



Big Flats News

January 2026

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!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message reaches you and your family in good health and ready to embrace the opportunities of the new year. As we embark on this journey, please take note of the following important reminders:

- In the next couple weeks, we will initiate our Winter AIMSWEB benchmarking for all K-4 students in math and reading. This screening ensures that each student is making satisfactory progress in these subjects and is designed to help all students stay on track to achieve their end-of-year benchmark targets.
- Wednesday, January 7th, 2026, will be "Hats Off to a New Year" spirit day! Encourage your student to wear a fun and appropriate hat to mark the occasion.
- Within the next week, we will conduct our second of four lockdown drills for the school year. I will announce to all staff and students that this is just a drill.
- Please note that there will be no school on Monday, January 19th, 2026, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Report cards for our K-4 students will be distributed on Wednesday, January 28th, 2026.
- Our morning K-4 parent drop-off begins promptly at 8:20 A.M. We encourage all families to drop off their children by 8:35 A.M. This allows students time to eat breakfast and enjoy some downtime before classes begin. Parents are kindly asked to pull up to the stop sign for drop-off to keep the line flowing smoothly. We conclude drop-off line at 8:35AM.
- Dismissal for K-4 students starts at 3:20 P.M. We ask that parents arrive no earlier than 3:10 P.M. for pick-up, as Pre-K students are dismissed from 2:30 to 2:40 P.M. Early arrivals for K-4 can disrupt the pick-up process for our Pre-K students.
- Please remember to use the family-provided name tents daily, as this system replaces signatures. Having your name tent visible helps ensure student safety and streamlines the dismissal process. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.
- As winter weather approaches the Southern Tier, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the conditions, including a coat, hat, boots, mittens, and snow pants. All students will go outside for recess, so it's essential they come prepared each day.
- Lastly, please keep eye and ear on local morning news or radio stations for updates on weather-related delays or closures. If you haven't done so, consider signing up for automated notifications via cell phone to receive updates from the district regarding any changes in school schedule.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Scaptura

Principal

School Food Services for 2025-2026:

Breakfast: Free

Lunch Free

School Office Hours During Regular

School Days:

7:45AM to 3:45PM

School Hours:

8:35AM to 3:20PM

Office Phone Numbers:

607-739-6373

607-795-2550

Drill Notifications:

As you are aware, throughout the school year, Big Flats Elementary will practice important emergency response procedures for our school including fire, evacuation, lockdown, and emergency dismissal drills. Families will receive notice within one week prior to drills. Please be advised we will continue practicing our mandated drills.

Friendly Reminders:

• **Delayed Start Procedures**

As we enter the winter months, please be advised that the Horseheads Central School District uses a delayed start procedure in addition to school closings. The delay opens schools two hours* later than normal start time. School ends at the regular time on delayed start days. Morning buses will arrive at the bus stops two hours later; staff will arrive two hours later; and students being dropped off at school in the morning should arrive two hours later. Breakfast will not be served on delayed start days.

***K-4 will begin at 10:35 a.m. when there is a delayed start. Pre-K will begin at 11:00 a.m. •**

• **Recess**

Students continue to go outside for recess during winter months. Please be sure that your child has a warm coat, hat, gloves/mittens, and boots so they can stay warm as they play. *Please remember that the nurse cannot provide boots for any student.

• **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.



Big Flats Elementary's Kindergarten registration will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2026, by appointment only at Big Flats Elementary. If you have a child who will be five years old on or before December 1st of the school year and whose primary residence is in the Horseheads district, they may be registered for kindergarten. Prior to February 4th the school will contact you with information on registration and to schedule an appointment. If you are new to the district, or you don't believe the district has your child's information, please call Big Flats Elementary at 607-739-6373. For registration, please bring the required documents. Your child will be screened in speech and hearing at a later date.

Parents' Bill of Rights Relating to Student Data

The Horseheads Central School District, in compliance with Education Law 2-d, hereby establishes the following Parents' Bill of Rights in regard to student data:

- 1. A student's personally identifiable information will not be sold or released for any commercial purpose;**
- 2. Parents have the right to inspect and review the complete contents of their child's educational record. Procedures for reviewing student records can be found in the Board Policy entitled 'Student Records,' Policy 5500,**
- 3. Regulation 5500-R; Security protocols regarding confidentiality of personally identifiable information are currently in place and the safeguards necessary to protect the confidentiality of student data are maintained at industry standards and best practices. The safeguards include but are not limited to: encryptions, firewalls, and password protection.**
- 4. New York State maintains a complete list of all student data collected by the State and the data is available for public review at www.nysed.gov, or by writing to: 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234.**
- 5. Parents have the right to have complaints about possible breaches of student data addressed. Complaints should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845.**

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 29, 2025 and April 30, 2025 3rd and 4th grade Computer Based Math—May 6, 2025 and May 7, 2025

Mark Your Calendars

January 5
Return to school

January 7
Hat's off to the New Year

January 9
Raider Pride Day

January 13
Winter Aimsweb+ Assessment Starts

January 15
BOE Meeting 6pm; IS

January 16
Marking Period Ends

January 19
No School
Martin Luther King Jr Day

January 20
Candid Yearbook Photos

January 28
Report Cards Go Home



School and Emergency Closings



The district uses text-messaging to alert parents/guardians about school delays, closings, and safety alerts. Parents/guardians **must opt-in** to receive texts. To opt-in, text "Y" or "Yes" to 67587. Note that your standard text/data rates apply. The alerts are also posted on the district website, social media pages, and on local TV and radio stations. [Click here](#) to learn more about school delays and closings.

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.

* Valuable Items In School *

Each year over Winter Recess, many of our students will receive gifts that they will treasure. To avoid the possibility of damage or loss of any valuable items, *including cell phones, smart watches, etc.*, we encourage students to leave those items at home. Please encourage your child to follow our suggestion so that we can avoid any unfortunate situations where items disappear or get broken.

Thank you for your support!



Snow Days Impact our Schedule

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



Learn Up-To-Date Information About Our Schools and the District Facebook: The district and each of our six 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. Saptura on Twitter at @escaptura1
Instagram: The district's page—hhdschools Visit our district website at: www.horseheadsdistrict.com Questions about our website or social media?

E-mail: hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com

January: Fairness

- Play by the rules
- Take turns and share
- Be open-minded
- Listen to others
- Treat all people fairly
- Don't take advantage of others
- Don't blame others carelessly



Dignity Act Coordinator

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Big Flats Elementary is Elizabeth Saptura. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Mrs. Saptura 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; 607-739-5601 x4211, or cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

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.



January 2025

Big Flats
Elementary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			No School Winter Break	1 No School Winter Break	2 No School Winter Break	3
4	5	6 PTO Meeting 6pm Bridge	7 Hats off to the New Year– Wear your hat	8	9 Wear Raider/Falcon Pride Spirit Wear	10
11	12 CSE/504 Mtgs; Bridge	13 Aimsweb+ Starts	14	15 AM 504 Mtgs; Bridge BOE Mtg; 6PM HSMCMC	16 End of Marking Period	17
18	19 No School Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20 Candid Yearbook Photos	21	22 504 Meetings; Bridge	23 Aimsweb+ Ends	24
25	26	27 CIM Meetings	28 Report Cards Go Home	29	30	31

Character Trait of the Month
Fairness

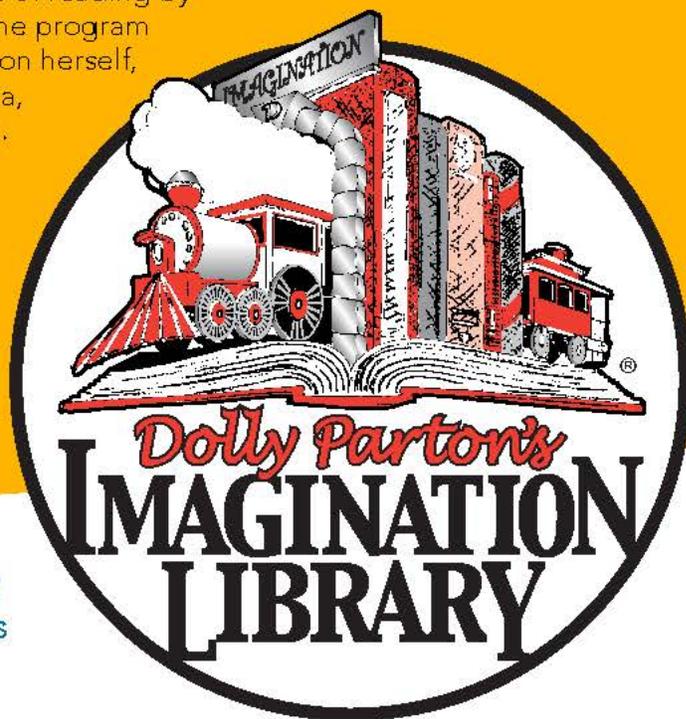
- Play by the rules
- Take turns and share
- Be open-minded
- Listen to others
- Treat all people fairly
- Don't take advantage of others

Parents & Caregivers

Setting Up Children for Future Success

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is the flagship program of The Dollywood Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Tennessee organization. The Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting FREE books to children from birth to age five. The program is made possible through funding shared by Dolly Parton herself, and local Program Partners in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and the Republic of Ireland.

Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly started the Imagination Library in 1995 to serve the children of her hometown in Sevier County, Tennessee. Today, her program spans five countries and gifts over 3 million free, high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to children around the world. There is never a charge to families who participate in the program and it is open to all children under the age of five in geographic areas with operating programs.



As a parent or caregiver, reading with your child is one of the most important activities you can engage in to help set them up for success.

Dolly believes that if you can read, you can do anything, dream anything and be anything. Through her Imagination Library, Dolly wants to ensure every child can feel the magic that books create.

Register your child today and begin receiving one free, high-quality, age-appropriate book each month for your child, birth to age five. These books are personalized with your child's name and mailed directly to your home to create a one-of-kind gifting experience.

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“The single most significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior to beginning school.”

- National Commission on Reading



Scan Me

Engaging Parents & Caregivers

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library encourages good reading habits for parents, caregivers and their children. When your child receives their Imagination Library books, we ask you to do the following:

Snuggle, ask questions, notice letters, make sounds, have fun!



1

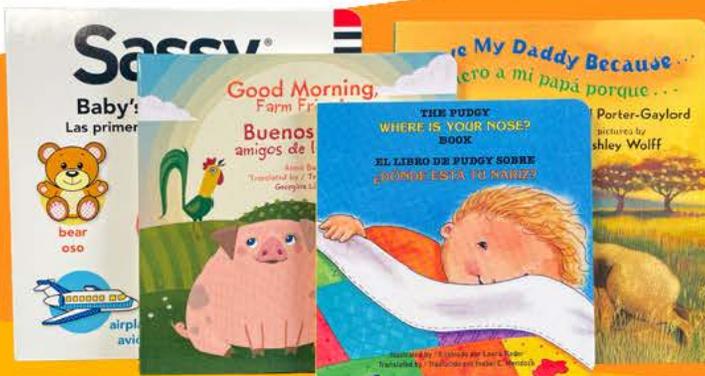
Begin reading with your child immediately

2

Read to your child at least 5 days per week

3

Read books multiple times



Each year, our esteemed Blue Ribbon Book Selection Committee, a specially selected panel of early childhood literacy experts, is responsible for reviewing hundreds of potential titles for inclusion in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

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Thank you so much for the books! I love reading them to my daughter, some I had never read, and some I loved as a kid. It is an awesome program and my 3 year old LOVES getting her own special mail every month.

- Parent

My kids absolutely love getting their books in the mail every month! My husband and I read to our kids every night and enjoy the variety of stories we get to introduce them to. It was hard to pick just 3 that topped our lists, since so many are a huge hit in our house. Awesome program!!!!

- Parent

