## The School Connection



#### **Principal's Post**

## Horseheads Intermediate School

Spring has officially arrived! It feels refreshing to be able to spend more time outdoors, and I'm sure the students are enjoying burning off the winter cabin fever.

March was a great month to continue our strong focus on academics prior to the New York State tests. Students and staff have been working very hard to get the most learning out of every opportunity each day.

The **NYS ELA Tests are April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.** Math Tests will be May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. We greatly appreciate your support by ensuring your child(ren) get a good night's sleep, a nutritious breakfast, and necessary supplies such as sharpened pencils. It is also very important that all students arrive on time on testing days. NYS has improved the testing process by decreasing the testing days from 3 to 2 days, making them untimed, questions are written by educators, and they are releasing over 75% of the test questions for our use at the local level.

We are continuing to encourage students to read toward their 25 book goal. Over 100 students have already reached this goal with new members of the "Ferocious Readers Club" being added daily. Even just 20 minutes of reading each night will help toward this goal as well as increasing their academic achievement. As we approach the end of the school year, please continue to check your child's homework completion and encourage/help them study for quizzes and tests.

Thank you for all you do to support your child in his/her education. The time you devote to reading with them, helping with homework/project, or even just ensuring their best quality work, is an investment that will pay off in the future. Check out the article to the right about how to keep your child motivated at school through these last couple of months.

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

April 2019 Volume 7 Issue 8

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#### **Parent Article**

#### ATTENTION!

Parent Resources on IS website.

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."
- Benjamin Franklin

"Thank you for all you do to support your child in his/her education"

#### **Mark Your Calendars!**

Wed. 4/3 - Thur. 4/4:NYS Gr. 3-8 ELA Assessment

Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>: Board of Education Budget Workshop, Multi-Media Center, 6:00 PM

Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>: Principal Chat – 9:00 AM Cafeteria/6:00 PM, Library, PTO Meeting, Library, 6:30 PM

Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>: Report Cards Go Home

Mon, 4/15 – 4/19: NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK

Wed, April 24<sup>th</sup>: Board of Education Meeting, Multi-Media Center, 6:00 PM

#### Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

- 1. **State Testing Information:** We will be administering the State ELA Tests April 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> and State Math Test May 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> to all students. You can help by discussing the importance of these tests with your child. It is also important to have a good breakfast and a good night's sleep before the tests. See page 4 for more tips!
- 2. **25 BOOK GOAL -** We are quickly approaching that time of year for the completion of reading 25 books. We will have a special recognition for those students who achieve this goal. Each teacher has a system in place for students to report that they have met the 25 book requirement. Please encourage your child to report to his or her teacher any books read so far this year.
- 3. **Dress Code Reminders:** With warmer weather hopefully on its way, it is time to review our dress code. Brief garments such as halter tops, spaghetti straps, net tops, tube tops, midriff bearing, or see-through garments are not appropriate. Undergarments should be completely covered with outer clothing. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed—this includes flip flops. Sandals and slip on shoes on the playground equipment also pose a safety concern. Shorts should be a comfortable length and fit appropriately. On cool days, students should dress appropriately for the temperature. Thank you for your cooperation in adhering to this code. Additionally, for health reasons, sprays, perfumes, etc. should not be brought to school.
- 4. We encourage students to bring healthy drinks rather than soda for snack or lunch. High caffeine energy drinks such as Monster, Red Bull, etc. are not permitted. Healthy snacks that are low in sugar allow students to focus better and maintain their attention span. No glass bottles please!
- 5. Spring Concerts Mark your calendars for the upcoming Spring Concerts:
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, HS Auditorium 7:00 PM Orchestra, Band, and Chorus
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, HS Auditorium 7:00 PM Orchestra, Band, and Chorus
- 6. **Presidential Service Awards:** As the end of the school year is approaching, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who meet the criteria for the 50, 75 or 100 hours awards and wish to receive their award at the Grade 6 Awards Ceremony will need to have their final log for the school year turned into the IS office by Friday, May 3, 2019 in order to ensure the arrival of awards. Grade 5 students who meet the criteria will have their awards presented to them here at school. All 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who wish to continue working toward the award may do so through June 30, 2019. These log hours need to be dropped off in the IS office by July 5, 2019. Awards will be available for students in September of 2019. Please contact the IS office should you have any questions. Click here for more information and service logs.
- 7. 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PARENTS! All 6<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 17, 2019. No appointment cards accepted.
- 8. The Food Service Department is seeking feedback on their meal program. They are looking for participants to fill out the Student and Parent Surveys that are located on the Foodservice Website: <a href="http://www.gstboces.org/ms/foodservices/newsite/studentsurvey/">http://www.gstboces.org/ms/foodservices/newsite/studentsurvey/</a> and <a href="http://www.gstboces.org/ms/foodservices/newsite/parentsurvey">http://www.gstboces.org/ms/foodservices/newsite/parentsurvey</a>. Thank you so much for taking the time to fill out the survey(s). The more feedback we can generate, the better we can shape our Food Service Program!

#### **ATTENTION PARENTS!!!**

We are always looking for interested parents who would like to help out with school events. That could be as simple as chaperoning an event or working at the Book Fair. Everyone is also welcome to join our PTO meetings listed on the District calendar. We appreciate your support and value the partnership!

#### **Intermediate School PTO Officers (2018-2019)**

President: Gretchen Ferraro gferraro2010@gmail.com 425-2603

VP: Angela Sullivan Aksullivan624@gmail.com 518-708-4288

Treasurer: Brandon Johnson brjohnso@horseheadsdistrict.com 358-4117

Secretary: Christina Staight Cstaight@aol.com 426-8597



#### **REQUIRED PHYSICAL EXAMS**

New York State has changed the grades for required physical examinations. **Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, all public school students must have a physical when they enter grades Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Grades 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have a child entering any of these grades this fall, please contact your physician to schedule an appointment. If you have questions, please contact your school nurse. Thank you.** 

#### SUMMER SPORTS PHYSICALS

Summer sports physicals will be:

Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM and

Tuesday, July 2, 2019, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

Registration for physicals will be open Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 on Family ID.

Due to possible construction at that time, location is to be determined.



#### NYS Assessments

The ELA State Test is April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Math State Test will be given on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. These tests help us determine how each student is performing with specific skills in Math toward the standards' expectations. They also help us to know who needs extra help (Academic Intervention Services or AIS) for the following school year in each of these areas. However, state tests alone will not be used to determine the need for additional help. We will be using multiple sources to determine the need for extra help.

Check out this link to read more about how NYS has improved the testing process by decreasing the testing days from 3 to 2 days, making them untimed, questions are written by educators, and they are releasing over 75% of the test questions for our use at the local level.

\*We explain to students that the tests are important and to try their best. However, we don't want to burden our students with stress and anxiety. Thanks for your help with this!

#### Test Taking Tips For Parents

- 1. Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before a test and has a nutritious breakfast in the morning.
- 2. Maintain a pleasant home environment and avoid unnecessary conflicts. Try to make the morning of the test a pleasant one.
- 3. Make sure your child has taken any needed medication.
- 4. Ensure that your child is present during testing (children generally perform better when taking tests with their class, rather than at a make-up time).
- 5. Get your child to school on time the day of the test.
- 6. Wish your child good luck each morning of the test. Tell your child that you believe in him/her.
- 7. Remind your child the test is important, but don't put too much emphasis on them that would create stress or anxiety.
- 8. Encourage him/her to do their best.
- 9. Remind your child to listen carefully to the instructions from the teacher, and to read the directions and each question carefully.
- 10. Explain to your child the importance of using time wisely. If your child gets stuck on a question, encourage him or her to make the best guess and move on.
- 11. Tell your child to attempt to answer all of the questions and not to leave any blank.
- 12. Encourage your child to stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early.

#### **BUDGET DEVELOPMENT**

The Board of Education and District administration are currently developing the 2019-2020 Proposed School Budget. To date two of three Board Budget Workshops have been held(February 7<sup>th</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup>). Both the presentation and a video of the presentation, as well as Budget and Vote Information, are available on our District website.

The remaining workshop is on April  $4^{th}$ , at 6:00 PM in the High School Multi-Media Center located in the South Wing. The workshop is open to the public.

A Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget will be Thursday, May 9th, at 6:00 PM in the High School Multi-Media Center.

The Budget Vote/Board Election is Tuesday, May 21st, 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. in the High School South Gym.

#### INTERSTED IN RUNNING FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION?

Voters will elect three members to the Board of Education on May 21<sup>st</sup>. If you're interested in running for the Board, petitions and other information will be available in the Business Office beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. Interested residents must submit petitions with the appropriate number of signatures of qualified district residents to the Business Office by April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Petitions will be available for pick-up March 1<sup>st</sup>. Questions? Email hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or call (607) 739-5601, x4260.

#### **CLASSIFIEDS**



The Horseheads Central School District is looking for interested individuals for several job positions: Cleaner, Bus Driver, Food Service Worker, as well as Substitute Clerical, Nurse, Cleaner and Food Service Worker. We seek candidates who are 18 or older, including retired community members. To apply, complete our District Application and submit it to Human Resources, South Wing of the High School. The District Application may be found here:

http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/uploadeddocs/application.pdf or picked up at our Human Resources Office. Questions? Email us at hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

#### 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 \$105 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at 739-5601 x 4211.

## Attention! PRINCIPAL CHATS

October 9<sup>th</sup>, January 8<sup>th</sup>, and **April 9<sup>th</sup>** 9:00 AM in the Cafeteria 6:00 – 6:30 PM, in the Library



Keep hoarding pull tabs and thank you for your donations! **Get others involved** – ask your friends, neighbors, and family members to collect! Pull tabs can be brought to the office.

#### **CHARACTER TRAIT AND**

#### HABIT OF MIND' OF THE MONTH

#### Character Trait: Responsibility

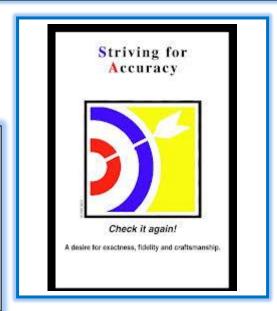
- Do what you are supposed to do
- Plan ahead
- Persevere: Keep on trying!
- · Always do your best
- Use self-control
- · Be self-disciplined
- Think before you act consider the consequences
- Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes
- Set a good example for others

#### The Habit of Mind:

**Striving for Accuracy:** An important part of being able to Strive for Accuracy is understanding what your goals are - what quality looks like. The person who strives for accuracy has a goal in mind and checks their progress against that goal.

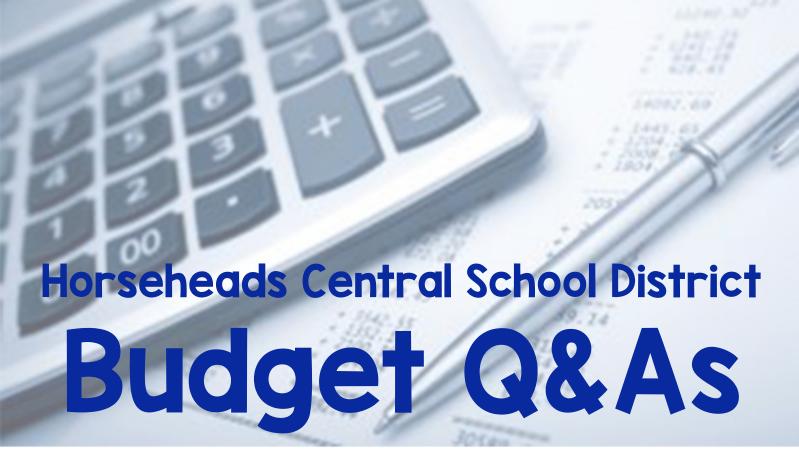
Successful people who strive for accuracy take time to **check** their product. They desire and value **craftsmanship!** They take **pride** in their work.

Keep trying and checking...trying and checking...trying and checking...until you make it the best you can.



Michael Bostwick is the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Coordinator at the Intermediate School, Caitlin DeFilippo 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 race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Caitlin DeFilippo, Title IX/DASA Coordinator and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kelly Squires Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601. This policy of non-discrimination includes access by students to educational programs, counseling services, course offerings, and activities, as well as recruitment and appointment of employees and employment pay, benefits, advancement and/or termination.



All are welcome. Sessions begin at 7pm.

Thursday, April 25: Big Flats Town Hall

Monday, April 29: Horseheads Town Hall

Tuesday, April 30: Horseheads Village Hall

Thursday, May 2: Erin Town Hall

# **Budget Vote:**

Tuesday, May 21, 7am-9pm, Horseheads High School South Gym

Questions? hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com







# New York Menu Day

**April 25, 2019** 

**NY All Beef Hot Dog** 

(Slate Foods-New York)

**Ranch Roasted NY Potatoes** 

(William's Farm-Marion, NY)

NY Mott's Apple Sauce

(Ontario, NY)

**NY Low-Fat Milk** 

(Upstate Farms-New York)





#### Digital Citizen News - April 2019

Volume 2 : Issue 8 - April 2019

Greater Southern

DAILY NEWS FLASH!

## TEACHING OF DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP NO **LONGER NECESSARY - INTERNET IS OK**

INTERNET FOUND TO BE 100% SAFE AND NO DATA HAS BEEN STOLEN FOR DAYS

APRIL FOOLS! Did anyone actually believe our fake headlines above? Just to be clear there is nothing than can make the Internet totally safe. Living in our world today requires everyone to be knowledgeable about digital citizenship to keep themselves and their private data safe, and far away from the hackers and scammers that would love to exploit it.

To put a more positive spin on all of this it is our hope that our young people, the digital natives, can learn about digital citizenship and make the online world a better place. Their unique understanding of technology can lead to solutions that could put an end to identity theft, cyberbullying, catfishing, swatting, spyware, malware and many other unpleasant things that have become commonplace today due to our infatuation with computers and other digital devices.

#### national robsticsweek



Put your digital skills to the test! Robotics combines STEM, coding, and lots of FUN

Visit the website for resources, and info about events in your area

#### **APRIL 7-15, 2019**

http://go.gstric.org/208-robotics



Sign Up to receive this newsletter in your email inbox

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

GEORGE LUCAS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

#### еситоріа

George Lucas, the creative mind behind the Star Wars universe. has endowed an educational foundation which encourages schools to use best practices so that students can thrive in their studies, careers. and lives.



Visit the EDUTOPIA web site for great articles about what works in education, and for great videos on many topics including digital citizenship. This article on Modeling Constructive Online Behavior looks at how teachers can use social media to model and reinforce positive behaviors. http://go.gstric.org/208-edutopia/

Send comments, suggestions, and questions to dc@gstboces.org Visit http://dc.gstboces.org April 2019 - page 1 of 3

#### TIPS FOR STUDENTS

#### DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AND INTERNET SAFETY

- LAWS Many sites and web tools are 13+. Most images and work online are protected by copyright.
- TALK Tell your parents what you're doing online. Always ask a trusted adult if you're unsure of anything.
- FRIENDS Don't add or meet online friends without parent permission.
  Don't trust everything friends tell you.
- PRIVACY Keep personal info private: Your full name, Address, Phone number, Passwords, Your plans and birthday.
- 5 REPUTATION Don't post anything you wouldn't want teachers, family, friends, and future employers to see.
- OUESTION You can't believe everything you read and see online. There's a lot of incorrect and biased info.
- BULLYING Tell someone if you think cyberbullying is hoppening to you or other people you know.
- ACCOUNTS Choose sensible email addresses and usernames. Use strong passwords and don't share them with others.
- MANNERS Be polite and respectful at all times. Treat others online how you'd like to be treated.
- 10 UNPLUG Balance your screen time and green time. Get outdoors, move, play, and interact face to face.

If in doubt, think about and talk it out

WWW.KATHLEENAMORRIS.COM

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#### WHAT ARE THESE SYMBOLS? WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

#### An Introduction to Creative Commons Licensing

Creative Commons licensing allows the creators of content on the Internet to specify certain conditions in which their work may be copied and shared without having to go through a formal copyright process. For example: The **BY** acronym and icon indicates that this material requires an attribution specifying who the work was created by. The **NC** indicates it must be noncommercial use, and the **ND** indicates no derivatives the work cannot be modified without permission.

© creative commons

Learn more about CC licensing at http://go.gstric.org/208-cc

## GREAT INFORMATION FROM DOWN UNDER

Kathleen A. Morris is a primary school teacher from Geelong, Victoria, Australia. She is a well-known educational blogger who is passionate



about teaching edtech, research skills, global collaboration, and digital citizenship.

We found recent article on her website, "Teaching Digital Citizenship: 10 Internet Safety Tips for Students (With Posters)", to be chock-full of great information not only for students but for teachers and parents as well. She defines the elements of Digital Citizenship using models for Mike Ribble, ISTE, and Common Sense Education. She also discusses why Digital Citizenship is so important today. Her approach combines embedding Digital Citizenship into her curriculum and presenting students with real-life scenarios. Her students are encouraged to develop a toolkit of skills and strategies, and all of this is communicated to the parents and community.

Her article also has a lot of links to other resources and includes several links to posters that she has created which are free for you to download. A small screenshot of the first of 11 posters on Digital Citizenship and Internet Safety is provided here, but you can download the whole file at <a href="http://go.gstric.org/208-kam-poster">http://go.gstric.org/208-kam-poster</a>.

We definitely encourage you to read the full article using the link below, and to visit her website which contains many more interesting articles on several different topics. From her site you can also choose to follow her on Twitter (@kathleen\_morris) or on Pinterest (mrskmorris). Thank you, Kathleen, for giving us permission to share your information with our readers.

http://go.gstric.org/208-kam-site http://go.gstric.org/208-kam-article

# WHAT TEACHERS CAN DO ABOUT CYBERBULLYING

NOTE: FIRST AND FOREMOST, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT TEACHERS BE AWARE OF AND FOLLOW ANY BUILDING, DISTRICT, OR BOARD GUIDELINES AND POLICIES FOR REPORTING AND HANDLING INCIDENTS OF ONLINE BULLYING OR HARASSMENT. IF YOUR DISTRICT DOESN'T HAVE THESE POLICIES IN PLACE, GET INVOLVED IN HELPING TO DEVELOP THEM.

While online harassment and bullying doesn't necessarily happen in the classroom, it does have a profound effect on how students may behave toward each other in class. Teachers very often are told of incidents that have happened online, and they have to deal with the aftermath as it affects their classes. What things can teachers do to try to prevent these incidents?

 Explicitly teach positive online behavior, explain the negative behaviors, and let students know that the negative ones will not be tolerated.

Model the good behaviors and discuss various scenarios that the students may encounter online. Reinforce the positive solutions.

Notify parents of what the expectations are for their children.

Keep an open dialogue about these behaviors. Let parents know what to look for, and encourage parents to discuss the positive behaviors with students.

3. Teach kindness and empathy.

Create activities where students can practice being kind to each other. Expect the best in how they treat each other.

4. Remind students that what happens on the Internet is public and it can be permanent.

Social media is often a group experience. Bullying and shaming behaviors often happen in public situations. Once it has occurred, it is often difficult to get the material deleted. Many adults have been embarrassed by things that occurred online during their teen years.

Use appropriate resources from outside your classroom.

There are many good sources of videos that promote positive online behaviors. Find some, view, and discuss them with your students. Or even better, create your own videos with your students, and share them with other classes.

http://go.gstric.org/208-prevention

THIS APRIL PROMOTE
LITERACY OF ALL KINDS



- APRIL 4th IS NATIONAL SCHOOL LIBRARIANS DAY
- APRIL 11th IS NATIONAL
   SUPPORT TEEN LITERATURE DAY
- APRIL 23rd IS NATIONAL TALK
   LIKE SHAKESPEARE DAY
- APRIL 28th IS NATIONAL GREAT POETRY READING DAY

Our school libraries are a great place to develop our literacy skills, and our school librarians are a great source for learning search and research skills.

Visit your local school library and see what it has to offer you. Take part in some activities to support these national days of recognition.

School librarians get your NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK TOOLKIT at <a href="http://go.gstric.org/208-toolkit">http://go.gstric.org/208-toolkit</a>



submitted by students.

April 2019 - page 3 of 3

### I WILL GIVE CREDIT TO OTHERS FOR THEIR WORK

You may use images from the Internet for school projects or presentations - but do you know that you might be breaking copyright laws?

If an image isn't something that you created the odds are that someone else owns the copyright and that means that you may need to get their permission before using it. Even if you are able to get permission you still may need to give credit to the original owner or creator of the image.

#### HOW CAN I MAKE SURE THAT I HAVE THE RIGHT TO USE AN IMAGE?

- Get permission from the image creator or the copyright owner. It may be difficult to locate and obtain the permission from the proper person.
- 2. Create the image yourself. Use software programs that allow you make images like MS Paint, Google Drawings, Autodraw (autodraw.com), Canva (canva.com), or Adobe Spark (spark.adobe.com). Or use your phone or a digital camera to take a digital photo. Photos of objects, and public events (as long as specific people are not recognizable) don't require special permission. You may need a photo release if people can be recognized in your image.
- 3. Search for images that are licensed for your use. Learn about Creative Commons licensing that artists can use to give other permission to use their work without having to ask for permission. There are also sites that have images that are royalty-free. Google image search tools let you specify "Usage rights" as a parameter.

Creative Commons licensing uses icons to show how an item is licensed. The first icon below shows that the item is in the public domain (free to use) and the second one shows that the item may be used as long as attribution (by) text is included.



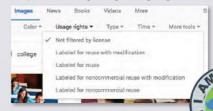


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Screen capture showing Google usage rights search



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https://openclipart.org