

November 4, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As November begins, we wish to update you on a few items:

Safety Update

As I mentioned in our August update, we are strengthening some of our safety protocols. We now have five school resource officers working in our schools, and we will soon add a sixth officer. This will bring us to one officer in each of our elementary schools and the high school, and a shared officer at our middle/intermediate complex. These officers work together with the district and the Horseheads Village Police Department.

We are also working on a new sign-in protocol system for visitors to our schools. As a result, procedures may be less convenient than in the past, but we want to do all that we can to keep our schools safe. We will share more information on this new system as we move closer to implementation at each of our buildings.

We remind everyone that if there is a safety issue or you hear a rumor, please contact us directly as soon as possible rather than sharing with friends or on social media. Contact your child's school, the district office, or call our **Safe Schools Line at 607-795-2044 or 1-800-305-4984**. We ask that you please provide as much detail as possible. Additionally, so that we may fully investigate issues of concern, we ask that you provide us with your name and phone number when you call. This will help in any investigation that the district and/or law enforcement conduct. The information will be kept as confidential as possible under the law. Sharing your contact information allows the district to respond to you directly for more information and helps to keep all safe.

PreK-6 November Conference Days/Thanksgiving Recess

As a reminder, November 10, 18, and 22 are half days for students in grades PreK-6. These are parent/guardian-teacher conference days. Dismissal for PreK is 10:30am. Dismissal for K-6 is 11am.

If you have a child in grades PreK-6, you should have already heard from your child's teacher to schedule your conference. If not, please contact your child's teacher.

Our Thanksgiving Recess is November 23-25. There will be no school those days. On behalf of everyone in the district, I wish you and your family a happy holiday.

Kids Night Out

Our Wrestling Booster Club is hosting a Kids Night Out event on Friday, November 18 for students in grades K-6. Members of the wrestling team and their parents/guardians will take care of the children, participate in fun activities with them, and provide dinner. This is a fundraiser for the team. Please [click here](#) for more information and the QR code/link to register. The group asks for registration by Wednesday, November 6.

continued

COVID Update

We continue to track COVID data in our schools and community. We are seeing various rises and falls in the data, which I believe is what we can expect going forward. We thank you for continuing to follow the protocols of keeping students home when feeling ill, testing, and letting us know. If you need at-home COVID tests, please contact your school. We will be sending tests home with students prior to the Thanksgiving or Winter Recess.

Opt-In to Text Messaging for Closings/Delays

Winter weather will soon be coming to our area, and this can affect our school days. The district uses text messaging through our auto call system to text parents/guardians about school closings/delays and safety alerts. Parents/guardians must opt-in to receive texts. If you would like to receive a text message when schools are closed or delayed and have not opted in already, text “Y” or “Yes” to 67587. Note that your standard text/data rates apply. Click this link for more information:

<https://horseheadsdistrict.com/releases/Text%20Opt-In%20Flyer%20Parents.pdf>

Employment Opportunities at Horseheads

Our district continues to seek cleaners, teaching assistants, food service helpers, and bus drivers. If you would like to apply for a position, please go to the Employment page on our website at

<https://horseheadsdistrict.com/employment.cfm>.

District Visual Image/Logo Update

We are the Horseheads Blue Raiders. As we continue to update our facilities, our Board of Education will also update the visual image associated with the district. As such, we are developing a school and community process to create an updated image. We will be sharing information on the timeline and process for submittal and selection soon.

If you have questions, please contact your school’s main office or email us at hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Douglas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools