

# The School Connection



## Horseheads Intermediate School

### Principal's Post

October has been a busy and exciting month as we are now well into our school routines. With the whirlwind of the start of this school year, it's hard to believe we have welcomed the month of November already.

The academic expectations are growing each day as we continue working through our curriculum and establishing beginning of the year routines. There are many things you can do to help lead your child to success in school. Please stay up to date on Parent Portal and assignments in the classroom by checking your child's daily planner. You can also take a look at the Intermediate School website, specifically the **Parent Resources**. We have included many helpful resources including month-by-month tips, problem solving strategies, homework tips, internet safety, academic standards support, bullying information and much more! Simply click on *Parent Resources* link to the right on this page. It's very useful, and we thank you for taking an active role in your child's education as it is one of the most critical pieces of success.

Each month we focus on a specific character trait as well as a Habit of Mind (HoM). November's character trait is **citizenship** and our HoM is **managing impulsivity**. Our teachers infuse them into the classroom, and we highlight the traits in activities and throughout the building. We would appreciate your help with these at home as well. Discussing ways to show citizenship in daily practices and promoting strategies for managing impulsive behaviors are great ways to build these skills. See page 6 for more information.

In closing, I'd like to say thank you for sending us such great kids. November is a month to reflect upon what you're grateful for, and for me it is the great mix of students at the Intermediate School. As expected, we will certainly face our challenges. With your help, we are developing some fantastic young minds. Thank you very much for your assistance in reinforcing academics, positive behaviors, and healthy relationships. Some of the most impactful things you can do is make sure students attend school and check in to make sure their assignments are completed with great effort and quality.

Check out the article to the right about **being good at math**. Math ability is not passed on from parents! Despite what many people think, being good at math **isn't** either something you have or something you don't. Math is learned, and everyone is capable. Anything you can do to promote positive thinking and hard work will benefit your son or daughter! If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in education,

Michael Bostwick

Principal

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

*"We are apt to forget that children watch examples better than they listen to preaching." - Roy L. Smith*

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### PARENT ARTICLE

### ATTENTION!

**Parent Resources**  
on IS website.

*"Thank you very much for your assistance in reinforcing academics, positive behaviors, and healthy relationships."*

## Mark Your Calendars!

<b>Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>:</b>	End of Marking Period 1
<b>Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Report Cards Go Home
<b>Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>:</b>	NO SCHOOL – VETERANS DAY
<b>Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Parent/Teacher Conferences, PM Only (Dismissal begins at 10:30 AM)
<b>Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Parent/Teacher Conferences, PM Only (Dismissal begins at 10:30 AM)
<b>Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>:</b>	PTO Meeting, Library, 6:00 PM
<b>Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>:</b>	Board of Education Meeting, Big Flats Elementary School, 6:00 PM
<b>Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	Parent/Teacher Conferences, PM Only (Dismissal begins at 10:30 AM)
<b>Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Half Day of School (Dismissal at 11:05 AM)
<b>Thurs. 11/28 – Fri. 11/29:</b>	NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING RECESS

## Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. We would like to thank all our Veterans and their families for the amazing sacrifices you have made for our country. Veterans Day Celebration: We are planning a small Veterans Day Celebration to honor our amazing men and women who have served or are currently serving in our military. On Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, we would like to invite any family members or relatives (immediate or distant) who are Veterans, into the school from 7:45 to 8:30 AM. Veterans will greet students as they enter the building, and we will be celebrating their service with some refreshments, cards, and posters.
2. Fall is well under way and temperatures are below freezing on some mornings. Physical Education classes and recess may be outside when weather permits. Please be sure your child wears a coat and dresses appropriately for the weather.
3. We have a 3-Tiered Honor Roll System and will recognize students on the Honor Roll who have a grade point average (GPA) of 85.0 or higher. Students achieving a GPA of 85.0-89.99 will be recognized as Honor Roll, 90.0-94.99 will get High Honors, and 95.0 or above will be recognized as Distinguished Honor Roll. In order to make any tier of Honor Roll, students cannot earn less than a 65 in any subject area. For this school year, special area classes (PE, art, and music) will be graded with an H (95 or higher), G (80 – 94.99), S (65 – 79.99), or U (below 65). These grades are not weighted into the overall average.
4. Applications for assistance from the Arctic League were sent home with students and are also available in the Social Worker's Office. Please call the school for more information.
5. Math Facts—Memorization of math facts is critical for student success at this grade level. Math facts are essential for students as they study higher level math concepts. The Intermediate School would like to see ALL students testing at 100% on their math facts by the end of this school year. Your child may borrow a set of math facts cards. We ask that you or someone in your family help your child to study these math facts cards and then return them to their homeroom teachers. Practice will pay off!
6. **Clubs and Extracurriculars:** If you are picking up your student from an afterschool activity, please do not drive in the drop-off lane. You may park and walk up the canopy or pull along the guardrail on the parking lot side.

## **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](mailto:intermediateschoolpto@gmail.com)

**IS Facebook:** @HorseheadsIntermediateSchoolPTO



### **Unity Squad**

Our School Unity Squad is made up of homeroom representatives who help unify our student body by organizing activities and serving as liaisons for each classroom. Throughout the year we will be participating in activities that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion! On October 16<sup>th</sup> we celebrated national Unity Day by all staff and students standing together and taking a stance by wearing **orange**.



### **STUDENTS READ THREE BOOKS A MONTH**

Our District has established the standard that 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will read a minimum of 25 books on their reading level or roughly 4 thousand pages. We need your help to encourage your child to reach this goal each month. Children whose parents read with them on a regular basis are more successful in school.



## **CIM TEAM**

Our School District currently is utilizing the CIM (Classroom Intervention Model) in assuring your child is receiving all necessary supports to have a positive school year. The CIM Team is a collaborative approach which includes teachers, administrators, special education staff, school psychologist, social workers and other staff with knowledge or specific skills. Our goal is to discuss, confidentially, any student's needs and to develop an Intervention Plan that will help him/her be more successful. You, as the parent/guardian, can be involved in the process to help make this a joint effort between home and school. If you have any questions regarding this team, please consult with your student's classroom teacher.



## **ACADEMIC INTERVENTION SERVICES (AIS)**

The New York State Education Department mandates that all schools identify and provide academic assistance to any student falling below a designated cutoff on various assessments. AIS stands for Academic Intervention Services. Identified students will be monitored and will receive additional help, which continues until the student demonstrates competency in the identified area. Students in need are identified throughout various data points including, but not limited to, classroom assessments, Aimsweb Plus, benchmark assessments, screeners, state exams, and teacher recommendations.

## **Horseheads Central School District Parents' Bill of Rights Relating to Student Data**

The Horseheads 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 encryption, 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, 143 Hibbard Road, Horseheads, NY 14845.

**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 6<sup>th</sup> grade. All 6<sup>th</sup> 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 <b>11 years old when entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	Proof of immunization must be received <b>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.</b>
Students who are <b>10 years old when entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	Proof of immunization must be received within 14 calendar days of <b>turning 11 years old</b> 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](mailto: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](http://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

Parents

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



Department  
of Health

2178

06/23

# 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 people with certain medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, and heart or lung disease, because 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 for children and teens.
- 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 and is younger than 5 or has a medical condition, call their health care provider and ask about antiviral treatment.
- If you are worried about your child, call their health care provider.

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## Don't spread flu!

- 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.



# 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](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com) for more information.

### 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.

## Attention!

### PRINCIPAL CHATS

September 17<sup>th</sup>, **January 21<sup>st</sup>**, and April 22<sup>nd</sup>

9:00 AM in the Cafeteria 5:30PM

in the Library



Pull for the House.



Many Hearts. One Home.

Please start hoarding pull tabs! We began our drive to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Last year we gathered over 52 pounds which was the most out of any school in the region! **Get others involved** – ask your friends, neighbors, and family members to collect! Pull tabs can be brought to the office.

## CHARACTER TRAIT AND HABIT OF MIND' OF THE MONTH

**Character Trait: Citizenship** is contributing to your school and outside community, staying informed, and participating in decision-making.

**The Habit of Mind: Managing impulsivity** means taking a minute to think before you speak or act. Consider how your words and actions will affect you and other people.

Parents can help reinforce *citizenship* by

- Promoting community service
- Encouraging cooperation
- Staying informed and voting when possible
- Being a good neighbor
- Respecting authority; obey laws and rules

Michael Bostwick is the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Coordinator at the Intermediate School. Caitlin DeFilippo is the DASA 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 Caitlyn 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.