

The School Connection



Horseheads Intermediate School

Principal's Post

Hello everyone,

I hope you are enjoying your summer and taking some time to do the things that bring you joy. 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 at the end of the week. 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 22nd from 10 – 11:30 AM or August 27th from 6 – 7 PM.**

Please note: All 6th grade students are required to receive a Tdap vaccination at the age of 11. If students are not vaccinated at the start of the school year, and they are age 11, students cannot attend school after September 17, 2024. (page 4)

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

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>

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

Summer Edition
2024

Inside this issue:

Principal's Post	1
Summer Slide	2
Summer Learning	3
6 th Grade Vaccines	4
Student Photographs	5
Annual Notices	6-9

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

Do you consider
SUMMER

a break from school

OR

a chance to get ahead?

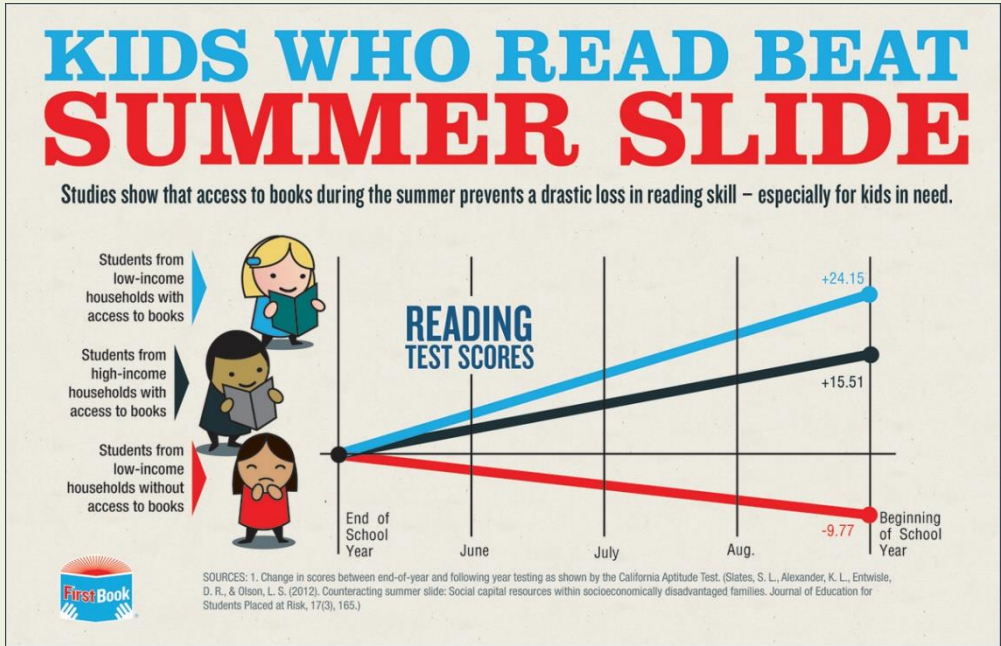


Any books read during the summer months, count toward the student's 4K book goal. Please document and verify using the attached form.

"...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!

- 2.6 MONTHS** OF MATH ARE SKILLS LOST OVER THE SUMMER
- EQUIVALENT OF **ONE MONTH** OF OVERALL LEARNING IS LOST AFTER SUMMER VACATION
- SIX WEEKS** IN THE FALL ARE SPENT RE-LEARNING OLD MATERIAL TO MAKE UP FOR SUMMER LEARNING LOSS
- TWO MONTHS** OF READING SKILLS ARE LOST OVER THE SUMMER
- 2-3 HOURS PER WEEK** DURING SUMMER VACATION IS NEEDED TO PREVENT ANY LEARNING LOSS
- AS EARLY AS **ONE GRADE** SUMMER LEARNING LOSS CAN BE RECOGNIZED
- TWO MONTHS** OF SUBJECT-FOCUSED LEARNING IS ALL IT TAKES TO IMPROVE SPECIFIC LEARNING SKILLS
- BY THE END OF **GRADE SIX** STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED SUMMER LEARNING LOSS OVER THE YEARS ARE AN AVERAGE OF **2 YEARS** BEHIND THEIR PEERS
- TWO THIRDS** OF THE INCOME-BASED ACHIEVEMENT GAP IS ATTRIBUTED TO SUMMER LEARNING LOSS BY THE START OF HIGH SCHOOL
- IT CAN TAKE UP TO **2 MONTHS** FROM THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR A STUDENT'S BRAIN DEVELOPMENT TO GET BACK ON TRACK



COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS 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 2023-2024 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)
- Chemung County 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 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 edarmstadt@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

Erica Darmstadt
RN

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS

Throughout the year, our school and district may photograph, videotape, and/or interview students for its publications or broadcasts, which include school and district newsletters, videos, and social media. Additionally, local newspapers and TV stations often attend school events and photograph, videotape, or interview students about events and issues. These stories will also appear on the media's websites and social media platforms.

Please complete and return the form below to the Main Office if you **DO NOT wish your child to be photographed or videotaped for school publications or by the media.**

Note that we will still publish student photographs in school yearbooks.

Student Photos

I DO NOT wish to have my child photographed or videotaped while in school.

Child's Name _____

School _____ Grade _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

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

