

# Dr. Thomas J. Douglas Superintendent

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August 7, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the district continues preparing for the start of the new school year, here are some important updates:

#### **Bus Route Information**

Bus stop times for the 2025–2026 school year are now live on the My Ride K-12 Parent App. The district encourages all families to regularly check the app, as stop times may shift slightly as new students are added between now and the start of school.

*Urgent:* If your child isn't registered for busing, no bus stop or time will appear in the app. To secure transportation for the first day, call the Transportation Office at 607-739-6338, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

# Reminder: Early Drop-Off Requests

If your K–4 student needs early drop-off this fall (Sept.–Dec. 2025) due to your work schedule, apply by calling 607-739-6338. Proof of your work schedule is required. Decisions will be made on a rolling basis after the second week of August. All applications must be completed, and materials must be submitted no later than 3:00 p.m. on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Visit the district website to view start and ending times, the application, and a sample employer letter.

### **New Building Traffic Patterns**

Schools will soon send home updated instructions and maps for student drop-off and pick-up expectations. Please follow the building administrators' instructions to help maintain safe and efficient traffic flow for morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups. While the district will make every effort to uphold these procedures, only parents or guardians driving students can truly ensure a smooth and timely daily traffic flow.

#### **Summer Construction Updates**

Construction projects across the district remain on schedule. At the High School, demolition is nearly complete, and work on the new bus entrance is progressing for the start of school. Please review new traffic patterns for the High School and "Ridge Road at center street" once they are released.

The district expects Ridge Road renovations to take the entire next school year. Therefore, as previously communicated, Ridge Road students will remain at Center Street for the full school year. We hope this clarifies any misperceptions.

We appreciate your patience during this heavy construction period. The district will be hosting a fall open house so community members can see their investment in renovating

the entire district. The exact date of the open house is still to be determined (expected date in October). An announcement of the exact date will be made sometime in September. We hope all will come out to explore the district's updated facilities.

## Bell-to-Bell Internet Enabled Device(s) Ban

New York State requires schools to ban the use of internet-enabled devices during the instructional day. Parents, the district will need your assistance in helping students comply with this new state law and avoid potential consequences for violations. Please review the district's policy with your student. Specific district regulations will be available on August 15, with further school-specific information shared by your building principal prior to the start of school as well as throughout the coming months.

We look forward to welcoming students back for the first day of school on Thursday, September 4!

For any questions, please contact your school's Main Office or email us at <a href="https://hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com">hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com</a>.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas Superintendent of Schools

Horseheads Central School District