

HIGHLANDER ACADEMY
ON THE HISTORIC
FLORA MACDONALD CAMPUS



2025 - 2026
STUDENT
HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO HIGHLANDER ACADEMY!

If you are a new family, we are very glad that you have decided to join us. If you are a returning family, it is a great pleasure to welcome you back to what promises to be another fine year in the growth and development of our school.

As you familiarize yourself with this handbook, please understand that it is intended to be a guide to our school's policies, practices, and philosophies. It is not meant to detail each and every standard or practice, but rather to serve as a reference for the main aspects of daily life at our school and a larger vision of the school's ideals and expectations.

A school is a disciplined community, a place where individuals accept their obligations to others and where well-defined procedures guide behavior for the common good. This handbook describes the expectations for behavior and conduct in the Highlander Academy community and outlines the procedures to be followed when these expectations are not met.

It is your road map, containing the policies and procedures that will guide you as a student.



OUR HISTORY

The movement for higher education for women in North Carolina led to the founding of the Red Springs Seminary in 1896. The Fayetteville Presbytery of the former Presbyterian Church in the United States determined to establish a school for girls in the area. Coming forward with an offer of \$2500, four acres of land, and forty students, the town of Red Springs was chosen as the site for the new school. Red Springs was well known for the healing properties of the mineral waters from which the town takes its name. In addition, it was largely populated by the descendants of Scottish Highlanders who held both religion and education amongst their highest values.

Dr. Charles Graves Vardell was selected as the founding president of the proposed school, and he threw himself wholeheartedly into the work. Standing on the edge of the swampy future site of the school he said, "Here is a place for a garden, the like of which cannot be found, and here is a place for a girls' school, the need of which is unequaled." On September 30, 1896, Red Springs Seminary for Young Ladies opened in a small wooden building with ninety students and a faculty of "six cultured educators".

Assisting Dr. Vardell in his work was his wife, the former Linda Lee Rumble, herself an accomplished musician. It was under her direction that the conservatory of music was established. Its prestige grew so quickly that in 1903 the name of the institution was changed to the Southern Presbyterian College and Conservatory of Music.

These two dedicated educators continued to work side by side for thirty-four years and under their leadership the college flourished and gained widespread prestige and recognition. The original frame building was soon replaced with the imposing brick edifice that stands today. In



FMC Archive, Red Springs

*An early view of Flora Macdonald College
prior to the completion of the portico and dome.*

1916, in recognition of the Scottish heroine who had lived nearby and in deference to the overwhelming Scots influence in the area, the school assumed the name Flora Macdonald College.

Scottish heritage influenced every area of college life and helped create the unique atmosphere of the campus which was felt by every visitor. Dr. Vardell had a keen interest in Scottish history and was able to assemble a significant collection of artifacts and relics related to Flora Macdonald as well as Prince Charles Edward Stuart. Every new student was taught the “Highland Fling”, and their colorful tartan costumes became a well-recognized aspect of the annual college May Day celebrations that drew huge crowds of visitors to the campus.

The end of Flora Macdonald College came in 1961, when, against the wishes of students, faculty, and area residents, the Presbytery merged the college with another institution to form a new school located elsewhere.

In September of 1964, Vardell Hall, a girl’s preparatory school and junior college, opened on the former FMC campus. It operated for nearly ten years and continued the tradition of excellence that had been long established on the campus.

Robeson Country Day School, formerly located in Lumber Bridge, moved into the building in 1973. In 1981, the student body voted to change the name of the school to Flora Macdonald Academy in deference to the heritage of the campus. On the evening of March 28, 1984, Red Springs was struck by a series of tornados that devastated the town. FMA did not escape and the building sustained serious damage. Thousands of trees were felled in the gardens, which have never fully recovered from the storm.

FMA and now Highlander Academy carries on many of the traditions of Flora Macdonald College. One of these is the annual May Day celebration held on the first Saturday in May. English customs are combined with Scottish music and dance, in acknowledgement of the Scottish heritage of the school. On May Day, crinolined girls process from the blooming gardens to the front portico where the May Queen reigns over the morning’s festivities. The traditional May Pole dance, longsword dance, and bagpipes are always a part of the celebration. Along with many others, this time-honored tradition is an integral part of life at Highlander Academy.



A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF FLORA MACDONALD

Flora Macdonald, Jacobite heroine, was born in 1722 to Randal Macdonald of Milton on the island of South Uist in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland, and his wife Marion. Her father died when she was a child, and her mother married Hugh Macdonald of Armadale, Skye. Flora was brought up under the care of the chief of her clan, the Macdonald's of Clanranald, and was partly educated in Edinburgh. Throughout her life she was a practicing Presbyterian.

During the Jacobite Risings, in June 1746, she was living on the island of Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides when Bonnie Prince Charlie took refuge there after the Battle of Culloden. The prince's companion, a Captain O'Neill, sought her assistance to help the prince avoid capture. After some hesitation, Flora agreed to help the prince escape the island. The commander of the local militia gave her a pass to the mainland for herself, a manservant, an Irish spinning maid, Betty Burke, and a boat's crew of six men. The prince was disguised as Betty Burke.

The party landed and the prince was hidden in the rocks while Flora found help for him in the neighborhood. It was arranged that he be taken to Portree, Skye, from which he later escaped to safety in France. The talk of the boatmen brought suspicion on Flora Macdonald, and she was arrested and brought to London for aiding the prince's escape. After a short imprisonment in the Tower of London, she was allowed to live outside of it, under guard until 1747, when she was released.

On 6 November 1750, at the age of 28, she married Allan Macdonald of Kingsburgh, a captain in the British army. The couple lived on the Isle of Skye where they subsequently raised five sons and two daughters. Upon the death of Allan Macdonald's father in 1772, the family moved into the Macdonald family estate at Kingsburgh. Her bravery and loyalty had gained her general sympathy, increased by her good manners and gentle character. The eminent eighteenth century author Dr. Samuel Johnson, who met her in 1773, the year before she moved to America, described her as "a woman of soft features, gentle manners, kind soul and elegant presence." He also paid the tribute that is engraved on her memorial at Kilmuir: "a name that will be mentioned in history, and if courage and fidelity be virtues, mentioned with honour."

In 1774, she and her husband immigrated to North Carolina. During the American War of Independence, Captain Macdonald served the British government in the 84th Regiment of Foot (Royal Highland Emigrants). Legend has it that she exhorted the Loyalist force at Cross Creek, North Carolina (present-day Fayetteville) as it headed off to battle in February of 1776. Allan Macdonald was captured and held prisoner for two years until a prisoner exchange

occurred in 1777. He was then sent to Nova Scotia where he took command of the 84th Regiment of Foot (Royal Highland Emigrants). After her husband was taken prisoner, Flora remained in hiding while the American patriots ravaged her family plantation and stole all of her possessions. When her husband was released from prison during the fall of 1778, she reunited with him in Nova Scotia.

In 1779, Flora returned home to Scotland in a merchant ship which was attacked by a privateer en route. She refused to leave the deck during the attack and was wounded in the arm. Flora resided at the homes of various family members until Allan returned to Scotland and the family settled again at Kingsburgh. She died on the Isle of Skye in 1790, at the age of 68 and is buried there in the Kilmuir Cemetery.

Flora's death does not bring an end to her story. Two of the children of Flora and Allan Macdonald died during their years in North

Carolina and their graves lay forgotten near the site of the Macdonald's homeplace. Flora Macdonald College founder and president, Dr. Charles G. Vardell, learned of these children and arranged to have them re-interred on the grounds of the college named in honour of their mother. In 1937 an impressive funeral was arranged, with the remains lying in state in a double coffin beneath the dome. They were carried to their final resting place by six college girls - all of whom were named Flora Macdonald. After a storm damaged the monument on Flora's grave on Skye, the college girls raised funds to help replace it, and Dr.

Vardell travelled to Scotland for the installation of the new stone. He returned home with the original, damaged marble tablet from Flora's grave, and it was placed over the graves of her children where it may still be seen today.



National Portrait Gallery, London

Flora Macdonald by Richard Wilson, 1747

HIGHLANDER ACADEMY COAT OF ARMS

The Highlander Academy coat of arms is the same as that used by Flora Macdonald College. This heraldic device was adapted from the arms of the Macdonalds of Clanranald, Flora Macdonald's own clan. Below is the heraldic description of the arms followed by a "translation" into lay terms.



1st Quarter: Argent, a lion rampant gules, armed Or; 2nd Quarter: Or, a dexter hand coupled in fess holding a cross-crosslet fitchee in pale all gules; 3rd Quarter: Or, a lymphad her oars saltireways sable, and in base undy vert a salmon naiant argent; 4th Quarter: Argent, an oak tree vert surmounted of an eagle displayed Or. In an Escrol over the shield this motto: "Learning Brings Light". On a compartment whereon this motto "Light Brings Liberty" is placed for Supporters two bears each having two arrows pierced through his body all proper.

.HIGHLANDER ACADEMY SEAL

The Highlander Academy seal is adapted from that used by Flora Macdonald College. The seal contains a Lion Rampant, universal symbol of Scotland, flanked by two fleur-de-lys. Below is the school motto, "*Disciplina Juvenes Christo*", which translates as "*Educating Young People in Christ.*" The seal is encircled by the name of the school and the date of its founding, separated by two fleur-de-lys.



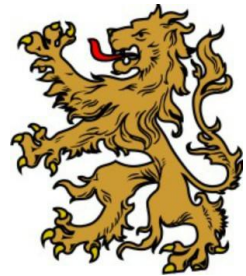
HIGHLANDER ACADEMY COLORS & TARTAN

The school colors are blue and white. The official tartan of Highlander Academy is the Ancient Macdonald of Clanranald tartan.



HIGHLANDER ACADEMY MASCOT

The mascot of the Highlander Scots is the Lion Rampant, which is also found on our school coat of arms. First adopted by King Alexander II in 1222, this is now regarded as a universal symbol of Scotland and is still in use by the Queen of Scotland today.



OUR BELIEFS

The mission of Highlander Academy is to provide a values-based, college preparatory education in a small, safe, nurturing environment. Our motto, found on the school seal, "Disciplina Juvenes Christo", translates as "Educating Young People in Christ". While not affiliated with a particular church or denomination, the beliefs and values exemplified by Christ provide the framework for life at Highlander Academy. As an institution with students of varied religious backgrounds, we lift up our Christian faith as an example to students of all faiths, with the belief that religion, properly understood, is an impetus to better understand ourselves, our religious heritage and our core values.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents have played a key role in the successive schools located on our campus since the first one opened its doors in 1896. They volunteer in many capacities and are an invaluable asset to our school. Their financial contributions have provided funds for our operating budget, technology, playground equipment, and numerous other areas.

Parental participation in our fundraising efforts is vital, as we receive no support from state or local governments. Our sole sources of operating capital are tuition, charitable gifts, and income generated from special events. Tuition covers only a portion of our operating budget. Additional financial support, whether through fundraising or financial gifts, is crucial to the continued success of Highlander Academy. We encourage all parents to participate fully in the fundraising events sponsored by the school. All gifts and contributions are tax deductible, as Highlander Academy is classified as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

TO THE PARENTS

Highlander Academy has high expectations of behavior for our students and these expectations extend to their families when relating to school matters. Parents are expected to conduct themselves appropriately when dealing with our administration, faculty, staff, students, or other parents. The children of parents who speak or act offensively or inappropriately at school and school-related events are subject to removal from our student body due to parental behavior. The Board of Trustees determines when this measure will apply.



GENERAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

CAMPUS VISITORS

In order to ensure the safety of our students no visitors, including parents, are allowed beyond the front office during the school day without checking in with the office. ALL visitors must use the Main Entrance and register with the office.

COMMUNICATION

Parents/Guardians should check their email daily for information such as announcements, schedule changes, etc. Email between the school and parents is our primary means of communication. Please be sure that the office has your current email address on file. If you are not receiving emails from the school, please contact the office.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Highlander Academy's college preparatory curriculum is designed to adequately prepare our students for the rigors of post-secondary study. It is our goal to help students meet measurable objectives in their pursuit of academic excellence.

Graduation requirements for Highlander Academy are:

English	4	English 9, 10, 11, 12
Foreign Language	2	Two levels of the same Foreign Language
Mathematics	4	Algebra I & II, Geometry and 1 Advanced Math
Science	3	Earth/Environmental Science, Biology, Physical Sciences
Social Studies	4	World History, Economics/Legal/Political, and American History I & II
Physical Education	1	Health and Physical Education
Electives	5	(Five Electives)

GRADING SCALE:

- A - 90 through 100
- B - 80 through 89
- C - 70- through 80
- D - 60 through 69
- F - Below 60 (Failing)

HONOR ROLLS

High achieving students are recognized each grading period through the Honor Rolls. The Honor Roll includes students with an overall average of 86 – 92. Qualification for the Headmistress' Honor Roll requires an overall average of 93 or above. Honor rolls are posted on the school website and distributed to local newspapers at the close of each grading period.

SCHOOL HOURS

All students should be in their classrooms by 8:00 a.m. The Tardy Bell rings at 8:05. Grades K – 6 are dismissed at 2:35 and 7- 12 at 2:45. All students are to be dropped off and picked up on the front campus.

STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Our campus drive is **One-Way Only**. Vehicles must enter through the stone front gate, follow the drive around the building, and exit through the gate located between the athletic field and the shop building. Students must be dropped-off and picked up at the front entrance – all other doors are locked.

IMPORTANT: All vehicles should remain in line on the driveway – do not attempt to go around the vehicles in front of you, and do not park on the sides of the drive. **Please do not block the driveway.** If you are not able to drop-off or pick-up promptly you should park in the designated parking places in front of the building. The parking lot beside the auditorium is also available. **Remember to drive slowly and watch out for children.**

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE OR PARK ON THE GRASS!

LUNCH

K – 6 Lunch: 11:15

7 – 12 Lunch: 12:00

Students should bring their lunch to school each day. Drinks, chips, and other snack foods are available for purchase in the Dining Hall.

All students **MUST** remain in the Dining Hall during lunch. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this rule. Additionally, **NO FOOD OR DRINK IS PERMITTED OUTSIDE THE DINING HALL UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.** The possession of food or drink outside the Dining Hall is grounds for disciplinary action.

Chromebooks are **NOT** permitted in the Dining Hall.

Parents bringing lunch to students should leave it in the office.

ATTENDANCE

All students should be at school each day that they are able. In the interests of student safety, it is important that parents notify the school office each morning of a student's absence. Notification should be made by email or telephone by 8:10 a.m.

Students who are absent more than **TEN (10) days** per semester will be placed on the list for possible retention and may not be able to receive credit for the course/year. For an absence to be considered excused, a doctor's note must be provided. Absences for routine/regularly scheduled appointments are not considered excused. Cases of excessive excused absences will be subject to review by the Board of Trustees.

In elementary grades, absences are counted by the day. A student must be in school one half day to be counted present for that day. Half-day is defined as being in school from 8:05-11:15.

In grades 7 – 12, attendance is taken daily in each individual class. A student who misses more than thirty minutes of any given class period will be considered absent from class for attendance purposes.

Students who accumulate more than 20 absences per year will receive a failing grade of 59. Students failing due to excessive absences have the opportunity to appeal to the Highlander Academy Board of Trustees to pass the course, receive credit for the course, or be promoted to the next grade.

Students attending an extracurricular activity will not be allowed to participate unless they depart from the school with their class.

Students absent on the day of tests or examinations will not be allowed to make them up without a doctor's note or, in the case of an extenuating circumstance.

Upon returning to school after being absent, students are required to present a note stating the students name, date(s) of absence, reason for absence, and parent or guardian's signature. **Written notification is required – a telephone call is not sufficient.**

EDUCATIONAL ABSENCES

Educational absences may be excused if they meet appropriate criteria and are pre-approved by the Administration. Educational Absence forms are available from the school office.

TARDIES

Students who arrive after the tardy bell rings at 8:05 must check in with the office. Additionally, students who are not in the classroom when each class begins will be counted tardy. Three (3) tardies equal 1 absence. These absences will count toward the total number allowed per year.

EARLY CHECK-OUT

Early check-out is defined as missing more than 30 minutes of a class period. In grades 7 – 12 three (3) Early Check Outs will be counted as one absence for the day/classes missed. THERE WILL BE NO CHECK-OUTS AFTER 2:00 pm.

LATE ARRIVAL & CHECK IN / OUT PROCEDURE

Upon arriving at school after the first period has begun, a parent/guardian must bring the student to the office and check him in. Students in grades 7 - 12 may check in without a parent/guardian. Students may not proceed to class without a Tardy Slip issued by the office.

Parents of elementary students must come to the office to sign out their child. Students in grades 7-12 may sign out in the school office with telephone call to the school office from a parent. Students who are checked out early will be counted as absent from all classes missed as stated in the Attendance Policy outlined above. Each teacher has the option to determine whether work missed may be made up.

LATE PICK-UP

School dismisses each afternoon as follows: K – 6 at 2:35 and 7 – 12 at 2:45. Students should be picked up promptly. A fee of \$15 will be charged per each 15-minute interval for each student remaining on campus after 3:15 p.m.

PLANNED ABSENCE

Parents who plan to remove students early from school are encouraged to give the school written notice of the planned absence 48 hours in advance. If a student needs to be checked out early for appointments, a note should be sent to the school office on the morning of the appointment. This allows teachers the opportunity to ensure that the student has his assignments for the following day.

COLLEGE DAY POLICY

Juniors and Seniors will be allowed three college visitation days. These days may be taken during the second semester of the eleventh grade or during the first semester of the twelfth grade. Students must provide appropriate validation of each campus visit. **Each college visit must be arranged in advance with the Headmistress.**

MAY DAY ABSENCES

Our school's May Day exercises, held on the first Saturday of May, are the highlight of our school year. A great deal of work, planning and practice go into the preparation for the program and all students will participate. ***May Day is a REQUIRED SCHOOL DAY.*** Students who are not in attendance on May Day will be counted absent and will receive zero (0) for their participation on that day as well as for each of the rehearsals held in preparation for the day.

EARLY CLOSING OF SCHOOL

If weather conditions due to snow and/or ice dictate that school should be closed early, inclement weather procedures will go into effect.

SCHOOL CANCELLATION

Once a decision is made by the Highlander Academy administration to cancel or delay school for the next day, announcements will be made on designated television stations. The Highlander Academy will contact parents via telephone, text, or email concerning cancellations or delays in the school schedule. Notifications will also be made posted on the Highlander Academy website.

- If it is possible to make this decision on the day prior to closure, then announcements will be made on the 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. local newscasts.
- If the decision has to be made on the morning of the closure, the decision will be announced as early as possible.
- If school needs to be delayed, announcements will be made as soon as possible, as outlined above.

CHANGE IN SCHOOL SCHEDULE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

- The Highlander Academy administration, after reviewing current weather forecasts, and reviewing conditions on the roads in the school's attendance areas, will make the decision whether to close early or to continue on a regular schedule.
- Announcements will be made on television stations listed if time permits.
- Parents will be notified via text, email, or telephone. Information will also be posted on the Highlander Academy website.

GENERAL POLICIES

BOOKS

Textbooks and library books are the property of the school and must be returned in good condition. Parents will be billed for books that are lost or damaged - this includes graffiti, and all other physical damage.

EMERGENCIES

In the event of an emergency, parents should telephone the school office. Students may come to the office when an emergency warrants a call home.

EXAMS

Exams are scheduled prior to the beginning of each school year so that families' may plan around those dates. Those missing a midterm or final exam without a doctor's note will be required to pay a \$25/per child make-up fee. Make-up exams will be scheduled at the convenience of the teacher(s) & administration.

FIELD TRIPS

Any student attending a field trip must return a signed permission slip before going. Parents may expect the following procedure:

- The teacher will send a letter to parents giving the dates, destination, purpose, chaperones, means of transportation, money required, and time returning. Field trips will begin and end at school.
- Only students in the class for whom the trip is intended may attend. Siblings not in the class may not attend. Only parents who have been asked to drive or chaperone may attend.
- School uniforms are always worn on field trips.

The Headmistress may suspend pupils from off campus events for any of the following offenses:

- Failure to maintain a minimum C average in class the grading period during which the trip occurs.
- Excessive absences or disciplinary referrals.
- Incomplete work.
- Failure to observe established safety rules and regulations.

Parents will be given adequate notice of the pending trip

MEDICATIONS

Prescribed medications must be left with the Secretary in the office. Written instruction for administering the medication must be provided by the doctor or parent. Non-prescription medications (such as aspirin or Tylenol pain relievers, cough drops, cough syrup, or other such over-the-counter items) will only be administered with parental permission.

Students who must carry medications on their person at school must have a permission slip on file in the office.

STUDENT VEHICLES

Students who have a valid driver's license may drive to school. The campus speed limit is 15 mph. Students may not leave campus or loiter in or around vehicles after they have arrived on campus for the day. They should park in the spaces adjacent to the gymnasium of the auditorium. Any violations may result in the removal of the student's privilege to drive.

TEST DAY ABSENCES

Students who are frequently absent on test days may not be allowed to make up missed tests. Permission to make-up missed tests must be granted by the administration & instructor(s).

TESTING

Each year Highlander Academy administers state-mandated standardized testing. Test dates are listed on the school calendar at the start of each school year. Those who miss testing without a doctor's note will incur a \$25 per child make-up fee. Make-up tests will be administered at the convenience of the instructor(s) and administration.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided by parents. Any student attending an off campus school event is expected to follow the directions of the driver and to conduct themselves in an orderly manner at all times.

HONOR CODE

It is the goal of Highlander Academy to instill into our students a strong sense of personal honor and integrity. These assets will stay with them throughout their lives and help to guide them as good and productive citizens. While we expect our students to behave with honor in all their doings, it is particularly important that they do so in their educational endeavors. The Highlander Academy Honor Code has been designed to help cultivate a personal code of conduct within each student in grades 5 – 12.

The following guidelines will direct the Honor Code at Highlander Academy.

Each student is honor-bound to refrain from Lying, Cheating, and Stealing.

- Lying is the intentional falsification or denial of fact or the intentional creation of a false impression.
- Cheating is the giving, receiving, or attempting to give or receive unauthorized help that may result in an unfair advantage in schoolwork. It includes the representation of another's work as one's own, including plagiarism.
- Stealing is the taking of anything without the consent of the owner.
- Witnessing any of the above acts and failing to report them makes the witness as guilty as the actual offender.

Every student should report any infraction of the Honor Code to a member of the faculty or administration. Any student found guilty of an Honor Code violation may be subject to suspension or expulsion. The degree of the penalty varies with the age and grade of the student as well as the seriousness of the offense. The decision of the Headmistress will be final. All honor and disciplinary violations will become a permanent part of the student's record and will be included with all college transcript requests.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Highlander Academy Board of Trustees has adopted the following Code of Conduct guidelines and regulations for student conduct. Enforcement of this Code of Conduct provides students, faculty, and staff with the most favorable

learning and teaching atmosphere. Rules and standards set forth in the code apply to conduct on the school premises, during school sponsored trips, and at school functions of any kind

DRESS AND APPEARANCE

As a college preparatory school, Highlander Academy expects our students to exercise taste and decorum in their personal appearance, both during school hours and at all school events. We seek to use every means at our disposal, including appearance regulations, to encourage our students to think and act like ladies and gentlemen.

DRESS CODE

Students must appear clean, neat, and well-groomed at all times. The Dress Code is applicable on field trips and all other school events such as May Day, Commencement, after-school events, etc. The general guideline for shorts, skirts, and dresses is that they must be appropriate in length. Given the variations in body types, the Administration will retain the authority to review, on a case-by-case basis, whether the length is appropriate to provide modest coverage, which is typically defined as longer than mid-thigh.

Highlander Academy has a uniform dress code for students. For the 2024-25 year it is as follows:

- Boys:
- Navy Polo shirts – short and long-sleeved.
 - Khaki shorts and trousers worn with a belt.
 - Highlander Academy t-shirts or sweatshirts.

- Girls:
- Navy Polo shirts – short and long-sleeved.
 - Khaki skirts, shorts, or trousers. A khaki skirt is required for special “Dress” days. Tights may be worn with skirts.
 - Highlander Academy t-shirts or sweatshirts.

Any member of our faculty or staff may refer dress code exceptions to the office. The Administration has the authority to determine what is or is not appropriate. The following is a *guide* as to what is not acceptable at Highlander Academy:

- Very short skirts or “short” shorts – mid-thigh length.
- Extremely tight fitting clothing.
- Torn or frayed clothing.
- Sagging trousers. Belts are required.
- Bare feet, flip-flops, shower shoes, or backless shoes.
- Head coverings inside the building - both male and female.
- Hoodies are strictly forbidden. Only Highlander Academy sweatshirts are allowed. A navy uniform shirt must always be worn beneath a sweatshirt or other outerwear.
- Tattoos, whether permanent or temporary, are not allowed.
- Gentlemen in grades 9 - 12 must be clean shaven.
- Gentlemen may not wear painted fingernails or make-up of any kind.
- Gentlemen who choose to wear long hair must wear it pulled back in a ponytail and secured away from the face. Fad haircuts are prohibited.
- Extremes in hair color or hairstyles. Hair color must be within the natural hair color palette. Hair must be clean and neatly combed or arranged.
- Necklaces and earrings are appropriate for ladies. This includes one dime size or smaller earring in each ear lobe. Additional piercings are forbidden. Gentlemen may not wear necklaces, bracelets, or earrings.
- No student may wear excessive amounts of perfume, body spray, cologne, etc. as this may trigger breathing difficulties in those who are sensitive to them. Do not bring these items to school.
- Dress for dances or other special events, particularly for ladies, must be approved by the Headmistress on an individual basis.
- Bare midriffs and excessive cleavage are unacceptable, as are garments that are too short or too tight fitting.
- Any extreme in dress or appearance that may distract from the learning environment or attract undue attention is not allowed.

Failure to comply with the dress code will result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for repeat offenders

DISCIPLINE

Students engaging in disruptive or disrespectful behavior are subject to immediate suspension and possible permanent expulsion.

ALCOHOL, DRUGS, & TOBACCO

The possession of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or vape/e-cigarettes on campus is forbidden. Any student caught possessing, using, or encouraging the use of these products may be immediately expelled without the option for appeal. Law enforcement will be notified.

BOOK BAGS & LOCKERS

Students in grades 7 – 12 are provided with lockers. The Honor Code precludes the need for locks on lockers, however, students may supply their own locks if they wish. Combinations and/or spare keys must be provided to the office. Each morning students should empty their book bags into their lockers and place them on the adjacent wall hooks. Book bags may not be brought into classrooms. It is each student's responsibility to arrive prepared for each class period. They may not retrieve items from lockers once class has begun.

All lockers and book bags are subject to random search by the administration and /or law enforcement.

BULLYING/HAZING

Highlander Academy is committed to a safe and civil environment for our students and employees, free from harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Our administration defines bullying as a pattern of behavior, not necessarily just an isolated incident.

Harassment, intimidation or bullying includes any intention that:

- Physically harms a student or damages student property.
- Verbally intimidate/harass a student.
- Harass or intimidate a student electronically.
- Is severe, persistent, or pervasive so that it creates an intimidating or threatening environment.
- Has the effect of interfering with a student's education.
- Has the effect of disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

The Headmistress and Student Council will determine the appropriate disciplinary action.

It is important for the administration or staff to be informed soon as possible if bullying occurs so that it may be addressed promptly.

FIGHTING, ASSAULT, OR PERSONAL INJURY

No student shall participate in a fight, assault, or cause or attempt to cause physical injury to any student or school employee at school or at a school sponsored event or activity. Disciplinary action will be determined by the Headmistress.

LATE ARRIVAL TO CLASS:

Students who arrive late to class must present a tardy slip. Multiple tardies will result in disciplinary action.

LANGUAGE:

Vulgar language and profanity are forbidden. Students engaging in this behavior will be disciplined accordingly.

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Public Display of Affection between students is not allowed on the Highlander Academy campus or at any school function or activity. Repeated offenses will result in disciplinary action:

VANDALISM

Highlander Academy is extremely fortunate to have an historic property in which to house our school. Students should appreciate the opportunity that they have to work and learn in such an aesthetically rich environment. They are expected to treat the building with respect in order to preserve it for future generations. Our building is well over one hundred years old. Parts of it are fragile and some elements are difficult, if not impossible, to replace. Any damage done to the campus by a student, whether intentional or un-intentional, will be professionally repaired by Highlander Academy with the student and parents being held financially responsible for all costs incurred in the repair. The student will be immediately expelled with no opportunity for appeal.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology is frequently used in many classes at Highlander Academy and is a requirement for a number of courses. Highlander Academy offers laptops to enable our students to use technology in their daily school routine. Laptop rental is included in tuition, however, damages are not.

Highlander Academy will assume the cost for the first repair resulting from general usage. All subsequent repairs are the responsibility of the student to whom the laptop is assigned. Any damage believed to be caused intentionally will be

considered vandalism and will be billed accordingly. Damage includes but is not limited to:

- Damage from liquid, excessive heat, or other preventable environmental threats.
- Preventable damage from carelessness or abuse.
- Theft of loss resulting from inadequate security precautions – i.e. leaving laptop unattended at school or left visible in a parked car.
- School office should be notified immediately of any damage to laptops.

LAPTOP USAGE

1. Students in Grades 7 – 12 are allowed to take their laptops and chargers home. It is their responsibility to return them to school each day fully charged and ready for use. Chromebooks may not be charged at school.
2. All usage of the laptop must be school related - whether at school or when using it at home.
3. The school's internet connection is filtered, however, no filter is perfect and it is acknowledged that some objectionable material may still be accessible.
4. Altering the laptop's settings or configuration is strictly prohibited and will result in a repair charge.
5. Students may not negligently or intentionally transmit computer viruses, self-replicating messages, or deliberately try to degrade or disrupt system performance. Students must scan all downloads for viruses.
6. Students may not create or introduce games, network communications programs, or any foreign program or software onto any school computer or other electronic device without the express consent of the Administration.
7. Students are prohibited from engaging in unauthorized or unlawful activities, such as hacking or using the computer network to gain unauthorized or unlawful access to other computers, computer systems, or accounts.
8. Only the student to whom the laptop is assigned is allowed to use it. Programming issues arising from multiple users per laptop are considered damage, as are other issues resulting from inappropriate usage.
9. Each student must have his own individual school email, Google Classroom, Khan Academy, etc. accounts. **Students May Not share**

accounts under any circumstances. Faculty and staff will keep all student log-in and password information on file.

10. Students are prohibited from using another individual's ID or password for any technological device without permission from the Administration.
11. Though school personnel do not habitually monitor student Internet activity conducted on non-school devices during non-school hours, when the student's online behavior has a direct and immediate effect on school safety, maintaining order and discipline in the school, or reflect poorly upon the school, the student may be disciplined accordingly as determined by the Administration.
12. Students are prohibited from posting or exchanging messages containing, glorifying, or encouraging illicit or illegal drug or alcohol use.
13. Highlander Academy reserves the right to review the usage history of any laptop at any time. Discovery of inappropriate content will result in appropriate disciplinary action.
14. A student's use of his personal computer at school is a privilege which may be revoked at any time.
15. On campus, students may use either a school-owned computer or their personal computer, but not both.
16. Chromebooks (whether school-owned or personal) may not be used during lunch and they are not allowed in the Dining Hall. Cell phones are prohibited in the Dining Hall.

CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Personal electronic devices such as iPads, Smartwatches, earphones / airpods, switches, handheld games, etc... are not allowed at school.

In grades 7 – 12, if phones are brought to school, they must be powered off and left in the office upon arrival. They may be picked up after the final bell.

Any devices found at school will be confiscated and may only be reclaimed by a parent in person. A repeat offense will result in a \$25 charge to reclaim the device and possible disciplinary action.

Students in grades K-6 who bring phones to school must power them off and turn them in to the teacher immediately upon arrival in their classroom.

Highlander Academy accepts no responsibility for phones or

other devices which are damaged, lost, or stolen at school. Our recommendation is that students leave all electronic devices at home.

Parents who need to communicate with their children during the day should do so via the school office.

Photographing or recording teachers or other students without their express consent is strictly forbidden. This is a felony under NC law and students who do so will be reported to the authorities.

Students who post photos or videos on social media that were made at school or a school sponsored event that are considered inappropriate may face disciplinary action. If issues arise at school regarding social media posts or texts made off campus, students will be disciplined accordingly.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Highlander Academy recognizes the value of social media and the benefits offered by digital communication devices for providing quick and easy interaction among peers, students, and families. With these great benefits, however, come great responsibilities. Social media must be used in a responsible and conscientious manner. As a student enrolled at Highlander Academy, your conduct on social media platforms is a direct reflection on the school. Highlander Academy reserves the right to monitor students' public personal social media accounts and reserves the right to exert disciplinary action for inappropriate/offensive content.

Below are a few general guidelines which should always be followed regarding social media activity:

Don't upload anything that you wouldn't want EVERYONE to see.

When posting items online, *never* assume that only your friends or family will have access to it. If in doubt, don't post it!

Always be respectful of others' posts and feelings, even if you don't agree with them.

In general, you should avoid posting the following:

- Negative comments or messages.
- Questionable or compromising photos of yourself or others.

- Offensive jokes, photos, or material.
- Overt bragging.
- Highly emotional content, like rants about personal situations or relationships.

Students who post photos or videos on social media that were made at school or a school sponsored event that are considered inappropriate may face disciplinary action. If issues arise at school regarding social media posts or texts made off campus, students will be disciplined as determined by the Headmistress and/or Student Council.

**REMEMBER, ONCE YOU POST SOMETHING ONLINE,
IT'S THERE FOREVER.**



SENIOR CLASS

CLASS RANK AND HONORS

Class rank is based on the students' cumulative weighted GPA's during the second semester of their Senior year. The student with the highest cumulative weighted GPA will be the class Valedictorian and the student with the second highest cumulative weighted GPA will be class Salutatorian.

SENIOR FEES

Senior fees are \$250 per student and must be paid by December 15th.

EXPENDITURES

The Senior Class is responsible for covering the costs associated with Commencement. The following list of expenditures is to be expected, but is not limited to:

- Honoraria for Commencement speaker and musicians.
- Flower arrangements for Commencement ceremony.
- Printing costs of graduation programs.
- Brick for the Pathway.
- Senior Gift.
- Senior Trip - including the cost of chaperones expenses.

SENIOR CLASS GIFT

Subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees, the senior class may designate what form their Senior Gift may take. By tradition, each graduating class makes a gift to the school and also purchases one "Class" brick to be placed in the Pathway.