

The School Connection



Principal's Post

Hello everyone,

I hope you are enjoying your summer and taking some time to do the things you love to do. It's so important to slow down and smell the roses during the warm season to refresh mentally, emotionally, and physically.

Please take a few moments to read through this newsletter, and you'll find some important information about how critical it is for students to keep their brains active during summer to avoid summer learning loss, also known as the summer slide. I've also highlighted many opportunities to continue learning on page 3. We truly value the partnership between home and school to ensure your child gets the best possible education, and this is true through the summer as well.

Student placement letters are being mailed home today. In this envelope you will find a welcome letter, your child's teacher/team, a supply list, and information about the Intermediate School. Be sure to join us at one of our self-guided tours on **August 20th from 10 – 11:30 AM or August 23rd from 6 – 7 PM.**

Enjoy the last month of summer vacation, and do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Yours in education,

Michael Bostwick
Principal

"Education is a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, motivated students, and enthusiastic parents with high expectations."

- Bob Beauprez

Follow me on Twitter: Michael Bostwick@[M_Bostwick](#)
School Hashtag: [#ISinnovators](#)
Like us on Facebook: Search Horseheads Intermediate School
Website: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHIS.cfm>

Horseheads Intermediate School

Summer Edition
2021

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ATTENTION!
[Parent Resources](#)
on IS website.

Do you consider
SUMMER
a break from school
OR
a chance to get ahead?

ATTENTION!

Any books read during the summer months, count toward the student's 25 book goal. Please document and verify using the attached form.

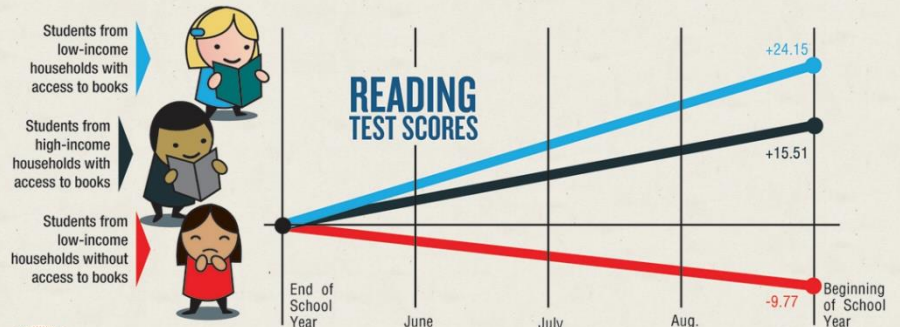
"...you'll find some important information about how critical it is for students to keep their brains active during summer to avoid summer learning loss also known as summer slide."

Don't let your child be a victim of summer learning loss!



KIDS WHO READ BEAT SUMMER SLIDE

Studies show that access to books during the summer prevents a drastic loss in reading skill – especially for kids in need.



SOURCES: 1. Change in scores between end-of-year and following year testing as shown by the California Aptitude Test. (Slates, S. L., Alexander, K. L., Entwistle, D. R., & Olson, L. S. (2012). Counteracting summer slide: Social capital resources within socioeconomically disadvantaged families. *Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk*, 17(3), 165.)



SLOWING THE SLIDE: TOP 10 TIPS

- Create a Reading Challenge**
- Explore Educational Videos**
- Visit Your Local Library**
- Beat Boredom with Board Games**
- Find Fun Ways to Use Math**
- Enroll in Educational Programs**
- Download Academic Apps**
- Study Science in Local Parks**
- Take Local History Tours**
- Structure Summer Learning Time**

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Creativity is Intelligence Having Fun.

- Albert Einstein



PREVENT SUMMER LEARNING LOSS

Stay Active in Mind and Body

Despite the difficult circumstances, we believe that the 2020-2021 school year was a great success due to the students' hard work as well as your commitment and support. In order to stop student regression (loss of academic skills) over the long summer vacation, there are other things you could do to help keep the momentum of your child's learning throughout the months of July and August. The following are great locations for learning and enrichment:

- Local libraries (Horseheads, Big Flats, Elmira)
- Tanglewood Nature Center (Elmira)
- Wings of Eagles Discovery Center (Big Flats)
- Arnot Art Museum (Elmira)
- Rockwell Museum (Corning)
- Corning Museum of Glass (Corning)
- Horseheads Youth Bureau (offers some programs for kids)
- Science Center (Ithaca)



"I am still learning."

-Michelangelo, age 87

Also, there are an overwhelming amount of interactive educational websites that provide practice in the core subject areas of school. Here are some to try:

<http://www.funbrain.com/>

<http://www.billnye.com/>

<http://www.coolmath.com/>

<http://www.squiglyplayhouse.com/BrainTeasers/>

<http://www.playkidsgames.com/>

<http://www.factmonster.com/>

Reading to/with your child each day will improve their skills and foster a love of literature. If you are interested, I included a website below of a fantastic article that explains 10 simple ways to improve reading skills. Although we will miss working with the students each day, the new school year will be upon us before we know it. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Article: *Top Ten Ways to Improve Reading Skills*

<http://school.familyeducation.com/top-10-ways/improve-reading-skills/38329.html>

Keep your body active as well! Some suggestions are walking, running, biking, exercises, sports games, or any other physical activity. Get your heart rate up for at least 30 minutes per day.



"None of us is as smart as all of us." ~Ken Blanchard "Do a little more each day than you think you possibly can." ~Lowell Thomas

INFORMATION REGARDING VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS!



Dear Sixth Grade Parents/Guardians:

All 6th grade students will need to receive 2 doses of the Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccination along with the Tdap vaccine upon turning 11 years old. The laws are very strict, and we cannot allow students to come to school after the first 10 days of school without these immunizations.

New York State Law requires that all sixth-graders who are 11 years of age must have a Tdap immunization to attend school. The Tdap immunization is a tetanus toxoids, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis immunization. It is a Tetanus booster that also adds protection for pertussis (whooping cough). This letter is also to inform you of New York State's public health law Section 2164 that all students entering sixth grade must now have received at least 2 doses of the chicken pox (varicella) vaccination.

Your child may get the required immunization through your health care provider or through the Chemung County Health Department, 103 Washington Street, Elmira. For more information, contact the Chemung County Health Department at (607)737-2028 press #2 for an appointment. You must provide proof that your child has received the Tdap immunization in order for your child to attend school in the fall. Your health care provider or health department will provide you with this written proof once your child receives the immunization. Please bring this proof to our Health Office or fax it to us at 795-2495. Your health care provider may fax it to us for you. **Information must be received by Tuesday, September 21, 2021 or your child will be unable to attend school on Sept. 22nd** until paperwork has been brought in with immunization completed.

No appointment cards accepted.

***Please note: 10-year-old students who are entering 6th grade will not be required to receive the Tdap vaccine at this time and will not be excluded from school, but will be tracked and must be immunized upon turning 11 years old.**

If you have further questions, please contact the health office at 739-6366 (Option 2). Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Michael Bostwick
Principal

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE REGARDING 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

You may have seen news reports that the state has just announced that it will not provide guidance for the opening of schools this year. Districts have been waiting for promised assistance from the Governor and the New York State Department of Health for many weeks and months, and now we are told that it is not coming. As of yet, we have not received definitive information, nor has it been made clear who has the final authority to make such decisions. Districts are seeking assistance and clarity now that the state has abdicated its responsibility for public health according to Dr. Howard Zucker, the director of the New York State Health Department.

We are currently working with the county executive and health department, as well as consulting with neighboring districts, to determine the best course of action for the new school year in the Southern Tier. Additionally, we are seeking guidance from the New York State Education Department on its requirements for schools. We have learned a great deal over the past 17 months, and we have built strong relationships with our local public health experts. Together we will make responsible decisions to best protect our students and staff while we continue to provide a quality education for all students.

At this time, the district plans to bring all students to school for five days per week at all levels and use remote instruction only for forced closures, if needed, throughout the school year. There are other important details yet to be determined (ex. masking, testing, distancing, etc.). Once we have definitive information and guidance, the district will share it with you. Our hope is to know more by the end of next week. We ask for your continued patience and to understand that we are working to do what is best for all students, in consultation with local, regional, and state authorities.

Sincerely,
Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools

Annual Notices

Title 1 Notice for Intermediate School

In compliance with provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), we are informing you that Horseheads Intermediate School 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 and 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, and field of discipline of the certification or degree;
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, 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, 143 Hibbard Road, Horseheads, New York 14845. (607)739-5601, ext. 4211.

Promotion and Retention

It is essential that each child experience both challenge and success from school activities. To this end, the district will make every effort to place each student in the most appropriate learning level for a successful educational experience.

Early Identification/Intervention

Classroom teachers are expected to make every effort to identify early those students at risk of failing. The Building Principal and the parents/guardian must be notified promptly if retention is anticipated, and a special support program shall be designed for each child identified as in danger of failing. Such support services may include, but are not limited to, individualized assistance before, during or after the school day; remedial classes; a change in instructional treatment, and, where appropriate, referral to the Committee on Special Education for evaluation.

Promotion/Retention

No student will be retained without an appropriate educational plan defining what will occur that is instructionally different for the student. Once the educational plan has been implemented, the student will be monitored regularly. The educational plan will be revised until the student demonstrates acceptable performance.

The following provisions shall apply to promotion and placement decisions:

1. No student promotion or placement decision for grades three through eight shall be based solely on student performance on the ELA or Mathematics State assessments;
2. Student assessment scores may be considered as a measure of student performance only if the decision-making process uses multiple measures of assessments and data in addition to the State assessments and the State assessments are only a minor factor in the promotion/placement decision;
3. In making promotion and placement decisions, the school will consider in class performance, teacher observation, homework, input of the parent, social and emotional needs as well as any other applicable measures, other than State assessments;
4. The final decision regarding placement and promotion is the decision of the building administrator.

Teacher Qualification

Pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind Act, parents and guardians have the right to request and receive information about the professional qualification of their children's classroom teachers. Parents wishing such information about their child(ren)'s classroom teachers should contact the building principal. (100% of our teachers are certified and teaching within their certification area)

APPR of Teachers and Principals

The District is required to implement Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR) of most teachers and principals. The outcome of the APPR is that each teacher and principal subject to APPR this year will receive a composite evaluation score between 0 and 100. A score of 0-64 means that the teacher or principal is rated Ineffective, a score of 65-74 means that the teacher or principal is rated as Developing, a score of 75-90 means that the teacher or principal is Effective, and a score of 91-100 means that the teacher or principal is Highly Effective. You may request the final composite rating for the teachers and principals in the school building to which your child is assigned for the current school year by contacting the building principal of your child's school. Further, if you require additional explanation of the ratings for the teachers and principals, you may contact Caitlin DeFilippo, Director of Human Resources, at 607-739-5601, x4211.

Homeless Students/Students in Temporary Housing Notice

Children and youth in temporary housing have the right to:

- Stay in the same school and get free transportation even if it is across district lines
- Immediately enroll in school without records (school, medical, or vaccination records, proof of residency)
- Get special education services immediately if the student has a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Participate fully in any school activities, including before- or after-school activities
- Get support services and help with things like school supplies through Title I
- Get free school meals without filling out an application
- Get help enrolling in pre-k, Head Start, other preschool programs, and Early Intervention
- Get help applying for financial aid for college if the student is an unaccompanied youth

For assistance, please contact the Horseheads Central School District Director of Student Services at (607) 739-5601, x4300.

FERPA

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

Dear Parent/Guardian or Eligible Student:

This is to advise you of your rights with respect to student records pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of student records. The law gives parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age (referred to in the law as "eligible students") the following rights:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access.

Parents/guardians or eligible students should submit to the Building Principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The Principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Parents/guardians or eligible students may ask the district to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading by writing the Principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed and specifying why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent/guardian or eligible student, the district will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent/guardian or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
600 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

NOTIFICATION OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION DESIGNATIONS

In addition to the rights outlined above, FERPA also gives the school district the option of designating certain categories of student information as "directory information". Directory information includes a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major course of study, participation in school activities or sports, weight and height if a member of an athletic team, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, most recent school attended, class schedule, photograph, including video recordings, e-mail address, and class roster.

You may object to the release of any or all of this "directory information"; however, you must do so in writing within 10 business days of receiving this notice. If we do not receive a written objection, we will be authorized to release this information without your consent. For your convenience, you may note your objections to the release of directory information on the enclosed form and return it to the Building Principal.

Non-Discrimination Notification

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.

This policy of non-discrimination includes access by students to educational programs, counseling services, course offerings, and activities, as well as recruitment and appointment of employees and employment pay, benefits, advancement and/or termination.

The following person(s) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Caitlin DeFilippo
Director of Human Resources
CDEFILIPPO@horseheadsdistrict.com
143 Hibbard Road
Horseheads Central School District
Horseheads, NY 14845
(607) 739-5601

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Civil Rights
LBJ Department of Education Building
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20202-1100
(800) 421-3481

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 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



Join the Blue Raider Team!

Horseheads Central School District

Teaching Assistant

Job Fair & Interviews

Monday, August 9

9AM-1PM

**Intermediate
School Library**

(952 Sing Sing Road, Horseheads)

- Find out more about the responsibilities and requirements
- Hear about the rewards of being a teaching assistant in our schools
- Learn about the job benefits that go along with the position
- Interview that day! Please bring your current cover letter, resume, and letters of recommendation if possible.
- Plus...learn about other job opportunities at the Horseheads Central School District



Questions? Call 607-739-5601, x4212 or email hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

www.horseheadsdistrict.com

Equal Opportunity Employer