H
Baseball	4/8	3:15 PM	North Valley Christian	H
Softball	4/13	3:45 PM	Wickenburg H.S.	A
Baseball	4/13	3:45 PM	Wickenburg H.S.	A
Softball	4/14	3:15 PM	Highland Prep	A

HAPPENINGS @ HPW

HORNET VALENTINE'S BBQ

Our Hornets had an absolute blast at our Valentine's BBQ, filling the day with laughter, community, and school spirit! From the competitive "Rock Paper Scissors" bead game and our famous Cake Walk to creative arts and crafts and yard games, there was never a dull moment. Students enjoyed food, snapped memories with friends at cute photo backdrops, and treated themselves to a wonderful day of celebration!



SUCCESSFUL NHS BLOOD DRIVE

Our recent NHS Blood Drive was a resounding success, and we are incredibly moved by the amazing turnout from our dedicated students, staff, and local community neighbors. By rolling up your sleeves and donating, you've proven that the Hornet spirit is defined by selflessness and a commitment to helping others. Every pint collected has the potential to save up to three lives, making a profound impact on those in need. Thank you for coming together to make a massive difference!

JOIN US FOR THE UPCOMING HPW MARKETPLACE EVENT!

Highland Prep West is thrilled to host our Marketplace Vendor Fundraiser Event! Businesses, this is your opportunity to engage with the Avondale community and support our school. Join us on Saturday, April 11th, from 9:00am-1:00pm at Highland Prep West. Please call the front office at 623-274-2540 to reserve your spot.



Highland Prep West
2025-2026 Academic Calendar

July	0	August	20	September	21	October	3 15
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November	16	December	15	January	19	February	19
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				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

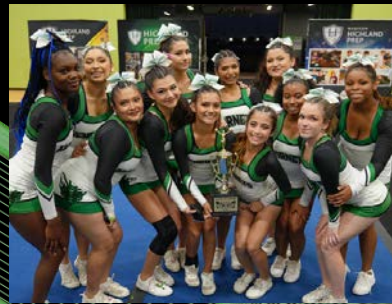


HIGHLAND PREP WEST COURSE REGISTRATION

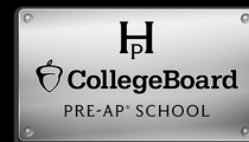
SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST, 2026

9:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M

HIGHLAND PREP WEST GYM



- Register for Honors Level & Elective Courses
 - Preview Athletics with Coaches
- Learn about our 2026 Summer Camps
- Explore our Extracurriculars & Clubs
 - Get a Tour of our Campus



HIGHLANDPREPWEST.ORG

2026 HORNET SUMMER CAMPS



STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

(SESSION 1)

Mon to Thu • June 1st - June 11th

11:30am - 2:00pm

Focusing on building a physical and mental foundation

Fee: \$100 | HPW Gym

(SESSION 2)

Mon to Thu • June 15th - June 25th

11:30am - 2:00pm

Fee: \$100 | HPW Gym

AERIAL DRONES

Mon to Thu • July 6th - July 9th

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Focusing on skills in preparation for 2026-2027 aerial drone season

Fee: \$75 | HPW Engineering Lab

SOCCER

Mon to Thu • July 6th - July 16th

4:00pm - 7:00pm

Conditioning, offensive and defensive skills, and teamwork drills

Fee: \$125 | HPW Field

BASKETBALL

Mon to Thu • July 6th - July 16th

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Conditioning, offensive and defensive skills, and teamwork drills

Fee: \$125 | HPW Gym

MUSICAL THEATRE

Mon to Thu • July 13th - July 16th

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Developing singing, acting, and dancing skills while working toward a final stage production

Fee: \$75 | HPW Music Room

VEX ROBOTICS

Mon to Thu • July 13th - July 23rd

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Designing, programming, and building skills in preparation for 2026-2027 robotics season

Fee: \$125 | HPW Gym

CROSS COUNTRY

Mon to Thu • July 20th - July 30th

6:00am - 8:00am

Conditioning, running skills, and teamwork drills

Fee: \$100 | HPW Field

CHEER

Mon to Thu • July 20th - July 30th

8:00am - 11:00am

Conditioning, cheer and dance skills, and teamwork drills

Fee: \$125 | HPW Gym

FLAG FOOTBALL

Mon to Thu • July 20th - July 30th

8:00am - 11:00am

Strength and conditioning, team building, and football skills and drills

Fee: \$125 | HPW Field

FOOTBALL

Mon to Thu • July 20th - July 30th

4:00pm - 7:00pm

Strength and conditioning, team building, and football skills and drills

Fee: \$200 | HPW Field

VOLLEYBALL

Mon to Thu • July 20th - July 30th

4:00pm - 7:00pm

Conditioning, volleyball skills, and teamwork drills

Fee: \$125 | HPW Gym



HIGHLAND
PREP WEST
AVONDALE, ARIZONA

Registration forms available at highlandprepwest.org

