



Ridge Road News

April 2020

Happy April Everyone!

I hope all of our Ridge Road students and family members are doing well and adjusting okay with being at home. I know I am speaking for the entire Ridge Road Staff when I tell you that we are truly missing all of the students and the normal routines of the school day!

As of the latest information from our Governor, all New York State Schools will be closed through April 29th. With the extension of the return date, we have a need to move from our review and practice of skills into the instruction of new skills and additional learning opportunities for all students. Our staff members have been working very hard the past couple weeks, receiving training in providing online learning, setting-up Microsoft Teams for their classrooms and planning curriculum and instruction for the students. The goal is for the new online learning to start for all students on Monday, April 13th. I hope to send out more information about this process by the end of this week and your child's teacher will be sharing information with you and the students.

Please know that although we are not physically seeing the students each day, every Ridge Road staff member is here to help and support your child's academic and social emotional learning. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, our Ridge Road support staff or me with any questions or needs.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Bailey

Mrs. Anne-Marie Manikowski-Bailey
Ridge Road Elementary Principal

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 Coordinator, or Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845 (607) 739-5601. The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Ridge Road is Anne-Marie Bailey. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any Ridge Road student should be referred to Mrs. Bailey at 607-739-6351.

Class Placements for 2020-2021

During the month of May, I will be meeting with the staff members from each grade level, PK-3, to begin making classroom placements for the 2020-2021 school year. Our goal is to provide the best possible educational environment for all students. To reach this goal, each grade level team works to create balanced classroom sections with a mix of students by ability, gender, personality and individual special needs.

We are unable to honor specific requests for individual teachers but we do value your input from a parent's perspective. If you have specific information, about your child that you would like our team to take into consideration when creating the class lists, please put this information in writing and send it to my e-mail **by Monday, May 4th**. Information about your child's learning style, strengths, growth areas and personality would be most valuable to us during the placement process.

Please note that all parent input received by the deadline of **May 4th**, will be reviewed during the classroom placement process. However, we cannot guarantee that special requests will be honored. **Once class lists have been distributed, no requests to change classroom placement will be accepted.**

Kindergarten Orientation

Kindergarten Orientation for all students starting Kindergarten at Ridge Road in the fall will be held **May 7th from 9:00-11:00**.

Also, if you know of families with young children that may have just moved to the area, please have them contact us at the Ridge Road Office at 739-6351.

Screening for incoming Kindergarten students will be by appointment the week of May 11th.

2020-21 Budget Development

In efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the state has postponed state-wide school budget votes until at least June 1st. You may view preliminary budget information on the district website at <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/Budget2020-21.cfm?school=District>, but please note that information does not yet include current updates on state aid or information received since the closure of schools. Information will be updated once we receive information from the state.

Questions? Email hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or call (607) 739-5601, x4295.



NEWS FLASH!



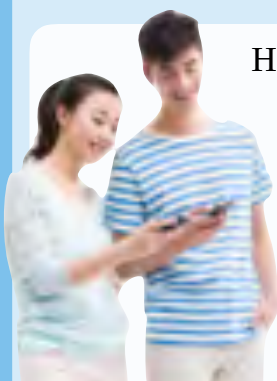
NEW YORK STATE RELEASES NEW EXAMS APRIL 1ST

In a surprising move today, New York State Regents decided to embrace the needs of our digital native students by allowing the use of emojis in essay answers on the Regents exams.

“As we continue our transition to a future of all computer-based testing, it only makes sense to allow students more ways of expressing their ideas”, said an assistant to the Chancellor of the Regents. Students are spending many hours a day using these symbols to communicate so it is only natural that they would eventually work their way into scholarly articles and papers.

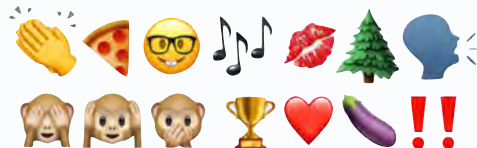
Educators have expressed concerns about the variety of emojis and avatars that students might use so the Regents have established a recommended list of emojis that students may freely use.

Download the approved list from
<http://go.gstric.org/308-emojis>



Here are some quotes from students:

Jim:



Sue: I agree with him!

Disclaimer: If you hadn't caught on until now, the article above is fake news. Happy April Fools Day! and enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

P.S. It really is National Poetry Month. Enjoy!



APRIL IS ...

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH



Yes! April is National Poetry Month!

We encourage you this month to explore Poetry online.

The web has many sites where you can read and study the work of well-known poets, and lots of other sites where you can publish your own poetry for free.

Whatever way you choose - find something new to you, and download a PDF of the poster above featuring a line of poetry by Joy Harjo.

<http://go.gstric.org/308-poetry-poster>



<http://go.gstric.org/308-power-poetry>



BRADFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

No Crying Over Technology Skills

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

APRIL

Through the use of **Keyboarding Without Tears**, Bradford Central School is working to create technology savvy students who not only possess the skills to be proficient and successful keyboarders, but also students who can safely navigate the internet and all that it brings to their lives.

Keyboarding has always been an important skill, but with many districts now moving towards **computer-based assessments**, it is necessary for our students to master **keyboarding skills**. On top of computer-based assessments, students are increasingly being required to move away from paper and pencil assignments and complete more work on devices. Keyboarding proficiency is a necessary skill to help them be successful in these endeavors.

For these reasons, Bradford Central School has decided to take a proactive stance in their teaching of keyboarding skills as well as Digital Citizenship components to their students. Society currently dubs students as "**digital natives**" due to the fact that they are being brought up in a world where they are surrounded by technology almost from birth. However, it would be good for us to remember that being a digital native doesn't necessarily mean that they have learned the appropriate skills and behaviors to be successful in the digital world into which they were born.

At Bradford, students are being led through the **Keyboarding Without Tears Program** through both direct instruction as well as individual progression. Students have individual accounts where they can work at their own pace at designated times of the day. On other occasions, the Instructional Technology teacher, leads direct instruction on keyboarding skills such as finger placement, home row, capitalization and punctuation. Digital Citizenship components are incorporated into many of the lessons to provide students with an understanding of how to be safe and responsible while online.

Most recently, students in grades 3-6 at Bradford completed activities surrounding their digital impressions and how the things they do online now, will stay with them throughout their lives. Many students were surprised to know that they are creating a **digital footprint** (positive or negative) through their use of various **social media** sites such as Facebook, Snapchat, and YouTube. Students in grades K-2 were led through a lesson entitled "Stop the Strange" where they were presented with various scenarios and asked to discuss and decide which of those situations were strange and when they should consult with an adult.

More information about Keyboarding Without Tears at <http://go.gstric.org/308-KWT>



Bradford second grade students discuss "strange" online scenarios



Bradford fifth grade students work independently on KWT



Bradford sixth grade students discuss their digital impressions

Just Use Your Common Sense!

PART 2

This article continues our quick look at all of the resources at CommonSense Education, one of our favorites Digital Citizenship sites.

Last month, we focused on the excellent curriculum resources at CommonSense (<http://go.gstric.org/307-dc-curriculum>). Now we will turn our attention to the video resources at CommonSense.



The online safety video shown here, about is an example of the high quality information shared in many of the CommonSense video offerings. In this example, a teacher is speaking about an incident where a student from a different district came to their campus looking for a female student who had left her location services turned on on her mobile device. <http://go.gstric.org/308-video>



The Classroom Video page for Digital Citizenship hosts a lot of videos on a lot of DC topics that are anywhere from 54 seconds long to 10 or 11 minutes.

<http://go.gstric.org/308-dc-video>

For parents, CommonSense has a large collection of movie reviews for current films that have been given ratings for age level and content. <http://go.gstric.org/308-movies>

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Calendar Art Contest!

WE HAD **OVER 100** ENTRIES!



See all of our winners in the next issue.
The calendars will be available in June.

Plagiarism is a Real Concern in Higher Education

Submitted by Kelly White, ELA Teacher
Bush Campus Career and Technical Education

Ten Career and Technical Education alumni recently returned to the Bush Education Center at GST BOCES to offer advice to current students. The discussion was moderated by Allen Orshal, audio media instructor. A wide variety of academic and college life issues were discussed during the two-hour panel. One of the hot topics during this informative session concerned high school versus college writing.

Several students noted that plagiarism is an issue on college campuses. One noted that his roommate freshman year “got busted” for plagiarizing an essay. Another described “mass plagiarism” in one of his classes, “and they all failed.”

One panelist described a roommate who was “lazy and spent all of his time playing Counter Strike and sleeping” while another noted that students in one class were “caught copying exact papers.” However, other plagiarism issues were not so blatant. Some alumni reported some students just didn’t know how to quote correctly or didn’t cite correctly. One panelist “was told I plagiarized my entire paper because of one wrong citation.”

The panelists described consequences ranging from failing the class to being expelled from school or fired from a job, and they urged high schools to clearly explain the consequences and to make it clear that plagiarism will likely be caught. In addition to more instruction on citation, they advocated a strict response to plagiarism. One alum urged educators “Don’t treat plagiarism as a minor issue while saying it’s a major one. Actions speak louder than words.”

“I was told I plagiarized my entire paper because of one wrong citation.”

“Don’t Do It!”

Some advice from
College Students

Several students noted plagiarism checkers like Turnitin can help. They explained the software has helped them recognize similarity in their writing.

A final topic included the panel member’s advice about the dangers of plagiarism. Overwhelmingly, the advice was clear: Don’t do it!

One panelist noted “In college, it’s not a joke. You can be kicked out of not only the class but from school.” Another panelist spoke of the consequences in the workplace saying, “Your co-workers will lose respect for you and you will be fired. Don’t do it.”

April 2020 Digital Citizenship Poster

HOME EDITION

Use Your Digital Citizen Tools to Sharpen Your Skills



● Take Care of Yourself

Listen to the advice to stay home. Practice **social distancing**. Call the doctor if you get sick.

Take time to talk to your family. Take time to **enjoy things** you like to do like reading, writing, and listening to music. Re-connect with friends

Find a balance in your life between technology and simple things.



● Maintain Your Privacy

Stay calm. Keep a cool head. There has been an increase in online and phone scamming recently. **Scammers use fear to trick you** into doing things and rushing you into decisions.

If you start using new sites be hesitant to enter your personally identifiable information until you have checked their **privacy policies**. If you are using them for school work make sure they are **compliant** with ED Law 2-D.



● Get Good Information

Use your detective skills to **weed out fake news**. There has been a lot of fake info about the virus. Make sure your sources are reliable.

Support sites with **good** info by giving them likes and **ratings** that help to promote them.

Re-post and re-tweet good info and positive messages. **Report fake sites** and news to the platforms they are exploiting.



● Use Your Tech Wisely

Even though you may be in quarantine you **do not need to be in isolation**.

Use your phone to call friends, neighbors, and family that you can't visit in person.

You can use platforms like zoom, facebook, and messenger to **meet with groups of people online**. Churches and business groups are already using them.



● Use the Web to Help Others

If you are able the web has lots of sites where you can donate to organizations that are doing good in this nation, and in our local communities. If you aren't in that position you can find groups that will accept donations of things other than money, like volunteer, time or materials. If you can't get out there are lots of support groups and organizations that will let you participate in online forums, chats, and blogs. Put positive messages out there in this time.