

The School Connection



Horseheads Intermediate School

Principal's Post

I hope everyone had a relaxing and peaceful holiday season surrounded by friends and family. The new year brings a fresh start in our lives, and my wish is that 2024 is full of enjoyment and good health for all of you!

December seemed to have flown by as we had some exciting events at the Intermediate School. There were two wonderful musical performances this past month. Band, orchestra, and chorus students had the opportunity to display their abilities in front of packed audiences. Both shows were entertaining and once again showed the strength of our very talented music department.

We always challenge our students to 'read their heart out.' Please encourage your child to read at least 20 minutes daily as this will positively impact their reading abilities. We also like to extend the challenge to include exercise each day as well. Thanks for your help in supporting reading and exercise at home throughout the year!

I'd like to end by wishing you all a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. Please continue to be active in your child's education. The investment of your time inquiring about their day, reading, or studying important skills, will pay enormous dividends for them in the future.

If you get a minute, check out the parent article to the right called, *How to Teach Your Kids It's Okay to Have Less Than Their Friends*. Most parents want their kids to fit in and feel socially accepted. Unfortunately, today's world is full of 'the next best thing' and kids are feeling the pressure of 'needing' (not 'wanting') what they think everyone else has.

Yours in education,

Michael Bostwick
Principal

Connect with me on X: Michael Bostwick@[M_Bostwick](https://twitter.com/M_Bostwick)
School Hashtag: #ISinnovators
Like us on facebook: Search Horseheads Intermediate School
Website: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHIS.cfm>

"Loving a child doesn't mean giving in to all his whims; to love him is to bring out the best in him, to teach him to love what is difficult."

-- Nadia Boulanger

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Need for substitute teachers and TA(s) see Page 7.

Parent Article

ATTENTION!

Parent Resources
on IS website.

"Thanks for your help in supporting reading and exercise at home!"

Mark Your Calendars!

Monday, January 15th:	No School – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Tuesday, January 16th:	Parent/Principal Chat, 9 AM(Café), 5:30 PM(Lib)
Tuesday, January 16th:	PTO Meeting, 6:00 PM, Library
Thursday, January 18th:	Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM, Big Flats Elementary School
Date may be changed:	String Showcase, 7:00 PM, Cafeteria
Thursday, January 25th:	Local Scripps Spelling Bee, 2:45 PM, Cafeteria (for those who qualify)
Friday, February 2nd:	Report Cards Go Home

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. Winter has arrived! Please be sure that your child wears an appropriate coat, hat, gloves, and clothes. Recess will be outside when weather permits.
2. Please be sure to pick up your child promptly from school dismissal. We cannot guarantee supervision of students much later than 2:45 PM.
3. It is important that Intermediate School students arrive after 7:40 AM. Our supervision begins at that time. **Students who are dropped off prior to 7:40 AM will not be permitted in the building.**
4. The folks at the Bus Garage would like to remind students that **no glass containers or objects** of any kind should be on the bus.
5. **Reminder:** In an effort to cut costs and increase efficiency, the District consolidated some of our bus runs. As a result, 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.
6. **Reminder:** On days when there is a two-hour delay, breakfast **will not** be served.
7. **Presidential Service Awards:** A reminder that Presidential Service Award volunteer forms for the second marking period are due on Friday, February 2, 2024. Students may give the forms to their teacher or drop them off in the office. As a reminder, this is an optional activity.



Dear Parents,

Winter weather brings the possibility of school closings. Schools are closed when the weather makes it impossible to have reasonable attendance or when the schools or buses would not be able to operate safely. The school day is delayed only when inclement weather conditions are expected to improve by early morning. Inclement weather may include snow, ice, and freezing temperatures.

If schools are closed in the morning, they will remain closed all day for scheduled activities, including remedial programs, use of facilities by non-school groups, and special evening programs.

If schools are on a two-hour delay, they will begin two hours later than usual. For example, students who arrive after 10:25 AM will be marked tardy. **There will be no breakfast served on those days.**

Let's hope the weather cooperates with us so that we have a safe winter!

Parents and Guardians

You can now take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Horseheads schools will soon use the SchoolMessenger system to deliver **text messages**, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.*

You can participate in this free service* just by sending “Y” or “Yes” by text to our school’s short code number, **67587**.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with “**Stop**”.



SchoolMessenger is compliant with the [Student Privacy Pledge™](#), so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

Opt-In from
your mobile
phone now!



Just send
“Y” or “Yes”
to 67587

i Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes:

SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a “text message”. Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as “short code” texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you’ve ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

*Terms and Conditions – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See schoolmessenger.com/txt for more info.



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STUDENTS OF THE MARKING PERIOD

Marking Period 1

The following students were teacher-selected based on the September and October character traits as well as the habits of mind.

5th Grade



BELIEVERS & ACHIEVERS:

Aerianna Narosky

EXPLORERS:

Alexia Bednarski, Owen Crout, Allistair Lanipao, Alivia Smith

GO GETTERS:

Joseph Brookins, Samantha Rhodes, Matt Updyke, Autumn Wheeler

INVESTIGATORS:

Claire Barron, Maurianna Peake, Landon Smith, Jacob Wales

MASTER MINDS:

Jacob Welton Bindhammer, Cassidy Dziennik, Evan Miele,
Parker Moshier

THINKERS:

Jamiyah Connell, Nathan Hughson, Josiah Nicolae, Neil Speed,
Rily Stilts

TRENDSETTERS:

Maxx Brown, Ava Mills, Andrew Snedecor, Chloe Tenny

6th Grade

BELIEVERS & ACHIEVERS:

Jayden Williams

COLLABORATORS:

Sophie Barron, Connor Fitzpatrick, Fallon Mickley, Myanna Mazurowski

CREATORS:

Teagan Matthews, Lake Sena, Madison Swartwood

GROUND BREAKERS:

Zoey Canestero, Jake Lambert, Caitlyn Lunger, Joseph Saunders

PATHFINDERS:

Reagan Bement, Eric McGrain, Geonni Westervelt, Hannah Williams

PROBLEM SOLVERS:

Keira Dyer, Anthony Sullivan, Lyla Terry

TRAIL BLAZERS:

Josiah Nicolae, Payton Turner

TRANSFORMERS:

Jay Paul



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 attend 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 he/she has 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 most contagious for the first three days that cold symptoms appear.

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

READING CORNER

Reading is an integral part of learning. The more you read, the better you read. You have heard the saying, 'Practice makes perfect,' and studies support the idea that the best way to improve your reading skills is to read.

Reading is also a form of entertainment. Many genres or categories of books lend themselves to reading for fun: mysteries, historical fiction, science fiction, folklore, etc.

As parents, it is important to be a reading role model. Let your child see you reading and encourage them to read on a daily basis.

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 book challenge by going to the library, reading together, and discovering books your child will enjoy.



*"The more that you read,
the more things you will
know. The more you
learn, the more places
you'll go."*

*--Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read
With My Eyes Shut!"*



Reading Tips...The key to maintaining focus while reading is to stop often and think about what you're reading. Here are some tips to make you a better reader!

1. Ask yourself questions such as: *How does this relate to what I already know? Why would the character do that? What connections can I make to my own life?*
2. While reading, make a light checkmark with a pencil after each paragraph. If you start to get lost reading, you can start from the last checkmark. Don't forget to jot down words and concepts. If you read, write and recite, you have a better chance of remembering important information.
3. Every night, read something meaningful that you enjoy for at least 15-20 minutes.

IS ILLUMINATORS

We are so proud of all the IS Illuminators nominated for the month of November. 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:** Cole Kamas, Lane Rossman, Zariana Watts and Aleigha Young, **from Sixth Grade:** Brysen Beach, Jonathan Bower, Eric McGrain and Kenny Miller.

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

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: Fairness is defined as just and reasonable treatment in accordance with accepted rules or principles. Parents, please encourage your child to *play by the rules, take turns and share, be open-minded while listening to others, treat all people equally, and consider all opinions.*

The Habit of Mind: Taking Responsible Risks. It means to be adventuresome. Stretch your thinking...I think I can!

Ex. Students who step outside their comfort zone and try new strategies to solve problems, stand up for a friend, or attempt to answer a question in class when they're not exactly sure, are all examples of taking responsible risks.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Now that we are back from winter recess and are approaching the mid-year point here at school, we kindly ask that parents and students check the supply lists given out over the summer and replenish any pencils, pens, paper, etc. that you may be running low on!



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.

*Do you live in the Horseheads
Central School District?*

We need your input.

The Horseheads Central School District is conducting a census of all residents in the district.

The school district is made up of the Town and Village of Horseheads, Big Flats, Veteran, Breesport, Pine Valley, Erin, Millport, Cayuta, Catlin, and portions of adjacent communities.

We recently sent a mailer to all residences in the district with information on submitting census information. If you submitted your information, thank you. If not, please do so at this link:

[Horseheads.fyi/Census](https://horseheads.fyi/Census)

or at the QR code below:

