



THE HORNET HYPE

HIGHLAND PREP WEST'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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ACADEMIC CALENDAR



HOME OF THE HORNETS

ECAP Extravaganza: Planning Big for Bright Futures

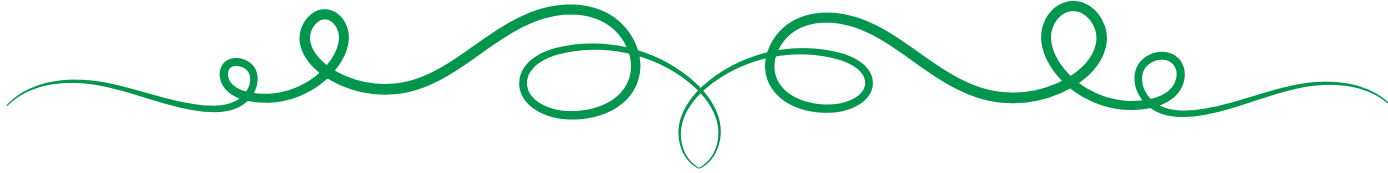
This October, Highland Prep West students are kicking off the year with their Fall Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP) meetings, the first of three this school year, with more to come in February and April. In these meetings, every Hornet builds a personalized four-year plan to explore colleges and careers, set goals, and get the most out of college acceptance and scholarship opportunities. A highlight this year is the new Major Map Decoder, which shows students exactly how their Highland Prep West courses count toward a real college degree. For example, a senior pursuing Biological Sciences at Northern Arizona University could arrive with 45 college credits already earned, saving about three semesters with \$0 in tuition. With AP and Dual Enrollment courses offered right on campus through partners like Embry-Riddle, Maricopa Community Colleges, and PLTW, Hornets can earn thousands of dollars in college credit before they ever set foot on a college campus.

There's even more ahead. Our Senior Internship program has expanded to twice the time, and new opportunities like Welding and Fabrication and Embry-Riddle aviation give students real-world experience and a head start on their futures. ECAP meetings also help students understand their GPA and transcript, prepare for the SAT and ACT, and learn how activities, athletics, and community service help them stand out. That planning pays off: our Class of 2026 earned an incredible \$17 million in scholarships! Families, ask your student about their ECAP meeting, the goals they set, and the college major they explored. Together, we're building a future full of opportunity for every Highland Prep West Hornet.





MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Hornet Families,

September was a busy and exciting month in The Hive! From our Fall Open House and STEM Showcase to welcoming our newest National Honor Society members, there were many opportunities for students, families, and staff to come together and celebrate what makes Highland Prep West special.

Spirit was high as students participated in Spirit Week, enjoyed our Fall Pep Assembly, and celebrated Homecoming. These events help build school pride, strengthen relationships, and create the traditions that make our school community feel like home.

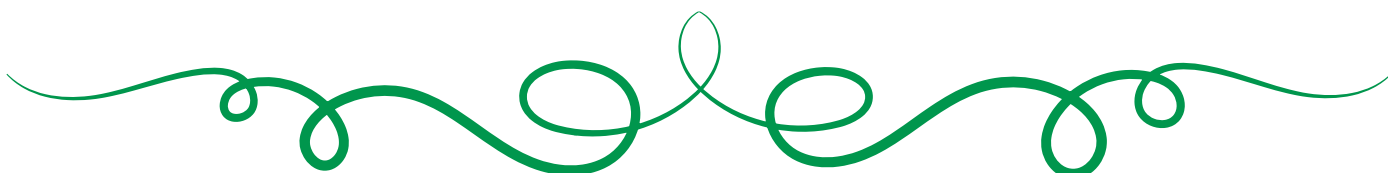
September was also an important month for our seniors, with college representatives visiting campus, Common App support, parent workshops, and cap and gown pictures. Our juniors also began their college and career planning journey. It is exciting to see our students turning their goals into plans for the future.

As we head into October, our focus is on finishing the first quarter strong. Students will complete EOCs and final exams, followed by our first-quarter Academic Awards Assembly. Fall Break, October 5–9, will give everyone a well-deserved opportunity to rest and recharge before we begin the second quarter.

Thank you to our students, families, and staff for making September such a memorable month. I am proud of the energy, school spirit, and commitment I see throughout The Hive each day.

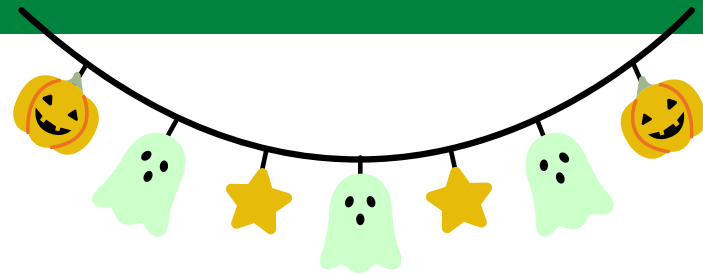
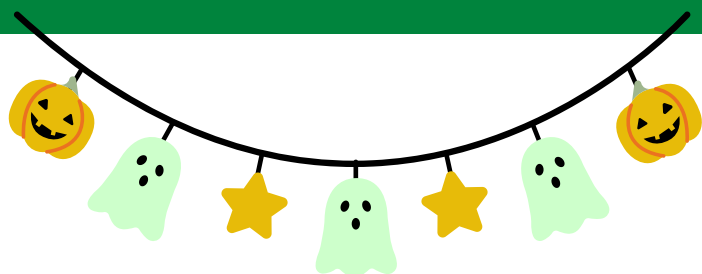
Go Hornets!

Sharon Pozzi
Principal





UPCOMING EVENTS



October Events

Mandatory Attendance Week	Sep. 28 - Oct. 2	ALL DAY
Finals	Friday, October 2	ALL DAY
Fall Break	October 5-9	ALL DAY
BOC’s 2 nd Quarter	Thursday, October 15	ALL DAY
PSAT 8/9 (9th Grade)	Tuesday, October 20	ALL DAY
PSAT/NMSQT (10th/11th Grade)	Tuesday, October 20	ALL DAY
Academic Awards Assembly	Wednesday, October 28	12:30 PM
Halloween BBQ	Friday, October 30	12:30 PM

Parent Events

Parent Workshop - FAFSA	Tuesday, October 13	5 PM
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Senior Events

Student Senior Workshop	Thursday, October 1	3 PM
PSAT/Asynchronous 12 th Grade	Tuesday, October 20	ALL DAY
SAT Testing (Select Seniors)	Wednesday, October 21	ALL DAY





HOME GAMES



FOOTBALL

HPW vs San Pasqual	Friday 10/16	7 PM
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VOLLEYBALL

HPW vs Blue Ridge	Wednesday 10/7	3 PM
HPW vs St. John Paul II	Tuesday 10/20	6 PM
HPW vs Yuma	Monday 10/26	5 PM
HPW vs Highland Prep	Wednesday 10/28	5 PM



FLAG FOOTBALL

HPW vs Marcos de Niza	Tuesday 10/13	6 PM
HPW vs Santa Rita	Thursday 10/15	6 PM
HPW vs St. John Paul II	Tuesday 10/27	6 PM





ATHLETICS UPDATE

FOOTBALL

Highland Prep West football is currently 3–2 overall and coming off a strong 50–6 victory over Highland Prep Surprise’s Badgers! Under Head Coach Allen Ferguson, the Hornets have continued to compete with energy and determination as they work through their season. With more games ahead, we’re proud of the team’s hard work, teamwork, and commitment on the field. Come cheer on the Hornets at their next home game on October 16 at 7 PM as they take on San Pasqual for Senior Night! We hope to see you there. Go Hornets!



FLAG FOOTBALL

Highland Prep West girls flag football earned a 21–0 shutout victory over Apache Junction on September 17! Under Head Coach TB Johnson, the Hornets are continuing to grow as a team and make their mark throughout the season. With a strong defensive performance and a clean sheet in their latest game, the team is ready for what’s next. The Hornets return home on October 13 at 6 PM to take on Marcos de Niza. Come out and support our girls as they continue their season under the lights!



VOLLEYBALL

Highland Prep West girls volleyball is on a five-game winning streak and currently holds an 8–5 overall record! Under Head Coach Kate Frank, the Hornets have put together a strong stretch of play, including a 3–0 region record and a 6–3 conference record. The team continues to build momentum as they head into the next part of their season. The Hornets return home on October 7, with JV taking the court at 2 PM and Varsity following at 3 PM. Come out and cheer on our volleyball teams as they look to keep the streak going!



CROSS COUNTRY

Highland Prep West cross country is putting in the work as runners continue to build endurance, strength, and confidence throughout the season. Under Head Coach Steven Butts, our Hornets are continuing to challenge themselves, support their teammates, and make the most of every opportunity to compete. We’re proud of their dedication and look forward to seeing the team take on their next challenge. The Hornets will compete in the Glendale Showcase on October 3. We’re excited to see our runners hit the course and represent HPW!





STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



BREANNA OKUNADE
SOPHOMORE

←—→

Highland Prep West is proud to spotlight Breanna Okunade, whose involvement in academics, leadership, and community service makes her an active part of the Hornet community.

Breanna is a Principal's List student, a member of Speech and Debate and National Honor Society, and a school ambassador. She also serves as president of both the Arts and Crafts Club and Leo's Club, a volunteer organization focused on giving back to the community and helping those in need. Outside of school, Breanna has a passion for sewing and enjoys making many of her own clothes, using her creativity to bring her ideas to life.



CLARA MUHAMMAD
JUNIOR

←—→

Clara Muhammad is making the most of her time at Highland Prep West through student leadership, athletics, and building a stronger school community.

Clara serves as Student Council secretary and has played volleyball throughout all three years of high school, recently joining the varsity team. Through STUCO, she enjoys helping students have a voice in decisions that affect the student body and working alongside her friends to make positive changes around campus. Outside of school, Clara loves baking, especially cookies, and enjoys sharing her creativity in the kitchen.



SENIOR CLASS UPDATES



FAFSA

The 2027-28 FAFSA is open! Seniors and families should create their FSA IDs and file as early as possible, because many scholarships and grants are awarded first come, first served. Filing the FAFSA is the key to unlocking federal, state, and college financial aid. Need help getting started? Visit [College Ready AZ](#) for free FAFSA guides and support.

COMMON APP

If you're applying to schools through the Common App, now is the time to finish your personal statement, request letters of recommendation, and check each college's deadline. Many early deadlines fall on November 1 or November 15.

IN-STATE EARLY DEADLINES

Applying early to Arizona universities gives you the best chance at admission and merit scholarships. The University of Arizona's Early Action deadline is November 1, which gives priority consideration for admission, merit aid, and the Honors College. ASU and NAU also encourage early applications for the strongest scholarship consideration.

UPCOMING COLLEGE VISITS

College reps are coming to Highland Prep West!

- Saint Mary's of Texas - Thursday, October 1st 9:30 AM
- Rice University - Monday, October 19th 8:30 AM
- New Mexico State - Friday, October 30th 8:30 AM

Campus Visits:

- Flagstaff Visit to NAU - Tuesday, October 20th 7:30-5:00
- Prescott Visit to ERAU - Wednesday, November 4th 8:30-5:00



SEPTEMBER RECAP

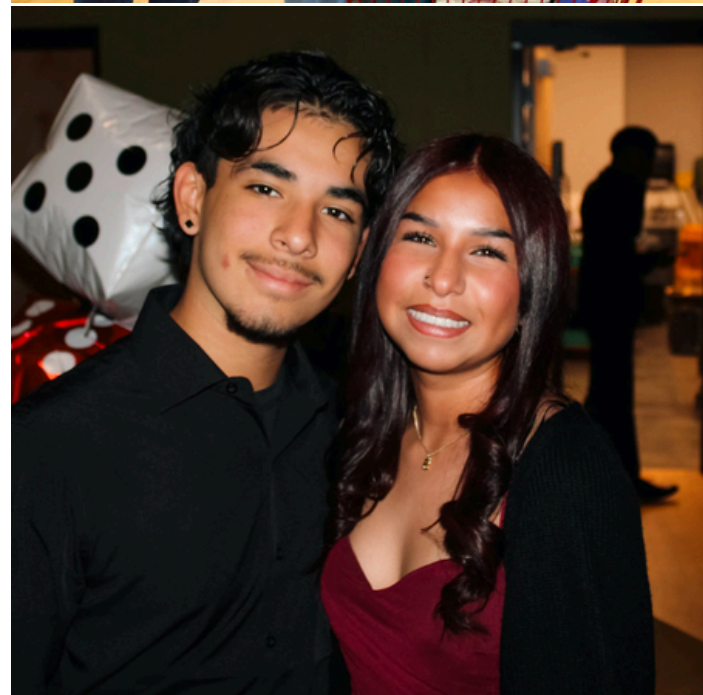
SPIRIT WEEK

Spirit Week brought plenty of creativity and school spirit to campus! Students showed off their style each day, from Skater vs. Surfer Monday and Rhyme Without Reason Tuesday to 90s Day on Wednesday and Disney Day on Thursday. Friday wrapped up the week with Anything But a Backpack and School Spirit Day, giving students one last chance to get creative and represent their school. It was a fun week of themed outfits, student participation, and campus pride!



HOMECOMING

Highland Prep West's Homecoming 2026 celebration brought the excitement of Las Vegas to campus on Saturday, September 19, with A Night in Vegas! Our Hornets came together for an evening of music, dancing, and card games, making memories with friends and celebrating in style. From the dance floor to the card tables, students enjoyed a night filled with fun and school spirit. Thank you to everyone who helped plan and support this year's Homecoming and to all the Hornets who came out to celebrate. It was a fantastic way to wrap up Spirit Week and make lasting memories together!



CAP AND GOWN PICTURE DAY

The countdown to graduation is officially on at Highland Prep West! Our seniors recently stepped into their caps and gowns for Cap and Gown Photo Day, a milestone moment that made the dream of graduation feel real. Smiles filled the room as students posed for portraits that celebrate years of hard work, growth, and determination. These photos will become treasured keepsakes for students and families for years to come. It was a proud day for the Class of 2027 and for the whole Hornet family, and we can't wait to see our seniors shine as they take the next steps toward walking across that stage in the spring!





ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

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

A: Since graduating from Highland Prep West, I started college at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, where I'm studying political science. Moving away from home and starting college has been a big change, but I'm enjoying this new chapter of my life. I'm learning how to be more independent and working toward my goals.

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

A: HPW taught me how to work hard, speak up for myself, and take advantage of opportunities. I also became more comfortable speaking in front of people and sharing my opinions. Those skills have helped me a lot now that I'm in college.

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

A: My advice would be to not be afraid to dream big. You don't have to know exactly what you want to do with your life yet. Take advantage of the opportunities you have, work hard, and don't let fear stop you from trying new things and going to unknown places.

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 the people and opportunities I had at HPW. When I was a student, I didn't always realize how much those experiences were helping me grow. Now that I'm in college, I can see how they helped me become more confident and independent.



Genesis Camacho

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

A: One accomplishment I'm especially proud of is starting college at St. Mary's University and studying political science. I'm also proud that I've continued being involved in advocacy and speaking up about issues that matter to me and my community. Being able to study something I'm passionate about while continuing to use my voice means a lot to me. I'm also very grateful to be able to attend university without having to take out student loans. I know how valuable this opportunity is, and I don't take it for granted.

HIGHLAND PREP WEST

2027-2028

OPEN ENROLLMENT



Incoming Freshman Open Enrollment Deadlines

Pre-Enrollment Period: September 1, 2026- November 27, 2026

Incoming Freshman must complete and submit the Intent to Enroll form to begin the enrollment process for the 2027-2028 school year. The Intent to Enroll form is located and can be submitted through the HPW website at www.HighlandPrepWest.com. The Intent to Enroll form is also available in the school office.

Enrollment Packets Due: Friday, December 18, 2026

Incoming Freshman must complete and submit the Enrollment Packet to secure enrollment in the Class of 2031. Enrollment Packets may be returned to the school office, via facsimile, or via email to: mrosales@highlandprepaz.org.

Placement Testing Date: Saturday, February 6, 2027

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 2027-2028 school year.

Course Registration Date: Saturday, March 20, 2027

Incoming Freshman must register for Fall 2027 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 2027-2028 school year.

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



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



Highland Prep West 2026-2027 Academic Calendar

July	0	August	16	September	21	October	2 15
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November	17	December	14	January	19	February	19
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				30 31			

 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

30

BOOSTER MEETING

5 PM
Thursday, October 1st

Build Community

Support Our Hornets

Plan School Events &
Fundraisers



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