



Big Flats News

FEBRUARY 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,

We are delighted to announce our continued partnership with the Black Growth Council of Corning Incorporated for our annual Black History Month Read-In Program. This program is a wonderful way to celebrate African American literacy, a key tradition of Black History Month. Thanks to the generosity of Corning Incorporated, the selected books will be added to each classroom library for continued enjoyment.

Throughout February, volunteers from Corning Incorporated will visit our classrooms to read to and engage with our students. This year's selections are *We're Different, We're the Same* by Bobbi Jane Kates for Pre-K; *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt for Kindergarten; *A Computer Called Katherine* by Suzanne Slade for 1st Grade; *Granddaddy's Turn* by Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein for 2nd Grade; *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down* by Andrea Davis Pinkney for 3rd Grade; and *Frederick's Journey: The Life of Frederick Douglass* by Doreen Rappaport for 4th Grade.

Guided discussions will complement the readings, focusing on age-appropriate themes related to each book. These discussions will begin with Prek & K celebrating diversity, 1st grade exploring Black Inventors, 2nd grade discussing slavery and the Civil War, 3rd grade learning about segregation, and 4th grade focusing on integration, in addition to other topics relevant to each book.

We deeply appreciate this enriching opportunity and value our ongoing collaboration with Corning Incorporated. We believe this program provides an important and engaging way for our students to learn about and celebrate Black history.

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:

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!

Technology Reminder



Please remember that our PK-4 students should not be bringing in any technology devices to school as these devices often distract students from their learning. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items. If a child has a smart watch, they may only use the device only to tell time. If a student is using the other features such as texting, calling, or gaming, the student will receive a verbal warning from the teacher. A second offense, the teacher will ask for the watch and give it back to the student at the end of the day. The third incident, the teacher will bring the watch to the main office, and Mrs. Scaptura will contact parents to have them come and pick up the watch from the main office. This is true for any item that is a distraction in any learning environment.

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.

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.**

School and Emergency Closings

The district uses text-messaging to alert parents/guardians about school delays, closings, and safety alerts. Parents/guardians **must opt-in** to receive texts. To opt-in, text "Y" or "Yes" to 67587. Note that your standard text/data rates apply. The alerts are also posted on the district website, social media pages, and on local TV and radio stations. [Click here](#) to learn more about school delays and closings. 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.

Mark Your Calendars

Feb 4

BFE K Registration; Bridge 10-2, by appointment

PTO Meeting at 6pm,

Big Flats Elementary, Bridge

Feb 5

PTO Candy Sales Begin

Feb 11

Strings Showcase 7PM; IS Café

Feb 13

100th Day of School!

Life Among the Seneca Presentation for 4th Grade

BOE Mtg; 6pm HS Aud.

Feb 14

Valentine's Day

Wear Red and Pink

Feb 17-21

NO SCHOOL

Presidents Day Recess

Feb 28

Trooper Sperr Day

Wear Purple!

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 looking for gently used pants and coats in good condition. All sizes are welcome! We are also in need of new or unused socks and underwear. If you have any items to donate, please send them in with your child or drop them off at the nurse's office. Thank you for your support!



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.



Our construction continues in the new kitchen, cafeteria, library, and support service offices! Flooring is currently being installed in the library. We are expecting these new areas to be opened and accessible sometime this Spring! Stay tuned for future updates on these new areas.

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.

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

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.



February 2025

Big Flats
Elementary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 2	4 BFE K Registration 3 PTO Meeting 6pm	5 Spring Candy Fundraiser Begins 4	6 5	7 6	8
9	10 CSE Meetings 1	11 2 Strings Showcase 7PM; IS Cafe	12 3	13 4 100th Day of School! Life Among the Seneca Pres. 4th Gr. BOE @6pm HSMMC	14 Valentine's Day 5 Spirit Day Wear red & pink 	15
16	17 HAPPY Presidents DAY	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 6	25 1	26 2	27 3	28 Trooper Sperr Day 4 Wear Purple!	

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 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