



January 8, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As we move into 2021, we wish to update you on a few items.

### **Return to In-Person Hybrid Instruction PreK-12**

As of today, all of our schools have returned to in-person hybrid instruction. We thank all parents, students, and staff for their assistance in helping us reopen to in-person hybrid instruction and meet the requirements for COVID-19 testing while in the state-designated orange zone. We will keep you informed on any changes to the state designation, as well as any COVID-related issues that may arise in our schools.

### **Information for Hybrid Instruction**

We wish to inform or remind all parents/guardians of students on hybrid instruction to please contact the school nurse if your child tests positive for COVID-19 outside of school, is symptomatic, is a direct contact of a positive case, or has travelled outside the state. Please call the school nurse and complete the online health survey to notify the school. The nurse will contact you to assist with information on when and what paperwork is needed for your child to return to school.

Please note that if your child has tested positive within the last 90 days, we will not test your child as part of our state testing requirement of 20%. It is very important that you let us know whether your child has tested positive recently or within the last 90 days.

If your child is absent for another reason, please continue to contact the school as you would in a traditional school year.

### **Information for Remote Instruction**

We will be sending our remote families a questionnaire asking if you would like your child to move to hybrid instruction if feasible. Look for that questionnaire via email next week.

### **Athletics**

Our Varsity and Junior Varsity athletic program is open in accordance with state guidelines. Boys Swimming/Diving and Bowling teams, the winter sports deemed “low risk” by the state, are currently practicing and readying for competition. Winter sports deemed “high risk” by the state can hold open gyms, and we are currently holding these sessions during the week. Unified Varsity Bowling will begin February 1. If your high school student is interested in participating, please register by February 1 at [Horseheads Central School District Athletics | FamilyID](#).

At this time, the state is allowing open gyms for Modified Boys/Girls Basketball and Wrestling only. Coaches are contacting students in grades 7-8 who have registered for these sports with more information on the open gym schedules. If you have a child in grades 7-8 who would like to participate in one of these sports, please be sure to register by January 11 at [Horseheads Central School District Athletics | FamilyID](#).

If you have questions about athletics, please contact the Athletic Department at (607) 739-5601, x4254 or [bconklin@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:bconklin@horseheadsdistrict.com).

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## **Food Services**

The district Food Services Office reminds all families in need that all school meals are served at no charge by way of special funding from the USDA. This includes breakfast and lunch served at school as well as meals delivered home. Every child under 18 is entitled to receive one breakfast and one lunch per day. Additional food items beyond the breakfast and lunch meals in the cafeteria will continue to be available for sale. Questions? Call (607) 739-5601, x3671 or email [dobrian@gstbooces.org](mailto:dobrian@gstbooces.org).

As always, we thank you for your continued support and assistance, and we remind you of the importance of following safety precautions as we weather this pandemic together: avoiding outings and gatherings when possible, wearing masks and maintaining at least six feet of distance, and washing hands thoroughly and often. We will likely see increased numbers of positive cases and direct contacts due to the recent holiday. We will keep our schools open to in-person hybrid instruction as much as possible, but safety remains a top priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Douglas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "D".

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas  
Superintendent of Schools