

STANDARDIZED TESTING

A great deal of emphasis is placed on both encouraging and preparing our students to sit for standardized tests. PSATs are given during the sophomore and junior years to initially interest our students in the tests and to facilitate their readiness for the SATs. In addition, we want all our students to enter the competition for National Merit Scholarships and have the opportunity to earn academic recognition and financial rewards.

In the past several years we have begun to develop and expand our Advanced Placement (AP) program. As this program matures and the number of students taking these exams increases, we will be able to compile our results and present them to our community. Test results that we do track revolve around the SATs. Below you will find the results of our recent graduating classes.

SAT I	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Writing Mean	28	27	28	27	27	28
Critical Reading Mean/EBRW	568	552	567	545	559	550
Math Mean	539	532	591	554	554	555
Overall Mean	1135	1111	1186	1126	1140	1133
Total Seniors	15	19	12	48	83	92



POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
4-Year College	51%	48%	52%	38%	47%	53%
2-Year College	26%	34%	28%	29%	35%	30%
Military	0%	3%	2%	4%	0%	5%
Employment	11%	10%	7%	7%	15%	12%
Not Declared	12%	5%	11%	22%	3%	0%

MINIMUM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Highland High School students must successfully complete a minimum of 22.00 credits in coursework to graduate. Diplomas are offered on a school level, a Regents level, and an Advanced Regents level. In order for a student to earn a Regents diploma, additional coursework must be completed and exams passed. Basic requirements for graduation include the following:

- 1. Four years of English
- 2. Four years of Social Studies
- 3. Three years of Mathematics
- 4. Three years Science
- 5. One year of Art, Music, or an Art/Music combination
- 6. Two credits in Physical Education
- 7. One credit of Foreign Language
- 8. One-half credit of Health



COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
CURRENTLY ATTENDED BY HIGHLAND GRADUATES

Alfred University	Manhattan College	SUNY Delhi
American University	Marist College	SUNY Dutchess
Arizona State University	Mary Baldwin College	SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology
Bard College	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	SUNY Fredonia
Barnard College	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	SUNY Geneseo
Binghamton University	Mercy College	SUNY Institute of Technology
Bloomsburg University	Mount Saint Mary College	SUNY Maritime
Boston University	New York University	SUNY New Paltz
Brooks Institute	North Carolina State University	SUNY Oneonta
Brown University	Northeastern University	SUNY Oswego
The Citadel	Oklahoma State University	SUNY Potsdam
Clarkson University	Pace University	SUNY Purchase
College of St. Rose	Pennsylvania State University	SUNY Stony Brook
Cornell University	Philadelphia University	SUNY Ulster
Culinary Institute of America	Post University	Stevens Institute of Technology
Drexel University	Pratt University	Syracuse University
Eastern Connecticut State University	Princeton University	Temple University
Emerson College	Purdue University	Tufts University
Emmanuel College	Queens College	Union College
Eugene Lang College	Quinnipiac University	United States Naval Academy
Florida Southern College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Buffalo
Fordham University	Russell Sage College	University of California San Diego
Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering	Rutgers University	University of Colorado Boulder
Hofstra University	Sacred Heart University	University of Connecticut
Hudson Valley Community College	St. John's University	University of Chicago
Hunter College	St. Lawrence University	University of Michigan
Iona College	St. Michael's College	University of Hartford
Ithaca College	Saint Peters University	University of New Haven
Johns Hopkins University	Seton Hall University	University of North Carolina
Johnson & Wales University	Siena College	University of Notre Dame
LeMoynes College	SUNY Albany	University of Pennsylvania
Loyola University	SUNY Alfred	University of South Florida
Macaulay Honors College at Hunter	SUNY Brockport	Vassar College
	SUNY Buffalo	West Virginia University
	SUNY Cortland	Western Connecticut State University

Staff

DISTRICT STAFF KEY PERSONNEL

Superintendent: Joel E. Freer

Athletic Director: Frank Alfonso

Assistant Superintendent: William Zimmer

Guidance Counselor: Kristin Candia

Principal: Kevin M. Murphy

Guidance Counselor: Heather Laubach

Assistant Principal: Brandon K. Opitz

Guidance Counselor: Danielle Garcia

Assistant Superintendent Student Services: Dr. Patrick Boyd

Goals

DISTRICT GOALS

Achieve academic success and excellence.

Incorporate quality management practices in all aspects of district and board operations.

Build public confidence and involvement in our schools.

Develop and implement a five year strategic plan that meets the faculty, transportation, educational, and administrative needs of the district.

HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL
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Highland
HIGH SCHOOL
Highland, New York

The Benefits of
an Exceptional
Educational
System

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Highland High School serves the families of Clintondale, Highland, Milton, and West Park in a suburban-rural area located on the west bank of the Hudson River, seventy-two miles north of New York City. The Highland Central School District is a changing community in terms of population diversity and economic base.

Families move into our school district seeking the tranquility and beauty of a rural area, the closeness to the more urban areas of Dutchess County, economic opportunities associated with a growing agriculture and technology base, and the benefits of an exceptional educational system.

OUR SCHOOL

As an educational institution, we take pride in helping our students develop strong personal values, positive self-expression, self-esteem, and self-actualization. Highland has been on the cutting edge in terms of educational reform. We are an all Regents high school with heterogeneous class groupings. Highland High School is dedicated to increasing technology integration with a state-of-the-art multi-media/technology/library center. As a school, we remain committed to innovative, data-based educational change to better serve and prepare our students.

With an enrollment of approximately 585 students in grades 9 through 12, we are proud of the intimacy and individual attention afforded by our small size. Our students in their home school can choose from numerous course selections, which are designed to match their interests and abilities. Outside of the home school, interested students can choose from a wide array of vocational and technical courses offered by Ulster and Dutchess Counties BOCES. Relationships also exist with local SUNY and private colleges. Students in their junior and senior years may take courses through these institutions. In addition to a comprehensive college preparatory program, we provide full remedial and special educational services, as well as a counseling staff, to meet the psychosocial demands of our students.

OUR STAFF

Highland High School has attracted a dedicated and highly trained instructional staff. Our teachers hold advanced degrees and certificates. In addition, our entire teaching staff has been trained in classroom management and innovative instructional strategies. Our staff has been extremely involved in the tremendous changes that have taken place in our school. Being vested in this change process, our teachers work hard to provide excellence in the classroom.

OUR STUDENT BODY

Our changing student population reflects the increasing pluralism of this society. Students in our school represent many ethnic and cultural groups. This diversity within our student population affords a wonderful opportunity for increased intercultural understanding and a strengthening of connections among different groups.

ACCREDITATION

Highland High School is accredited by the New York State Education Department.

OUR GRADING & RANKING SYSTEM

Cumulative grade point averages (GPAs) are calculated based on a weighting system and are used to determine class decile placement. Only final course grades are used for weighting purposes. Not all courses are weighted. Advanced Placement, college level and honor courses have a weighting of 1.065, and Regents courses have a weighting of 1.025. GPA's are computed at the end of the sixth and seventh semesters. All failed courses are included. A student's GPA is determined by adding the cumulative total of all final averages and dividing by the number of credits. Minimum passing grade is 65. Grading Scale: 0-100 unweighted, highest weighted average possible is 106.5.

Conversion Chart Used at Highland High School		
Percentile	Letter Grade	Quality Points
93-100	A	4.00
90-92	A-	3.67
87-89	B+	3.33
83-86	B	3.00
80-82	B-	2.67
77-79	C+	2.33
73-76	C	2.00
70-72	C-	1.67
67-69	D+	1.33
66	D	1.00
65	D-	0.67
0-64	F	0.00

COURSE OFFERINGS

Highland High School attempts to offer a curriculum that is broad in scope and flexible in design to meet the needs of our students. We are committed to maximizing course opportunities given the size of our school and availability of our instructional staff. Courses are offered on the AP, College, New York State Regents and local levels. Courses that are weighted have an asterisk * next to them.

English

*English 11R
*English 10R
*English 9R
*College Public Speaking
*AP/College Composition 1
*AP/College Writing & Rhetoric
Voice & Identity in Society
RISE (Rap is Social Evolution)
Creative Writing
Dramatic Literature

Social Studies

*AP/College US History I/II
*US History 11R
*Global Studies 9R
*Global Studies 10R
*AP/College Economics/Government
Government & Economics
General Psychology
Abnormal Psychology
Current Events
*AP World History
Citizenship in Action
America Through Many Eyes

Mathematics

*AP/College Calculus
*College Pre-Calculus
*Algebra II
*Geometry
Statistics
*Algebra I
Intermediate Algebra
*College Quantitative Reasoning
Financial Literacy

Science

*AP/College Biology
*AP/College Chemistry
*AP/College Physics
*Physics R
*Chemistry R
*Biology R
Anatomy & Physiology
Organic Living
Forensics
*Earth Science R

Languages

*College Spanish 5
*College Spanish 4
*Spanish 3R
*Spanish 2R
*College French 5
*College French 4
*French 3R
*French 2R

Health

Physical Education

PE 9th – 12th

Music

Concert Band
Jazz Band
Concert Choir
Music Industry Explorations

Art/Technology

Studio Art Workshop
Studio in Crafts
Draw & Painting 1
*AP/Advanced Draw & Paint
Sculpture
College Introduction to
Drawing/Illustration

STEM

Principles of Engineering
Computer Science 1
Web Design
AP Computer Science
Video Production

Additional Opportunities

Full time and part time college study is offered in students' senior year. Vocational programs are offered through Ulster and Dutchess BOCES.

College Program Affiliations

Articulation agreements exist through the following credit-granting institutions:

SUNY Ulster: General Biology I & II, Principles of Microeconomics, American History I & II, Calculus I, General Physics I & II, Public Speaking, Intermediate Spanish I, Intermediate Spanish II, Quantitative Reasoning, Intermediate French I & II

SUNY New Paltz: Chemistry I & II, Composition I, Writing & Rhetoric

Marist College Greystone Project: an eLearning experience offering a variety of online courses to Highland students.

Interscholastic Athletics

Women's Sports include: golf, soccer, softball, basketball, tennis, track & field, cross country, volleyball, bowling, swimming, lacrosse, and flag football.

Men's Sports include: soccer, football, basketball, baseball, cross-country, track & field, tennis, golf, wrestling, bowling, and lacrosse.

Cheerleading is offered in the fall and winter for students in grades 9-12.