



Big Flats News

October 2023

*At Big Flats Elementary,
we will SOAR together
as we explore our "wonders"
in a fun and engaging
community, where we will
inspire each other to achieve
anything!*

Elementary Lunches (K-6)

School Food Services prices for the
2023-2024 school year will be:

Breakfast: Free

Lunch: Free

School Hours

Hours for the Elementary Schools are:
8:00 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

Office Hours

Our school office hours during regular
school days are:

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Office Phone Numbers

(607) 739-6373

(607) 795-2550

Fax: (607) 795-2555



Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that it is October already! We had a wonderful start to what we all hope will be an amazing school year for our Big Flats Falcons! I'd like to thank all the parents and guardians who attended our annual September Open House. It was another successful night for our students, families, and teachers.

Yesterday, we completed our annual off-site evacuation drill to both our primary and secondary off-site locations. Our students and staff did an amazing job at following all our emergency processes and procedures, should we ever need to evacuate our school and campus. Next Friday, October 13th, 2023, we will be practicing our annual Emergency Go Home Drill. This drill is an annual regional drill that we complete each October, in case we have an emergency closure, and ALL students need to be bussed to their emergency go home location. Please remember on an emergency closure day, there are no parent pickups. All students will be bussed home. This is a very important drill for ALL students to participate in, as many of our students are either dropped off or picked up from school and do not know their assigned emergency bus. This drill allows ALL students to know their emergency go home bus, as well as knowing the bus driver and other students who will be on their emergency bus.

October is Bullying Prevention Month. Every September I begin each school year with holding Town Meetings for all students. We discuss student expectations, as well as our school's zero tolerance rule and the differences between a conflict and bullying. On October 18th I have asked all students and staff to wear orange as we stand up and speak out against bullying. Please take a moment to talk to your child(ren) and reinforce what I spoke to them about back in September that if at any time they believe they are being bullied to please tell an adult immediately. Your support is greatly appreciated. Together we can prevent bullying and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all of our students.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Saptura

Elizabeth M. Saptura
Principal, Big Flats Elementary

Horseheads Central School District sets the standard of educational excellence by fostering innovative thinking, curiosity, and a passion for learning to maximize the potential of each individual. We engage with our local and global communities to provide a student-centered, nurturing environment.

Explore

Empower

Excel

FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

- **Changes in Going Home Routine/Bus Notes**

Please remember to write a 'blue note' with your child's change in dismissal plans if he/she will not be following their normal routine. Blue notes should also be written to explain your child's tardiness, absence, or plan to leave early. This is extremely important for the safety of our students.

- **Half Days for Elementary Schools**

There will be no lunch and no Kid's World provided on half days at elementary schools. Dismissal will be at 10:30am for Pre-K and 11:00am for K-4. Please send a blue note on these days with dismissal plans for your student if he/she usually attends Kid's World.

- **Please Always Park in the Parking Lot**

When visiting the school, either with a late student/early pick up, dropping something off, attending a meeting, etc., please always park in the parking lot and not the bus lane. All visitors must report to the office, and the office will further assist you.

Big Flats continues to implement the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) model with our school community. PBIS is an evidence-based framework that supports students' behavioral, academic, social-emotional, and mental health needs. Not only does PBIS improve competence in the areas mentioned above, but also provides a shared vision for a positive school social culture for staff and students. As the school year progresses, we hope you might hear your child(ren) share with you our Big Flats Core 4 to SOAR, a collaboration of expectations created by students and staff to foster a positive school climate for all. These four expectations serve as a foundation for positive and proactive support to empower and make students and staff feel safe, valued, and welcome. We appreciate your continued support in helping us soar together!

The Big Flats Core 4 to SOAR



School and Emergency Closings

School closings/delays due to inclement weather will be announced via various media outlets such as WNKI, WPGI, Magic FM, and WELM radio stations, and WENY, WETM, and Time Warner Cable News on TV. **You may also opt in to our text messaging services through SchoolMessenger by texting Yes to 67587.** In the event of an emergency during the school day, all students will be taken by bus to the address previously identified by parents on the "Emergency Go Home" form that was completed at the beginning of the school year. As a reminder, this location MUST be on one of the Big Flats Elementary bus routes.

Snow Days Impact our Schedule

When a snow day occurs and all schools in the District are closed, it changes our six-day schedule. The next day that school is in session is the cycle day that the snow day would have been.

ATTENTION PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF 3RD AND 4TH GRADERS

To provide schools and parents with an assessment of student achievement, New York State has developed the New York State Testing Program. These standardized tests challenge all students in grades 3 through 8 to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. Please visit the site at <https://www.engageny.org/parent-and-family-resources>. If you are interested in viewing this site but do not have access to the Internet, please call the school office so that we can make arrangements for you to see this guide.

3rd and 4th grade Computer Based ELA—April 4, 2024 and April 11, 2024 3rd and 4th grade Computer Based Math—May 5, 2024 and May 8, 2024

Mark Your Calendars

Oct 3

PTO Meeting 6pm

OCT 5

PTO Fall Festival 5:30-7:00pm

Oct 9

No School

Indigenous People's Day

Oct 17

Fall Picture Day

Learning in a Digital World
Presentation 6:00pm HS Auditorium

Oct 18

Unity Day- Wear Orange

Oct 20

NO SCHOOL

Conference Day

October 31

Halloween Parade 1:15-1:25pm

Unity Day

Unity Day is Wednesday, October 18. Wear and share **ORANGE** to send a visible message that no child should ever experience bullying. This event is to prevent childhood bullying and promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.



Halloween Parade

This year's parade will be on Tuesday, October 31st and will begin punctually at 1:15pm and conclude at 1:30pm. Please note that students are **not** to come to school in costume—this includes make-up and colored hair. All costumes must be non-threatening, and no toy weapons are allowed. Visitors are NOT allowed to wear costumes, and only pre-approved parent-helpers will be allowed into the building to assist teachers with costumes. The parade will be held outside. In the event of rain, the parade will be canceled and will not be rescheduled. To ensure the safety of our students, we ask that all visitors please remain behind the yellow caution tape while watching the parade.



Health Office Request

We are in need of both girl's and boy's 4T, 5T, 6 and 6X gently used clothing. You can send or drop-off donated clothing at your convenience. If your child has been sent home wearing clothing from the health office, please return it to the nurse.



Guidelines for Classroom Parties

Before bringing treats for birthdays and such, please check with your child's teacher for approval and to see if any students in the class have any food allergies, such as peanuts, chocolate, red dye, etc. All treats must be store bought. **No flowers or balloons may be sent or brought to students. Please do not bring frozen items as there is limited freezer space and access.**

Picture Day

Remember to dress your best
for Fall picture day on
October 17th!

Learning in a Digital World Presentation

All Horseheads parents and guardians are invited to attend "Learning in a Digital World" at the Horseheads High School Auditorium on Tuesday, October 17th at 6PM. This is a forum for parents and guardians about how the district works to keep our schools cybersafe and our students cyberaware.



Learn Up-To-Date Information

About Our Schools and the District

Facebook: The district and each of our seven schools have pages. "Like" them to see our information in your news feed.

Twitter: Follow us on Twitter at

@HhdsSchools to read our tweets.

Follow Mrs. Scaptura on Twitter at

@escaptura1

Instagram: The district's page—**hhdsschools**

Visit our district website at:

www.horseheadsdistrict.com.

Questions about our website or social media?

E-mail **hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com**



**SAFE
SCHOOLS
LINE**

795-2044 or

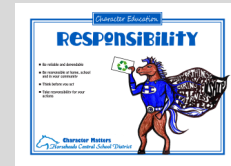
1-800-305-4984

Report a concern, rumor, bullying incident, or any safety issue anonymously and confidentially, **24 hours a day**.

October—The month of:

Responsibility

- *Plan ahead*
- *Be diligent*
- *Persevere*
- *Do your best*
- *Do what you are supposed to do*
- *Think before you act*
- *Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes*
- *Set a good example for others*



Dignity Act Coordinator

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Big Flats Elementary is Elizabeth Scaptura. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Mrs. Scaptura at (607)-739-6373. The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Central School District is Caitlin DeFilippo, director of Human Resources. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Caitlin DeFilippo at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845;

Non-Discrimination Notification

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 Caitlin DeFilippo, Title IX/DASA Coordinator, and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

This policy of non-discrimination includes access by students to educational programs, counseling services, course offerings, and activities, as well as recruitment and appointment of employees and employment pay, benefits, advancement and/or termination.



Horseheads Central School District

Learning in a Digital World

A forum for parents and guardians about how the district works
to keep our schools cybersafe and our students cyberaware

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Horseheads High School Auditorium

Keynote Speaker

Joe Cicero, MS, MBA

Security, Compliance, and Management, Microsoft Security

*Learn more about Joe Cicero on
his LinkedIn page at this QR code:*



All Horseheads parents and guardians are welcome



NYS Digital Resources Family Questionnaire

SchoolTool Parent Portal Instructions

Dear Horseheads Central School District Parents and Guardians:

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) requires that districts send a digital resources questionnaire to parents and guardians. This information is meant to assist the state and districts in providing resources to students and families. NYSED asks that you complete a questionnaire for each student in grades K-12 in your family. You can access the questionnaire by logging in to the Parent Portal at <http://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads> and following the instructions below. If you do not yet have a Parent Portal account, you can request one using this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/zmB1NAWB8u>. If you have questions, please contact your school office. Thank you.

Annotations:

- Click on student's name.** (Points to Oscar Anders in the student list)
- Click on User Defined tab.** (Points to the USER DEFINED tab in the bottom navigation bar)

Mobile App Instructions:

If using the mobile app (<http://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads>): After logging in, tap FORMS at the top of the screen.

- From drop-down menu, select NYS Digital Resources Family Questionnaire.
- Click on the green plus icon to open the survey.

- Leave Start Date set to current date.
- Select appropriate response from drop-down menu next to each question.
- Click on the green save disk to save and submit your responses.
- Return to Home Screen, complete Survey for all students in the household.

Student

NYS Digital Resources Family Questionnaire [Save] [Cancel] [Help]

Start Date: 9/27/2022 [Calendar] End Date: 9/27/2022 [Calendar]

Collecting accurate data regarding digital resource access for our New York students will greatly help educators to better serve their students and families. In order to accomplish this, the New York State Education Department is asking parents or guardians to complete a Digital Equity survey (for each student in the family) in grades Kindergarten – Grade 12. This survey will provide information on student access to devices and internet access in their places of residence. To assist us in this process, please answer each question below to the best of your ability and follow any additional instructions provided for submitting or returning the survey.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

NOTE: You must answer at least one question for this survey to be valid.

Did the school district issue your child a dedicated school or district-owned device for their use during the school year?:
None

What is the device your child uses most often to complete learning activities away from school? (This can be a school-provided device or another device, whichever the student is most often using to complete their schoolwork.)
None

Who is the provider of the primary learning device identified in Question 2? (This can be a school-provided device or another device, whichever the student is most often using to complete their schoolwork.):
None

Is the primary learning device (identified in Question 2) shared with anyone else in the household?:
None

Is the primary learning device (identified in Question 2) sufficient for your child to fully participate in all learning activities away from school?:
None

Is your child able to access the internet in their primary place of residence?:
None

What is the primary type of internet service used in your child's primary place of residence?:
None

In their primary residence, can your child complete the full range of learning activities, including video streaming and assignment upload, without interruptions caused by slow or poor internet performance?:
None

What, if any, is the primary barrier to having sufficient and reliable internet access in your child's primary place of residence?:
None

Swimming Lessons **Grades K-6**

- **Three sessions throughout the school year**
- **\$30 for each session - pay by cash or check**
(payable to Horseheads Central School District)
- **Register for Session 1 by October 14 at**
<https://forms.office.com/r/CsqVR27vwP> or
this QR code:



Register today!

Dates for Lessons:

Session #1: October 28, November 4, November 18, December 2, December 9, December 16, January 6, January 13

Session #2: January 20, January 27, February 3, February 10, February 17, March 2, March 16, March 23

Session #3: April 13, April 20, April 27, May 4, May 11, May 18, June 1, June 8



October 2023

Big Flats
Elementary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 PTO Mtg 6pm	4	5 PTO Fall Festival 5:30—7:00 PM	6	7
8	9 NO SCHOOL— Indigenous People's Day	10	11	12	13 Early Go Home Drill	14
15	16	17 Fall Picture Day Living in a Digital World Presentation	18 *UNITY DAY* Wear Orange	19	20 NO SCHOOL— Conference Day	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween Parade 1:15-1:25 PM				

Character Trait of the Month
Responsibility

- Plan ahead
- Be diligent
- Persevere
- Set a good example for others
- Do what you are supposed to do
- Do your best
- Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes
- Think before you act