

HIGHLANDER HILLTOP 5/21

Dear Highlander Families,

Another week, another SBAC assessment that students rocked. Our 7th and 8th grade students did an amazing job with the Math assessment and performance task this week. Next week, we will be completing make up assessments for our students who needed some additional time, and our 8th grade students will be completing the NGSS Science assessment.

To celebrate the completion of our state testing for the season, we will be holding our first middle school field day in over 10 years. This will occur next Friday. Students will be encouraged to dress comfortably and wear sneakers, as they compete with all of the other cohorts around the school.



-Chuck

Upcoming Events:

May 28th – Field Day

June 3rd – Junior Achievement Day for 8th graders

June 8th – 8th grade Awards

June 11th – 3:00-4:00 PM – 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony 4:00-6:00 PM- Step up Celebration

We are in need 7th grade parents to serve as chaperones... email chershon@portlandct.us if interested.

June 15th – Yearbook Signing and fun Ice Cream Truck

National Day of Gray 5/27/2021

On May 27th schools across the Portland Public School district will be rallying together to participate in the **National Day of Gray** to honor the lives and memories of brain tumor patients everywhere. This cause is near and dear to our hearts as one of our own, Elisha Millerd Lewis, lost her husband Dan in March after a two-year battle with a primary brain tumor. On May 27th we ask that all students and staff **WEAR GRAY** to bring awareness to the cause. In addition, if you are able, please consider making a small donation to the CT Brain Tumor Alliance, an organization that provides hope and support to local families like Elisha's during difficult times. Donations can be brought directly to school and will be collected throughout the day or can be made online by visiting <https://ctbta.rallybound.org/support/Donate>.

FROM THE NURSES OFFICE:

May is mental health awareness month. **Half of all lifetime cases of mental disorders begin by age 14***. The key to successful mental health intervention is early detection, treatment, and family-school partnerships. The following links from the National PTA lead to videos that may be helpful for families as we continue to navigate a challenging year. Fresh air, sunlight, healthy diet and increased physical activity helps too!

- [The Link Between Kids' Stress Levels and Technology Use](#)
- [Talking with Teens About Stress Management:](#)
- [How to Tell When a Kid is Emotionally Struggling:](#)
- [Caring for Every Child's Mental Health: The Signs, Strategies and Services Families and Schools Need](#)



*National Institute of Mental Health Release of landmark and collaborative study conducted by Harvard University, the University of Michigan and the NIMH Intramural Research Program (release dated June 6, 2005 and accessed at nimh.nih.gov)

Grade 7 News:



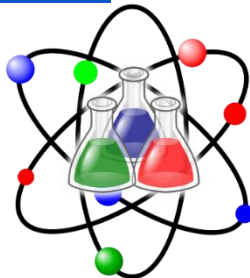
Another great week in the books for seventh grade students as they're pushing right to the end of the year. In tragic news, the Titanic sank in ELA classes and our students are now investigating the causes and assigning blame. I wouldn't want to be Captain Smith right now.

Social studies students are investigating the ancient philosophies of China. Did you know that most of us are familiar with Confucianism? If you've ever heard the Golden Rule, you've heard the wisdom of Confucius. We will finish up with Daoism and Legalism later this week as we head towards our leaning about modern China. Pre-Algebra students are learning to calculate interest, while in science, the body systems unit is well underway. We're all looking forward to seeing the results of that study next week!

Grade 8 News:

8th Graders will be taking the Next Generation Science Standard (NGSS) state assessment on Monday and Tuesday next week. This will cover a variety of topics that the students have learned about in science classes during 6th, 7th and 8th grade. They already took the 3rd-5th grade assessment at the end of 5th grade and have been practicing with some interim assessments this year. They are being assessed more on science thinking skills rather than memorized content. Students have been working on science and engineering practices such as asking questions, developing and making models, analyzing data, construction explanations and engaging in arguments from evidence. They have also been using a variety of cross cutting concepts like cause & effect, patterns, structure & function, energy & matter for many years. NGSS science is a wonderful way to help all students become scientists by using these skills while learning new content.

You can review these standards at the [NGSS website](#).



Volunteer Hours Available at the Portland Library This Summer!

The library has made the decision to welcome Summer Reading Volunteers again this year after a hiatus last year. This position counts as community service for school or religious organizations so it's a great opportunity for those who need hours. Volunteers should be entering grades 7-up and will need to attend an online training session and adhere to COVID-19 safety requirements, including wearing a mask and social distancing. Hours are flexible and there is no minimum requirement. Please see Mrs. Jenn Renk at the library for more information. Click the link to apply!

[2021 Internship Application Portland Public Library.pdf](#)