

The School Connection



Principal's Post

School has been underway now for a month, and already we have had some great events and opportunities at Horseheads Intermediate School. We kicked off our school year with a Pep Assembly at the end of the first week that focused on the 'Top 10 Things You Need to Know About the Intermediate School.' It was a powerful event where we shared the exciting opportunities we offer, and I challenged all students to show up to school every day ready to do their best with a Growth Mindset!

Our Open House was well-attended back on September 12th. The Ice Cream Social was a great success thanks to well-behaved students, the PTO, parent volunteers, and the Horseheads Youth Bureau. The students also took advantage of all the good deals at the PTO sponsored Scholastic Book Fair. Thanks again to all of the parents who donated their valuable time toward organizing and managing the book fair. Students also saw a 3-screen character show by Camfel Productions about how to view people for what they have on the inside, not what they look like on the outside. It has been an exciting first month of school for students, parents, and staff!

As we head into October, procedures and routines are falling into place. Your child is engaged in learning, and hopefully taking an active role in their education. I firmly believe that education starts at home with modeling, support, and clear expectations. Parent partnerships with the school can serve as a critical piece to your child's growth and academic development. Please support your child and seek opportunities from their teachers to continue learning at home. On page 4 you will see tips for developing successful homework habits.

We continue to focus on deeper thinking, problem-solving, and real-life application. Now more than ever we need your help in reinforcing the school-based practices at home. There are many effective ways parents can help improve student academic growth that are not time-consuming. Some include following helpful homework tips, reading with your child, asking them to explain their answers, taking advantage of teachable moments, involving them in problem-solving, asking them to create their own solution, and so many more. Please take some time to check out our parent resources page on our website (link to the right), specifically the common core parent guide. Also, page 3 of this newsletter has a nice introduction to the common core standards.

I look forward to an incredible month of October full of learning and excitement. As always if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in education,

Michael Bostwick

Principal

Follow me on Twitter: Michael Bostwick@[M_Bostwick](#)
School Hashtag: [#ISinnovators](#)
Like us on Facebook: Search Horseheads Intermediate School
Website: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHIS.cfm>

"Your children will see what you're all about by what you live rather than what you say."

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- Wayne Dyer

Horseheads Intermediate School

October 2017
Volume 6 Issue 2

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PARENT ARTICLE

ATTENTION!

[Parent Resources](#)
on IS website.

"Parent partnerships with the school can serve as a critical piece to your child's growth and academic development."

Mark Your Calendars!

<u>Monday, October 9th:</u>	NO SCHOOL – COLUMBUS DAY
<u>Tuesday, October 10th:</u>	Principal/Parent Chat, 9:00 AM(Cafeteria)/6:00 PM(Library)
<u>Tuesday, October 10th:</u>	PTO Meeting, Library, 6:30 PM
<u>Tuesday, October 17th:</u>	Horseheads Capital Project Vote, 7 AM – 9 PM, High School
<u>Thursday, October 19th:</u>	Board of Education Meeting, Multi-Media Center, 6:00 PM
<u>Friday, October 20th:</u>	NO SCHOOL – SUPERINTENDENT’S CONFERENCE DAY
<u>Wednesday, October 25th:</u>	Unity Day (Anti-bully message), all students wear orange.
<u>Saturday, October 28th:</u>	PTO Make-A-Difference Day, 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. The **Presidential Service Award** program honors students who volunteer throughout their community. Students who volunteer 50, 75 or 100 hours over the course of the school year will be honored with an award. Please contact Mrs. Doubrava in the Intermediate School office for more details.
2. **Emergency Drills:** Throughout the school year, we will practice several drills which include fire, shelter, bus off-site evacuation, and lockdown. They are to help us be better prepared and to ensure the safety of all in the event an emergency did happen.
3. NYS Law states that **we need a doctor’s notice to dispense medication** even such things as over the counter medications. Students **may not** take medication on their own. Contact the school nurse with any questions.
4. **Halloween:** On Tuesday, October 31st, we will celebrate Halloween **within the classroom** late in the afternoon. There will be **no parade** at the Intermediate School. Students **should not come to school** wearing any costumes, hats or make-up. Based on team preference, students may be permitted to change into their costumes late in the day. **Students cannot bring any sprays or make-up** due to allergies. Bloody, gruesome, or violent costumes **are not permitted at any time**. Appropriate masks may be permitted in the classroom in the afternoon, but must be removed before riding the bus home. Safety is our primary concern. **Colored hair is not permitted** at any time in school. This has created a disruption to the educational process.
5. **Cars are not permitted to park in the bus and fire lanes at any time.** This includes after school and evening events. If you are picking up a student during the school day, please park in the large area and come to the front door. Our fire lane must be kept open.
6. Please encourage your child to read. The School’s goal for each student is to read **25 books** a year for Grades 5 and 6. Students are recognized on the announcements as ***Ferocious Readers*** as they reach the goal.
7. **Morning Drop-off:** Students are not to arrive before **7:40 AM**. Our Cafeteria is being used by Middle School students until this time. Student arrival between 7:40 AM – 8:00 AM is dependent upon good behavior.
8. **Dismissal:** Children should be picked up promptly between **2:20 PM - 2:30 PM** in the Art Room. Adults picking up students will be asked to sign a dismissal sheet before leaving with students. Please park in front of the building in the upper lot and use the side doors to the Art Rooms. Please **do not arrive prior to 2:15PM**. Recess may be on the black top until 2:20 PM, and this is a safety concern.
9. **The Advanced Art Program begins in October.** Please see our September Newsletter or the Art Teacher’s Sites at horseheadsdistrict.com for selection criteria and more information.
10. Three years ago we launched a Makerspace in the Intermediate School. A Makerspace is a place for students to tap their creativity and innovation by investigating/making things they are passionate about. We are starting small with things such as making challenges, electrical circuits, tech devices such as Makey Makey/Little Bits/Ozobots/Ollie/Sphero, and we even have a take apart station where students can deconstruct electrical devices to see how they work. From time to time we will be asking for general household item donations. Thank you in advance if you can help out.

The Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) have been in our schools for many years now. Just recently the Board of Regents adopted the newly revised English Language Arts and Mathematics Learning Standards on September 11, 2017. They can be found [here](#).

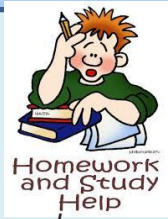
The new standards have been the result of over two years of collaborative work to ensure New York State has the best learning standards for our students. Over 130 educators and parents worked together to make recommendations and revise the standards, resulting in a new set of revised English Language Arts and Mathematics Learning Standards. Additional information about the timeline for implementation in schools is available from [Standards and Assessment Implementation Timeline](#).

Simple Things You Can Do At Home

English Language Arts	Math
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply more non-fiction text; read non-fiction texts aloud or with your child, discuss nonfiction texts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of what your child struggled with last year and how that will affect learning this year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply series of texts on topics of interest, find books that are challenging at their level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notice whether your child <u>REALLY</u> knows why the answer is what it is.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand evidence in every day discussions/ disagreements. Read aloud or read the same book and discuss with evidence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Push children to know/ memorize basic math facts. Provide <u>TIME</u> for your child to work hard with math at home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read often and constantly with babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and children. Read multiple books about the same topic. Let your kids see you reading. Family reading! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know what the priority work is for your child for their grade level, spend time with your child on priority work, ask your child's teacher about their progress on priority work.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage writing at home, write "books" together and use evidence/ details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask your child to <u>DO</u> the math that comes up in your daily life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have your child make a claim, and back it up with evidence. <i>Ex: I claim that the plants need to be watered. My evidence is that the soil is extremely dry.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure your child is <u>PRACTICING</u> the math facts he/she struggles with. Make sure your child is thinking about Math in real life

PARENT'S GUIDE TO HOMEWORK

[Click here](#) for the full Homework Guide



★ **Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.**

Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.

★ **Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary, are available.**

Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance.

★ **Help your child with time management.**

Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Think about using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big projects, especially if the project involves getting together with classmates.

★ **Be positive about homework.**

Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.

★ **When your child does homework, you do homework.**

Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is reading, you read too. If your child is doing math, balance your checkbook.

★ **When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.**

Giving answers means your child will not learn the material. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him or her.

★ **When the teacher asks that you play a role in homework, do it.**

Cooperate with the teacher. It shows your child that the school and home are a team. Follow the directions given by the teacher.

★ **If homework is meant to be done by your child alone, stay away.**

Too much parent involvement can prevent homework from having some positive effects. Homework is a great way for kids to develop independent, lifelong learning skills.

★ **Stay informed.**

Talk with your child's teacher. Make sure you know the purpose of homework and what your child's class rules are.

★ **Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework.**

Have your child do the hard work first. This will mean he will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Easy material will seem to go fast when fatigue begins to set in.

★ **Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration.**

Let your child take a short break if she is having trouble keeping her mind on an assignment.

★ **Reward progress in homework** *If your child has been successful in homework completion and is working hard, celebrate that success with a special event (e.g., pizza, a walk, a trip to the park) to reinforce the positive effort.*

HABIT OF MIND' AND CHARACTER TRAIT OF THE MONTH

The Habit of Mind: **Persisting** means to stick to it! Persevering in task through to completion; remaining focused. Looking for ways to reach your goal when stuck. Not giving up!

Character Trait: **Responsibility** is doing what you are expected to do, persevere, always do your best, use self-control, think before you act, be accountable for your choices/action.

Parents can help reinforce **responsibility**.

- Students can do chores at home
- Accountable for doing things in a timely manner
- Teaching time management
- Develop routines and procedures
- Encourage taking initiative



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS



Parent volunteers needed! This after school activity is for anyone who likes books. All year students will prepare for the Battle in June, by reading the list of selected books. In April, we will meet as a group after school to discuss the books and build teams. In the Battle, teams will be asked “In which book....?” The team that answers the most titles and authors correctly wins the Battle. Below is the selection of books (sample) that was used in past years for the battle (this will not be the list for this year). If you are willing to help with this club, please contact the main office.

Mick Harte was here	Barbara Park
Inside Out & Back Again	Thanhha Lai
Watsons go to Birmingham - 1963	Christopher Paul Curtis
Island of the Blue Dolphins	Scott O'Dell
Best Christmas Pageant Ever	Barbara Robinson
Julie of the Wolves	Jean Craighead George
The Westing Game	Ellen Raskin
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe	C.S. Lewis
Dollhouse Murders	Betty Ren Wright
Witch of Blackbird Pond	Elizabeth George Speare

SCHOOL MATTERS!



September was School Attendance Awareness Month. In cooperation with Chemung County, area school districts, including the Horseheads district, are reminding parents that good school attendance is crucial to academic success.

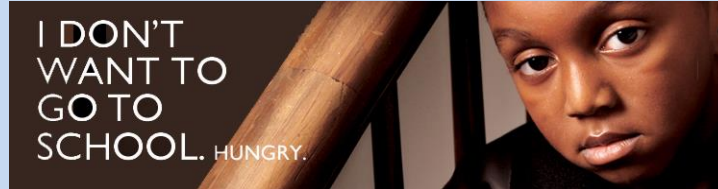
Research has shown that chronic absence leads to lower reading proficiency, course failure, and eventually, dropping out of school. Chronic absence is missing more than ten percent of the school year, or about 18 days. Absenteeism affects academic performance. Every day counts!

Horseheads Central School District officials announced that State Senator Tom O'Mara (R,C,I-Big Flats) has secured \$230,000 in this year's state budget to assist the school's plans to improve safety along County Route 17 (Sing Sing Road) in front of the Horseheads Middle and Intermediate schools. The estimated cost of \$230,000 includes design, construction, and inspection. Construction is expected to get underway in Spring 2018 and be completed during the summer.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S GRADES AND ATTENDANCE?...PARENT PORTAL

Parents of students in grades 5-12 are able to view information about their child's attendance and grades with the "Parent Portal." In order to set up an account, we must have a valid e-mail address for each parent who would like access.

Please note: If you checked the Parent Portal box on your child's emergency form, or if you signed up at the school's Open House, you do not need to do anything further. You should have received further information about Parent Portal via e-mail. If you haven't already signed up, visit the Main Office. You will be asked to complete a short form and present identification. Please note that this feature is only available for parents of students in grades 5-12. If you have questions, please call 739-5601, x4251 or e-mail kpeters@horseheadsdistrict.com.



The Backpack Program is scheduled to begin in October and will continue throughout the 2017-2018 school year. The program will provide a bag of non-perishable food for eligible children each Friday afternoon for him or her to eat over the weekend. The food is discreetly given to each child in the program at the end of the day and is intended to be opened by your child at home. To receive forms or information, contact Tina Coon, IS Social Worker, at 739-6366 ext. 3741. For more information go to the website www.foodbankst.org/backpack-program.

Board of Education Recognition Week October 23rd – October 27th

We would like to thank all of our Board of Education (BOE) members for their hard work and dedication. They play a vital role in the success of our students in our great District. If you see a BOE member, please thank them for the work they do to ensure *Quality Education for All* students. Members include:

Pam Strollo, President; Brian Lynch, Vice-President; Lisa Christiansen, Daniel Christmas, Warren Conklin; Kristine Dale, Doug Johnson, David Sadler, and Angelique Lapitan, Student Representative.

DELAYED START PROCEDURE

The Horseheads Central School District along with other GST BOCES Districts will be using a "delayed start" procedure for inclement weather days rather than close the schools for the entire day. The delay would open each school two hours later than the normal start time. School would end at the regular time on a "delayed start" day. The media will be contacted and the decision to "delay start" will be broadcast to the public. If the decision to "delay" is later changed to "close," the media would be notified and the correction made. Once informed school is closed, the decision is final.

This means transportation will arrive at the bus stop two hours later as each school will open two hours later. Staff will arrive later and students being dropped off should arrive two hours later than the regular start time (9:45 AM). Lunch will be served at regular times.

PLEASE NOTE: No breakfast will be served on a "Delayed Start" Day.



NEW INFORMATION REGARDING VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS!



NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

PLEASE READ THIS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Dear Fifth Grade Parents/Guardians:

All 6th grade students will need to receive 2 doses of the Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccination along with the Tdap vaccine. The laws are very strict, and we cannot allow students to come to school after the first 10 days of school without these immunizations.

Your child may get the required immunization through your health care provider, Five Star Urgent or Walk-In Clinics or through the Chemung County Health Department, at (607)737-2028, appointment, only if qualified.

You must provide proof that your child has received the Tdap immunization in order for your child to attend school in the fall. Your health care provider or health department will provide you with this written proof once your child receives the immunization. Please bring this proof to our Health Office or fax it to us at 795-2495. **No appointment cards accepted.**

Please note: 10-year-old students who are entering 6th grade will not be required to receive the Tdap vaccine at this time and will not be excluded from school, but will be tracked and must be immunized upon turning 11 years old.

If you have further questions, please contact the health office at 739-6366 (Option 2). Thank you for your cooperation.



HEALTH CORNER



It is that time of the year again to remember good health practices. Please keep your child home if he/she has had a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours. Because there is no known cure for the common cold, prevention is the key to keeping colds away. Most of the time you acquire a cold virus by touching your eyes, nose or mouth with an object that has the cold virus on it. Therefore, to help avoid catching a cold:

- Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with warm soapy water.
- Sneeze into a tissue, rather than your hands, then discard the tissue (*Remember to please send in tissue boxes)
- Don't touch your face—your hands may have come in contact with a cold virus!
- Drink 8 glasses of water daily.
- Get plenty of rest—up to 12 hours a night!!!

Please be considerate of others—you are contagious for the first three days that cold symptoms appear.

Physical Education Happening's

INTRAMURALS STARTING SOON

What: That's right – your students' favorite after school activity/sports program.

Who: Girls and Boys grades 5th and 6th

Where: Right here at the IS building, supervised by our own Phys. Ed. Staff.

When: Beginning in November after school hours from 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM. **Parents must provide transportation home.**

Why: To provide healthy fitness/sports offerings to all students, with the emphasis on fun through play.



Horseheads Schools...Building Our Future Now

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

FACT SHEET



On October 17, 2017, Horseheads Central School District residents will vote on a \$94.5 million comprehensive project to improve both our educational program and physical infrastructure. This is another stepping-stone in the District's proud history of providing the best education and facilities for our children and community. The project directly reflects the District's long-range planning and ongoing efforts to ensure we protect our investment in our community's schools.

By staying current with the latest curriculum, programmatic, and facilities trends, our District can give our students a *global education*. At the same time, we remain vigilant in taking advantage of the availability of key state funding and favorable economic conditions to update and maintain our infrastructure. Consequently, major components of the project focus directly on education, such as upgrades to classrooms, security, and technology. Additionally, the project also includes the replacement of items that succumb to normal wear and tear, such as roofs, parking lots, and mechanical systems that are no longer warranted or are at the end of their useful life.

During the last several months, teachers, support staff, the Board of Education, parents, business people, local officials, students, administrators, and community members have worked together to help develop the project components. Through much thoughtful preparation, there is a plan in place to pay for this project with a minimal local impact. **The result:** a project that will improve both the District and the entire community.

Shaping the project, the team used the findings of the most recent state-required Building Condition Survey to identify facility needs, focusing on large scale maintenance and energy efficiency. Every school building, our transportation department, and our grounds would see improvements.

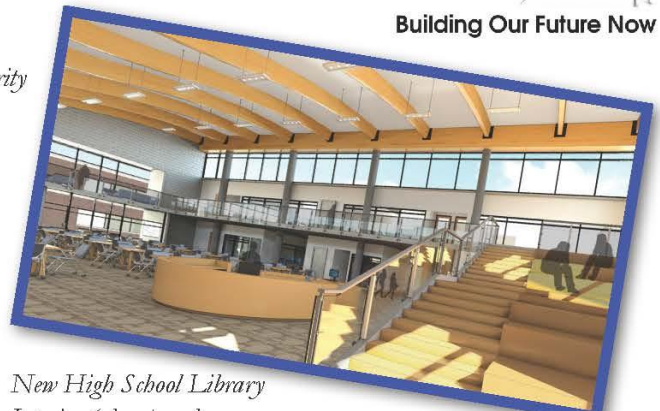
We encourage all District residents to vote on October 17, 2017, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Horseheads High School South Gymnasium. More information can be found at horseheadsdistrict.com/hh2030.cfm.



PROJECT AT A GLANCE



New Main Entrance & Security at High School



New High School Library Interior (above) and Exterior (below)



21st Century Classroom Upgrades



Continued on back...

SCOPE HIGHLIGHTS

All Elementary Schools

- Roof Replacements
- Mechanical System Upgrades
- Voice Over Internet Protocol & Technology Upgrades
- Corridor Ceilings and Lights
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Playground Improvements
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lot Improvements

Big Flats Elementary School

- Flooring Replacements
- Electrical Upgrades
- Exterior Building Improvements
- Exterior Door Replacements

Center Street Elementary School

- Boiler Replacement

Gardner Road Elementary School

- Main Entrance Security Improvements
- Exterior Door Replacements

Ridge Road Elementary School

- Electrical Upgrades
- Exterior Building Improvements
- Exterior Door Replacements
- Exterior Security Improvements

Middle School/Intermediate School

- Roof Replacements
- Mechanical System Upgrades
- Voice Over Internet Protocol & Technology Upgrades
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Electrical Upgrades
- Exterior Building Improvements
- Exterior Security Improvements
- Exterior Door Replacements
- Playground Improvements
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lot Improvements
- Cafeteria Expansion
- Kitchen Upgrades
- Physical Education Space Improvements
- MS Art Room Upgrades
- MS Technology Room Upgrades
- MS Science Room Upgrades

High School

- Roof Replacements
- Mechanical System Upgrades
- Voice Over Internet Protocol & Technology Upgrades
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Electrical Upgrades
- Main Entrance Relocation and Security Improvements

High School (continued)

- New Main Office/Guidance Office/Nurse's Suite
- Exterior Door Replacements
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lots
- Kitchen and Cafeteria Renovation and Expansion
- Classroom Addition/Renovations
- Library Addition
- New Multi Purpose Stadium

Bus Maintenance Facility

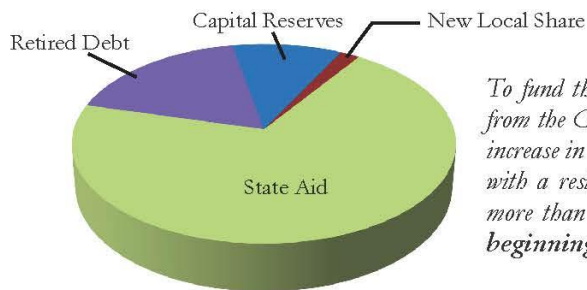
- Mechanical System Upgrades
- Voice Over Internet Protocol & Technology Upgrades
- Lighting Upgrades
- Emergency Lighting Upgrades
- Electrical Upgrades
- Exterior Building Improvements
- Exterior Door Replacements
- Overhead Door Improvements
- Traffic Flow/Parking Lot Improvements



New Multi-Purpose Stadium

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The proposed Capital Project will cost an estimated \$94.5 million. The pie chart below depicts the different funding sources.



To fund the project, the District will use State Building Aid, retired debt, and money from the Capital Reserve Fund to minimize the local impact. 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.

COMMUNITY MEETING

Monday, October 2, 2017
7 p.m.
High School Auditorium

The community meeting will include a detailed presentation of the proposed project and financing followed by a question and answer session.

VOTE INFORMATION

Tuesday, October 17, 2017
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Horseheads High School
South Gymnasium

For questions related to the Capital Project please contact the Horseheads Central School District Office at 607-739-5601 ext. 4295.

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

Substitute Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Substitute RNs and Bus Drivers needed for per diem work during the school year.

Teaching Substitutes must meet the following criteria: 1) An Associates' Degree or higher; OR 2) completion of at least 2 years of College; OR 3) Graduated from High School for at least 4 years and completed at least 12 college credits; OR 4) an Honorable Discharge from the military.

Sub RNs should bring in evidence of their license.

Sub Bus Drivers – Training will be included

Apply in person at Human Resources

or email: hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com for more information.

Apply in person at the address below:

Human Resources Office
Horseheads Central School District
One Raider Lane (south end of the High School)

RATES FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

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

Math Enrichment Club

Noetic Learning is a math challenge club that offers enrichment to students. We are looking for a parent club leader who is willing to lead a small group of students. [Click here](#) or call the office for more information.



Pull for the House.



Many Hearts. One Home.

Please start hoarding pull tabs! We began our drive to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Last year we gathered over 53 pounds which was the most out of any school in the region! **Get others involved** – ask your friends, neighbors, and family members to collect! Pull tabs can be brought to the office.

Attention!

PRINCIPAL CHATS

October 10th, January 9th, and April 10th
9:00 AM in the Cafeteria 6:00 – 6:30PM in the Library

Intermediate School PTO Officers (2017-2018)

President:	Lisa Bingaman	magnolia3666@yahoo.com	767-5121
VP:	Gretchen Ferraro	gferraro2010@gmail.com	425-2603
Treasurer:	Brandon Johnson	brjohnso@horseheadsdistrict.com	358-4117
Secretary:	Jaime Cunningham	cunningham.jaime@yahoo.com	857-0197

Michael Bostwick is the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Coordinator at the Intermediate School. Judith Christiansen is the DASA Coordinator for the district. All concerns regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying should be directed accordingly.

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 Coordinator, or Kim Williams, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601