

At Highland School, we learn by doing
and we learn together.

We believe in the power of community and in modeling the behaviors we want our students to embrace. We connect younger and older students, involve families in the School, and offer students many paths to both follow and blaze. We seek common ground among all kinds of learning styles because we believe that *how* people learn is as important as *what* they learn.

Because of Highland School, more young people
graduate to boundless opportunity in college and in life.



Highland School celebrates
excellence in many forms.

EXCELLENCE

NO BOUNDARIES



All kinds of excellence:

Highland School teaches to “all kinds of minds”

Highland celebrates excellence in many forms. The School helps each student reach beyond expected boundaries to embrace a personal vision of excellence, and our record of academic success suggests there are no limits to what can be achieved in such a school. “There are so many opportunities for children to find that special something,” says Lise Hicklin, Lower School Director. “They learn that all kinds of people can be successful in the world.”

ACADEMIC RECORD OF SUCCESS

Highland students are among the most outstanding in Virginia and the nation. Some highlights include:

- 100% of graduates attend college;
Over 75% to first choice
- Nearly 60% students take AP courses
- 14 AP Scholars; 1 National AP Scholar,
1 National Merit Scholar;
3 National Merit Semifinalists in three years
- 15 students in four years accepted to
Summer Governor’s School in Latin, Humanities,
Visual Arts and Math, Science, and Technology
- Jefferson and Echols Scholars attending UVA



“What I noticed is how open the school is. They wanted me to help build programs in English and varsity basketball. That’s exciting.”

—CHRIS NORKUN, ENGLISH TEACHER,
BOY’S VARSITY BASKETBALL HEAD COACH



Academic mentors Almost fifty percent of the total Highland School administration and faculty and sixty-four percent of the Upper School faculty hold graduate degrees. Scholars, educators, and mentors, many also volunteer in the community, coordinate Highland service programs, and coach sports teams.

Athletics Widely known and respected as tough competitors, Hawk athletes embrace the thrill of winning and the virtues of sportsmanship. Members of the national Positive Coaching Alliance, Highland coaches help student athletes “redefine what a winner is,” says Gary Leake, Athletic Director, “and make the game itself better.”

Arts Central to the School’s mission, arts education distinguishes Highland. All Lower and Middle School students participate in visual art and music as regular parts of the curriculum. They enter Grade 9 eager for creative exploration, and more than 50 percent of students continue to pursue extracurricular arts in the Upper School.

There is not a mandatory sports requirement, but nearly 90% of Upper School students participate.

“At Highland, you are surrounded by people who are very talented in many different ways. You really gain an appreciation for diversity.”

—SAMMY, UPPER SCHOOL STUDENT

ART OF EXCELLENCE Highland art projects include a mural at the Loudon County fairgrounds, a watercolor published in *The Chronicle of the Horse*, public showings, and works selected for a yearlong display the College Board regional office in Atlanta.

ATHLETICS Highland fields 18 varsity teams in the Delaney Athletic Conference. The Hawks are perennial contenders, having won numerous divisional and state championships in recent years. Teams produce all-state athletes, and many graduates continue athletics at the college level.





LEARNING

NO BOUNDARIES

Active learning: The best of traditional and nontraditional education

Experience *is* the best teacher, after all. At Highland, we combine the best of traditional and nontraditional methodologies to create a full-time *active* learning environment where each student's journey of discovery comes to life through hands-on activities. Here, students grow and develop bounded only by their energy and interests. Field Study projects make research real. A highly evolved wilderness program introduces students to the wonder and majesty of the natural world.

LEARN ON THE WILD SIDE

Students and faculty guides get away from campus and back to nature for lifelong lessons in cooperation, leadership, teamwork, and community.

Recent trips include:

- Dog sledding in Maine
- Skiing in West Virginia
- Canoeing the Rio Grande
- Rock climbing in the Appalachian Mountains
- Rafting the Lower Youghiogheny River



“All kinds of people have something to offer; collaboration is the way the world works. At Highland, it is cool to be totally engaged.”

—CASSIN BERTKE, DIRECTOR OF STUDIES

Active learning abounds Highland courses are as much *active* as *academic*. Some examples: students of drama, literature, and media make real films using sophisticated digital filmmaking tools. Field study trips to environmental centers underscore classroom science lessons. Students of Shakespeare read plays, act the roles, and attend performances.

Counseling the right fit College counseling at Highland emphasizes finding the best post-secondary “fit” for each student. College admissions counselors visit campus to meet students and answer questions. Young alumni return to give presentations and describe their college experiences. Beginning in Grade 9, counseling is an open discussion among parents, students, and the School about making the best choices for the right reasons.

Technology at Highland “In a school that prides itself on community,” says Director of Technology Robert Hampton, “a computer can be a powerful tool for bringing people together.” The School has embraced sophisticated digital technologies in support of art and music, foreign language, and science instruction, and students gain wide-ranging computer proficiency across platforms and disciplines.

BEST OF THE BEST Highland offers nine Honors courses in a range of subjects and 19 AP classes, which are attended by 60% of seniors.

COLLEGE BOUND Recent college acceptances include the most prestigious schools in Virginia, as well as New York University, Johns Hopkins University, Wake Forest University, Yale University, and many others.

LEARNING HOW WE LEARN In the Learning Center, educational specialists deliver a range of support services to PK through Grade 12 students in need of extra attention, advocacy, remediation, and individualized instruction. On-campus resources help ensure that every Highland student develops confidence, competence, and academic independence.

INTERNATIONAL EXCURSIONS

- England
- Equador
- Eygpt
- Greece
- Kenya
- Poland
- Spain
- Turkey

LOWER/MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPUTER LAB

Built around a network of high-end iMac computers running the latest Mac OS, Highland’s computer lab inspires the academic mind and feeds the creative spirit. Applications include:

- Instruction in Microsoft Office
- Internet Webquests, Grades 3-4
- *Custom Typing*, online typing lessons, Grades 3-5
- Wiki site creation, Grade 5
- Web page construction, Grade 6
- *Alice* software, introductory programming, Grade 6
- Digital photography, Grade 7
- Lego-based virtual robotics lab, *Mindstorms Robolab*, Grades 7-8
- Digital Video editing with iMovie, Grade 8

Lower School PK through Grade 4

Designed to nurture and direct every child's innate curiosity and wonder, the Lower School is filled with fun exploration, confidence building public performance, and character building community service. Experiential math, writing, and science classes form the curricular foundation; speech and language therapy resources are available. All students develop a working knowledge of the fundamentals of visual art and music. Each year, field study projects take students beyond campus to explore and grow. From food and book drives for local causes to raising money for a sister school in Kenya and adopting endangered animals, Lower School students are full participants in the School's community service program.



Academics

Highland students discover there are no boundaries to what they can achieve, because a Highland education is designed to set them free. From the first days of Pre-Kindergarten to the end of Grade 12, Highland's college preparatory education is very student-centered. As one teacher puts it, "When my students are more active in class than I am, I know I've succeeded." Mapped across all grades, the curriculum is cohesive, expansive, and solidly skills-based, and teachers are trained to adapt their teaching to a wide range of learning styles. The School takes seriously its commitment to balancing academic, athletic, and artistic excellence; everyone works hard to help students participate in many ways.

Middle School Grades 5 through 8

With the middle years come explosive intellectual and personal changes. We celebrate these young learners with an age-appropriate and varied program that challenges them academically, athletically, socially, and artistically in a nurturing environment where they feel safe to try new roles as they mature beyond childhood. Regular assembly; wellness, typing, and computer programming classes; and overnight field study projects are part of the experience. Core academics—including foreign languages—are emphasized, as are visual and digital arts, theater, and music. Competative sports are available beginning in Grade 6. Such leadership opportunities as Blue/Gold Captains and Student Host Program are available, and students participate in community service throughout the year.



Upper School Grades 9 through 12

Because there is so much to do, the toughest challenge an Upper School student faces is time management. Challenging college preparatory academics including independent study and numerous advanced placement courses, exposure to fine and performing arts, opportunities for full participation in athletics—the Upper School years at Highland offer many paths to excellence and a supportive environment in which to achieve at the highest possible levels. Here, challenge and support go hand in hand, and a low student-teacher ratio ensures that students receive the individual attention they need to develop independence and confidence—skills essential for success in college and in life. Through such institutions as the Honor Code and a well-developed community service program, high moral and ethical standards permeate all facets of Upper School life.





“We have a very community-centered culture here at Highland. Everyone helps everyone else. Everyone gets a chance to contribute.”

—SARA, MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

LEADERSHIP

NO BOUNDARIES



FOUNDER'S SCHOLARS Highland awards merit-based scholarships to students of exceptional intelligence who possess the highest qualities of leadership, character and citizenship.

ATHLETIC LEADERSHIP The Captain's Club comprises captains of all athletic teams who, with guidance from the Positive Coaching Alliance and their coaches, examine the true meaning of competition and sportsmanship.

CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM This unique credit program offers students a detailed multidisciplinary approach to leadership education.

GREEN LEADERS Members of the student-led Green Team tackle environmental issues on-campus and off. Their goal: raise environmental awareness throughout the community.

Leadership and character:

Instilling values of trust, honesty, and integrity

There are many ways to lead. Highland helps each student discover what leadership means on a personal level. The Upper School Honor Code, maintained and managed entirely by students, promotes a school-wide culture of trust. The entire learning experience, which emphasizes the development of many talents, allows more leadership styles to emerge and flourish. The School's commitment to teaching many kinds of learners likewise encourages a wider definition of leadership.

“Sometimes the best follower turns out to be a great leader.”

—SALLY PONT, DEAN OF STUDENTS AND DIRECTOR OF CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Honor Code At the beginning of each school year, every Middle/Upper School student is asked to sign the Honor Code, pledging to uphold its dictates and its spirit. An elected board of student prefects oversees day-to-day management of all Honor Code related activities.

Learn to lead Beginning in Grade 10, students can take Leadership Studies, an elective leading to a Certificate of Leadership offered through Highland’s unique Character and Leadership Development Program. Content covers leadership methods and styles, as well as ethics and communication. A required practicum provides real-world experience.

Buddies and role models All kindergartners are paired with senior buddies who become their friends and mentors at Highland. They do things together throughout the year, getting to know one another and the School. At the end of the year, they share letters about the experience, strengthening connections.

Hawk spirit An active student government contributes greatly to the spirit of the School. Organizing dances, field day activities, picnics for new students at the beginning of the year, and more, participants in student council get lifelong lessons in organizing and leading projects of all kinds.



“Highland plays tough competition. I enjoy the challenge.”

—JOE, UPPER SCHOOL STUDENT



TOGETHER

NO BOUNDARIES

Commitment to community:

Service to others

At the heart of the Highland experience is engagement with community. The School's many service opportunities and unique community resources make this a perfect place for students to discover the joy of giving back and how, working together, they can help make the world a better place. Site of numerous community events and activities, Highland School plays an important role in the cultural and intellectual life of greater Warrenton. Including a mandatory 75-hour individual senior project, Upper School student volunteers contribute an average of 150 hours of community service over four years.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNERS

- Empty Bowls
- Fauquier County SPCA
- Fauquier County Parks and Recreation
- Fauquier County Family Shelter
- Found Art project
- American Red Cross

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- American Children of SCORE
- Warrenton Chorale
- Piedmont Symphony Orchestra
- Teaching/Learning Center
- UVA Saturday Enrichment Program
- Enkijape School, sister school in Kenya



“Performances by the American Shakespeare Company, the Piedmont Symphony, and others bring the community to campus. But Highland student productions also attract a widespread attendance, and Highland has become an arts venue in its own right.”

—MICHAEL HUGHES, FINE ARTS DIRECTOR



CULTURAL RESOURCE The Center for the Arts is home to the Piedmont Symphony Orchestra, the Warrenton Chorale, and the American Children of SCORE. Facilities offer theater students interested in everything from singing and acting to set design and stage management the opportunity to pursue their art in professional surroundings.

“We are building connections beyond our four walls and ensuring that we are a resource to the community.”


—HANK BERG, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Part of Warrenton since 1928 Founded by Dorothy Rust and Lavinia Hamilton, Highland School began as the Warrenton Branch of the Calvert School of Baltimore. Since then, the School has deepened its commitment to providing area students with a unique blend of traditional and nontraditional, active learning opportunities.

Parents Association Presiding over the School’s welcoming sense of community, a highly motivated Parents Association helps run and staff fundraisers that make key programs possible. Modeling service is an essential part of a Highland education, and the Parents Association embodies this time-honored school value.

Community service close to home Service experiences include helping with county and city parks and animal rescue projects, local shelters, and more. For the Empty Bowls project, Highland ceramics students create and auction crafted bowls to the highest bidder with proceeds supporting local soup kitchens.

Beyond Warrenton Students experience total service and leadership immersion working on projects in such places as Washington, DC, New Orleans, and Kenya. Projects come alive when paired with service learning activities that teach participants about the places and people they are serving.

A close-up photograph of a group of diverse young children, mostly boys, smiling and looking towards the camera. The children are of various ethnicities and are dressed in light-colored shirts. The background is slightly blurred, showing more children and an adult's face in the upper right corner.

“The most important thing Highland does is help students gain the confidence to speak in front of others. You can never take that away. To feel comfortable in front of a group of people is a great life lesson.”

—LINDA KIRBY, PARENT



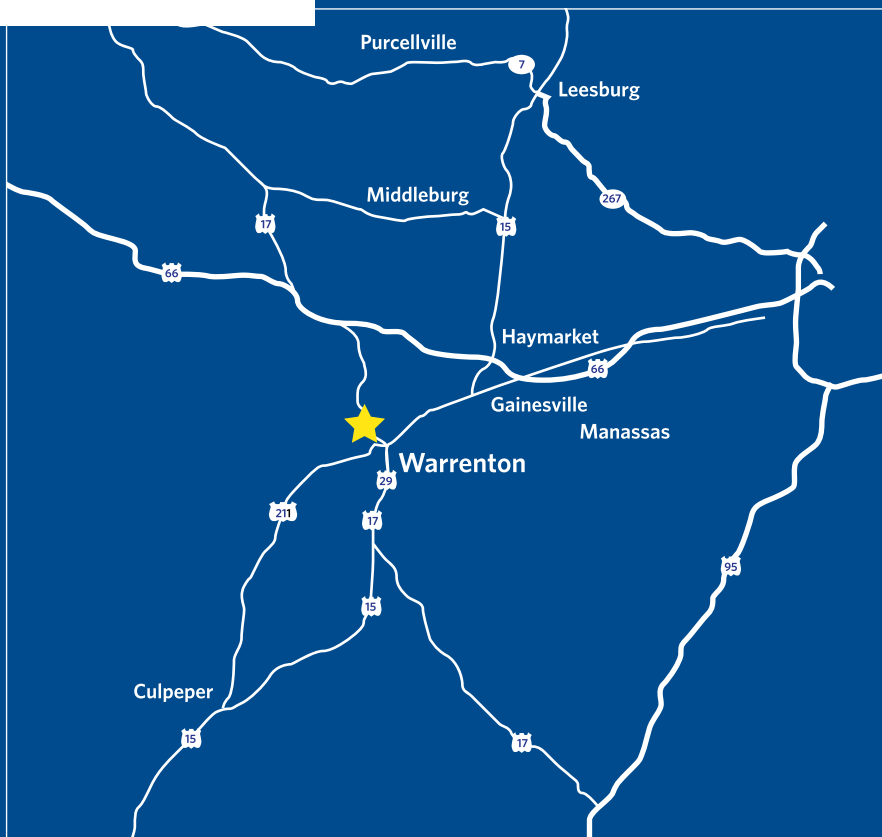
“The mindset here is that conventional education is great, but there needs to be more. We offer that.”

—MARY FAHNING, UPPER SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Admission. Highland offers a learning community where diversity is celebrated and each student's strengths are nurtured. Strongly committed to making a Highland education affordable to families, we offer need-based financial assistance and merit-based scholarships.

We invite you to learn more about Highland School and how an active, engaged education can help your child grow—as a student and a person. Tours and half-day student visits are scheduled daily by appointment. We look forward to welcoming you to Highland.

BUS SERVICE The Highland community stretches across ten counties. Bus service is available to and from Culpeper, Haymarket, Middleburg, Purcellville, Gainesville, Leesburg, and Manassas.



Highland is located at 597 Broadview Avenue, Warrenton, and Virginia.