

The School Connection



Horseheads Intermediate School

Principal's Post

In a few more weeks, spring will be upon us. I think the students are ready for the nicer weather to stay so they can get outside more to burn off the winter cabin fever! Hopefully March will cooperate with those wishes.

We had some great events throughout the month of February at the Intermediate School. The Variety Show was a huge hit among IS students. There were many talents displayed that evening including singing, dancing, instrument performances, gymnastics, and more. Thanks to all of the parent volunteers who made this possible. Check out page 2 for more information about STEM Night!

Attention fifth grade parents! Please be sure to read page 6 regarding the NYS school immunization regulations. All 6th grade students will need to receive **2 doses** of the Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccination along with the Tdap vaccine. The laws are very strict, and we cannot allow students to come to school after the 10th day of school without these immunizations.

As many of you know, the 2019-2020 school budget talks are in full swing. Horseheads School District is always focused on building a fiscally responsible budget while trying to provide the best learning opportunities for students. I encourage you all to be involved in the process and stay informed by checking out the [HCSD website](#). There will also be a Community Budget Workshop next Thursday at 6pm at the Multi Media Center.

The NYS ELA and Math Tests are quickly approaching (see page 4). Please visit the Intermediate School Webpage link called [Parent Resources](#) to see how you can help support your child with the common core curriculum.

Thanks for your continued support of your child and our school. I encourage you to stay in close communication with the teachers and Parent Portal for academic information. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact our office. Every once in a while I will include a parent article. Check out the link on the right hand side of this page about bringing out the genius in every child!

Yours in education,

Michael Bostwick
Principal

Follow me on Twitter: Michael Bostwick@[M_Bostwick](#)
School Hashtag: [#ISinnovators](#)
Like us on Facebook: Search Horseheads Intermediate School
Website: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHIS.cfm>

The research is overwhelmingly clear: *When parents play a positive role in their child's education, students perform higher in school.*

March 2019
Volume 7 Issue 7

Inside this issue:

Principal's Post	1
Calendar	2
Dates	
Informational	2
PTO, Bonus Cards, Parent Portal	3
NYS Tests	4
2019-0 Budget Development Calendar	4
Attendance Matters	5
Health Office	6
Classifieds	7

Parent Article

ATTENTION!
[Parent Resources](#)
on IS website.

"Horseheads School District is always focused on building a fiscally responsible budget while trying to provide the best learning opportunities for students."

Mark Your Calendars!

Thursday, March 7th:	Board of Education Budget Workshop, Multi-Media Center, 6:00 PM
Tuesday, March 12th:	IS PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM, IS Library
Friday, March 15th:	NO SCHOOL – SUPERINTENDENT’S CONFERENCE DAY
Monday, March 18th:	Middle School Parent Orientation for Grade 6, MS Café, 6:00 PM
Wednesday, March 20th:	Board of Education Meeting, Multi-Media Center, 6:00 PM
Friday, March 22nd:	STEM Night, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Monday, March 25th:	Gr. 4 Presentation/Open House, MS Café, 6:00 PM

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. It is that time of the year again to replenish your child’s school supplies such as pencils and paper. Some items available include pencils, pens, mechanical pencils, highlighters, glue sticks and notebook paper.
2. The Food Service Department is looking for your feedback in a brief survey. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts. [Click here.](#)
3. Join us in the fun of exploring STEM with demonstrations and hands-on experiments! Code robots, play the giant chess game, Rubik’s cube competition, learn about animals, explore scientific concepts, fill a cavity, and much more! Try to save your egg from its big fall in the Egg Drop Contest! March 22nd from 6:30-8:30pm. Other upcoming events:
April ~ Grade 6 Teams will visit the Middle School for an Orientation Program during the school day.
April - May ~ Mr. Bostwick and Mrs. Doubrava will visit fourth grade students at each elementary school for an Orientation Program during the school day.
4. The 6th Grade Celebration will be on Monday, June 24th. More information will be coming out in the months to come about how you can help out.
5. Letters will be sent home on Friday, March 1st, regarding the Maturation Unit. If you have any questions or did not receive the letter, please contact the Main Office. The form should be returned *only if you do not want* your child to participate in this health unit.
6. Afternoon Pick-Up: Afternoon recess ends at 2:20 PM for many classes. Our upper parking lot is used during recess for basketball and other games. This is especially important with snow and mud. Parents should not arrive before 2:20 PM to pick up students for dismissal. If you arrive early, please park in the row farthest away from the basketball hoops facing the main parking lot.
7. We encourage students to bring sneakers to school every day. Sneakers are required for Physical Education class. Boots and dress shoes are not appropriate for Physical Education classes. Additionally, appropriate clothing should be worn for recess and KIA outdoors.



Four years ago we launched a Makerspace in the Intermediate School. A Makerspace is a place for students to tap their creativity and innovation by investigating/making things they are passionate about. Students have been working on making challenges, electrical circuits, tech devices such as Makey Makey/Little Bits/Ozobots, and we even have a take apart station where students can deconstruct electrical devices to see how they work. Be sure to follow our school hashtag to see all of the great happenings at the IS! [#ISinnovators](#)

ATTENTION PARENTS!!!

We are always looking for interested parents who would like to help out with school events. That could be as simple as chaperoning an event or working at the Book Fair. Everyone is also welcome to join our PTO meetings listed on the district calendar. **Please contact the school or one of the officers if interested.** We appreciate your support and value the partnership!

Intermediate School PTO Officers (2018-2019)

President:	Gretchen Ferraro	gferraro2010@gmail.com	425-2603
VP:	Angela Sullivan	Aksullivan624@gmail.com	518-708-4288
Treasurer:	Brandon Johnson	brjohnso@horseheadsdistrict.com	358-4117
Secretary:	Christina Staight	Cstaight@aol.com	426-8597



PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR SIXTH GRADE

The Intermediate School will soon be completing 2019-2020 classroom placements for students. We create class sections with the intent to achieve a mix of students by ability, gender, personality, and individual special needs. While we are unable to honor specific requests for teachers, we value your input from a parent's perspective. If you have specific information about your child's needs which should be taken into consideration or a specific previous personal experience, please ***put them in writing and send them to the Intermediate School by Friday, April 5th***. We look forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic success!

Parent Portal

Web address: <https://schooltool.horseheadsdistrict.com>

Parent Portal allows instant access to your child's grades and progress. Try to make it part of your homework routine at least once a week to allow them to look at their grades with you. Below are a couple of helpful tabs to help you navigate through your child's grades & assignments.

The Assignment tab allows you to see your child's assignments in all subject areas. Use the Courses drop down box to sort the assignments by subject.

If you are having trouble logging in to your parent portal account or have forgotten your login/password information, please contact <mailto:hcsdportalinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com>

NYS ELA and Math Tests

The ELA State Test will be given on April 3rd – 4th. The Math State Test will be given on May 1st – 2nd. **State tests have been reduced from 3 days down to 2.** These tests help us determine how each student is performing with specific skills in both ELA and Math toward the standards' expectations. They also help us to know who needs extra help (Academic Intervention Services or AIS) for the following school year in each of these areas. **Please note that a refusal of the State Tests does not mean students will be exempt from AIS if they qualify.**

**We explain to students that the tests are important and to try their best. However, we don't want to burden our students with stress and anxiety. Thanks for your help with this!*

Test Taking Tips For Parents

1. Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before a test and has a nutritious breakfast in the morning.
2. Maintain a pleasant home environment and avoid unnecessary conflicts. Try to make the morning of the test a pleasant one.
3. Make sure your child has taken any needed medication.
4. Ensure that your child is present during testing (children generally perform better when taking tests with their class, rather than at a make-up time).
5. Get your child to school on time the day of the test.
6. Wish your child good luck each morning of the test. Tell your child that you believe in him/her.
7. Remind your child the test is important, but don't put too much emphasis on them that would create stress or anxiety.
8. Encourage him/her to do their best.
9. Remind your child to listen carefully to the instructions from the teacher, and to read the directions and each question carefully.
10. Explain to your child the importance of using time wisely. If your child gets stuck on a question, encourage him or her to make the best guess and move on.
11. Tell your child to attempt to answer all of the questions and not to leave any blank.
12. Encourage your child to stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

The Board of Education and District administration are currently developing the 2019-20 Proposed School Budget. The first of three Board Budget Workshops was held February 7th. Both the presentation and a video of the presentation, as well as Budget and Vote Information, are available on our District website.

The remaining workshops are March 7th and April 4th, both at 6:00 PM in the High School Multi-Media Center located in the South Wing. The workshops are open to the public.

A Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget will be Thursday, May 9th, at 6:00 PM in the High School Multi-Media Center.

The Budget Vote/Board Election is Tuesday, May 21st, 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. in the High School South Gym.

INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION?

Voters will elect three members to the Board of Education on May 21st. If you're interested in running for the Board, petitions and other information will be available in the Business Office beginning March 11th. Interested residents must submit petitions with the appropriate number of signatures of qualified district residents to the Business Office by April 22nd.

Questions? Email hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or call (607) 739-5601, x4260.



Clearly going to school regularly matters!

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and become discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your child keeps a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your child goes to school every day unless they are truly sick (i.e. stomach bug or fever)
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or friend to take your child to school.

As an added incentive, the Intermediate School is encouraging students to come to school as they "Pop Toward Super Attendance." Classes will work toward spelling "We Are Super Awesome Innovators" to earn a popcorn party for achieving up to 97% class attendance.

Please let us know how we can best support you and your child so that he/she can show up for school on time every day. If you are struggling in any way to get your child to school, please contact us so we can work together to solve the problem. We want your child to be successful in school!





NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE
PLEASE READ THIS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Dear **Fifth Grade** Parents/Guardians:

All 6th grade students need to receive 2 doses of the Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccination along with the Tdap vaccine. The laws are very strict, and we cannot allow students to come to school after the first 10 days of school without these immunizations.

Your child may get the required immunization through your health care provider, Five Star Urgent or Walk-In Clinics or through the Chemung County Health Department, at (607)737-2028, appointment, only if qualified.

You must provide proof that your child has received the Tdap immunization in order for your child to attend school in the fall. Your health care provider or health department will provide you with this written proof once your child receives the immunization. Please bring this proof to our Health Office or fax it to us at 795-2495. Information must be received by Tuesday, September 17, 2019. **No appointment cards will be accepted.**

Please note: 10-year-old students who are entering 6th grade will not be required to receive the Tdap vaccine at this time and will not be excluded from school, but will be tracked and must be immunized upon turning 11 years old.

If you have further questions, please contact the health office at 739-6366 (Option 2). Thank you for your cooperation.



HEALTH CORNER



It is that time of the year again to remember good health practices. Please keep your child home if he/she has had a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, vomiting or diarrhea in the past two hours. Because there is no known cure for the common cold, prevention is the key to keeping colds away. Most of the time you acquire a cold virus by touching your eyes, nose or mouth with an object that has the cold virus on it.

Therefore, to help avoid catching a cold:

- Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with warm soapy water.
- Sneeze into a tissue, rather than your hands, then discard the tissue
- Don't touch your face—your hands may have come in contact with a cold virus!
- Drink 8 glasses of water daily.
- Get plenty of rest—up to 12 hours a night!!

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

The Horseheads Central School District is looking for interested individuals for several job positions: **cleaner, bus driver, food service worker, as well as substitute clerical, nurse, cleaner, and food service worker.** We seek candidates who are 18 or older, including retired community members. [Click here](#) for the application or stop in to Human Resources. Questions? Email us at hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com

NEED FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

The District needs certified teachers for day-to-day substituting opportunities in all of our schools. Certified substitutes receive a rate of \$105 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at 739-5601 x 4211.

Attention! PRINCIPAL CHATS

October 9th, January 8th, and **April 9th**
9:00 AM in the Cafeteria
6:00 – 6:30 PM
in the Library



Pull for the
House.



Many Hearts. One Home.

Keep hoarding pull tabs! So far we have collected far less than usual. **Get others involved** – ask your friends, neighbors, and family members to collect!

Pull tabs can be brought to the office.

CHARACTER TRAIT AND HABIT OF MIND' OF THE MONTH

Character Trait: **Respect**

- Having Respect for someone means you think good things about who a person is or how he/she acts. You can have respect for others, and you can have respect for yourself.
- Showing Respect to someone means you act in a way that shows you care about their feelings and well-being.
- Showing Respect for others include things like not calling people mean names, treating people with courtesy, caring enough about yourself that you don't do things you know can hurt you.

The Habit of Mind:

Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations

These are some situations you would use Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations:

- When I learned about swimming and life-saving, I used my knowledge to save someone who was choking.
- After I finished studying about the environment, and how harmful a single piece of litter can be, I began cleaning up garbage whenever I saw some, and I always put garbage in a bin.
- Learning how to add, subtract, multiply and divide helped me when I was shopping or saving up for a special item.



Michael Bostwick is the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Coordinator at the Intermediate School, Caitlin DeFilippo is the DASA Coordinator for the district. All concerns regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying should be directed accordingly.

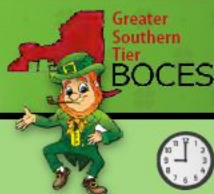
The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable 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.



Digital Citizen News - March 2019

Volume 2 : Issue 7 - March 2019

Have a Great Month!



TIME FOR A REALITY CHECK-UP?

IT'S MARCH - DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR STUDENTS/CHILDREN ARE DOING ONLINE?

This month we highlight what is happening with Digital Citizenship in another of our local school districts. See the feature on page 2.

IF YOU HAVE SOME INTERESTING DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP ACTIVITIES HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT LET US KNOW ABOUT IT. SEND US AN EMAIL at dc@gstbooces.org

This issue we also take another look at Digital Equity and making sure all students have the same opportunities with technology devices and learning.

Check out this month's printable poster with a picture of a great digital citizen on it!

The main objective of the GST Digital Citizenship Initiative is to raise awareness of Digital Citizen topics and techniques among the teachers, students, and parents in GST BOCES' 21 Component School Districts.

For more information and materials about Digital Citizenship visit our website at <http://dc.gstbooces.org>.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Filter a website, and you protect a student for a day. Educate students about online safety in the real world environment, and you protect your child for a lifetime."*

Christopher Harris @ifthenchris
Coordinator, School Library System
Genesee Valley BOCES

This quote from a fellow New York State educator makes a solid point. It appears at first to just be a variation on the old "Give a man a fish..." axiom, but it does clearly state the value of giving students the knowledge that they need to be successful, and educating them to live morally and ethically in the ever encroaching online world.

Today's children will live in a world where they are required to live, work, communicate, and socialize online. We need to help them build frameworks and standards for themselves that will allow them to protect their identities and personal data to assure success in their futures. They will also need to develop ways to shield themselves from influences like fake news and information sources that have negative biases.

Technologies do exist for filtering and blocking websites, social media, and instant messaging but they can't catch everything. New sites pop up every day, and ways are developed to get around blocking and filtering apps. Some students see the fact that they are being filtered as an incentive to try to access the blocked, forbidden content. The challenge to beat the technology makes them try harder, and when exploits are discovered they spread rapidly among student populations.

A few more thoughts about Internet Filtering

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), enacted in 2001, stipulates that schools and libraries must block or filter Internet images that may be harmful to minors. Schools regulated by CIPA must also adopt policies to monitor minors' activities online.

A 2003 study by the Electronic Frontier Foundation and the Online Policy Group found that even schools that use minimal Internet blocking and filtering software block tens of thousands of websites without harmful content. This over-blocking limits Internet access for students and teachers.

More on filtering at <http://go.gstric.org/207-filter>



Sign Up to receive this newsletter in your email inbox

Scan this QR code with your phone, or go to <http://go.gstbooces.org/dncwv-signup> in your browser.

Send comments, suggestions, and questions to dc@gstbooces.org
Visit <http://dc.gstbooces.org>

March 2019 - page 1 of 3



HENDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Family, School, Community: Together We Succeed

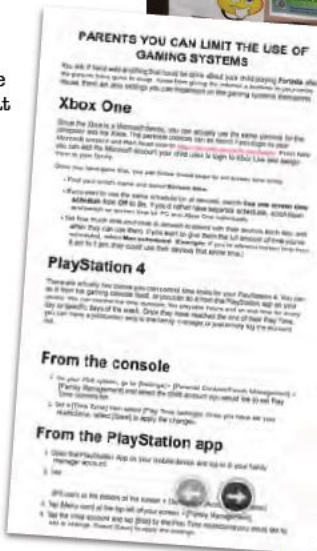


There are lots of great things going on at Hendy Elementary School in Elmira. We caught up with Hendy's Tech TA, Mary Fran Troccla, who shared with us some of the things Hendy students are learning about Digital Citizenship.

The top two images show some of the posters around the computer lab that teach students about digital citizenship. To the right are two more images captured from a short video that some students made.

The first part of the video is about some students who send an unflattering picture of a student with the word ugly on it to everyone in class, and the aftermath of that action. The second part of the video shows some positive visual messages about avoiding bullying and cyberbullying. One other item that Mary Fran shared was a document that was sent home to parents who were concerned about how much time their children were spending on video games.

Thanks to Hendy School in Elmira and Mary Fran for sharing this info with us!



Let's make
HENDY

**BULLY
FREE
ZONE**



Social Media Information

Social Media sites are very pervasive on the Internet, and it seems that every news story or advertisement on TV invites you to like them on _____ (insert your favorite social media name here).

Parents know that their children and their friends are connected almost constantly through these sites every day. But what kind of social media use is appropriate at what age?, and how much time each day should be allowed? - those are important questions that parents struggle with.

Here are some links to good information for parents trying to deal with social media use with their kids.

From KidsHealth.org - Teaching Kids to Be Smart About Social Media - <http://go.gstric.org/207-smart>

From PsychologyToday.com - Why Social Media is Not Smart for Middle School Kids <http://go.gstric.org/207-notsmart>

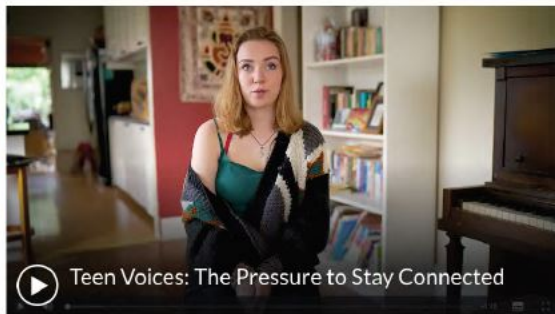
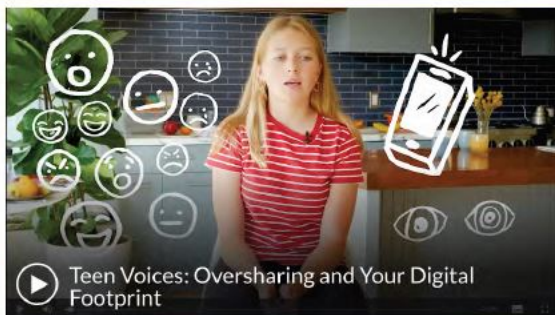
APPROPRIATE USES OF SOCIAL MEDIA

"You are the key to your safety!"



EXPLORE THIS SMORE NEWSLETTER ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA <http://go.gstric.org/207-smore>

COMMON SENSE MEDIA



The Video Library at Common Sense Media has a lot of great, short videos that can be used in the classroom or at home by interested teachers or parents. They make great lead-ins to discussion of lots of Digital Citizenship topics - visit the site using this link. <http://go.gstric.org/207-commonvideo>



MARCH 2019 Digital Citizenship Poster - Color it in and put it on a mirror.

