

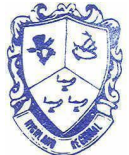


**BLACK HORSE PIKE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HIGHLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

450 Erial Road, Blackwood, New Jersey 08012
(856) 227-4100 Fax # (856) 227-3619

Principal: Mr. Ryan C. Varga

Assistant Principals: Ms. Banner, Mr. Beaver, Mrs. Dalessio, Mr. McEnnis, Ms. Steele



Good Afternoon Highland Community-

I hope you enjoyed time with your families and loved ones during the holiday season.

On Friday, December 22, at 11:47 am, despite appropriate adult supervision, we had a physical altercation at the intersection of the C and F hallways. The altercation started with two students getting into a fight, leading to four other students joining the physical altercation. Police officers were dispatched to that section of the high school due to the number of students involved and to prevent further violent behaviors.

Administration and members of the Gloucester Township Police Department (GTPD) are investigating and finalizing reports for the Camden County Prosecutor to review. Significant charges will be enforced upon future meetings with GTPD and the County prosecutor's office. Building-level administration has contacted all involved and has future meetings with students and guardians.

Upon return to school on Tuesday, January 2, there will be an increase in police activity to assist with student supervision during arrival, dismissal, and Tartan Time. The administration will be staggering the dismissal of students during Tartan Time, and at the end of the school day. During Tartan Time, we plan to dismiss one eating location at a time by table. We plan to dismiss classrooms by hallway at the end of the school day.

We understand that students have needs and challenges based on things outside their control. Also, many of these events are a reaction to activities happening through social media and/or group texts involving several students. Unfortunately, some students instigate and urge students to use violence as a means to resolve conflict, as if it is sport. Please review your child's social media and text messaging intentions. When challenging behaviors occur, it is always in your student's best interest to follow the directives given by a Highland staff member. We have witnessed too many students ignoring simple staff member requests aimed at providing a safe and positive school culture.

Our top priority at Highland is to provide a safe educational environment for all students. Students do not have the right to disrupt the education process for students and staff. When

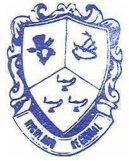


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this disruption occurs, there are consequences. Here are the Student Expectations as written in the BHPRSD policy:

The Board of Education, faculty, staff, and fellow students expect students to conduct themselves in keeping with their levels of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students and school staff, the educational purpose underlying all school activities, and the care of school facilities and equipment consistent with the Code of Student Conduct.

The development of this atmosphere requires respect for self and others, as well as for school district and community property on the part of students, staff, and community members. Students are expected to behave in a way that creates a supportive learning environment. The Board believes the best discipline is self-imposed, and it is the responsibility of staff to use instances of violations of the Code of Student Conduct as opportunities to help students learn to assume and accept responsibility for their behavior and the consequences of their behavior.

We appreciate our students' daily efforts to become the best versions of themselves. Please encourage your students to bring the positive Highland HYPE each day.

Thank you and Go Tartans!

Mr. Ryan C. Varga
Principal