

Highlands Latin School Spring Meadows Campus
2018 Christmas Events

The Christmas season is upon us! Listed below is all the information you will need to make the next few weeks smooth, merry, and meaningful for your family. Grade specific information will be sent by your child's teacher.

Our students have been hard at work since the beginning of the school year to prepare for their Cantatas. As a courtesy to the performers and other families, we recommend that families with young children find a babysitter for the performances. If young children attend, we ask that they not use hand-held electronics during the performances. These diminish the significance of the occasions and distract others in the congregation. *Thank you for your consideration!*

NOTE: There are two changes to previous years' Christmas Cantatas:

- The **Grammar School Christmas Cantata** begins at **4:30PM** not 4:00PM as in years past.
- The **SM Primary Christmas Cantata** will be held in the **SM gymnasium**, not at Middletown Christian Church as in years past.

1. Friday, Dec. 14 – Grammar School Christmas Cantata, CHBC Sanctuary, 4:30PM. Rehearsal begins at 2:45PM.

- This is a regular school day for all 3rd-12th grade students. Third through sixth grade students should wear performance uniforms.
- Please go directly to CHBC after picking up your student at Spring Meadows. It provides for a more meaningful performance if all students arrive for a proper rehearsal before the performance. **Remember to pack a snack for your student to eat on the way.**
- Arriving to CH: Drive to the parking lot at the back of CHBC, and drop your student off at the Fellowship Hall doors, OR you may drop off your student at the chapel door on Birchwood Avenue. Faculty members will be in both locations to receive students.
- **Students should report to the CHBC chapel in performance uniforms for rehearsal promptly at 2:45PM.**

2. Tuesday, Dec. 18 – Primary Christmas Cantata, SM gymnasium, 8:15AM

- This is a regular school day for all K-12 students. Primary students should wear performance uniforms.
- **K-2 families** drop off at the usual time following regular carpool procedures. OR you may park in the gym lot and walk your student to the Lower School building. Parking in the Lower School building lot will be available after 8AM. Teachers will walk students to the gym for the performance. After the Cantata, teachers will escort their students back to the Lower School building.

3. Thursday, Dec. 20th is a non-uniform day!

- Students may dress casually and comfortably. They may wear jeans. Please no flip-flops, tank tops, sweatpants, t-shirts with inappropriate graphics, or hats.
- **12th Annual “Twas the Night Before Christmas Book Exchange” (K-6th grades)**
Each student should bring a wrapped book, appropriate for the culture of HLS, for a student in his age group. Book exchanges will be made during the reading of a very special version of “Twas the Night Before Christmas”. First through sixth grade boys and girls will be divided into separate groups to exchange, so your book choices should be gender-specific. However, Kindergarten book choices may be suitable for either gender. Possible gift items include classic storybooks, novels, or biographies, blank books or journals, stationary or note card

sets. Please limit your gift selections to *the simple, the classic, the lovely*...avoiding *the trendy, the cartoonish, the controversial*. For example:

- * A cloth-bound journal or blank book, *not a Spiderman spiral notebook*
- * An illustrated, children's version of Pilgrim's Progress, *not Disney*

A list of literature choices for all ages may be found on the HLS Website under Students/Summer Reading.

- **K-6 Class Christmas Parties****

If you plan to attend or help with your child's party, please make other arrangements for younger siblings.

Kindergarten teachers will communicate specific book exchange/party plans.

1st-3rd grade students will have their book exchange in the cafeteria from 10:45 – 11:00 and parties in the classroom from 11:00 – 11:55.

4th – 6th grade students will have book exchanges in the common area of the Patrick cottage from 10:45 - 11:00 and then “lunch goodies” in their classrooms from 11:00 – 11:55.

***Please remember that HLS strives for a simple celebration that focuses on the joy of the season, not on the commercial and material aspects. We ask that you not send in goodie-bags or individual gifts for your child's classmates. As stated in the Parent Handbook, “Holiday celebrations should focus on the significance of the holiday and our sense of community and family. Celebrations should be age-appropriate and classy without excessive commercialization.”*

- **7th -12th Grade Students**

ALL Students in 7th -12th grades go directly to CHBC at 8:00AM. They will eat breakfast have House athletic competitions. They will then have cantata rehearsal until the noon dismissal.

This year, instead of doing a Secret Santa Book Exchange, the House System is partnering with three hospitals and donating books to benefit the children in their care. Due to health reasons, all books will have to be new. Details concerning what types of books to purchase will be given in a House email, as well as announced during Morning Formation and lunch. Books are due by the 18th of December.

4. Thursday, December 20th - Early dismissal

- All HLS students will be dismissed at 12:00PM.
- **PARENTS OF SM UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS: You may pick up your student on Birchwood Avenue, or you may park in the CH Library lot and walk over to get them (the easiest).**

5. Thursday, December 20th - Upper School Christmas Cantata, CHBC Sanctuary, 7:00PM

- **7th -12th grade students should report to the sanctuary in performance uniforms at 6:15PM for rehearsal.**
- The HLS choir is a performance choir with a pass/fail grading scale. A student's grade is partially determined by attendance and participation in HLS performances. Students are expected to arrive on time, dressed in performance uniforms.