



THE HORNET HYPE

HIGHLAND PREP WEST'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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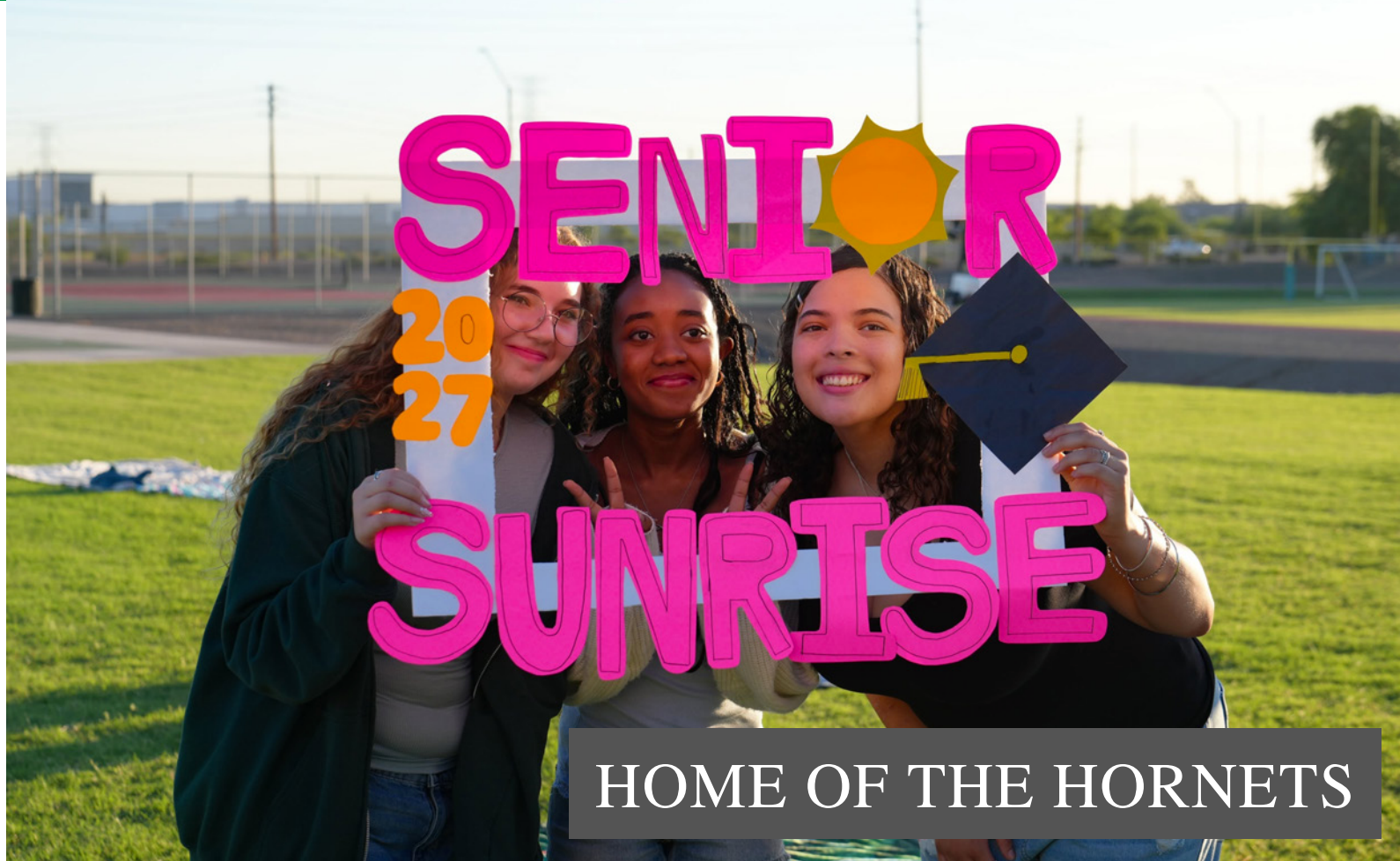
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ACADEMIC CALENDAR



A Bright Start to Senior Year

Highland Prep West seniors gathered on campus for Senior Sunrise to kick off their final year together. With a great turnout, seniors enjoyed breakfast, spent time catching up with friends, and captured plenty of photos to remember the morning.

The morning was filled with smiles, laughter, and plenty of senior spirit. It was a chance for the Class of 2027 to come together and celebrate the start of their final year at HPW.

As the Class of 2027 begins this next chapter, Senior Sunrise was a reminder of the friendships and memories that make senior year so special. With plenty more milestones ahead, this class has a lot to look forward to.

We're excited to watch this class make the most of their final year at HPW and look forward to celebrating all they accomplish along the way. Here's to making this final year one they'll always remember!





MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Hornet Families,

What an incredible start to the 2026–2027 school year! The energy across The Hive has been outstanding, and it has been exciting to see our campus come alive with students, activities, athletics, and new opportunities.

Over the past few weeks, we welcomed students and families through Orientation, kicked off fall athletics, celebrated our Quarter 4 academic award recipients, welcomed our seniors with Senior Sunrise, and launched our clubs with Club Rush. We have also enjoyed our first parent workshops, helping families navigate everything from freshman success to senior pathways and the college application process.

And we are just getting started!

September is filled with exciting opportunities at The Hive. We are especially looking forward to our Fall Open House & STEM Showcase on September 10, when families can experience the incredible work happening in our classrooms and see what makes Highland Prep West stand out. That evening, we will also celebrate our newest National Honor Society members.

With Spirit Week, our Fall Pep Assembly, Homecoming Dance, Fine Arts Assembly, and additional college-planning workshops ahead, there is truly something for everyone at The Hive.

I encourage every Hornet to get involved. Join a club, attend an athletic event, participate in Spirit Week, showcase your talents, and find your place in our school community. Some of the best parts of high school happen outside the classroom!

Thank you to our students, families, and staff for making the start of this year so special. I am incredibly proud of our Hornets and excited for all that is ahead.

Let's keep the momentum going!

Go Hornets!

Sharon Pozzi
Principal





IMPORTANT EVENTS

September Events

Labor Day (No School)	Monday, September 7th	ALL DAY
Fall Open House	Thursday, September 10th	5 PM
NHS Induction	Thursday, September 10th	6 PM
Fall Pep Assembly	Friday, September 18th	1:30 PM
Homecoming Dance	Saturday, September 19th	7 PM
Fine Arts Assembly	Wednesday, September 30th	12:30 PM

Junior Parent Workshop	Tuesday, September 8th	5 PM
Senior Parent Workshop	Tuesday, September 14th	3 PM

Senior Event



28
SEP

Senior
Cap & Gown
Picture Day

Say Cheese!

Senior year is here, and it’s time to celebrate! Students will have the opportunity to take their official cap and gown portraits at HPW. These photos are a special way to capture this milestone and will be a memorable part of their senior year. Be sure to mark your calendar and come photo ready!



SEPTEMBER HOME GAMES



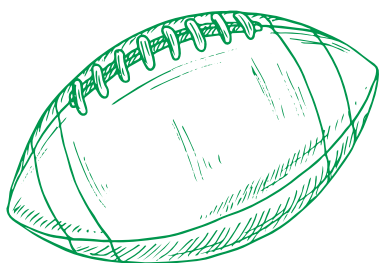
FOOTBALL

HPW vs Highland Prep	Friday 9/18	7 PM
HPW vs Tonopah Valley	Friday 9/25	7 PM

VOLLEYBALL



HPW vs Tonopah Valley	Tuesday 9/8	5 PM
HPW vs Odyssey Institute	Monday 9/14	5 PM
HPW vs Madison Highland	Wednesday 9/23	5 PM
HPW vs River Valley	Tuesday 9/29	5 PM



FLAG FOOTBALL

HPW vs Valley Christian	Tuesday 9/15	6 PM
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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jana Dean

What drew you to the aviation program at Highland Prep West, and what have you enjoyed most about being part of it?

I've been interested in aviation since I was younger, so when the school presented the opportunity to me, I took it.

What is something you've learned or experienced through the aviation program that has surprised or excited you?

Something I've learned is that a lot of pilots do things wrong on purpose as part of their training. I've also learned that there are different classifications and certificates you have to earn in order to advance your pilot license.

What has your experience been like playing flag football, and what do you enjoy most about being part of the team?

Flag football has been challenging. When I first started the sport, I was lost, but now that I have the hang of it, it's been fun. The thing I enjoy most about flag football is being on the field with my teammates and having fun.

As a senior, what are you most looking forward to this year, and what are some goals you have for your final year at Highland Prep West?

I'm looking forward to my college acceptances, scholarship and grant money, and graduating. My main goals are to have fun and make sure I graduate with a full ride to at least one college.

Looking ahead after graduation, do you see a specific area you've explored at Highland Prep West playing a role in your future? What are you hoping to pursue?

After I graduate, I plan to study psychology through a pre-law program and then later pursue my commercial pilot license. I just want to help people in the best ways I know how.





AUGUST RECAP

Club Rush

Club Rush brought a packed crowd of students together to explore the many clubs and activities available at HPW. Students had the opportunity to meet club leaders, learn about different interests and activities, and find new ways to get involved. It was a great opportunity for students to connect with others and find their community on campus.



College Presentation

Highland Prep West seniors had the opportunity to learn more about college life and future opportunities during a presentation from Arizona State University. Students heard about ASU's programs, campus experience, and the college admissions process, giving them helpful information as they begin planning for life after graduation.



Academic Awards Assembly

HPW celebrated the hard work and achievements of our students at our Academic Awards Assembly! Students who earned a place on the Principal's List and Honor Roll were recognized for their dedication and academic success. We are proud of these students and all they continue to accomplish!





NEWS ON CAMPUS

Taking Flight at HPW

Highland Prep Academies is proud to announce a historic new partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the first partnership of its kind in Arizona. This collaboration brings exciting new opportunities in aviation education to our students, including the ability to work toward their private pilot's license while still in high school.

We're also proud to celebrate Mr. Jones, who is now a certified flight instructor and will help guide students through their aviation journey. With this partnership and dedicated instruction, Highland Prep West is giving students the opportunity to turn an interest in aviation into real skills and experience for their future.



Building Skills for the Future

Highland Prep West's new Fabrication and Welding program is officially underway, giving students the opportunity to learn hands-on skills in an advanced manufacturing shop. Using a U/LINC curriculum engineered by Lincoln Electric, students are learning to weld, cut, machine, and build real projects from design to finished product while working with industry-grade equipment.

We're excited to see our students get hands-on, build their skills, and create something they can be proud of!





ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Bella Rendon

Q: What have you been up to since graduating from Highland Prep West, and what does life look like for you now?

A: I've been attending TCU for Environmental Science and absolutely loving it. My days start bright and early at 8 a.m., and I spend my time studying, hanging out with friends, and trying new events and clubs around campus.

Q: In what ways did your experience at HPW prepare you for college, your career, or life after high school?

A: HPW prepared me for college by giving me experience with challenging classes and teaching me what is expected of me as a student. It definitely felt hard at the time, but now I'm grateful because I came into college feeling prepared and confident.

Q: Was there a teacher, class, program, or experience that had a lasting impact on you? Tell us a little about it.

A: The volleyball program at Highland Prep West had one of the biggest impacts on me and helped shape me into the person I am today. It taught me discipline, teamwork, confidence, and how to keep pushing myself even when things get difficult.

Q: What advice would you give to current students as they think about their future and the goals they want to achieve?

A: Don't be afraid to try new things and put yourself out there, even if you're not sure where you'll end up. Work hard, enjoy the little moments, and trust that everything will come together even if you don't have your whole future figured out yet.



Q: Looking back on your time at HPW, what is something you appreciate now that you may not have fully recognized as a student?

A: I appreciate how much HPW pushed me academically, even when I thought the classes were unnecessarily hard at the time. Looking back, I realize those challenges helped prepare me for college and made the transition much easier.

Q: What is one accomplishment or milestone since graduating that you're especially proud of?

A: I'm especially proud of starting my college journey at TCU and pursuing something I'm genuinely passionate about. Moving away from what I knew, meeting new people, and building a life for myself has been such an exciting experience.



A WINNING NIGHT



A Big Win for the Hornets

On Thursday, August 27, Highland Prep West football hit the road and came away with a 56–16 victory over Madison Highland Prep! The Hornets showed their grit and determination throughout the game, working together and making the most of every opportunity on the field.

Our team represented HPW with strong sportsmanship, teamwork, and a positive attitude from start to finish. The Hornets supported one another and stayed focused as a team throughout the game. It was a great showing from a group that continues to build momentum together. Congratulations to our Hornets on an impressive win and a great team effort!





Highland Prep West
2026-2027 Academic Calendar

July 0	August 16	September 21	October 2 15
November 17	December 14	January 19	February 19
March 5 12	April 22	May 20	June

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

First Quarter		Days	39
August	10	First Day - First Quarter	
September	07	Labor Day	
October	02	Last Day - First Quarter	
October	05-09	Fall Break	

Second Quarter		Days	46
October	12	First Day - Second Quarter	
November	11	Veterans Day	
November	25-27	Thanksgiving	
December	18	Last Day - Second Quarter	
Dec / Jan	21-01	Winter Break	

Third Quarter		Days	43
January	04	First Day - Third Quarter	
January	18	Martin Luther King Day	
February	15	Presidents Day	
March	05	Last Day - Third Quarter	
March	08-12	Spring Break	

Fourth Quarter		Days	54
March	15	First Day - Fourth Quarter	
March	26	Spring Holiday	
May	26	Graduation	
May	28	Last Day - Fourth Quarter	
		Instructional Days	182

School Events	
August	Parent Academy
September	Fall STEM Night / Open House
February	Spring STEM Night / Open House

Teacher Start/End Dates		
July	03	Teachers Start Date
June	04	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	28-02	March	01-05
December	14-18	May	24-28
See Student Handbook			

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

Special Dates			
40th Student Day -	October	12	2026
100th Student Day -	January	25	2027



HOMECOMING 2026

A NIGHT IN VEGAS

SEPT 19TH



7 PM



TICKETS \$15

