

Directions for First Day of School and Opening Ceremony at Spring Meadows

Tuesday, August 28, 2018 9:30 A.M.

The start of the school year is a very special time for families, students, and faculty. Highlands Latin School begins the year with a traditional ceremony that recognizes the importance of the school community. Our ceremony will take place on the circular lawn in front of Cooke Hall. **Students arrive between 9:00 and 9:25.**

Junior Kindergarten – JK students arrive at 9:00 and should proceed directly to their classroom with a parent. They do not participate in the Opening School Ceremony.

When you enter the campus, cross the bridge and immediately turn left toward the Lower School office building. Volunteers will direct cars to the parking lot or the front lawn.

To Prepare for the Ceremony:

- After parking, parents should first escort their students to the courtyard between the gazebo and the cottages *by 9:20 A.M.* Students will assemble with their classroom teachers and classmates at flags which clearly indicate each grade's location.
- **Parents** then drop off backpacks in their students' classrooms and assemble in and around the chairs on the lawn to await the beginning of the ceremony. Volunteers will assist you in finding a place. Students should not enter the buildings prior to the ceremony. The significance of the ceremony is to recognize the importance of their progression to the next grade level with their classmates. Entering the classroom together with teachers leading reinforces that significance.

Because the first day of school can be a bit stressful for the younger ones, we ask that parents drop their children off as quickly as possible and take a place among other parents. A quick separation will also give teachers adequate time to prepare the students for the ceremony.

Parents of Kindergarteners and students new to HLS: Please talk to your children about these plans. It is a busy, exciting morning and knowing what to expect is important. They should know that they will wait with their classes. Once in line, they should watch their teachers to know what to do.

After the brief opening ceremony, students will be dismissed to their classrooms for the first day of school. K-6 students can be picked up at 3:30 P.M., and 7-12 students can be picked up at 3:40 P.M.

Parents are to remain on the lawn until the last student is safely on the St. Andrew and St. Patrick sidewalks. Volunteers will direct cars to ease your exit.

Rain contingency: If it is raining at 9:00, the ceremony will be in the gym. Please drop K-6 students off in the gym lobby and 7-12 students in Cooke Hall. Teachers and administrators will be available to assist you. Parents will drop off backpacks to classrooms.

The Opening School Ceremony is meaningful for parents, students, and faculty alike. It conveys the importance we place on the pursuit of wisdom, knowledge, and virtue. We look forward to seeing you there!