

HIGHLANDER HILLTOP

EDITION 12/4/2020



Happy Friday Highlander Families,
Thank you all for your support into our first week of distance learning. I hope you have found that the live instruction that has been occurring daily is a huge step up from what we were able to accomplish in the spring. I have been jumping into many of the Google Meets throughout the week, and observed some wonderful and creative strategies to ensure high quality teaching and learning.

I've been seeing teachers use Jamboard to have students engage with a live classroom whiteboard, Flipgrid to facilitate students creating their own video to show what they know, GoGuardian to discreetly communicate and engage with individual students, and many other many other tools. One reminder to reiterate to students is that they must remain on the Google Meet with their teacher for the entire lesson. Teachers are taking note of who is on the meet at multiple times throughout their lessons.

As a reminder, office hours are available to students by appointment every day, for each of your child's teachers. If they have any questions or need some extra support, students are encouraged to reach out to their teachers to schedule an office hours meet.

Any questions or concerns in regards to technology should be directed to Mr. Toussaint, and anything in regards to student schedules or social/emotional concerns should be directed toward Ms. DeRose. While we are doing distance learning, it is important to note that the building is not closed down, like it was in the spring. We are here, and there are many ways that we are able and looking to support our students and families.

With warmest regards,
Chuck Hershon

 [@ChuckHershon](https://twitter.com/ChuckHershon)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11/30 A Day	12/1 B Day	12/2 A Day	12/3 B Day	12/4 A Day
12/7 B Day	12/8 A Day	12/9 B Day	12/10 A Day	12/11 B Day
12/14 A Day	12/15 B Day *5pm Parent & Principal Virtual Meet	12/16 A Day 2 hour delay	12/17 B Day	12/18 A Day
12/21 B Day	12/22 A Day	Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break



Middle School Yearbooks are available to purchase! The 7th Grade Computer Science classes are working on this year's Yearbook. The price is \$20 and can be ordered online now! Follow the website below:

<https://www.iostens.com/apps/store/customer/1037183/Portland-Middle-School/>

7TH GRADE NEWS

In seventh grade science, the paper airplanes have landed!! Planes have been designed, built, and tested. Students analyzed their data and wrote a conclusion using the claim, evidence, and reasoning format to wrap up the performance task.



For the past week, our students have been busy adjusting to remote learning. While maintaining regular attendance and keeping up with their assignments can be challenging, it is essential for their development of skills and growth. We encourage them to participate in their class google meets and to reach out when assistance is needed



Announcing the 2020-2021 School Play: 10 Ways to Survive Life in a Quarantine!

"If you're spending a long time at home, it can be a challenge to keep yourself occupied. Luckily, *10 Ways to Survive Life in a Quarantine* is full of handy solutions, from putting on a musical with your dog, to becoming an announcer for a made-up sport, to making friends with an inanimate object. Hey, we promised handy solutions - we never said they wouldn't be strange. Whether or not you're inspired to take up origami and squirrel observation, this flexible new play written especially for actors to perform online is sure to bring a laugh to anyone who finds themselves unexpectedly indoors."

This year's play will be directed by Ms. Ketterer and Mrs. DeRose. Be on the lookout for information regarding auditions and rehearsals after the holiday break!



Fabulous examples of the initial 3D prints from students in Tech Ed this quarter.

8TH Grade NEWS:

8th Grade U.S. History Update



During the month of December, students will analyze the events that led to the independence movement and eventual revolution.

In the weeks surrounding winter break, students will examine the United States Constitution; the structure of American Government; and the rights afforded to the people and states of this country.