



Horseheads Central School District

# Golden Star Gazette

June 2020

## Gardner Road Elementary School

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

[ppatterson@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:ppatterson@horseheadsdistrict.com)



Dear Gardner Road Families –

June is upon us and this school year was certainly a unique one for all of us. First, I would like to take a moment to say thank you to all of our families. We never expected schooling to be online and then the need for all of our families to take on a new and unexpected role in partnership with us at the school. I know this has been a challenge and your support to your child(ren) is well worth it. I wish I could say I knew what schooling would look like in September. We will keep you up to date as we navigate this new landscape. We do look forward to when we can have our Golden Stars back in the hallways and classrooms at Gardner Road.

The last day of new learning will be June 12<sup>th</sup> and teachers will stay in touch with their class the following week to tie up any loose ends. We have all of your child's materials ready to pick up with the exception of the yearbook. Once those come in, I will send out a sign-up sheet for your family to collect these belongings. More details will be shared in that communication. There will also be time to turn in technology between June 22 and 24 with more details coming soon.

I want to wish our 4<sup>th</sup> graders the best as they venture off to the Intermediate School. We are looking forward to a virtual celebration hosted by our teachers and sponsored by the PTO. 4<sup>th</sup> graders who have instruments are encouraged to keep them over the summer. Best wishes to our 4<sup>th</sup> graders & remember that you're always Golden Stars!

I want to also say thank you to the amazing staff at Gardner Road. Our community is fortunate to have such a great group of people working with our Golden Stars. Please help me celebrate the staff who are retiring – we will miss you Mrs. Featherman, Mrs. Setzer and Mrs. Rodabaugh. Thank you to Mrs. Alwine and Mrs. Howard who were with us as long term substitutes. Also, thank you to Mr. Lamar as he is also leaving us. Mrs. Shutter (in the main office) is also retiring. Thanks for helping us each afternoon. We appreciate all of your support and kindness to our students. Your service to our kids will always be in our hearts and will be missed dearly.

Due to COVID-19, this year we need to complete our annual school budget vote and school Board Elections by absentee ballot only. Please be sure to call the district office at 607-739-5601 ext. 4260 as soon as possible to confirm your name, address, and eligibility to vote. Please take the time to vote this year! The BOE will be having a virtual public budget hearing on Monday, June 1st, 2020 at 6pm. To view the meeting, please go to: <http://Ideas.gstboces.org/hhds>.

Stay up to date with Gardner Road information by visiting our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) throughout the summer. Please contact me if you need anything, have any questions or would just like to chat about our school/your child.

Your Partner in Education

  
Patrick Patterson - Principal

## Inside the Gazette:

### Page 2:

District Budget

### Page 3:

Character Corner

School Mission & Vision



### Included in the Online Newsletter:

Digital Citizenship – June

Report to Parents



**Our Office is officially open again!**

**Main Office Hours:**

8:00 – 3:00



## Moishe's Quote of the Month:

“Leisure is the time to do something useful.” Benjamin Franklin

# Gardner Road Main Office Updates:



## Are you Moving?

If you are moving to a new school next year, please notify the office as soon as possible and talk to our attendance clerk, Mrs. Wright. Please contact your child's new school so that they can request records from us. This will help us make accurate class lists for next school year. Thank you!

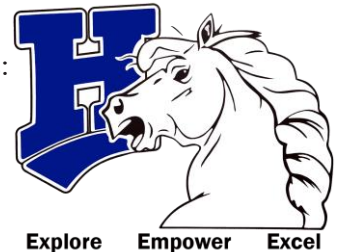
## Budget Vote/Board Election by Absentee Ballot This Year

In accordance with New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order, the Horseheads Central School District will hold the 2020-21 Budget Vote/Board of Education Election via absentee ballot only.

Ballots will be mailed to those eligible voters who voted in the 2019 annual vote. In addition, applications for absentee ballots may also be applied for at the office of the District Clerk for any qualified voter in the district who did not vote in the 2019 annual vote. Contact the District Clerk at 607-739-5601 ext. 4260 to schedule an appointment to complete the application for a ballot to be mailed to you. Such applications for an absentee ballot must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the absentee voter or the day before the vote if the ballot is to be picked up by the absentee voter by scheduled appointment at the district office. Absentee ballots must be received in the office of the District Clerk, 143 Hibbard Road, Horseheads, NY 14845, not later than 5 p.m. on June 9 in order to be counted.

All district residents are eligible to vote, as long as 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



A public hearing will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 2020, virtually at <http://Ideas.gstboces.org/hhds>. (After June 1, a video of the hearing will be at [www.horseheadsdistrict.com/Budget2020-21.cfm](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/Budget2020-21.cfm).)

For more information on the proposed budget, please go to <https://horseheadsdistrict>.



## Character Education Summer of 2020!

Character education learning is a year round learning event for our students in Horseheads. Below are tips for the summer months. Be on the lookout for our character education connections in our community.

### Fairness-July

- Discuss why games have rules
- Talk about taking turns while choosing things to do on vacation
- Discuss with your child why fair is not always equal
- Show good sportsmanship

### Trustworthiness -August

- Have a family game night
- Model honesty in your everyday life
- Point out characters in books, movies, TV shows who display trustworthiness and why
- Focus on the "fun" of something instead of winning
- Honesty starts at home







# "We Succeed Because The Stars Lead!"

## June's Character Trait is:

### Character Education

## Caring

- Think about how your actions will affect others
- Be sensitive to people's feelings
- Help people in need  
Treat people with kindness and generosity
- Do not be mean or hurtful



Character Matters  
Horseheads Central School District

## Horseheads Central School District's Mission & Vision:



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**

**To report child abuse or neglect  
call toll free 1-800-342-3720  
or  
[ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps](http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps)**



FLY A KITE  
JUMP IN PUDDLES  
CLIMB TREES  
LIE IN THE GRASS  
BUILD A FORT  
PRETEND  
CATCH FIREFLIES  
RUN BAREFOOT  
PLAY IN THE RAIN  
REACH FOR THE STARS  
IMAGINE  
SLEEP SOUNDLY  
MAKE MUDPIES  
DREAM BIG



## Chemung County Meal Program

*Please note: Families may participate in both the district and county meal programs.*

Chemung County is providing boxes of non-perishable food items for families in need of assistance. Registration is required. To reserve a meal box, please call the county hotline at (607) 873-1813, x1. Boxes will be available Mondays and Thursdays at district meal sites and through delivery. Families must register for a box each time they need one.

### Questions?

**Call the county hotline number at 873-1813, x1.**

**SEE YOU SOON!**

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](mailto:cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com). The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Gardner Road Elementary is Patrick Patterson. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Patrick Patterson at (607) 739 – 6347.

## Report to **PARENTS**

# Keeping Children Healthy While School's Out

### Watch your child for signs of illness

If you see any sign of illness consistent with symptoms of COVID-19, particularly fever, cough, or shortness of breath, call your health care provider and keep your child at home and away from others as much as possible. Follow the CDC's guidance on what to do if you are sick.

### Look for signs of stress in your child

Some common changes to watch for include excessive worry or sadness, unhealthy eating or sleeping habits, and difficulty with attention and concentration.

Take time to talk with your child or teen about the COVID-19 outbreak. Answer questions and share facts about COVID-19 in a way that your child or teen can understand.

### Teach and reinforce everyday preventive actions

Parents and caretakers play an important role in teaching children to wash their hands. Explain to them that handwashing can keep them healthy and stop the virus from spreading to others.

Be a good role model. If your children see you wash your hands often, they're more likely to do the same.

Make handwashing a family activity.



### Help your child stay active

Encourage your child to play outdoors. It's great for physical and mental health. Take a walk with your child or go on a bike ride.

Use indoor activity breaks (like stretch breaks or dance breaks) throughout the day to help your child stay healthy and focused.

### Help your child stay socially connected

Reach out to friends and family via phone or video chats.

Write cards or letters to family members they might not be able to visit.

Some schools and nonprofits, such as the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning and The Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, have resources for social and emotional learning. Check to see whether your school has tips and guidelines to help support social and emotional needs of your child.

# **Horseheads Central School District**

# **Technology Help**

## **During the 2020 Extended Student Dismissal**

### **Wi-Fi hot spots available beginning May 27**

In our continued efforts to provide students with internet access during the extended student dismissal, the Horseheads district will be offering the use of internet hot spots for students who need to connect to download and/or upload assignments. These hot spots will be available **beginning Wednesday, May 27**.

Please note: These hot spots are meant for students to download and/or upload materials and then leave the area to do the assignments at home or elsewhere. Please do not stay for extended periods of time.

#### **Standalone hot spot in Erin**

There will be a standalone hot spot at the Erin Fire Department available from 8am to 5pm. Please use the side parking lot and please **do not block** the front doors of the fire station.

#### **Mobile hot spots from district buses in three locations**

Beginning Wednesday, May 27, the district will provide mobile hotspots from three bus locations in the farther edges of our district. Look for the Horseheads buses at the following sites:

- ➔ Park Station Fishing Launch parking area
- ➔ Millport parking area on Crescent Street
- ➔ Whitney Park parking area near Sing Sing Road and Chambers Road intersection

#### ***Important Notes for bus hot spots:***

- Buses will be in these locations Monday through Friday from 8-10am and from 1-3pm.
- Park near the bus, but **do not block the front or rear of the bus**. The bus will be running so there will be exhaust.
- Depending on the strength of the signal, you can park up to 20 yards away. Please do not get closer than 15 feet to the bus. In order to get the best signal, please consider a different time if there are more than five cars around the bus.
- The buses use a cellular signal projected from the bus to provide internet access. Note that cellular signals vary, and you may experience slowness or some intermittent signals.
- The bus driver is not a technician and will not be able to assist you with the connection to the hot spot.
- No one but the driver is allowed on the bus at these hot spots.

#### **Network access outside buildings**

The most reliable options for access are the parking lots at our four elementary schools and district office. Big Flats, Center Street, Gardner Road, Ridge Road, and District Offices (143 Hibbard Road, Horseheads) provide a signal for students to connect to our network. Connection at these locations is available from 7am to 9pm.

#### **Important Notes for hot spots**

- We recommend using a laptop rather than a tablet or smartphone to make the best connection.
- District-owned laptops will automatically connect to the Regional Network when within range.
- If using a personal laptop, the student will connect to the BYOD-HH when in range. If not prompted automatically, please open a browser (using Chrome or Edge). The student will be prompted to enter their network credentials. These are the same credentials our students use to access school accounts (lastname-firstname and password).

*If you have questions or need assistance with hot spot access, use the online form [here](#), or contact our Tech Help Line at 607-481-2850.*





# Digital Citizen News

## June 2020

Remote Learning Edition

Stay Home - Stay Safe  
Protect Yourself & Others

Volume 3 : Issue 10 - June 2020



DIGITAL CITIZENS ARE  
REALLY SUPER CITIZENS

DOWNLOAD & PRINT OUR JUNE POSTER



THIS NEWSLETTER CERTIFIED  
**100% VIRUS-FREE**

BE #DIGITALCITIZENSTRONG

### LET'S HAVE A SHOUT OUT TO ALL OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES - OPEN IN REMOTE LEARNING FORMATS

Many of the mainstream news sources are going on and on about how school is cancelled, NYS testing is cancelled, end of year events postponed or cancelled all together. We know better! School is not cancelled! Our Schools are working harder than ever! Educators, Administrators and Support Staff everywhere are transforming educational services in a way that they never anticipated.



To our food services workers providing daily meals and transportation drivers making deliveries.

**WE THANK  
YOU ALL!**



To our teachers and teaching aides and assistants who are spending countless hours trying to reach each and every one of their students while still keeping in mind data security and privacy settings.

**WE THANK  
YOU ALL!**



To our principals who are calling and driving by students houses to check on them because teachers are worried and haven't heard from them.

**WE THANK  
YOU ALL!**



To all the students who are navigating this whole new style of learning and teaching their teachers how to use all of these new platforms.

**WE THANK  
YOU ALL!**



To all the parents and caregivers who are all of a sudden finding themselves with a whole new role in their child's life.

**WE THANK  
YOU ALL!**



To all the Community members who are going above and beyond to ensure that their neighbors physical, emotional, mental and digital needs are being met while bringing joy to each other.

**WE THANK  
YOU ALL!**

**TO ALL - STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY IN BOTH A DIGITAL AND A PHYSICAL WAY**

# Fighting Summer Melt using SORA by Overdrive



In a world where remote learning has taken the forefront, we cannot forget that summer vacation is right around the corner. While we look to summer vacation as time to have fun in the sun and take a break from school, students and parents should be aware of "summer-melt."

**Summer-melt refers to learning lost when a student is taken out of the school environment for a pro-longed period.**

To help fight summer melt, all students who receive this newsletter have a FREE subscription to SORA. Sora is your virtual library where you can access audiobooks and eBooks 24/7. You can even connect SORA to your public library!

**Students can take notes, track reading progress, even get achievement badges! Books are available for all grade levels and supports all learning abilities.**

**You can download the SORA app through the Google Playstore, or Apple Appstore, or go to [soraapp.com](http://soraapp.com). Once there, find your school by entering in your zip code. If you don't know your account information, contact your school librarian.**

**Happy summer reading!**

<http://go.gstric.org/310-sora>



## IT'S ABOUT TIME TO BRAG ABOUT OUR 20-21 CALENDAR

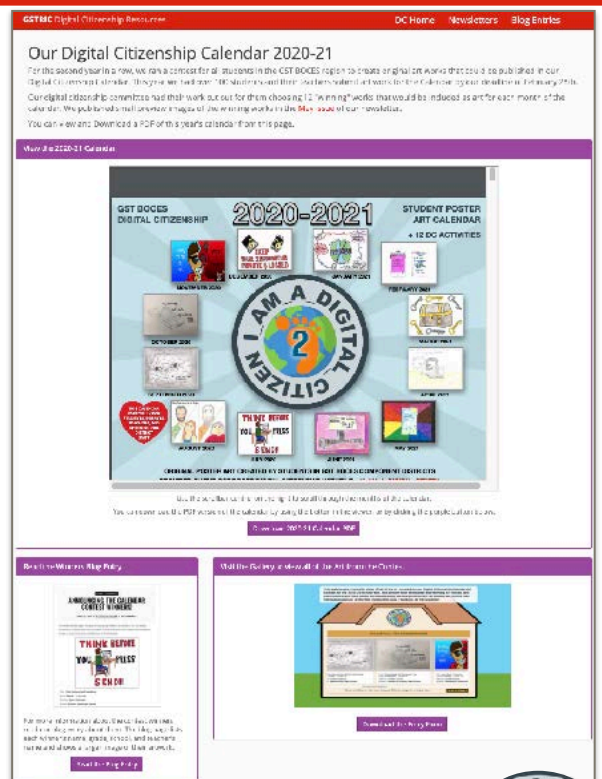
You have been hearing about it for months, and the last issue we published small previews of the winning art but we have finally released the actual calendar! You can download a PDF of it at <http://go.gstric.org/calendar2020>. Printed copies will be available during June.



You can also read more about the calendar in our blog article, and you can view all of the submitted art in our interactive gallery.

<http://go.gstric.org/310-blog>

<http://go.gstric.org/310-gallery>



# SCHEDULE SCREEN-FREE TIME THIS SUMMER

parents have to be  
purposeful about  
finding screen-free  
alternatives for kids

This summer unplug from technology and let your child just play! Here are some screen-free activities to try. Check out this website for more ideas. <http://go.gstric.org/310-active>



Go on a nature walk and look for different kinds of plants or flowers. If you see any wildlife stay safe.



Visit 3 or 4 local parks. Take pictures at each one and create a memory album.



Paint rocks with encouraging words and hide them around town for people to find.



Complete a summer reading challenge with all of your friends. Who can read the most?



Ask your local shelter what they need for the summer. Buy a few things and drop them off. Teach your kids to serve others.



Host a backyard art party for your kids and their friends! Have prizes for different categories.



Make treats for your local firefighters. Deliver them to your nearby fire station.



Try your hand at camping. Even if it is only in your backyard. It is totally ok!

## Some Thoughts on the Importance of Play

"Through play, children acquire literacy, mathematical, and creative skills.

Make-believe play, in particular, has been linked to self-regulation skills, which in turn have been linked to greater academic success than IQ has. Self-regulation skills also help children with self-control and with managing stress while learning.

Moreover, if children don't learn to play as children, they aren't likely to discover its value as adults. And just think about what a dreary existence daily life will be without a playful attitude."



### Rae Pica

an education consultant specializing in the education of the whole child, children's physical activity, and the mind/body connection since 1980

Source: <http://go.gstric.org/310-raepica>



Make a DIY bird feeder. Take a toilet paper roll, spread some peanut butter on it and roll it in seed! Hang it for the birds!



Take a family bike ride on a trail you've never explored!



Plant a garden. Near the end of the summer, bring some of your extra garden produce to a food bank.

These are only a few suggestions. Get more at <http://go.gstric.org/310-active>. Fun and Learning go hand in hand. Have a great summer with your family and friends!



# DIGITAL CITIZENS ARE GREAT CITIZENS



We keep ourselves safe online and we social distance when we are in person.



We protect our data and identities while we protect our health and others' with PPE.



We respect our friends and neighbors and communicate respectfully to everyone online and in our neighborhoods.



We are digitally and technologically literate, and we keep up with the latest news and information.



We do not spread viruses or fake news.



We practice personal privacy and security.



We make our communities better.



Our reputations are precious to us, so we strive to act according to best practices online and in real life.

# Horseheads Central Schools 2020-2021 School Calendar

^ Early Dismissal Drill

BOE Approved 5/21/20 (Pending Changes as a Result of Any Executive Orders for Covid)

## SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8^	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	31	25	26	27	28	29

## FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

## MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	30	24	31	25	26	27

## JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### School Not in Session:

Labor Day	9/7
Columbus Day	10/12
Veterans Day	11/11
Thanksgiving Recess	11/25 - 11/27
Winter Recess	12/24 - 1/1
Martin Luther King, Jr Day	1/18
President's Day Recess	2/15-2/16
Spring Recess/Good Friday	4/2- 4/9*
Memorial Day Recess	5/31

\* Pending days utilized for school closures.




### Parent/Teacher Conference

11/6/19 (½ Day PM Off - Pre K – 6<sup>th</sup> Only)  
11/13/19 (½ Day PM Off - Pre K – 6<sup>th</sup> Only)  
11/20/19 (½ Day PM Off - Pre K – 6<sup>th</sup> Only)

### End of Year ½ Days (AM)

6/21/21 (Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> Only)  
6/22/21 (Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> Only)  
6/23/21 (Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> Only)  
6/24/21 (Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> Only)

## LEGEND

	<b>Conference Days</b> (9/8, 10/9, 2/1 & 3/15)
	<b>Schools Closed*</b>
	<b>Regents Exams</b>

The district will communicate to residents and staff about any calendar adjustments needed due to excessive closure days, or the lack thereof, by April 1, 2021 (per contractual obligations). Please be aware, if the district needs to make up school days\*\*, the Priority of Make-up Days, will be as follows, unless modifications to the below schedule are needed:

1 <sup>st</sup> Make Up Day	4/9/21
2 <sup>nd</sup> Make Up Day	4/8/21
3 <sup>rd</sup> Make Up Day	4/7/21
4 <sup>th</sup> Make Up Day	4/6/21
5 <sup>th</sup> Make Up Day	4/5/21

Last School Day: 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>: 6/15/21

Last School Day: PreK-8<sup>th</sup>: 6/24/21

\*\*The district has the potential for several closure days built into the calendar (all pending total # of hours required by NYSED and new state attendance regulations).

First Day of School Pre K - 12th:  
Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Last Teacher Day:  
Friday, June 25, 2021