



Horseheads Central School District

Golden Star Gazette

October 2017

Gardner Road Elementary School

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

ppatterson@horseheadsdistrict.com



Dear Gardner Road Families –

We had such a great start to the school year and it was wonderful seeing everyone at the various events in September. It has been wonderful to see all of the students get settled into their classrooms and already learn so much. October will only bring more memories, learning and fun. We look forward to seeing you for the Halloween Hoopla hosted by the GRPTO on Friday, October 27th! Feel free to contact me if you need anything throughout the school year!

Your Partner in Education

Patrick Patterson - Principal

September Snapshots:



Inside the Gazette:

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Character Corner
School Mission & Vision

Included in the Online Newsletter:

Lunch Menu
October Calendar

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:

The Beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you. – B.B. King

Main Office Updates:



Substitute Teacher Expectations:

Throughout the school year, teachers must be out of their classroom to administer assessments, attend professional learning or for other reasons. Our teachers do a great job preparing students for the change in routines and expectations for these days. It would be appreciated that you also remind your child of positive behavior expectations with the substitute on these days so they maximize their learning. Thank you!

Thank You - Drop Off:

Thank you to everyone for your flexibility and cooperation in using our new drop off lane in the morning. Please also remember to park in the parking spots at the end of the day for pick-up. Thank you!

Fire Drills and Lockdowns:

Students and staff have been practicing our fire drills throughout the month of September and will continue through the fall. One question we are having students think about during our fire drills is, "what is another way out?" On October 13th, the fire department will be visiting us to discuss this in more depth for school and at home. We will also be practicing our lockdown procedure and other drills to assure all students know our safety procedures.

Building and District Emails:

Our schools often send emails to you via our automated system. We've learned that for some parents, these emails are going into spam folders automatically. Would you please check your spam or junk folder to see if our emails are there? To avoid this, you can put our auto email address in your address book or contact list. It's notifications@schoolconnectsweb.com. Additionally, if we don't have your email address, please send it to us. Contact your child's school or email it to hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com. If you have questions, please email us or call 739-5601, x4295. Thank you for helping us communicate more effectively with you.

Legal Notices:

If your family has legal documentation that the school should be aware of, please bring in a copy to Mrs. Wright in the main office. Thank you!

Horseheads Schools...Building Our Future Now

**CAPITAL
PROJECT
VOTE**



Building Our Future Now

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

High School South Gymnasium

For questions related to the Capital Project please contact the Horseheads Central School District Office at 607-739-5601 x. 4295, hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com, or horseheadsdistrict.com/hh2030.cfm

Proud Supporter of
School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

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

#LearningatGR Home Connection – October 2017:

If you want your child to be a stellar student, don't limit learning to the walls of his classroom. Although the skills he's learning there are crucial to his intellectual and social growth, your child needs your help to open up the world of ideas. His renewed **joy in discovery** will transfer to his schoolwork, so you'll boost his academic achievement too!

1. **Fill your child's world with reading.** Take turns reading with your older child, or establish a family reading time when everyone reads her own book. Demonstrate how important reading is to you by filling your home with printed materials: novels, newspapers, even posters and placemats with words on them.
2. **Encourage him to express his opinion, talk about his feelings, and make choices.** He can pick out a side dish to go with dinner and select his own extracurricular activities. Ask for his input on family decisions, and show that you value it.
3. **Show enthusiasm for your child's interests and encourage her to explore subjects that fascinate her.** If she's a horse nut, offer her stories about riding or challenge her to find five facts about horses in the encyclopedia.
4. **Provide him with play opportunities that support different kinds of learning styles — from listening and visual learning to sorting and sequencing.** Supplies that encourage open-ended play, such as **blocks**, will develop your child's creative expression and problem-solving skills as he builds. He'll need lots of **unstructured play time** to explore them.
5. **Point out the new things you learn with enthusiasm.** Discuss the different ways you find new information, whether you're looking for gardening tips on the Internet or taking a night class in American literature.
6. **Ask about what he's learning in school, not about his grades or test scores.** Have him teach you what he learned in school today — putting the lesson into his own words will help him retain what he learned.
7. **Help your child organize her school papers and assignments so she feels in control of her work.** If her task seems too daunting, she'll spend more time worrying than learning. Check in with her regularly to make sure she's not feeling overloaded.
8. **Celebrate achievements, no matter how small.** Completing a book report calls for a special treat; finishing a book allows your child an hour of video games. You'll offer **positive reinforcement** that will inspire him to keep learning and challenging himself.
9. **Focus on strengths, encouraging developing talents.** Even if she didn't ace her math test, she may have written a good poem in English class. In addition to a workbook for math practice, give her a writing journal.
10. **Turn everyday events into learning opportunities.** Encourage him to explore the world around him, asking questions and **making connections**.

Citation: <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/motivate-school-success/10-ways-to-motivate-your-child-to-learn>

Launching Our Year of Learning!



We launched our year with grade level town hall meetings for each grade level. At the meetings, we discussed what it means to be a STAR (Stay safe, Take responsibility, Always do your best and Respect others) student at Gardner Road. We reviewed what it means to learn in our school with a growth mindset. Ask your child what it means to use the 'power of yet', the importance of being brave, why we set goals and celebrate failure. We also launched our character trait of respect with our monthly challenge. The goal is that all students using their manners and saying hello back when greeted from someone else while using eye contact.

Each class also reviewed these concepts with a classroom visit by Mr. Patterson. During these visits Mr. Patterson discussed what it means to be an 'upstander' in our school and unite together to maintain a positive learning environment at Gardner Road. Each classroom also interacted with a book (see above) that Mr. Patterson read to them focusing on trying our hardest throughout the year.

Welcome to Gardner Road Elementary:

Jackie Bennett: BOCES TA

Lisa Clark – Cafeteria Monitor

Elizabeth Hall – Contract Substitute

Wesley Kirk – Physical Education

Angel Rodabaugh – Social Worker

Kelly Switala – Contract Substitute

Kelli Carsten - Speech

Jessen Donlon – Speech

Alyssa Hunt – Kindergarten

Diana Medina – Contract TA

Lisa Russell – Cafeteria Worker

Laura Waters – BOCES 8:1





HALLOWEEN PARADE 2017

Tuesday, October 31st at 1:20

All parents are invited to join us for the Halloween parade. The parking lot fills up quickly so we encourage carpooling. There will be complimentary shuttles to and from the Jubilee plaza between 12:45 and 1:45. The students and teachers will march in front of the school from the kindergarten wing towards the cafeteria. We ask that all visitors stand behind the fence in the parking lot, we will make sure no one parks in the first row. Please make sure that your child's costume is appropriate for our very young students to see and that it does not have any type of toy weapons, blood, etc. as a prop. We will run a normal morning schedule that is focused on academics. **We appreciate that your child come to school not dressed in costume or with make-up on.** All students will have an opportunity to change into their costumes prior to the parade. Because of the numbers of potential visitors and the safety concerns connected to it, we do not allow families in school after the parade. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in a wonderful event for our students.

'Be The Impact' Assembly: We were visited by Funkey Munkey on September 15th. He encouraged us to 'be the impact' this school year by focusing on the concepts of impress, motivate, be positive, achieve, have courage, work together. The students had fun engaging in the skits, games and learning!



Golden Star Buddies Reminder:

Our school believes all students should follow the golden rule. However, we know that disagreements occur and it is our job to help students through it. We use the following definitions to determine the difference between conflicts and bullying. If any student is involved or sees either, please let a Gardner Road staff member know and they will help you!

CONFLICT:

- * occurs in the heat of a moment
- * is often a difference of opinion
- * two or more students are upset
- * does not happen continue
- * students want a mutual solution



BULLYING:

- * intent to cause harm
- * imbalance of power
- * repetition - bullies often target the same people
- * targeted towards a specific individual

"We Succeed Because The Stars Lead!"

Character Education Bingo:

Starting in October, we launch a new character education incentive program for our students at Gardner Road. Every adult in the school will have character trait award certificates to hand out to students that are showing that month's trait. The students will then go to the main office to enter their name in the character education bingo on our 100s chart in the main lobby. Check out our bingo board!



October's Character Trait is:

Horseheads Central School District's Mission & Vision:

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



Horseheads Central School District

Character Education

Responsibility

- Be reliable and dependable
- Do your part at home, school and in your community
- Think before you act
- Take ownership of your actions



 **Character Matters**
Horseheads Central School District

To report child abuse or neglect



call toll free

1-800-342-3720 or

ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps

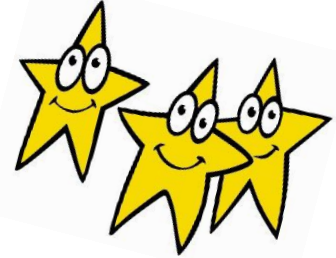
Thank you to the GRPTO for decorating the front of our school for September.



The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to gender, race, color, national origin, or disability. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Megan Collins, 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.

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Gardner Road Elementary is Patrick Patterson. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Patrick Patterson at (607) 739 – 6347. The Dignity Act Coordinator for the Horseheads Central School District is Megan Collins. Mrs. Collins may be reached at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, 607-739-5601, x4211.

Celebrating our Veterans at Gardner Road Elementary School



On Monday, November 13, 2017 the students at Gardner Road Elementary School would like to honor our veterans. The veterans will stand along the front sidewalks of the school. As the students get dropped off they will shake hands, say hello and thank you to the veterans. Afterwards, all veterans are invited into the school cafeteria for coffee and doughnuts. During this time, each grade level will come into the cafeteria to sing a song to honor our veterans. Do you have a relative that is a veteran? Is your neighbor a veteran? If you know a veteran and they would like to participate, please sign them up by returning the slip below.

7:45 – 8:15: Veteran appreciation in front of the school as students enter the building

8:15 – 9:30: Coffee and doughnuts with grade level choral performances

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Celebrating our Veterans at Gardner Road Elementary School

Monday, November 13, 2017

Name of Veteran: _____ Veteran's Phone Number: _____

The Name of the Student Inviting the Veteran: _____ Homeroom: _____

Invitee To Do List:

_____ I have invited the veteran named above and they have confirmed they will come

_____ I have informed the veteran of the schedule listed above

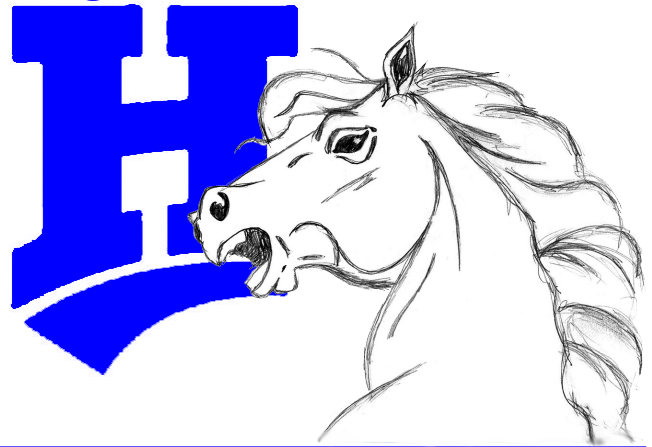
_____ I have informed the veteran that they are welcome to wear a uniform

If you are a Veteran and you would like to come, please call the Gardner Road Elementary School Office at 607-739-6347 to sign up. We look forward to honoring each of our veterans for all that they have done for our country. THANK YOU!

Horseheads Schools: Building Our Future Now Capital Project

Vote

October 17



Dear Community Members:

On October 17, we ask district residents to vote on a comprehensive capital project to improve both our educational programs and physical infrastructure. This is a very important project for our district and our entire community.

We all agree that our children deserve a great education; by preparing them well during their years in our schools, we help them become productive, successful, and happy citizens who can help our community prosper. A great education happens with knowledgeable and caring people, solid and well-planned curriculum, and a sound, up-to-date infrastructure. An excellent educational program is important to ensuring a healthy, vibrant, and growing community.

Our district has enjoyed great success and weathered difficult times. We have a proud history of providing excellence in education, but over the years, our infrastructure has experienced the wear and tear of a busy and extensive educational program. We must address these items in order to provide a solid foundation for our children and maintain our competitive edge, so that we are the district of choice in the region.

We know that items in our homes such as roofs, lighting, and mechanical systems don't last forever. Our buildings are now 50 to 60 years old. By putting together a thoughtful plan to replace critical systems and upgrade our schools and infrastructure, we can maximize aid from our state and minimize the local impact.

Major components of the project focus directly on education, such as upgrades to classrooms, security, and technology. Part of the plan is to create a cohesive high school building, with a clear, secure entrance, a state of the art library, and classroom upgrades to meet not just state requirements, but the needs of our students.

Every school building, our transportation department, and our grounds would see improvements in this project.

Many people have worked very hard to put this plan together, and many have had a hand in developing it. For nearly a year, we've held community forums, talked with students and staff, shared our vision with business leaders and community members, and worked with our architect and fiscal advisors to create the plan we are proposing here in this document. At the time, we called our project *'Horseheads 2030.'* It's now called **'Building Our Future Now'** because that's exactly what we're doing. This project would be complete by the summer of 2022.

Over the years, we all have paid taxes to our state. The state has used these funds for building projects in other districts near Horseheads and across the state, but it has been many years since we've accessed state funds for needed building projects of our own. It is time for these tax dollars, which we have paid to the state over the past several decades, to come back home to our school district, so that our students and community may enjoy the benefits of upgraded, quality school buildings. Upgrading our facilities will enhance our area and region.

Please vote on October 17. Voting hours are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., and there is only one voting location: the Horseheads High School South Gym. Thank you for your consideration of this project, as well as your continued support of our students and the greater Horseheads Central School District community.

Sincerely,

Pamela F. Strollo, Board of Education President

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas, Superintendent of Schools

VOTE
October 17
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Horseheads High School
South Gym

A comprehensive project

The project offered to voters on October 17 totals \$94,685,637 and includes upgrades and improvements at all district schools and the Transportation Department. While the entire project seeks to enhance our educational program by improving our physical infrastructure, significant parts of the project focus directly on education, including upgrades to classrooms, technology, and security.

The project was developed through research and planning, using the district's most recent Building Condition Survey (BCS) as a guide. The BCS is a state-required document surveying the district's infrastructure and outlining needed repairs and upgrades. The district then worked with our architect and fiscal advisors to maximize state building aid, and met with community members, staff members, students, and business leaders to shape the scope of the project.

Many of the items in the project replace operational systems and items that are no longer warrantied or are at the end of their useful life. These systems will be upgraded to more efficient models. A district-wide Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone system will be installed, and technology upgrades will be completed across the district to enhance communication, technology use, and security.

Please see pages 5-8 for a list of project highlights by building.

Elementary Schools

Big Flats, Center Street, Gardner Road, and Ridge Road would see roof replacements, mechanical system upgrades, VOIP and technology upgrades, emergency lighting upgrades, playground improvements, and parking lot/traffic flow improvements.

The schools would also undergo specific projects based on building needs, such as replacement of the boiler system at Center Street, main entrance security improvements at Gardner Road, and electrical and exterior door replacements at Big Flats and Ridge Road.



Transportation Department

The Transportation Department on Sayre Street would also undergo similar improvements as our other buildings including VOIP and emergency lighting upgrades, plus additional work such as overhead door replacements and security/technology upgrades.

Horseheads Middle/Intermediate Schools

The project includes classroom upgrades for science, art, and technology at the Middle School, cafeteria expansion and kitchen upgrades, and playground improvements at the Intermediate School. Traffic flow and the parking lot would also see further improvements in this project.

The complex will also see security and VOIP upgrades, roof replacements, mechanical system and electrical upgrades, and exterior door replacements.

Horseheads High School

As the building most in need and the site where all our students will complete their education, the High School will see major work to improve security, classrooms, technology, student flow within the building, traffic flow, and more. The project includes the construction of a secure entrance and library, classroom upgrades, kitchen and cafeteria renovations, and the addition of a multi-purpose outdoor facility that would be used for events across the district, including athletics, field band, community events, and eventually our graduation.

Vote October 17
Horseheads High School South Gym
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Capital project Q&A

Q: Why is this project necessary?

A: This project seeks to upgrade and renovate our physical infrastructure in order to provide an educational environment that meets the needs of our students in a time of changing educational demands.

Many of our buildings' critical systems have reached or passed the end of their lifespan. This project would replace or upgrade these systems, including boilers, lighting, roofs, and mechanical systems. Many of these systems and equipment are original to the buildings. Currently, more efficient and cost-saving products are available.

The project would also bring district buildings to local and state codes as well as state education department recommendations for classroom size and other requirements.

The Horseheads district has long been recognized as providing the best education in the region. The district at one time possessed the best facilities as well, but this is no longer the case. Area districts have completed many capital projects on a greater scale than Horseheads. The district facilities staff have always worked hard to maintain buildings and grounds, but over time, wear and tear on the physical infrastructure must be remedied.

We want our students to be able to meet and exceed their potential and be contributing members of a global community. Our facilities must be able to support initiatives such as experiential and inquiry-based learning, STEM/STEAM/STREAM (science, technology, research, engineering, arts, and math), and 21st century skills.

A quality school district is necessary to maintain property values and to attract businesses and families to our community.

Q: If approved, when would the project begin and when would it be complete?

A: If the project is approved, the first step is to finalize design plans and submit them to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) for approval. Once the project is approved, the project would be submitted for the bid process. We would expect to begin construction in Spring/Summer 2018. We expect the project to be completed by the summer of 2022.

Q: How would this project benefit our community?

A: The project would benefit our community by investing in our community. Schools are an important part of a community. Quality schools help maintain and increase property values. An upgraded infrastructure combined with an excellent educational program improve community pride, and can increase enrollment, as people looking to move to the area see our district as the district of choice.

Upgrading our facilities could bring regional and state activities to our district, benefiting our local economy and enhancing our image.

The project also seeks to improve traffic flow, not just in our school parking lots, but also in the streets surrounding our schools.



Architect's conceptual rendering of the High School Entrance

Q: What is state aid?

A: New York State Aid is the major source of funding provided by the state to school districts and municipalities. It comes from taxes everyone pays to the state. State building aid goes to all districts with approved capital projects. Horseheads has not utilized a significant portion of this aid in many years, yet Horseheads taxpayers pay into funding state building aid, thus helping to improve other districts rather than our own. Horseheads 2030 seeks to secure Horseheads' share of vital building funds for our school district.

continued on page 9

What will the project include?

High School:

\$38,348,798 renovations \$15,030,840 additions

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

- Main Entrance Relocation and Security Improvements
- New Main Office/Guidance Office/Nurse's Suite
- Kitchen and Cafeteria Renovation and Expansion
- Classroom Additions
- Classroom Renovations
- Library Addition

BUILDING SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

- Partial Roof Replacements
- Mechanical System Upgrades
- Building Wide Voice Over Internet Protocol & Technology Upgrades
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Electrical Upgrades
- Exterior Door Replacement

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

- Traffic Flow/Parking Lots
- New Main Entrance Plaza & Security Improvements
- New Multi Purpose Stadium

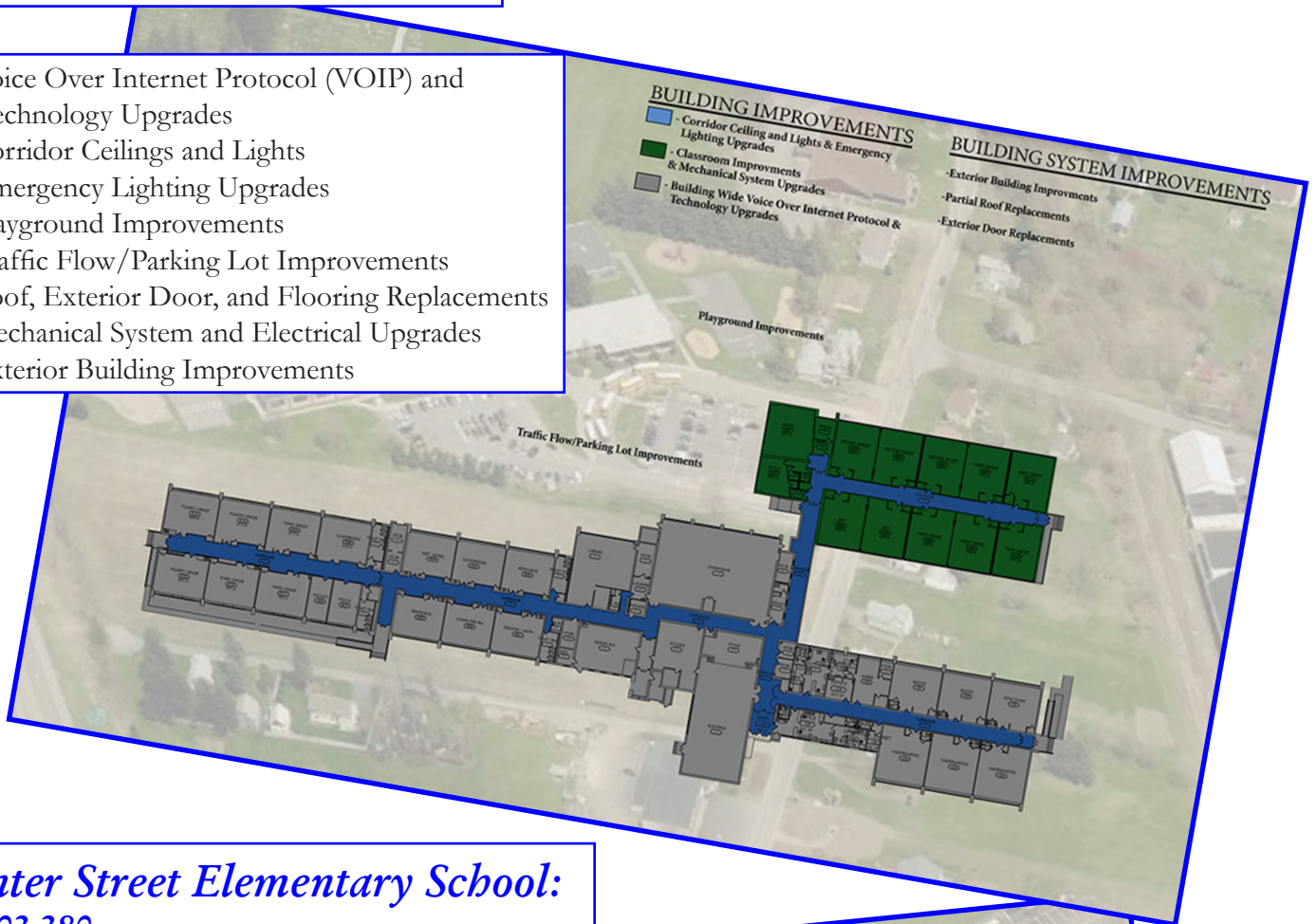
VOTE
October 17
 Horseheads High School
 South Gym
 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

- Main Entrance Relocation and Security Improvements
- New Main Office/Guidance Office/ Nurse's Suite
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lots
- Kitchen and Cafeteria Renovation and Expansion
- Classroom Addition/Renovations
- Library Addition
- Multi-Purpose Stadium
- VOIP and Technology Upgrades
- Roof and Exterior Door Replacements
- Mechanical System and Electrical Upgrades
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades

Big Flats Elementary School:
\$4,839,384

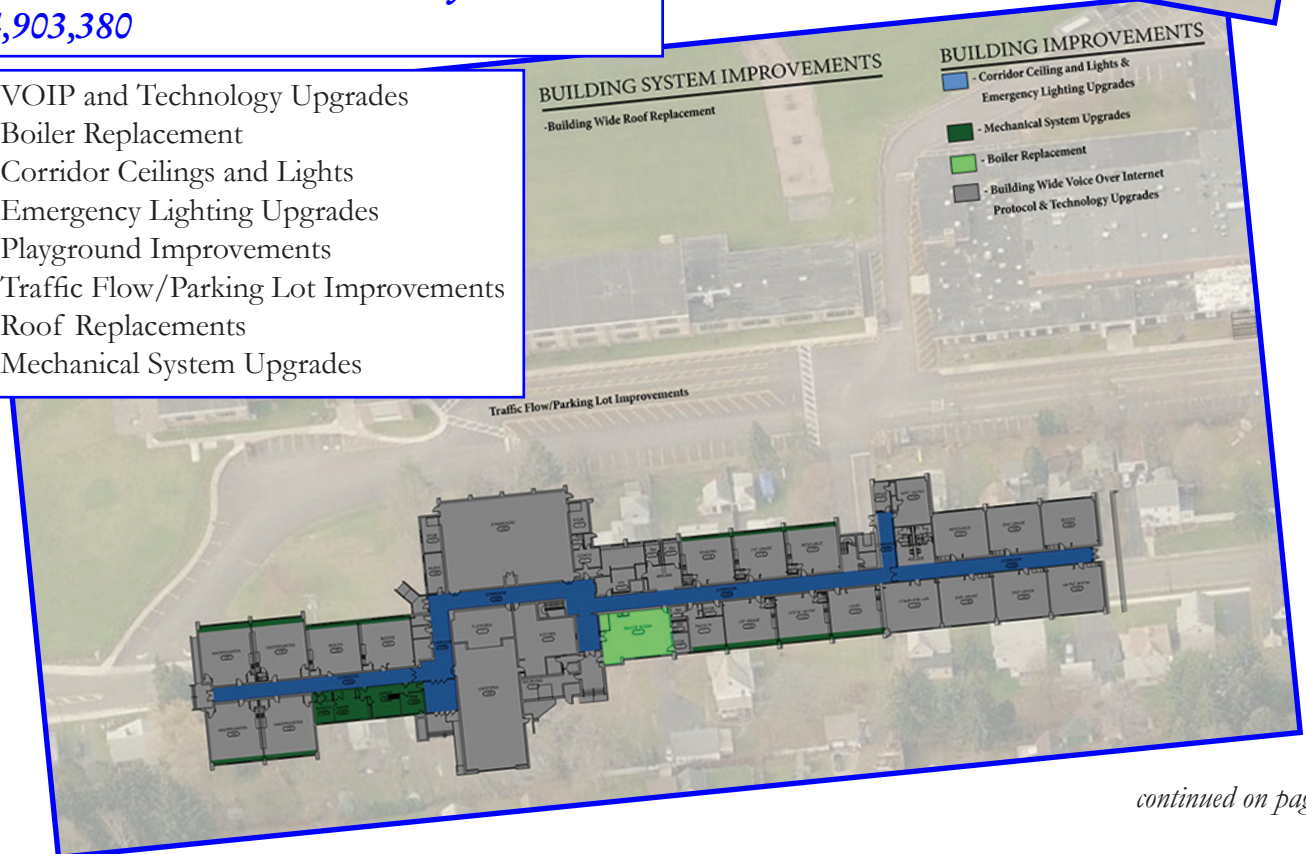
Please note: full-size printouts of these architectural drawings are on display in our schools and district office.

- Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) and Technology Upgrades
- Corridor Ceilings and Lights
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Playground Improvements
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lot Improvements
- Roof, Exterior Door, and Flooring Replacements
- Mechanical System and Electrical Upgrades
- Exterior Building Improvements



Center Street Elementary School:
\$4,903,380

- VOIP and Technology Upgrades
- Boiler Replacement
- Corridor Ceilings and Lights
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Playground Improvements
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lot Improvements
- Roof Replacements
- Mechanical System Upgrades

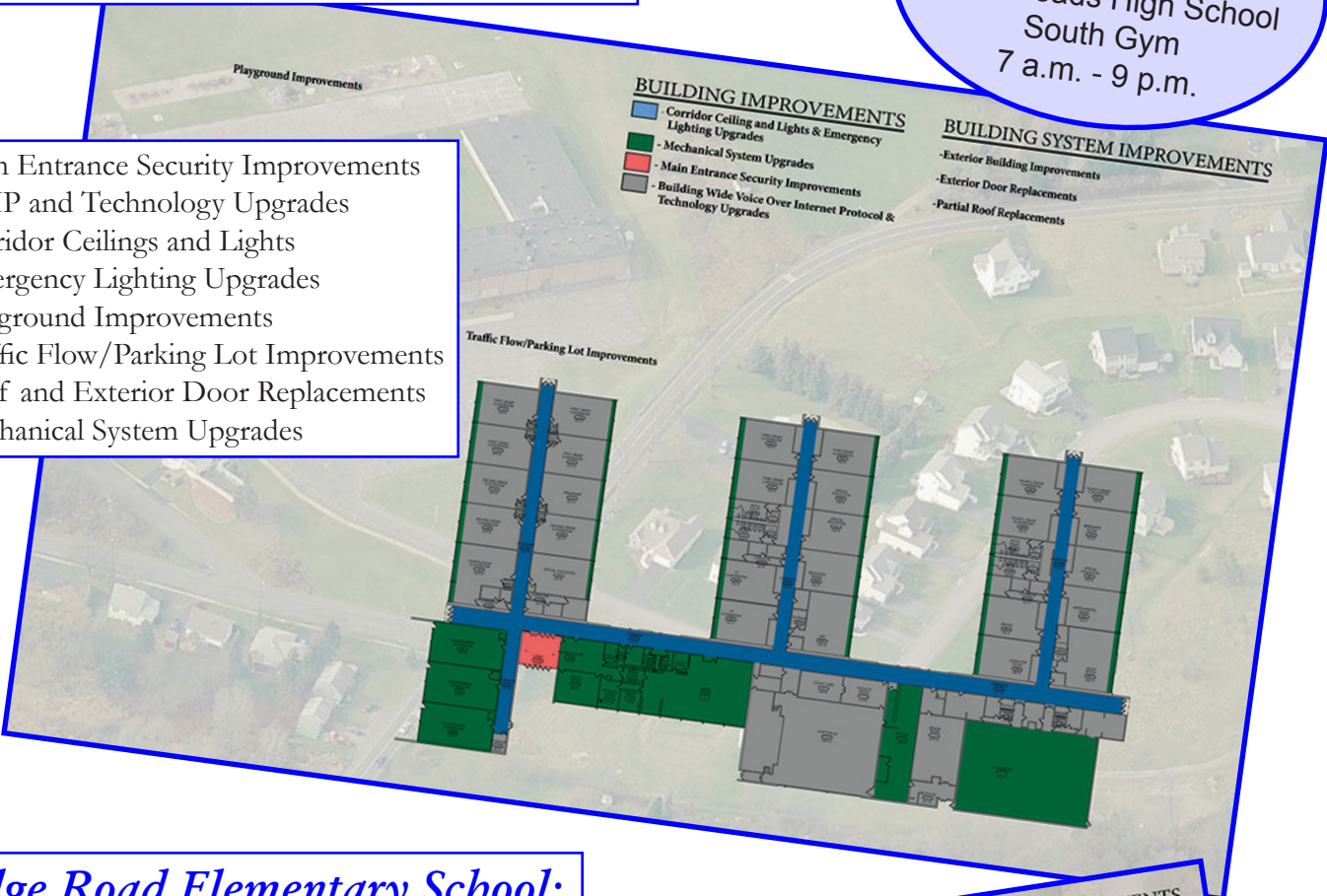


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**Gardner Road Elementary School:
\$4,939,920**

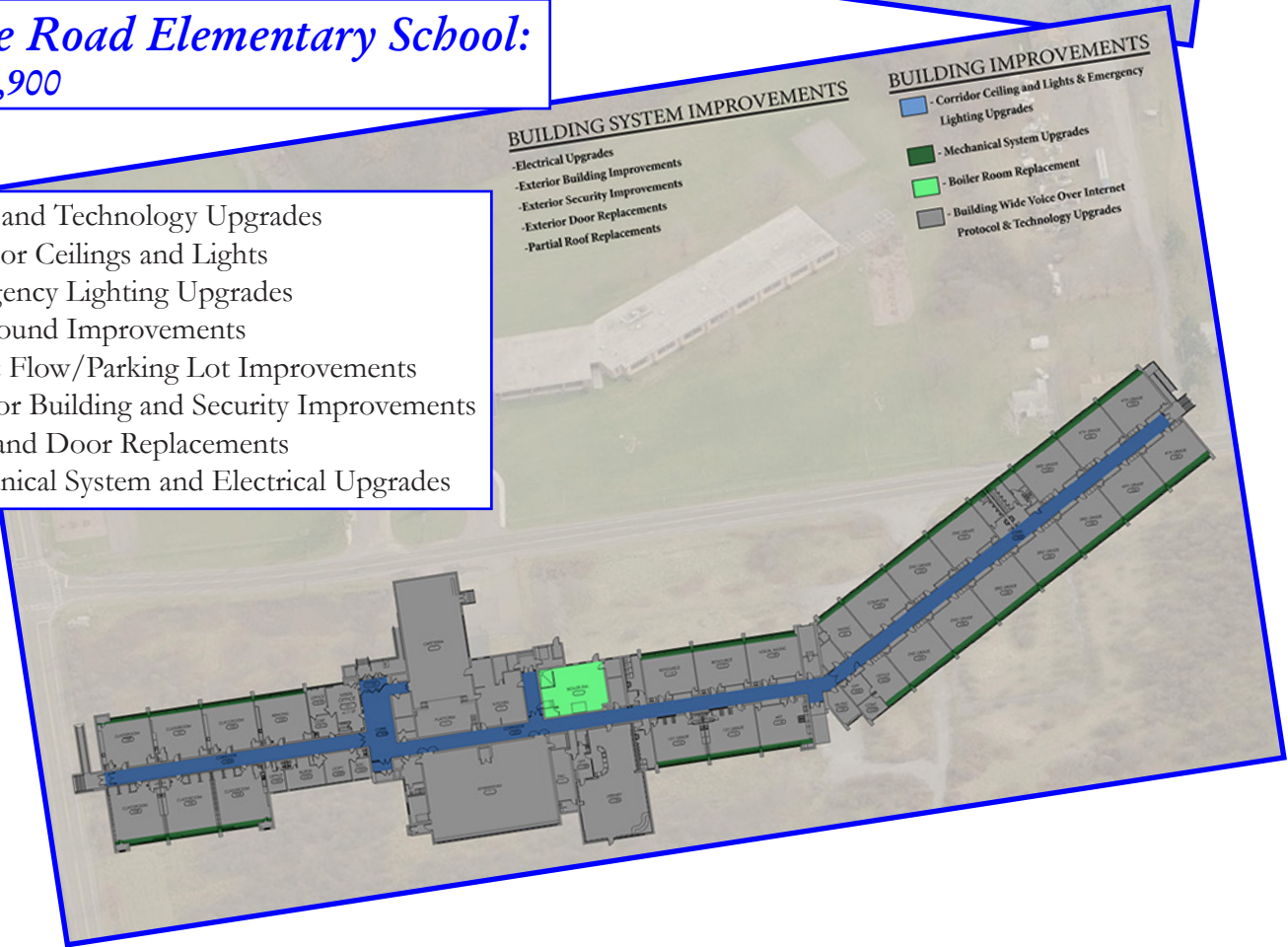
VOTE
October 17
Horseheads High School
South Gym
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

- Main Entrance Security Improvements
- VOIP and Technology Upgrades
- Corridor Ceilings and Lights
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Playground Improvements
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lot Improvements
- Roof and Exterior Door Replacements
- Mechanical System Upgrades



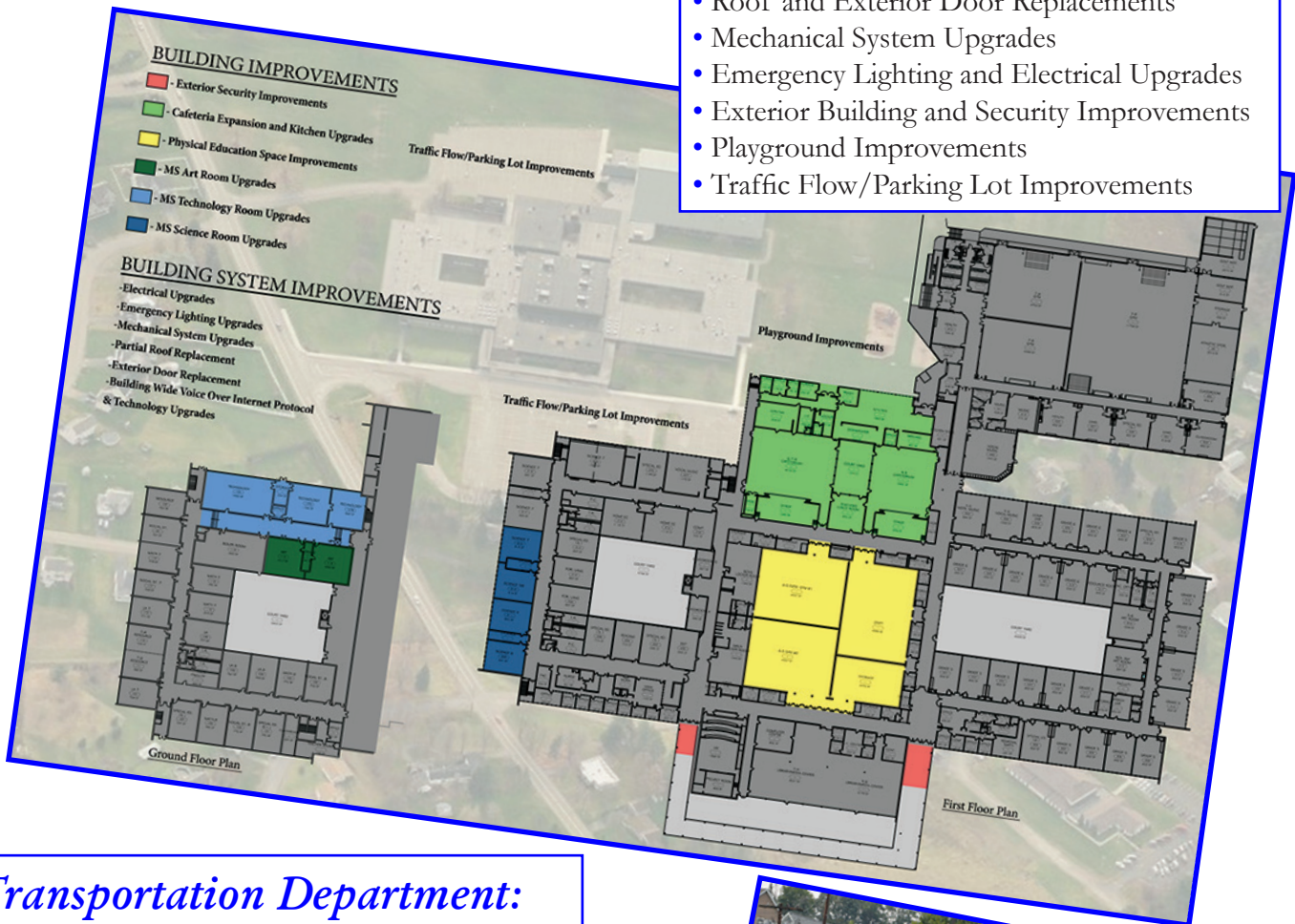
**Ridge Road Elementary School:
\$5,514,900**

- VOIP and Technology Upgrades
- Corridor Ceilings and Lights
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Playground Improvements
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lot Improvements
- Exterior Building and Security Improvements
- Roof and Door Replacements
- Mechanical System and Electrical Upgrades



Middle/Intermediate Schools:
\$16,169,448 renovations; \$588,967 additions

- Middle School Art, Science, Technology Room Upgrades
- Physical Education Space Improvements
- Cafeteria Expansion and Kitchen Upgrades
- VOIP and Technology Upgrades
- Roof and Exterior Door Replacements
- Mechanical System Upgrades
- Emergency Lighting and Electrical Upgrades
- Exterior Building and Security Improvements
- Playground Improvements
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lot Improvements



Transportation Department:
\$4,350,000

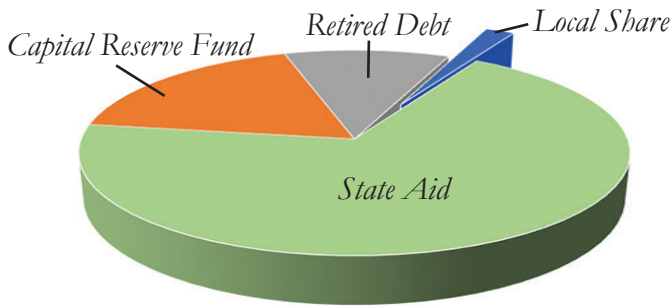
- Mechanical System and Electrical Upgrades
- VOIP and Technology Upgrades
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Exterior Building Improvements
- Exterior and Overhead Door Replacements
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lot Improvements



VOTE
October 17
 Horseheads High School
 South Gym
 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

How would the project be funded?

The project would be primarily paid for through state building aid. The remainder of the cost would come from the district's capital reserve fund, retired debt, and a minimal local share. The district's fiscal advisors have been conservative in estimating interest rates and local share. We anticipate a minimal increase in the annual tax levy of no more than 1.87%. For a homeowner in the District with a residence valued at \$100,000, the estimated tax increase is expected to be no more than \$2.73 per month. This increase will be phased in over a four-year period beginning in 2019.



State Building Aid: New York State offers building aid to school districts on eligible building projects. The state uses a complex formula to determine aid, using a building's maximum cost allowance as set by the state. The district, architect, and fiscal advisors have worked to develop this project, maximizing state aid and minimizing any local impact.

Retired Debt: The district will borrow some funds for this project, but this amount will be offset by retiring debt, or loans that the district will be paying off during the project.

Capital Reserve Fund: In May 2015, district voters approved the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund for capital expenditures. Ten million dollars from this fund will be used toward this project.

Local Property Tax: The districts' fiscal advisors have arrived at a very conservative estimate of a 1.87% increase in the tax levy to fund this project. This amount is just 2% of the entire project's costs.



Total Cost by Building (See pages 5-8 for a list of projects by building)	
High School - Renovations	\$38,348,798
High School - Additions	\$15,030,840
MS/IS - Renovations	\$16,169,448
MS/IS - Additions	\$588,967
Big Flats	\$4,839,384
Center Street	\$4,903,380
Gardner Road	\$4,939,920
Ridge Road	\$5,514,900
Bus Garage	\$4,350,000
Total	\$94,685,637

Project Funding Summary	
Total Project Cost:	\$94,685,637
Funding Sources:	
New York State Building Aid	69%
Retired Debt	18%
Capital Reserve Fund	11%
Local Property Tax	2%
Estimated tax levy increase over four years beginning in 2019: 1.87%	
Estimated annual increase for a homeowner with a home valued at \$100,000 full value:	
Cost per Year	\$32.80
Cost per Month	\$2.73
Cost per Day	\$0.09

VOTE October 17
Horseheads High School South Gym
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Homeowners to receive tax rebate

New York State provides a yearly property tax relief credit to eligible homeowners, provided that their school district budgets remain under the tax cap.

The Horseheads district budget complies with the tax cap, so eligible homeowners will receive the credit and will be sent a check by the state.

For more information on STAR exemptions and tax rebates, visit the state's Department of Taxation and Finance website at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/property-tax-relief.htm>.

District Tax Rate on Full Value Assessment, or 'Tax on True'

The district's current tax rate is \$17.54 per thousand on full value assessment, or "tax on true." In 2007, the "tax on true" was \$19.40 per thousand. During the past ten years, the district has decreased the "tax on true" rate by nearly two dollars per thousand. This is due to good financial stewardship and growth in property values across the district.

"Tax on true" means a home's value is assessed at its full value, rather than a ratio or percentage. Some municipalities in the district are assessed at full value, and some are not. This is why we must estimate the tax rate when we develop the school budget. Calculating "tax on true" is how we can accurately compare yearly tax rate changes.

If your tax bill shows a different tax rate than \$17.53, this means that your municipality does not assess at full value. Therefore, the state uses equalization rates to "equalize" property values across municipalities.

If you have questions, please call the Business Office at (607) 739-5601, x4260.



Q&A, continued

Q: *If this project is approved, will students be displaced as classrooms are renovated?*

A: Classroom upgrades would occur at the High School and Middle School, but we do not expect that students would be displaced. Construction would take place during the summer months. There may be some classes reassigned to other classrooms while work is finalized, but we will work to keep that to a minimum.

Q: *What is the BCS and what does it have to do with the project?*

A: BCS stands for Building Condition Survey. The New York State Education Department requires schools districts to submit a BCS every five years, describing the state of the infrastructure and building needs. In 2015, Horseheads' BCS identified \$159 million in necessary repairs, replacements, and/or upgrades plus construction fees and incidental costs.

The BCS has served as a guideline for discussions about the infrastructure of the district. Using this guideline and state funding formulas, the district, along with our architect and financial advisors, have come up with this plan as a first step toward the upgrading of the entire district.

View the district's 2015 BCS here: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/uploadeddocs/2015BCS.pdf>.

Q: *Why is most of the work at the High School? What about the other schools?*

A: The bulk of this project is at the High School because the building has the most needs, as identified through the district's Building Condition Survey. The High School is also the building where all of our students will complete their public education leading to the beginning of their adult life, whether it be through college, work, or other post-secondary plans.

Our Middle/Intermediate complex will see a great deal of work as well, upgrading science, technology, and art classrooms as well as enlarging the cafeteria.

Elementary schools will see some work, upgrading critical mechanical systems, playgrounds, parking lots, and other items. Future projects will focus on these schools to upgrade classrooms and other areas. Any future project will be brought to voters as well.

continued on page 11

Also on the ballot...

Election of one Board of Education member

On October 17, voters will also elect one member to the Board of Education. The board currently has one open seat due to the resignation of a former member of the board who moved out of state. The highest vote-getter will win the seat. The term of this seat begins immediately and expires June 30, 2019.

One person is running for the board seat:

Mary Anne Holleran

Mary Anne Holleran is a retired teacher from Corning Schools. She is currently an adjunct faculty member at SUNY Cortland. She holds a bachelor's degree from D'Youville College and a master's degree from Elmira College. She has three adult children, all Horseheads graduates, and has lived in the district for 38 years.

"I believe the prosperity and future of a community is strongly determined by the strength of its school system," said Mary Anne. "The quality of the Horseheads School District encourages people to reside in our community, and more importantly, provides a foundation for our children's future success."



Please note: one voting location

Vote October 17 at Horseheads High School only

The October 17 vote will be at the Horseheads High School South Gym. All voters will vote at the High School.

The reason for this change to one polling place is to adhere strictly to New York State Election and Education laws.

If you have questions, please contact us at hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or (607) 739-5601, x4260.

Absentee Ballots

Registered voters who cannot get to the polls on October 17 due to illness or travel may vote by using an absentee ballot.

Applications for absentee ballots are available in the district's Business Office, South Wing of the High School, from 8am to 3:30pm, up to October 16.

Completed ballots must be returned to the Business Office no later than 5 p.m. October 17.

The district mails absentee ballots to voters listed as "permanently disabled" by the Chemung County Board of Elections.

Questions? Call 739-5601, x4260.

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to gender, race, color, national origin, or disability. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Megan Collins, 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.

Vote October 17 • 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. • Horseheads High School South Gym

Q&A, continued

Q: Have there been capital projects like this in the past?

A: Not to this extent. This would be one of the most comprehensive projects in our district since buildings were built in the 1950s and 60s. Much smaller project have been implemented in various parts of the district. For the past several years, the district has spent funds from the educational budget on small capital expenditures, with amounts ranging from \$300,000 to \$1 million annually.

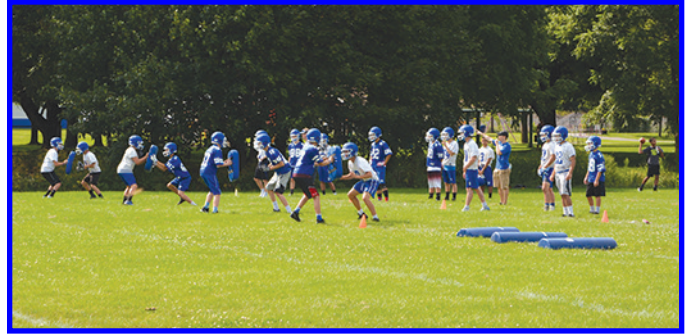
Q: What happened to the building study a couple of years ago?

A: The building consolidation study, or facilities use/grade configuration study, came to a conclusion last year, when the Board of Education chose the “green option,” which meant that no schools would be closed at this time. This study also used the Building Consolidation Study (BCS) to determine what costs would be necessary to upgrade/repair the buildings. The board’s decision to keep all of our schools open at this time also included the need to improve our district’s buildings and grounds.



Q: What about the merger study with Elmira Heights - is that subject closed?

A: In December of 2015, after many months of public meetings and discussion, 83% of the voters in Horseheads voted down the idea of merging with our neighboring district. This told our Board of Education and administration that the community wishes to keep our district the Horseheads Central School District, closing this subject and moving forward.



Q: If passed, how will we know the project is successful?

A: A successful construction project comes in on time and within budget. However, this project is much more than a construction project. This project would create clearly marked secure main entrances and improve traffic flow at our schools, enhancing safety, security, and efficiency.

It would eliminate the use of educational funds in our annual budget to repair and improve the quality of district facilities and classroom for students, staff, and community.

The project would result in a centralized High School library with updated educational resources and technology, along with better flow for students. District-wide improvements in mechanical systems would increase energy efficiency. We would complete the technology upgrades and update our phone system district-wide, providing better products, safety/security, and services for our students and community.

Overall, we will know that this project has succeeded when we see improved morale, efficiency, productivity, achievement, and success for our students, staff, and community in our global society.



Learn more about the project at www.horseheadsdistrict.com

Capital Project Vote

October 17, 2017

7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Horseheads High School

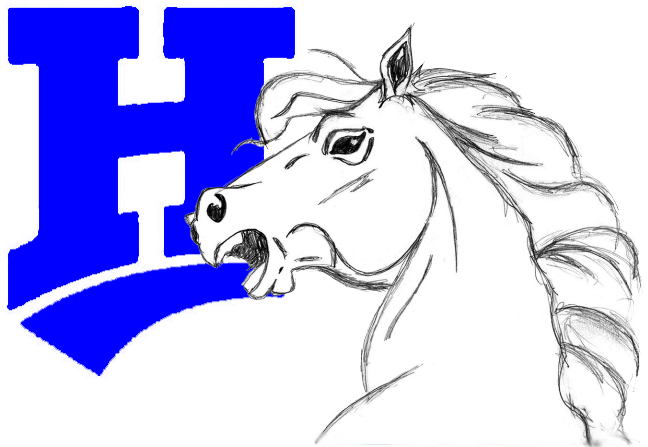
South Gym

Who is eligible to vote?

All district residents are eligible to vote, as long as they meet the following requirements:

- Are a U.S. citizen
- Are 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote
- Have lived in the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote on October 17
- Are not restricted from voting in general elections based on election law
- Please bring identification to the vote

Questions? Call 739-5601, x4260.



Building Our Future Now

Please vote

October 17

Horseheads Central School District
One Raider Lane • Horseheads, NY 14845
(607) 739-5601, x4295

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Board of Education

Pamela Strollo, President
Brian Lynch, Vice President
Lisa Christiansen; Daniel Christmas;
Warren Conklin; Kristine Dale;
Doug Johnson; David Sadler; Angelique
Lapitan (student representative)

Superintendent

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas

Contact

Susan Pirozzolo, (607) 739-5601, x4295
supirozz@horseheadsdistrict.com

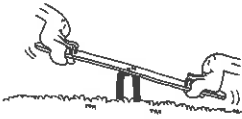


Home & School

CONNECTION®

Working Together for School Success

Gardner Road Elementary School
Mr. Patrick Patterson, Principal



SHORT NOTES

Excellent attendance

Being in school every day means your child won't miss out on learning. Try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours. If he asks to stay home "just because," remind him of what he'll miss, such as his reading group or PE class. Explain that he can be absent only if he's sick or if there's a family emergency.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children who regularly eat meals with their families tend to do better in school and avoid risky behavior.

Eating dinner together is great, but other meals count, too. If you work at night, maybe you could make time for a family breakfast. Or on a weekend, try a picnic lunch.

Celebrate progress

Suggest that your youngster create a fun reminder of all the things she has accomplished. Let her cover a box with construction paper and label it "I did it!" Then, she can write each success ("I learned to add fractions") on a slip of paper and put it in the box. If she's feeling discouraged, have her read the slips.

Worth quoting

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up!"
Mark Twain

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

A: Of course. The Empire State Building can't jump!



Conversations about school

When you think of parent involvement, do you picture moms and dads volunteering in classrooms? That's one way to help—but research shows that supporting your child's education at home is even more important. Here are conversations starters that will help you stay involved.

"Let's see what you brought home."

Look at completed work to find out what your youngster is learning and how well she's doing. You could comment on her math work or social studies project, for instance. ("You know a lot about our state's history!") Also, respond to notes from her teacher, and sign her weekly folder or daily planner if required.

"Show me what you have for homework."

It's your child's job to do her homework, but you play a role, too. Make sure she knows what she's supposed to do by having her explain the assignments to you. After she finishes her homework, glance over the work to see that it's complete.

"Describe a book you enjoyed today."

This gives you an idea of what your youngster prefers to read. Then, build a daily reading habit by asking what she'd like to read tonight. Encourage her reading and listening skills by reading aloud to her and letting her read to you.

"Tell me what you learned that you'd like to know more about."

Use her interests as jumping-off points for activities to share. If she likes geometry, you might hunt for

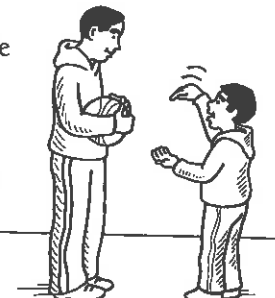


shapes together. If she's fascinated by how animals adapt to winter, take her to the library to research the subject or to the zoo to see live animals.♥

After-school questions

Asking "How was school today?" might not get you far. Instead, ask questions like these for a better picture of your youngster's day:

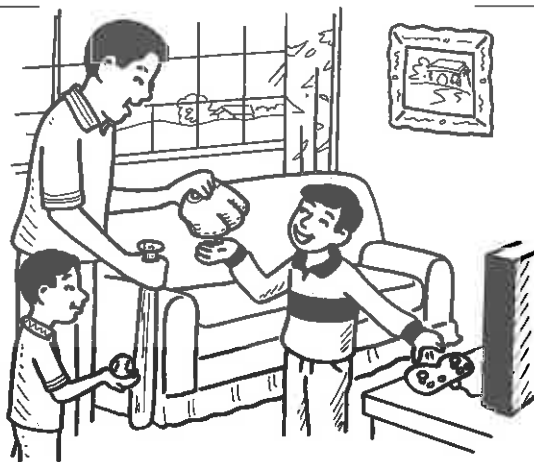
- "What's the coolest thing that happened? What wasn't so cool?"
- "Pretend you're the teacher. How would you describe the day?"
- "What made you laugh?"
- "What was the most creative thing you did?"
- "How were you kind or helpful today? Was anyone kind or helpful to you?" ♥



What does respect look like?

Your youngster's daily dealings with adults and kids alike will be more pleasant if he speaks and acts respectfully. Try these tips for helping him learn about respect.

Respectful replies. Think about something that you and your youngster disagree on (say, whether his video game time should be limited). Model having a respectful discussion about it. You might say that his brain and body are growing and that he needs to run and play to stay healthy. Then, suggest a respectful response, such



as, "I want to be healthy, but I love video games." Have him brainstorm other situations where people have different opinions but still speak to each other with respect.

Everyday acts. When you mow the lawn or clean up after your dog, you can teach your child about respect for neighbors. Explain that keeping your

neighborhood clean and neat makes it nice for everyone. Ask him to think of other respectful things neighbors should do. If you share an apartment laundry room, he might say that you respect neighbors' time by removing your clothes when they're done so others get to use the washers and dryers.♥

A reading challenge

By reading more complex books, your child can learn new words, facts, and ideas. He'll also be exposed to more complicated plots and will grow as a reader. Share these suggestions:

- Knowing something about the topic or setting makes a tougher book easier to comprehend. If



your youngster is reading a novel set in China, he could talk to someone who has been there or look up the country online (try a children's site like kids.nationalgeographic.com).

- Encourage your child to look at a simpler book on the same subject. A picture-book biography about Harriet Tubman may help your youngster better understand a textbook chapter on the civil rights movement, for instance.

- Suggest that your child read complicated material with pencil and paper in hand. He can jot down questions, words to look up, or facts he wants to learn more about.♥



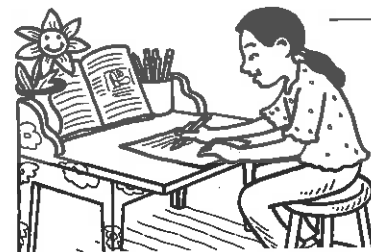
Strong study habits

Q: My third grader has to spend more time studying this year. How can I make sure she studies effectively?

A: Set your daughter up for success by helping her find a distraction-free study spot. Also, have her come up with a study routine. For instance, she could reserve time each evening to review her textbook and notes in the days leading up to a test.

Also, many students find it helpful to jot down a purpose each time they study. Your child might write: "I will learn the definitions of all the boldfaced words in chapter 7, section 1."

Finally, encourage her to experiment with study strategies to find what works best. She could close his eyes and imagine how a word is spelled or draw a grid with 9 squares to solve 3 x 3. Or she might find it helpful to spell or recite math facts aloud in rhythm or to a familiar tune.♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Talking to kids about money

My children were always asking to buy things like dress-up shoes or new games. They didn't seem to understand that these items weren't in our budget.

I wanted them to learn about how we spend our money—and that it is limited. So I got a spiral notebook and labeled it "Family Spending Journal." I explained that for two weeks, everyone would keep a record of what they spent money on. I listed items like my

subway fare, the electric bill, and food at the grocery store. The children wrote down expenses such as school lunch, soccer cleats, and field trip fees.

After a few days, they were surprised by how many things we needed money for. Our kids had no idea, for example, that we paid for taxes on our income, several types of insurance, and membership in our homeowners' association. Sometimes they still ask to buy too many things at the store, but when I say no, at least they understand why.♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.







Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated
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www.rfeonline.com

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October

Gardner Road Elementary School



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
2 <i>Day 1</i>	3 <i>Day 2</i>	4 <i>Day 3</i>	5 <i>Day 4</i>	6 <i>Day 5</i>	
9 <i>No School</i>  Columbus Day	10 <i>Day 6</i> <i>1st Grade: Reisinger's Apple Orchard</i> 	11 <i>Day 1</i>	12 <i>Day 2</i>	13 <i>Day 3</i> <i>Fire Prevention Assemblies</i> 	
16 <i>Day 4</i>	17 <i>Day 5</i>	18 <i>Day 6</i> <i>Pre-K: Smith Home Farms</i> 	19 <i>Day 1</i> <i>3rd & 4th Grade Author Visit</i>	20 <i>Superintendent's Conference Day</i>	
23 <i>Day 2</i>	24 <i>Day 3</i>	25 <i>Day 4</i> <i>Wear Orange</i> UNITY DAY Together Against Bullying United for Kindness, Acceptance, and Inclusion	26 <i>Day 5</i>	27 <i>Day 6</i> <i>GRPTO Event 6:00</i> 	
30 <i>Day 1</i>	31 <i>Day 2</i> <i>Halloween Parade 1:20</i> 	<u>Character Education - At Home</u> *Discuss/choose an area for your child's backpack & school materials so they are always prepared for the day. *Involve children in shopping & meal planning. *Establish & reinforce a morning routine that your child can follow on their own. *Have child help with age appropriate household chores. *Check in with your child to make sure all school assignments are done daily.			