



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent

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September 11, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We want to sincerely thank you for your patience, cooperation, and support as we launched the 2025–2026 school year. Thanks to the combined efforts of our students, families, and staff, we experienced a wonderful and successful opening.

We recognize that the first day of parent drop-off was congested, with long lines and delays. However, these first few days always bring these challenges that we all work through together. The district saw major improvements each day as students, families, and staff adjusted to new routines. Please know we're still fine-tuning a few areas and appreciate your patience as we continue making improvements this week. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Below are several important updates and reminders as we move forward together.

Transportation Updates

Bus routes are stabilizing, but some adjustments should still be expected as new student registrations are processed. Families are asked to please check the [My Ride K-12 app](#) regularly for the most up-to-date information, as pick-up and drop-off times may shift during the first few weeks while we work through late transportation requests.

Parent Drop-Off and Pick-Up

The district reminds families that parent drop-off and pick-up traffic flow depends heavily on cooperation and patience. Principals provide guidance specific to each building, and it is important that families review and follow these procedures to keep traffic safe and efficient.

For families who find wait times at drop-off or pick-up frustrating, the district strongly encourages the use of bus transportation whenever possible. Riding the bus is one of the safest and most efficient ways for students to travel to and from school, and it greatly reduces congestion around the buildings. If you'd like to consider bus transportation, please contact the Transportation Department at (607) 739-6338 for assistance.

Cell Phone / Internet-Enabled Device Ban

Thank you all for your support and cooperation with the New York State ban on internet-enabled devices during the instructional day. We ask that you continue reminding your student of the importance of following [this policy](#).

Athletics Season Tickets & Passes

Season passes for athletic events are available! Adult passes are \$40, while HCSD students, staff, and senior district residents may attend free with a valid ID. Passes can be purchased at any game or picked up in the High School Main Office. [Click here](#) for more ticket details.

Family Digital Resources Survey

As required by New York State, each district must provide families with a digital resource questionnaire. This survey **will soon be available** in your [Parent Portal](#) account.

- For mobile users, the survey will soon appear the first time you log in to the app.
- A questionnaire must be completed for each child in grades K–12.

Your participation is important in helping us meet this state requirement, and we thank you.

Test Results in Parent Portal

Reminder: Parent score reports for the following NYS assessments administered last year are now available in the [Parent Portal](#). Reports are no longer mailed home.

- Grades 3-8 English Language Arts, Math, and Science assessments
- NYS Alternate Assessment (NYSAA)
- NYS English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT)

To view your student's results:

1. Log in to the [Parent Portal](#)
2. Select the "User Defined" tab
3. From the dropdown, choose "Assessment Reports"

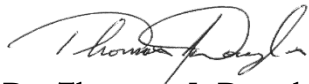
[Click here for step-by-step screenshot instructions.](#)

If you do not yet have a Parent Portal account, [click here to create one](#). If you would like to request a printed copy of your student's score report or have questions, please contact your school office.

We are grateful for your continued cooperation and support of our students and staff as we begin another strong school year together.

Questions? Contact your school's Main Office or email us at hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Douglas".

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools
Horseheads Central School District