

# The School Connection



## Horseheads Intermediate School

### Principal's Post

In a few more weeks, spring will be upon us. I think the students are ready for the nicer weather to stay so they can get outside more to burn off the winter cabin fever!

**Attention fifth grade parents!** Please be sure to read page 6 regarding the NYS school immunization regulations. All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will need to receive the Tdap vaccine booster by September. The laws are very strict, and we cannot allow students to come to school after the 10<sup>th</sup> day of school without this immunization.

As you may know, the 2024-2025 school budget talks are in full swing. Horseheads School District is always focused on building a fiscally responsible budget while trying to provide the best learning opportunities for students. This is becoming even more challenging with the ongoing inflation related expenses on top of maintaining our curricular programs. I encourage you all to be involved in the process and stay informed by checking out the [HCSD website](#).

The NYS ELA and Math Tests are quickly approaching (see page 5). We will be taking the tests electronically again this year. If you want to check out more about what these tests will look like, check out [this link](#) from NYS Education Department.

Thanks for your continued support of your child and our school. We are continuing to navigate the challenges of the school year, and we couldn't have gotten this far without your support. I encourage you to stay in close communication with the teachers and Parent Portal for academic information. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact our office. Every so often I include a parent article. Check out the link on the right-hand side of this page about bringing out the genius in every child!

Yours in education,

Michael Bostwick  
Principal

Connect with me on X: [Michael Bostwick@M\\_Bostwick](#)  
School Hashtag: [#Sinnovators](#)  
Like us on Facebook: Search Horseheads Intermediate School  
Website: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHIS.cfm>

**The research is overwhelmingly clear:** *When parents play a positive role in their child's education, students perform higher in school.*

March 2024  
Volume 12 Issue 7

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### Parent Article

**ATTENTION!**  
**Parent Resources**  
on IS website.

*"Horseheads School District is always focused on building a fiscally responsible budget while trying to provide the best learning opportunities for students."*

## Mark Your Calendars!

<b>Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Horseheads St. Patrick's Day Parade, 1:30 PM HS South Wing
<b>Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM, HS Multi-Media Center
<b>Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Superintendent's Conference Day – <b>No School for Students</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>:</b>	IS PTO Meeting, 6:00 PM, Library
<b>Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>:</b>	STEM Night, 6:30 PM
<b>Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM, HS Multi-Media Center
<b>Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL – GOOD FRIDAY</b>
<b>Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>:</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL – EASTER</b>

## Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. It is that time of year again to **replenish your child's school supplies**. Some items may include pencils, pens, highlighters, glue sticks and notebook paper.
2. Join us in the fun of **exploring STEM** with demonstrations and hands-on experiments! Code robots, Rubik's cubes, learn about animals, explore scientific concepts, fill a cavity, and much more! Try to save your egg from its big fall in the Egg Drop Contest! STEM Night is March 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30-8:00pm.
3. The **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration** is a time for our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to come together as an entire grade level for fun activities at the end of the year. Currently it is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, during the school day. More information will be sent out as it gets closer.
4. We encourage students to **bring sneakers to school every day**. Sneakers are required for Physical Education (PE) class. Boots and dress shoes are not appropriate for PE and recess.
5. All schools are represented in the **Horseheads Community St. Patrick's Day Parade**. If your child is interested in walking the parade route as part of our school, please see the attached flyer. Students would need to be dropped off at 1:30 PM at the High School South Wing and picked up at the Village Fire Department on Main Street after the parade around 2:30 PM.



## Intermediate School PTO Officers (2023-2024)

I'd like to introduce you all to our PTO Officers (named below) for the 2023-2024 school year. Please attend our meetings held in the Library at 6:00 PM most often on the third Tuesday of the month. Please reach out via email if you have any questions or would like to help with upcoming events.

**Beth Manwaring**

**Alicia McWilliams**

**Tara Spirawk**

**Alicia Wahl-Knowlden**

**Email:** [intermediateschoolpto@gmail.com](mailto:intermediateschoolpto@gmail.com)

**IS Facebook:** @HorseheadsIntermediateSchoolPT



## Parent Portal

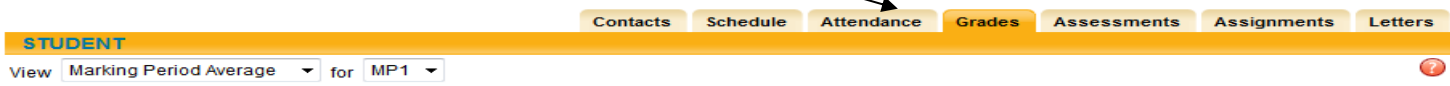
Web address: <https://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads/Default.aspx>

Parent Portal allows instant access to your child's grades and progress. Try to make it part of your homework routine at least once a week to allow them to look at their grades with you. Below are a couple of helpful tabs to help you navigate through your child's grades & assignments.

The Assignment tab allows you to see your child's assignments in all subject areas. Use the Courses drop down box to sort the assignments by subject.



Once on the Grades tab select marking period average from the drop down box to see what your child's averages are in each subject area.



If you are having trouble logging in to your Parent Portal Account or have forgotten your login/password information, please contact [hcsdportalinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdportalinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com)

## 2024-2025 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Budget development for the following school year begins early in the calendar year. Regular Board Meetings and Budget Workshops are held from February to April until the final adoption of the Budget to be offered to voters on May 21<sup>st</sup>. All meetings are open to the public. Here is the schedule:

- Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> – Regular Meeting, 6pm, High School Multi-Media Center
- Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> – Budget Workshop, 6pm, High School Multi-Media Center
- Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> – Regular Meeting, 6pm, High School Multi-Media Center
- Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> – Budget Workshop, 6pm, High School Multi-Media Center
- Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> – Budget Meeting (if needed), 6pm, High School Multi-Media Center
- Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – Special Meeting (Board Vote on the BOCES Administrative Budget), 7:30am, District Offices at Hibbard Road
- Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – Regular Meeting (Board Adoption of the 2024-25 Budget), 6pm, High School Multi-Media Center
- Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – Public Hearing on 2024-25 Budget, 6pm, High School Multi-Media Center

Questions? Email [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com).

## BUDGET VOTE/BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

The Budget Vote/Board of Education Election is **Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 7am-9pm**, in the High School South Gym.

All district residents are eligible to vote, provided 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
  - Are not restricted from voting in general elections based on election law
- OR
- Are registered to vote in general elections

For information on absentee ballots or other questions about the budget or vote, please call (607) 739-5601, x4260 or email [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com).

## IS ILLUMINATORS

We are so proud of all the IS Illuminators nominated for the month of January. An IS Illuminator can be recognized for kindness, working hard, extra effort, stepping out of their comfort zone, having self-control in a tough situation, making good choices, showing empathy and more. We would like to recognize the following students, from **Fifth Grade:** Xander Friends, Evan Miele, Thomas Wade, from **Sixth Grade:** Jasper Fisher, Vincent Foote, Stella Hillman. **Not Pictured:** Zoey Hobbs (6<sup>th</sup> Gr.) and Thomas Vesek (5<sup>th</sup> Gr.)



Keep Shining bright, IS Illuminators

## PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR SIXTH GRADE

The Intermediate School will soon be completing 2024-2025 classroom placements for students. We create class sections with the intent to achieve a mix of students by ability, gender, personality, and individual special needs. While we are unable to honor specific requests for teachers, we value your input from a parent's perspective. If you have specific information about your child's needs which should be taken into consideration or a specific previous personal experience, please ***put them in writing and send them to the Intermediate School by Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.*** We look forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic success!

## MONDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup> - HALF DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS

As you may know, a total solar eclipse affecting much of New York will take place on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Like many districts along the eclipse's path throughout New York and the nation, the District will alter the school day to accommodate the conditions created by this event. **Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> will now be a half day of school. We will dismiss grades 7-12 at 10:40am and grades K-6 at noon that day. PreK dismissal will be at 11:45am.**

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon moves between the sun and Earth. During this time, the sun is completely covered by the moon for a brief time. In our area, the partial eclipse will begin just after 2pm, reaching its maximum coverage around 3:20pm, and ending after 4:30pm. Eclipses to this extent occur rarely. Such a unique event can also draw additional people to our area.

**We remind everyone that the only safe way to view a partially eclipsed sun is with special purpose solar filters such as eclipse glasses.** Regular sunglasses are not safe to use to view an eclipse. Significant sight damage will occur without proper protection. For more information on eclipses and how to safely view them, [click here](#).



## *NYS ELA and Math Tests*

The ELA State Test will be given on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. The Math State Test will be given on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science State Test will be Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. These tests help us determine how each student is performing with specific skills in both ELA and Math toward the standards' expectations. It is just one data point we consider when making important decisions. 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. **Please note that a refusal of the State Tests does not mean students will be exempt from AIS if they qualify.**

The State Tests will be taken electronically in grades 3 – 8. We will continue to give students practice on the computer with the questions they will see. One of our challenges is helping students to be fluent in their typing ability. If you'd like to encourage your child to practice, Typing.com is a great program for that!

*\*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.



### Clearly going to school regularly matters!

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and become discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your child keeps a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpack the night before.
- Ensure your child goes to school every day unless they are truly sick (i.e. stomach bug or fever)
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for arriving to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or friend to take your child to school.

Please let us know how we can best support you and your child so that he/she can show up for school on time every day. If you are struggling in any way to get your child to school, please contact us so we can work together to solve the problem. We want your child to be successful in school!



#### 18 OR MORE DAYS

- Excused and unexcused absences represent lost time in the classroom and lost opportunities to learn.
- Missing just one day every two weeks can add up to 18 days in a year. Absences add up before you even know it.



#### 10 TO 17 DAYS

- Students who are absent an average of 15 days a year miss a year's worth of school before their senior year.
- When students miss a day of school it actually puts them two days behind their classmates.



#### 9 OR FEWER ABSENCES

- Students with good attendance generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more.
- Children benefit and make the most of their educational opportunities if they attend school regularly and on time.

## 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 incoming 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.

Your child may get the required immunization through your health care provider, urgent care, or walk-in clinics. The Chemung County Health Department may be utilized by appointment if you qualify based on criteria (607) 737-2028.

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 3). 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 cold symptoms appear.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Help Wanted

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. [Click here](#) for the application or stop into Human Resources. Questions? Email us at [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com)

## NEED 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 \$125 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at 739-5601 x 4211.

## Attention!

### PRINCIPAL CHATS

September 19<sup>th</sup>, January 16<sup>th</sup>, and April 16<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 AM in the Cafeteria and  
5:30PM in the Library



Pull for the House.

Many Hearts. One Home.

Keep hoarding pull tabs! **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:* **Respect**

- Having Respect for someone means you think good things about who a person is or how he/she acts. You can have respect for others, and you can have respect for yourself.
- Showing Respect to someone means you act in a way that shows you care about their feelings and well-being.
- Showing Respect for others include things like not calling people mean names, treating people with courtesy, caring enough about yourself that you don't do things you know can hurt you.

### *The Habit of Mind:*

### **Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations**

These are some situations you would use Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations:

- When I learned about swimming and life-saving, I used my knowledge to save someone who was choking.
- After I finished studying about the environment, and how harmful a single piece of litter can be, I began cleaning up garbage whenever I saw some, and I always put garbage in a bin.
- Learning how to add, subtract, multiply and divide helped me when I was shopping or saving up for a special item.



### SAFE SCHOOLS LINE

The Horseheads Central School District has a Safe Schools 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).

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Central School District is Caitlin DeFilippo, Director of Human Resources. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Caitlin DeFilippo at 143 Hibbard Rd, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601, x4211. or [cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com).

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, 143 Hibbard Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

# **H**orseheads Central School District

## *Capital Project Community Update*

Parents, guardians, and community members are invited to an update on our districtwide capital project.

**Tuesday, March 12 | 6pm**  
**Horseheads High School Cafeteria**

- Updates on second referendum
- Tour of finished High School projects
- Third referendum plans
- Q&A

