



Horseheads Central School District

Golden Star Gazette

September 2017

Gardner Road Elementary School

541 Gardner Road, Horseheads, New York 14845 (607) 739 – 6347

ppatterson@horseheadsdistrict.com



Dear Gardner Road Families –

On behalf of the entire Gardner Road School Community, I would like to welcome your family to the launch of the 2017-2018 school year. Gardner Road Elementary is a great school where your child will be able to **explore** their interests, be **empowered** as a learner and **excel** academically, socially and behaviorally. We value each child and their individual learning needs while providing a safe, positive and engaging learning environment. We want all of our students to be critical thinkers, use their creativity, collaborate with peers, and be effective communicators. We also help students celebrate their learning while developing a growth mindset. Character education is also an important aspect of our learning in our school. Lastly, we know strong relationships between school and home increases learning significantly. We look forward to partnering with your family to ensure your child maximizes their learning this school year and beyond.

We have a few great events to kick off the year during the month of September. You can also join us for our 3rd annual Back to School BBQ Picnic which is hosted by our PTO on Friday, September 8th at 5:00 in the back of the school. To learn about the PTO, please join me in attending the first meeting of the year on September 12th @ 6:00 in the library. We are always looking for families to get involved in helping, running or creating new opportunities for our students. I would also like to invite everyone to our Open House on Monday, September 18th. The evening begins at 6:00 with our book fair in C Wing. Doors to our classrooms will be open from 6:30 – 7:30.

To learn more about Gardner Road, please read the GR Handbook which was sent home on the first day of school and outlines all that you need to know. To keep up to date with the happenings at our school, follow our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. We look forward to seeing you throughout the school year at Gardner Road. Please contact me if you need anything, have any questions or would just like to chat about our school/your child.

Your Partner in Education

Patrick Patterson - Principal



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GENERAL INFORMATION:

Gardner Road School Hours

8:00 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

Tardy Bell – 8:15 AM

Gardner Road Office Hours

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

Elementary Lunches (K-6)

Breakfast: \$ 1.25

Lunch \$ 2.10



Moishe's Quote of the Month:

Education is the key to unlock the **GOLDEN** door of freedom. George Washington Carver

Main Office Updates:

Beginning of School Year Checklist:

- Set up school lunch account (if desired) on the district website under food services and look for the Pay Schools link.
- Make sure your stack of ‘go-home’ notes are in an easy to locate place & send one in each time your child is going home differently.
- Bring in any medication and doctor’s forms for medication to be given during school hours.
- Complete first day of school paperwork and return:
 - Gardner Road Handbook of Policies & Procedures
 - photo release form
 - HIV/Aids Curriculum guide
 - emergency ‘Go Home’ information sheet
 - free/reduced lunch form
 - dental certificates (grades K, 2, 4)

Building Security - entering:

For the safety of all students and staff at Gardner Road, all doors are locked 24 hours a day. We do welcome your visit to our school. Please report to the main entrance and press the buzzer to your right near the main entrance. You will be prompted for your name and purpose of visit. Then the secretaries will buzz you in. Please report directly to the main office to sign in.

Bringing Items in for your Child During School:

In order to provide the most consistent learning environment for your children, we do not interrupt the classrooms during the school day. We understand that in the rush to leave the house in the morning, things are forgotten such as homework, lunches, sneakers for gym, birthday/party goodies, etc. If your child needs something during the day, please bring the item into the office, labeled with your child’s name and teacher. We will make sure they receive it.

Meeting with Teachers:

Please be aware that once the teachers have students in their class (8:00), they are not able to meet one-on-one with a parent in regards to an individual concern. Please arrange a meeting with your child’s teacher in advance – thank you!

Homework Requests:

If your child is out sick and you would like to request homework, please call the office before 9:00 a.m. It can either be sent home with a sibling, friend, neighbor, or parents can pick up homework after 2:30 in the office.

Gold “Go Home” Notes – Change of Plans:

Thank you for helping us assure students ‘go home’ the correct way each and every day using our ‘go home’ note pads. Knowing that changes occur during the day, we understand that you may need to change your child’s ‘go home’ plans during the day. We ask that parents call before 12:00 so that we can assure a smooth dismissal and keep all of our students safe. It is very difficult to make these adjustments last minute. We have seen an increase in these calls at the end of the school year, especially after 1:45. These last minute changes delay bus dismissal for all students.

Birthday Treats:

You are welcome to send in birthday treats with your child. Please send in enough for just the class. Students will only share cupcakes with their class and won’t be delivering cupcakes around the building. Please no treat bags. We understand that kids enjoy birthday parties outside of school and distributing invitations at school is easy/efficient. If you are going to distribute invitations at school, all students in the class or all boys/girls should receive one. Thank you for your help with this as it is very difficult to explain to a classmate why they didn’t get an invitation while others did.

Annual Title 1 Notice for Gardner Road Elementary School

In compliance with provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, we are informing you that Gardner Road Elementary receives Title I federal funding. Therefore, you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualification of your child’s classroom teacher(s). Specifically included is your right to know the following:

- Whether the teacher has met State qualification & licensing criteria for the grade levels & subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher & any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, & field of discipline of the certification or degree;
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals &, if so, their qualification.

Should you wish to exercise your right to make your request to: Megan Collins, Director of Human Resources, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, New York 14845. (607)739-5601, ext. 4211.

#LearningatGR Home Connection – Sept. 2017:



Math On The Spot Videos – instructional videos featuring *GO Math!* Authors provide an engaging video tutorial for every lesson to demonstrate important concepts and skills. QR codes in the print Student book allow you and your child to view the videos at home by scanning the code with a smart phone or tablet.

How can I help my child with math at home?

- Encourage your child to solve everyday problems involving numbers.
- Talk about the importance of math and how it is used in daily life.
- Review your child’s homework and ask them to explain how they arrived at their solutions to problems.
- Your child’s teacher may send a letter home that provides you with an overview of the math in the chapter, the math vocabulary, and an activity to do at home.
- At grades K-2 there is a Home Activity at the bottom of the fourth page of each lesson in the Student Book.
- Have your child practice using the math vocabulary for the chapter.
- Play the math vocabulary game at the beginning of each chapter with your child.
- View the *Math on The Spot* videos with your child for concepts or skills he or she may be having difficulty with.
- Talk with your child’s teacher about any questions you have about the math your child is learning.

SOURCE: Go Math Parent Letter

Substitutes Needed:

The Horseheads Central School District is seeking applications for substitute teachers, bus drivers and substitute teaching assistants.

For information, please visit:

<http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/subteach.html>

Human Resources Office: 739-5601, x4211

e-mail: hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com

Volunteers Needed for School Career Events

The school district has many career related events including career days, career panels, job shadows, classroom speakers, field trips, and mock interviews.

We are always looking for volunteers for these events. We are looking for parents, grandparents, other adult family members and friends as well as community volunteers in every career field. If you feel your career is not of interest or you are currently at home, you may still contribute through mock interviews and other fun classroom events. Most events are only an hour or two on a given day, yet **your experience and career knowledge** can deeply influence a child’s life, career goals, and future educational path.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about how you can get involved, **please contact Deb Lynch**, the Career Development Representative for the Horseheads School District, at **(607)795-5320** or

dlynch@gstboces.org.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

- ❖ School is your first and most important job. You’re learning about more than math and reading. You’re learning how to show up for school on time every day, so that when you grow up and get a job, you’ll know how to show up for work on time every day.
- ❖ When you’re not here, we notice because we care and we want you to be successful.
- ❖ A student who misses 10 days or more during a school year is 20 percent less likely to graduate from high school and 25 percent less likely to ever enroll in college.
- ❖ If you think missing a day here or there won’t matter, think again. By missing just one day every two weeks, you would be on track to miss 10 percent of the school year – and that can happen before you know it.
- ❖ School only gets harder when you stay home too much. Sometimes it’s tempting to stay home but missing a day only makes that worse.
- ❖ We understand that you will get sick sometimes and need to stay home. The important thing is to get to school as often as possible to help stay on track with your learning.



Horseheads District Annual Notices: 2017 – 2018



APPR of Teachers and Principals

The District is required to implement Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR) of teachers and principals. The outcome of the APPR is that each teacher and principal will receive an Overall Composite Rating based upon Observation and Student Performance scores. The four possible Overall Composite Ratings are Highly Effective, Effective, Developing and Ineffective (HEDI). You may request the Overall Composite Rating for the teachers and principals in the school building to which your child is assigned for the current school year by contacting the building principal of your child's school. Further, if you require additional explanation of the ratings for the teachers and principals, you may contact Tony Gill, Assistant Superintendent, at 607-739-5601, x4263. Please note that this information may be released only to parents or legal guardians. The District will verify that any request received is a bona fide request submitted by a parent or legal guardian.

Teacher Qualification

Pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind Act, parents and guardians have the right to request and receive information about the professional qualification of their children's classroom teachers. Parents wishing such information about their child(ren)'s classroom teachers should contact the building principal.

Horseheads Central School District 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 encryption, 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.

Information about Emergency School Closings/Delays

Schools are closed when the weather makes it impossible to have reasonable attendance or when the schools or vehicles would not be able to operate safely. The school day is delayed when inclement weather conditions improve by early morning. Inclement weather may include snow, ice, and freezing temperatures. If the school day is delayed, buses will run and schools will open two hours later than the usual time.

If it is necessary to close or delay schools, the information will be posted on the district's website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com, the district's Facebook pages and Twitter, and the following local television and radio stations and their affiliates:

Radio: WNKI 106.1, WPGI 100.9, Magic FM 92.7/97.7, WGMM 98.7, WLKY 94.3, WELM 1410

TV: WENY, WETM, Time Warner Cable News

These television and radio stations also put closing/delay information on their websites.

Each of our schools and the district have Facebook pages. To see school closings/delays and other information on your news feed, "like" the page(s). On Twitter, follow us at @HhdsSchools.

Additionally, WETM TV has an automated system to e-mail and/or text closings and delays to those who have signed up for the service. Parents may sign up at the following link: <http://www.mytwintiers.com/sms>. Scroll down to "School and Business Closing Alerts."

Please do not call the radio/TV stations or the district's Transportation Office.

Please note that if schools are closed, they will remain closed all day for scheduled activities, including remedial programs, extra-curricular activities, use of facilities by non-school groups, and special evening programs.

Please also note that when school is delayed, there is no supervision for students until schools open two hours later than the usual time, so parents should not drop their children off at school until they open. Additionally, on school delays, there is no breakfast served.

If a storm develops after school begins, usual procedure is NOT to close school early. This allows time for highway crews to plow and sand the roads and has proved to be less disruptive and confusing than attempting to send students home early.

EMOTIONAL HEALTH SCREENINGS AVAILABLE FOR ALL - CHEMUNG COUNTY YOUTH

It is important to regularly check on your child's emotional health. A child who does not feel well emotionally can become physically sick and physical illness can affect emotional health. In any event, it is more difficult for a child, who does not feel well, to be interested in going to school or succeeding in school. When emotional health concerns are dealt with early we can help young people get the most out of their education and lead happy, productive lives.

Good emotional health leads to:

Good Relationships Improved physical health
Interest in school Good Decisions
Ability to deal with life's challenges

Emotional Health Issue can affect:

School Performance Physical Health
Personal Relationships Actions toward others

Completing an emotional health screening is a simple effective way to look at a child's emotional development. To participate in the screening, complete a consent form and the emotional health screening. Forms are available on the school district website; www.horseheadsdistrict.com, then click on Gardner Road School. *Completed forms can be sent to:*

Family Services of Chemung County, 1019 East Water St., Elmira, NY, 14901, ATTN: Marilyn Cristofaro

For additional information contact: Marilyn Cristofaro, Community Mental Health Program Coordinator, at Family Services of Chemung County, 607-733-5696.

ONE CALL CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Gardner Road Elementary School Parent Drop-Off: 7:45 – 8:15 AM

Dear Gardner Road Families,

In order to keep all of our students safe, please follow these guidelines for the NEW parent drop-off zone for the 2017-2018 school year. Please note in the past there was a different drop off area starting at 8:00. That lane no longer exists due to safety concerns. There are new markings on the parking lot as reminders. This is the drop off zone until a new parking lot is created solely for this purpose.

- Follow markings on map, which will also be painted onto the parking lot.
- Pull up to the white line (3 or 4 cars should be able to unload at the same time)
- Have your child exit on the passenger side of your vehicle so they can exit onto the sidewalk and not the parking lot.
- Please stay in your vehicle. If you need to help your child get out please park in the parking lot and walk them all the way to the main entry awning.
- As you exit, please be cautious of busses and other traffic.

Traffic Flow Map



Thank you for helping us keep our students safe!

