



# Big Flats News

## May 2025

*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,

As we approach the close of the 2024-2025 school year, my heart is filled with gratitude for our incredible students, supportive parents and guardians, and our dedicated faculty and staff! Even with the final year of construction underway, we all worked together to create a wonderful learning environment for our students, and for that, I am so thankful. As your Building Principal, I truly believe that the past two years of construction, and the little bumps we navigated together, will lead to even brighter opportunities for our children in the years to come! Looking ahead, I want to give a friendly reminder to **please make your voice heard by voting on the Horseheads Central School District budget on May 20, 2025**. Your participation is so important! Sometimes, it might feel like the school budget doesn't directly impact our young elementary students, but it absolutely does! So, please plan to vote on May 20th, 2025, at the High School North Gym between 7:00 am and 9:00 pm. Every vote counts!

We have some exciting events coming up to celebrate the end of the year, so please mark your calendars:

**May 5:** Kindergarten Capstone Pictures

**May 5-9:** Teacher Appreciation Week!

**May 6 & 7:** 3rd & 4th Grade NYS Math Assessments

**May 14:** 4th Grade Spring Choral and Band Concert, 7:00pm at the Big Flats Auditorium

**May 16:** Kindergarten Orientation, 8:45-10:00 in the Cafe

**May 19-23:** Kindergarten Screening by appointment

**May 20: SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE!**

**May 21:** Mud or Not Fun Run! For our Pre-K to 4th Grade Students ONLY, 5:00-6:30pm at the Big Flats Falcon Field

**May 22:** Mismatch Spirit Day!

It feels like just yesterday the school year began, and soon it will be coming to a close! I truly hope to see many of you at our remaining events. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your continued support of our school community. We appreciate each and every one of you!

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth M. Scaptura*

Elizabeth M. Scaptura, Principal

**May 23, 26 & 27:** NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day Recess

**June 6:** 3rd Grade Recorder Concert

**June 10:** 4th Grade Unity Day, High School Stadium; 8:30-10

**June 11:** Senior Walk at Big Flats Elementary, 1:30 pm

**June 19 & 20:** Juneteenth - NO SCHOOL & Conference Day

**June 23:** Talent Show at Big Flats, 8:30-10:30 am

**June 24:** Field Day (Pre-approved volunteers only, no spectators this year) - a fun day for our students!

**June 25:** HALF DAY DISMISSAL

**June 26:** HALF DAY DISMISSAL - Last Day of School!

### Elementary Lunches (K-6)

School Food Services prices for the 2024-2025 school year will be:

Breakfast: Free

Lunch: Free

### School Hours

Hours for the Elementary Schools are:

8:15 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



### 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.

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



# Tuesday, May 20, 7am-9pm

The Board of Education and administration began the development of the 2025-26 school year on February 13. The board will continue budget development and discussion until the final adoption of the budget is offered to voters at the budget vote on Tuesday, May 20. Meetings are open to the public and are livestreamed. Visit [www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com) to access the presentations and recordings.

### **2025-26 Board of Education Budget Meeting Schedule:**

May 8      Public Hearing      5:15 p.m.      High School Multimedia Ctr

### **Budget Vote/Board of Education Election**

Budget vote and Board of Education Election will take place on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 in the North Gym.

All district residents are eligible to vote, provided they meet the following requirements:

- Are a U.S. citizen
  - Are 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote
  - Have lived in the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote
  - Are not restricted from voting in general elections based on election law
- OR
- Are registered to vote in general elections



For information on absentee ballots or other questions about the budget or vote, please call (607) 739-5601, x4260 or mail [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com).

### **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.

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Computer Based ELA—April 29, 2025 and April 30, 2025    3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Computer Based Math—May 6, 2025 and May 7, 2025

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

### • Drop Off/Pick Up

Please remember K-4 students may be dropped off beginning at 7:40am, following the drop off procedures. Also, K-4 parents may line up **no earlier** than 2:10pm following the pick up procedures. Please remember our PK students are picked up from 1:50pm –2:05pm. The safety of our students and staff is our main priority, so please adhere to these procedures. If you need to change your child's dismissal plans, please send in a blue note. Also, please note: *It is District policy that students cannot ride a different bus home with another student for a playdate.* Thank you for your understanding. For more information regarding your child's pick up procedure, please contact the main office.

### • Moving?

Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan on moving over the summer. It is very important for us to know this type of information, so please keep us informed!

### • Changes in Parent/Guardian Cell Phone Numbers

If a parent/guardian gets a new cell phone number, and had opted in to text messaging notifications with their old number, they'll need to opt in again with the new number! Please let the Main Office know of the change and we will give you the information to opt in again.

## Automated Attendance Update

Big Flats Elementary wishes to keep parents/guardians informed of students' attendance at school and assist students in meeting attendance requirements. Emails are sent to parents/guardians of students who are absent from school eight, sixteen, or more times.

As a reminder, regular school attendance is crucial for your students' academic success and overall well-being. Consistent attendance ensures that students do not miss out on valuable instruction, opportunities, and important classroom activities. Our attendance policy is designed to promote a positive and engaging learning environment for all students. It is essential that your student attends school regularly and arrives on time. In the event of an absence, please notify the school as soon as possible, please remember that an excused absence still counts towards the student's absence count. Please [click here](#) to see the district's attendance policy.

## Art Show

The annual Horseheads School District Art Show is May 6-18<sup>th</sup> at the Arnot mall. The Big Flats Elementary display is located in the area just outside of JCPenney. New this year: an Art Show scavenger hunt! Students will be receiving an Art show scavenger hunt featuring two pieces of Art per building to find and cross off. Completed scavenger hunt forms can be brought back to Mrs. Vence for a prize. Also, Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 5-6pm is the Art Show Opening Night. Families are invited to come check out the show, see their child's art work and say hello to Mrs. Vence. All students will have at least once piece of Art work in the show. Look for letters coming home the first week of May which will state the piece(s) each student has featured in the show, so families know what to look for. Any questions? Contact Mrs. Vence! We hope you can make it to this year's show to see all of the amazing hard work our Big Flats artists have done this year!

## ATTENTION KINDERGARTEN

### PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

All Kindergarten students will be photographed for their cap and gown photo on Monday, May 5th!

## Teacher Appreciation Week

### May 5th—9th:

**May 5th:** Coffee Provided by Last Stand

**May 6th:** Bring your teacher a school supply item

**May 7th:** Pampering day

**May 8th:** Luncheon provided by On-A-Roll (donations accepted)

**May 9th:** Write a thank you note, pick a flower or plant

## Construction Corner

Updates:



We are very excited report that all internal construction has been completed with the exception of our brand new Occupational/Physical therapy room which is well underway!

We are also excited to announce that we will begin construction on a new 3rd & 4th Grade playground structure in the coming weeks!

## Mark Your Calendars

**May 1**—School Principal Day

**May 2**—Raider/Falcon Pride Day  
School Lunch Hero Day

**May 5-9**—Staff Appreciation Week

**May 5**—Kindergarten Capstone Photos

**May 6**—PTO Mtg; Bridge 6PM

**May 6 & 7**—3rd & 4th NYS Math Assessments

**May 6– 18**—Art Show Arnot Mall

**May 7**—Nurse Appreciation Day

**May 14th**—Grade Spring Concert High School Auditorium 7PM

**May 15**—BOE Mtg; HSMHC 6PM

**May 16**—Kindergarten Orientation  
Speech Pathologist Day

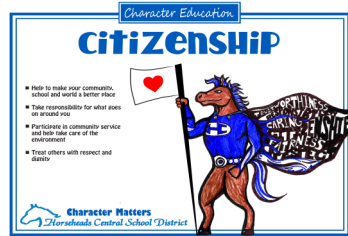
**May 19-22**—Kindergarten Screenings

**May 20**—School Budget Vote—High School South Gym 7am-9pm

**May 21**—Mud or Not Fun Run—Big Flats Falcon Field—5:00

**May 23-27**—No School Memorial Day Holiday

**May 28**—Off Site Evacuation DRILL



### May — The month of:

#### Citizenship

- Do your share to make your community better
- Cooperate
- Be a good neighbor; follow laws and rules
- Get involved in community affairs
- Stay informed: Vote
- Protect the environment
- Volunteer

### 2025-2026 Busing Form

Sometime in May the Transportation Department will send the 2025-26 School Year Busing Form for parents/guardians to complete. This process was implemented in 2023 and has been refined for the upcoming school year. The busing form helps the Transportation Department determine the schedule and routes. This form must be completed for every student whether they ride the bus or not.

### Lost and Found

The lost and found box has many items in it, such as coats, hats, snow boots, and water bottles. Please have your child check the box for their lost items.



#### 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](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com).

Questions about our website or social media? E-mail [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com)



### 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; 607-739-5601 x4211, or [cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto: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.



# May 2025

Big Flats  
Elementary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 School Principal Day	2 Raider/Falcon Pride Day School Lunch Hero Day 504 Mtgs; Bridge	3
4	5 Staff Appreciation: Coffee/Sweets  CIM Mtgs; Bridge K Capstone Photos	6 Staff Appreciation: School Supply Item 3rd & 4th NYS Math Assessments PTO Mtg, 6pm Bridge District Art Show May 6-18	7 Staff Appreciation: Pampering Day School Nurse Day  3rd & 4th NYS Math Assessments	8 Staff Appreciation: Staff Lunch	9 Staff Appreciation: Thank you note, flower or plant	10
11	12 CSE Meetings	13 Band Rehearsal 8:10 Chorus Rehearsal 9:15 Kindergarten Tanglewood	14 PK Tanglewood Spring Concert BF Aud. 7pm	15 4th Grade Heritage Village 2nd Gr. Tanglewood BOE Mtg HSMMC; 6PM	16 K Orientation Speech Pathologist Day 4th Grade Heritage Village	17
18	19 K Screening 8-3 Science & Discovery Center 3rd Grade Presentation 8:30-1:30 PM	20 K Screening 8-3  BOE Budget Vote– HS North Gym 7AM-9PM	21 K Screening 8-3  PTO Mud or Not Fun Run; 5PM Falcon Field	22 K Screening 8-3  Mismatch Day– Wear mismatched clothes 4th Gr Maturation	23 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> <i>Give Back Day</i>	24
25	26 <i>No School</i>  MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBER AND HONOR	27 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> <i>Give Back Day</i>	28 Off-Site Evacuation DRILL	29	30	31

Character Trait of the Month  
**Citizenship**

- Do your share to make your community better
- Cooperate
- Be a good neighbor; follow laws and rules
- Get involved in community affairs
- Stay informed: Vote
- Protect the environment
- Volunteer



# Triple P

Positive Parenting Program



Triple P is designed to give parents the skills they need to raise confident, healthy children and teenagers and to build stronger family relationships.

Triple P doesn't tell people how to parent. Rather, it educates parents on simple and practical strategies they adapt to suit their needs.

**What you'll get as a parent:** Practical tip sheets to help guide you. Certificate of completion for each session attended. Improved confidence on handling problem situations that arise with your kids.

JOIN US!

### **Seminar 1: The Power of Positive Parenting**

Monday, May 5th, 2025 at 1:00 PM

### **Seminar 2: Raising Confident, Competent Children**

Monday, May 12th, 2025 at 1:00 PM

### **Seminar 3: Raising Resilient Children**

Monday, May 19th, 2025 at 1:00 PM

WHERE: VIRTUAL

Zoom Link: <https://casa-trinity-org.zoom.us/j/87984751400>



For inquiries or to register, please contact:

**Lauren (Chemung County)**

LBriggs@casa-trinity.org

**Mary (Livingston County)**

MWhite@casa-trinity.org

Registration is not required. You may attend any number of sessions, regardless of previous attendance.

\*This program is not endorsed or run by the Horseheads School District\*

*Hope begins here.*

**CASA**  **TRINITY**  
COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

WWW.CASA-TRINITY.ORG |   @CASATRINITY |   @CASA-TRINITY



# Fight Flu at Home and School

**Influenza (flu), 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 altogether.
- Getting the vaccine early in the fall means you and your children will be protected when flu season starts.
- Make sure people close to your children, like babysitters and relatives, are also vaccinated.
- The vaccine is especially important for young children and people of all ages with certain health conditions like asthma, diabetes, and heart or lung conditions. 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.
- Young children and those with certain medical conditions, like asthma, diabetes, and heart or lung disease, are at greater risk for getting seriously ill from the flu.
- If your child gets flu symptoms, call their health care provider and ask if antiviral treatment is right for them.
- If you are worried about your child, call their health care provider.

---

## Don't spread flu!

- Stay home if you are sick.
- 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.

---

[health.ny.gov/flu](https://health.ny.gov/flu)



Department  
of Health