

News

...of the Horseheads Central School District

District-wide capital project continues

High School renovation plan headed to the state for review

Work continues on the \$94.6 million district-wide capital improvement project, approved by voters in October 2017.

Originally called *Horseheads 2030* because last year's pre-kindergartners will graduate in the year 2030, the project is now called *Horseheads 2030: Building Our Future Now*.

At the October 18 Board of Education meeting, representatives from Hunt Architects, Engineers, and Surveyors and Welliver Construction reported to the board on the status of the district-wide capital improvement project.



New architects' rendering of the main entrance at the High School.

Elementary Schools

The initial elementary portion of the project was substantially complete at the beginning of the school year, with other projects expected to be done by the end of the calendar year.

Elementary projects completed this summer included complete roof replacement at Center Street with partial roof replacements at Ridge Road and Big Flats, parking lot replacement at Gardner Road, replacement of the original boiler and heating control upgrades at Ridge Road, replacement of outdated HVAC rooftop units at all four schools, replacement of the playground and installment of a high-impact safety fence at Ridge Road, replacement of asphalt around playgrounds areas at all schools, and replacement of sidewalks at Center Street.

Due to the weather this summer, portions of the roofing projects across the district could not be completed. These will be completed next spring. The district will revisit additional work on elementary buildings in the last phase of the project.



During the summer, the entire parking area at Gardner Road Elementary School was replaced, and traffic patterns were changed to separate bus traffic from car traffic.

District-Wide Technology (DWT)

Asbestos abatement for the district-wide technology project was completed this summer, with construction being done this school year in the elementary schools. This is why many of our elementary school activities and PTO meetings are being held at other locations this year.

The DWT project includes a district-wide phone system upgrade, security video upgrades at the Middle/Intermediate

continued next page

Capital improvement project update, continued

complex, and corridor ceilings and lighting, data closet construction, network data cabling and upgrades, security video improvements, wireless network infrastructure, and a video distribution system to replace cable infrastructure at the elementary schools. Most of this work has already been completed at the High School and Middle/Intermediate schools.

High School

The district has submitted the plan for the High School portion of the project to the state, and has received comments from the pre-screening process and the project's review number, which means it is in the state's queue for review. Some 487 drawings are included in the project plan. The state's pre-screening review resulted in comments on just two of those drawings.

The district is looking for expedited review on this project, hoping to receive approval in time to bid the project out in the winter and construction to begin in April. Completion is anticipated for Summer 2021.

The High School project includes a new main entrance/offices where the current library stands, new library near the current pool, classroom additions and renovations, original boiler replacement, new multi-purpose stadium, cafeteria upgrades, rooftop HVAC replacements, and new parking areas and traffic flow improvements.



New architects' renderings of the cafeteria and library at the High School.

Middle/Intermediate Schools

Design for the Middle School portion of the project is expected to begin in November. This portion of the project includes science, technology, and art room upgrades, physical education space improvements, roof replacements, mechanical system and emergency lighting upgrades, security and exterior door replacements, cafeteria expansion and kitchen upgrades, and parking lot/traffic flow improvements.

Financial

Currently, the total project is under budget, but because the project is still in process, budget numbers may change. If the project remains under budget, the district may choose to implement some additional alternate projects at the High School, such as climate control, additional classroom renovations, additional stadium bleachers, and additional bathroom updates.

For more background on the capital improvement project, [click here.](#)



During the summer, playgrounds were replaced at Ridge Road, and a high-impact safety fence was installed at the corner of Ridge and Wygant roads.

Center Street Veterans Tribute November 2

Center Street's 11th annual Veterans Tribute was November 2. Nearly 100 veterans and active duty military participated, walking through the school with students and staff—dressed in red, white, and blue and waving flags—lining the halls. There were handshakes, high-fives, fist-bumps, and lots of thank-yous. Afterward, they enjoyed listening to the national anthem and a patriotic song sung by the Grade 4 Chorus, followed by speeches from elected officials, conversations, and refreshments provided by the school's Parent Teacher Organization.

Gardner Road and Ridge Road schools are holding tributes November 7 and 8.

Thank you, veterans and active duty military personnel!



Make a Difference Day October 27

The third annual district-wide Make a Difference Day was Saturday, October 27. Several hundred students, family members, and district staff participated in a morning of giving.

While the rain kept us from the outdoor cleanup activities at Big Flats Park, Maple Grove Cemetery, and Teal Park planned for the day, the indoor activities went on as scheduled at our Intermediate School, Jubilee, Minier's, PetSmart, PetCo, Elcor, Bethany, and Appleridge. Students and adults helped with groceries and collected donations for the Food Bank of the Southern Tier Backpack Program; made dog biscuits, braided pet toys, and collected donations for area shelters; paraded in their Halloween costumes and spent time with residents crafting and conversing; and more. Even Zeke, our mascot, visited all the sites.

Thank you to everyone who participated and donated!



A great season for the High School Marching Ensemble

The High School Marching Ensemble, with their program called ‘The Blue Frontier,’ marched their way to second place at the New York State Field Band Championships in Syracuse October 28. Their score of 86.75 tied them with Huntington High School as state runners-up in the competition. Jamestown High School won the state title.

The 124-member Horseheads ensemble had a great competition season, bringing home first place finishes from competitions in Cicero-North Syracuse, Jordan-Elbridge, and Corning in September, and Vestal in October.



“I’m so proud of our ensemble,” said Collin Smith, director and instrumental music teacher. “They worked really hard, played musically and emotionally, and felt good coming off the field so often this year. So many of them improved as musicians, and they made it through some tough weather quite a few times this season.”

For a video of Horseheads’ performance, visit the High School’s Facebook page.



Thank you, Rose Apgar

At the August meeting, the Board of Education honored former board member and graduate Rose Apgar prior to her moving to the Albany area with her family.

Rose was a member of our Board of Education for nearly 20 years, a member of the GST BOCES Board, an advocate for students through Girls’ and Boys’ State, and more.

Thank you, Rose, for all you’ve done for our district and community.

At the August Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Tom Douglas and Board President Pam Strollo present former board member Rose Apgar with a plaque thanking her for her dedication to the district and community.



Learn more about the district...

- Visit www.horseheadsdistrict.com
- Like us on Facebook - the district and our seven schools have pages
- Follow us on Twitter: *HbdsSchools*
- Follow us on Instagram: *hbdschools*



Sisters donate dozens of backpacks to area schools

In September, Gardner Road third-grader Heather and her sister Charlee, a second-grader, held a lemonade stand. They raised nearly \$1,000 and kept none of it for themselves.

Instead, with the help of their mom Jodi, they bought backpacks and school supplies. They put the supplies inside the backpacks and donated them to schools in both the Horseheads and Elmira districts.

They delivered the Horseheads packs to Superintendent Tom Douglas' office the first week of school. What a way to end the week!

We are so grateful to Heather and Charlee for their kindness. As Mr. Patterson said, "thank you, Golden Stars!"



Left to right: Gardner Road Principal Patrick Patterson, Heather, Charlee, and Superintendent Tom Douglas. Heather and Charlee raised money through a lemonade stand and used the funds to purchase school supplies for schools in Horseheads and Elmira.

District named 'Outstanding Clinical Site'



Marcia Dickinson (far left) and Alisha Tenbus (far right), district physical therapists, work with students at Center Street. The two travel to our various schools to assist students with their physical therapy needs. They also work with college students working to become therapists.

The Horseheads district has been selected as an Outstanding Clinical Site by the New York New Jersey Clinical Education Consortium.

Each year, this group selects one clinical education site from the upstate area and one from the downstate area that has excelled in the area of clinical education.

Ithaca College nominated the district for its continued record of providing excellent learning opportunities for their students through internships with our physical therapists Marcia Dickinson and Alisha Tenbus.

We are proud of this distinction, and we thank Marcia and Alisha, not only for their dedication to our students and families, but also for their work in helping area physical therapy students succeed.

Scholar Athlete Team School of Excellence

Last year's athletic teams put in great performances on the field and courts, and also in the classroom. Horseheads High School has been named a Scholar Athlete Team School of Excellence by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

Student-athletes on 25 of our 27 Varsity athletic teams earned averages high enough to qualify for the Scholar Athlete Team distinction in 2017-18.

Congratulations, and well done, student-athletes!



Snapshots

Each month at the High School, students with IEPs and 504 plans attend Transition Tuesday during their lunch period. There they learn about resources, life skills, and more. At the first Transition Tuesday of the year on September 25, the topic was community resources. New York State Assemblyman and Horseheads graduate Chris Friend (at right), Village of Horseheads Mayor Louise McIntosh, School Resource Officer Howard Leipham, and members of the Horseheads Fire/Rescue Department spoke with the students and helped them learn more about our community.



At the October's Transition Tuesday, 2015 graduate Zach Herrington spoke to the students about how he has overcome a learning disability. Zach is currently a design engineer with Hardinge Inc.



In September, High School Science Teacher Noreen Kordziel checked to see what her Living Environment students remembered from previous science classes by asking them to make 'cell-fies.' They created cells with craft materials and then took a selfie or had someone take their photo with their creations. At left is Zhane's cell-fie. Students will revisit their cells when they get to that unit, and they'll have a chance to make corrections and additions to them.



Gardner Road kindergartners hard at work. Far right, Bryson works on letters. Near right, Quil (center) displays the sculpture she made from strips of paper. Jason is at left, and Daniel is to the right.



Snapshots, continued

On October 31, students in Sierra Luongo's Public Speaking class at the High School practiced what they've been learning by reading to pre-k and kindergarten students at Center Street.



On November 1, students in Carolyn Rennie's Creative Writing class at the High School observed Crystal Parks, a teaching assistant and an artist, while she painted. They wrote whatever they thought, saw, heard, felt, etc.—a 'stream of consciousness' activity. Afterwards, the students used what they wrote to write a creative piece. They created poems, vignettes, and narratives.



Explore Empower Excel

On Halloween, Kelly Murray's third-graders at Ridge Road counted pumpkin seeds by twos, fives, or tens. They also learned some fun facts about pumpkins, such as smaller pumpkins usually have more seeds, and the more lines a pumpkin has on the outside, the more seeds it has on the inside.



Snapshots, continued

Fifth-graders on Team Masterminds at the Intermediate School assisted local fire departments by creating presentations for firefighters to use when visiting local elementary schools for Fire Safety Week in October. The students had worked on their presentations since early in the school year, researching fire safety and learning more about how to create a good presentation. Here, Town and Country Fire Department Deputy Chief Sean McNerney meets with students on the team to give them information about their efforts. Thank you, students, and thank you, firefighters!



Intermediate School students and staff have been working with the folks from the GST BOCES Adventure-Based Learning (ABL) program for several years. In October, ABL facilitator Eric Mastroberti worked with grade 5 teams on team-building, problem-solving, and recognizing the importance of skills such as perseverance, learning from mistakes, listening, working together, respect, and more.

At left, students in Stephanie May's class are working in pairs to tie a shoelace in a bow. Here's what makes the task challenging and require some of the important life skills listed above: Each team member can only use one hand.



Center Street is planning to have an extraordinary school year, with students and staff committed to doing at least five kind deeds this year. The school kicked off the program with Varsity football players visiting the school to support students and to read portions of Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed. At left is Billy Roban, and at right is Cade Johnson.

During the first week of school, each student and staff member at Center Street painted a handprint to create a Wall of Kindness signifying their commitment to doing five acts of kindness this year. Left to right, first-graders Rosalie, Je'Leighna, and Skylinn paint their handprints.



Snapshots, continued

Students and staff across the district marked Spirit Day prior to the Homecoming Game in September. In Jillian Mastronardi's pre-kindergarten class at Big Flats, students got a special treat - a horse painted on their arms by artist Jennifer Sekella, who is Mrs. Mastronardi's sister.



Ridge Road held their annual Fun Run in September.

2018 Homecoming Queen Hannah Malloy and King Maurice Rankins, crowned September 29 during halftime of the Homecoming football game. The Blue Raiders won the game versus Corning-Painted Post with a score of 28-21. Freshman Riley Loomis scored all four touchdowns in just his second game on the Varsity team.



Eighth-grade Family and Consumer Science students participated in mock interviews October 25. Prior to the interviews, the students researched a career, learned about the world of work and interviewing, prepared a resume, completed an application. Here, Tom Casey, district manager with Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceutical, interviews Aiden. Tom also visits the FACS classes during their career study to talk about work ethic, interviewing, and more.

Please send us information

If you live in the district and have a young child, share your child's information with us so that we can contact you when your child is eligible for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.

Please send your child's name, birthdate, parent(s)' name(s), address, and phone number to hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Questions? E-mail hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or call 739-5601, x4251.

Reminder to parents...

If you move within the district, we require two proofs of residency when you submit the address change. We accept the following:

- Bank contract or mortgage agreement with name and address showing home purchase
- Signed rent or lease agreement with landlord's name, address, and telephone number, or DSS processed landlord statement
- Most recent utility bill (electric, phone, etc)
- Receipt for gas/electric/phone service
- Driver's license or state ID card with picture showing current district address
- Currently active bank account/checkbook statement with name and address imprinted
- Payroll stub with address

Questions? Call 739-5601, x4251.

To view the district's policies, [click here](#) or ...

- Visit the district's website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com.
- Click on 'Board of Education' from the menu near the top of the page, or [click here](#).
- When the Board of Education site opens, click on 'Board Documents' in the box on the right.
- When the Board Docs site opens, click on 'Policies' at the top right.

Questions? Email hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or call (607) 739-5601, x4201.



**Office of Children
and Family Services**

To report child abuse or neglect,
call **1-800-342-3720** toll free

or go to

ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps

Child Find Notice

Notice is hereby given to all district residents with children between birth and age 21: If your child is disabled or you suspect he/she may be disabled, you may be entitled to special education and related services without cost to you. Please contact the Student Services Office at 739-5601, x4301, to register your child or to obtain further information.

This notice is in compliance with IDEA Child Find requirements, Educational Law 4402 (1) (a).

Visit the district's website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com.

Questions about the district? Email us at hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Events

November 9	Elementary/Intermediate Parent-Teacher Conference Day - No School, grades PreK-6 only (Middle and High schools in regular session); Middle School Marking Period ends; High School Variety Show, 7pm, Auditorium
November 12	Veterans' Day (observed) - No School
November 13	Middle School Report Cards; High School Parent Advisory Council, 9am; Gardner Road Principal Chat/PTO, 5:30/6pm, Intermediate School; Intermediate School PTO, 6:30pm; High School National Honor Society Induction, 7pm, Auditorium
November 14	Ridge Road Picture Make-Ups
November 15	High School Report Cards; Board of Education Meeting, 6pm, Multi-Media Center
November 16	Elementary/Intermediate Half Day for Parent-Teacher Conferences - grades PreK-6 only (Middle and High schools in regular session); Gardner Road Career Day
November 19	Gardner Road Picture Make-Ups
November 20	Big Flats Spelling Bee, 6:30pm, Big Flats Community Center
November 21-23	No School - Thanksgiving Recess

A Night to Remember
at the
Greenroom Players'
Variety
Show

Friday, November 9th, 2018
HHS Auditorium at 7:00

Ticket Price: \$8 for students and seniors
\$10 for adults



View our full website calendar [here](#), or view the calendar on Google [here](#).

Safe Schools Line

To report a concern, rumor, or other safety issue anonymously and confidentially
24 hours a day, call

795-2044 or 1-800-305-4984

Horseheads Central School District
One Raider Lane • Horseheads, NY 14845
(607) 739-5601, x4295

Board of Education: Pamela Strollo, President; Kristine Dale, Vice President; Daniel Christmas; Warren Conklin; Mary Anne Holleran; Doug Johnson; Brian Lynch; Tyler Pribulick, David Sadler; Victoria Feist (student representative)

Superintendent: Dr. Thomas J. Douglas

Contact: Susan Pirozzolo, (607) 739-5601, x4295, supirozz@horseheadsdistrict.com



The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Megan Collins, Title IX/DASA Coordinator and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kim Williams, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.