

Big Flats News

JANUARY 2019

*At Big Flats Elementary,
we will SOAR together
as we explore our "wonders"
in a fun and engaging
community, where we will
inspire each other to achieve
anything!*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! After our extended winter break, it is wonderful to have the staff and students back to school and following our daily routines. As we start the new year, we find ourselves bringing the second marking period to a close. We are also in the process of completing our winter AIMSWeb screens. By now, everyone should be aware of the added half-day dismissal on January 28th 2019. *K-4 students will be dismissed at 11:00am, Pre-K at 10:30am, so that teachers may complete their parent/teacher conferences that were cancelled due to the snow day in November.

As we move through the month of January, we will soon be seeing some of the first stages of the construction project in our school. Our ceiling tiles will be removed and the technology infrastructure updates will begin. We do not foresee any planned disruptions during our school day as the work will begin immediately after the students are dismissed each day. With this pending construction, we will see the impact when we are having some of our upcoming PTO events, and we are unable to host any evening events in our school. Therefore, our Winter Festival this year will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2019 from 1:00-3:00pm in our cafeteria and gymnasium. The PTO is very much hoping that our families will still support and attend this wonderful annual event as it is one of our major fundraising events. Our classrooms will once again create themed baskets to be raffled off. Please be looking for a note from your child's classroom teacher advising you of the chosen theme for their classroom. Any donations that you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Also, if you or a family member or close friend have a business and they would be willing to donate an item to be raffled off at the Winter Festival, please contact the main office and we will contact our PTO facilitator. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Scaptura

*Elizabeth Scaptura,
Principal*

***Don't forget! January 28th is a half-day!**

Horseheads Central School District sets the standard of educational excellence by fostering innovative thinking, curiosity, and a passion for learning to maximize the potential of each individual. We engage with our local and global communities to provide a student-centered, nurturing environment.

Explore

Empower

Excel

Elementary Lunches (K-6)

School Food Services prices for the 2018-2019 school year will be:

Breakfast: \$1.25

Lunch: \$2.10

School Hours

Hours for the Elementary Schools are:
8:15 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

Office Hours

Our school office hours during regular school days are:

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Office Phone Numbers

(607) 739-6373

(607) 795-2550

Fax: (607) 795-2555

2-hour Delay Start Times:

K-4: 10:00am

Pre-K: 10:30am

2019
Happy New Year!

FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

• **Delayed Start Procedures**

*As we enter the winter months, please be advised that the Horseheads Central School District uses a delayed start procedure in addition to school closings. The delay opens schools **two hours*** later than normal start time. School ends at the regular time on delayed start days. Morning buses will arrive at the bus stops two hours later; staff will arrive two hours later; and students being dropped off at school in the morning should arrive two hours later. **Breakfast will not be served on delayed start days.** The announcements can be found on our Facebook page, on our District website www.horseheadsdistrict.com, or on the local media stations. Radio and television stations that will be announcing the delayed starts and/or school closings are listed on page 5 of the District Calendar. ***Pre-K classes will begin at 10:30am when there is a delayed start.***

• **Recess**

*Students continue to go outside for recess during winter months. Please be sure that your child has a warm coat, hat, gloves/mittens, and boots so they can stay warm as they play. *Please remember that the nurse cannot provide boots for any student.*

• **Changes in Going Home Routine/Bus Notes**

Please remember to write a 'blue note' with your child's change in dismissal plans if he/she will not be following their normal routine. Blue notes should also be written to explain your child's tardiness, absence, or plan to leave early. This is extremely important for the safety of our students.

School and Emergency Closings

School closings due to inclement weather will be announced via various media outlets such as WNKI, WPGI, Magic FM, and WELM radio stations, and WENY, WETM, and Time Warner

Cable News on TV. In the event of an emergency during the school day, all students will be taken by bus to the address previously identified by parents on the "Emergency Go Home" form that was completed at the beginning of the school year. As a reminder, this location **MUST** be on one of the Big Flats Elementary bus routes.

Snow Days Impact our Schedule

When a snow day occurs and all schools in the District are closed, it changes our six-day schedule. The next day that school is in session is the cycle day that the snow day would have been.

Valuable Items in School

Each year over Winter Recess, many of our students will receive gifts that they will treasure. To avoid the possibility of damage or loss of any valuable items, **including electronics**, we encourage students to leave those items **at home**. Please encourage your child to follow our suggestion so that we can avoid any unfortunate situations where items disappear or get broken. *Thank you for your support!*

Parents' Bill of Rights Relating to Student Data

The Horseheads Central School District, in compliance with Education Law 2-d, hereby establishes the following Parents' Bill of Rights in regard to student data:

1. A student's personally identifiable information will not be sold or released for any commercial purpose;
2. Parents have the right to inspect and review the complete contents of their child's educational record. Procedures for reviewing student records can be found in the Board Policy entitled 'Student Records,' Policy 5500, Regulation 5500-R;
3. Security protocols regarding confidentiality of personally identifiable information are currently in place and the safeguards necessary to protect the confidentiality of student data are maintained at industry standards and best practices. The safeguards include but are not limited to: encryptions, firewalls, and password protection.
4. New York State maintains a complete list of all student data collected by the State and the data is available for public review at www.nysed.gov, or by writing to: 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234.
5. Parents have the right to have complaints about possible breaches of student data addressed. Complaints should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845.

ATTENTION PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF 3RD AND 4TH GRADERS

To provide schools and parents with an assessment of student achievement, New York State has developed the New York State Testing Program. These standardized tests challenge all students in grades 3 through 8 to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. Please visit the site at <http://engageny.org/parent-and-family-resources>. If you are interested in viewing this site but do not have access to the Internet, please call the school office so that we can make arrangements for you to see this guide.

3rd and 4th grade ELA – April 3-4, 2019

3rd and 4th grade Math – May 1-2, 2019

4th grade Science Performance Test – May 22, 2019

4th grade Science Written Test - June 3, 2019

A look back:

Our 2018 Holiday Festivities



Top (3) photos: Our 3rd grade students made dog biscuits to donate to the SPCA.

Left: Our Special Education students made coasters for and sang holiday songs to the residents at Woodbrook Assisted Living.

Right (2) photos: Our 1st grade students made Gingerbread Houses and went on a scavenger hunt.



Mark Your Calendars

January 1-4

Winter Recess

January 8

PTO Meeting; 6pm, BF Comm Ctr

January 17

BOE Meeting; 6pm, HS MMC

January 21

Martin Luther King Jr. Day—**NO SCHOOL**

January 28

Half day—11:00am Dismissal

Need more Blue Notes?

By this time of year, you may be running out of blue notes. Please call the office and we will be happy to send a pad home with your child.

Learn Up-To-Date Information About Our Schools and the District

Facebook: The district and each of our seven schools have pages. "Like" them to see our information in your news feed.

Twitter: Follow us on Twitter at @HhdsSchools to read our tweets.

Follow Mrs. Scaptura on Twitter at @escaptura1

Instagram: The district's page—hhdsschools

Visit our district website at:
www.horseheadsdistrict.com.

Questions about our website or social media?

E-mail hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com



Like



Please pull tabs for Ronald McDonald!



PullTabs4McDonalds@yahoo.com

Pull tabs for Ronald McDonald Charities!
Tabs will be picked up mid-May.

Send in your box tops to earn cash for our school!



Guidelines for Classroom Parties

Before bringing food, please check with your child's teacher for approval and to see if students in the class have any food allergies; such as peanuts, chocolate, etc. No flowers or balloons may be sent or brought to students. Please do not bring frozen items as there is limited freezer space and access. *Thank you!*

Certified Teacher Substitutes Needed Teaching Assistant Substitutes Needed

The District needs certified teachers for day-to-day substituting opportunities in all of our schools. Certified teacher substitutes receive a rate of \$95 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at (607)-739-5601 x 4211.

Dignity Act Coordinator

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Big Flats Elementary is Elizabeth Scaptura. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Mrs. Scaptura at (607)-739-6373. The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Central School District is Caitlin DeFilippo, director of Human Resources. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Caitlin DeFilippo at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601 x4211, or cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Non-Discrimination Notification

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Caitlin DeFilippo, Title IX/DASA Coordinator and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kim Williams, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

January — The month of:

Fairness

- Play by the rules
- Take turns and share
- Be open-minded
- Listen to others
- Treat all people fairly
- Don't take advantage of others
- Don't blame others carelessly



Parents and Guardians

You can now take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Horseheads schools will soon use the SchoolMessenger system to deliver **text messages**, straight to your mobile phone with important information about school closings, safety alerts and more.*

You can participate in this free service* just by sending **“Y”** or **“Yes”** by text to our school’s short code number, **67587**.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with **“Stop”**.

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the [Student Privacy Pledge™](#), so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



Opt-In from
your mobile
phone now!



Just send
“Y” or “Yes”
to 67587

i [Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes:](#)

SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a “text message”. Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as “short code” texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you’ve ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

*[Terms and Conditions](#) – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See schoolmessenger.com/txt for more info.





CELEBRATE DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP!

MAKE A RESOLUTION

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY MADE A RESOLUTION, TRY THIS ONE ...

Become A Better Digital Citizen



FIND OUT HOW TO DO IT AT OUR WEBSITE <http://dc.gstboces.org>

a reminder ...

Digital Learning Day 2019 is Thursday, February 28th.

Join thousands of students and educators as they celebrate #DLDAY.

<http://go.gstric.org/205-dlday>



Sign Up to receive this newsletter in your email inbox

Scan this QR code with your phone, or go to <http://go.gstboces.org/dcnews-signup> in your browser.

TAKE ACTION



START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT! PLAN AND PARTICIPATE IN A DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP EVENT IN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT!

YOU CAN DO IT - FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS

- PICK A THEME
- SET EXPECTATIONS
- PLAN THE DATE
- COMMUNICATE EARLY AND OFTEN
- REMOVE ANY BARRIERS
- CHOOSE A FACILITATOR
- COMPILE RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AFTER THE EVENT
- LET US KNOW ABOUT IT

Source: <http://go.gstric.org/205-eventplanning>

After your event has completed, let us know about it by sending an email to dc@gstboces.org. We would love to hear about it and would love to include it in one of our newsletters. **Now turn the page as we highlight one of our school districts.**

THIS ISSUE WE HIGHLIGHT DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP IN ONE OF OUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

ODESSA-MONTOUR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Digital Citizens of the month on display at O-M

To share what is happening in your district send an email to dc@gstbooces.org

The Odessa-Montour School District has been promoting Digital Citizenship using curriculum and lesson planning materials from Common Sense Education (<http://go.gstric.org/205-common>).

The materials are distributed by the instructional leaders in each building and teachers are encouraged to incorporate the lessons and activities into their weekly planning.

Teachers nominate students each month in grades PreK-12 to become the Digital Citizen for their grade level. The selected students then meet with the schools Computer Network Specialists to choose an item from a collection of technology “swag”. Each Digital Citizen then has their picture displayed in monthly newsletters and on digital signage panels in the main hallway for the faculty, staff, students, parents, and community to see their accomplishment.

The district recently installed Dell panels to use as digital signage throughout their buildings. The signage is used to display lunch menus, sports schedules, announcements, and resources from GSTRIC Digital Citizenship Resource Center.

We would like to thank Jim Nolan, Director of Instructional Technology at Odessa-Montour, for sharing this information about what is happening in the district.

TED Ideas worth spreading

Many people are familiar with TED talks and TEDx but you might not be familiar with **TED-Ed**. TED-Ed is TED's youth and education initiative which aims to spark and celebrate the ideas of teachers and students around the world. You can create a free account and create lessons using video content from TED-Ed and other sources.

For 25 reasons to use TED-Ed in your class visit - <http://go.gstric.org/205-reasons>



About TED-Ed <http://go.gstric.org/205-ted-ed-about>
TED-Ed Videos <http://go.gstric.org/205-ted-ed-videos>



Social Media and Your Mood

Social media has been described as more addictive than cigarettes or alcohol ... but how does it effect your mood?

While using social networks helps many people feel more connected to peers, others experience intense envy and may have greater struggles with depression, low self-worth and other mental health challenges.

In a survey of young adults on the impact of social media on issues such as depression, self-identity and body image, YouTube was found to have the most positive impact, while Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and Twitter demonstrated negative effects overall on young people's mental health.

How can you be more mindful with social media?

By using a few simple strategies, you may be able to reduce the negative emotions and compulsive behaviors associated with social media use.

Limit the time you spend on social media each day. Research shows that people who spend more than two hours per day on social media have significantly lower self-esteem than those who don't.

If you notice that you're struggling a lot with envy, negative emotions or comparing yourself to others, counseling can help! Speak to a counselor at school or talk to a trusted teacher.

Source: University of Washington Digital Wellness 101

Adobe Spark: <http://go.gstric.org/205-uw-spark>
Website: <http://go.gstric.org/205-uw-web>

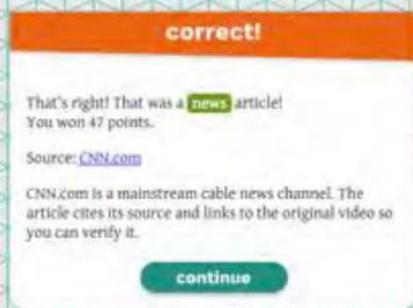
How does social media effect you? How many hours a day do you use social media? Are you allowed to use social media sites at school? Why or why not? Discuss social media use with your friends and classmates and then let us know what you think about it. Send us an email at dc@gstboces.org. We would like to hear from you.

FACTITIOUS 2018

Can you tell if a new article is real or is fake? That is the idea behind the **Factitious** game. The game shows you an article and then you swipe it to the right if you think it is real, or swipe it to the left if you think it is fake. The game then tells you if you were correct and awards or takes away points based on your answer.

Give it a try. How many right answers can you get? How many rounds can you last?

<http://go.gstric.org/205-fact-game>



MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY MADE A RESOLUTION, TRY THIS ONE! THIS YEAR I RESOLVE TO ...

Become A Better Digital Citizen



1. Take the Digital Citizenship Pledge
2. Start a Digital Citizenship Club at your school.
3. Treat others with respect online.
4. Give credit to others for their work.
5. Be an upstander. Stand up for people who are cyberbullied.

GST BOCES Digital Citizenship Initiative - January 2019
email us at dc@gstboces.org visit our website at <http://dc.gstboces.org>





GST BOCES Digital Citizenship Initiative announces a ...

Digital Citizenship Calendar Art Contest

All students in GST BOCES Component School Districts are invited to participate for a chance to have their work published in a Digital Citizenship Calendar. Entries should feature original artwork illustrating safe use of the Internet and/or mobile devices.

Format

- Original hand-drawn or electronically created submissions will be accepted.
- Text should be dark and large enough to read.
- Submissions may be in the format of either a full-page drawing or a 4-panel comic.

Layout and Dimensions

- Only landscape layout submissions will be accepted as the calendars are printed in an 11" x 8.5" landscape format.

Content

- **Do Not** send any artwork that contains trademarked images or brands such as Disney Characters, Dell, Google, Twitter, etc.
- **Do Not** put any identifying information (such as the student's full name or age) on the front of the poster.
- Adults may offer minimum technical support but cannot aid in the creative process. No professional (paid) assistance is allowed.
- Inappropriate or offensive language and/or images will cause a submission to be disqualified.
- All art files must be submitted in an electronic format via email and cannot be larger than 8MB
- **All entries must be received at GST BOCES by March 1st, 2019.**

Some Suggestions for Topics: How should you treat others online? What information is safe to share on social media, and what should be kept private? How should you handle unwanted attention or strangers online? How can you handle cyberbullying? Why is it important to keep your devices and software up to date?

When the entry form is completed, the form and the electronic art file should be attached to an email message and sent to: dc@gstboces.org with **Calendar Art Contest** in the subject line.

Important Notice: All submitted art file entries become the property of GST BOCES and may be used in the calendar or in future publications. Entries will not be returned.

sponsored by the

GST BOCES DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE

You can visit our website at <http://www.gstric.org/digital-citizenship>

Contest information and entry form at <http://go.gstric.org/art-contest>





GST BOCES DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE

Note: It is requested that a Teacher or School Contact Person verifies that this form is completely and accurately filled out, and that the art file that is submitted is in compliance with the contest guidelines. The entry form and electronic art file should be emailed to dc@gstboces.org

Calendar Art Contest Entry Form

Student's **FIRST Name:**
(Please DO NOT include
student's last name)

Grade:

Title of Poster:

School Contact Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

School Name:

School Address:

School City:

State:

Zip:

When the entry form is completed, the form and the electronic art file should be attached to an email message and sent to: dc@gstboces.org with **Calendar Art Contest** in the subject line.

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<http://www.gstboces.org>