

The School Connection



Horseheads Intermediate School

Principal's Post

I hope everyone had a relaxing and peaceful holiday season surrounded by friends and family. The new year brings a fresh start in our lives, and my wish is that 2025 is full of enjoyment and good health for all of you!

December seemed to have flown by as we had some exciting events at the Intermediate School. There were two wonderful musical performances this past month. Band, orchestra, and chorus students had the opportunity to display their abilities in front of packed audiences. Both shows were entertaining and once again showed the strength of our very talented music department.

We always challenge our students to 'read their heart out' toward the 4K book goal. Please encourage your child to read at least 20 minutes daily as this will positively impact their reading abilities. We also like to extend the challenge to include exercise each day as well. Thanks for your help in supporting reading and exercise at home throughout the year!

I'd like to end by wishing you all a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. Please continue to be active in your child's education. The investment of your time inquiring about their day, reading, or studying important skills, will pay enormous dividends for them in the future.

If you get a minute, check out the parent article to the right called, *How to Teach Your Kids It's Okay to Have Less Than Their Friends*. Most parents want their kids to fit in and feel socially accepted. Unfortunately, today's world is full of 'the next best thing' and kids are feeling the pressure of 'needing' (not 'wanting') what they think everyone else has.

Yours in education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Bostwick".

Michael Bostwick
Principal

Connect with me on X: Michael Bostwick@[M_Bostwick](https://twitter.com/M_Bostwick)
School Hashtag: #ISinnovators
Like us on facebook: Search Horseheads Intermediate School
Website: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHIS.cfm>

"Loving a child doesn't mean giving in to all his whims; to love him is to bring out the best in him, to teach him to love what is difficult."

-- Nadia Boulanger

January 2025
Volume 13 Issue 5

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Parent Article

ATTENTION!

**Parent Resources
on IS website.**

*"Thanks for
your help in
supporting
reading and
exercise at
home!"*

Mark Your Calendars!

| | |
|--|--|
| Friday, January 10th: | Spirit Day – Sports/Hobby Theme |
| Thursday, January 16th: | Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM, Ridge Road Elementary School |
| Monday, January 20th: | No School – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
| Tuesday, January 21st: | Parent/Principal Chat, 9 AM, 5:30 PM(Library) |
| Tuesday, January 21st: | PTO Meeting, 6:00 PM, Library |
| Wednesday, January 29th: | No School – Lunar New Year |
| Thursday, January 30th: | Local Scripps Spelling Bee, 2:45 PM, Cafeteria (for those who qualify) |
| Friday, January 31st: | Report Cards Go Home (end of marking is January 24 th) |

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. Winter has arrived! Please be sure that your child wears an appropriate coat, hat, gloves, and clothes. Recess will be outside when weather permits.
2. Please be sure to pick up your child promptly from school dismissal. We cannot guarantee supervision of students much later than 2:45 PM.
3. It is important that Intermediate School students arrive after 7:40 AM. Our supervision begins at that time. **Students who are dropped off prior to 7:40 AM will not be permitted in the building.**
4. The folks at the Bus Garage would like to remind students that **no glass containers or objects** of any kind should be on the bus.
5. **Reminder:** In an effort to cut costs and increase efficiency, the district consolidated some of our bus runs. As a result, due to limited space on the buses, we are no longer able to allow friends of students to ride their bus to and from school with them.
6. **Reminder:** On days when there is a two-hour delay, breakfast **will not** be served.
7. **Presidential Service Awards:** A reminder that Presidential Service Award volunteer forms for the second marking period are due on Friday, February 7, 2025. Students may give the forms to their teacher or drop them off in the office. As a reminder, this is an optional activity.



Dear Parents,

Winter weather brings the possibility of school closings. Schools are closed when the weather makes it impossible to have reasonable attendance or when the schools or buses would not be able to operate safely. The school day is delayed only when inclement weather conditions are expected to improve by early morning. Inclement weather may include snow, ice, and freezing temperatures.

If schools are closed in the morning, they will remain closed all day for scheduled activities, including remedial programs, use of facilities by non-school groups, and special evening programs.

If schools are on a two-hour delay, they will begin two hours later than usual. For example, students who arrive after 10:25 AM will be marked tardy. **There will be no breakfast served on those days.**

Let's hope the weather cooperates with us so that we have a safe winter!

Parents and Guardians

You can now take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Horseheads schools will soon use the SchoolMessenger system to deliver **text messages**, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.*

You can participate in this free service* just by sending “Y” or “Yes” by text to our school’s short code number, **67587**.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with “**Stop**”.

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the [Student Privacy Pledge™](#), so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



Opt-In from
your mobile
phone now!



Just send
“Y” or “Yes”
to 67587

i Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes:

SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a “text message”. Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as “short code” texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you’ve ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

*Terms and Conditions – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See schoolmessenger.com/txt for more info.



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STUDENTS OF THE MARKING PERIOD

Marking Period 1

The following students were teacher-selected based on the September and October character traits as well as the habits of mind.

5th Grade



BELIEVERS & ACHIEVERS:

Annalise Watts

GO GETTERS:

Elijah Hillard, Hayden Houck, Jesslynn Lewis

INVESTIGATORS:

Gabriel Grenier, Ella Kole, Harper Morgan, Adrian Palumbo

MASTERMINDS:

Camille Bement, Jackson Brate, Lillian Henderson, Chloe Hull, Hamilton Rockwell, Ava Vence

THINKERS:

Jacob Bower, Clara Jones, Charleigh Mosher, Teagan O'Connell

TRENDSETTERS:

Antonio Caporiccio, Vincent Caporiccio, Harper Hundley, Kenna Mendez

6th Grade

BELIEVERS & ACHIEVERS:

Riley Johns

COLLABORATORS:

Griffin Adams, Alexia Bednarski, Haden McKinney

CREATORS:

Elijah Ham, Parker Moshier, Olivia Paulman, Sammie Rhodes

GROUND BREAKERS:

Lyla Redner, Neil Speed, Rily Stilts

PATHFINDERS:

Maxx Brown, Camden Crowley, Sofia Garcia, Amber Williams

PROBLEM SOLVERS:

Allistair Lanipao, Blake Mason, Brynn Sullivan

TRAIL BLAZERS:

Ryan Koehler, Ellie Tremaine

TRANSFORMERS:

Mollie Byron



INFORMATION REGARDING VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS!



Dear Sixth Grade Parent/Guardian,

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 17, 2024), 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 years 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 tсенаторе@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,
Michael Bostwick
Principal

Tracy Senatore
RN

READING CORNER

Reading is an integral part of learning. The more you read, the better you read. You have heard the saying, 'Practice makes perfect,' and studies support the idea that the best way to improve your reading skills is to read.

Reading is also a form of entertainment. Many genres or categories of books lend themselves to reading for fun: mysteries, historical fiction, science fiction, folklore, etc.

As parents, it is important to be a reading role model. Let your child see you reading and encourage them to read on a daily basis.

Each Intermediate School child is challenged to read three grade level books each month for a total of approximately twenty-five books for the year. Help your child reach the 4K page book challenge by going to the library, reading together, and discovering books your child will enjoy.



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go."
--Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"



Reading Tips... The key to maintaining focus while reading is to stop often and think about what you're reading. Here are some tips to make you a better reader!

1. Ask yourself questions such as: *How does this relate to what I already know? Why would the character do that? What connections can I make to my own life?*
2. While reading, make a light checkmark with a pencil after each paragraph. If you start to get lost reading, you can start from the last checkmark. Don't forget to jot down words and concepts. If you read, write and recite, you have a better chance of remembering important information.
3. Every night, read something meaningful that you enjoy for at least 15-20 minutes.

ATTENTION PARENTS!!!

Intermediate School PTO Officers (2024-2025)

We are always looking for interested parents who would like to help out with school events. That could be as simple as chaperoning an event or working at the Book Fair. Everyone is also welcomed to join our PTO meetings listed on the district calendar. **Please contact the school or one of the officers if interested.** We appreciate your support and value the partnership!

Tara Spirawk

Alicia Wahl-Knowlden

Email: intermediateschoolpto@gmail.com

IS Facebook: @HorseheadsIntermediateSchoolPT



CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

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

Teaching Substitutes must meet the following criteria: 1) An Associates' 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 should bring in evidence of their license.

Sub Bus Drivers – Training will be included.

Apply in person at Human Resources

or email: hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com for more information.

Apply in person at the address below:

Human Resources Office
Horseheads Central School District
143 Hibbard Rd. Horseheads, NY

RATES FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

The District needs certified teachers for day-to-day substituting opportunities in all of our schools. Certified substitutes receive a rate of \$135 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at 739-5601 x 4211.

CHARACTER TRAIT AND HABIT OF MIND' OF THE MONTH

Character Trait: Fairness is defined as just and reasonable treatment in accordance with accepted rules or principles. Parents, please encourage your child to *play by the rules, take turns and share, be open-minded while listening to others, treat all people equally, and consider all opinions.*

The Habit of Mind: Taking Responsible Risks. It means to be adventuresome. Stretch your thinking...I think I can!

Ex. Students who step outside their comfort zone and try new strategies to solve problems, stand up for a friend, or attempt to answer a question in class when they're not exactly sure, are all examples of taking responsible risks.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Now that we are back from winter recess and are approaching the mid-year point here at school, we kindly ask that parents and students check the supply lists given out over the summer and replenish any pencils, pens, paper, etc. that you may be running low on!



Keep hoarding pull tabs! So far, we have collected far less tabs than usual. **Get others involved** – ask your friends, neighbors, and family members to collect! Pull tabs can be brought to the office.

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).

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 143 Hibbard Rd, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601, x4211, or cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com

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, 143 Hibbard Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.