

# The School Connection



## Horseheads Intermediate School

### Principal's Post

In a few more weeks, spring will be upon us. I think the students are ready for the nicer weather to stay so they can get outside more to burn off the winter cabin fever!

**Attention fifth grade parents!** Please be sure to read page 6 regarding the NYS school immunization regulations. All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will need to receive the Tdap vaccine booster by September. The laws are very strict, and we cannot allow students to come to school after the 10<sup>th</sup> day of school without this immunization.

As you may know, the 2020-2021 school budget talks are in full swing. Horseheads School District is always focused on building a fiscally responsible budget while trying to provide the best learning opportunities for students. This is becoming even more challenging with the Covid-related expenditures on top of maintaining our curricular programs. I encourage you all to be involved in the process and stay informed by checking out the [HCSD website](#). There will also be a Community Budget Workshop this Thursday at 6pm [via Zoom](#).

The NYS ELA and Math Tests are quickly approaching (see page 5). We will be taking the tests electronically this year. If you want to check out more about what these tests will look like, check out [this link](#) from NYS Education Department.

Thanks for your continued support of your child and our school. This has been an incredibly challenging school year, and we couldn't have gotten this far without your support. I encourage you to stay in close communication with the teachers, the itslearning platform, and Parent Portal for academic information. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact our office. Every so often I include a parent article. Check out the link on the right-hand side of this page about bringing out the genius in every child!

Yours in education,

Michael Bostwick  
Principal

**Follow me on Twitter:** Michael Bostwick@[M\\_Bostwick](#)  
**School Hashtag:** [#Sinnovators](#)  
**Like us on Facebook:** Search Horseheads Intermediate School  
**Website:** <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHIS.cfm>

**The research is overwhelmingly clear:** *When parents play a positive role in their child's education, students perform higher in school.*

March 2021  
Volume 9 Issue 7

### Inside this issue:

Principal's Post	1
Calendar	2
Dates	
Informational	2
PTO	3
2021-22 Placement	
2021-22 Budget	
Development Calendar	4
Parent Portal	
NYS Tests	5
Attendance Matters	6
Health Office	7
Classifieds	8
<b>Bus Drivers Needed</b>	<b>9</b>

### Parent Article

**ATTENTION!**  
**Parent Resources**  
on IS website.

*"Horseheads School District is always focused on building a fiscally responsible budget while trying to provide the best learning opportunities for students."*

## Mark Your Calendars!

**Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>:** Board of Education Budget Workshop, 6:00 PM, via Zoom

**Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>:** IS PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM, via Zoom

**Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>:** Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM via Zoom

## Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. It is that time of the year again to replenish your child's school supplies such as pencils and paper. Some items available include pencils, pens, mechanical pencils, highlighters, glue sticks and notebook paper.
2. This is the time of year when we advertise and promote our annual STEM night for students. Normally we have dozens of interactive displays, presentations, and demonstrations for students to explore. Unfortunately, with the current health guidelines, we will need to cancel this event.
3. The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration is a time for our 6<sup>th</sup> grade to students to come together as an entire grade level for fun activities at the end of the year. Currently it is scheduled for Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. However, we are not sure what that might look like at this time. More information will be coming out once we have further guidance.
4. Afternoon Pick-Up: Afternoon recess ends at 2:10 PM for many classes. Our upper parking lot is used during recess for basketball and other games. This is especially important with snow and mud. **Parents should not arrive before 2:10 PM to pick up students for dismissal. If you arrive early, please park in the row farthest away from the basketball hoops facing the Main Parking Lot.**
5. We encourage students to bring sneakers to school every day. Sneakers are required for Physical Education class. Boots and dress shoes are not appropriate for Physical Education classes. Additionally, appropriate clothing should be worn for outdoor recess.

### STAY WELL EMAIL ISSUES

If you received the Stay Well email reminder for one of your children but not all and you have a gmail account, it may be because gmail is grouping all of the messages into one as a "conversation." Here's how to change that setting:

- Click the settings wheel at the top right next to their name and scroll to the very bottom, you will likely see the "Conversation view" box checked.
- Uncheck that box, and it shouldn't happen again.

Please make sure that you check your spam/junk/clutter folders and searching for "[no-reply@gstboces.org](mailto:no-reply@gstboces.org)" as the sender too which is for all email providers.

## ATTENTION PARENTS!!!

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 welcome 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!

### Intermediate School PTO Officers (2020-2021)

President:	Gretchen Ferraro	<a href="mailto:gferraro2010@gmail.com">gferraro2010@gmail.com</a>	425-2603
VP:	Angela Sullivan	<a href="mailto:Aksullivan624@gmail.com">Aksullivan624@gmail.com</a>	518-708-4288
Treasurer:	Danielle Richardson	<a href="mailto:dani0227@aol.com">dani0227@aol.com</a>	425-6896
Secretary:	Denise Trondsen	<a href="mailto:dtrondsen@outlook.com">dtrondsen@outlook.com</a>	742-9051



ON HOLD FOR THIS YEAR

Six years ago we launched a Makerspace in the Intermediate School. A Makerspace is a place for students to tap their creativity and innovation by investigating/making things they are passionate about. Students have been working on making challenges, electrical circuits, tech devices such as Makey Makey/Little Bits/Ozobots, and we even have a take apart station where students can deconstruct electrical devices to see how they work. Be sure to follow our school hashtag to see all of the great happenings at the IS! [#ISinnovators](#)

## PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR SIXTH GRADE

The Intermediate School will soon be completing 2021-2022 classroom placements for students. We create class sections with the intent to achieve a mix of students by ability, gender, personality, and individual special needs. While we are unable to honor specific requests for teachers, we value your input from a parent's perspective. If you have specific information about your child's needs which should be taken into consideration or a specific previous personal experience, please ***put them in writing and send them to the Intermediate School by Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.*** We look forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic success!

## Parent Portal

Web address: <https://schooltool.horseheadsdistrict.com>

Parent Portal allows instant access to your child's grades and progress. Try to make it part of your homework routine at least once a week to allow them to look at their grades with you. Below are a couple of helpful tabs to help you navigate through your child's grades & assignments.

The Assignment tab allows you to see your child's assignments in all subject areas. Use the Courses drop down box to sort the assignments by subject.

The screenshot shows the Parent Portal interface. At the top, there are tabs for Contacts, Schedule, Attendance, Grades, Assessments, Assignments, and Letters. The 'ASSIGNMENTS' tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a 'STUDENT' section with a 'School Year' dropdown, a 'Marking Period' dropdown set to 'MP2', and a 'Courses' dropdown set to 'All Courses'. A red question mark icon is visible. Below this, a text box explains that on the 'Grades' tab, users can select a marking period average from a dropdown to see their child's averages in each subject area. An arrow points from this text box to the 'Grades' tab. The 'Grades' tab is highlighted, and the 'View' section shows 'Marking Period Average' for 'MP1'.

If you are having trouble logging in to your Parent Portal Account or have forgotten your login/password information, please contact [hcsdportalinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdportalinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com)

## 2021-2022 Budget Development

The Board of Education and District are currently developing the Proposed 2021-2022 School Budget. The global pandemic, now nearing a year, has led to a challenging time for budgets in our district, nation, state and homes. The Board will continue Budget Development at their next several meetings until the final adoption of the Budget to be offered to voters on May 18<sup>th</sup>. All meetings begin at 6:00 PM and are held via zoom with live streaming. Here is the schedule:

- Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – Budget Workshop
- Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – Regular Meeting
- Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – Budget Workshop
- Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – Tentative Board Candidates' Forum
- Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> – Public Hearing on 2021-2022 Budget

The **Budget Vote/Board of Education Election** is **Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 AM-9:00 PM, in the High School South Gym.**

All meetings are live streamed (at <http://ideas.gstboces.org/hhds/>), recorded, and posted to the District Website. As reported prior to the January meeting, public comment is allowed via zoom at the meeting's designated location. For more information on the process, schedule, and locations click here: [HCSD Board of Education](#).

Questions about the budget or voting? Email the district at [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com) or call (607) 739-5601, x4295.

## *NYS ELA and Math Tests*

The ELA State Test will be given on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Math State Test will be given on May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup>. These tests help us determine how each student is performing with specific skills in both ELA and Math toward the standards' expectations. It is just one data point we consider when making important decisions. They also help us to know who needs extra help (Academic Intervention Services or AIS) for the following school year in each of these areas. **Please note that a refusal of the State Tests does not mean students will be exempt from AIS if they qualify.**

The State Tests this year will be taken electronically in grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to give students practice on the computer with the questions they will see. One of our challenges is helping students to be fluent in their typing ability. If you'd like to encourage your child to practice, Typing.com is a great program for that!

*\*We explain to students that the tests are important and to try their best. However, we don't want to burden our students with stress and anxiety. Thanks for your help with this!*

### *Test Taking Tips For Parents*

1. Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before a test and has a nutritious breakfast in the morning.
2. Maintain a pleasant home environment and avoid unnecessary conflicts. Try to make the morning of the test a pleasant one.
3. Make sure your child has taken any needed medication.
4. Ensure that your child is present during testing (children generally perform better when taking tests with their class, rather than at a make-up time).
5. Get your child to school on time the day of the test.
6. Wish your child good luck each morning of the test. Tell your child that you believe in him/her.
7. Remind your child the test is important, but don't put too much emphasis on them that would create stress or anxiety.
8. Encourage him/her to do their best.
9. Remind your child to listen carefully to the instructions from the teacher, and to read the directions and each question carefully.
10. Explain to your child the importance of using time wisely. If your child gets stuck on a question, encourage him or her to make the best guess and move on.
11. Tell your child to attempt to answer all of the questions and not to leave any blank.
12. Encourage your child to stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early.
13. Tell your child to attempt to answer all of the questions and not to leave any blank.
14. Encourage your child to stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early.





### **Clearly going to school regularly matters!**

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and become discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your child keeps a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your child goes to school every day unless they are truly sick (i.e. stomach bug or fever)
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for arriving to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or friend to take your child to school.

**As an added incentive, the Intermediate School typically encourages students to come to school as they "Pop Toward Super Attendance." Classes work toward spelling "We Are Super Awesome Innovators" to earn a popcorn party for achieving up to 97% class attendance. Students are also recognized for their individual efforts of attending school with pencil and bag of popcorn each marking period for achieving the 97% mark. We hope to resume this program at the end of the pandemic.**

Please let us know how we can best support you and your child so that he/she can show up for school on time every day. If you are struggling in any way to get your child to school, please contact us so we can work together to solve the problem. We want your child to be successful in school!



#### **18 OR MORE DAYS**

- Excused and unexcused absences represent lost time in the classroom and lost opportunities to learn.
- Missing just one day every two weeks can add up to 18 days in a year. Absences add up before you even know it.



#### **10 TO 17 DAYS**

- Students who are absent an average of 15 days a year miss a year's worth of school before their senior year.
- When students miss a day of school it actually puts them two days behind their classmates.



#### **9 OR FEWER ABSENCES**

- Students with good attendance generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more.
- Children benefit and make the most of their educational opportunities if they attend school regularly and on time.



## NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

### PLEASE READ THIS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Dear 5th Grade Parents/Guardians:

In order to be in compliance with NYS immunization requirements, all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students\* must receive a booster dose of the Tdap immunization. The Tdap immunization is a tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis immunization. It is a tetanus booster that also adds protection for pertussis (whooping cough). This vaccine is not a new vaccine and has been required for school attendance since September 1, 2016.

To meet the requirement, this Tdap vaccine must be given no earlier than 10 years of age and no later than 11 years of age. For 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who are 11 years old, proof of this vaccine must be received within 14 calendar days of the start of school. Information must be received by September 21, 2021 or your child will be unable to attend school starting on September 22, 2021, until paperwork has been brought in with the documented Tdap being given. You must provide proof that your child has received the Tdap immunization for your child to attend school in the fall. Acceptable forms of documentation include an Immunization certificate signed or stamped by your health care provider or an electronic health record copy from your health care provider's office. You may email this to [rtorgalski@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:rtorgalski@horseheadsdistrict.com), fax to our office at 607-795-2495 or drop it off to the Intermediate School.

Your child may receive the required immunization through your health care provider or through the Chemung County Health Department. For more information, please call (607) 737-2028 #2 for an appointment.

**NYS Department of Health effective September 2, 2016 requires all 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students have a meningococcal vaccine.**

**\*Please note: 10 year old students who are entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade will not be required to receive this vaccine at this time. They must receive this vaccine no later than 14 days after turning 11 years old and will be tracked accordingly.**

To learn more about this and other vaccination requirements in New York State, visit [www.health.ny.gov/immunize](http://www.health.ny.gov/immunize). For specific questions about your child, please contact your primary provider.

If you have further questions, please contact the health office at 739-6366 (3). Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Michael Bostwick  
Principal

Robyn Torgalski, RN  
Intermediate School Nurse

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Help Wanted

The Horseheads Central School District is looking for interested individuals for several job positions: **cleaner, bus driver, food service worker, as well as substitute clerical, nurse, cleaner, and food service worker.** We seek candidates who are 18 or older, including retired community members. [Click here](#) for the application or stop in to Human Resources. Questions? Email us at [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com)

## NEED 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 \$105 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at 739-5601 x 4211.

## PRINCIPAL CHATS

Mr. Bostwick normally holds Principal Chats several times a year as a way to ask questions and get to know the procedures of the school. These have been cancelled due to the pandemic and rules about school visitors. If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to him directly.



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.

## CHARACTER TRAIT AND HABIT OF MIND' OF THE MONTH

### Character Trait: **Respect**

- Having Respect for someone means you think good things about who a person is or how he/she acts. You can have respect for others, and you can have respect for yourself.
- Showing Respect to someone means you act in a way that shows you care about their feelings and well-being.
- Showing Respect for others include things like not calling people mean names, treating people with courtesy, caring enough about yourself that you don't do things you know can hurt you.

### The Habit of Mind:

#### Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations

These are some situations you would use Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations:

- When I learned about swimming and life-saving, I used my knowledge to save someone who was choking.
- After I finished studying about the environment, and how harmful a single piece of litter can be, I began cleaning up garbage whenever I saw some, and I always put garbage in a bin.
- Learning how to add, subtract, multiply and divide helped me when I was shopping or saving up for a special item.



## 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](mailto: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.



# Join the Horseheads Central School District as a School Bus Driver

**UPDATE: Rate is now \$16.40/hour; on July 1, rate increases to \$19.40/hour (\$15/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 4:30pm. Our application may also be found at [www.horseheadsdistrict.com/employment](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/employment). (Both district application and 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](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com).

