



Big Flats News

April 2024

At Big Flats Elementary, we will SOAR together as we explore our “wonders” in a fun and engaging community, where we will inspire each other to achieve anything!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy spring! I know many of us have been patiently and anxiously awaiting the arrival of the warmer temperatures and the wonderful sights and promising growth of the spring season. In education, we share in the excitement of the season by seeing the incredible growth that our students have made since the beginning of the school year! As adult learners, our teachers continue to learn how to make their daily lessons relevant to our students and their future so that we increase student engagement and higher-level thinking and learning for our student learners. Our teachers at Big Flats Elementary have been teaching and implementing The Next Generation Learning Standards. They have also been teaching our updated and continuously evolving English Language Arts Curriculum and learning and teaching the new Tang Math resource. We are very excited about our curriculums which align with The Next Generation Learning Standards. Our curriculums continue to engage and empower our students in collaborative conversations, writing, mathematical applications as well as in their scientific experiments. It is very exciting to see our classroom instruction move from a traditional classroom of lecture and reciting new knowledge to inquiry learning and then being able to apply that knowledge and to critically think how one can use this in solving a real community or worldwide issue. I am very appreciative of our staff and students as we move forward in our continual learning and growth as student and adult learners. May you all have a wonderful spring break! I look forward to the remaining months of the current school year and all the amazing student growth that the months ahead will continue to bring.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Scaptura

Elizabeth M. Scaptura, Principal

Elementary Lunches (K-6)

School Food Services prices for the 2023-2024 school year will be:

Breakfast: Free

Lunch: Free

School Hours

Hours for the Elementary Schools are:

8:15 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

Office Hours

Our school office hours during regular school days are:

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Office Phone Numbers

(607) 739-6373

(607) 795-2550

Fax: (607) 795-2555



Horseheads Central School District sets the standard of educational excellence by fostering innovative thinking, curiosity, and a passion for learning to maximize the potential of each individual. We engage with our local and global communities to provide a student-centered, nurturing environment.

Explore

Empower

Excel

On March 1, 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released [updated recommendations](#) outlining how people can protect themselves and their community from respiratory viruses. This new guidance unifies recommendations for all respiratory viruses including,

- COVID-19,
- Influenza (flu),
- and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

Per the CDC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), we are updating our guidance for returning to school for students.

If your student has respiratory virus symptoms (fever, chills, fatigue, cough, runny nose, and headache), **or tests positive for a respiratory virus**, the updated guidance recommends the following:

- Stay home from school and restrict contact with others.
- Inform your school nurse.
- Return to school when **both of the following are true for at least 24 hours:**
 - **Symptoms are getting better overall and,**
 - **If a fever was present, the fever has been gone without the use of fever-reducing medication for 24 hours.**
- When returning to school, students should consider taking additional precautions by wearing a well-fitting mask (if over age two) for five days to prevent the spread of the disease.

If symptoms or fever return or worsen, individuals should stay home and away from others, seeking medical attention if deemed necessary.

If you have further questions please see visit [CDC website](#), call the [Chemung County Health Department](#) at (607) 737-2488, or contact your school nurse.

2024-25 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 May 21. All meetings begin at 6pm and are open to the public. Here is the schedule:

- Thursday, April 11 – Budget Meeting (if needed), High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Wednesday, April 17 – Special Meeting (Board Vote on the BOCES Administrative Budget), 7:30am, District Offices at Hibbard Road
- Thursday, April 18 – Regular Meeting, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, May 9 – Public Hearing on 2024-25 Budget, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm

Meetings are live streamed (at <http://ideas.gstboces.org/hhds/>), recorded, and posted to the district website. For more information on the development of the 2024-25 Budget, including links to videos and presentations from board meetings, click here: <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDBudget2024-25.cfm>.

Budget Vote/Board of Education Election

The Budget Vote/Board of Education Election is **Tuesday, May 21, 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 mail hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

ATTENTION PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF 3RD AND 4TH GRADERS

To provide schools and parents with an assessment of student achievement, New York State has developed the New York State Testing Program. These standardized tests challenge all students in grades 3 through 8 to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. Please visit the site at <https://www.engageny.org/parent-and-family-resources>. If you are interested in viewing this site but do not have access to the Internet, please call the school office so that we can make arrangements for you to see this guide.

3rd and 4th grade Computer Based ELA—April 10, 2024 and April 11, 2024

3rd and 4th grade Computer Based Math—May 7, 2024 and May 8, 2024

FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

• ***Changes in Parent/Guardian Cell Phone Numbers**

If a parent/guardian gets a new cell phone number, and had opted in to text messaging notifications with their old number, they'll need to opt in again with the new number! Please let the Main Office know of the change and we will give you the information to opt in again.

• **Changes in Dismissal Plans?**

Please remember to send in a written note with your child if you need to change their routine dismissal plan. Also, please note: *It is District policy that students cannot ride a different bus home with another student for a playdate.* Thank you for your understanding.

• **Placement information for 5th 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 no later than April 8th. We look forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic success! Thank you!

Grade 4 Intermediate School Presentation and Self-Guided Tour

The Intermediate School will be hosting a presentation and self-guided tour for all current 4th graders. The presentation will be held on Thursday, May 2nd in the Intermediate School cafeteria beginning at 6:00 PM. Immediately following, students and families will have the opportunity to take a self-guided tour around the Intermediate School. Should you have any questions, please contact the Intermediate School office at 607-739-6366.

ATTENTION KINDERGARTEN PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

All Kindergarten students will be photographed for their cap and gown photo on Monday, May 6th!

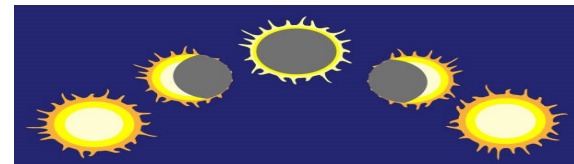


Monday, April 8 - Half Day for All Students

As you may know, a total solar eclipse affecting much of New York will take place on Monday, April 8. 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 will now be a half day of school. We will dismiss grades 7-12 at 10:40am, PreK dismissal will be at 11:45am and grades K-6 at noon that day.**

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](#).



Teacher Placements for the upcoming 2024-2025 School Year:

It's that time of year, when we begin to prepare for next year! If you have any concerns regarding your child(ren's) next year's teacher placement please put your concerns in writing to Mrs. Saptura, no later than Friday, April 19th, 2024. Per BOE policy parents can NOT request a specific teacher.

Mark Your Calendars

Dates to Remember:

Mar 29—Apr 1

Good Friday Recess—No School

Apr 2

PTO Meeting, Bridge, 6PM

Apr 3

3rd Grade Eclipse Science
Presentation, 1:15pm-1:45pm

Apr 5

Raider/Falcon Pride Day

4th Grade Eclipse Science

Presentation, 9:30AM-10:15AM

Apr 8

HALF-DAY

PK Dismissal 11:45AM

K-4 Dismissal 12:00PM

Apr 10-11

3rd & 4th NYS ELA Assessments

Apr 18

BOE Meeting, 6PM HSMMC

Apr 19

Shine Bright Day— Wear a bright
color

Report Cards go home

Apr 22-26

Spring Recess— No School

PTO Officer Elections 2024-2025

We are happy to announce the following PTO officer's ballot.

President-Jane Tanner

Vice- President- Brandon Spirawk

Co Treasurers-Tara Spirawk

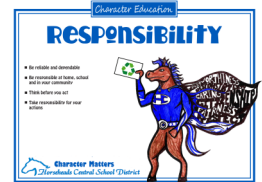
Leanne Hull

Secretary-Suzette Baldwin

The PTO will be sending out an electronic ballot for the election to parents who have provided their email addresses. If you have not provided your email, please attend the next PTO meeting scheduled on May 7, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Big Flats Elementary Bridge to submit your vote.

April-

The month of:



Responsibility

- Be reliable and dependable.
- Be responsible at home, school, and in your community.
- Think before you act.
- Take responsibility for your actions.

Learn Up-To-Date Information About Our Schools and the District

Facebook: The district and each of our seven schools have pages. “Like” them to see our information in your news feed.

Twitter: Follow us on Twitter at @HhdsSchools to read our tweets. Follow Mrs. Scaptura on Twitter at @escaptura1



Instagram: The district's page—hhdsschools



Visit our district website at: www.horseheadsdistrict.com.

Questions about our website or social media? E-mail hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com

Dignity Act Coordinator

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Big Flats Elementary is Elizabeth Scaptura. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Mrs. Scaptura at (607)-739-6373. 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 One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601 x4211, or cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Non-Discrimination Notification

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.



April 2024

Big Flats
Elementary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 No School Good Friday Recess	2 PTO Meeting 6PM	3 3rd Grade Eclipse Science Presentation, 1:15pm-1:45pm	4	5 Raider/Falcon Pride Day 4th Grade Eclipse Science Presentation, 9:30AM-10:15AM	6
7	8 HALF-DAY, PK Dismissal 11:45AM K-4 Dismissal 12:00PM	9	10 3rd & 4th NYS ELA Assessments	11 3rd & 4th NYS ELA Assessments	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 BOE Meeting 6PM @ HSMCC	19 Shine Bright Day: Wear a bright color Report Cards go home	20
21 						27
28	29 CSE Meetings	30				

Character Trait of the Month Responsibility

- Plan ahead
- Be diligent
- Persevere
- Set a good example for others
- Do what you are supposed to do
- Do your best
- Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes
- Think before you act



Fight Flu

at Home and School

Influenza (flu), spreads easily and can make people very sick, especially kids. You can help stop flu!

Flu symptoms include:

Fever or chills, body aches, cough, sore throat, headache, runny or stuffy nose, feeling very tired. Some people, especially children, may have stomach problems and diarrhea. Unlike a cold, the flu comes on very suddenly.

Prevent flu!

- Flu vaccine is the best protection against the flu. It is recommended every year for everyone 6 months and older.
- Get the flu vaccine for you and your children every year! It helps make flu sickness milder or prevents it altogether.
- Getting the vaccine early in the fall means you and your children will be protected when flu season starts.
- Make sure people close to your children, like babysitters and relatives, are also vaccinated.
- The vaccine is especially important for people with certain medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, and heart or lung disease, because the flu can make them even sicker.

If your child gets the flu:

- Your child will need plenty of rest and lots of fluids.
- Keep your child home from school for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone without using fever-control medicine. This helps avoid giving the flu to others.
- Talk with your child's health care provider before giving a child any over-the-counter medicine.
- Never give your child or teenager aspirin or any medicine that has aspirin in it. Aspirin can cause serious problems for children and teens.
- Young children and those with certain medical conditions, like asthma, diabetes, and heart or lung disease, are at greater risk for getting seriously ill from the flu.
- If your child gets flu symptoms and is younger than 5 or has a medical condition, call their health care provider and ask about antiviral treatment.
- If you are worried about your child, call their health care provider.

Don't spread flu!

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water aren't handy, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow, not your hands. Put used tissues in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. That's how germs spread.
- Stay away from people who are sick.

health.ny.gov/flu

