



Big Flats News

November 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!

Elementary Lunches (K-6)

School Food Services prices for the 2025-2026 school year will be:

Breakfast: Free

Lunch: Free

School Hours

Hours for the Elementary Schools are:
8:35 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.

Office Hours

Our school office hours during regular school days are:

Monday through Friday

7:45a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Office Phone Numbers

(607) 739-6373

(607) 795-2550

Fax: (607) 795-2555

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's hard to believe that November is already here, and last Friday marked the end of the first marking period. By now, you should have received an email from your child(ren)'s teacher regarding Parent/Teacher Conferences. Our Conferences are scheduled for all day on Friday, November 14th. Then again on Monday, November 17th in the afternoon. **Pre-K students will be dismissed at 11:30am and our Kindergarten through 4th grade students will be dismissed at 11:55 AM.** If you do not have a scheduled time or need to confirm your appointment, please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Last week, we conducted our first of four state-mandated lockdown drills for the school year. Our students, faculty, and staff did an amazing job participating in this important drill. While it's challenging to think about the need for these precautions, I want to commend our teachers and staff for their dedication to creating safe, nurturing environments during these practices. As parents and guardians, please consider reminding your children of the importance of staying calm, quiet, and following their teacher's instructions during these drills. Also, please reiterate to them that school is a safe place for them to be.

We would like to thank all of our Veterans who came to participate in our Veteran's Celebration Walk this year. This special event allowed us to honor and express our gratitude for their service and sacrifices, as well as to recognize the contributions of our current servicemen and women. Thank you!

Lastly, please mark your calendars for an early dismissal on Wednesday, November 26th. **Pre K will be dismissed at 11:30am. While students in Kindergarten through 4th grade will be dismissed at 11:55 AM on this day.** Following the early dismissal, we will enjoy our Thanksgiving Break. We hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Scaptura

Elizabeth Scaptura

Big Flats Elementary Principal



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



THANK YOU VETERANS

A special thank you to all of our Big Flats Elementary families with veterans! We all appreciate your dedication and sacrifice for our country. Thank you for all that you do!

Parent/Teacher Conferences & HALF DAYS!

We're excited to connect with you during our upcoming Parent/Teacher Conferences on **November 14th all day and November 17th from 12:30 to 3:30 PM**. This is a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress, ask questions, and share any concerns. You should have received an email from your child's teacher with a sign-up link to schedule a conference time.

Please Note:

Early Dismissal for Pre K students Half Day Dismissal on November 17th and November 26th will be 11:30am.

Early Dismissal for K-4 students Half Day Dismissal on November 17th and November 26th will be 11:55 AM.

Pre order Grab & Go Lunches on Half Days– if interested you must sign up using the district link.

No Kids World: There will be no lunch served or Kids World available these days.



Winter Weather Ahead!



As the colder months approach, please ensure your child is dressed for the weather . To conserve energy, our school buildings are set at 68 degrees.

Please send your child to school with warm clothing, such as:

- A sweater or sweatshirt
 - A coat
 - A hat
- Mittens or gloves
 - Boots

We do go outside for recess during the winter, so please be sure they have appropriate gear.

A Friendly Reminder:

If your child borrows clothing from the Health Office, please wash it and return it to the nurse as soon as possible. Please note that the school does not provide boots or shoes.

Mark Your Calendars

NOV 6

Veterans Day Walk 8:50-9:10 am

Nov 11

NO SCHOOL—Veterans Day

Nov 14

NO SCHOOL for Students

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Nov 17

Half Day Pk 11:30am K-4 11:55am

PM Parent/Teacher Conferences

Nov 19

Make-up Picture Day

Nov 20

BOE Meeting; RR @ CS 5:15pm

Nov 26

Half Day, Pk 11:30am K-4 11:55am

Nov 27-30

Thanksgiving Recess

Dec 1-15

Spirit of Giving

Food Drive for Big Flats Food Pantry



Picture Retake Day



2025-2026

Picture Retake Day will be held on November 19th. Please be on the lookout for more information to come.

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.**



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



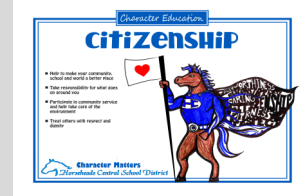
Health Office Request

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.



November—The month of:



- ◇ 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

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.

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.

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**

Kid's World is NOT provided on half days at elementary schools. Please send a blue note on these days with dismissal plans for your student if he/she usually attends Kid's World.

On November 17th, and November 26th dismissal will be at 11:30am for Pre-K students and K-4 students will be at 11:55am.

- **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.

- **Please Write Names on Lunch Boxes!**

Lunch boxes have been brought to the office with no name on them after being left on the bus or in the cafeteria rooms. Please write your child's first and last name somewhere in or on the lunch box so we can get it back to them as soon as possible! Thank you.

School and Emergency Closings

School closings due to inclement weather will be announced via text, phone, and various media outlets such as WNKI, WPGI, Magic FM, and WELM radio stations, and WENY, WETM, and Time Warner Cable News on TV. In the event of an emergency during the school day, all students will be taken by bus to the address 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 schedule. The next day that school is in session is the cycle 'Day' that the snow day would have been.

Swimming Unit Moves to 5th Grade in 2026-2027

As a part of our physical education curriculum, we have traditionally offered a swimming unit for our students during their fourth grade year. Due to ongoing construction and its impact on available teaching spaces at the high school, this unit will not be offered during the 2025-2026 school year. Current fourth graders will complete this important unit of study in fifth grade beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, and this unit will then remain a part of the fifth grade physical education curriculum moving forward. This will ensure that no students miss this important learning experience, while enabling us to streamline the travel and additional logistics that make this unit possible between the Intermediate School and High School.

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, Regulation 5500-R;
3. 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.



Bus drivers: [Bus Driver opening in Horseheads Central School District \(olasjobs.org\)](http://www.olasjobs.org)

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 30, 2026 and May 1, 2026 3rd and 4th grade Computer Based Math—May 5, 2026 and May 6, 2026

THANK YOU, WE APPRECIATE YOU!

Dear Big Flats Falcon Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of our BFE Parent Pick Up Team, we would like to thank you ALL for your support and patience with our end of the day pick up procedures! You all have done AMAZING with our traffic pattern. We have a few reminders to further expedite and ensure the safety of all our students, staff, and families:

- ♦ **The earliest you may arrive on campus to line up is 3:00pm. We begin dismissal at approximately 3:20pm. Please do not arrive any earlier than 3:00pm as we are dismissing our PK students until approximately 2:45pm.**
- ♦ Please keep your family name tent visible to ALL staff to ensure that we are getting each child to the correct parent/vehicle. You must have your provided family name tent, no homemade tents will be accepted. If you do not have your provided family name tent, please park and walk to the parent pick up line in front of the library. If you need a family name tent, please call our main office to request a set of two. Throughout the school year, we will have different BFE staff members assist with student pick up duty. Please continue to be patient and appreciative of our staff who do their best to ensure everyone gets home safely. Please let our staff know how much you appreciate them. A simple thank you goes a long way!
- ♦ Please pull up as close as you can to the car in front of you. Please do not pull forward to exit until released by either the School Resource Officer or a staff member.
- ♦ **Please REMAIN in your vehicle.** Please be sure that every child is properly restrained before being directed to pull forward. Please note, if your child needs assistance being secured in their child seat, please park in the main entrance, and pick your child up in the parent walkup line in front of the library.
- ♦ Please do NOT pass any vehicles and please stay in your lane!
- ♦ Please do NOT BLOCK the entrance/exit of our school campus to get in line. Obstructing the view on Maple Street is very dangerous for parents trying to pull out. Please be patient and wait your turn. If your vehicle cannot fit straight at the end of the line when entering our school campus, please wait!
- ♦ Please be courteous and take turns alternating east and west bound traffic when entering our campus.
- ♦ Please do NOT block the entrance of our neighbors' driveways. Please leave each driveway accessible so that our neighbors may enter and exit their homes safely. We appreciate our neighbors and want to always be respectful!



November 2025

Big Flats
Elementary School
Parent Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 1	4 2 Principal Chat; Library 5:30pm PTO Mtg Library 6pm	5 3	6 4 8:50-9:10 Vertan's Walk 6:00 Digital Dangers IS café FBI Presentation	7 1 Veteran's Day Wear Red, White & Blue	8
9	10 2	11 No School Veteran's Day	12 3 3rd and 4th Grade Report Cards go home	13 4	14 No School Parent/Teacher Conferences 1	15
16	17 2 Half Day for students Pre-K: 11:30 dismissal K-4; 11:55 dismissal Parent/Teacher Conferences	18 3	19 4 Picture Retakes; Café 3rd & 4th Grade Spelling Bee BF Aud; 6:30pm	20 1	21 2 Winter Bus Drills	22
23 30	24 3	25 4	26 1 Half Day for students Pre-K: 11:30 dismissal K-4; 11:55 dismissal	27 No School	28 No School	29



Character Trait of the Month
Citizenship

- Help to make your community, school and world a better place.
- Take responsibility for what goes on around you.
- Participate in community service and help take care of the environment.
- Treat others with respect and dignity.