

Highland MS News



Superintendent: M. Hamid
Principal: K. Kandankery
Vice-Principal: B. D'Andrade
Office Administrator: M. Cheung
School Secretary: J. Rambaran
Trustee: J. Li

Volume 1 Issue 1

September 2021

Vice-Principal's Message

Welcome to the first Highland MS Newsletter. We have had a very successful start to the 2021-2022 school year! A huge thank-you and congratulations goes out to all who followed communication from the school just before school started Sept. 9th. Even in the midst of our return to a second school year in the Covid-19 pandemic, we want to assure you that Highland is following every safety measurement and protocol that protects your child(ren) along with other community members. Highland is a very dedicated, caring staff who is sincerely interested in the success and well-being of your child(ren).

It would appear by all accounts that everyone has adjusted to school by now. It is very important to help your child(ren) arrive to school on time with their Health Pass signed by you each day. This sets them up for a safe day and it teaches them the seriousness of adhering to this social responsibility.

As a reminder, lunch is from 11:24 AM – 12:24 PM. Lunches are to be prepared ahead and brought to school with your child(ren). Please remember that school ends at 3:06 PM and to be on-time if you are picking them up. **IMPORTANT:** To ensure the safety of all, students and receiving parent/guardian will be required to cross at the Don Mills and Cliffwood intersection/lights. Parents, grandparents and caregivers need to continue to make Highland a safe place by dropping off and picking up at the assigned location through our parking lot drive-thru. Cars are not permitted to be parked along the front of the school or side streets at the back of the school on Memory Lane (near the cemetery) or in the drop-off driveway at any time.

Student safety continues to be the highest priority at our school. We look forward to having another amazing school year!

We continue to be grateful for our parent support. Thank you everyone for continuing to make Highland MS the place to be!

"Respect lives at Highland each and every day!"

Mr. B. D'Andrade
Vice-Principal
Please follow us at twitter:
[@HighlandmsH](https://twitter.com/HighlandmsH)

Also check out our website for up-to-date information:

<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/highland/>

START STRONG,
STAY STRONG, AND
FINISH STRONG BY
ALWAYS REMEMBERING
WHY YOU'RE DOING IT IN
THE FIRST PLACE.

(RALPH MARSTON)

WWW.LIVELIFEHAPPY.COM



Agendas/Planners for this year (2021-22)...

Will be accessed through Google Classroom and/or Brightspace platforms for your child(ren) as the Toronto District School Board is encouraging and supporting on-line/virtual organizational tools for students.

Non-Covid Vaccines for Grade 7 Students:

*Toronto Public Health (TPH) will be conducting the usual in-school non-covid vaccinations for our Grade 7 students and for Grade 8 students who did not have this opportunity last year. **Students can receive these vaccinations by booking an appointment only at City-run immunization sites. Book at www.tphbookings.ca***

For further information, please visit:

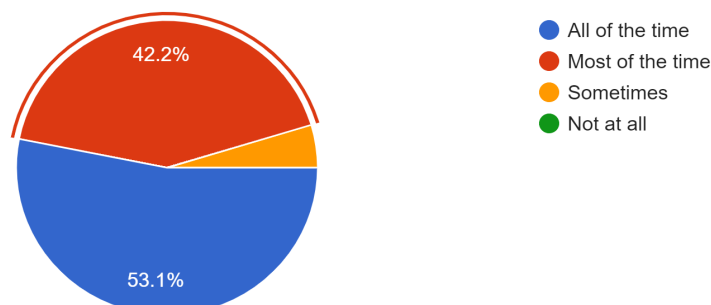
<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/health-programs-advice/immunization/get-immunized-children-youth/grade-7-vaccination-program/>

Caring and Safe (June) 2021 Data

*On the last day of school, students were surveyed regarding how safe their experience has been during their time at Highland. The following is a summary of the data that was collected. Out of 128 students who responded, the accumulated data for 'all of the time' and 'most of the time' was 95.3% . Generally, Highlanders feel that Highland MS is a safe place to learn. Also, 90.6% said that they made at least one positive connection with a caring adult in the building during their time attending school. This is very encouraging feedback from our students. Staff at Highland hope to increase the results of this Caring and Safe Survey by rolling out more Anti-Racism/Oppression Education along with combating all forms of discrimination and hate through continued school wide virtual student-voice assemblies and professional development opportunities with staff and students. There will be another seminar with **Mr. Paul Davis on October 25th** to educate your child(ren) about responsible and respectful social media conduct.*

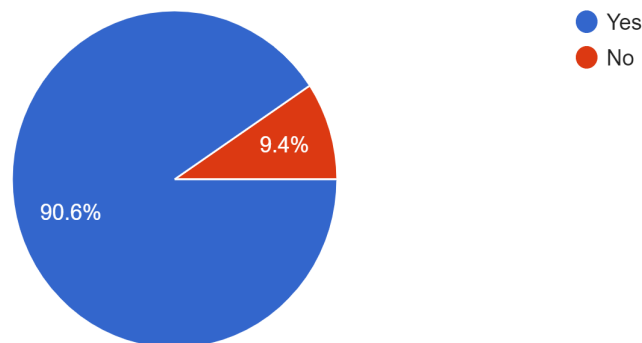
Do you feel that Highland Middle School is a safe place to learn?

128 responses



Do you feel that you were able to have at least one positive connection with a caring adult in the building?

128 responses



BOARD CODE OF CONDUCT 2021-22

What parents need to know: Referencing the TDSB PR585

6.2. Practices

According to the Education Act, the purpose of the Provincial Code of Conduct are:

- To ensure that all members of the school community, especially people in positions of authority, are treated with respect and dignity;
- To promote responsible citizenship by encouraging appropriate participation in the civic life of the school community;
- To maintain an environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and civility;
- To encourage the use of non-violent means to resolve conflict;
- To promote the safety of people in schools;
- To discourage the use of alcohol and illegal drugs; to discourage the use of alcohol, illegal drugs and, except by a medical cannabis user, cannabis; and
- To prevent bullying in schools.

Under the Provincial Code of Conduct, *all members of the school community* must:

Standards of Behaviour:

- (a) Respect, Civility, and Responsible Citizenship respect and comply with all applicable federal, provincial, and municipal laws;
- demonstrate honesty and integrity;
 - respect differences in people, their ideas, and their opinions;
 - treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, and especially when there is disagreement;
 - respect and treat others fairly and promote a positive school climate that is inclusive and accepting of all pupils, including of any race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex,

- sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status or disability;
- respect the rights of others;
 - show proper care and regard for school property and the property of others;
 - take appropriate measures to help those in need; seek assistance from a member of the school staff, if necessary, **to resolve conflict peacefully;**
 - respect all members of the school community, especially persons in positions of authority;**
 - respect the need of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching, including by ensuring that personal mobile devices are only used during instructional time for education purposes, as directed by an educator, for health and medical reasons and to support special education needs;
 - and not swear at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority.

(b) Safety

Under the Provincial Code of Conduct, all members of the school community must not:

- engage in bullying behaviours including cyberbullying;
- commit sexual assault;
- traffic in weapons or illegal drugs;
- give alcohol or cannabis to a minor;
- commit robbery;
- be in possession of any weapon, including firearms;
- commit sexual assault; traffic in weapons or illegal drugs;
- give alcohol or cannabis to a minor;
- commit robbery;
- be in possession of any weapon, including firearms; use any object to threaten or intimidate another person;
- cause injury to any person with an object; be in possession of, or be under the influence of alcohol, cannabis (unless the individual has been authorized to use cannabis for medical purposes), and illegal drugs; provide others with alcohol, illegal drugs or cannabis (unless the recipient is an individual who has been authorized to use cannabis for medical purposes);
- inflict or encourage others to inflict bodily harm on another person;
- engage in hate propaganda and other forms of behaviour motivated by hate or bias;**
- commit an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property or to property located on the premises of the school.

(c) Students

Students are to be treated with respect and dignity. In return, they **will demonstrate respect for themselves, for others, and for the responsibilities of citizenship** by coming to school prepared, on time, and ready to learn; showing respect for themselves, for others, and for those in authority;

- refraining from bringing anything to school that may compromise the safety of others;
- following the established rules and taking responsibility for their own actions**

Students will also:

Exercise self-discipline; accept such discipline as would be exercised by a kind, firm and judicious parent;

- be courteous to fellow pupils and obedient and courteous of teachers;
- show respect for school property;
- understand and comply with their school's and /or Board's code of conduct.'

(d) Parents

Parents play an important role in the education of their children and can support the efforts of school staff in maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. Parents fulfill their role when they: are engaged in their child's school work and progress;

- show respect for the Principal and school staff;
- communicate regularly with the school;
- help their child to be appropriately dressed and prepared for school;
- ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time;
- promptly report to the school their child's absence or late arrival;
- become familiar with the provincial Code of Conduct, and if applicable, the schools Code of Conduct encourage and assist their child in following the rules of behaviour;
- assist school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child.

School Codes of Conduct

- (a) Schools will develop codes of conduct that promote and support respect, civility, responsible citizenship, and safety in accordance with the Board Code of Conduct, operational procedures and provincial legislation and guidelines;
- (b) School codes of conduct will set out clearly what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour for all members of the school community;
- (c) School codes of conduct will outline the appropriate use of electronic communications or media devices;
- (d) Schools will seek input from school councils, parents, students, staff members, and the members of the school community;
- (e) School codes of conduct will be communicated to all members of the school including those members whose first language is not English; and
- (f) Schools will review their codes of conduct regularly and involve students, staff, parents, school councils and community members.

TDSB Discrimination Policy

We at Highland MS are committed to promoting student well-being, academic success, and recognition that can't be achieved unless we fulfill our moral and legal obligations to create equitable, safe, respectful, and inclusive spaces for all students, parents, and staff. We promote an environment that is free from hate and discrimination based on race, ethnicity, culture, religion, socio-economic status, gender, and sexual orientation.

HIGHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

CODE OF CONDUCT

At Highland Middle School we believe that everyone is entitled to a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment, where respect for self, others, property, and the environment is as important as academic learning.

An important aim of the school is to help students develop self-discipline so that they can become productive, mature and responsible members of society. This Code of Conduct has been developed by staff, students and parents in partnership, with the expectation that the general rules for the school are understood and followed. It reflects the Code of Conduct established by the Toronto District School Board.

To achieve optimum success, students are expected to:

- attend and be punctual
- prepare for and participate in the learning process
- respect the rights of others

To ensure a secure, healthy, and clean facility, students are expected to:

- take responsibility for the security of their own property including all personal communication devices and money
- show care and respect for the property of the Board and of others

Progressive Discipline

Highland MS is committed to the belief that individuals are responsible for their behaviour and must be prepared to accept the consequence(s) for their actions. Consequences for infractions of the Code of Conduct may include any of the following:

- Discussion with a teacher, member of the support staff, vice-principal or principal
- Attendance/performance/behaviour contracts
- Time Out
- Reflection Sheet
- Parental contact and involvement in applying an appropriate solution to the issue

- **Loss of privilege to participate in specified school activities**
- **Peer mediation**
- **Individual or group counselling**
- **Detention**
- **Restitution for damage or stolen property**
- **Community service**
- **Restorative practices**

General School Rules

- **Keep hands, feet and body to yourself**
- **Use all forms of technology appropriately at all times**
- **No running in the hallways**
- **Food and beverages should only be consumed in the classroom unless you have received permission to do so in another location**
- **Students should only be in their cohorts/clusters at the specified times or with a hall pass**
- **All individuals must adhere to the Code of Conduct**
- **Do not touch or take things that do not belong to you**
- **Leave nature (e.g., snow, pinecones, mud) on the ground**
- **All individuals must adhere to the TDSB's Anti-Bullying policies and the Highland's Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan**
- **No chewing gum**

Electronic Devices Policy

- **If students bring their electronic device to school, the school will not be responsible for any lost or stolen electronic device**
- **Devices should not be visible, powered-on or used by individuals during class instructional time**
- **NO devices including headphones are to be turned on or visible and in use**
- **Respectful usage of devices is permitted before school, lunch and after school**

- The taking of pictures without permission is not permitted
- Devices include a variety of media devices such as Smartphones, Tablets, Laptops, etc.
- Inappropriate use of electronics will be confiscated by the office and returned to a parent/guardian

Dress Code Policy

- Clothing should be appropriate for the school environment and should reflect the positive learning tone of the school
- Outerwear (e.g., jackets, coats) is to be kept in classrooms and not worn during the school day in the building
- Clothing must be worn in such a way that all bottom layers cover the groin and buttocks and top layers cover nipples, both with opaque material
- Tops may expose shoulders, abdomen, midriff, neck lines and cleavage
- Bottoms may expose legs, thighs and hips
- Undergarments may not be substituted as outerwear and, if worn, should be worn beneath a layer of outer wear
- Straps and waistbands may be exposed
- Slogans, language and pictures on clothing and accessories should reflect the positive tone of the school and should not be offensive to any group in the greater community
- Any headgear, including caps, hats, bandanas, and hoodies, on the head in the school including headgear worn for religious purposes is permitted in the school

Highland Middle School Student Conduct

At Highland, we believe that every student has the right to come to school each day and experience a positive day of learning. Our student population comes from many countries, encompasses a variety of different cultures and religions and speaks a number of different languages. We believe that every student can experience success, make positive friendships and develop life skills to support them in the future.

Highland students are expected to demonstrate respect for themselves, others and the world around them. Politeness, consideration of others, co-operation and good citizenship are the cornerstones of conduct here at Highland. All students are responsible for their own behaviour, regardless of the actions of others. We assist our students with this responsibility by making problem-solving strategies an important part of our curriculum. The home form teacher, the guidance counsellor, subject teachers and administrators all assist students and act as their advocates. Parents are expected to take an active role to

establish the partnership with our school that will support our students as we work and learn together.

Each student is expected to contribute to a positive learning environment in the school. Students help to create this environment by taking responsibility for their own learning, contributing positively in their classes and by not interfering with other students' right to learn. Students should attend class every day, arrive on time and come prepared with the appropriate learning materials. Every student needs to make the commitment to learn to be a self-directed, focussed learner and at the same time, respect the rights of others. Students are also expected to respect the TDSB On-line Code of Conduct with regard to use of all technology and personal communication devices.

It is the responsibility of the school to provide a safe and secure learning environment for our students. The Highland Code of Conduct clearly establishes this expectation. Poor choices will be addressed as opportunities for positive learning by supporting students to make better decisions in the future. Students must be aware; however, that conduct in contravention to the Toronto District School Board policy and the Highland Code of Conduct will result in appropriate consequences as outlined in the TDSB Consequences of Inappropriate Student Behaviour.

Having a problem with another student? Need help to resolve conflict at home or in the community? Are you being bullied by someone and afraid to report?

Talk to your home form teacher, the subject teacher, our guidance counsellor or an administrator. They can help!

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Talk to your home form teacher, the subject teacher, our guidance counsellor or an administrator. They can help!

**I, _____ of Class _____
agree to give my best effort to adhere to and respect the behaviour
expectations outlined in the Highland Code of Conduct and the
TDSB On-line Code of Conduct.**

(Student Signature)

(Parent Signature)

Signing out during the School Day

- To leave school before 3:06, you must sign out at the office. If this is a prearranged matter, you must have a note. If it is an unexpected matter, the school will need contact from a parent or legal guardian.
- NEVER leave school without signing-out at the office. Leaving without permission will be considered truancy (skipping) and may result in disciplinary action.
- If you go home for lunch and are unable to return to school in the afternoon, YOU MUST have your parent or legal guardian phone the school and inform the office about the absence.

Leaving Class

- You are not permitted in the halls during class time unless you have a Hall Pass.
- Only two students are allowed out of class at a time.
- You must have permission from a teacher to be permitted in the hallways during class time, usually to go to the washroom.

Extended Absence from School

Students must inform the main office for any absences from school which will be longer than 3 consecutive days. An extended absence form must be completed by the student and signed by the parent/guardian and returned to the main office at least two weeks prior to the absence dates.

Accident or Illness

- When in class, inform the teacher if you should become ill or have an accident.
- When out of class, go directly to the main office or the first teacher you see.

Valuables

For your own safety and protection,

DO NOT:

- DO NOT - bring any valuables to school.
- DO NOT - leave cash or valuables in the classroom
- DO NOT - bring large amounts of money to school. If it is necessary for you to do so, bring it to the office where we will put it away safely. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Absences

- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must contact the school by phone if students are away. Your parent(s) should speak to someone or leave a message on the school's "Safe Arrival" answering machine at 416-395-3040 (follow voice instructions). Please provide the office with your child's name, Home Form, and the reason for the absence (or late arrival). If parents do not contact the school, the school's automated system will attempt to call your parents or an emergency contact to ensure you are safe. Please ensure you notify the office of any updated or changed phone numbers and emergency contacts.
- During an absence your child is expected to inquire about missed work and upcoming tests from teachers and/or classmates. Following an absence, it is the student's responsibility to find out and catch up with what was missed. Teachers are not required to track down students.
- If your child will be away, please notify the school with a note from a parent or guardian. You may notify the office in advance (even months ahead) so that we can note it in the system, e.g. booked vacations, appointments, etc.
- If the absence is not known ahead of time, please bring a note when your child returns and give it to his/her/their Home Form Teacher.

Attendance Procedures ~ Lates/Tardiness

Punctuality is expected by all. Due to the new freedoms experienced by many middle school students, lateness can become a problem. Students who are continually late for school and/or class not only miss out on some valuable learning time, but also they create a disturbance for students already engaged in the learning process.

- Whenever you are late, please bring a note from your parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s) and/or ask a parent/guardian to call the school at 416.395.3040.
- When you are late for school, you must sign-in at the office first and obtain an admit slip to join your class.
- If you are late for your next class, a note from the teacher who detained you must be given to the teacher of your next class.
- Punctuality will be monitored and recorded by teachers.
- Lates will be tracked at the beginning of school, at the start of each class, and at the beginning of the afternoon (after lunch).
- Habitual lateness to school or between classes will result in disciplinary action.
- After 5 lates, students will conference with an Administer and/or Guidance Counselor. If there is no improvement, students will be referred to the Attendance Counselor.

Absences from Tests and Assignments

If you miss an examination because of illness, your parent or legal guardian must contact the school as soon as possible to explain the circumstances. A medical certificate which outlines the specific dates during which you are under a doctor's care and, where possible, the reason for the absence must be presented to the Principal within 48 hours. Failure to comply with this request may result in a mark of zero for each missed assignment and test.

Respecting our school

THIS SCHOOL BELONGS TO US ALL. We want it as neat, clean, and safe as possible. Any acts of disrespect such as vandalism, graffiti, bullying or theft need to be reported to the office or to a teacher immediately.

- Please do your fair share in keeping the school and grounds free of litter.
- Gum chewing in the school is not allowed because of the mess it creates.
- Keep your own locker clean and unmarked; this is your responsibility. Remember, you are being given the privilege of using your locker – it ultimately is the property of the school.
- Be proud of your environment. Ensure that your behaviour both inside the school and outside the school in the surrounding community reflects the Highland spirit and positive energy.

HIGHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL HOURS

School Hours: 416 395-3040

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| <u>8:00 am</u> | <u>Office Opens</u> |
| <u>8:45 am</u> | <u>Morning Entry</u> |
| <u>8:50 am</u> | <u>A.M. Classes begin</u> |
| <u>11:34 am</u> | <u>Lunch</u> |
| <u>12:24 pm</u> | <u>P.M. Entry</u> |
| <u>2:30 pm</u> | <u>P.M. Classes begin</u> |
| <u>3:06 pm</u> | <u>Classes End</u> |
| <u>4:00 pm</u> | <u>Office Closes</u> |

School Staff:

| Grade/Teacher | Room |
|---------------------|------|
| 6A Ms. Bethanis | 205 |
| 6B Ms. Lankesawaran | 201 |
| 6C Mr. Arvanitis | 204 |
| 6D Ms. Pickle | 101 |
| 7A Ms. Javaheri | 203 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7B | Mr. Hang | 108 |
| 7C | Mr. Akenten | 202 |
| 8A | Mr. Sun | 208 |
| 8B | Ms. Chieng | 209 |
| 8C | Mr. Hamill | 207 |
| 8D | Mr. Sahsuvaroglu | 102 |
| 6/7E (Ex. French) | Mr. Carrasco | 212 |
| 7/8D (Ex. French) | Ms. Soto-Brito | 211 |
| VLFE-6 | Ms. Beliaeva | Virtual Learning |
| VL7/8 | Ms. Azami | Virtual Learning |
| STEM | Mr. Ghebrezghi | 107 |
| Music | Mr. Hornsby | 103 |
| French | Ms. Hambly | 105 |
| Resource | Ms. Vicente | 203/208 |
| Resource | Ms. Samnani | 205 |
| VP/Resource | Mr. D'Andrade | |
| ESL | Ms. Munro | 214 |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Library-Ms. Munro | |
| E.A. Latoya Thomas | 205 |
| Office Administrator | Ms. Monica Cheung |
| Secretary | Ms. Judy Ramberan |
| LRS | Ms. Hemapriya |
| LRS | Ms. Banu |
| LRS | Ms. Chu-Chen |
| LRS | Ms. Tahbaz |
| Caretaking | Mike Pilote/Duncan McKirdy/Richelle Smith |

School Organization by Clusters (1, 2 & 3)

| <u>Cluster 1</u> <u>Teacher</u> | <u>Room</u> | <u>Door</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Ms. Lankeswaran 6B</u> | <u>201</u> | <u>1</u> |
| <u>Mr. Akenten 7C</u> | <u>202</u> | <u>1</u> |
| <u>Ms. Javaheri-Poya 7A</u> | <u>203</u> | <u>1</u> |
| <u>Mr. Arvanitis 6C</u> | <u>204</u> | <u>1</u> |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| <u>Ms. Bethanis 6A</u> | <u>205</u> | <u>1</u> |
| <u>Cluster 2</u> | | |
| <u>Mr. Hamill 8C</u> | <u>207</u> | <u>4</u> |
| <u>Mr. Sun 8A</u> | <u>208</u> | <u>4</u> |
| <u>Ms. Chieng 8B</u> | <u>209</u> | <u>4</u> |
| <u>Mr. Carrasco 6/7E Ex. Fr.</u> | <u>211</u> | <u>4</u> |
| <u>Ms. Soto-Brito 7/8D Ex. Fr</u> | <u>212</u> | <u>4</u> |
| <u>Cluster 3</u> | | |
| <u>Ms. Pickle 6D</u> | <u>101</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Mr. Sahuvaroglu 8D</u> | <u>102</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Mr. Hornsby Music</u> | <u>104</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Mr. Ghebrezghi</u> <u>STEM</u> | <u>107</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Mr. Hang 7B</u> | <u>108</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Ms. Hambly French</u> | <u>105</u> | <u>3</u> |
| | | |