



# Big Flats News

## December 2023

*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,

I would like to thank everyone who attended our parent/teacher conferences last month. I know that the faculty very much enjoy and look forward to having individual time with parents to discuss each of their students. We hope that you, too, enjoy this time collaborating with your child’s teacher for the advancement of your child(ren).

Congratulations to all our 3rd and 4th grade Scripps Spelling Bee participants! All our 3rd and 4th grade students did an incredible job during our spell down process and our annual spelling bee! Congratulations to Ryder Mase, our 3rd grade spelling bee champion and, our 3rd grade runner up Dylan Basu. Congratulations to Donovan Linehan, our 4th grade champion, and Nathan Oyekanlu as our 4th grade runner up. Ryder and Donovan will go on to the Regional Scripps Spelling Bee that will be held on March 8, 2024 at the Corning-Painted Post Middle School.

As we bring closure to 2023 year, I wanted to provide some construction updates! At Big Flats Elementary, most of our construction is out back behind our school. The contractors are building an extensive addition and new wing to our current school campus. Behind our current gymnasium, they are building a much larger gym/auditorium addition. We are also getting additional classrooms, office spaces and are relocating our cafeteria and library! The construction addition footprint is finally becoming very visible, and I am excited to share some photos of the construction up to this point. Please turn to pages 4 and 5 for some exciting photos of our project. In closing, I hope everyone has a wonderful winter break and I look forward to seeing everyone back on January 3rd, 2024, in the New Year!

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

Please respond to the Horseheads  
Census– even if you do not have  
children in our schools.



**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*

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

### • **Delayed Start Procedures**

*As we enter the winter months, please be advised that the Horseheads Central School District uses a delayed start procedure in addition to school closings. The delay opens schools **two hours\*** later than normal start time. School ends at the regular time on delayed start days. Morning buses will arrive at the bus stops two hours later; staff will arrive two hours later; and students being dropped off at school in the morning should arrive two hours later. **Breakfast will not be served on delayed start days.***

***\*Pre-K classes will begin at 10:30am when there is a delayed start.***

### • **Recess**

*Students continue to go outside for recess during winter months. Please be sure that your child has a warm coat, hat, gloves/mittens, and boots so they can stay warm as they play. \*Please remember that the nurse cannot provide boots for any student.*

### • **Changes in Going Home Routine/Bus Notes**

*Please remember to write a 'blue note' with your child's change in dismissal plans if he/she will not be following their normal routine. Blue notes should also be written to explain your child's tardiness, absence, or plan to leave early. This is extremely important for the safety of our students.*

## School and Emergency Closings

School closings due to inclement weather will be announced via text, phone, and various media outlets such as WNKI, WPGI, Magic FM, and WELM radio stations, and WENY, WETM, and Time Warner Cable News on TV. In the event of an emergency during the school day, all students will be taken by bus to the address previously identified by parents on the "Emergency Go Home" form that was completed at the beginning of the school year. As a reminder, this location **MUST** be on one of the Big Flats Elementary bus routes.

### ***Snow Days Impact our Schedule***

When a snow day occurs and all schools in the District are closed, it changes our six-day schedule. The next day that school is in session is the cycle day that the snow day would have been.



## Parents' Bill of Rights Relating to Student Data

The Horseheads Central School District, in compliance with Education Law 2-d, hereby establishes the following Parents' Bill of Rights in regard to student data:

1. A student's personally identifiable information will not be sold or released for any commercial purpose;
2. Parents have the right to inspect and review the complete contents of their child's educational record. Procedures for reviewing student records can be found in the Board Policy entitled 'Student Records,' Policy 5500, Regulation 5500-R;
3. Security protocols regarding confidentiality of personally identifiable information are currently in place and the safeguards necessary to protect the confidentiality of student data are maintained at industry standards and best practices. The safeguards include but are not limited to: encryptions, firewalls, and password protection.
4. New York State maintains a complete list of all student data collected by the State and the data is available for public review at [www.nysed.gov](http://www.nysed.gov), or by writing to: 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234.
5. Parents have the right to have complaints about possible breaches of student data addressed. Complaints should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845.

## 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.

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Computer Based ELA—April 4, 2024 and April 11, 2024    3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Computer Based Math—May 5, 2024 and May 8, 2024

## Mark Your Calendars

**Dec 1-15**

Spirit of Giving

**Dec 1**

Spirit Day! Raider/Falcon  
Wear

**Dec 5**

PTO Meeting 6 PM

**Dec 13**

Winter Choral Concert 7PM  
@ BFE Gym

**Dec 14**

BOE 6 PM @ HSMCC

**Dec 21**

Spirit Day! Wear Holiday  
Apparel

**Dec 22-Jan 2**

Winter Recess

## Winter Concert

*Our 4th grade Winter  
Choral Concert will be  
held on Wednesday,  
December 13, 2023 at  
7pm in the Big Flats  
Gym.*



Please pull tabs for Ronald McDonald!  
[PullTabs4McDonalds@yahoo.com](mailto:PullTabs4McDonalds@yahoo.com)

Pull tabs for Ronald McDonald Charities!  
Tabs will be picked up mid-May.

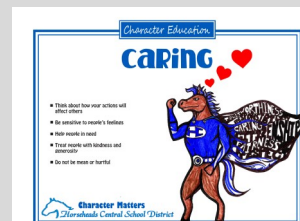
### \* Valuable Items In School \*

Each year over Winter Recess, many of our students will receive gifts that they will treasure. To avoid the possibility of damage or loss of any valuable items, *including electronics*, we encourage students to leave those items **at home**. Please encourage your child to follow our suggestion so that we can avoid any unfortunate situations where items disappear or get broken. *Thank you for your support!*

## December—The month of:

### Caring

- ⇒ BE KIND
- ⇒ EXPRESS GRATITUDE
- ⇒ FORGIVE OTHERS
- ⇒ HELP PEOPLE IN NEED
- ⇒ BE CHARITABLE



### 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—hhdschools



### 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](mailto: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.

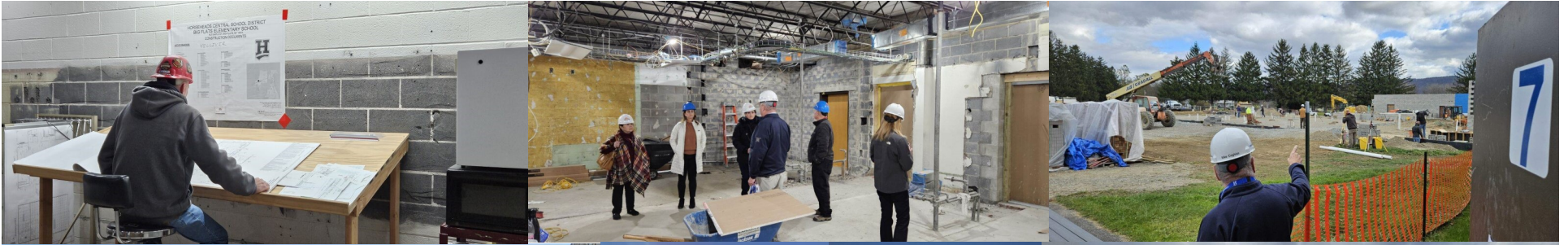




# Construction @ BFE











# December 2023

Big Flats  
Elementary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Spirit of Giving 1st-15th Spirit Day! Raider/Falcon Wear	2
3	4	5 PTO Mtg @ 6pm	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Winter Choral Concert 7 PM BFE Gym	14 BOE Meeting 6PM @ HSMCC	15	16
17	18 Spirit Day Sparkle & Joy - Jewelry, handbags, ties, scarves, etc.	19 Spirit Day Merry & Bright - Colors to celebrate your holiday traditions	20 Spirit Day Joyful Jammies - Jammies, fleece, etc.	21 Spirit Day Holiday Apparel - Festive fashion that honors your culture or traditions	22 	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30
<i>Winter Recess</i>						

Character Trait of the Month  
**Caring**

- Be Kind
- Express gratitude
- Forgive others
- Help people in need
- Be charitable





**Horseheads Central School District**  
**143 Hibbard Road • Horseheads, NY 14845**  
**607-739-5601, x4295**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #5  
Elmira, NY

# We need your input.

Please respond to the Horseheads Central School District Census at the link or QR code below — even if you do not have children in our schools. We need your response as we prepare to shift to three elementary schools in the 2025-2026 school year.

To respond, visit:

**[Horseheads.fyi/Census](https://Horseheads.fyi/Census)**



## What is the census?

The Horseheads Central School District regularly conducts a district-wide census. This year's census is especially important because the information we receive will assist us in developing elementary school boundary lines as we shift to three elementary schools - Big Flats, Gardner Road, and Ridge Road - at the start of the 2025-26 school year.

## Why is Center Street Elementary closing?

After careful consideration of the educational experience of our students and the state of our buildings, the district made the decision to move to three elementary schools. The community supported this plan with the passing of the referendum on December 7, 2021. As one of the oldest buildings in the district, Center Street would require significant construction to upgrade the building to current state standards for an educational space for students. The building is safe for students as it is now, but any additional construction would require asbestos and lead abatement, incurring significant costs that would not be completely covered through state aid. The plan approved by voters includes phasing out Center Street for student use, but keeping the building for district offices and community use.

## Which school will my child attend?

The district is working with a demographer to redraw the elementary school attendance boundary lines from four buildings to three. Your response on this census assists the demographer team with redrawing more balanced boundary lines that send students to the school closest to home when possible. A decision regarding the new boundary lines is expected by Summer 2024.

To submit your information, visit:

**[Horseheads.fyi/Census](https://horseheads.fyi/Census)**



*If you would like a printed version of the census form or have a question, please email [hts@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hts@horseheadsdistrict.com).*







# NYS Digital Resources Family Questionnaire

## SchoolTool Parent Portal Instructions

Dear Horseheads Central School District Parents and Guardians:

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) requires that districts send a digital resources questionnaire to parents and guardians. This information is meant to assist the state and districts in providing resources to students and families. NYSED asks that you complete a questionnaire for each student in grades K-12 in your family. You can access the questionnaire by logging in to the Parent Portal at <http://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads> and following the instructions below. If you do not yet have a Parent Portal account, you can request one using this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/zmB1NAWB8u>. If you have questions, please contact your school office. Thank you.

**Click on student's name.**

**Click on User Defined tab.**

**If using the mobile app (<http://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads>):** After logging in, tap FORMS at the top of the screen.

**From drop-down menu, select NYS Digital Resources Family Questionnaire.**

**Click on the green plus icon to open the survey.**

- Leave Start Date set to current date.
- Select appropriate response from drop-down menu next to each question.
- Click on the green save disk to save and submit your responses.
- Return to Home Screen, complete Survey for all students in the household.

Student

NYS Digital Resources Family Questionnaire [Save] [Cancel] [Help]

Start Date: 9/27/2022 [calendar icon] End Date: 9/27/2022 [calendar icon]

Collecting accurate data regarding digital resource access for our New York students will greatly help educators to better serve their students and families. In order to accomplish this, the New York State Education Department is asking parents or guardians to complete a Digital Equity survey (for each student in the family) in grades Kindergarten – Grade 12. This survey will provide information on student access to devices and internet access in their places of residence. To assist us in this process, please answer each question below to the best of your ability and follow any additional instructions provided for submitting or returning the survey.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

**NOTE: You must answer at least one question for this survey to be valid.**

Did the school district issue your child a dedicated school or district-owned device for their use during the school year?:  
 None

What is the device your child uses most often to complete learning activities away from school? (This can be a school-provided device or another device, whichever the student is most often using to complete their schoolwork.)  
 None

Who is the provider of the primary learning device identified in Question 2? (This can be a school-provided device or another device, whichever the student is most often using to complete their schoolwork.)  
 None

Is the primary learning device (identified in Question 2) shared with anyone else in the household?:  
 None

Is the primary learning device (identified in Question 2) sufficient for your child to fully participate in all learning activities away from school?:  
 None

Is your child able to access the internet in their primary place of residence?:  
 None

What is the primary type of internet service used in your child's primary place of residence?:  
 None

In their primary residence, can your child complete the full range of learning activities, including video streaming and assignment upload, without interruptions caused by slow or poor internet performance?:  
 None

What, if any, is the primary barrier to having sufficient and reliable internet access in your child's primary place of residence?:  
 None



# 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](http://health.ny.gov/flu)

