



Golden Star Gazette

September 2026

Gardner Road Elementary School

541 Gardner Road, Horseheads, New York 14845 (607) 739 – 6347
psotero@horseheadsdistrict.com



WELCOME BACK!



Inside the Gazette:

Page 2:

Main Office Updates

Page 3:

Principal's Page/ Office Information

Page 4:

New Assistant Principal's Greeting

Page 5:

Welcome Aboard

Page 6:

Ice Cream Social

Page 7 - 13:

Arrival and Dismissal Processes

Page 14:

Open House

Page 15:

Parent Title One Information Meeting

Page 16:

Health Office

Page 17:

Character Ed & PTO

Page 18:

School Closing and Attendance

Page 19:

Upcoming Picture Day

Page 20 - 21:

Upcoming Veterans Day Celebration

Page 22:

Calendar

Gardner Road Main Office Updates:

Beginning of School Year Checklist:

- Bring in any medication and doctor's forms for medication to be given during school hours.
- Complete first day of school paperwork and return:
 - Gardner Road student handbook
 - emergency 'Go Home' information sheet

Set up school lunch account (if desired) on the district website under food services and look for the Pay Schools link.

Building Security - entering:

For the safety of all students and staff at Gardner Road, all doors are locked 24 hours a day. We do welcome your visit to our school. Please report to the main entrance and press the buzzer to your right near the main entrance. You will be prompted for your name and purpose of visit. Then the secretaries will buzz you in. Please remain in the lobby and someone will assist you.

Bringing Items in for your Child During School:

To provide the most consistent learning environment for your children, we do not interrupt the classrooms during the school day. We understand that in the rush to leave the house in the morning, things are forgotten such as homework, lunches, sneakers for gym, birthday/party goodies, etc. If your child needs something during the day, please bring the item into the lobby and labeled them with your child's name and teacher. We will make sure they receive it.

Who to call first?

We as a school, we want to be able to answer any questions or concerns you have in a timely manner. The first contact should be with the staff member most directly involved. Please reach out first to your child's teacher on the following topics: classroom questions, curriculum, student discipline in the class, academic services, or questions about day-to-day things. If this question or concern remains unresolved, then please feel free to contact me as the building principal. I, as the building principal, would be the first point of contact on topics such as; school policy, residency, parent portal, scheduling, or suspension. If you have a question about transportation, please reach out to our transportation department at 739-6338.

Meeting with Teachers:

Please be aware that once the teachers have students in their class (8:35), they are not able to meet one-on-one with a parent regarding an individual concern. Please arrange a meeting with your child's teacher in advance – thank you!

Homework Requests:

If your child is out sick and you would like to request homework, please call the office before 9:00 a.m. It can either be sent home with a sibling, friend, neighbor, or parents can pick up homework after 3:30 in the office.

Gold "Go Home" Notes – Change of Plans:

Thank you for helping us assure students 'go-home' the correct way each day using our GOLD note pads. Knowing that changes occur during the day, we understand that you may need to change your child's 'go-home' plans during the day. We ask that parents call before 12:00 so that we can assure a smooth dismissal and keep all our students safe. Last minute changes delay bus dismissal for all students.

Online District Calendar

To see district & school events in 2026-2027, please go to <https://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/fullcalendar.cfm>, or go to the Calendar link in the main menu on the district website. The online calendar allows months to be printed. The district will not be printing a multi-page calendar this year. Our online calendar allows us to update events throughout the year.

Annual Title 1 Notice for Gardner Road Elementary School

In compliance with provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, we are informing you that Gardner Road Elementary receives Title I federal funding. Therefore, you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualification of your child's classroom teacher(s). Specifically included is your right to know the following:

Whether the teacher has met State qualification & licensing criteria for the grade levels & subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;

Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;

The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher & any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, & field of discipline of the certification or degree;

Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals &, if so, their qualification.

Should you wish to exercise your right to make your request to: Caitlin DeFilippo, Director of Human Resources, Horseheads Central School District, Hibbard Road, Horseheads, New York 14845. (607)739-5601, ext. 4211.

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.

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. The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Gardner Road Elementary is Patricia Sotero. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Patricia Sotero at (607) 739-6347.



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you for your continued support of Gardner Road Elementary School! At Gardner Road, we focus on many aspects of our 6 Pillars of Character Education and remember the importance of displaying our pride through respect and good citizenship. Throughout last year, I observed students making great choices and overcoming challenges. I was elated to see how far they grew in developing strategies for addressing conflicts in positive, constructive ways and in turning their days around after setbacks.

We emphasized that Kindness Counts not just for one month but all year long, and we began a new program teaching students to be UPSTANDERS — to step in to assist a peer in need rather than look the other way. I anticipate even more growth and many inspiring stories to share about how our students are making a difference in our GR World.

It is a privilege and an honor to serve our students, faculty, and families in this dynamic community of learners and I am confident that our new assistant principal will quickly feel the same way. I would like to introduce our new assistant principal, Katie Boye. Katie is eager to get to know everyone and to experience firsthand the wonderful culture and supportive families we have at GR.

I know the 2026–2027 school year will be incredible. We have additional new staff members excited to meet students in classrooms, hallways, and during arrival and dismissal. We are fortunate to have teachers who light a fire in our students — inspiring them to learn more, grow more, and give to others. I could not be more proud of the Gardner Road Team for each day they enter our building, they bring an energy that knows no bounds.

Looking forward to seeing all of our students' smiling faces at our Sneak Peek on Wednesday, September 3rd. Please be sure to read through the rest of our newsletter filled with important information as we prepare to open a new school year together.

In Your Service,

Patti



Gardner Road Elementary Contact Information

541 Gardner Road
Horseheads, NY 14845
Patricia Sotero, Principal
Catherine Boyle, Assistant Principal
Lisa Buchanan, Secretary
Cassie Wright, Attend Clerk
Barb Hinman, Nurse, RN
Robin Plummer, Nurse, LPN

www.horseheadsdistrict.com
(607) - 739-6347
GR PTO:
Shannon Radford, President
Jessica Carswell, Vice President
Autumn Osburn, Treasurer



Gardner Road School Hours
8:35 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tardy Bell – 8:40 AM
Gardner Road Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Elementary Lunches (K-6)

Newsletter in Color: <https://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHGR.cfm>

Introducing our New Assistant Principal

Ms. Katie Boyle



Hello Gardner Road families,

I am excited to join Gardner Road Elementary as the new Assistant Principal this September.

Prior to joining Gardner Road, I worked in a variety of educational roles supporting students, teachers, and families. As I begin this new chapter, I am excited to get to know our students and families and become part of the Gardner Road community. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to a school with a long tradition of supporting children and families.

Outside of school, I am a proud parent of four children, ages 16 to 30. My family moved to the Southern Tier from New Jersey about ten years ago, and I've been a Bills fan ever since. When I have free time, I enjoy kayaking, gardening, and reading.

I look forward to meeting you and your children and to a great year ahead at Gardner Road.

Warmly,

Katie Boyle

Assistant Principal



We want to welcome our new, changing and returning staff:

Katie Boyle - Assistant Principal

Stacey Burden - BOCES Social
Worker

Makenzie Fusco - BOCES TA

Theresa Houck - BOCES Social
Worker

Katie Karney - Contract Sub
Teacher

Kelly Koehler - Contract Sub
Teacher

Jessica Koellner - Contract Sub TA

Paige LaBrozzi - K TA

Maureen Miller - Pre K TA

Teresa Owlett - BOCES TA

Darla Palmer - Cafeteria Monitor

Lisa Potter - Rtl TA

Missy Ripley - Kindergarten Teacher

Rebecca Roote - BOCES TA

Mark Schaffhouser - BOCES TA

Zachary Shortslef - BOCES Teacher

Judy Wald - BOCES Teacher

Arianna Wieland - Contract Sub TA

Kate Williams - Gr 1 Teacher

Meg Woodworth - Pre K Speech
Teacher

Maya Wood - BOCES TA



WELCOME BACK

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

GARDNER ROAD
PLAYGROUND

SEPTEMBER 11

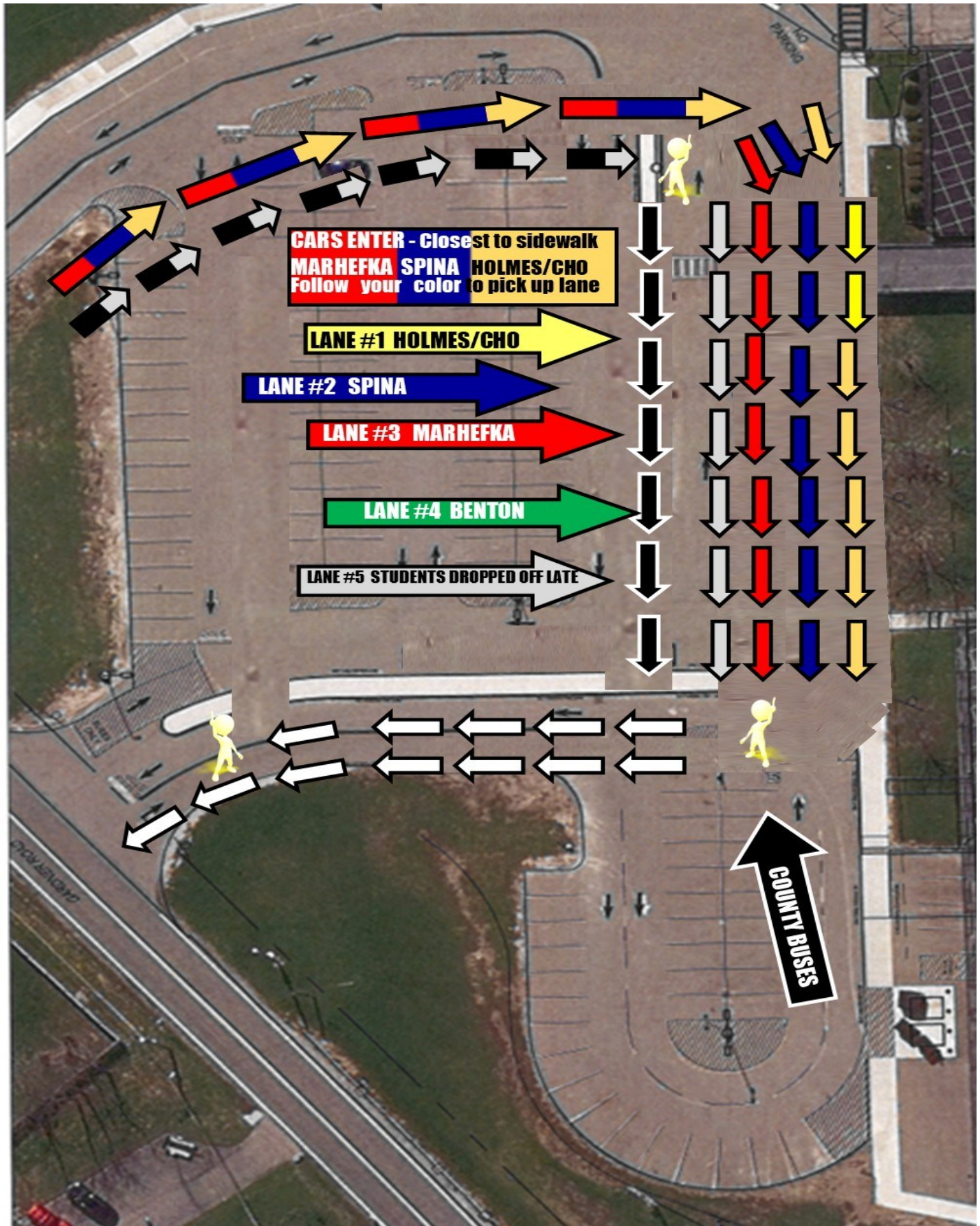
5:00 - 7:00PM

FREE EVENT HOSTED
BY THE GR PTO

COME MEET YOUR PRINCIPAL
MRS. SOTERO AND GET TO
KNOW OTHER FAMILIES!



PRE K ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL PROCESS



Gardner Road Elementary: Pre Kindergarten
IMPORTANT ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Pre K Student arrivals CANNOT be earlier than 8:40 as we are still processing our K – 4 student drop offs.

Pick-Up Lines *begin* at 2:00 PM – 2:30 PM.

ARRIVAL

Please pull into your child's teacher's assigned line. (SEE MAP.)

Line #1 Holmes/Cho & VanSlyke (closest to the sidewalk)

Line #2 Spina

Line #3 Marhefka

Line #4 Benton

Line #5 is for STUDENTS IN ALL GRADES ARRIVING LATE OR BEING PICKED UP EARLY.

Please be sure to unbuckle your child and then return back into your car and wait for a staff member to come and get your little one. **Kindly do not remain out of your car** as we try to maintain a system that works for all.

We must keep the crosswalk lines free of vehicles, so kindly stay behind the walkway or ahead of it so that your wheels do not cover any part of it.

There is an assigned staff member in both the front of the lines and at the crosswalk to assist with directing traffic. You will be notified when you may exit your line. NO cars should be moving without the direction of the staff member up front. You will see a traffic cone in front of each line. Only when the traffic cone has been removed and you are directed to exit, should you move your car. Otherwise, your car should be in park until notified to move.

Please remember that your speed must be in compliance with our school speed limit when entering and exiting our parking lot.

If you have a concern about others using our parking lot, kindly contact me directly and do not make contact with another driver as it is important for our children not to witness or hear inappropriate conversations.

DISMISSAL

Please pull into your child's teacher's assigned line. (SEE MAP.)

Line #1 Holmes/Cho & VanSlyke (closest to the sidewalk)

Line #2 Spina

Line #3 Marhefka

Line #4 Benton

Line #5 is for STUDENTS IN ALL GRADES ARRIVING LATE OR BEING PICKED UP EARLY.

Please place your provided pick-up name sign on the passenger's side of your vehicle *either on the dashboard or on the window*. This will help to expedite the dismissal process.

Suggestive places to keep your sign -your car glove compartment or on the passenger's visor so you will have it with you. ***NO SIGNS ARE TO BE COPIED. IF YOU NEED AN ADDITIONAL SIGN FOR YOUR FAMILY, KINDLY EMAIL THE PRINCIPAL. We will be happy to provide you with additional signs needed.***

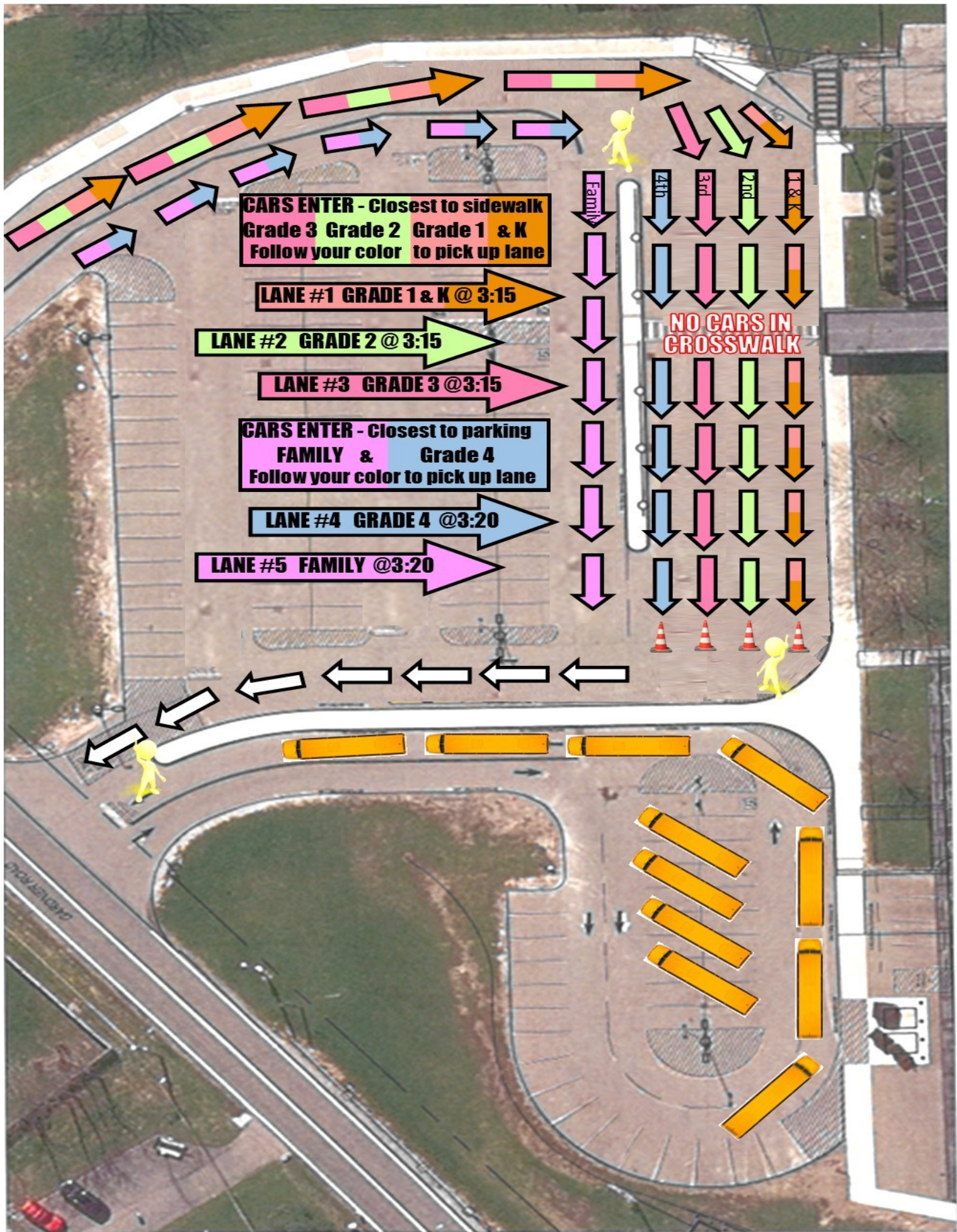
Staff will be looking for your sign and then will bring your child to you.

Please **wait in your vehicle** until a staff member brings out your child (ren) during dismissal.

As the staff member brings your child to you, the ***driver must buckle a child in if the student cannot do it for him/herself. Staff will not be able to assist with this.***

If you arrive for an earlier pick up prior to 1:45, please park in the family lane #5 to pick up your child for an appointment. This should occur BEFORE 1:45 PM. Please call the office ahead of time 739-6347 so we may help with getting your child to the office on time for the appointment. You will need to come to the lobby door, and ring the bell. You will be instructed to sign-out your child.

Please follow the directions so that your child's education will not be interrupted, and will be able to make our traffic flow operate efficiently and smoothly to get you home quickly!



Gardner Road Elementary: Kindergarten - 4th Grade

IMPORTANT DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Student Pick-Up Lines begin at 3:00 PM – 3:30 PM.

Please line up in your assigned grade level/family line.

Please follow the directions so that your child's education will not be interrupted and we will be able to make our traffic flow operate efficiently and smoothly and get you home quickly!

Please place your provided pick-up name sign on the passenger's side of your vehicle either on the dashboard or on the window. This will help to expedite the dismissal process. Suggestive places to keep your sign -your car glove compartment or on the passenger's visor so you will have it with you. All parents who have not signed up their child to be bussed will receive a sign. Two will be given out per family. The oldest sibling will receive a Family Sign should you have more than one child attending Gardner Road. Please note *-students in K – 4 cannot be dismissed with their sibling who may be in Pre- K at 2:30. NO SIGNS ARE TO BE COPIED. IF YOU NEED AN ADDITIONAL SIGN FOR YOUR FAMILY, KINDLY EMAIL THE PRINCIPAL. We will be happy to provide you with additional signs needed.*

Please wait in your vehicle until a staff member brings out your child (ren).

Staff will be looking for your sign and then will bring your child to you.

As the staff member brings your child to you, the ***driver must buckle a child in if the student cannot do it for him/herself. Staff will not be able to assist with this.***

If it is a unique day and you are picking up multiple students outside of your household, you will need to go back around to the appropriate line and time to pick up the additional students by grade.

If you arrive for an earlier pick up prior to 3:00, please park in the family lane #5 to pick up your child for an appointment. This should occur BEFORE 3:00 PM. Please call the office ahead of time 739-6347 so we can help with getting your child to the office on time for the appointment. You will need to come to the lobby door, and ring the bell. You will be instructed to sign-out your child.

Once multiple cars are loaded in their grade line, and students' feet are in the cars, **the driver should give a thumbs up** to indicate they are loaded and ready to go. A staff member will direct the row to go one at a time, as it is a single file when exiting our parking lot. Cars will then be directed to pull up to their appropriate grade level line. When cars are stopped, we will continue to load the next group of students.

GARDNER ROAD SPECIFIC TIME AND LOCATION TO PULL INTO PARENT'S PICK UP LINE

KINDERGARTEN – Parents may pull into the parent's pick up line at 3:00 to line up. Dismissal will be begin at ~3:15.

Pull up next to the sidewalk!

Be in Line #1.

Put your ORANGE-colored sign in your passenger's window or dashboard

Please remain in your car.

Once buckled in and a staff member notifies you to go, then you may exit.

FIRST GRADE – Parents may pull into the parent's parking line at 3:00 to line up. Dismissal will begin at 3:15.

Pull up closest to the sidewalk!

Be in Line #1.

Put your SALMON-colored sign in your passenger's window or dashboard.

Please remain in your car.

Once buckled in and a staff member notifies you to go, then you may exit.

SECOND GRADE – Parents may pull into the parent's parking line at 3:00 to line up. Dismissal will be begin at ~3:15.

Be in line #2.

Put your NEON GREEN-colored sign in your passenger's window or dashboard

Please remain in your car.

Once buckled in and a staff member notifies you to go, then you may exit.

THIRD GRADE – Parents may pull into the parent’s parking line at 3:00 to line up. Dismissal will begin at ~3:15.

Be in line #3.

Pull up in the second line next to the cars parked by the sidewalk!

Put your BRIGHT PINK-colored sign in your passenger’s window or ashboard

Please remain in your car.

Once buckled in and a staff member notifies you to go, then you may exit.

FOURTH GRADE – Parents may pull into the parent’s parking line at 3:00 to line up. Dismissal will begin at ~3:20.

Be in line #4.

Put your LIGHT BLUE-colored sign in your passenger’s window or dashboard

Please remain in your car.

Once buckled in and a staff member notifies you to go, then you may exit.

FAMILY LINE – Parents may pull into the parent’s parking lot at 3:00 to line up. Dismissal will be begin at ~3:20.

Be in line #5 & line #6 (on the other side of the fence closet to the staff’s parked cars.

Put your PURPLE-colored sign in your passenger’s window or dashboard

Please remain in your car.

Once buckled in and a staff member notifies you to go, then you may exit.

“We Succeed Because The Stars Lead!”



GARDNER ROAD **OPEN HOUSE**

THURS., Sept. 24th
A-L 6:15 - 6:45 pm
M - L 7:00 - 7:30 pm
TITLE ONE PARENT MTG.
7:30 pm - LIBRARY

Looking forward to seeing you there!



August 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* was signed into law on December 10, 2015. The *ESSA* replaces the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* and is the latest reauthorization of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*.

Although *NCLB* was designed to make changes in teaching and learning in order to increase students' academic achievement, the Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) provision under *NCLB* was eliminated from the *ESSA*. Despite this fact, all educators in New York still are required to hold the appropriate state certificate/license for their given position.

Under the *ESSA*, all schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the professional qualifications of their child's teachers and paraprofessionals. Our school receives Title I funding and we are happy to share this information with you upon your request.

New York has some of the most qualified teachers in the country, and we are extremely proud of the quality of the teaching staff in the Horseheads School District. All of our regular teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. In addition, every teacher continues learning through professional development activities and our teachers are evaluated each year to make sure their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level.

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with your child's teacher(s) on a regular basis. For more information on *ESSA*, and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education's (USDE) website at <http://www.ed.gov/essa>.

PLEASE NOTE: OPEN HOUSE DATE – THURSDAY, SEPT. 24th A-L 6:15—6:45 and M-Z 7-7:30. Please join me in the GR Library right after our Open House on Thursday, Sept. 24th at 7:30 for a brief meeting about our school and the support your child will receive in our new school year.

By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,
Patricia R. Sotero
Principal

Information From the Health Office



Symptoms for Exclusion: When Students Need to Go Home Sick

Conditions Requiring Temporary Exclusion:

- Fever of 100.4° Fahrenheit or higher within 24 hours
- Lethargy (excessive sleepiness) preventing the student from participating in class
- Difficulty breathing or excessive disruptive cough
- Diarrhea within 24 hours
- Vomiting within 24 hours
- Rash with fever or behavior changes or quickly spreading rash
- Open skin sores with/without drainage or crusting that cannot be covered with a bandage or clothing
- Sudden onset of pain that is not resolving
- Abdominal pain that is not resolving or worsening
- Blood or pus drainage from the ear
- Strep throat until treated with antibiotics for 12 hours
- Mouth sores causing drooling the student cannot control
- Other conditions as determined by nursing assessment!

September's Character Trait is:



Our students at Gardner Road are GOLDEN STARS! Each month, we focus on a different character trait. Students can earn GOLDEN TICKETS by demonstrating the month's trait! Students share their ticket in the main office and they are entered into the Character Education Bingo game. Be on the lookout for these certificates coming home! Students can also earn a GOOD NEWS CALL OF THE DAY if they have gone above and beyond – one student earns this special opportunity each day. Students will learn about all our character traits from our student led Character Education Leadership Team, our social workers, Mrs. Rich and Mrs. Kucmierowski, all building staff and of course, their classroom teacher. We look forward to another great year of character at Gardner Road Elementary School!



**JOIN US FOR OUR
FIRST PTO MTG
Wed., SEPT. 16
6:00 - GR LIBRARY**

Golden Star Buddies Reminder:

Our school believes all students should follow the golden rule. However, we know that disagreements occur and it is our job to help students through it. We use the following definitions to determine the difference between conflicts and bullying. If any student is involved or sees either, please let a Gardner Road staff member know and they will help you!

CONFLICT:

- * occurs in the heat of a moment
- * is often a difference of opinion
- * two or more students are upset
- * does not happen continue
- * students want a mutual solution

BULLYING:

- * intent to cause harm
- * imbalance of power
- * repetition - bullies often target the same people
- * targeted towards a specific individual

Information about Emergency School Closings & Delays:

Schools are closed when the weather makes it impossible to have reasonable attendance or when the schools or vehicles would not be able to operate safely. The school day is delayed when inclement weather conditions improve by early morning. Inclement weather may include snow, ice, and/or freezing temperatures. If the school day is delayed, buses will run & schools will open 2 hours later than normal.

If it is necessary to close or delay schools, the information will be posted on the district's website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com, the district's Facebook pages and Twitter, and the following local television and radio stations and their affiliates:

Radio: WNKI 106.1, WPGI 100.9, Magic FM 92.7/97.7, WGMM 98.7, WLVI 94.3, WELM 1410

TV: WENY, WETM, Time Warner Cable News

These television and radio stations also put closing/delay information on their websites. Each of our schools and the district have Facebook pages. To see school closings/delays and other information on your news feed, "like" the page(s). On Twitter, follow us at @HhdsSchools.

Additionally, WETM TV has an automated system to e-mail and/or text closings and delays to those who have signed up for the service. Parents may sign up at the following link: <http://www.mytwintiers.com/sms>. Scroll down to "School and Business Closing Alerts." Please do not call the radio/TV stations or the district's Transportation Office.

Please note that if schools are closed, they will remain closed all day for scheduled activities, including remedial programs, extra-curricular activities, use of facilities by non-school groups, and special evening programs. Please also note that when school is delayed, there is no supervision for students until schools open two hours later than the usual time, so parents should not drop their children off at school until they open. Additionally, on school delays, there is no breakfast served.

If a storm develops after school begins, usual procedure is NOT to close school early. This allows time for highway crews to plow and sand the roads and has proved to be less disruptive and confusing than attempting to send students home early.

Substitutes Needed:

The Horseheads Central School District is seeking applications for substitute teachers, nurses, bus drivers and substitute teaching assistants.

For information, please visit: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/subteach.html>

Human Resources Office: 739-5601, x4211
e-mail: hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

School is your first and most important job. You're learning about more than math and reading. You're learning how to show up for school on time every day, so that when you grow up and get a job, you'll know how to show up for work on time every day.

When you're not here, we notice because we care, and we want you to be successful.

A student who misses 10 days or more during a school year is 20 percent less likely to graduate from high school and 25 percent less likely to ever enroll in college.

If you think missing a day here or there won't matter, think again. By missing just one day every two weeks, you would be on track to miss 10 percent of the school year – and that can happen before you know it.

School only gets harder when you stay home too much. Sometimes it's tempting to stay home but missing a day only makes that worse.

We understand that you will get sick sometimes and need to stay home. The important thing is to get to school as often as possible to help stay on track with your learning.

SMILE... PICTURE DAY!

**School Pictures will be taken on
MONDAY, Oct. 5th. We are reminding
families in advance to assist you with your
upcoming appointments outside of school.**

The Gardner Road Elementary School playground is available to all community members **AFTER 4:00 PM** each school day. We want to maintain the safety and protection of our students at ALL times. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in this matter. As we work together, we provide the best safety and protection of each and every student.

**Please be sure to read
our GR Student/Parent
Handbook for
important information
and return your signed form.
It is located on the GR Website!
THANK YOU!**



Veterans Day Parade coming up soon!

**Gardner Road's Veterans Day Event is coming soon –
Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026.**

Gardner Road Elementary School would like to show our appreciation to the men and women of the military. We are looking for individuals who would be able to come to Gardner Road Elementary School on Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 9:30 am. There will be no speaking involved; our students who will be lined up outside waving flags and holding banners - thanking you for the sacrifices you have made on our behalf.

If you participated in the past, please join us again now at Gardner Road Elementary School.

Please contact Mrs. Sotero, Principal of Gardner Road Elementary School, if you or someone you know would like to participate in this special event by Friday, October, 30th.



Gardner Road Elementary School would like to show our appreciation to the men and women of the military. We are looking for individuals who would be able to come to Gardner Road Elementary School on:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026 AT 9:30 AM.

There will be no speaking involved, but rather we would like you to be greeted by our students who will be lined up along the hallways waving flags and holding banners thanking you for the sacrifices you have made on our behalf.

For those of you who have been part of our celebrations in the past - you know we LOVE having you join us! We would be honored if you would join us for this special occasion because it is important for our students to express their respect and appreciation to all of you! If you joined us last year, you know how special we have planned our event; our local firemen and policemen did a spectacular job adding to this celebration as well. We would love for you to have someone near and dear to your heart who attends GR to be able to walk alongside of you too! This year, we are opening up to our veterans to join all elementary schools on the morning of Nov. 6th. There will be a bus shuttle at the Horseheads High School Parking lot.

Shuttle at the HS should be 8:20. BF - 8:50 - 9:10, GR - 9:30 - 9:50, RR - 10:10 - 10:30

Followed by some refreshments being offered at the HH HS concluding the marches.

If you cannot commit to all schools and/or cannot ride the bus, we will have parking available for you at Gardner Road.

If you or someone you know would like to participate in this special event, please contact Mrs. Sotero, Principal of Gardner Road Elementary School by Friday, Oct. 30th. Please email me at psotero@horseheadsdistrict.com

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Student/Staff Connection to GR: _____ Grade/Teacher: _____

Branch of the Military: _____

H SEPTEMBER-RESPECT 2026



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2 <i>Meet and Greet A-L—1:15 - 1:45 M—Z—2:15 - 2:45 Building wide</i>	3	11 <i>DAY</i> PTO ICE CREAM SOCIAL 5:00 - 7:00 PM GR Playground Area Beginner Instrumental 6-7:30 IS Cafeteria does not fit below
7 <i>LABOR DAY NO SCHOOL</i>	8 <i>DAY 1</i> 1st DAY OF SCHOOL!!! WELCOME BACK	9 <i>DAY 2</i>	10 <i>DAY 3</i> <u>Bus Drills—outside</u>	11 <i>DAY 4</i> <u>Bus Drills—outside</u> TOWN HALL MTG - Safety Cafeteria
14 <i>DAY 1</i> Aimsweb Benchmarking Library	15 <i>DAY 2</i> Building Safety Team 8:00 - 8:30 Conference Room	16 <i>DAY 3</i> GR PTO Mtg 6:00 Library	17 <i>DAY 4</i> <u>CONSTITUTION DAY</u> BOE Mtg 6:00	18 <i>DAY 1</i>
21 <i>DAY 2</i> Aimsweb Benchmarking SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR Library	22 <i>DAY 3</i> Site Baset Team Conference Room 8:00	23 <i>DAY 4</i>	24 <i>DAY 1</i> OPEN HOUSE GR A-L 6:15—6:45 / M-Z 7-7:30 Parent Title 1 Mtg 7:30– 8:00	25 <i>DAY 2</i> <u>National Teaching Assistant Day</u>
28 <i>DAY 3</i>	29 <i>DAY 4</i>	30 <i>DAY 1</i> <i>K Trip to Apples & Moore</i>		