



Big Flats News

April 2025

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! The Gertrude Hawk Chocolate orders from our PTO fundraiser have arrived! Our PTO will be at school today from 4:00-5:00pm and tomorrow afternoon from 2:45-5:00pm to distribute all chocolate orders. Please use the parent drop-off/pick-up line when coming to school to collect your chocolate today or tomorrow. PTO volunteers will be located at the loading dock door nearest the new cafeteria to hand out your orders. Please report any issues with your chocolate order to Tara Spirwak no later than Monday, April 7th at 10:00am. Thank you so much to everyone who supported our biggest annual fundraiser!

Last week, I held my third Town Hall meeting with our K-4 students. During our time together, we reviewed our daily Core 4 to SOAR expectations and discussed the distinction between a conflict and bullying. We also talked about technology expectations and cyber safety. I hope your students were able to share some of the topics we discussed. One of the most important things I shared with the students was my concern for their safety online. I emphasized that they should never be online without a parent monitoring their activity and that if anything ever sounds, looks, or feels wrong, they should ALWAYS tell an adult.

In closing, I hope everyone has a wonderful spring break enjoying time with family and/or friends.

Have a wonderful spring break!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Scaptura

Elizabeth M. Scaptura, Principal

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:
8:15 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



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.

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 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 2025-2026 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 21st. We look forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic success! Thank you!

Budget Vote/Board of Education Election

Budget vote and Board of Education Election will take place on Tuesday, May 20, 2025

The Board of Education and administration began the development of the 2025-26 school year on February 13. The board will continue budget development and discussion until the final adoption of the budget is offered to voters at the budget vote on Tuesday, May 20. Meetings are open to the public and are livestreamed. Visit www.horseheadsdistrict.com to access the presentations and recordings.

2025-26 Board of Education Budget Meeting Schedule:

| | | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| April 10 | Board Budget Workshop | 6:00 p.m. | High School Multimedia Ctr |
| April 23 | Board of Education Regular Meeting | 5:15 p.m.* | High School Multimedia Ctr |
| May 8 | Public Hearing | 5:15 p.m. | High School Multimedia Ctr |

*The Board may immediately adjourn to Executive Session, with the intention to reconvene for the Public Session agenda at 6:00 p.m., or shortly thereafter.

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 Wednesday, April 9th 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 at 607-739-6366.

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

Apr 1

PTO Meeting, Bridge, 6PM

Apr 4

Raider/Falcon Pride Day

April 9

4th Grade Self-Guided Tour @ IS

Apr 11

Author Visit—Nancy Viau
Report Cards go home

Apr 14-18

Spring Recess– No School

Apr 17

BOE Meeting, 6PM HSMMC

Apr 25

Freaky Friday—Students dress as
staff, staff dress as students

Apr 29-30

3rd & 4th NYS ELA Assessments

Teacher Placements for the upcoming 2025-2026 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.
Scaptura, no later than Friday,
April 11th, 2025. Per BOE policy
parents can NOT request a
specific teacher.

ATTENTION KINDERGARTEN PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

All Kindergarten students will be photographed
for their cap and gown photo on Monday, May
5th from 8:00—10:00 AM!



April- The month of:



Responsibility

- Be reliable and dependable.
- Be responsibility 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 @escaptural

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.

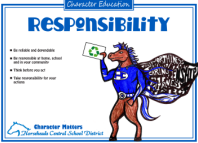


Non-Discrimination Notification

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 6 PTO Meeting 6PM | 2 1 | 3 2 | 4 3 Raider/Falcon Pride Day | 5 |
| 6 | 7 4 CSE Meetings | 8 5 | 9 6 4th Grade Self-Guided Tour @ IS; 6PM | 10 1 504 Meetings | 11 2 Author Visit—Nancy Viau Report Cards go home | 12 |
| 13  | <div>Spring Recess</div> | | | | | 19  |
| 20 | 21 3 | 22 4 | 23 5 | 24 6 BOE Meeting 6PM @ HSMMC | 25 1 Freaky Friday—Students dress as staff, staff dress as students | 26 |
| 27 | 28 2 CSE Meetings | 29 3 3rd & 4th NYS ELA Assessments | 30 4 3rd & 4th NYS ELA Assessments | | | |

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



We Are
HIRING



SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Horseheads Central School District accepts applications for substitute teachers throughout the school year. Both certified and non-certified positions are available. Uncertified substitute teachers may be approved as long as they meet the following minimum qualifications:

- ✓ Have been graduated from high school at least 4 years*, AND
- ✓ Possess an Associate's Degree or higher, OR
- ✓ Have completed at least two years of post-secondary education, OR
- ✓ Have completed a minimum of 12 credits of post-secondary education, OR
- ✓ Have served and been honorably discharged from the military

*Except for those substitute candidates who have satisfactorily completed or are in the process of completing a student teaching assignment in the pursuit of a college degree towards the teaching profession

Apply Now

Visit: horseheadsdistrict.com/employment.cfm
Call: (607) 739-5601 Ext. 4211

