

Welcome to Highcrest!

Comprehensive Needs

Thursday, August 17, 2023

Dear HMS Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year in the comprehensive needs program (CLC)! Within the CLC, there are two teachers, Taylor Maney, formerly Taylor Parks, and Alison Ansay. Alison works with the 5th grade students, while Taylor works with the 6th graders, primarily. We have had the privilege of working together closely last year and look forward to planning and teaching collaboratively throughout the year.

It is our goal to work closely together in order to keep the classroom structure, routines, and expectations consistent. We will get to know each of the students, their needs, plans, and best practices in order to best support everyone in the classroom. With this being said, you can expect to receive communication from either teacher with general classroom updates throughout the school year. Additionally, students may be receiving instruction from both of us as well. Should you have a specific question regarding your child and their progress, please reach out to their assigned case manager, and they will direct you to the appropriate teacher as needed.

Here is a brief introduction from each of us :-)

Hi! I'm Alison Ansay- "Mrs. Ansay", and I am excited to be starting my 14th year teaching! During my years as an LBS I have worked with students in comprehensive needs settings- this is my 5th year here here at Highcrest. I have my masters in Curriculum and Instruction from National Louis University and received my BA in Special Education with endorsements in Middle School, Language Arts, and Social Sciences from Elmhurst College in 2010. In addition to having a desire to further develop students' academic skills, helping students build independence and self advocacy skills is very important to me. I recognize that one of the most integral parts of supporting students in these areas is by building relationships with them and their families, and I can't wait to get to know you all! When I am not at school, you will find me spending time with my husband and our two children, Addie (8) and Bert (6).

Hi! I'm Taylor Maney, formerly Taylor Parks. This is my third year working with District 39, second year at Highcrest Middle School, and seventh year teaching special education. I received my masters degree in Special Education from The University of Illinois-Chicago in 2020 as well as my BS in Special Education from the University of Dayton in 2015. This year, I am looking forward to working closely with you and your child to promote the learning and growth of the whole child. We will continue to build all academic skills while promoting independence, self-advocacy, social-emotional regulation, social skills, and more along the way! I got married this past summer so you can find me spending quality time with my husband outside of school!



We look forward to being a part of the team working towards your children's goals this school year! Please keep an eye out for an email survey regarding information about your child that will help us best meet their needs. We plan to keep you updated on classroom news each week with a newsletter that will be emailed out. Individual student communication will take place through email on an as needed basis. If your family would like to request a different approach to communication, please let us know. Due to allergies in the classroom, please refrain from packing snacks that include tree nuts or peanuts. You can send your child with snacks in bulk that we can keep in the classroom, or with a daily snack. Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have. The best way to reach us with a timely response in mind is by email; however, in the case of an emergency or need to relay an urgent message, please call the office during school hours.

We can't wait to jump right into the school year here at Highcrest- get ready for a fun year of learning and growth! Please see below for a list regarding classroom supplies.

Mrs. Ansay and Mrs. Maney
Learning Behavior Specialists
Highcrest Middle School

ansaya@wilmette39.org
parkst@wilmette39.org

Below are supplies that our classroom uses to run smoothly. It is **by no means** a requirement to send the items below in. However, if you are looking for a way to support our room, we greatly appreciate it!

- Tissues
- Hand sanitizer (liquid form, such as purell)
- Hand sanitizing wipes (such wet ones)
- Clorox wipes (or comparable brand)
- Baby wipes
- Ziplock bags with zipper closure (both quart size and gallon size)

In addition, sometime during the first few days of school please send in the following for your child:

- Any specific toileting supplies for your child
- Extra set of clothing
 - Suggested items: pants, shorts, long sleeve shirt, short sleeve shirt, underwear, socks, shoes, any other personal items they wear regularly (please label these, if possible!)
- Self-care supplies
 - Suggested items: facial wipes, toothbrush/paste, hairbrush, deodorant (to be used during life skills lessons and self care routines)
- Bulk Snacks (if you would like us to store them at school)

