

The School Connection



Horseheads Intermediate School

Principal's Post

October has been a busy and exciting month as we are now well into our school routines. With the whirlwind of the start of this school year, it's hard to believe we have welcomed the month of November already.

The academic expectations are growing each day as we continue working through our curriculum as well as filling gaps from the last few school years. There are many things you can do to help lead your child to success in school. Please stay up to date on Parent Portal and assignments in the classroom by checking your child's Canvas page and daily planner. You can also take a look at the Intermediate School website, specifically the **Parent Resources**. We have included many helpful resources including month-by-month tips, problem solving strategies, homework tips, internet safety, academic standards support, bullying information and much more! Simply click on *Parent Resources* link to the right on this page. It's very useful, and we thank you for taking an active role in your child's education as it is one of the most critical pieces of success.

Each month we focus on a specific character trait as well as a Habit of Mind (HoM). November's character trait is **citizenship** and our HoM is **managing impulsivity**. The teachers infuse them into the classroom, and we highlight the traits in activities and throughout the building. We would appreciate your help with these at home as well. Discussing ways to show citizenship in daily practices and promoting strategies for managing impulsive behaviors are great ways to build these skills. See page 6 for more information.

In closing, I'd like to say thank you for sending us such great kids. November is a month to reflect upon what you're grateful for, and for me it is the great mix of students at the Intermediate School. As expected, we will certainly face our challenges. With your help, we are developing some fantastic young minds. Thank you very much for your assistance in reinforcing academics, positive behaviors, and healthy relationships. Some of the most impactful things you can do is make sure students attend school and check in to make sure their assignments are completed with great effort and quality.

Check out the article to the right about **being good at math**. Math ability is not passed on from parents! Despite what many people think, being good at math *isn't* either something you have or something you don't. Math is learned, and everyone is capable. Anything you can do to promote positive thinking and hard work will benefit your son or daughter! If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me.

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>

"We are apt to forget that children watch examples better than they listen to preaching." - Roy L. Smith

November 2023
Volume 12 Issue 3

Inside this issue:

Principal's Post	1
Calendar Dates	2
Informational	2
PTO Officers	3
CIM & AIS Services	4
News From the Health Office	5
Fight Flu	6
Classifieds	7

PARENT ARTICLE

ATTENTION!

Parent Resources
on IS website.

"Thank you very much for your assistance in reinforcing academics, positive behaviors, and healthy relationships."

Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, November 10th:	NO SCHOOL – VETERANS DAY
Tuesday, November 14th:	PTO Meeting, Library, 6:00 PM
Thursday, November 16th:	Board of Education Meeting, Middle School, 6:00 PM
Thursday, November 16th:	Report Cards Go Home
Friday, November 17th:	Parent/Teacher Conferences, PM Only (Dismissal at 10:55 AM)
Tuesday, November 21st:	Parent/Teacher Conferences, PM Only (Dismissal at 10:55 AM)
Wed. 11/22 – Fri. 11/24:	NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING RECESS
Wednesday, November 29th:	Picture Re-Takes
Wednesday, November 29th:	Parent/Teacher Conferences, PM Only (Dismissal at 10:55 AM)

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. We would like to thank all our Veterans and their families for the amazing sacrifices you have made for our country. Veterans Day Celebration: We are planning a small Veterans Day Celebration to honor our amazing men and women who have served or are currently serving in our military. On Monday, November 13th, we would like to invite any family members or relatives (immediate or distant) who are Veterans, into the school from 7:45 to 8:30 AM. Veterans will greet students as they enter the building, and we will be celebrating their service with some cards and posters.
2. Fall is well under way and temperatures are below freezing on some mornings. Physical Education classes and recess are outside when weather permits. Please be sure your child wears a coat and dresses appropriately for the weather.
3. We have a 3-Tiered Honor Roll System and will recognize students on the Honor Roll who have a grade point average (GPA) of 85.0 or higher. Students achieving a GPA of 85.0-89.99 will be recognized as Honor Roll, 90.0-94.99 will get High Honor Roll, and 95.0 or above will be recognized as Distinguished Honor Roll. To make any tier of Honor Roll, students cannot earn less than a 65 in any subject area. Special area classes (PE, art, and music) will be graded with an H (95 or higher), G (80 – 94.99), S (65 – 79.99), or U (below 65). These grades are not weighted into the overall average.
4. Applications for assistance from the Arctic League were sent home with students and are also available in the Social Worker's Office. Please call the school for more information.
5. Math Facts—Memorization of math facts is critical for student success at this grade level. Math facts are essential for students as they study higher level math concepts. The Intermediate School would like to see ALL students testing at 100% on their math facts by the end of this school year. Your child may borrow a set of math facts cards. We ask that you or someone in your family help your child to study these math facts cards and then return them to their homeroom teachers. Practice will pay off!
6. We are encouraging our students to wash their hands often with soap and water. Hand sanitizer is available in all classrooms. We want to inform you that the District will be maintaining this during the year.

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 to if you have any questions or would like to help with upcoming events.

Beth Manwaring

Alicia McWilliams

Tara Spirawk

Alicia Wahl-Knowlden

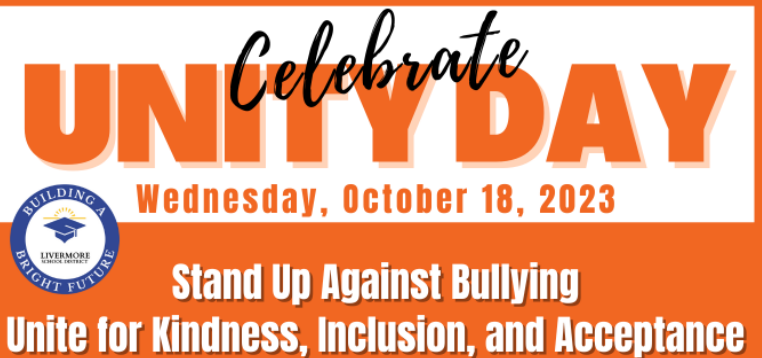
*Currently, our PTO is looking for a couple volunteers to help setup for the Intermediate School staff luncheon on November 17th. If you are interested and able to help, please drop your information in [this form](#).

Email: intermediateschoolpto@gmail.com

IS Facebook: @HorseheadsIntermediateSchoolPTO

Unity Squad

Our School Unity Squad is made up of homeroom representatives who help unify our student body by organizing activities and serving as liaisons for each classroom. Throughout the year we will be participating in activities that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion! On October 18th we celebrated national Unity Day by all staff and students standing together and taking a stance by wearing orange.



STUDENTS READ THREE BOOKS A MONTH

Our District has established the standard that 5th and 6th grade students will read a minimum of 25 books on their reading level or roughly 4 thousand pages, by the end of the year. We need your help to encourage your child to reach this goal by reading 3 books per month. Children whose parents read with them on a regular basis are more successful in school.



CIM TEAM

Our School District currently is utilizing the CIM (Classroom Intervention Model) in assuring your child is receiving all necessary supports to have a positive school year. The CIM Team is a collaborative approach which includes teachers, administrators, special education staff, school psychologist, social workers and other staff with knowledge or specific skills. Our goal is to discuss, confidentially, any student's needs and to develop an Intervention Plan that will help him/her be more successful. You, as the parent/guardian, can be involved in the process to help make this a joint effort between home and school. If you have any questions regarding this team, please consult with your student's classroom teacher.



ACADEMIC INTERVENTION SERVICES (AIS)

The New York State Education Department mandates that all schools identify and provide academic assistance to any student falling below a designated cutoff on various assessments. AIS stands for Academic Intervention Services. Identified students will be monitored and will receive additional help, which continues until the student demonstrates competency in the identified area. Students in need are identified throughout various data points including, but not limited to, classroom assessments, Aimsweb Plus, benchmark assessments, screeners, state exams, and teacher recommendations.

Horseheads Central School District Parents' Bill of Rights Relating to Student Data

The Horseheads District, in compliance with Education Law 2-d, hereby establishes the following Parents' Bill of Rights in regard to student data:

1. A student's personally identifiable information will not be sold or released for any commercial purpose;
2. Parents have the right to inspect and review the complete contents of their child's educational record. Procedures for reviewing student records can be found in the Board Policy entitled "Student Records," Policy 5500, Regulation 5500-R;
3. Security protocols regarding confidentiality of personally identifiable information are currently in place and the safeguards necessary to protect the confidentiality of student data are maintained at industry standards and best practices. The safeguards include but are not limited to encryption, firewalls, and password protection.
4. New York State maintains a complete list of all student data collected by the State and the data is available for public review at www.nysed.gov, or by writing to 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234
5. Parents have the right to have complaints about possible breaches of student data addressed. Complaints should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, 143 Hibbard Road, Horseheads, NY 14845.

INFORMATION REGARDING VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS!



PLEASE READ THIS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Dear **Current Fifth Grade Parents/Guardians**:

By the start of the 2024 school year, all 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 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 contagious for the first three days when cold symptoms appear.

Parents

health.ny.gov/flu



Department
of Health

2178

06/23

Fight Flu at Home and School

Influenza (flu), spreads easily and can make people very sick, especially kids. You can help stop flu!

Flu symptoms include:

Fever or chills, body aches, cough, sore throat, headache, runny or stuffy nose, feeling very tired. Some people, especially children, may have stomach problems and diarrhea. Unlike a cold, the flu comes on very suddenly.

Prevent flu!

- Flu vaccine is the best protection against the flu. It is recommended every year for everyone 6 months and older.
- Get the flu vaccine for you and your children every year! It helps make flu sickness milder or prevents it altogether.
- Getting the vaccine early in the fall means you and your children will be protected when flu season starts.
- Make sure people close to your children, like babysitters and relatives, are also vaccinated.
- The vaccine is especially important for people with certain medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, and heart or lung disease, because the flu can make them even sicker.

If your child gets the flu:

- Your child will need plenty of rest and lots of fluids.
- Keep your child home from school for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone without using fever-control medicine. This helps avoid giving the flu to others.
- Talk with your child's health care provider before giving a child any over-the-counter medicine.
- Never give your child or teenager aspirin or any medicine that has aspirin in it. Aspirin can cause serious problems for children and teens.
- Young children and those with certain medical conditions, like asthma, diabetes, and heart or lung disease, are at greater risk for getting seriously ill from the flu.
- If your child gets flu symptoms and is younger than 5 or has a medical condition, call their health care provider and ask about antiviral treatment.
- If you are worried about your child, call their health care provider.

Don't spread flu!

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water aren't handy, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow, not your hands. Put used tissues in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. That's how germs spread.
- Stay away from people who are sick.

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.

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.

Attention!

PRINCIPAL CHATS

September 19th, **January 16th**, and April 16th

9:00 AM in the Cafeteria 5:30PM

in the Library



Pull for the House.



Many Hearts. One Home.

Please start hoarding pull tabs! We began our drive to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Last year we gathered over 50 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.

We are currently looking for a vocal/general music teacher. If you know of any certified candidates, please have them reach out to the IS or Human Resources.

CHARACTER TRAIT AND HABIT OF MIND' OF THE MONTH

Character Trait: Citizenship is contributing to your school and outside community, staying informed, and participating in decision-making.

The Habit of Mind: Managing impulsivity means taking a minute to think before you speak or act. Consider how your words and actions will affect you and other people.

Parents can help reinforce *citizenship* by

- Promoting community service
- Encouraging cooperation
- Staying informed and voting when possible
- Being a good neighbor
- Respecting authority; obey laws and rules

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 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, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845. (607) 739-5601.



NYS Digital Resources Family Questionnaire

SchoolTool Parent Portal Instructions

Dear Horseheads Central School District Parents and Guardians:

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) requires that districts send a digital resources questionnaire to parents and guardians. This information is meant to assist the state and districts in providing resources to students and families. NYSED asks that you complete a questionnaire for each student in grades K-12 in your family. You can access the questionnaire by logging in to the Parent Portal at <http://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads> and following the instructions below. If you do not yet have a Parent Portal account, you can request one using this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/zmB1NAWB8u>. If you have questions, please contact your school office. Thank you.

Click on student's name.

Click on User Defined tab.

If using the mobile app (<http://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads>): After logging in, tap FORMS at the top of the screen.

From drop-down menu, select NYS Digital Resources Family Questionnaire.

Click on the green plus icon to open the survey.

- Leave Start Date set to current date.
- Select appropriate response from drop-down menu next to each question.
- Click on the green save disk to save and submit your responses.
- Return to Home Screen, complete Survey for all students in the household.

Student

NYS Digital Resources Family Questionnaire Save Cancel Help

Start Date: 9/27/2022 Help End Date: 9/27/2022 Help

Collecting accurate data regarding digital resource access for our New York students will greatly help educators to better serve their students and families. In order to accomplish this, the New York State Education Department is asking parents or guardians to complete a Digital Equity survey (for each student in the family) in grades Kindergarten – Grade 12. This survey will provide information on student access to devices and internet access in their places of residence. To assist us in this process, please answer each question below to the best of your ability and follow any additional instructions provided for submitting or returning the survey.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

NOTE: You must answer at least one question for this survey to be valid.

Did the school district issue your child a dedicated school or district-owned device for their use during the school year?:

What is the device your child uses most often to complete learning activities away from school? (This can be a school-provided device or another device, whichever the student is most often using to complete their schoolwork.)

Who is the provider of the primary learning device identified in Question 2? (This can be a school-provided device or another device, whichever the student is most often using to complete their schoolwork.)

Is the primary learning device (identified in Question 2) shared with anyone else in the household?:

Is the primary learning device (identified in Question 2) sufficient for your child to fully participate in all learning activities away from school?:

Is your child able to access the internet in their primary place of residence?:

What is the primary type of internet service used in your child's primary place of residence?:

In their primary residence, can your child complete the full range of learning activities, including video streaming and assignment upload, without interruptions caused by slow or poor internet performance?:

What, if any, is the primary barrier to having sufficient and reliable internet access in your child's primary place of residence?:



Horseheads Central School District
143 Hibbard Road • Horseheads, NY 14845
607-739-5601, x4295

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We need your input.

Please respond to the Horseheads Central School District Census at the link or QR code below — even if you do not have children in our schools. We need your response as we prepare to shift to three elementary schools in the 2025-2026 school year.

To respond, visit:

Horseheads.fyi/Census



What is the census?

The Horseheads Central School District regularly conducts a district-wide census. This year's census is especially important because the information we receive will assist us in developing elementary school boundary lines as we shift to three elementary schools - Big Flats, Gardner Road, and Ridge Road - at the start of the 2025-26 school year.

Why is Center Street Elementary closing?

After careful consideration of the educational experience of our students and the state of our buildings, the district made the decision to move to three elementary schools. The community supported this plan with the passing of the referendum on December 7, 2021. As one of the oldest buildings in the district, Center Street would require significant construction to upgrade the building to current state standards for an educational space for students. The building is safe for students as it is now, but any additional construction would require asbestos and lead abatement, incurring significant costs that would not be completely covered through state aid. The plan approved by voters includes phasing out Center Street for student use, but keeping the building for district offices and community use.

Which school will my child attend?

The district is working with a demographer to redraw the elementary school attendance boundary lines from four buildings to three. Your response on this census assists the demographer team with redrawing more balanced boundary lines that send students to the school closest to home when possible. A decision regarding the new boundary lines is expected by Summer 2024.

To submit your information, visit:

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



If you would like a printed version of the census form or have a question, please email hts@horseheadsdistrict.com.

