



HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1400 S. Brannon Stand, Dothan, AL 36305
334-794-1459

Principal: Beth Bouchard
Assistant Principal: Lauren Buchanan

The Highlands Highway

October 2021

Our school empowers all students to embrace learning, achieve their personal best, and build their emotional, social, and physical well-being to equip them with the skills and mindset to thrive and then take on the world.

October offers many opportunities for Highlands students and families. *School pictures will be taken on Friday, October 1.* Our “Back to School Night” is scheduled for *Tuesday, October 5* from 6 - 7 PM. This event provides a modified day that your child experiences from the classroom to specials classes to physical education class. The LinC program will host a meeting on *Thursday, October 7, 5:30 PM*, followed by our October PTO and Bright Key meeting at 6 PM. Students will enjoy Fall Break *October 15 – 19.* *Report cards will be sent home on October 20.* On *Friday, October 22*, we will participate in “Rock Your School.” Each year, thousands of educators around the world participate in this event impacting millions of students in active learning. Students and staff will be asked to wear neon colors. Our “Highlands Beautification Day” has been rescheduled for *Saturday, October 23*, with a service day at Highlands Elementary from 9 – 11 AM. Please contact our PTO leadership team ~Ann-Marie Sullivan or Melanie Register ~ for more information. Red Ribbon Week is scheduled as a Dothan-Houston County collaborative program, *October 23 – 31.* Our school will have a variety of events and themed days during the week of *October 25 – 29.* More information will be sent home about this week later in the month.

Hispanic Heritage Month, *September 15 – October 15*, is a focus for our students. On *October 14*, students will attend an assembly that highlights student work and activities that represent this focus.

Professional Development for our faculty and staff will occur on *October 15* with “The Whole Child Initiative” training, presented by Dr. Greg Benner, School of Education, University of Alabama. The whole child approach is designed to ensure that each student is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged, and sets the standard for comprehensive, sustainable school improvement to provide for long-term student success.

As our school year continues, we welcome you and your children as partners jointly dedicated to helping your child grow into a healthy, happy, and successful individual. Highlands Elementary School is committed to the belief that all children can and will learn. It is also understood that children learn at different rates, have different needs, and have different learning styles. Our goal is to develop independent, self-reliant, life-long learners.

Important Information:

The safety and health of our students, staff, and families are most important. Visitors are limited to the front entrance and are required to follow the building guidelines when entering the building. Masks are required to be worn when in the school building. Physical spacing will be implemented throughout the building when possible.

Highlands Elementary 2021-2022 t-shirts are available for \$15.00. Again, thank you to Highlands Elementary Parent Organization for making this happen!

Attendance and On-time Arrival to school are very important to the success of your child’s education. Be sure to notify your child’s teacher and the office if your child is absent.

Highlands Elementary School parents and guardians represent a wealth of resources that enrich the school. Parents contribute in a variety of ways. The Highlands Elementary School Parent Organization is an excellent way for parents to become involved with the school. The PTO provides an opportunity to meet other parents and teachers, build rapport, increase communication, and be informed. By becoming active in the PTO, you will be demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education. Studies show children do better in school when parents are involved. The purpose of the PTO is to strengthen, enhance, and encourage the educational and social environment of Highlands Elementary School. Please contact Ann-Marie Sullivan and Melanie Register, the PTO leadership team, for more information.

We have initiated the implementation of a new snack program “Healthy Food for a Happy World” to address childhood nutrition through a Healthy Food Initiative and the DCS Wellness Policy for Snacks and Special Events. We appreciate your support with providing healthy snacks for your child.

Your child’s school year will be full of adventure and wonder as they experience exciting and interesting active learning opportunities. We look forward to sharing this year together.