



Big Flats News

FEBRUARY 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,

We are excited to share our continued collaboration with the Black Growth Council of Corning Incorporated to participate in the Black History Month Read-In Program. The Mission of the Black History Month Read-In Program is to continue the celebration of African American literacy; a tradition of Black History Month. Corning Incorporated has purchased the books that will be read and added to each classroom library. We are excited to continue our partnership with Corning Incorporated and volunteer readers.

During the month of February, volunteers from various departments within Corning Incorporated will be visiting each of our classrooms, reading to, and interacting with our students. This year, students in Pre-K will be read the book *The Crayon Box That Talked* by Shane Derolf and Michael Letzig. Students in Kindergarten will be read *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt. Students in grade 1 will be read *A Computer Called Kathrine* by Suzanne Slade. Grade 2 students will be read *Granddaddy’s Turn* by Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein. Grade 3 students will be read *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down* by Andrea Davis Pinkney, and students in grade 4 will be read *Fredrick’s Journey: The Life of Fredrick Douglass* by Doreen Rappaport.

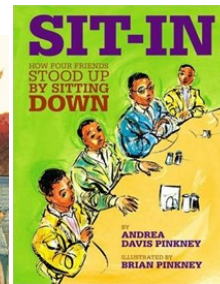
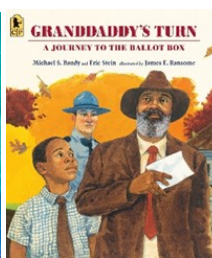
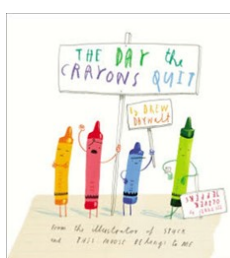
The focus of the guided discussions will start with grade 1 on black inventors, grade 2 on slavery/civil war, grade 3 on segregation, grade 4 on integration; plus other information that is unique to each book.

Again, we greatly appreciate this opportunity and look forward to a continued partnership with Corning Incorporated.

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:

• 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!

• 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.

• Lost and Found

Please remind your child(ren) to look in the lost and found bin if they are missing any items that belong to them. There are quite a few articles of clothing in our bin waiting for their owner to reclaim them!

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, 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.

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.**

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. Please note there will be no parent pick ups in case of an emergency early dismissal.

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, February 15 – Regular Meeting, Transportation Dept Training Room, 6pm
- Thursday, February 29 – Budget Workshop, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, March 14 – Regular Meeting, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, March 27 – Budget Workshop, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, April 11 – Budget Meeting (if needed), High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- 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.



Construction Corner Updates:

- Brick work in the new wing of classrooms is projected to be done this month!
- Structural steel and roof decking on the new gym/auditorium is also projected to be completed this month!
- Interior framing is also just about completed. The mechanical, plumbing, and electrical work in the new addition continues.
- Roofing on the new addition will also continue as weather allows.
- Underground plumbing and electric to the new kitchen will also continue.
- The new boy's restroom in C Wing has been completed and is now open and being utilized!

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

Mark Your Calendars

February 2023

Feb 2 Report Cards go home

Feb 6 PTO Meeting at 6pm,
Big Flats Elementary, Bridge

Feb 12 PTO Candy Sales end

Feb 14 Wear **Red** and **Pink**
Valentine's Day
100th Day of School!

Feb 15 BOE Mtg; 6pm HS Aud.

Feb 19-23 NO SCHOOL
Presidents Day Recess

Feb 29 Life Among the Seneca
Presentation for 4th Grade

February: Trustworthiness

- Be honest
- Don't deceive, cheat, or steal
- Be reliable – do what you say you'll do
- Have the courage to do the right thing
- Build a good reputation
- Be loyal – stand by your family, friends, and country



Our School Health Office is in need of clean, gently used pants. All sizes and types appreciated (leggings, sweats, jeans, etc.) If you have any to donate, please send in with your student or drop it off at the nurse's office.

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.

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](https://twitter.com/HhdsSchools) to read our tweets. Follow Mrs. Scaptura on Twitter at [@escaptural](https://twitter.com/escaptural)

Instagram: The district's page—[hhdsschools](https://www.instagram.com/hhdsschools)

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

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





February 2024

Big Flats
Elementary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Report Cards go home	3
4	5	6 PTO Meeting 6pm	7	8	9	10
11	12 CSE Meetings PTO Candy Fundraiser Ends	13	14 100th Day! Spirit Day Wear red & pink 	15 BOE @6pm HSMMC	16	17
18	19 	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Life Among the Seneca Presentation 4th Grade		

Character Trait of the Month Trustworthiness

- Be honest
- Don't deceive, cheat, or steal
- Be reliable – do what you say you'll do
- Have the courage to do the right thing
- Build a good reputation
- Be loyal – stand by your family, friends, and country



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



Join the Horseheads Central School District as a School Bus Driver

UPDATE: Pay rate is now \$23.15/hour with required CDL (\$15.50/hr for drivers in training)



- **Paid training**
- **Benefits package including health insurance**
- **No weekends, holidays, summers**

To apply, call 607-739-6338 or pick up an application at our Transportation Department, 601 Sayre Street Extension, weekdays from 7:30am to 3:30pm. Our application may also be found at www.horseheadsdistrict.com/employment. (Both the district application and the supplemental transportation application are required.)

Applicants must be at least 21 years old.
Fingerprint/background check and drug testing are required.

Questions?

Call 607-739-6338 or email hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.





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

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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



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.

