

The School Connection



Horseheads Intermediate School

Principal's Post

School has been underway now for a few weeks, and we are excited to be back to our fall routines. Each school year brings opportunities and challenges, and we are confident in our school/home partnership to make the most out of both.

As we head into October, procedures and routines are falling into place. Your child is engaged in learning, and hopefully taking an active role in their education. I firmly believe that education starts at home with modeling, support, and clear expectations. Parent partnerships with the school can serve as a critical piece to your child's growth and academic development. Please support your child and seek opportunities from their teachers to continue learning at home. On page 4 you will see tips for developing successful homework habits.

Canvas is a software program that will allow your child to stay engaged in classroom learning even outside of school hours. This is the main Learning Management System (LMS), where assignments and other classroom tasks will be posted for those students. [More information](#) can be found on our district website. Further, if you don't have a Parent Portal account, [click here](#). This is another great way to stay involved in your child's education by tracking the completion of assignments, quizzes, and tests.

There are many effective ways parents can help improve student academic growth that are not time-consuming. Some include following helpful homework tips, reading with your child, asking them to explain their answers, taking advantage of teachable moments, involving them in problem-solving, asking them to create their own solution, and so many more. Please take some time to check out our parent resources page on our website (**link to the right**). Also, page 3 of this newsletter has information on the transition to the Next Generation Learning Standards.

I look forward to an incredible month of October full of learning and excitement. As always if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in education,

Michael Bostwick
Principal

Connect with me on X: Michael Bostwick@M_Bostwick
School Hashtag: #ISinnovators
Like us on Facebook: Search Horseheads Intermediate School
Website: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHIS.cfm>
*Also check out the IS PTO Facebook page.

*"Your children will see what you're all about by what you live rather than what you say."
- Wayne Dyer*

October 2024
Volume 13 Issue 2

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PARENT ARTICLE

ATTENTION!
Parent Resources
on IS website.

"Parent partnerships with the school can serve as a critical piece to your child's growth and academic development."

Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, October 11th:	NO SCHOOL – Superintendent’s Conference Day
Monday, October 14th:	NO SCHOOL – Indigenous Peoples Day
Tuesday, October 15th:	PTO Meeting, 6:00 PM, IS Library
Wednesday, October 16th:	Unity Day (Anti-bully message), all students wear orange
Thursday, October 17th:	Board of Education Meeting, Gardner Rd. Elementary, 6:00 PM
Tuesday, October 22nd:	School Pictures
Saturday, October 26th:	District-Wide Make A Difference Day, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. The **Presidential Service Award** program honors students who volunteer throughout their community. Students who volunteer 50, 75 or 100+ hours over the course of the school year will be honored with an award. Please contact Mrs. Doubrava in the Intermediate School Office for more details.
2. **Emergency Drills:** Throughout the school year, we will practice several drills which include fire, shelter, bus off-site evacuation, and lockdown. They are to help us be better prepared and to ensure the safety of all in the event an emergency did happen.
3. NYS Law states that **we need a doctor’s notice to dispense medication** even for such things as over the counter medications. Students may not take medication on their own. Contact the school nurse with any questions.
4. **Halloween:** Halloween celebrations will take place in the afternoon on October 31st. Students are able to bring a school appropriate costume for the afternoon only. Students should not come to school in their costume, and we do not have a parade at this age level. All food/treats at the classroom party will need to be pre-packaged and store bought.
5. Cars are not permitted to park in the Bus and Fire Lanes at any time. This includes after school and evening events. If you are picking up a student during the school day, please park in the large area and come to the front door. Our Fire Lane must be kept open.
6. Please encourage your child to read. The school’s 4K goal is for each student to read **4,000 pages** a year at their particular reading level. Students are recognized on the announcements as **Ferocious Readers** as they reach the goal.
7. **Morning Drop-off:** **Students are not to arrive before 7:40 AM.** Our Cafeteria is being used by Middle School students until this time. Student arrival between 7:40 AM – 8:00 AM is dependent upon good behavior.
8. **Dismissal:** Children should be picked up promptly between **2:20 PM - 2:30 PM.** Adults picking up students will be asked to walk to the canopy by the main doors. Please connect with your student and walk them across the parking lot back to your vehicle. You do not need to sign-out your child.

The Board of Regents adopted revised English Language Arts and Mathematics Learning Standards on September 11, 2017. We are now in full implementation of the ELA and Math Next Generation Learning Standards (NGLS). They can be found [here](#). We are no longer implementing the common core curriculum.

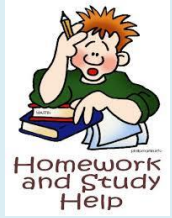
The new standards have been the result of over two years of collaborative work to ensure New York State has the best learning standards for our students. Over 130 educators and parents worked together to make recommendations and revise the standards, resulting in a new set of revised English Language Arts and Mathematics Learning Standards. We have now fully implemented the new state standards.

Simple Things You Can Do At Home

English Language Arts	Math
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply more non-fiction text; read non-fiction texts aloud or with your child, discuss nonfiction texts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of what your child struggled with last year and how that will affect learning this year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply series of texts on topics of interest, find books that are challenging at their level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notice whether your child <u>REALLY</u> knows why the answer is what it is.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand evidence in everyday discussions/ disagreements. Read aloud or read the same book and discuss with evidence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Push children to know/memorize basic math facts. Provide <u>TIME</u> for your child to work hard with math at home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read often and constantly with babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and children. Read multiple books about the same topic. Let your kids see you reading. Family reading! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know what the priority work is for your child for their grade level, spend time with your child on priority work, ask your child's teacher about their progress on priority work.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage writing at home, write "books" together and use evidence/details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask your child to <u>DO</u> the math that comes up in your daily life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have your child make a claim, and back it up with evidence. <i>Ex: I claim that the plants need to be watered. My evidence is that the soil is extremely dry.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure your child is <u>PRACTICING</u> the math facts he/she struggles with. Make sure your child is thinking about Math in real life

PARENT'S GUIDE TO HOMEWORK

[Click here](#) for the full Homework Guide



★ **Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.**

Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.

★ **Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper and pencils, are available.**

Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance.

★ **Help your child with time management.**

Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Think about using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big projects, especially if the project involves getting together with classmates.

★ **Be positive about homework.**

Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.

★ **When your child does homework, you do homework.**

Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is reading, you read too. If your child is doing math, balance your checkbook.

★ **When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.**

Giving answers means your child will not learn the material. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him or her.

★ **When the teacher asks that you play a role in homework, do it.**

Cooperate with the teacher. It shows your child that the school and home are a team. Follow the directions given by the teacher.

★ **If homework is meant to be done by your child alone, stay away.**

Too much parent involvement can prevent homework from having some positive effects. Homework is a great way for kids to develop independent, lifelong learning skills.

★ **Stay informed.**

Talk with your child's teacher. Make sure you know the purpose of homework and what your child's class rules are.

★ **Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework.**

Have your child do the hard work first. This will mean he will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Easy material will seem to go fast when fatigue begins to set in.

★ **Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration.**

Let your child take a short break if she is having trouble keeping her mind on an assignment.

★ **Reward progress in homework** *If your child has been successful in homework completion*

and is working hard, celebrate that success with a special event (e.g., pizza, a walk, a trip to the park) to reinforce the positive effort.

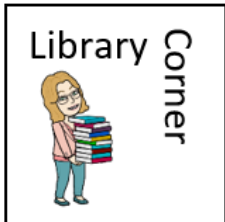
HABIT OF MIND AND CHARACTER TRAIT OF THE MONTH

The Habit of Mind: *Persisting* means to stick to it! Persevering in task through to completion; remaining focused. Looking for ways to reach your goal when stuck. Not giving up!

Character Trait: *Responsibility* is doing what you are expected to do, persevere, always do your best, use self-control, think before you act, be accountable for your choices/action.

Parents can help reinforce *responsibility*.

- Students can do chores at home
- Accountable for doing things in a timely manner
- Teaching time management
- Develop routines and procedures
- Encourage taking initiative



We are all excited and happy to see children back to school and reading! I am teaching lessons in the Library, so students may be bringing books home to read. They are due in two weeks. Students can also log onto SORA and read on just about any digital device. All links to those can be found on our Library Page (Destiny Discover), which is accessible through the District's Web Site under Quick Links. There are many helpful resources on this page. Please check it out! If you have any questions about our procedures, please email me at slewis@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Stephanie Lewis
Library/Media Specialist
HORSEHEADS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

SCHOOL MATTERS!



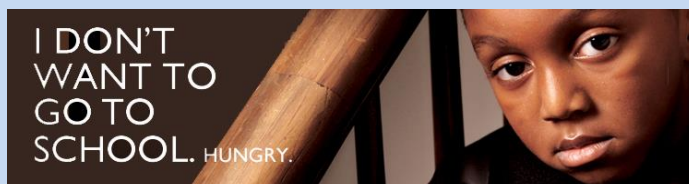
September was School Attendance Awareness Month. In cooperation with Chemung County, area school districts, including the Horseheads district, we are reminding parents that good school attendance is crucial to academic success.

Research has shown that chronic absence leads to lower reading proficiency, course failure, and eventually, dropping out of school. Chronic absence is missing more than ten percent of the school year, or about 18 days. Absenteeism affects academic performance. Every day counts!

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S GRADES AND ATTENDANCE? PARENT PORTAL!

Parents/Guardians can view information about their child's attendance and grades with the "Parent Portal." To set up an account, we must have a valid e-mail address for each parent who would like access.

Please note: If you checked the Parent Portal box on your child's emergency form, you do not need to do anything further. You should have received further information about Parent Portal via e-mail. If you haven't already signed up, contact the Main Office. You will be asked to complete a short form and present identification. If you have questions, please call 739-5601, x4251 or e-mail kmclain@horseheadsdistrict.com.



The Backpack Program is scheduled to begin in October and will continue throughout the 2024-2025 school year. The program will provide a bag of non-perishable food for eligible children each Friday afternoon for him or her to eat over the weekend. The food is discreetly given to each child in the program at the end of the day and is intended to be opened by your child at home. To receive forms or information, contact Dustin McCullough, IS Social Worker, at 739-6366 ext. 3667 or Danielle Roberts, IS Social Worker, at 739-6366 ext. 3741. For more information go to the website www.foodbankst.org/backpack-program.

Board of Education Recognition Week October 14th – October 18th

We would like to thank all of our Board of Education (BOE) members for their hard work and dedication. They play a vital role in the success of our students in our great District. If you see a BOE member, please thank them for the work they do to ensure *Quality Education for All* students. Members include: **Warren Conklin, President, Liz O'Dell Wehling, Vice-President, Daniel Christmas, MaryAnne Corbett, Kristine Dale, Julie Monahan, Erin Schiavone, Katrina Ungvarsky, Susan Ungvarsky and Mia Sophia (Student Representative).**

DELAYED START PROCEDURE

The Horseheads Central School District along with other GST BOCES Districts will be using a "delayed start" procedure for inclement weather days rather than close the schools for the entire day. The delay would open each school two hours later than the normal start time. School would end at the regular time on a "delayed start" day.

The media will be contacted and the decision to "delay start" will be broadcast to the public. If the decision to "delay" is later changed to "close," the media would be notified and the correction made. Once informed school is closed, the decision is final.

This means transportation will arrive at the bus stop two hours later as each school will open two hours later. Staff will arrive later and students being dropped off should arrive two hours later than the regular start time (9:45 AM). Lunch will be served at regular times.

PLEASE NOTE: No breakfast will be served on a "Delayed Start" Day.



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 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,
Michael Bostwick
Principal

Tracy Senatore
RN

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

Substitute Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Substitute RNs 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 and LPNs should bring in evidence of their license.



Pull for the House.



Many Hearts. One Home.

Please start hoarding pull tabs! We began our drive to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. In the past 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.

RATES FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

The District needs 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 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



[HCS D Annual Notifications \(horseheadsdistrict.com\)](http://horseheadsdistrict.com) – They are all live here.

Here are the separate links:

[1900: Parental and Family Engagement](#)

[1900-E.1: Parental Involvement, Title I - School Level Exhibit](#)

[1900-R: Title I Parental Involvement Regulation](#)

[ESSA-Funded Programs Complaint Procedures](#)

Michael Bostwick is the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Coordinator at the Intermediate School. Caitlyn 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, 143 Hibbard Road, Horseheads, NY 14845. (607) 739-5601.