



HIGHLINE HIGHLIGHTS

What YOU Need to Know

June 19, 2008

RESPONSIBILITY
EMPOWERMENT
ASPIRATION
CITIZENSHIP
HONESTY

- 🕒 **Summer Availability:** Highline's administrative team has officially moved into summer mode. The front office is closed, scheduled to re-open on August 6th. Please understand that while a few senior administrators do work summer hours, they do so on a flexible schedule until late July. Emails and phone calls will be returned at the end of July or early August.
- 🕒 **Monday, August 11th, Ice Cream Social, 5:00-6:00pm:** Come find out your homeroom teacher, meet your teachers, visit your classroom, drop off your school supplies and catch up with your classmates after the summer break.
- 🕒 **Wednesday, August 13th, First Day of School!** We'll see you, grades 1-8, for a full day from 7:50am-3:30pm. If you have a Kindergarten student, please refer to the letter that was sent home for details on the first three days of school. Your students testing time will also be in that letter.
- 🕒 **Friday, August 15th, Returning Students Summer Packets DUE:** Students should return completed summer packets to their new homeroom teachers on Friday, August 15th. This year's prize is a coupon booklet with treats such as homework passes, entrance to an ice cream party, and more.
- 🕒 **Friday, August 15th, All School Welcome Assembly, 8:00-8:30am:** Join us for an all school welcome assembly in the middle school cafeteria.
- 🕒 **Monday, August 25th, REACH Assembly, 8:00-8:30am:** Join us for the first REACH assembly of the 2008-2009 school year. We will honor students who have demonstrated aspiration by completing **100%** of their summer packet by adding their hands to the REACH wall. REACH assemblies are held on the last Monday of each month from 8:00-8:30am.

GENERAL SCHOOL REMINDERS AND UPDATES

- 🚩 **Wednesday Early Release at 2:10pm:** Please remember, Highline dismisses all students at 2:10pm each Wednesday. School will dismiss at 3:30 on all the other days (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday). Kids Adventures is available beginning at 2:10pm on Wednesdays, starting August 13th. Students not picked up by 2:30 on Wednesdays and 3:50 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, will be escorted to Kids Adventures and you will be held responsible for the registration fee as well as payment. **Students pre-registered with Kids Adventures may attend anytime.**
- 🚩 **School Supply List:** You will find your school supply list enclosed with this newsletter and on our web site. You may bring your school supplies on Monday, August 11th to the Ice Cream Social.
- 🚩 **Summer Packet and Summer Reading:** Keep your student's mind engaged and academic skills sharp by having him/her work on the summer packet a little bit each day. Summer packets will be collected by homeroom teachers upon our return to school. We will be honoring all students who complete **100%** of their packets with a token gift. Please encourage your student to engage in important summer learning!

- ☞ **Coffee with the Principal:** Wednesday morning coffee will be held on the first Wednesday of each month beginning Wednesday, September 3rd, from 8:00 – 9:00 am.
- ☞ **Web Site Re-Design:** We are well underway with our re-design of Highline’s web site. Stay tuned in mid-August for the roll-out of a new look, complete with a logo up-grade, and an interactive, database-driven web site.
- ☞ **Uniforms:** Uniform information is enclosed in your packet. Our uniform will remain the same as it has in previous years. The easiest way to purchase them is online; just follow the instructions on the uniform insert.
- ☞ **Placards:** The pickup placards issued at the beginning of last school year are still useable. We will have the new ones available at the ice cream social.
- ☞ **Report cards:** If you do not find your students report card in this package, it has been with-held because of an outstanding financial balance for library books, missing textbooks, etc. Please contact the front office to clear up the balance and have your report card sent.
- ☞ **Principal Resident Hired:** The Highline Principal Resident Hiring Committee is pleased to welcome Kate Greeley to our community. After an extensive search process during which nearly 70 resumes were considered, and an extensive (12 hour!) interview process, Ms. Greeley emerged as the team’s clear first choice. She brings to Highline nearly a decade of experience in education. She began her career in education as a teacher in an urban Denver charter school. She was quickly noticed for both her instructional excellence and for her leadership potential. Since leaving the classroom, she has served as an instructional coach, curriculum developer, and, most recently, as the Assistant Superintendent of a small network of four charter schools. Ms. Greeley will begin her training year on July 1st. She will spend the year training with Ms. W-B before she assumes full responsibility in July, 2009. Please join us in welcoming her to our community.
- ☞ **New Hires and Staffing Changes:** Highline is proud to announce that our amazing TEAM Achieve will remain largely in tact for the 2008-2009 school year.

At the close of this school year Ms. Hensen, our business manager, returned to the corporate world to utilize her finance expertise in that sector.

Ms. Clay will be moving to Los Angeles over the summer. As many of you know, Ms. Clay’s husband has spent this year working in Los Angeles while Ms. Clay and their two daughters remained in Denver. They are looking forward to being together again.

Sadly, at the close of the school year, Mr. Apodaca decided to reduce his commute in order to preserve more family time and save money on gas. As opposed to commuting from Fort Collins to Highline each day, he will now be teaching close to home. He is sad about his departure and invested in supporting Highline’s new music teacher to ensure that we continue to build on the amazing foundation he created this year in developing an exemplary performance-based music program.

Joining our Highline Academy teaching staff next year will be:

Marcos Sample: Part Time Technology Instructor and Support. Mr. Sample just relocated to Denver from the San Diego area where he provided technical support in the telecom industry. He earned his Associate of Applied Sciences Degree in Electronics Engineering Technology here in Denver, and has more than 10 years of technical support experience. Mr. Sample has 5 years of instructional experience as well, teaching gymnastics to children. He will teach technology and support teachers integrating technology into the classroom. Welcome Mr. Sample!

Christina Baumgartner: Part Time Small Group Instructor. You may already know Christina from her days of substitute teaching at Highline Academy. Christina earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Maryland. She has 10 years of teaching experience, starting with swim lessons for children

while attending college. After college, Christina taught 4th grade in Maryland, then moved to Denver where she coached Junior Varsity Swim at Mullen High School. She will instruct ability groups in core subjects at Highline Academy. Welcome Ms. Baumgartner!

Martin Blandino: Middle School Spanish. Mr. Blandino is a native Spanish speaker from Nicaragua whose heart has always been in teaching. He spent many years in retail management in the US, and then wisely decided to follow his heart. After completing his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the A&M of Texas, Mr. Blandino entered an alternative licensure to become highly qualified. He substitute taught in elementary before taking a permanent teaching position in a Houston high school. He instructed Spanish for grades 6-12, earning Rookie Teacher of the Year. Welcome Mr. Blandino!

Heidi Anderson: Ms. Anderson looks forward to imparting her love of, passion for and expertise in music to our students. Her energy and creativity were apparent from her first step into the building through the interview process. Ms. Anderson achieved her Bachelor of Music Art from the University Of Miami School Of Music, and is currently a music teacher for Kent Denver School and Rocky Mountain Theater for Kids. Her experience includes teaching in both private and public charter schools in Denver, private vocal coaching, and adult and children's theater. Some of her direction experience includes productions of Fiddler on the Roof, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat, Annie, Stuart Little, Godspell and Peter Pan. Ms. Anderson's academic goal is to "equip students with the knowledge, history and love of music, also helping them to realize the motivation and emotional and historic fuel behind the creations."

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Congratulations to Highline's Graduates! On Saturday, May 30th Highline officially graduated its 2nd eighth grade class. We are particularly proud of this year's graduates, who leave us with a number of impressive accomplishments. Since their entrance into Highline as our founding 5th grade class, the class of 2008 has consistently been the highest performing cohort in our upper school, out-performing not only their district peers, but also consistently out-performing state averages on the CSAP. Students have ranked among the top mathematicians in the state, even at times competing against 12th grade mathematicians. They have successfully delivered public presentations at local universities, at the state house, and at competitive national conferences.

Kudos to the three 8th graders earning commencement awards: Kelsey Peterson and Sheldyn Merrill earned the Highline Scholar Award. This award is presented to a student or students who demonstrate excellence in their academics, their personal growth, and their commitment to the community. Emma Rush was awarded Highline's first "Ultimate REACH" Award in honor of her steadfast commitment to pushing herself to perform her best and to continually growing.

This eighth grade class leaves us with one more significant accomplishment—high school entrance! Our students were accepted into an impressive array of schools, in some cases earning themselves substantial merit-based scholarships. Below is a list of school to which our students applied and were granted seats. The number in parenthesis denotes how many students will attend the listed school next year. If there is no number, it simply means we had students accepted, but none who chose to attend. Currently 79% of our graduating 8th graders plan to attend a high school of choice, which Highline defines as a private, parochial, charter or magnet school or an IB, honors or AP track within a traditional district school.

Private and Parochial Schools (4)

Regis (2)
Fountain Valley (1)
Kent Denver (1)
Mullen
Machebeuf

Charter & Magnet Schools (19)

DSST (10)
Denver Venture School (3)
Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning (2)
Southwest Early College (2)
Denver Center for International Studies (1)
Denver School of the Arts (1)

Honors, IB, and Advanced Placement Tracks (13)

East X Track (5)
Littleton IB (3)
George Washington IB (2)
Arapahoe AP (2)
Cherry Creek AP (1)

District Schools (6)

Rangeview (2)
Thomas Jefferson (1)
Eagle Crest (1)
Thunder Ridge (1)
Cherry Creek Trails (1)

DELIVERABLES WE NEED FROM YOU

- Registration:** If you are returning to Highline next year, you will need to re-register online via the parent portal. You can access the parent portal by logging on to www.Veracross.com/highline and entering your password and follow the re-registration link. If you need access to a computer to re-register, the office will be open from Wednesday, August 6th through Friday, August 8th for re-registration. If you have not re-registered or contacted the office by Friday, August 8th, your students' seat will be offered to the next person on the waitlist.
- Parent Guardian Satisfaction Survey:** This is your last chance to tell us how we did this year! If you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to fill out the 2007-2008 Parent/Guardian Survey. For your convenience, it is available on line at www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=mHqlzGgMEi1eUfebIDGomw_3d_3d as well as via our web site at www.highlineacademy.org. The Highline Academy Board, Administrative Team and staff would appreciate any feedback you could provide through this survey. We know your time is valuable and appreciate your insight. This is how we get our information on improvements we need to make. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.
- Saturday, July 26th AND Saturday, August 9th, Volunteer Work Day, 9:00am Until We're Done:** Get a jump start on your volunteer hours! We need a lot of volunteers to help make our school shine before our students come back. Please join us to paint the hallways, do light construction, move furniture into place, and help teachers set up their classrooms. If your students are old enough (third grade and above) to be able to help move desks and chairs back into place, vacuum and tidy, bring them along and double your hours. Lunch will be provided. **There will not be any child care available on site for the young ones.** Please bring cleaning supplies, paint brushes, tools, and a willingness to work hard to create an environment worthy of our students!
- Pre-register your student for Kids Adventures.** If you think you may need before and/or after school care, pre-registering will make it easier when you find yourself in a jam and can't make it to pick-up on time. Once you are pre-registered, you can use them on an as needed basis. Call BJ Brennan at 303-929-8253 for more information.
- Thursday, August 28th, Parent/Guardian Curriculum Night:** Details will be forth coming in our first newsletter.
- Look For:** School supply list, uniform information and school calendar all enclosed in this package.
- Mark Your Calendars Now:** Mark your calendars now for days off from school, holidays and vacations. The calendar is on the Highline web site and is included here. *Plan your vacations and appointments during regularly scheduled days off if at all possible.*