



Big Flats News

October 2022

*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
2022-2023 school year will be:

Breakfast: \$1.25

Lunch: \$2.10

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,

The month of October not only brings cooler temperatures and beautiful landscapes, it also brings our staff and students, consistent routines and safety procedures. Each year we are required by New York State to complete 8 fire drills throughout the school year, as well as four quarterly lock-down drills. This year, we are also completing our Off-Site Evacuation Drill, which will be to The Bridge (Wesleyan Church) next door to our school. Last week, we practiced the annual Emergency Go Home Drill. Each year, we ask parents to complete the Emergency Go Home form in case we have an emergency and need to send all K-4 students home by bus. These situations do arise occasionally and that is why we need to know where your child (ren) are to go in case of a situation that would prevent parents from picking up their child at school.

This month, we will be completing our first lock-down drill. Lock-down drills are mandatory and we will complete one drill each quarter. The purpose of these drills is to teach our students and staff how best to protect themselves in case of an intruder or an emergency outside our school, somewhere out in our community. It is very important for parents to remind their children that school is a very safe place for them to be and that their teachers and Mrs. Scaptura will do everything they can to keep them safe but in order to do so, if they see or hear something that is not safe, then they need to tell an adult as soon as possible.

Lastly, every month of October, we support Unity Day. This year, Unity Day is Wednesday, October 19th, 2022, and it is a day that we all come together and wear orange to stop bullying! Each year, during my annual September Town Hall meetings, I share with our students the importance of knowing the difference between conflict and bullying. We also discuss how important it is to Stand Up and Be a Kid Against Bullying! We talked about the importance of saying something to an adult on duty if they see or hear any kind of bullying. If we are in the cafeteria, we tell the lunch monitors. If we see or hear something on the bus, we tell the bus driver. If we see or hear bullying on the playground we tell the closest teacher. We stand up, reach out and be a friend to anyone who is being teased, bullied or being excluded from others. Please send your child (ren) to school wearing orange on **October 19th, 2022 in support of our Unity Day!**

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Scaptura

Elizabeth M. Scaptura

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.



This year at Big Flats Elementary, our school will be implementing 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 04/19/2022 and 04/20/2022

3rd and 4th grade Computer Based Math—May 05/03/2023 and 05/04/2023

Mark Your Calendars

Oct 4

Picture Day

OCT 6

Scrip Fundraiser Begins
Early Dismissal Drill

Oct 10

No School

Indigenous People's Day

Oct 13

BOE Mtg. 6pm H.S. Aud.

Oct 19

Unity Day- Wear Orange

Oct 28

Halloween Parade 1:15-1:30pm

October 31

Scripps Fundraiser Ends

Nov 1

PTO Meeting; 6pm, BFE Library

Nov 6

Daylight Savings Time Changes

Nov 9

Veteran's Day Celebration
8:30-9:30am Cafeteria

Nov 10

HALF DAY, 11:00AM Dismissal-
P/T conferences. Report Cards go
home

Nov 11

No School- Veteran's Day

Nov 16

Scripp Spelling Bee; 6:30pm, BF Café

Nov 17

BOE Meeting 6pm H.S. Aud.

Nov 18

HALF DAY— 11 am -Dismissal
P/T Conferences

Nov 22

HALF DAY 11:00am dismissal

Nov 23-25 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving
Break



Halloween Parade

This year's parade will be on Friday, October 28th 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 2T, 3T, 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.**

Here is a link to the September 2022 issue of our Digital Citizenship newsletter. (We know, we know it is almost October but here it is.) Click to view and download. <http://www.gstric.org/digital-citizenship/docs/DCNewsVolume6-01-Sept2022-FRS.pdf>.

Please distribute it to the staff, students, and parents of your school.

Thank you for helping to spread the word about Digital Citizenship. Also, Thanks for distributing our previous newsletters for this year.

Below you will find some useful links to more information about Digital Citizenship.

[Our website - http://www.gstric.org/digital-citizenship](http://www.gstric.org/digital-citizenship)
[Our Digital Citizenship Blog](#)
[Our Newsletter Page](#)

If you, any of your staff, or any of your student's parents would like to receive the newsletters directly in their email boxes, we have set up a web page where they can enter their email addresses and sign up to receive the newsletter.

<http://go.gstric.org/dcnews-signup>

We look forward to hearing your feedback about our initiative and Digital Citizenship.

Thank you,

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

@escaptural

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

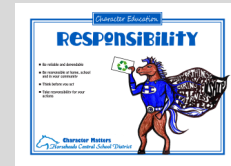
1-800-305-4984

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.



October 2022

Big Flats
Elementary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Picture Day!	5	6 Early Dismissal Drill 2:00pm PTO Fall Festival 5:00- 7:00pm	7 NO SCHOOL— Conference Day	8
19	10 NO SCHOOL— Indigenous People's Day	11	12	13 BOE Mtg; 6pm HS Aud	14	15
16	17	18	19 *UNITY DAY*	20	21 Make a Difference Day	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Halloween Parade 1:15pm-145pm	29
30	31					



health.ny.gov/flu



Department
of Health

Fight Flu

at Home and School

Flu, or influenza, spreads easily and can make people very sick, especially kids. You can help stop flu!

Flu symptoms include:

Fever or chills, body aches, cough, sore throat, headache, runny or stuffy nose, feeling very tired. Some people, especially children, may have stomach problems and diarrhea. Unlike a cold, the flu comes on very suddenly.

Prevent flu!

- Flu vaccine is the best protection against the flu. It is recommended every year for everyone 6 months and older.
- Get the flu vaccine for you and your children every year! It helps make flu sickness milder or prevents it all together.
- Getting the vaccine early in the fall means you and your children will be protected when flu season starts.
- Ask people close to your children, like babysitters and relatives, to get the vaccine, too.
- The vaccine is especially important for people with certain health conditions, like asthma, diabetes, heart or lung conditions because the flu can make them even sicker.

If your child gets the flu:

- Your child will need plenty of rest and lots of fluids.
- Keep your child home from school for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone without using fever-control medicine. This helps avoid giving the flu to others.
- Talk with your child's health care provider before giving a child any over-the-counter medicine.
- Never give your child or teenager aspirin or any medicine that has aspirin in it. Aspirin can cause serious problems.
- If your child gets flu symptoms and is younger than 5 or has a medical condition like asthma, diabetes, or heart or lung disease, call their health care provider. Young children and those with certain medical conditions are at greater risk for getting seriously ill from the flu. Ask their health care provider if they recommend an antiviral drug.
- If you are worried about your child, call their health care provider.

Don't spread flu!

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water aren't handy, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow, not your hands. Put used tissues in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. That's how germs spread.
- Stay away from people who are sick.