



April 30, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As we finish our second week of hybrid instruction students in school four days per week, we have welcomed this week our PreK-Grade 6 remote instruction students whose parents/guardians indicated on our March survey that they want to transition to in-person instruction. Those in grades 7-12 with the same parent/guardian request on our survey will start a return process in the coming days/ weeks. We are pleased to have these students in our buildings four days per week as well as work with those who chose to remain remote through the end of the school year. Thank you for your patience, support, and cooperation.

Parents/guardians of students attending in-person, please remember to complete the daily health screening(s) for your child(ren) each day they are scheduled to be in school. If you are having difficulties accessing the required screening or receiving the reminder emails, please contact your school office.

### **Board of Education Candidates Forum**

We will hold a Board of Education Candidates' Forum on Wednesday, May 5, at 6pm in the Horseheads High School Auditorium. Audience members are welcome; safety protocols including mask and physical distancing requirements will be followed. If you would like to submit a question for the candidates to answer, please go to our website and look for the news item that says "Submit a Question for the Candidates' Forum" or go to the Board of Education page. Questions will be accepted until 5pm May 4.

### **Public Budget Hearing**

The public hearing on the 2021-22 Budget is Thursday, May 6, at 6pm in the High School Auditorium. As with the Candidates' Forum, audience members are also welcome at the hearing, with the same safety protocols followed.

Both the Candidates' Forum and the Public Hearing will be live-streamed at <http://ideas.gstbooces.org/hhds/> and videotaped. Videos of the events will be posted to the Board of Education page on the district website: <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/BOE.cfm>.

### **Budget Vote**

The Budget Vote/Board of Education Election is Tuesday, May 18, from 7am to 9pm in the High School South Gym. Information will be mailed to households prior to the vote. For more information, please go to our website at <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/Budget2021-22.cfm>. Please vote May 18. If you have questions, email us at [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com).

### **COVID Data**

The district has revised the COVID-19 data on our website with district weekly transmission rates and distancing status, along with COVID-19 testing data. View the information here: <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/covidupdate.cfm>.

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### **Return to Physical Activity Recommendations**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have recommended that children who have tested positive for COVID-19 be cleared by a health care provider before resuming any activity that requires physical exertion (i.e., physical education, interscholastic sports, extra-curricular activities, community sports/dance programs, etc.). The district is implementing these recommendations for district programs based on safety advice from the district's medical advisor. Those parents/guardians of students currently affected by this recommendation will be hearing from the school nurse with details and assistance. More information is on our district website at <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/ReturntoPlayProtocol.cfm>. If you have questions about the district's protocol, please contact your school's office. If you have questions about your child's ability to resume activities after testing positive for COVID-19, please contact your health care provider.

I know you join me in the sincere hope that we are nearing the end of the pandemic, but we must continue to be vigilant so that we can move forward. While restrictions are being eased across the state and country, the basic safety protocols remain, and we must all continue to follow them so that we can keep our schools in in-person instruction and move to full in-person instruction next school year. We will share more information on planning for summer programs and next school year in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Douglas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "D".

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas  
Superintendent of Schools