



Golden Star Gazette



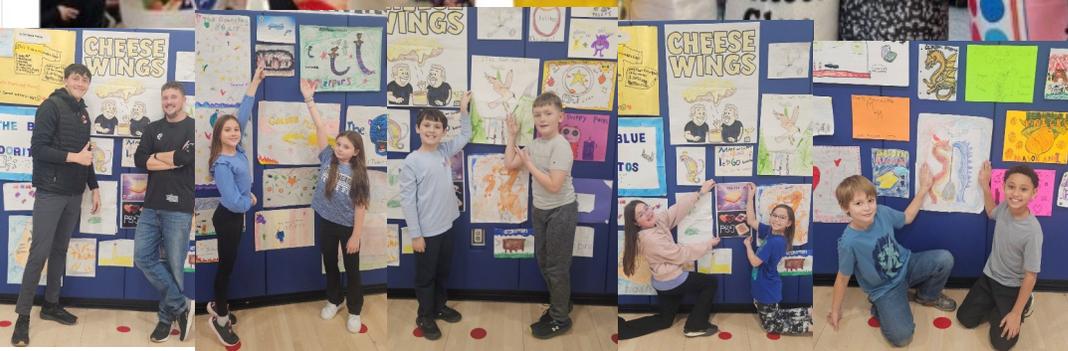
Gardner Road Elementary School

541 Gardner Road, Horseheads, New York 14845 (607) 739 – 6347

psotero@horseheadsdistrict.com



FALL Edition '25



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VISIT OUR GR

FACEBOOK PAGE—MORE PICTURES & VIDEOS



Gardner Road Main Office Reminders:

Building Security - entering:

For the safety of all students and staff at Gardner Road, all doors are locked 24 hours a day. We do welcome your visit to our school. Please report to the main entrance and press the buzzer to your right near the main entrance. You will be prompted for your name and purpose of visit. Then the secretaries will buzz you in. Please report directly to the lobby to sign in.

Bringing Items in for your Child During School:

To provide the most consistent learning environment for your children, we do not interrupt the classrooms during the school day. We understand that in the rush to leave the house in the morning, things are forgotten such as homework, lunches, sneakers for gym, birthday/party goodies, etc. If your child needs something during the day, please bring the item into the lobby, let us know when we buzz you in and labeled with your child's name and teacher. We will make sure they receive it.

Who to call first?

We as a school, we want to be able to answer any questions or concerns you have in a timely manner. The first contact should be with the staff member most directly involved. Please reach out first to your child's teacher on the following topics: classroom questions, curriculum, student discipline in the class, academic services, or questions about day-to-day things. If this question or concern remains unresolved, then please feel free to contact me as the building principal. I, as the building principal, would be the first point of contact on topics such as; school policy, residency, parent portal, scheduling, or suspension. If you have a question about transportation, please reach out to our transportation department at 739-6338.

Meeting with Teachers:

Please be aware that once the teachers have students in their class (8:35), they are not able to meet one-on-one with a parent regarding an individual concern. Please arrange a meeting with your child's teacher in advance – thank you!

Homework Requests:

If your child is out sick and you would like to request homework, please call the office before 9:00 a.m. It can either be sent home with a sibling, friend, neighbor, or parents can pick up homework after 3:30 in the office.

Gold “Go Home” Notes – Change of Plans:

Thank you for helping us assure students 'go-home' the correct way each day using our GOLD note pads. Knowing that changes occur during the day, we understand that you may need to change your child's 'go-home' plans during the day. We ask that parents call before 12:00 so that we can assure a smooth dismissal and keep all our students safe. Last minute changes delay bus dismissal for all students.

Online District Calendar

To see district & school events in 2025-2026, please go to <https://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/fullcalendar.cfm>, or go to the Calendar link in the main menu on the district website. The online calendar allows months to be printed. The district will not be printing a multi-page calendar this year. Our online calendar allows us to update events throughout the year.

Should you wish to exercise your right to make your request to: Caitlin DeFilippo, Director of Human Resources, Horseheads Central School District, Hibbard Road, Horseheads, New York 14845. (607)739-5601, ext. 4211.

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.

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. The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Gardner Road Elementary is Patricia Sotero. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Patricia Sotero at (607) 739 – 6347.



Good Evening,

What a joy it has been for me to be leading such a dynamic group of students and staff at GR. I have enjoyed coming to work each and every day and getting to know our GR Families too! It is fun to see you out and about in the community beyond our school hours.

We have experienced so many wonderful things together since school began and of course we had to tweak and change some things together to make us more efficient and effective in regards to arrival and dismissal procedures. However, as a team, we got it down and rather quickly! I hope you take time to see and enjoy the pictures of our kids on our GR FB page. Our newsletter would be 25 pages plus, if I added all the pictures I take throughout the school! Plus, there are videos too to enjoy on our GR FB page.

This Thanksgiving, I was reminded about all the wonderful things I am so thankful for being at GR. I certainly appreciate each and every one of you for your partnership in helping to make our kids successful. I have always believed, "When parents and teachers/administrators work together, children succeed." And, we are seeing this each and every day here at GR!

Please also note that we will be continuing to practice our safety drills again this week and when we return from our holiday break.

As we approach this holiday season, I hope you will make many, new wonderful memories today! Thank you for entrusting me with your children!

In your service,
Patti

Gardner Road Elementary Contact Information

541 Gardner Road
Horseheads, NY 14845

Patti Sotero, Principal
Lisa Buchanan, Secretary

Cassie Wright, Attend Clerk

Barb Hinman, Nurse, RN

Robin Plummer, Nurse, LPN

Newsletter in Color: <https://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHGR.cfm>

www.horseheadsdistrict.com

(607) - 739-6347

Shannon Radford, President
Jessica Carswell, Vice President

Nikki Malnoske, Secretary

Autumn Osburn, Treasurer



Gardner Road School Hours
8:20 AM to 3:30 PM

First Bell - 8:35 AM
Tardy Bell - 8:50 AM

Gardner Road Office Hours
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

DISTRICT OPEN HOUSE

TOUR NEWLY FINISHED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
Horseheads High School Cafeteria • December 3, 2025



EVENT SCHEDULE

5:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Presentation: Overview of past construction work

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Tour at High School, Big Flats, and Gardner Road

- Guided bus tour of each school
- Or visit these schools on your own at your own pace
- Staff will be available at each school to assist

WHAT'S NEW?

- Enhanced learning spaces
- Modern libraries
- Upgraded gymnasiums
- Refreshed, brighter cafeterias



EXPLORE. ASK QUESTIONS. SHARE YOUR IDEAS.



THANK YOU

★ VETERANS ★

On Thursday, November 6th, the District came together for a very special celebration of our Veterans. Our district held a unified "Thank You Walk", inviting veterans to visit and be recognized at our schools. We are deeply grateful to all who have served and to our Golden Stars for making this day so meaningful.

Check out our Gardner Road social media pages for more photos and videos from the event



CAREER DAY



ON NOVEMBER 17, OUR STUDENTS IN GRADES K-4 ENJOYED AN ACTION PACKED MORNING LEARNING ABOUT SOME FUN AND IMPACTFUL CAREERS.



Thank you to the Career Development Council for working with us at GR to provide this wonderful day!



FEAST. FUN. AND THANKFULNESS

OUR PRE-K FRIENDS CELEBRATED THANKSGIVING IN
STYLE! THEY CRAFTED COLORFUL PLACEMATS.
DECORATED THE ROOM WITH FESTIVE CREATIONS.
AND ENJOYED DELICIOUS THANKSGIVING TREATS
TOGETHER. A DAY FULL OF GRATITUDE AND GIGGLES!



FALL at GR





BOOK DONATION 2025



DECEMBER
1ST-18TH



ALL BOOKS WILL BE DONATED TO THE FAMILY
READING PARTNERSHIP



HOLIDAY SHOPPE

**THE HOLIDAY SHOPPE WILL BE
OPEN DURING SCHOOL ON
DECEMBER 9TH-11TH.**

**AS YOU ARE PLANNING YOUR
BUDGET FOR YOUR CHILDREN,
OUR NON-DENOMINATIONAL
GIFTS RANGE BETWEEN \$1.00
AND \$10.00.**

**GARDNER ROAD PTO IS
LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO
HELP!**



Toys for Tots

Last Day for Toy Donations
will be December 12th!

Thank you for helping make
the season brighter!





REMINDER!

Winter Concert

Monday, December 8, 2025

7:00 PM

High School Auditorium

FEATURING

High School Jazz Band and
Gardner Road 4th Grade Chorus

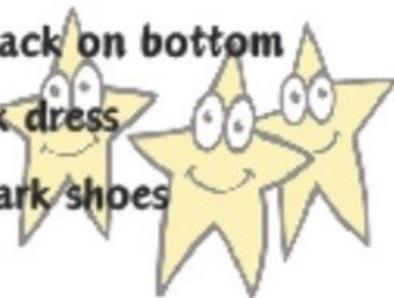
DRESS CODE

"Dress to Impress!"

White on top, black on bottom

All black dress

Black or dark shoes





Caring

Character Corner

BEING COMPASSIONATE AND HELPING OTHERS!

Coming up on our Town Hall Meetings we will be discussing positive changes in our school. It is called be caught being a "PERSON of CHARACTER".

Suggested questions to help your child discuss what is impacting our school:

What does being a person of character mean? Did you get your name announced during the morning announcements? Who did get announced? What was the reason they got announced? How do you get caught being a "Person of Character"?



**JOIN US FOR OUR
PTO MTG
TUES., Dec. 2nd
6:00 - GR LIBRARY**

Golden Star Buddies Reminder:

Our school believes all students should follow the golden rule. However, we know that disagreements occur and it is our job to help students through it. We use the following definitions to determine the difference between conflicts and bullying. If any student is involved or sees either, please let a Gardner Road staff member know and they will help you!

CONFLICT:

- * occurs in the heat of a moment
- * is often a difference of opinion
- * two or more students are upset
- does not happen continue

BULLYING:

- * intent to cause harm
- * imbalance of power
- * repetition - bullies often target the same people
- * targeted towards a specific individual

3 WAYS PRINCIPAL SOTERO TAUGHT OUR CHILDREN HOW TO DEAL WITH CONFLICT

1. TALK IT OUT!
2. TELL THEM HOW YOU FEEL!
3. MAKE A SOLUTION!

Information From the Health Office



Symptoms for Exclusion: When Students Need to Go Home Sick

Conditions Requiring Temporary Exclusion:

- Fever of 100.4° Fahrenheit or higher within 24 hours
- Lethargy (excessive sleepiness) preventing the student from participating in class
- Difficulty breathing or excessive disruptive cough
- Diarrhea within 24 hours
- Vomiting within 24 hours
- Rash with fever or behavior changes or quickly spreading rash
- Open skin sores with/without drainage or crusting that cannot be covered with a bandage or clothing
- Sudden onset of pain that is not resolving
- Abdominal pain that is not resolving or worsening
- Blood or pus drainage from the ear
- Strep throat until treated with antibiotics for 12 hours
- Mouth sores causing drooling the student cannot control
- Other conditions as determined by nursing assessment!

Information about Emergency School Closings & Delays:

Schools are closed when the weather makes it impossible to have reasonable attendance or when the schools or vehicles would not be able to operate safely. The school day is delayed when inclement weather conditions improve by early morning. Inclement weather may include snow, ice, and/or freezing temperatures. If the school day is delayed, buses will run & schools will open 2 hours later than normal.

If it is necessary to close or delay schools, the information will be posted on the district's website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com, the district's Facebook pages and Twitter, and the following local television and radio stations and their affiliates:

Radio: WNKI 106.1, WPGI 100.9, Magic FM 92.7/97.7, WGMM 98.7, WLVI 94.3, WELM 1410

TV: WENY, WETM, Time Warner Cable News

These television and radio stations also put closing/delay information on their websites. Each of our schools and the district have Facebook pages. To see school closings/delays and other information on your news feed, "like" the page(s). On Twitter, follow us at @HhdsSchools.

Additionally, WETM TV has an automated system to e-mail and/or text closings and delays to those who have signed up for the service. Parents may sign up at the following link: <http://www.mytwintiers.com/sms>. Scroll down to "School and Business Closing Alerts." Please do not call the radio/TV stations or the district's Transportation Office.

Please note that if schools are closed, they will remain closed all day for scheduled activities, including remedial programs, extra-curricular activities, use of facilities by non-school groups, and special evening programs. Please also note that when school is delayed, there is no supervision for students until schools open two hours later than the usual time, so parents should not drop their children off at school until they open. Additionally, on school delays, there is no breakfast served.

If a storm develops after school begins, usual procedure is NOT to close school early. This allows time for highway crews to plow and sand the roads and has proved to be less disruptive and confusing than attempting to send students home early.

2-hr delay—Pre K start time 11:00 * lunch will be served - *NO breakfast

2 hr delay—K—4 start time is 10:20* lunch will be served - *NO breakfast

Substitutes Needed:

The Horseheads Central School District is seeking applications for substitute teachers, nurses, bus drivers and substitute teaching assistants.

For information, please visit: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/subteach.html>

Human Resources Office: 739-5601, x4211
e-mail: hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com

Kids World: SNOW DELAYS/SNOW DAYS

The YWCA **does not** provide Kids World on **AM snow delays or snow days.**

If the Horseheads Central School District calls for a **Two-Hour Delay** due to early morning weather conditions, there will be NO morning Kids World program held at the school. There is afternoon Kids World!

NO program is available at the YWCA when there is a two-hour delay or a snow day. Children are to report to school two hours from their original opening time on snow delays.

Cancellations of ALL After-School Activities:

When a school district cancels all after-school/evening activities due to weather conditions, the Kids World program will still be held at your child's school as scheduled until 6:00 PM. The School will dismiss your child to the Kids World Program. In the event the weather becomes worse, the Kids World Site Supervisor will notify parents and ask if their child can be picked up earlier. This is for the safety of everyone.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

School is your first and most important job. You're learning about more than math and reading. You're learning how to show up for school on time every day, so that when you grow up and get a job, you'll know how to show up for work on time every day.

When you're not here, we notice because we care, and we want you to be successful.

A student who misses 10 days or more during a school year is 20 percent less likely to graduate from high school and 25 percent less likely to ever enroll in college.

If you think missing a day here or there won't matter, think again. By missing just one day every two weeks, you would be on track to miss 10 percent of the school year – and that can happen before you know it.

School only gets harder when you stay home too much. Sometimes it's tempting to stay home but missing a day only makes that worse.

We understand that you will get sick sometimes and need to stay home. The important thing is to get to school as often as possible to help stay on track with your learning.

December 2025



HORSEHEADS ELEMENTARY GRADES PK-4TH

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Baked Mozzarella Sticks w/Fatsa & Sauce Chicken Ranch Wrap Sliced Carrots	2 Beef or Bean Nacho Grande w/Rice Chicken Caesar Salad w/Bread Choice Golden Sweet Corn Refried Beans	3 Sesame Chicken w/Rice NY Hot Dog on a Roll Steamed Broccoli	4 Homemade NY Macaroni & Cheese w/Bread Italian Meatball Sub Green Beans Cinnamon Applesauce Jello	5 Pizza Dunkers w/Marinara Sauce Tuna Salad Sub Sliced Carrots
8 Philly Cheese Steak Sub Chicken Philly Sub Oven Fries Sliced Carrots	9 Chicken & Cheese Empanadas Chicken BLT Salad w/Bread Choice Golden Sweet Corn Refried Beans	10 Toasted Cheese Sandwich Baked Crispy Chicken Sandwich Hot Tomato Soup Steamed Broccoli	11 NY MENU DAY! NY Cheese Lasagna Rolliettes Warm Dinner Roll Green Beans Fresh NY Mixed Salad Greens! Homemade NY Apple Crisp NY Juice! Chilled NY Milk	12 Cheese Pizza Crunchers w/Marinara Sauce Crispy Fish Filer Sandwich Sliced Carrots
15 Authentic Pulled Pork Sandwich Ultimate Cheese Breadstick w/Marinara Sauce Sliced Carrots	16 Chicken Soft Taco w/Rice Bean Taco Buffalo Ranch Wrap Golden Sweet Corn Refried Beans	17 Korean BBQ Chicken w/Rice NY Hot Dog on a Roll Steamed Broccoli	18 Homestyle Chicken Bowl w/Bread Green Beans Fruity Jello w/Whipped Topping	19 Pizza Dunkers w/Marinara Sauce Sliced Carrots
22 	23  WINTER BREAK DEC 22nd - Jan 2nd	24	25 	26 
29 	30 JOIN US FOR NY MENU DAY! See menu for details	31 SEE YOU NEXT YEAR! Students Return: January 5th, 2026		

Available Daily Entrees

PBJ Sandwich
Meat Chef Salad w/ Bread Choice
Vegetarian Chef Salad w/Bread Choice

NY Cheese Stick & Yogurt w/Bread Choice

Turkey & Cheese Sandwich
Ham & Cheese Sandwich
M/W/F: Baked Chicken Nuggets w/Bread
T/TH: Cheese Pizza

Available Daily Sides

Fresh Vegetables
Fresh Tossed Salad
Assorted Fruit
NY Chilled Milk
100% Fruit Juice

*Bread Choice = Soft Pretzel or Breadstick

PRICING:

Breakfast & Lunch: \$0.00
Milk/Ala Carte Side: \$0.75
Snacks: \$0.50-\$1.60

NOTE: Every student receives 1 bfast and 1 lunch at no charge per school day. Each bfast & lunch must be a **COMPLETE MEAL**, or student will be charged ala carte for each item on their tray.

Breakfast Menu

Monday: Breakfast on a Stick
Tuesday: Stuffed Bagel Bites or Cinnamon Roll
Wednesday: Breakfast Sandwich
Thursday: French Toast Sticks

Friday: Mini Pancakes
Daily Options: Bagel, Asst. Cereal, Graham Crackers, Asst. Oatmeal, Muffin Top, BFast Bar, NY Yogurt, Asst. Fruit, 100% Fruit Juice & Chilled NY Milk



Contact the Food Service Office at (607) 739-5601 (ext. 3671 or ext. 3674) or go to the School District Website Food Service Page & click on the Contact Us button to fill in and submit your info. If you have a food allergy or intolerance, please notify us.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer & provider. This menu is subject to change with out advance notice.

DECEMBER - CARING 2025



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><i>DAY 2</i></p> <p>4th Grade Concert In School 7:00pm HS Aud Scripps Spelling Bee Qualifier Paper Test—Library</p>	<p><i>SNOW DAY</i></p> <p>GR PTO MTG 6:00 Library</p>	<p><i>DAY 3</i></p> <p>HOLIDAY SHOP</p>	<p><i>DAY 4</i></p> <p>HOLIDAY SHOP Bldg. Union Mtg 3:30</p>	<p><i>DAY 1</i></p> <p>School Store 8:20—8:50 GR Spirit Day Wear Blue/Gold PTO FAMILY FUN EVENT SANTA READ ALOUD AND MOVIE NIGHT 6:00 - 7:00</p>
<p><i>DAY 2</i></p> <p>4th Grade Concert In School 7:00pm HS Aud Scripps Spelling Bee Qualifier Paper Test—Library</p>	<p><i>DAY 3</i></p> <p>HOLIDAY SHOP</p>	<p><i>DAY 4</i></p> <p>HOLIDAY SHOP</p>	<p><i>DAY 1</i></p> <p>HOLIDAY SHOP Bldg. Union Mtg 3:30</p>	<p><i>DAY 2</i></p> <p>School Store 8:20—8:50 TOWN HALL MTG</p>
<p><i>DAY 3</i></p> <p>Spirit Day— Wear Red & Green</p>	<p><i>DAY 4</i></p> <p>Spirit Day—Pajama Day Polar Express PK—1st</p>	<p><i>DAY 1</i></p> <p>Spirit Day - Wear Blue & White</p>	<p><i>DAY 2</i></p> <p>Spirit Day—Elf Yourself BOE Mtg 6:00 at Transportation</p>	<p><i>DAY 3</i></p> <p>School Store 8:20—8:50 Spirit Day - Holiday Sweater Winter Sing Along</p>
<p><i>DAY 3</i></p> <p>Spirit Day— Wear Red & Green</p>	<p><i>DAY 4</i></p> <p>Spirit Day—Pajama Day Polar Express PK—1st</p>	<p><i>DAY 1</i></p> <p>Spirit Day - Wear Blue & White</p>	<p><i>DAY 2</i></p> <p>Spirit Day—Elf Yourself BOE Mtg 6:00 at Transportation</p>	<p><i>DAY 3</i></p> <p>School Store 8:20—8:50 Spirit Day - Holiday Sweater Winter Sing Along</p>
<p>NO SCHOOL <u>Winter Recess</u></p>	<p>NO SCHOOL <u>Winter Recess</u></p>	<p>NO SCHOOL <u>Winter Recess</u></p>	<p>NO SCHOOL <u>Winter Recess</u></p>	<p>NO SCHOOL <u>Winter Recess</u></p>

Hi JANUARY - FAIRNESS 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dec. 29 NO SCHOOL	Dec. 30 NO SCHOOL	Dec. 31 NO SCHOOL	1 NO SCHOOL	2 NO SCHOOL
5 DAY 4 School Tool Opens	6 DAY 1 GR PTO Meeting 6:00 Library	7 DAY 2 Aimsweb Benchmarking	8 DAY 3 BOE Mtg 6:00 at IS End of Marking Period	9 DAY 4 School Store 8:20—8:35 GR Spirit Day Wear Blue/Gold
12 DAY 1 KID TALK	13 DAY 2 Aimsweb Benchmarking	14 DAY 3 Candid/Group Photo Day including All Staff Photo	15 DAY 4 BOE Mtg 6:00 at IS End of Marking Period	16 DAY 1 School Store 8:20—8:35 FAMILY FUN NIGHT BINGO 6—7:00 CAFETERIA TOWN HALL MTG
19 NO SCHOOL MLK Jr. Day	20 DAY 2	21 DAY 3	22 DAY 4	23 DAY 1 School Store 8:20—8:35 National Compliment Day (Jan. 24th) UST - GR 4 AM
26 DAY 2 Full Day off for only 7-12 UST Mtg - GR 2 - AM UST Mtg - GR 1 PM	27 DAY 3 Report Cards go home (Pre K—6)	28 DAY 4	29 DAY 1 UST Mtg Gr 3 AM UST Mtg Gr K PM	30 DAY 2 School Store 8:20—8:35 Spelling Script Bee 5:00— Cafeteria