

# The School Connection



## Horseheads Intermediate School

### Principal's Post

As we enter another school year, I reflect on how quickly the summer passed. We had a great couple days with all students and staff back in the building. We are excited to start the school year with a normal routine!

Now we are back at it...summer will be quickly fading away, and fall will be upon us soon. For some that may mean bad news with winter inevitably on its way, but for me it means cooler temperatures, changing leaves, football season, but most importantly – a fresh start to a new school year. To me, fall brings a sense of strength in knowing that renewed beginnings bring new learning. My hope is that the summer has rejuvenated our students and broadened excitement for the challenges that lie ahead.

I am truly excited to have a full staff and students back at the Intermediate School. There will inevitably be some challenges throughout the school year, but we will tackle each one as they arise. I can't help but think how fortunate we are to have the honor and privilege of educating students in the Horseheads Central School District. We all take that seriously, and we'll do all we can to help each and every child reach for their full potential. I thank you in advance for your support!

Please read this newsletter carefully as it is full of important information about the Intermediate School and some exciting upcoming events. If you'd like to stay informed about the great things going on at Horseheads Intermediate School, dig into our social media. Connect with me on 'X' and at our hashtag, like us on Facebook, and visit our website for useful resources and great information.

We have so many valuable learning experiences and fun activities lined up for your child this year at the Intermediate School. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming activities, events, and possibly clubs at a later date. If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, do not hesitate to call the office.

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>

*"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."  
-- Jane D. Hull*

September 2024  
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### ATTENTION!

Parent Resources on IS website.

*"Please know that we are focusing on what is best for your child."*

## Mark Your Calendars!

Monday, Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup> :	NO SCHOOL –LABOR DAY
Tuesday, Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	NO SCHOOL – SUPERINTENDENT’S CONFERENCE DAY
Wednesday, Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup> :	First Day of School
Monday, Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup> :	Beginner Instrument Night, 6:00 PM, Cafeteria
Tuesday, Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup> :	Open House, 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Wednesday, Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup> :	Beginner Instrument Night, 6:00 PM, Cafeteria
Thursday, Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup> :	Community Redistricting Forum, HS Auditorium, 7:00 PM
Tuesday, Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup> :	Principal/Parent Chat, 9:00 AM (Cafeteria) and 5:30 PM (Library)
Tuesday, Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup> :	PTO Meeting, Library, 6:00 PM
Thursday, Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup> :	Board of Education Meeting, Intermediate School, 6:00 PM
Wednesday, Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup> :	PTO Ice Cream Social, 6:30 PM
Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> :	Fall Book Fair

## Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

Staff at the Horseheads Intermediate School would like to welcome you to our school. We look forward to a great year! The staff is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the welfare and safety of your children from the time of their arrival at school in the morning, until they are placed aboard the school buses at dismissal. In order to fulfill this responsibility, we ask for your cooperation with the requests below.

1. If you would like your child to be excused from school early, please send a note stating the time of dismissal, the name of the person to whom the child is to be released, and the reason for the early dismissal. Students will remain in their classroom until you arrive unless you call ahead to say you are on the way.
2. School begins at 8:25 AM. Homeroom period starts at 8:00 AM. Students who do not ride the bus to school **should not arrive before 7:40 AM**. No supervision will be provided prior to 7:40 AM. From 7:40 AM until 8:00 AM, students will be directed to the Cafeteria. Breakfast will be available from 7:40 AM – 8:25 AM. To avoid any potential unsafe situations, it is requested the stipulated arrival time be followed. Please drive up and around the outside of the upper parking lot and proceed to drop off in the canopy area at the Main Entrance of the Intermediate School. Please make sure your child is ready to **exit the curbside of your vehicle**. Morning buses will use the Fieldhouse entrance to drop-off students to school. No parent vehicles will be allowed to use the Fieldhouse entrance. This is for safety and to minimize traffic congestion at the school and on Sing Sing Road.
3. If your child is not going to ride home on the school bus on a given day, send a note on that day to the school office outlining your pick-up plans. Children should be picked up promptly between **2:20 – 2:30 PM** according to the procedures previously sent out. 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.
4. Students who have notes for early dismissal or for other dismissal arrangements are to take a note to **their homeroom teacher in the morning**. Without a note, your child will be placed on his/her regular bus or pickup based on the regular procedures.
5. On the first day of school, several papers need to be read and signed. **One very important notice is the EMERGENCY GO HOME form. Please be sure that your child is aware of the emergency address in the event of an early dismissal. Be sure to alert us to any changes that may occur throughout the school year in order for the changes to be made here at school.**
6. Should any questions or concerns arise during the school year, we would ask that you contact your child’s teacher first, per school district policy. Further questions can be directed to the building administrators.

7. Please note an important message from the Transportation Department. If you should have any questions, please feel free to call the Transportation Department directly at 739-6338. **“In an effort to cut costs and increase efficiency, we have consolidated some of our bus runs. 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.”**
8. Important Open House Information. Our Annual Open House is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, between 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM**. This is always a great evening. **The evening is structured as a traditional style of Open House. Parents are welcome to travel around and meet all teachers anytime between 6:30 – 7:30 PM.** Please note that this structure will allow parents to briefly meet each teacher and learn valuable information about the school year. If you wish to spend more time with the teacher, please set up a conference for another time. We prefer that only parents/guardians and students attend to limit the number of visitors.
9. Throughout the school year, the Intermediate School will practice important emergency response procedures for our school including fire and evacuation, lockdown, and emergency dismissal drills. Families will receive notice within one week that drills will be occurring. However, we will not notify you of the exact day and time.

## **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:** @HorseheadsIntermediateSchoolPT



## **FAMILY VACATIONS**



Absences due to vacation trips are not excused absences. Before making vacation plans, please consult the school calendar. Parents are strongly discouraged from taking their children out of school for family vacations because valuable classroom instructional time can never be replaced by make-up assignments. If parents decide to take their child out of school for vacations, please notify your child’s teacher.

Because such extended absences are not excused, students are expected to request their work **upon return**. You may ask ahead of time for work, but class work and homework may change based on how students are learning the content. An appropriate time frame will be given to return the assignments. Students should be encouraged by parents to practice academic skills while on the trip (i.e. journaling, applying math to situations, finding science/historical connections, etc.)





# Dignity For All Students Act (DASA)



## *Differences between Conflict and Bullying*

### Conflict

- ▶ occurs in the heat of a moment
- ▶ is often a difference of opinion
- ▶ two or more students are upset
- ▶ does not happen continually
- ▶ students want a mutual solution
- ▶ is not planned

### Bullying

- ▶ intent to cause harm – bullies have thought about how to harm others
- ▶ imbalance of power - bullies use power to control or harm their victims
- ▶ repetition - bullies often target the same people over and over

If your child is experiencing any issues at school, please keep in close contact with the teacher(s). If the issue is serious or persistent, building administrators will handle each issue earnestly.

# HABITS OF MIND

The Intermediate School will be practicing the Habits of Mind. Habits of Mind are characteristics of what people can do when faced with challenges or problems to solve. There are 16 Habits of Mind, and our school will focus on one Habit of Mind per month beginning with **Listening with Empathy and Understanding**:

**1. Listening with Empathy and Understanding - September**

2. Persisting
3. Managing Impulsivity
4. Thinking Flexibly
5. Taking Responsible Risks
6. Questioning and Posing Problems
7. Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations
8. Striving for Accuracy
9. Thinking about your Thinking (Metacognition)
10. Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision

*Listening with Empathy and Understanding means to always consider other people's perspectives, listen attentively, and to care about others' opinions. Please help foster this at home.*

If you would like to know more about the Habits of Mind, please visit

<https://www.habitsofmindinstitute.org/what-are-habits-of-mind/>

*Character Trait of the Month is...*

**Respect**

- Treat others the way you want to be treated
- Be tolerant of differences
- Use good manners and positive language
- Be considerate of the feelings of others
- Deal peacefully in times of conflict







## ADVANCED ART PROGRAM



Advanced Art classes will be offered to fifth and sixth grade students who show skills and demonstrate accelerated levels. These classes allow for students to engage in higher level projects during an extra Art time. Some of the criteria for the program selection are: 1) The student consistently demonstrates excellence in art skills, technique and creative problem solving with a variety of art forms and materials; 2) The student completes quality Art assignments; and 3) The student consistently exhibits self-motivation, interest in pursuing Art outside of the classroom, and considers pursuing Art as a possible future career.

\*Students need to be successful in their classroom studies to be available during this time for extra art instruction.

Initially, each student's ability level will be assessed through a Composite Drawing Test, their beginning art projects and recommendations from elementary Art teachers.

Class attendance is mandatory for participating students. Please understand that space is limited, with only two classes of Advanced Art available for each grade level. Students who were previously in Advanced Art are not automatically guaranteed a spot for this school year. ALL students will be assessed on a continuous basis and can join the program throughout the year.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SCHOOL CAREER EVENTS

The school district has many career-related events including career days, career panels, job shadows, classroom speakers, field trips, and mock interviews. **We are always looking for volunteers** for these events. We are looking for parents, grandparents, other adult family members and friends as well as community volunteers in every career field. If you feel your career is not of interest or you are currently at home, you may still contribute through mock interviews and other fun classroom events. Most events are only an hour or two on a given day, yet **your experience and career knowledge** can deeply influence a child's life, career goals, and future educational path.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about how you can get involved, **please contact Deb Lynch or Jenny Sonsire**, the Career Development Representatives for the Horseheads School District, **at (607)795-5320** or [dlynch@gstbores.org](mailto:dlynch@gstbores.org) and [jsonsire@gstbores.org](mailto:jsonsire@gstbores.org).

**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 [tsenatore@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto: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](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

## *Horseheads Central School District*

### ***Information about Emergency School Closings/Delays***

Schools are closed when the weather makes it impossible to have reasonable attendance or when the schools or vehicles would not be able to operate safely. The school day is delayed when inclement weather conditions improve by early morning. Inclement weather may include snow, ice, and freezing temperatures. If the school day is delayed, buses will run, and schools will open two hours later than the usual time.

The District announces school closings and delays in a variety of ways:

- **Text messaging** – Parents/guardians can receive a text message if schools are closed or delayed by opting into our text messaging service through School Messenger. To opt in, text Y or Yes to 67587. You will receive a text response confirming that you are registered for texting.
- **District website** at [www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com)
- **District Facebook pages** (the district and all seven schools have pages)
- **'X'** - @HhdsSchools
- **Local television and radio stations:**
  - o TV - WENY, WETM, Spectrum Cable News
  - o Radio – WELM 1410AM, WNKI 106.1FM/WPGI 100.9FM, WENY 1230AM/ Magic FM 92.7FM/WGMM 98.7

Note: Television and radio stations also put closing/delay information on their websites.

Please do not call the radio/TV stations or the district's Transportation Office.

#### ***Important notes about school closings/delays:***

- There may be a time when any of these means of communication do not work due to Internet issues, etc., so we ask that you check more than one of our communication methods to determine if school is in regular session or not for that day.
- If schools are closed, they will remain closed all day for scheduled activities, including remedial programs, extra-curricular activities, use of facilities by non-school groups, and evening programs.
- When school is delayed, there is no supervision for students until schools open two hours later than the usual time, so parents should not drop their children off at school until they open. Additionally, on school delays, there is no breakfast served.
- On school delays, Pre-Kindergarten begins at 10:30 am.
- If a storm develops after school begins, usual procedure is NOT to close school early. This allows time for highway crews to plow and sand the roads and has proved to be less disruptive and confusing than attempting to send students home early.

### **PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS FOR DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY**

The parent/guardian or eligible student has a right to:

1. Inspect and review the student's education records;
2. Request that records be amended to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights;
3. Consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) authorizes disclosure without consent; and
4. File a complaint with the United States Department of Education alleging failure of the district to comply with FERPA and its regulations. Complaints may be sent to Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# CLASSIFIEDS

Parent Portal

Parent Portal

## *Parent Portal*

Would you like to know more about your child's grades and attendance? Join Parent Portal to get access to up to date student records. To set up an account, we must have a valid e-mail address for each parent who would like access. If you haven't already signed up, visit the Main Office. You will be asked to complete a short form and present identification.

**Please note:** If you checked the Parent Portal box on your child's emergency form, or if you signed up at the school's Open House, you do not need to do anything further. You should have received further information about Parent Portal via e-mail.



The Fall Book Fair sponsored by the **PTO** will be from Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> and run through Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the School Office for more information.

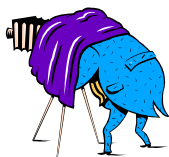


## **Electronic Devices**

Electronic devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, iPods, iPads, etc. are not permitted to be used or visible during the school day unless used for educational purposes and approved by the teacher. Teachers have been instructed to take the device and turn it into the Main Office after 1 warning. Parents will then need to pick up the device in the Office. Repeated violations of this procedure may result in a conduct referral and consequence. **Additionally, the school district is NOT liable for lost, damaged, or stolen property.**

## **SCHOOL PICTURES**

The photographer will be at the Intermediate School on **Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Information packets and payment envelopes will be sent home approximately one to two weeks prior to the picture date. Don't forget to wear your smile!



## 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.

We will again be collecting aluminum can pull tabs this year. Thanks to all who donated pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. **Please continue collecting the tabs.** Ask friends, neighbors, and relatives to save their tabs too! You can drop them off in the office anytime!

## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Labels for Education & Box Tops raised \$60.88 during 2023-2024 school year!

Thank you for participating in this on-going fundraiser!



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/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.

## RATES FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

The District needs certified teachers for day-to-day substituting opportunities in all of our schools.

### STATUS RATE

1. Uncertified Teacher without Four-Year Degree \$110/day
2. Uncertified Teacher with Four-Year Degree \$120/day
3. **Certified Teacher \$135/day**
4. Retired Teacher from HCSD \$150/day
5. Retired Teacher from Another District \$140/day
6. **Additional Pay for 20 Days of Per Diem Substitute Teaching \$100**
7. Teaching Assistants Current Starting Rate of TA
8. Substitute Teaching Assistant \$130/day  
(Retired from HCSD)

To apply, contact Human Resources Office at 739-5601x 4211.

## 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).