



Horseheads Central School District



# Golden Star Gazette



## June 2024

### Gardner Road Elementary School

541 Gardner Road, Horseheads, New York 14845 (607) 739 – 6347

[ppatterson@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:ppatterson@horseheadsdistrict.com)



Dear Gardner Road Families –

I am always shocked that the school year can go by so quickly. It has been an amazing year at Gardner Road as our Golden Stars continually shine. We look forward to finishing off the school year as we continue our learning while also taking time to celebrate the year. Please be sure to check the calendar for all of the events that we have in store this month. I encourage families to join us on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> for our annual Book Bingo event from 5:30 – 7:00. All students will go home with at least one book and this year our Book Fair will be open at the same time. Mrs. Keefe will also be hosting a science experience in our auxiliary cafeteria while there are also math challenges in C Wing.

Our students will be dismissed at 10:30 on the four half days at the end of the month (June 21, 24, 25 and 26), not 11:00.

Please note that our school will be practicing our annual evacuation drill to an offsite location on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00. We should be fully back in the building by 10:15 that day. This drill is to help our staff and students understand how we would dismiss at a new location due to an emergency. No students will be able to be dropped off or picked up during this drill.

This summer, our building will continue to be under construction which will limit access to various parts of our campus. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding of a dusty and busy construction zone. I will send messages throughout the summer with updates for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

On behalf of the entire school staff, we wish all our Golden Stars and their families an enjoyable and relaxing summer. We look forward to seeing everyone back in September and we wish our 4<sup>th</sup> graders a great transition to the Intermediate School. To those moving to a new school, remember you're always a Golden Star!

Be sure to check out our [school website](#) for updates and please keep up to date with the happenings at our school, by following our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. For any additional information or inquiries, please feel free to reach out to the school office. We are here to assist you and ensure that your child has a successful and enjoyable learning experience.

Your Partner in Education,

Patrick Patterson - Principal

### Moishe's Quote of the Month:

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

Eleanor Roosevelt

### Inside the Gazette:

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Main Office Updates  
Character Education Summer

#### Page 3

May Snapshots

#### Page 4

Character Corner  
We Will Miss You  
Gardner Road Musicians  
School Mission & Vision



#### Included in the Online Newsletter:

June Lunch Menu  
June Calendar



#### GENERAL INFORMATION:

##### Gardner Road School Hours

8:00 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

Tardy Bell – 8:15 AM

##### Gardner Road Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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

Breakfast and Lunch: Free

<https://horseheadscafeteria.gstboCES.org/>



# Gardner Road Main Office Updates:



## Lost and Found:

Is your family missing sweatshirts, jackets, gloves, and more? We have a large bin of Lost and Found items in our main lobby. Feel free to come find your child's items. Thank you!

## Are you Moving?

If you are moving to a new school next year, please notify the office as soon as possible and talk to our attendance clerk, Mrs. Wright. Please contact your child's new school so that they can request records from us. This will help us make accurate class lists for next school year. Thank you!

## Update from Mrs. Hinman:

The end of the school year is quickly approaching! New York State regulations require all medication left at school at the end of the school year be discarded. This includes inhalers and Epi-pens. Unless your child has current permission to self-carry their medication, the school is not able to allow your child to bring the medication home themselves. If you need to make special arrangements to pick up medication, please call to make arrangements. **Medications not picked up, will be disposed of Friday, June 28th @ 11:30 am.**

## Warm Weather Outfits and Shoes:

With the warmer weather here, we will be seeing many summer-type outfits. Please remember to check with your child to make sure that the shorts and shirts they are choosing to wear meet the Code of Conduct requirements. Short shorts, spaghetti straps, and crop tops are not permitted for school attire. If your child chooses to wear sandals, they need to have straps on the ankle, and they must be responsible for bringing sneakers for playground and physical education. **Flip-flops and slides are not safe for school.** Thank you for your support with this.

## 2024-25 Busing Form

On Monday, May 6, the Transportation Department will send the 2024-25 School Year Busing Form for parents/guardians to complete. This process was implemented in 2023 and has been refined for the upcoming school year. The busing form helps the Transportation Department determine the schedule and routes. This form must be completed for every student. Please stay tuned for more information.

## Character Education - Summer of 2024!

Character education learning is a year-round learning event for our students in Horseheads. Below are tips for the summer months. Be on the lookout for our character education connections in our community.

### Fairness-July

- Discuss why games have rules
- Talk about taking turns while choosing things to do on vacation
- Discuss with your child why fair is not always equal
- Show good sportsmanship

### Trustworthiness -August

- Have a family game night
- Model honesty in your everyday life
- Point out characters in books, movies, TV shows who display trustworthiness and why
  - Focus on the "fun" of something instead of winning
  - Honesty starts at home



# May Snapshots & MORE



Check out more photos and events on our [Facebook Page!](#)

We  our Golden  !



# "We Succeed Because The Stars Lead!"

## June's Character Trait is:

Character Education

### Caring

- Think about how your actions will affect others
- Be sensitive to people's feelings
- Help people in need  
Treat people with kindness and generosity
- Do not be mean or hurtful

Character Matters  
Horseheads Central School District

Be Kind, Be Strong, Be Well

## Horseheads Central School District's Mission & Vision:



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**

## Gardner Road Musicians

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Golden Stars performed beautifully at their concerts in the month of May. Thanks to our Gardner Road families for supporting our students in the arts. Thank you to Mr. Goodenough for conducting great concerts while Mrs. Smith is out on leave.



As the school year comes to a close, we will be saying goodbye to three amazing Golden Star Staff. Thank you for your years of dedication to our students. Best wishes in retirement or your next adventure!

- Mrs. Keefe – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher
- Mrs. Steinhilper – Teaching Assistant
- Mrs. O'Brien – Teaching Assistant
- Mrs. Plummer - LPN



**Be Your Own Hero!**



**To report child abuse or neglect  
call toll free  
1-800-342-3720 or  
[ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps](http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps)**







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](mailto:cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com). The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Gardner Road Elementary is Patrick Patterson. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Patrick Patterson at (607) 739 – 6347.

# June 2024 UPDATED

## Gardner Road Elementary School



Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
3	Day 5	4	Day 6	5	Day 1	6	Day 2	7	Day 3
Spring Book Fair 6/3– 6/6 Kindergarten Screening (at RR Elementary)		Kindergarten Screening (at GR Elementary)		Kindergarten Screening (at GR Elementary)  Book Bingo and Book Fair GR Library & Gym 5:30 -		Golden Start Artists/ Musician Showcase: 4:00 - 6:00 Raymour & Flanigan		Gardner Road Spirit Day Wear Blue & Gold 	
10	Day 4	11	Day 5	12	Day 6	13	Day 1	14	Day 2
		4th Grade Unity Day HS Stadium - AM  Principal Chat 5:30 GRPTO Meeting 6:00						4th Grade Celebration Field Trip	
17	Day 3	18	Day 4	19	No School	20	Day 5	21	Early Dismissal 10:30
Paint the Principal Day  Kindergarten		Senior Walk 1:30  				 BOE Meeting HS MMC 6:00			
24	Early Dismissal 10:30	25	Early Dismissal 10:30	26	Early Dismissal 10:30	<u>Character Education Connection—Caring:</u> --Discuss how characters in a book show caring. --Discuss with your kids what/who they care about and why --Consider donating your time or items to your favorite charity --Help your child make a card/letter of caring to a friend or relative --Model random acts of kindness --Help a neighbor			
K Celebration 9:00 HS Auditorium  GRPTO Mud Run @ Intermediate School 6:00		PK Orientation 12:45		Sing Along 9:15 Report Cards Go Home  					

# June 2024

Find summer meal sites near you by calling the 2-1-1 HELPLINE at 1-800-346-2211, VISIT [www.211helpline.org](http://www.211helpline.org), TEXT [FOOD](http://FOOD) or [COMIDA](http://COMIDA) to 877-877 (text rates apply) or contact the district foodservice office (contact info below).



## HORSEHEADS ELEMENTARY GRADES PK-4TH

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 French Toast Sticks & Sausage Turkey Club Sub Sliced Carrots Tater Tots	4 Chicken & Orange Sauce w/Rice Ham & Cheese Deli Wrap Steamed Broccoli 	5 <b>NY MENU DAY!</b> <b>NY Hot Dog on a Roll</b> Cheeseburger on a Roll <b>NY Texas Meatsauce</b> <b>NY Applesauce Cups</b> <b>NY Juice!</b> Strawberry Shortcake	6 Chicken Soft Taco w/Rice Bean Taco w/Rice Chicken BLT Salad w/Bread Choice Golden Sweet Corn Refried Beans	7 Buffalo Wing Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Crispy Fish Filet Sandwich Green Beans <b>Fresh Baby Carrots</b>
10 Philly Cheese Steak Sub Baked Crispy Chicken Sandwich Green Beans Oven Fries	11 Toasted Cheese Sandwich Chicken Ranch Wrap Hot Tomato Soup Sliced Carrots	12 Cheese Ravioli & Marinara Sauce w/Bread Ultimate Cheese Breadstick w/Marinara Sauce Steamed Broccoli <b>Fresh Pepper Strips!</b> Fruity Jello w/Whipped Topping	13 Pulled Pork Nacho Grande w/Rice Chicken Caesar Salad w/Bread Choice Golden Sweet Corn Refried Beans	14 Pizza Dunkers w/Marinara Sauce Tuna Salad Sub Sliced Carrots
17 Baked Mozzarella Sticks w/Pasta & Sauce Breaded Chicken Drumstick w/Breadstick Sliced Carrots	18 Sesame Chicken w/Rice Tuna Salad Sub Steamed Broccoli	19 <b>Juneteenth</b> <i>No School</i>	20 <b>PICNIC DAY!!</b> <b>NY Hot Dog on a Roll</b> <b>Assorted Vegetables</b> <b>Fresh Strawberries!</b> Bag of Chips	21 <b>HALF DAY</b> <b>NO LUNCH</b>
24 <b>HALF DAY</b> <b>NO LUNCH</b>	25 <b>HALF DAY</b> <b>NO LUNCH</b>	26 <b>HALF DAY</b> <b>NO LUNCH</b>	27  <i>Have a cool &amp; safe Summer Break!</i> <b>Don't forget to read some books!!!</b>	28 <b>Congrats 2024 Graduates!!</b> 

### Available Daily Entrees

PBJ Sandwich  
Meat Chef Salad w/ Bread Choice  
Vegetarian Chef Salad w/Bread Choice  
**NY Cheese Stick & Yogurt w/Bread Choice**  
Turkey & Cheese Sandwich  
Ham & Cheese Sandwich  
**M/W/F:** Baked Chicken Nuggets w/Bread  
**T/TH:** Cheese Pizza

### Available Daily Sides

Fresh Vegetables  
Fresh Tossed Salad  
Assorted Fruit  
**NY Chilled Milk**  
100% Fruit Juice  
**\*Bread Choice = Soft Pretzel or Breadstick**

### PRICING:

Breakfast & Lunch: \$0.00  
Milk/Ala Carte Side: \$0.75  
Snacks: \$0.75-\$1.50

**NOTE: Every student receives 1 breakfast and 1 lunch at no charge per school day. Each breakfast & lunch must be a COMPLETE MEAL, or student will be charged ala carte for each item on their tray.**

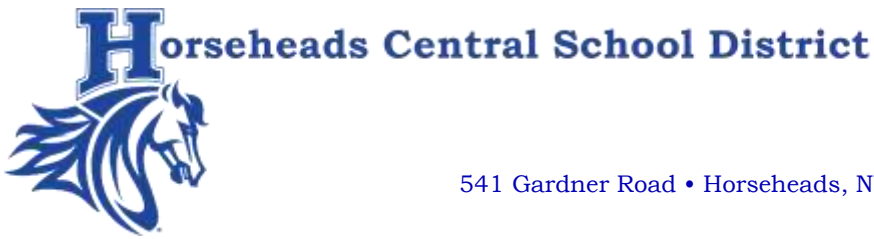
### Breakfast Menu

**Monday:** Breakfast on a Stick  
**Tuesday:** Cinnamon Roll  
**Wednesday:** Breakfast Sandwich  
**Thursday:** French Toast Sticks  
**Friday:** Mini Pancakes  
**Daily Options:** Bagel, Asst. Cereal, Goldfish Graham, Asst. Oatmeal, Muffin Top, Breakfast Oatmeal Bar, **NY Yogurt**, Asst. Fruit, 100% Fruit Juice & **Chilled NY Milk**

Contact the Food Service Office at (607) 739-5601 (ext. 3671 or ext. 3674) or go to the School District Website Food Service Page & click on the Contact Us button to fill in and submit your info. **If you have a food allergy or need allergy info, please notify us.**

**This institution is an equal opportunity employer & provider.**

**This menu is subject to change with out advance notice.**



Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Horseheads Central School District Transportation Department has opened the 2024-25 Busing Form. The bus form helps the Transportation Department determine the schedule and routes. This process was implemented in 2023 and has been refined for the upcoming school year.

**Parents/guardians must complete a form for every student.**

If you plan to drive your student(s) to/from school, use another means of transportation, or have a student that participates in a fall athletic sport, please do not 'reserve' a spot in the event your child needs busing later in the year. If you need busing for your student(s) after the start of the school year, you will be able to begin busing at any time. We request a 48-hour notice to adjust bus runs.

**My Student(s) Does Need Busing**

- You will need your student's ID (Your student's ID can be found on a report card, [SchoolTool](#), [PaySchools](#), or you may call your school's main office to request it via email)
- Submit morning and afternoon pick up information (addresses)
- Select the day(s) of the week your child will need busing
- If your child has transportation needs identified as part of their IEP, you do not need to complete this form. Student Services and Transportation will work together to coordinate these services and contact you closer to the start of school
- Submit any additional comments

**COMPLETE THE BUS FORM**

**My Student(s) Does Not Need Busing**

- You will need your student's ID (Your student's ID can be found on a report card, [SchoolTool](#), [PaySchools](#), or you may call your school's main office to request it via email)
- Submit the form indicating that your student will not need busing in the morning or afternoon

**COMPLETE THE BUS FORM**

Please complete the form by Friday, May 31. If you have questions about transportation, please contact the Transportation Office at 607-739-6338.

Thank you,

Horseheads Central School District

# Horseheads Central Schools 2024-2025 School Calendar

^ Early Dismissal Drill

BOE DATE 2/29/24

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10^	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

### School Not in Session:

- Labor Day 9/2
- Columbus Day 10/14
- Veterans Day (observed) 11/11
- Thanksgiving Recess 11/28-11/29
- Winter Recess 12/23-1/3
- Martin Luther King, Jr Day 1/20
- Lunar New Year 1/29
- President's Day Recess 2/17-2/21\*
- Spring Recess 4/14-4/18\*
- Memorial Day Recess 5/26
- Juneteenth 6/19

### Parent/Teacher Conference (1/2 Day AM)

- 11/15/24 - (pm off PreK-6<sup>th</sup> Only)
- 11/18/24 - (pm off PreK-6<sup>th</sup> Only)
- 11/22/24 - (pm off PreK-6<sup>th</sup> Only)




### 1/2 Days (AM)

- 11/27/24 (Pre-K - 12<sup>th</sup>)
- 6/25/25 (Pre-K - 8<sup>th</sup> Only)
- 6/26/25 (Pre-K - 8<sup>th</sup> Only)

### Full Day Off

- 1/27/25 (7<sup>th</sup> - 12 Only)
- 6/20/25 (PreK - 6<sup>th</sup> Only)

### LEGEND

	<b>Conference Days</b> (9/3, 10/11, & 3/24)
	<b>Schools Closed*</b>
	<b>Regents Exams</b>

The district will communicate to residents and staff about any calendar adjustments needed due to excessive closure days by April 11, 2025 (per contractual obligations). Please be aware, if the district needs to make up school days\*\*, the priority of make-up days will be as follows, unless modifications to the below schedule are needed:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Make Up Day 4/14/25
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Make Up Day 4/15/25
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Make Up Day 4/16/25
- 4<sup>th</sup> Make Up Day 4/17/25

\*\*The district has the potential for closure days built into the calendar (all pending total # of Hours and Days required by NYSED and state attendance regulations).

**First Day of School PreK - 12th:**

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

**Last Day for Students:**

Thursday, June 26, 2025

**Last Day for Teachers:**

Friday, June 27, 2025



## Report to **PARENTS**

# How to Talk About Mental Health With Children

Families have a powerful role in supporting their children's mental and emotional health at home and at school. Learn signs that your child might be struggling and strategies to talk about mental health with your child.

## Signs to Look For

Look for these warning signs that your child might need support:

- Feeling very sad or withdrawn;
- Harming or planning to harm themselves;
- Getting into fights;
- Not eating, throwing up, or using laxatives to lose weight;
- Having intense worries or fears that get in the way of daily activities;
- Having difficulty controlling behavior;
- Using drugs or alcohol;
- Having severe mood swings; or
- Exhibiting a drop in grades.

## Starting Conversations

Try leading with these questions and actively listening to your child's responses:

- Can you tell me more about what is happening? How are you feeling?
- Have you had feelings like this in the past?
- Sometimes you need to talk to an adult about your feelings. I'm here to listen. How can I help you feel better?
- Do you feel like you want to talk to someone else about your problem?

When talking about mental health problems with your child:



- Communicate in a straightforward manner;
- Speak at a level that is appropriate to a child or adolescent's age and development level;
- Discuss the topic when your child feels safe and comfortable;
- Watch for reactions during the discussion and slow down or back up if your child becomes confused or looks upset; and
- Listen openly and let your child tell you about their feelings and worries.

## School Connectedness

When families are engaged in their children's school activities and initiatives, children get better grades, choose healthier behaviors, and have better social skills.

Here are three ways to support your child's mental health and emotional well-being in school and at home:

1. Get involved in health decisions at school.
2. Communicate with your school, letting them know how they can help support your child.
3. Try strategies at home like asking about your child's feelings, focusing on their strengths, and modeling positive coping skills to manage stress, like going for a walk.

# MEMORIAL 5K RUN & WALK

*In loving memory of Orlando Josiah Vargas*

Please join us for the first annual 5k in honor and memory of our son, Orlando Josiah Vargas. All proceeds will go towards a future scholarship award to a graduate of Horseheads High School.



5k  
\$35

Registration Fee\*

*First Annual Race*

# JUNE 29, 2024

Horseheads, NY

5k Start Time: 8:30am

Fun Run\* for kids to follow at 9:45am

Start/Finish Line at Thorne St. Park



Scan the QR code to register!

\*Fun Run Registration costs \$15. Registration for 5k costs \$35 and includes race bib provided by Falcon Racing, Event T-Shirt, and complimentary snacks and beverages at event.