

February 1, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The first of February marks the midway point of the school year, and so I wanted to send a quick update and express our hope that all our students are having a successful school year. Time moves so fast; our secondary students began the spring semester on January 30, and soon many of our elementary classes will be marking the 100th day of the school year.

Snow days/delays

Last week we had our first snow day. It happened to be on a day where the weather did not quite become as severe as forecasted, but there were some difficulties with slush and icing in our outlying areas. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during these situations.

As you may know, we use a variety of methods to communicate closings/delays, on our website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com, on our social media platforms, on local TV and radio stations, in addition to text messaging parents and guardians who have opted in with the cell number we have in Schooltool. We will also begin emailing parents and guardians closing/delay information.

On the morning of this most recent school closing, the text messaging through our autodialer was not functioning properly, and as a result, many parents and staff did not receive the text. We apologize for this. Since the snow day, we have been working with our autodialer company to determine what happened and why, and to rectify the situation so that it does not happen in the future. The company believes they have fixed the issue. To test this:

- We will be sending a test text message to all those who have opted in to texting on Saturday, February 3, in the afternoon. The message will say it is from the district and it is a test.
- If you have opted in to text messaging prior to [whatever day we send this], you should receive this test text.
- If you receive the test text at the appropriate phone number, you need not do anything.
- If you have not yet opted in and would like to receive texts for closings/delays, opt in by texting Y to 67587 on your cell phone. It must be the phone number we have in Schooltool.
- If you have opted in and you do not receive the text on Saturday, please email us at hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.
- Please note that the system texts only parents/guardians who have opted in, not other relatives or contacts.

2024-25 Budget

On February 15, our Board of Education will hold their monthly meeting. At that meeting, we will begin presenting our budget development for the 2024-25 school year. The board will hold additional meetings in the coming months to hear about and discuss the various department budgets. All meetings are open to the public and will be live streamed. Here is the schedule:

- Thursday, February 15 – Regular Meeting, Transportation Dept Training Room, 6pm
- Thursday, February 29 – Budget Workshop, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, March 14 – Regular Meeting, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, March 27 – Budget Workshop, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, April 11 – Budget Meeting (if needed), High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, April 18 – Regular Meeting, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, May 9 – Public Hearing on 2024-25 Budget, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm

continued

Meetings are live streamed (at <http://ideas.gstbooces.org/hhds/>), recorded, and posted to the district website. For more information on the development of the 2024-25 Budget, including links to videos and presentations from board meetings, click here: <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDBudget2024-25.cfm>.

The Budget Vote/Board of Education Election is **Tuesday, May 21, 7am-9pm**, in the High School South Gym.

Census

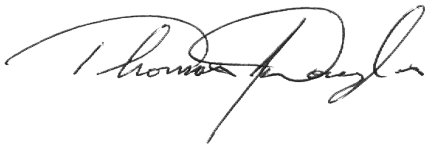
If you have not already submitted your census information, please do so as soon as possible. The form takes just a few minutes to complete and will help us with important demographic information to assist us with redrawing elementary boundary lines, as we prepare to move to three PK-4 schools (Big Flats, Gardner Road, and Ridge Road) in the 2025-26 school year. This census is for all residents of the district, so please submit your information and encourage neighbors to do the same, even if they do not have children in the district. Use this link:

www.Horseheads.fyi/Census or the QR code here:



We hope you and your family are having a great start to 2024. If you have questions about this or other school information, please 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', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools