

The School Connection



Horseheads Intermediate School

Principal's Post

I hope the new year has been treating you well so far. It has been so nice to have consistency throughout the month of January for students and their learning, despite some bad weather days.

I'd like to first thank you all for working together and being supportive as we continue to progress through the school year. As educators, we realize the importance of solid instruction so that students can learn to the best of their abilities. Yet, nothing is more important to us than the social, emotional, and mental well-being of every single student. While no one can deny, each year poses its challenges, we strive to explore ways to look after our students' overall wellbeing and engage them in learning. However, we cannot do it without your help! Please continue to encourage your child with positive messages of how much you believe in them. Check on their assignments, work completion, and reach out to their teachers if they are struggling in any way.

Email is a very efficient, effective, and cost-savings way of staying informed. If you do not have your email address registered to receive school information, please contact the Main Office to be added to the list or email (cmaine@horseheadsdistrict.com). Many school reminders and information are sent home via email unless you specifically request a paper copy. Other great ways of staying informed are by following our school on Facebook. Join the digital connection!

Check out the parent article below called *Nine Steps to More Effective Parenting*. Let's face it fellow parents, we could all use a little parenting advice from time to time, but especially now amidst our struggles. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone.

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>

February 2024
Volume 12 Issue 6

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[Parent Article](#)

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

"While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about." - Author Unknown.

Explore · Empower · Excel

"We appreciate your understanding and flexibility as we continue to navigate through the struggles of the pandemic."

Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, February 2nd:	Sports/Hobby Day (Dress like your Favorite Sports/Hobby, etc.)
Monday, February 5th:	IS Variety Show Auditions, 2:30 PM-4:00 PM, IS Cafetorium
Tuesday, February 6th:	IS Variety Show Auditions, 2:30 PM-4:00 PM, IS Cafetorium
Tuesday, February 13th:	PTO Meeting, 6:00 PM, Library
Thursday, February 15th:	Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM, Transportation Department
Mon., Feb. 19th – 23rd:	No School – Presidents' Day Recess
Monday, February 26th:	IS Variety Show Dress Rehearsal, 2:30 PM-4:30 PM, IS Cafetorium
Tuesday, February 27th:	IS Variety Show, 6:00 PM, IS Cafetorium
Thursday, February 29th:	Board of Education Budget Meeting, 6:00 PM, HHS Multi-Media Center

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. Please be aware that when you are attending any after school events, you cannot park in the fire lanes, block hydrants or block exits at any of our school buildings. This includes the lanes in the front of the IS/MS complex. This is a State Education Department law in which our local enforcement officers may ticket vehicles who are in violation of it. Please adhere to the stop sign when you are exiting the rear parking lot.
2. **Ferocious Readers:** Please encourage your child to read on a daily basis. This will certainly build their reading skills, increase ability, and help them reach the 4K page goal. Each Intermediate School child is challenged to read three grade level books each month for a total of approximately twenty-five books for the year. Help your child reach the 4K page challenge by going to the library, reading together, and discovering books your child will enjoy.
3. Please continue to save aluminum can pull tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House.
4. Intermediate School Parent Information Night and Self-Guided Tour, *for incoming 4th grade families*, is scheduled for April 4th, 6:00 PM, IS Cafetorium.
5. To report child abuse or neglect: Call Toll Free 1-800-342-3720 or ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps.



Office of Children and Family Services

Intermediate School PTO Officers (2023-2024)

I'd like to introduce you all to our PTO Officers (named below) for the 2023-2024 school year. Please attend our meetings held in the library at 6:00 PM most often on the third Tuesday of the month. Please reach out via email if you have any questions or would like to help with upcoming events.

Beth Manwaring

Alicia McWilliams

Tara Spirawk

Alicia Wahl-Knowlden

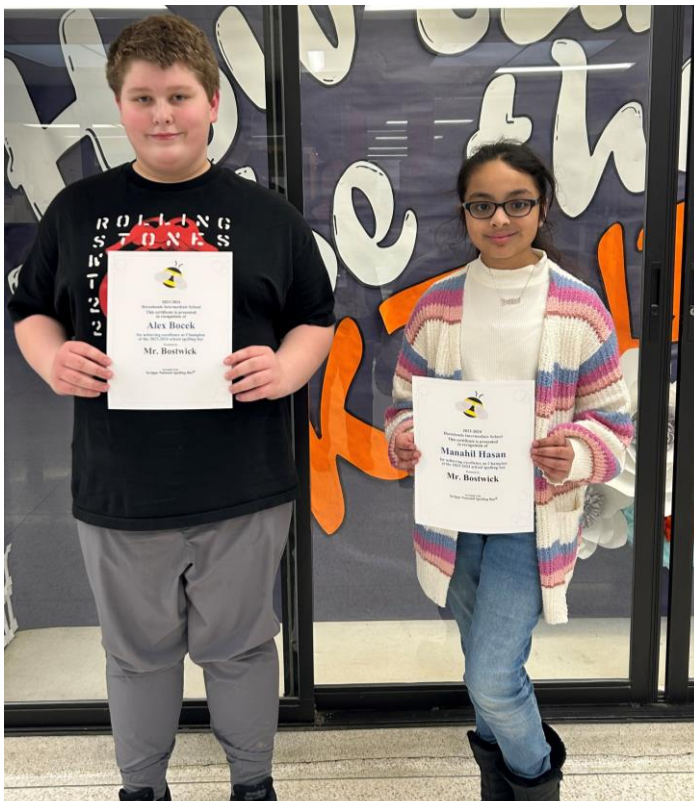
Email: intermediateschoolpto@gmail.com

IS Facebook: @HorseheadsIntermediateSchoolPTO



Black History Month first began as Negro History Week in 1926, when Carter G. Woodson desired to ring the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass together as a cohesive celebration. It morphed into a wider observance as popularity grew, notably by young Black college students in the 1960s. Now, Black History Month is marked by special curriculums, performances, art and events to remember the history of Black people in America.

Now more than ever, we need to celebrate diversity as a step toward reunifying our nation and our people. Join me in honoring the past heroes in the black community such as Dr. Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks, as well as everyone currently fighting for global equity.



Congratulations to our school Spelling Bee champion, Alex Bocek! He was our winner after a grueling back and forth battle with runner up, Manahil Hasan. Both students will represent the Intermediate School at the Regional Spelling Bee on March 9th! The winner of the regional bee will go to Washington D.C. for the national Scripps Spelling Bee. Good luck students!

INFORMATION REGARDING VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS!



NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

PLEASE READ THIS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Dear Fifth Grade Parents/Guardians:

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

Your child may get the required immunization through your health care provider, Five Star Urgent or Walk-In Clinics. The Chemung County Health Department may be utilized by appointment if you qualify based on criteria (607)737-2028.

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. 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 3). Thank you for your cooperation.



HEALTH CORNER



It is that time of the year again to remember good health practices. Please keep your child home if they have had a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours. Because there is no known cure for the common cold, prevention is the key to keeping colds away. Most of the time you acquire a cold virus by touching your eyes, nose or mouth with an object that has the cold virus on it. Therefore, to help avoid catching a cold:

- Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with warm soapy water.
- Sneeze into a tissue, rather than your hands, then discard the tissue (*Remember to please send in tissue boxes)
- Don't touch your face—your hands may have come in contact with a cold virus!
- Drink 8 glasses of water daily.
- Get plenty of rest—up to 12 hours a night!!!
- Please be considerate of others—you are contagious for the first three days cold symptoms appear.

Reminders From the Art Rooms

Dear Horseheads Intermediate Family and Friends,

The school year has been flying by and we're already knee deep in the winter season. The students have been creating some really incredible projects in class and we are so impressed with their skills and creativity. We hope you're following along with them throughout the school year on [Artsonia](#). Artsonia is a great resource for seeing what is going on in the Art Rooms, watching your student's growth over the course of the year, and it's also an opportunity to get some great mementos with your child's work on it. If you have any questions about accessing Artsonia or your child's account, please don't hesitate to contact Angela Niforatos or Victoria Hamilton here at the Intermediate School. All the proceeds from the website directly benefit us here and help us get supplies to keep doing great work!

We also wanted to send out a reminder that Visions & Voices, the Horseheads School District's annual magazine of student art and literature, is coming out again this year. We would love to showcase your students work. It can be drawing, painting, sculpture, poetry, or written prose. Work doesn't just have to be something that they've done in class. Submit artwork digitally to:

cbell@horseheadsdistrict.com

As always, we thank you for your support and are looking forward to showing off all the great work from the students in the upcoming Art Show in the spring!

Thank you!

Angela Niforatos

aniforatos@horseheadsdistrict.com

Victoria Hamilton

vhamilton@horseheadsdistrict.com

Art Teachers



2024-2025 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Budget Development for the following school year begins early in the calendar year. Regular Board Meetings and Budget Workshops are held from February to April until the Final Adoption of the Budget to be offered to voters on May 21st. All meetings begin at 6pm and are open to the public. Here is the schedule:

- Thursday, February 15th – Regular Meeting, Transportation Dept Training Room, 6pm
- Thursday, February 29th – Budget Workshop, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, March 14th – Regular Meeting, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, March 27th – Budget Workshop, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, April 11th – Budget Meeting (if needed), High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, April 18th – Regular Meeting, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, May 9th – Public Hearing on 2024-25 Budget, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm

Meetings are live streamed (at <http://ideas.gstbores.org/hhds/>), recorded, and posted to the district website. For more information on the development of the 2024-2025 Budget, including links to videos and presentations from board meetings, click here: <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDBudget2024-25.cfm>.

BUDGET VOTE/BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

The Budget Vote/Board of Education Election is **Tuesday, May 21st, 7am-9pm**, in the High School South Gym.

All district residents are eligible to vote, provided they meet the following requirements:

- Are a U.S. citizen
 - Are 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote
 - Have lived in the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote
 - Are not restricted from voting in general elections based on election law
- OR
- Are registered to vote in general elections

For information on absentee ballots or other questions about the budget or vote, please call (607) 739-5601, x4260 or email hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

District Website

Check out the school district's website. It's interactive, appealing, and provides an easier way to access a variety of information. There are many resources including:

- Individual school information
- Calendar of events
- Upcoming events
- Closing advisories
- Newsletters
- Data Center
- School links
- District information
- BOE Education resources
- ...and much more!

IS ILLUMINATORS

We are so proud of all the IS Illuminators nominated for the month of December. An IS Illuminator can be recognized for kindness, working hard, extra effort, stepping out of their comfort zone, having self-control in a tough situation, making good choices, showing empathy and more. We would like to recognize the following students, from **Fifth Grade:** Maddie Blake, Maddox Monks, Hunter Rosekrans, Quinn Spirawk, Amber Williams, from **Sixth Grade:** Finn Anderson, Isabella Pellor, Derrick Smith, Christian Williams

Keep Shining bright, IS Illuminators



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 for more information.

Apply in person at the address below:

Human Resources Office
Horseheads Central School District
143 Hibbard Rd. Horseheads, NY 14845

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 \$125 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at 739-5601 x 4211.

CHARACTER TRAIT AND HABIT OF MIND' OF THE MONTH

Character Trait: Trustworthiness comes from personal character.

Trustworthiness involves four major qualities: integrity, honesty, promise-keeping, and loyalty.



The Habit of Mind: Questioning and Posing Problems.

It means:

- Ask myself, "How do I know?"
- Develop a questioning Attitude
- Consider what information is needed
- Choose strategies to get that information and
- Consider the obstacles needed to resolve.



Pull for the House.



Many Hearts. One Home.

Keep hoarding pull tabs! So far we have collected far less tabs than usual. **Get others involved** – ask your friends, neighbors, and family members to collect! Pull tabs can be brought to the office.

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).

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Central School District is Caitlin DeFilippo, Director of Human Resources. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Caitlin DeFilippo at 143 Hibbard Rd, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601, x4211, or cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

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, 143 Hibbard Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

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Join the Horseheads Central School District as a School Bus Driver

UPDATE: Pay rate is now \$23.15/hour with required CDL (\$15.50/hr for drivers in training)



- **Paid training**
- **Benefits package including health insurance**
- **No weekends, holidays, summers**

To apply, call 607-739-6338 or pick up an application at our Transportation Department, 601 Sayre Street Extension, weekdays from 7:30am to 3:30pm. Our application may also be found at www.horseheadsdistrict.com/employment. (Both the district application and the supplemental transportation application are required.)

Applicants must be at least 21 years old.
Fingerprint/background check and drug testing are required.

Questions?

Call 607-739-6338 or email hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

