February 2026

Horseheads Intermediate School

Newsletter

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Mark Your Calendars! - Page 2

IS Illuminators & Character Trait of the Month - Page 3

Texas Roadhouse Dine to Donate Flyer - Page 4

Important Information for 5th Grade Families - Page 5

Classifieds - Page 6

A message from your Interim Principal

Dear Intermediate School Families,

As we step into February, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continued partnership and support. This midpoint of the school year offers an opportunity to reflect on our progress and refocus on the goals ahead as we continue supporting each student's academic, social, and emotional growth.

We are proud to celebrate our students' recent accomplishments in the arts. Our Drama Club gave a wonderful performance of *The Little Mermaid*. Their dedication and teamwork were evident throughout the show. A special thank-you goes to directors Ms. O'Dell Wehling and Mrs. Wallner, along with the many parent helpers who supported the production. We also congratulate our 5th and 6th grade choruses on their impressive winter concert. Thank you to Mrs. Kuhns and Mrs. Keough-Burns for their thoughtful preparation and guidance of our student musicians.

February is a great time to reinforce strong study habits and practice the character values—kindness, responsibility, and perseverance—that strengthen our school community.

As winter continues, I encourage families to stay connected by checking in on assignments, discussing goals, and reaching out to teachers with questions. Strong home–school communication truly makes a difference. Thank you for your ongoing support and for being an essential part of our Intermediate School community. I look forward to the learning, growth, and joy yet to come.

Warmly,

Kim Malone

Kim Malone
Interim Principal

- Friday, February 6th ~ Raider Blue Spirit Day
- Tuesday, February 10th ~ PTO Meeting, 6:00pm, Library
- Wednesday, February 11th ~ Strings Showcase, 7:00pm, IS Cafe
- Thursday, February 12th ~ Board of Education Meeting, 6:00pm, HS Auditorium
- Friday, February 13th ~ Character Kick Off Spirit Day, Student/Teacher Swap Day
- Monday, February 16th - Friday, February 20th ~ No School, President's Day Recess
- Thursday, February 26th ~ Board of Education Budget Meeting, 6:00pm, HS Auditorium

Intermediate School PTO

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 10th. We hope to see you there!

IS Illuminator BINGO Winners in January

Character Trait of the Month:
Trustworthiness

How to help reinforce this character trait at home:

- Model honesty.
- Encourage follow-through on responsibilities.
- Notice and praise trustworthy actions.
- Keep communication open and supportive.

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to our school Spelling Bee champion, Kadence Hartmen (on the right)! She was our winner after a back and forth battle with runner up, Victoria Zhang (on the left)! Both students will represent the Intermediate School at the Regional Spelling Bee on March 7th! The winner of the regional bee will go to Washington D.C. for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Good luck Kadence and Victoria!

Welcome, Mrs. Vence!

As you know, Miss Hamilton took a different position and left the IS at the end of December. We are so happy to announce that Mrs. Amy Vence has joined us as an art teacher!

Hello, Intermediate School families! My name is Amy Vence, and I am so happy for the opportunity to be back at the IS teaching Art! I first started out teaching at the IS from 2005-2011, before moving out of the area once married. My family moved back into the area years later, and I have had the privilege of teaching Art at Big Flats for the past 7 years. I am excited to see so many former Big Flats students again, and have loved getting to know all of my new students, as well. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime at Avence@horseheadsdistrict.com. I look forward to meeting you!

Information Regarding Vaccination Requirements

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

All children must receive the immunizations required by New York State Law Section 2164 to attend school. You are receiving this letter because your child will require additional immunizations to enter 6th grade. All 6th grade students must receive a booster dose of the Tdap immunization.

The Tdap immunization is for tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (whooping cough). This requirement has been in place since 2016.

You must provide proof of immunization. The required immunizations can be obtained from your primary care provider (PCP)/pediatrician.

In limited circumstances immunizations may also be obtained from the Chemung County Health Department. For more information on requirements contact the health department at: (607) 737-2488. The immunization must be given no earlier than 10 years of age and no later than 11 years of age.

Student Age	When is proof of immunization required?
Students who are **11 years old when entering 6th grade**	Proof of immunization must be received **within 14 calendar days of the start of school (by September 16, 2026), or your child will be unable to attend school until proof of immunization is received.**
Students who are **10 years old when entering 6th grade**	Proof of immunization must be received within 14 calendar days of **turning 11 year**s old and will be tracked accordingly.

Acceptable forms of proof of immunization (documentation) include:

- An electronic health record from your provider's office, an immunization certificate signed or stamped by your health care provider, a record issued by NYSIIS or CIR, an official immunization registry from another state or foreign country if applicable.

You may email this information to tsenatore@horseheadsdistrict.com, **fax to the office at (607) 795-2495, or drop it off at the Intermediate School.**

To learn more about this and other immunization requirements in New York State visit, www.health.ny.gov/immunize.

If you have further questions, please contact the Intermediate School Main Office at (607) 739-6366. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Kim Malone, Interim Principal
Tracy Senatore, RN

Classifieds

Help Wanted

Substitute Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Substitute RNs and LPNs needed for per diem work during the school year

Teaching substitutes must meet the following criteria: 1) An Associate's Degree or higher; OR 2) completion of at least 2 years of college; OR 3) Graduated from high school for at least 4 years and completed at least 12 college credits; OR 4) an Honorable Discharge from the military.

Sub RNs and LPNs should bring in evidence of their license.

Rates for Substitute Teachers

The District needs certified teachers for day-to-day substituting opportunities in all of our schools.

1. Uncertified Teacher without Four-Year Degree ~ $120/day
2. Uncertified Teacher with Four-Year Degree ~ $130/day
3. Certified Teacher ~ $140/day
4. Retired Teacher from HCSD ~ $160/day
5. Retired Teacher from Another District ~ $150/day
6. Additional Pay for 20 Days of Per Diem Substitute Teaching ~ $100
7. Teaching Assistants ~ $16.96/hr.
8. Retired TA From HCSD ~ $130/day

To apply, contact Human Resources Office at 739-5601x 4211.

Safe Schools Line

The Horseheads Central School District has a Safe Schools Line for students, parents, and community to use to report rumors, tips, or other items of concern regarding district schools. The service is available twenty-four hours, seven days a week. All calls are anonymous, unless the caller wishes to leave his/her name. The tip line numbers are 795-2044 and 1-800-305-4984 (toll free).

Kim Malone is the Dignity Act Coordinator at the Intermediate School. Caitlin DeFilippo is the Dignity Act Coordinator for the district. All concerns regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying should be directed accordingly.

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to gender, race, color, national origin or disability. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Caitlin DeFilippo, Title IX Coordinator, 143 Hibbard Road, Horseheads, NY 14845, or Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.