

Summer 2025

Dear Families,

Welcome to Highlands Elementary for the 2025-26 school year! We are so excited to have you as part of our school community and can't wait for all the learning, growth, and memories ahead.

At Highlands, our staff is deeply dedicated and committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive environment where every child feels safe, valued, and celebrated for who they are. We believe that when students are able to be their true, authentic selves, they are best able to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

It is our mission to foster a love of learning that lasts a lifetime, while nurturing each child's unique strengths and helping them reach their fullest potential. We are honored to be on this journey with you and look forward to an incredible year of growth and discovery together. The Highlands staff and I are looking forward to greeting our Heroes in August!

The 2025-2026 Back to School Update Information can be found on our [website](#) by hovering your cursor over the "Our School" tab in the middle of the gray banner and then click on the "2025-2026 Back to School Update" tab in the drop-down menu. You can also click on the website's Back to School Update banner.

If you are new or returning to Highlands, several opportunities will be available to you during August and September to meet other families and find out about our school. Celebrate the new school year through participating in these exciting happenings!

New Family Tours

On August 6, school tours for new families will take place from 11:00 a.m.-12:00pm. Tours will meet in the front lobby of the school by Door 1. During this time, families will view the school as well as meet other Highlands families and receive answers to questions about our school to assist you with a smooth transition to your new school.

Class Assignments

Classroom and teacher assignments for kindergarten through fifth grade will be posted through Infinite Campus on Wednesday, August 6 at 3:00 p.m. Parents will access their child's classroom assignment via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Visit the District 203 website (<http://www.Naperville203.org>) and click on the Resources tab on the far right in the gray banner and then click on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal link on the right side. Follow the prompts to create your parent account. If you have difficulty with your account, contact the help desk by email at parentsupport@naperville203.org.

Teacher Treat and Meet

All students and parents are invited to meet their teachers for the 2025-26 school year on August 11th. To spread out the crowds at this popular event, families will meet in the back of the school from 1:00-1:30. K-2 teachers will be located on the upper blacktop area and grades 3-5 will be located on the lower blacktop area. Teachers will be holding signs to make it easy for them to be located. Enjoy this open house style event to meet your child's teachers, including our specialists, before the first day of school. This is an informal gathering with more detailed information about classroom activities and curriculum during Parent Night/Curriculum on August 28th. You may also drop your school supplies off in the front office on the 11th until 2:00pm. We will make sure the supplies get to the correct classrooms. Please have all supplies labeled with teacher and student names.

First Day of School

The first day of school for all students in kindergarten-fifth grades will be Thursday, August 14th. Instruction for all grades begins promptly at 8:15am with students entering the building after 8:00 am. Please make sure that your child is not dropped off prior to 8:00am for supervision by staff begins at 8:00am. Students arriving after 8:15am must use the front door (Door 1) to enter the school and will need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Dismissal for all students is at 2:30pm.

New Literacy Resource Implementation

During the 2025-2026 school year, District 203 will be implementing a new elementary literacy curriculum supported by a Board adopted resource. The literacy resource is entitled *Into Reading*. Our revised curriculum addresses all of the essential elements of literacy, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, handwriting, and grammar. It supports the Illinois Learning Standards and provides a rigorous structure that aligns with the Science of Reading Research. Students will engage with authentic, complex texts that are infused into daily instruction and include both fiction and nonfiction that are connected to rich themes.

The implementation of this new resource will reflect current best practices in literacy instruction, which emphasize the integration of reading, writing, word study, and comprehension as essential components of a comprehensive and effective literacy block from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Due to the change of the elementary literacy curriculum being implemented this coming school year, the literacy instruction for our 4th and 5th grade students in the Project Idea (PI) Program will mirror the core literacy block and PI students will engage in a literacy block with the same teacher for both reading and writing.

To implement this new structure and ensure that all students continue to receive the dedicated support they need, we're strategically utilizing the expertise of additional talented staff members, along with Mrs. Whang to provide instruction to our students in Project Idea and Honors Math.

We will be communicating specific information to 4th, and 5th grade families regarding the specific teachers who will be working with their children for literacy and math instruction as a result of the new structure.

School Supplies

School supplies ordered online will be waiting for your child in his/her classroom on the first day of school. If you missed ordering school supplies, grade level lists are available on our [website](#).

Arrival & Dismissal

Arrival and dismissal at Highlands are busy times of the day with 500+ students coming and going at the same time. It is vital that we work together to maintain safe and orderly arrival and dismissal procedures. Students will be lining up in the back of the building and entering the building through assigned grade level doors on the first day of school, August 14th. Students will be guided by classroom teachers and Highlands staff members to their classrooms.

Entering Highlands beginning August 15th

Please refer to the Arrival Procedures Map that is posted on our website.

If a student arrives after 8:15am, an adult should sign them into school via the office at Door 1. If a student needs to be picked up before dismissal, use the intercom at Door 1, present current identification to the office staff, and then the office team will connect with the classroom teacher.

Bus Transportation

All bus riders will be met by staff members at the start of the school year to guide children to their grade level classrooms. While transportation information can be accessed in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal (<http://www.Naperville203.org>) starting on August 6 at 3:00 p.m., please check back frequently, including the day before school starts, as changes can occur in routes, pick-up times, and/or drop-off times. If you need assistance regarding transportation information, call the Transportation Department at 630-420-6464.

Absence Reporting

If your child must be absent from school, please call the Attendance Line prior to the start of the school day at 630- 420-6534 for English or report via the [Campus Portal](#) prior to 8:00 a.m.

Important Dates for the Beginning of 2025-26

Teacher Treat & Meet: Monday, August 11th from 1:00-1:30pm

Home & School Ice Cream Social: Monday, August 11th from 1:00-2:00pm

First Day of School K-5: Thursday, August 14th from 8:15am-2:30pm

Fall Picture Day: Wednesday, August 27th during the school day

Parent/Curriculum Night: Thursday, August 28th

* Kindergarten & 1st Grade Parents: 5:00-5:45pm

* 2nd & 3rd Grade Parents: 5:50-6:35pm

* 4th & 5th Grade Parents: 7:10-8:00pm

* HONORS MATH: 6:15-6:35pm

* PI: 6:40-7:00pm

Home & School Meeting: Wednesday, September 10th at 7:00pm

Thank you for your support and dedication to the Highlands School community. If you have any questions or feedback about Highlands, please contact me by phone at 630-420-6335, drop a note in the office, or email at lnowicki@naperville203.org.

Sincerely,

Lora Nowicki
Highlands Interim Principal