



# Big Flats News

## December 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,

It's hard to believe that December is here, and the holiday season is quickly approaching. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended our Parent-Teacher Conferences this past month. Having parents involved in their children's education is so important to their growth and success in school. We appreciate your time and efforts.

I would also like to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season! We've been very busy here at school. I'm so pleased with the teaching and learning happening every day in our school community. We couldn't do this alone, and we greatly appreciate your efforts in working with us to educate your children.

During the month of December, our Parent Teacher Organization is holding our annual Spirit of Giving. This is a wonderful opportunity to teach our children the importance of giving to others, especially those in need. We are collecting the following items to give to our local Big Flats Community Food Pantry, right here on Main Street in Big Flats. Please send in any of these items to support our PTO Spirit of Giving, but more importantly, to help our local families in need. Donations are being accepted from December 1st through December 15th, 2025.

- \* Pre-Kindergarten: Condiments such as ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, hot sauce
- \* Kindergarten: Macaroni and Cheese ALL kinds and brands
- \* First Grade: Pasta and Pasta Sauces including SpaghettiOs
- \* Second Grade: Ramen Noodles
- \* Third Grade: Cake or Cookie Mixes, Frosting, boxed cookies
- \* Fourth Grade: Canned meat including SPAM, Chicken, Tuna and Corned Beef Hash

At the request of the food bank, please no bagged items such as bagged cookie mixes or bags of pasta.

In closing, I hope everyone has a wonderful winter break and I look forward to seeing everyone back on January 5th, 2026, in the New Year!

Sincerely,

***Elizabeth M. Scaptura***

Elizabeth M. Scaptura, Principal

### **Elementary Lunches (K-6)**

School Food Services prices for the 2025-2026 school year will be:

Breakfast: Free

Lunch: Free

### **School Hours**

Hours for the Elementary Schools are:  
8:35 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.

### **Office Hours**

Our school office hours during regular school days are:

Monday through Friday  
7:45a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

### **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.

**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:

### • 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.**

**\*K-4 will begin at 10:35 a.m. when there is a delayed start. Pre-K will begin at 11:00 a.m.**

### • 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.

## Winter Concert

*Our 4th grade Winter Choral Concert will be held on Wednesday, December 10th, 2025 at 7pm in the High School Auditorium.*

### \* 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!*



## 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](http://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.

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Computer Based ELA—April 30, 2026 and May 1, 2026    3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Computer Based Math—May 5, 2026 and May 6, 2026

## Mark Your Calendars

**Dec 1-15**

Spirit of Giving

**Dec 5**

Spirit Day! Raider/Falcon  
Wear

**Dec 10**

Winter Choral Concert 7PM  
@ HS Auditorium

**Dec 16-29**

Spirit Days!

**Dec 22-Jan 2**

Winter Recess



Please pull tabs for Ronald McDonald!  
[PullTabs4McDonalds@yahoo.com](mailto:PullTabs4McDonalds@yahoo.com)  
Pull tabs for Ronald McDonald Charities!  
Tabs will be picked up mid-May.



## 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.



## Snow Days Impact our Schedule

When a snow day occurs and all schools in the District are closed, it changes our four-day schedule. The next day that school is in session is the cycle day that the snow day would have been.



## 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—[hhdschools](https://www.instagram.com/hhdschools)

Visit our district website at: [www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com).

Questions about our website or social media?

E-mail: [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto: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](mailto:cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com).

## Non-Discrimination Notification

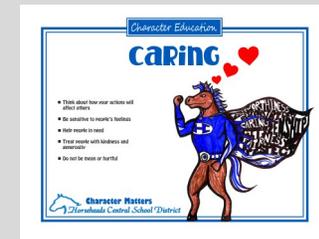
The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable 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.

## December—The month of:

### Caring

- ⇒ BE KIND
- ⇒ EXPRESS GRATITUDE
- ⇒ FORGIVE OTHERS
- ⇒ HELP PEOPLE IN NEED
- ⇒ BE CHARITABLE





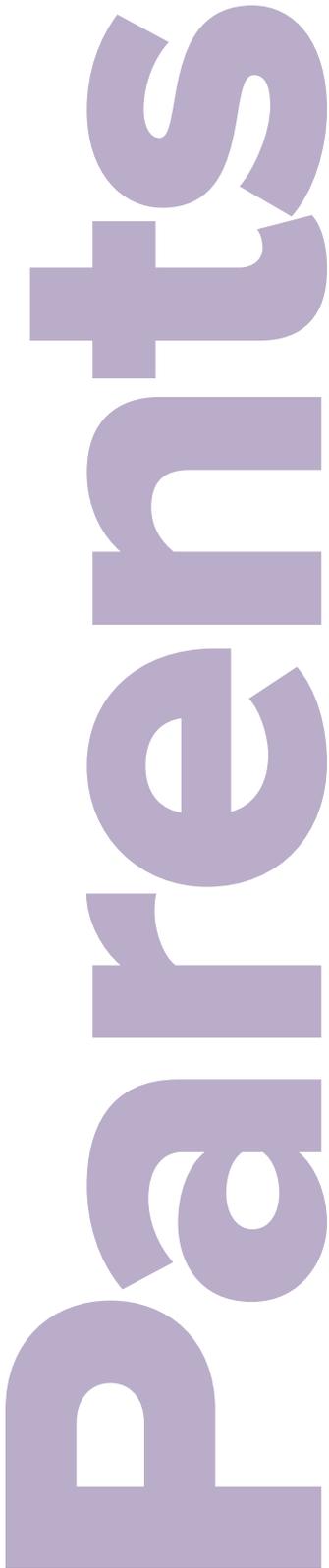
# December 2025

Big Flats  
Elementary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Special Education Day!</i> CSE Meetings Spirit of Giving Begins	2 <b>Snow Day</b>	3 Community Open House Tour 6PM	4	5 Raider/Falcon Pride Day	6
7	8	9	10 Winter Choral Concert HS Auditorium, 7PM	11	12	13
14	15 Spirit of Giving Ends	16 <b>Spirit Day</b> <b>Sparkle &amp; Joy -</b> Jewelry, handbags, ties, scarves, etc.	17 <b>Spirit Day</b> <b>Merry &amp; Bright -</b> Colors to celebrate your holiday traditions	18 <b>Spirit Day</b> <b>Joyful Jammies -</b> Jammies, fleece, etc.	19 <b>Spirit Day</b> <b>Holiday Apparel -</b> Festive fashion that honors your culture or traditions	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<i>Winter Recess</i>						
28	29	30	31 			

Character Trait of the Month  
**Caring**

- Be Kind
- Express gratitude
- Forgive others
- Help people in need
- Be charitable



# Fight Flu at Home and School

**Influenza (flu), spreads easily and can make people very sick, especially kids. You can help stop flu!**

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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[health.ny.gov/flu](https://health.ny.gov/flu)

