



October 14, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As we move through this second month of the school year, we thank you for your continued assistance in keeping our schools safe and open for learning. The district continues to be in regular contact with our local health department. We are monitoring local and regional data and posting district data weekly, usually by Tuesday morning, here: [Covid Update](#).

The latest surge in COVID cases continues in our county, but we are hopeful that we are on the downside of that surge. As the holidays near, we ask that you continue to be vigilant with safety protocols including keeping your child home when ill. For information on protocols for students who are ill and who might need COVID testing, please see the following link on our website: [Covid symptoms and testing](#).

Here are a few other items of information:

### **Food Service and Technology Surveys**

We all hope we never have to move to full remote learning again, but we must prepare to do so in the event circumstances require us to do so. As we did with technology needs, we ask parents and guardians who would need assistance with meals to submit the Meal Survey at the link below by October 28. Again, this is only to prepare in the event we are required to move to remote learning.

<https://forms.office.com/r/HujysRmMDE>

If you would need to request a district device and haven't yet completed the technology survey, please do so here as soon as possible: <https://forms.office.com/r/pfbDcyVpZM>

Additionally, our technology team has developed documents to assist students who are home due to quarantine/isolation. These documents on connecting a district laptop, logging in to Office 365 and itslearning, and others are available in the More Information box on the Health and Safety Guide page on our website at this link: [Horseheads Health and Safety Guide 2021-22](#).

### **Census**

State law requires districts to conduct a census of homes with and without children. We do so by including the census form in our annual notification newsletter, and by sending the form to families. If you have not yet completed the form in the district newsletter mailed to residents last week, please submit the [census form here](#). Once completed, please send the form to [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com).

### **District Newsletter**

The annual notification newsletter includes information and policies that the district is required to share with the community. This is why it is mailed to all residents. You can view the newsletter here: <https://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/uploadedimages/SeptOct2021forweb.pdf>.

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## **Make a Difference Day**

We are unable to hold our traditional Make a Difference Day activities this year, but we still wish to work together to help our community. Each of our schools will be holding a collection event or activity for an area charity October 18-22, and we invite everyone to participate. Here are the schools' plans; some have additional information in the link. If you have questions, please contact the school's main office. Thank you for helping us make a difference!

- Big Flats – [Rescue Pups Animal Shelter](#)
- Center Street – Making Blankets for Local Animal Shelters
- Gardner Road – [Boxed Food Domino Rally](#)
- Ridge Road – [Rescue Pups Animal Shelter](#)
- Intermediate School – [“Socktober” Sock Drive for Area Shelters](#)
- Middle School – Collecting Donations for Trick or Treat for UNICEF
- High School – Making Cards for First Responders

## **Information on District Website ([www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com))**

Links for our school plan and calendar information are below. These pages are updated as needed throughout the school year.

[Health and Safety Guide/Opening of School Plan 2021-22](#)  
[District Calendar](#)

If you have questions, please contact your school's main office, or email [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas  
Superintendent of Schools

