



Big Flats News

October 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!*

Elementary Lunches (K-6)

School Food Services prices for the 2024-2025 school year will be:

Breakfast: Free

Lunch: Free

School Hours

Hours for the Elementary Schools are:

8:00 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



Drill Notifications:

As you are aware, throughout the school year Big Flats Elementary will practice important emergency response procedures for our school including fire, evacuation, lockdown, and emergency dismissal drills. Families will receive notice within one week prior to drills. Please be advised we will continue practicing our mandated drills.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's hard to believe that October is already here! We've had a wonderful start to what we hope will be an incredible school year for our Big Flats Falcons.

Next week, we will practice our annual emergency go-home drill. This is a regional drill conducted each year to prepare for emergency school closures, during which ALL students would be bussed to their designated emergency go-home locations. Please note that on emergency closure days, there will be no parent pickups– all students will be bussed home. This is an essential drill for ALL students, especially those who are usually dropped off or picked up, as it familiarizes them with their assigned emergency bus, bus driver, and fellow students. During this drill students will board their designated bus, attendance will be taken and then they will deboard the bus. At no point during this drill will the students leave Big Flats campus. At the conclusion of the drill, students will return to their classrooms for regular end of day dismissal.

Additionally, October is Bullying Prevention Month. Each September, I hold town meetings with all students to review school expectations and our zero-tolerance policy for bullying. We also discuss the important distinction between conflict and bullying. On October 16th, we encourage all students and staff to wear orange in solidarity as we take a stand against bullying. I kindly ask that you take a moment to speak with your children and remind them that if they ever feel they are being bullied, they should inform an adult immediately. Your support is invaluable, and together we can help prevent bullying and ensure a safe, supportive environment for all our students.

I also want to remind you that our Open House has been rescheduled to **Monday, October 7th, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM.** We're looking forward to seeing you there to meet our teachers, visit the classrooms, and celebrate the beginning of a wonderful school year together.

Thank you for your continued partnership in making this school year a success!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Scaptura

Elizabeth M. Scaptura
Principal, Big Flats Elementary



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:

- **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. All dismissal changes should be submitted no later than 12:00.

- **Half Days for Elementary Schools**

There will be no lunch and no Kid's World provided on half days at elementary schools. 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.

- **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.

Big Flats continues to implement the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) model with our school community. PBIS is an evidence-based framework that supports students' behavioral, academic, social-emotional, and mental health needs. Not only does PBIS improve competence in the areas mentioned above, but also provides a shared vision for a positive school social culture for staff and students. As the school year progresses, we hope you might hear your child(ren) share with you our Big Flats Core 4 to SOAR, a collaboration of expectations created by students and staff to foster a positive school climate for all.

These four expectations serve as a foundation for positive and proactive support to empower and make students and staff feel safe, valued, and welcome. We appreciate your continued support in helping us soar together!

The Big Flats Core 4 to SOAR



School and Emergency Closings

School closings/delays due to inclement weather will be announced via various media outlets such as WNKI, WPGI, Magic FM, and WELM radio stations, and WENY, WETM, and Time Warner Cable News on TV. **You may also opt in to our text messaging services through SchoolMessenger by texting Yes to 67587.** 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.

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 29, 2025 and April 30, 2025 3rd and 4th grade Computer Based Math—May 6, 2025 and May 7, 2025

Mark Your Calendars

Oct 1

PTO Meeting 6pm

OCT 7

Open House; 6:30-7:30 PM

Oct 11

NO SCHOOL

Conference Day

Oct 14

NO SCHOOL

Indigenous People's Day

Oct 15

Fall Picture Day

Oct 16

Unity Day- **Wear Orange**

Oct 17

BOE Meeting HSMHC; 6 PM

Oct 23

Career Day

October 31

Halloween Parade 1:15-1:30pm

UNITY DAY
kindness • acceptance • inclusion

Unity Day

Unity Day is Wednesday, October 16. Wear and share **ORANGE** to send a visible message that no child should ever experience bullying. This event is to prevent childhood bullying and promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.



Halloween Parade

This year's parade will be on Thursday, October 31st, will begin punctually at 1:15pm and conclude at 1:30pm. Please note that students are **not** to come to school in costume—this includes make-up and colored hair. All costumes must be non-threatening, and no toy weapons are allowed. Visitors are NOT allowed to wear costumes, and only pre-approved parent-helpers will be allowed into the building to assist teachers with costumes. The parade will be held outside. In the event of rain, the parade will be canceled and will not be rescheduled. To ensure the safety of our students, we ask that all visitors please remain behind the yellow caution tape while watching the parade.



Guidelines for Classroom Parties

Before bringing treats for birthdays and such, please check with your child's teacher for approval and to see if any students in the class have any food allergies, such as peanuts, chocolate, red dye, etc. All treats must be store bought. **No flowers or balloons may be sent or brought to students. Please do not bring frozen items as there is limited freezer space and access.**

Picture Day

Remember to dress your best for Fall picture day on **October 15th!**



Health Office Request

We are in need of both girl's and boy's 4T, 5T, 6 and 6X gently used clothing. You can send or drop-off donated clothing at your convenience. If your child has been sent home wearing clothing from the health office, please return it to the nurse.



SAFE SCHOOLS LINE

795-2044 or
1-800-305-4984

Report a concern, rumor, bullying incident, or any safety issue anonymously and confidentially, **24 hours a day**.



Bus drivers: [Bus Driver opening in Horseheads Central School District \(olasjobs.org\)](https://olasjobs.org)

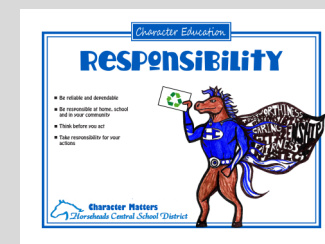


Food Services: [Food Service Helper opening in Horseheads Central School District \(olasjobs.org\)](https://olasjobs.org)

October—The month of:

Responsibility

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



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 [@escaptura1](https://twitter.com/escaptura1)



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

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.



October 2024

Big Flats
Elementary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 2 PTO Meeting; 6PM	2 3	3 4	4 5	5
6	7 CSE/504 Mtgs 6 Open House; 6:30—7:30 PM	8 1	9 2	10 3	11 NO SCHOOL Conference Day	12
13	14 NO SCHOOL 	15 4 Fall Picture Day	16 5 Unity Day— Wear Orange!	17 6 BOE Mtg HSMHC; 6PM	18 1	19
20	21 2	22 3	23 4 Career Day!	24 504 Mtgs 5	25 6	26
27	28 1	29 2	30 3	31 4  Halloween Parade; 1:15 - 1:30		

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 young children and people of all ages with certain health conditions like asthma, diabetes, and heart or lung conditions. 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.
- 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, call their health care provider and ask if antiviral treatment is right for them.
- If you are worried about your child, call their health care provider.

Don't spread flu!

- Stay home if you are sick.
- 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



Department
of Health