

Big Flats News

November 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,

It is hard to believe that it is November already and that next Thursday marks the end of the first marking period! By now, you should have received an email from your child(ren's) teacher advising you of Parent/Teacher Conferences. Our conferences are in the afternoons of Friday, November 17th, Tuesday, November 21st or Wednesday, November 29th, 2023. If you do not have a scheduled time or have misplaced your scheduled conference time, please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Last week, we had our first of four NYS mandated lockdown drills of the school year. Students, faculty, and staff did an AMAZING job at practicing this very important drill. As adults, we would all agree that it is incredibly sad that we must teach our students at such a young age what we need to do to keep safe from others. I want to applaud all our teachers and staff for the amazing work that they do to properly train our students during these difficult drills while remaining calm and creating nurturing environments for our students. As parents and guardians, I would encourage you to remind your children of the importance of these drills, and to always be quiet and to follow their teachers' directions during any of our drills.

I would like to invite everyone to our annual 3rd and 4th grade Spelling Bee on Wednesday, November 15th, 2023, in our school cafeteria. I know our 3rd and 4th grade students are very excited for this annual event, as our two grade-level champions will proceed on to the Regional Scripps Spelling Bee in Corning in March. Please consider joining us!

Lastly, we sincerely thank all our Veterans and guests who attended our annual Veterans Day Celebration today! We are so appreciative of your service and sacrifices, as well as appreciation to our current Servicemen and Servicewoman! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Scaptura

Elizabeth Scaptura

Big Flats Elementary Principal



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



THANK YOU VETERANS

A special thank you to all of our Big Flats Elementary families with Veterans! We all appreciate your dedication and sacrifice for our country. Thank you for all that you do!

Parent/Teacher Conference Information

Parent/teacher conferences will be held on November 17, 21, and 29, 2023 from 11:30-3:30 each day. During this time, parents will have the opportunity to have a one-to-one discussion with their child's teacher. You should have received an email from your child(ren's) teacher asking you to sign up for a conference time. Students will attend school for a morning half day November 17th, 21st, and 29th and will be dismissed at 11:00am for parent/teacher conferences in the afternoon. Please do not arrive prior to 10:45am as Pre-Kindergarten dismissal is at 10:30am. Please remember lunch will not be served on November 17, 21, or 29, 2022, nor will there be Kid's World available after school.



Winter Weather Ahead!

Just a friendly reminder to please make sure your children are coming to school dressed appropriately for the colder months. In an effort to save energy and to be fiscally responsible as a district, we set the temperature to 68 degrees in all of our buildings. Please make sure your children are dressed warmly, and have a sweater or sweatshirt available to them during the day should they need it. Students should also bring/wear to school coats, hats, mittens, and boots when warranted, as we do go outside for recess in the winter. ***If any clothing is borrowed from the Health Office, please wash those articles of clothing and return them to the nurse as soon as possible. Boots and shoes are not provided.**
Thank you.

We appreciate your cooperation and assistance!

FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

- **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.

- **Half Days for Elementary Schools**

There will be no lunch and no Kid's World provided on half days at elementary schools. Dismissal will be at 10:30am for Pre-K and 11:00am for K-4. Please send a blue note on these days with dismissal plans for your student if he/she usually attends Kid's World.

- **Please Always Park in the Parking Lot**

When visiting the school, either with a late student/early pick up, dropping something off, attending a meeting, etc., please always park in the parking lot and not the bus lane. All visitors must report to the office, and the office will further assist you.

- **Please Write Names on Lunch Boxes!**

Lunch boxes have been brought to the office with no name on them after being left on the bus or in the cafeteria. Please write your child's first and last name somewhere in or on the lunch box so we can get it back to them as soon as possible! Thank you.

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 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 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, 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..

This year all students in the HCSD, grades 3-8, will be taking computer based NYS assessments.

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

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

Mark Your Calendars

NOV 3

Veterans Celebration 9:30 - 10 Café

Wear red, white and blue!

Nov 9

Raider/Falcon Pride Day—Wear your grade level color or blue and white.

Nov 10

NO SCHOOL—Veterans Day

Nov 15

Spelling Bee, 6:30 pm, BF Café

Nov 16

3rd and 4th Grade Report Cards Go Home

BOE Meeting; 6pm

Nov 17

Half Day, dismissal is at 11:00am

PM Parent/Teacher Conferences

Nov 21

Half Day, dismissal is at 11:00 am.

PM Parent/Teacher Conferences

Nov 22-24

Thanksgiving Recess

Nov 28

Make-up Picture Day

Nov 29

Half Day, dismissal is at 11:00 am.

PM Parent/Teacher Conferences

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

Visit our district website at:

www.horseheadsdistrict.com.

Questions about our website or social media?

E-mail

hcsinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com



Picture Retake Day



2023-2024

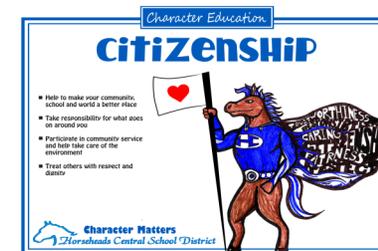
Picture Retake Day will be held on November 28th. Please be on the lookout for more information to come.

Our School Health Office is in need of clean, gently used clothing. If you have any to donate, please send it in with your student or drop it off at the nurse's office.

Certified Teacher Substitutes Needed Teaching Assistant Substitutes Needed

The District needs certified teachers for day-to-day substituting opportunities in all of our schools. Certified teacher substitutes receive a rate of \$95 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at (607)-739-5601 x 4211.

November—The month of:



- ◇ Do your share to make your community better
 - ◇ Cooperate
- ◇ Be a good neighbor; follow laws and rules
- ◇ Get involved in community affairs
 - ◇ Stay informed: Vote
- ◇ Protect the environment
 - ◇ Volunteer

Please remember to talk to your child's teacher before bringing treats in for parties.



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.

THANK YOU, WE APPRECIATE YOU!

Dear Big Flats Falcon Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of our BFE Parent Pick Up Team, we would like to thank you ALL for your support and patience with our end of the day pick up procedures! You all have done AMAZING with our traffic pattern. We have a few reminders to further expedite and ensure the safety of all our students, staff, and families:

- ◆ The earliest you may arrive on campus to line up is 2:10pm. We begin dismissal at approximately 2:23pm. Please do not arrive any earlier than 2:10pm as we are dismissing our PK students until approximately 2:05pm.
- ◆ Please pull up as close as you can to the car in front of you. We need to get as many vehicles off Maple Street as possible.
- ◆ Please be as quick as you can with assisting children with car seats and seatbelts. Please be sure that every child is properly restrained before pulling forward. Please continue to build independence!
- ◆ Please do NOT pass any vehicles, please stay in line!
- ◆ Please do NOT BLOCK the entrance/exit of our school campus to get in line. Obstructing the view on Maple Street is very dangerous for parents trying to pull out. Please be patient and wait your turn. If your vehicle cannot fit straight at the end of the line when entering our school campus, please wait!
- ◆ Please be courteous and take turns alternating east and west bound traffic when entering our campus.
- ◆ Please do NOT block the entrance of our neighbors' driveways. Please leave each driveway accessible so that our neighbors may enter and exit their homes safely. We appreciate our neighbors and want to always be respectful!
- ◆ If the fire siren goes off, please pull off the road immediately!
- ◆ Please keep your family name tent visible to ALL staff to ensure that we are getting each child to the correct parent/vehicle. Throughout the school year, we will have different BFE staff members assist with student pick up duty. Please continue to be patient and appreciative of our staff who do their best to ensure everyone gets home safely. Please let our staff know how much you appreciate them. A simple thank you goes a long way!



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

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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.





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.

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

Student

NYS Digital Resources Family Questionnaire + Add Help

- 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 End Date: 9/27/2022

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





November 2023

Big Flats
Elementary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Veteran's Day Celebration 9:30 - 10:15 Café, Wear red , white and blue	4
5	6	7 Scripps Spell Down 3rd Grade 11-12:30 PTO Meeting 6:00PM	8 Scripps Spell Down 4th Grade 11-12:30	9 Spirit Day! Raider/ Falcon Wear! End of Marking Period 1	10 Veterans Day! No School	11
12	13	14	15 Scripps Spelling Bee 6:30 PM Café	16 3rd & 4th grade Report Cards go home	21 K-4 11 AM Dismissal Pre-k 10:30 Dismissal PM P/T Conference	18
19	20	21 K-4 11 AM Dismissal Pre-k 10:30 Dismissal PM P/T Conference	22 No School	23	24	25
26	27	28 Make-Up Picture day	21 K-4 11 AM Dismissal Pre-k 10:30 Dismissal PM P/T Conference	30		

Character Trait of the Month **Citizenship**

- Help to make your community, school and world a better place.
- Take responsibility for what goes on around you.
- Participate in community service and help take care of the environment.
- Treat others with respect and dignity.