

The School Connection



Principal's Post

Horseheads Intermediate School

As we enter another school year, I reflect back on how quickly the summer passed by. The weather was nice, which allowed for plenty of outdoor activities. I hope you had the opportunity to appreciate some time outside doing the things you enjoy.

Now we are back at it...summer is quickly fading away, and fall will be upon us soon. For some that may mean bad news with winter inevitably on its way, but for me it means cooler temperatures, changing leaves, football season, but most importantly – a fresh start to a new school year. To me, fall brings a sense of strength in knowing that renewed beginnings bring new learning. My hope is that the summer has rejuvenated our students and broadened excitement for the challenges that lie ahead.

I am truly excited to have a full staff and 600 students back at the Intermediate School. We are ready to educate and facilitate the growth of your child's learning. There are great challenges that lie ahead with state expectations for performance. Please know that we are focusing on what is best for your child. We have a strategic district and an incredible school. I can't help but think how fortunate we are to have the honor and privilege of educating students in the Horseheads Central School District. We all take that seriously, and we'll do all we can to help each and every child reach for their full potential. I thank you in advance for your support.

Please read this newsletter carefully as it is full of important information about the Intermediate School and some exciting upcoming events. If you'd like to stay informed about the great things going on at Horseheads Intermediate School, dig into our social media. Follow me on Twitter and at our hashtag, like us on Facebook, and visit our website for useful resources and great information.

We have so many valuable learning experiences and fun activities lined up for your child this year at the Intermediate School. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming activities, events, and clubs. If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, do not hesitate to call the office.

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>

Yours in education,

Michael Bostwick

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."
-- Jane D. Hull

September 2017
Volume 6 Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Principal's Post	1
Calendar Dates	2
Informational PTO	2-3
DASA	4
Habits of Mind Character Trait	5
Advanced Art	6-7
Makerspace	7
Nurse's Office	8
Family Rights & Privacy Act	9
Classifieds	10-11

ATTENTION!

[Parent Resources](#)
on IS website.

"Please know that we are focusing on what is best for your child."

Mark Your Calendars!

<u>Monday, Sept. 4th:</u>	NO SCHOOL – LABOR DAY
<u>Tuesday, Sept. 5th:</u>	NO SCHOOL – SUPERINTENDENT’S CONFERENCE DAY
<u>Wednesday, Sept. 6th:</u>	First Day of School
<u>Tuesday, Sept. 12th:</u>	Open House, 6:30 PM
<u>Tuesday, Sept. 19th:</u>	PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM, Library
<u>Thursday, September 21st:</u>	Ice Cream Social, 6:30-8:30PM (Fall Book Fair Kickoff)
<u>Sept. 22nd – Sept. 26th:</u>	Fall Book Fair
<u>Thursday, Sept. 28th:</u>	Board of Education Meeting, Intermediate School, 6:00 PM
<u>Friday, Sept. 29th:</u>	School Pictures

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

Staff at the Horseheads Intermediate School would like to welcome you to our school. We look forward to having a great year! The staff is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the welfare and safety of your children from the time of their arrival at school in the morning, until they are placed aboard the school buses at dismissal. In order to fulfill this responsibility, we solicit your cooperation with the following requests:

1. If you would like your child to be excused from school early, please send a note stating the time of dismissal, the name of the person to whom the child is to be released, and the reason for the early dismissal. Children being dismissed early will wait in the school office and may be picked up at the requested time.
2. School begins at 8:25 AM. Homeroom period starts at 8:00 AM. Students who do not ride the bus to school **should not arrive before 7:40 AM**. No supervision will be provided prior to 7:40 AM. From 7:40 AM until 8:00 AM, students will be directed to the Cafeteria. Breakfast will be available from 7:40 AM – 8:20 AM. To avoid any potential unsafe situations, it is requested the stipulated arrival time be followed. **The drop-off site has been changed this year. Parent Drop-Off will only be at the Main Entrance of our school.** Please drive up and around the outside of the upper parking lot, and proceed to drop off in the canopy area at the Main Entrance of the Intermediate School. Please make sure your child is ready to exit the curbside of your vehicle. If you need to complete any morning routines or tasks, we ask you to park in the upper parking lot and have your student get ready to be dropped off before you get into the drop-off line. Morning buses will use the Fieldhouse entrance to drop-off students to school. No parent vehicles will be allowed to use the Fieldhouse entrance. This is for safety and to minimize traffic congestion at the school and on Sing Sing Road.
3. If your child is not going to ride home on the school bus on a given day, send a note on that day to the school office outlining your pick up plans. Children should be picked up promptly between **2:20 – 2:30 PM** in the Art Room. Adults picking up students will be asked to sign a dismissal sheet before leaving with the children. Please park in the front of the building in the upper lot, and use the side doors to the Art Rooms at dismissal. Please do not arrive before 2:20 PM. Recess is held on the blacktop of the upper parking lot until this time and classes do not end until 2:15 PM.
4. Students who have notes for early dismissal or for other dismissal arrangements are to take a note to **their homeroom teacher in the morning**. Without a note, your child will be placed on his/her regular bus.
5. On the first day of school, several papers need to be read and signed. **One very important notice is the EMERGENCY GO HOME form.** Please be sure that your child is aware of the emergency address in the event of an early dismissal. Be sure to alert us to any changes that may occur throughout the school year in order for the changes to be made here at school
6. Should any questions or concerns arise during the school year, we would ask that you contact your child’s teacher first, per school district policy. Further questions can be directed to the building administrators.

7. Please note an important message from the Transportation Department. If you should have any questions, please feel free to call us at 739-6366.
"In an effort to cut costs and increase efficiency, we will be consolidating some of our bus runs. As a result, your child's bus number(s) and bus times may change, and your child may be on the bus a little longer than last year. In addition, due to limited space on the buses, we are no longer able to allow friends of students to ride their bus to and from school with them."
8. **Cafeteria Prices:** Please note that cafeteria prices have remained the same for this year: Elementary Lunch - \$2.10, Secondary Lunch - \$2.35 and Breakfast - \$1.25.
9. Important Open House Information. Our Annual Open House is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 12th, between 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM**. This is always a great evening. The halls are crowded with students and their families. There will be displays in the Cafeteria by organizations including the scouts. **The evening is structured as a traditional style of Open House. Parents are welcome to travel around and meet all teachers anytime between 6:30 – 7:30PM.** Please note that this structure will allow parents to briefly meet each teacher and learn valuable information about school the year. If you wish to spend more time with the teacher, please set up a conference for another time.

OPEN  HOUSE

Intermediate School PTO Officers (2017-18)

I'd like to introduce you all to our PTO Officers for the 2017-18 school year. Lisa Bingaman is in her second year as President, this will be her 2nd year. Gretchen, Brandon, and Jamie are joining the team of officers this year! Please attend our meetings held in the Library at 6:30 pm. Our first meeting is on September 19th.

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



FAMILY VACATIONS



Absences due to vacation trips are not excused absences. Before making vacation plans, please consult the school calendar. Parents are strongly discouraged from taking their children out of school for family vacations because valuable classroom instructional time can never be replaced by make-up assignments. If parents decide to take their child out of school for vacations, please notify your child's teacher.

Because such extended absences are not excused, students are expected to request their work upon return. An appropriate time frame will be given to return the assignments. Students should be encouraged by parents to practice academic skills while on the trip (i.e. journaling, applying math to situations, finding science/historical connections, etc.)





Dignity For All Students Act (DASA)



Differences between Conflict and Bullying

Conflict

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

Bullying

- ▶ intent to cause harm – bullies have thought about how to harm others
- ▶ imbalance of power - bullies use power to control or harm their victims
- ▶ repetition - bullies often target the same people over and over

If your child is experiencing any issues at school please keep in close contact with the teacher(s). If the issue is serious or persistent, building administrators will handle each issue earnestly.

HABITS OF MIND

The Intermediate School will be practicing the Habits of Mind. Habits of Mind are characteristics of what people can do when faced with challenges or problems to solve. There are 16 Habits of Mind, and our school will focus on one Habit of Mind per month beginning with Listening with Empathy and Understanding:

1. **Listening with Empathy and Understanding - September**
2. **Persisting**
3. **Managing Impulsivity**
4. **Thinking Flexibly**
5. **Taking Responsible Risks**
6. **Questioning and Posing Problems**
7. **Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations**
8. **Striving for Accuracy**
9. **Thinking about your Thinking (Metacognition)**
10. **Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision**

Listening with Empathy and Understanding
means to always consider other people's perspectives, listen attentively, and to care about others' opinions. Please help foster this at home.

If you would like to know more about the Habits of Mind, please visit <http://www.instituteforhabitsofmind.com>

Character Trait of the Month is...

Respect

- Treat others the way you want to be treated
- Be tolerant of differences
- Use good manners and positive language
- Be considerate of the feelings of others
- Deal peacefully in times of conflict



**EMOTIONAL HEALTH SCREENINGS AVAILABLE FOR ALL
CHEMUNG COUNTY YOUTH
AGES 4-21**

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: **Emotional Health Issue can affect:**

Good Relationships

Good Decisions

Ability to deal with life's challenges

Interest in school

Improved physical health

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 for your child. **Forms are available on the school district website; www.horseheadsdistrict.com, then click on Center Street 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



ADVANCED ART PROGRAM



Advanced Art classes will be offered to fifth and sixth grade students who are identified as highly talented in Art. The criteria for program selection are: 1) The student consistently demonstrates excellence in art skills, technique and creative problem solving with a variety of art forms and materials; 2) The student completes Art assignments on time and in a quality manner; and 3) The student demonstrates a positive attitude in Art. The student exhibits self-motivation with a high degree of interest in pursuing Art.

Initially, each student's ability level will be assessed through a Composite Drawing Test and their beginning art projects.

The Advanced Art Program will begin in mid-October. Advanced Art classes are held during the school day with your child's regular Art Teacher. 5th grade Advanced Art will meet on Day 3 at 1:30-2:15 PM, and 6th grade Advanced Art will meet on Day 6 at 1:30-2:15 PM. Parents of those students accepted will be notified and asked to sign a permission slip. Class attendance is mandatory for participating students. Please understand that space is limited, with only two classes of Advanced Art available for each grade level. Students who were in Advanced Art last year are not automatically guaranteed a spot for this school year. ALL students will be assessed on a continuous basis for potential inclusion or removal from this program.



Dress Up in Dots Day is September 15th

On Friday, September 15th, our IS students and staff can participate in our kick off to “International Dot Day” by dressing up in dots.

International Dot Day is a global celebration of creativity, courage and collaboration inspired by Peter H. Reynolds’ book, “The Dot”.

The Dot is the story of a caring teacher who dares a doubting student to trust in her own abilities by being brave enough to “make her mark”. What begins with a small dot on a piece of paper becomes a breakthrough in confidence and courage, igniting a journey of self-discovery and sharing, which has gone on to inspire countless children and adults around the globe.

If you are not familiar with this simple, but powerful story, you can view a video version of the book at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5mGeR4AQdM>

Stay tuned throughout the month of September and beyond, for projects and learning experiences that encompass “The Dot” philosophy. “Make your mark and see where it takes you”.



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 started small with things such as making challenges, electrical circuits, tech devices such as Makey Makey/Little Bits/Ozobots, and we even have a take apart station where students can deconstruct electrical devices to see how they work. Last year we added a 3D printer, and we’re excited to see where this will take us! Be sure to follow our school hashtag to see all of the great happenings at the IS! [#ISinnovators](#)

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. Information must be received by **Tuesday, September 19, 2017.** **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 two 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 3 days after symptoms appear.

If you have questions, please call the health department at 737-2028.

Notification of Rights under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

This is to advise you of your rights with respect to student records pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of student records. The law gives parents and students over 18 years of age (referred to in the law as "eligible students") the following rights:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the building principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the district to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading by writing the principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specifying why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to file a complaint with the US Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The office that administers FERPA is as follows:

Family Policy Compliance Office
US Department of Education
600 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605



Career Development Council

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.

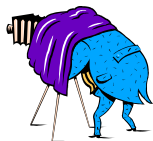
If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about how you can get involved, **please contact Deb Lynch**, the Career Development Representative for the Horseheads School District, at (607)795-5320 or dlynch@gstboces.org.

ANONYMOUS TIP LINE

The Horseheads Central School District has an anonymous tip line for students, parents, and community to use to report rumors, tips, or other items of concern regarding district schools. The service is available twenty-four hours, seven days a week. All calls are anonymous, unless the caller wishes to leave his/her name. The tip line numbers are 795-2044 and 1-800-305-4984 (toll free).

SCHOOL PICTURES

The photographer will be at the Intermediate School on **Friday, September 29th.** Information packets and payment envelopes will be sent home approximately one to two weeks prior to the picture date. Don't forget to wear your smile!



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Labels for Education & Box Tops
raised \$414.00 during
2016-2017 school year!

This is amazing!
Thank you for participating in this on-
going fundraiser!



Attention!

PRINCIPAL CHATS

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

Parent Portal



**Parent
Portal**

Parent Portal



Would you like to know more about your child's grades and attendance? Join Parent Portal to get access to up to date student records. In order to set up an account, we must have a valid e-mail address for each parent who would like access. 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: 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.



The Fall Book Fair sponsored by the **PTO** will be kicked off at the Ice Cream Social on Thursday, September 21st and run Friday, September 22nd through Tuesday, September 26th.

Please contact if you are available to volunteer.
Lisa Bingaman, magnolia3666@yahoo.com

767-5121



Electronic Devices

Electronic devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, iPods, iPads, etc. are not permitted to be used or visible during the school day. Teachers have been instructed to take the device and turn it in to the Main Office after 1 warning. Parents will then need to pick up the device in the office. Repeated violations of this procedure may result in a conduct referral and consequence. Additionally, the school district is NOT liable for lost, damaged, or stolen property.

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

Substitute Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Substitute RNs 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 and LPNs should bring in evidence of their license.

RATES FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

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



Pull for the House.



Many Hearts. One Home.

We will again be collecting aluminum can pull tabs this year. Thanks to all who donated pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Last year we have collected over **53 pounds**. **Please continue collecting the tabs.** As friends, neighbors, and relatives to save their tabs too! You can drop them off in the office anytime!

ART SUPPLIES NEEDED

Mrs. Crans' art classes is in need of the following recyclable materials:

- Newspapers
- Styrofoam Egg Cartons (preferably the 18 egg size)
- Paper towel and toilet paper cylinders
- Clean plastic containers with or without lids such as yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese, baby food
- Plastic bottle caps from soda, milk, juice, etc. All colors and sizes needed

Any items you can donate are greatly appreciated.



APPR of Teacher 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.

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

Chapter 434 of the New York State Education Law requires school districts to notify parents or persons in parental relation of their rights regarding the referral and evaluation of their child for the purposes of special education services or programs. This information can be found on our district website (www.horseheadsdistrict.com) or on the New York State Education Department website (www.nysed.gov) in "A Parent's Guide to Special Education." If you have further questions, please contact Kim Williams, Director of Student Services, at 607-739-5601, x4300.

Michael Bostwick is the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Coordinator at the Intermediate School. Megan Collins 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/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.