



Big Flats News



October 2026

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 October already! We had a wonderful start to what we all expect will be an amazing school year for our Big Flats Falcons! I'd like to thank all the parents and guardians who attended our annual September Open House. It was another successful night for our students, families, and teachers.

Next Friday, there will be no school on October 9th, 2026, as it is a conference day followed by no school on Monday, October 12th, 2026, for Indigenous People Day. On October 16th, 2026, is our Annual Regional Emergency Go Home Drill. This drill is an annual regional drill that we complete each October, in case we have an emergency closure. ALL students need to be bused to their emergency go home location. Please remember on an emergency closure day, there are no parent pickups. All students will be bused home. This is a very important drill for ALL students to participate in, as many of our students are either dropped off or picked up from school and do not know their assigned emergency bus. This drill allows ALL students to know their emergency go home bus, as well as knowing the bus driver and other students who will be on their emergency bus. As I have been sharing during the month of September, we will also continue over the next few weeks our mandated fire drills.

October is Bullying Prevention Month. Every September I begin each school year by holding Town Hall Meetings for all students. We discuss student expectations, as well as our school's Core 4 to SOAR expectations and the differences between conflict and bullying. On October 21st, I ask all students and staff to wear orange as we stand up unified and speak out against bullying. Please take a moment to talk to your child(ren) and reinforce what I spoke to them about back in September that if at any time they believe they are being bullied to please tell an adult immediately. Your support is greatly appreciated. Together we can prevent bullying and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our students.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Scaptura

Elizabeth M. Scaptura
Principal



School Food Services for 2025-2026:

Breakfast: Free

Lunch: Free

School Office Hours During Regular

School Days:

7:45AM to 3:45PM

School Hours:

8:35AM to 3:20PM

Office Phone Numbers:

607-739-6373

607-795-2550

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.

School and Emergency Closings

School closings and delays due to inclement weather will be announce via various media outlets such as WNKI, WPGI, Mgaic FM, and WELM radio stations, and WENY, WETM, and Time Warner News on TV. You may also opt in to our text message 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 indentified 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 the Big Flats bus routes.

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 any absences, tardiness, or plans to leave early. This is extremely important for the overall safety of our students. All dismissal changes should be submitted no later than 10:00AM

- **Half Days for Elementary Schools**

There will be no lunch and no Kid's World on half days. Please send a blue note on these days with dismissal plans for your student if they regularly attend Kid's World.

- **Always park in the Parking Lot**

When dropping off a student, picking them up, or attending a meeting, make sure to always park in the main parking lot and not the bus loop. All visitors must report to the main office to be further assisted.

- **Snow Days**

When a snow day occurs ad all schools in the district are closed, it changes our 4-day schedule. The next day that school is in session would be the cycle day that was originally missed.

Classroom Parties



Before bringing treats for birthdays and such, please check with your classroom teacher for approval and to see if there are any allergies in the room. All treats must be store-bought. No flowers or balloons may be brought in. Do not bring frozen items as we have limited space in our freezers.

Our Annual Unity Day

Unity Day is Wednesday, October 21st! Wear and share **ORANGE** to send a visible message that no child should ever have to experience bullying. This event is to prevent childhood bullying, promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.



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,
3. Regulation 5500-R; 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.

Non-Discrimination Notification

The HCSD offers educational programs without regard to race, color, weight, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, or 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 Office; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kelly Squires Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845.

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.

The following person(s) have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Caitlin DeFilippo Director of Human Services cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com Hibbard Rd, HCSD, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607)739-6373 -
or-

US Department of Education Office of Civil Rights LBJ Department of Education Building 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20202-1100,
1-800-421-3481

Picture Day

Don't forget to dress your best for our Fall
Picture Day on October 15th!



A Note from our Nurses

We are in need of girl's and boy's sizes 7 - 14, especially sweatpants and leggings. You can send or drop-off donated clothing at your convenience to the main office. If your child has been sent home wearing clothes from the nurses office, please return them as soon as you can.

Additionally, any disposable bags would be appreciated as well!



Mark Your Calendars

Oct 2nd-16th
PTO Spirit Wear
Oct 6th
PTO Meeting, 6pm BFE Library
Oct 9th
No School - Conference Day
Oct 12th
No School - Indigenous People's Day
Oct 15th
Fall Picture Day
Oct 16th
Early Release Drill
Oct 21st
Unity Day - Remember to Wear Orange!
Oct 22nd
Career Day
Oct 23rd
PK-6th Half Day Dismissal
Oct 30th
Halloween Parade, 1:30pm to 1:45pm



Need to report a concern, bullying incident, rumor or any safety issue anonymously? Call Safe Schools Line any time of day at **795-2044** or **1-800-305-4984**

Stay up to Date with ParentSquare!

Sign up with ParentSquare to keep up on all things Big Flats! Didn't receive a link? Reach out to our Community Specialist, Jason Jordan via the District Website!



June is the Month of: Responsibility

Character Education

Responsibility

- Be reliable and dependable
- Do your part at home, school and in your community
- Think before you act
- Take ownership of your actions



Character Matters
Horseheads Central School District

