



September 30, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We wish to update you on a few operational items in the district:

K-6 Bus Transfers at Dismissal

As mentioned in earlier communications, we continue to analyze our bus transportation process in order to make it more efficient with our increased ridership this year. We thank you for your continued understanding. Beginning Monday, October 4, we will adjust our K-6 bus transfer process at dismissal time, returning to the process we used prior to the pandemic. As a result, afternoon bus runs across the district may be later than usual for the first few days while we work through any needed adjustments.

If you have a student(s) in grades K-6 who will transfer to another bus before arriving at home, you will receive an additional communication from the district. You will not receive an additional message if your K-6 student(s) does not transfer to a different bus, or if you have a student(s) in grades 7-12, but again please note that your child may arrive at home a bit later than usual next week as we make this needed adjustment.

Have you Completed the Loaner Device Form?

We thank everyone who has completed the loaner device form. While we hope that schools are able to remain open to in-person instruction, we must prepare for moving to remote instruction in the event we are required to do so due to increases in COVID infections or other mandated closure. ***If you have not yet completed the form and you would need to borrow a district device for your child(ren), please go to this link and submit the form by October 9:***

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

PreK-4 Cafeterias

We also wish to update PK-4 parents/guardians about cafeterias at Big Flats, Center Street, Gardner Road, and Ridge Road. We have increased the physical distance between students from three feet to six feet in order to minimize potential direct contacts at the elementary levels. We have replaced tables with desks, and some classes will eat lunch in the school's gym while others eat in the cafeteria. We continue to review our protocols and make changes that can increase safety and minimize contacts.

The cafeterias at our Intermediate, Middle, and High schools are presently set up for appropriate distancing of students during lunch, so these spaces will remain the same.

COVID Data

We continue to monitor COVID infection rates in our district and region. We update district data weekly on our website here: <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/covidupdate.cfm>. While the number of cases has been increasing, we are hopeful that data will remain at a level where in-person instruction can continue. You can help us with this goal **by keeping your child home if exhibiting any symptoms of illness** and contacting the school, and continuing best practices of washing hands thoroughly and frequently, limiting outings, and wearing masks where required.

continued

If you have questions about transportation, please contact the department at (607) 739-6338. If you have questions about other items, please contact the school's main office.

Again, we thank you for your continued understanding and your continued vigilance with best practices for managing through the pandemic.

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

