



Horseheads Central School District

Golden Star Gazette

October 2023

Gardner Road Elementary School

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

ppatterson@horseheadsdistrict.com



Dear Gardner Road Families –

It was wonderful seeing our families at the Open House and at the Ice Cream Social this past month. We had a phenomenal start to the year thanks to the great partnership with our families and the dedication of our Gardner Road team. Thank you! We launched our year with a concert with Jared Campbell who reminded us about being our best selves, showing kindness, using the power of yet, and dreaming big. We talked about these ideas more in our grade level town halls and during my class visit to each class. The students are clearly making new friendships and learning lots of new things. We look forward to an amazing school year with many events and great learning experiences for our Golden Stars.

Thank you for your flexibility as we have put in some new procedures due to construction such as the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. Everything is running smoothly thanks to everyone doing their part.

There is a bunch going on in October. Just a friendly reminder that Thursday, October 5th is Picture Day. There will be a make-up picture day in November. The School Store opens the Friday, October 6th for the school year. It will be in the main lobby this year and is only open on Fridays. If your child goes, they must be back to their classroom by 8:30. The first Friday of every month is always a Gardner Road Spirit Day – be sure to wear your blue and gold! The PTO will be hosting a Pumpkin Decorating event at the Intermediate School on 10/26 – be on the lookout for more details. See page 3 for details about our Halloween Parade.

Be sure to check out our [school website](#) for updates and please keep up to date with the happenings at our school, by following our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. We look forward to seeing you throughout the school year at Gardner Road. Please contact me if you need anything, have questions, or would just like to chat about our school/your child.

Your Partner in Education,

Patrick Patterson - Principal



Inside the Gazette:

Page 2:

Main Office Updates
September Snapshots

Page 3:

Halloween Parade

Page 4

Character Corner, Conflict vs,
Bullying, & School Mission & Vision



Included in the Online Newsletter:

Lunch Menu
October Calendar
Horseheads Swim Lessons
Career Day Volunteers
Celebrating our Veteran's Concert
Cybersecurity Forum
Home/School Connections



GENERAL INFORMATION:

Gardner Road School Hours

8:00 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

Tardy Bell – 8:15 AM

Gardner Road Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Elementary Lunches (K-6)

Breakfast and Lunch: Free

<https://horseheadscafeteria.gstboces.org/>

Moishe's Quote of the Month:

"The best way to predict your future is to create it."

Abraham Lincoln



Gardner Road Main Office Updates:



Fire Drills and Lockdowns:

Students and staff have been practicing our fire drills throughout the month of September and will continue through the fall. One question we are having students think about during our fire drills is, "what is another way out?" In October, the Horseheads Fire Department will visit us to talk about Fire Safety. The focus will be on Exit Plans In the Home (EDITH). Look for the flyer coming home so you can make an exit plan for your family. We will also be practicing our lockdown procedure and other drills to assure all students know how to stay safe!

Substitute Teacher Expectations:

Throughout the school year, teachers must be out of their classroom to administer assessments, attend professional learning or for other reasons. Our teachers do a great job preparing students for the change in routines and expectations for these days. It would be appreciated that you also remind your child of positive behavior expectations with the substitute on these days so they maximize their learning. Thank you!

Legal Notices:

If your family has legal documentation that the school should be aware of, please bring in a copy to Mrs. Wright in the main office. Thank you!

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 office, labeled with your child's name and teacher. We will make sure they receive it.

Online District Calendar

To see district/school events in 2023-2024, please go to <https://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/fullcalendar.cfm>

September Snapshots



Check out more photos and events on our [Facebook Page!](#)



HALLOWEEN PARADE

OCTOBER
31

START 1:20 PM



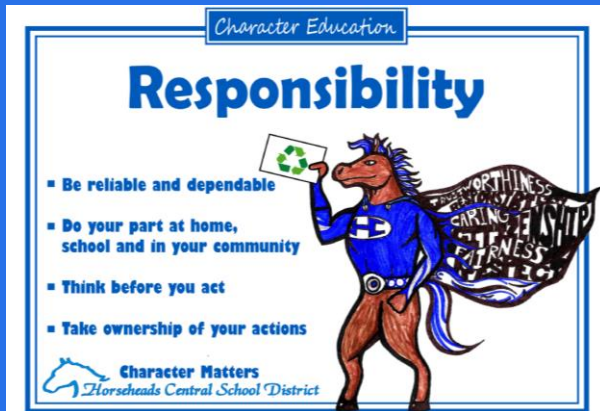
All parents are invited to join us for the Halloween parade. The parking lot fills up quickly so we encourage carpooling. The students and teachers will march in front of the school from the kindergarten wing towards the gymnasium. We ask that all visitors stand behind the fence in the parking lot. Please make sure that your child's costume is appropriate for our very young students to see and that it does not have any type of toy weapons, blood, etc. as a prop. We will run a normal morning schedule that is focused on academics. We appreciate that your child come to school not dressed in costume or with make-up on. All students will have an opportunity to change into their costumes prior to the parade. Because of the numbers of potential visitors and the safety concerns connected to it, we do not allow families in school after the parade. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in a wonderful event for our students.

GARDNER ROAD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



"We Succeed Because The Stars Lead!"

October's Character Trait is:



This month we focus on the character trait of responsibility, which is one of our school rules as well. Our Character Education Leadership Team created a video which we will watch in our grade level town halls on ways to be responsible Golden Stars. Thank you to those 3rd and 4th graders that helped with this. As part of our character education learning, we will have our first community service project of the year for Make a Difference Day. The week of October 23rd, we will collect donations for local animal shelters. Drop off items in our main lobby! You can also drop off donations at our GRPTO Pumpkin Decorating event on 10/26.

Be Kind, Be Strong, Be Well

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**

Be the 'I' in Kind!



Be the 'I' in Kind!



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 Patrick Patterson. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Patrick Patterson at (607) 739 – 6347.



New Visitor Management System

The district will be using the Raptor Visitor Management System in all schools beginning in the Fall of 2023. The new system will strengthen safety in our buildings. The system will better allow us to screen visitors, contractors, and volunteers in our schools and provide us with a safer environment.

What to expect:

- Upon entering the building visitors will be asked to present a photo ID such as a driver's license or passport.
- Your ID will be scanned into the visitor management system.
- Once cleared, you will be given a pre-printed badge with your photo on it.
- You will then be directed to the appropriate location. You are only approved to go to the specific location requested. You should not go to any other area of the building without approval from the Main Office.
- The badge must be worn at all times while in the building.
- When leaving the building, please return to the office and turn in your printed badge to sign out.

What does the new system do?

- The system can check for court issued custodial orders, restraining orders, and other alerts as established by the district.
- The system can also check to ensure that registered sex offenders are not entering our school campus. The system checks the visitor's name and date of birth for comparison with a national database of registered sex offenders.
- No other data is gathered or recorded, nor is the information shared with any outside agency.
- Once entry is approved, the system will issue a badge that identifies the visitor, the date and time, and the purpose of the visit. The badge must be worn at all times when in the building.

What if I do not have a US Government ID?

- If a visitor does not have a US government-issued ID for any reason, the visitor can use an alternate photo ID.
- In this case, the visitor must present their non-US government issued ID as well as a second ID with their name on it, such as a bank card or credit card.
- As long as we have two forms of identification, one with a photo, we will manually enter the visitor's name into the system.

What if I am just dropping off something for my child?

- Badging is only necessary when a visitor is entering the school building. Identification will not be necessary for dropping off items for your child. Please follow your school's protocol for dropping off items.

What if I am picking up my child early?

- This process will not be necessary when picking up your child early. Please follow your school's protocol for picking up early from school.

What about evening events?

- We will not be scanning IDs for events held after school hours. Follow your school's protocol for after school or evening events.

If you have questions, please contact your school. Thank you for helping to keep our schools safe.



Horseheads Central School District

Learning in a Digital World

A forum for parents and guardians about how the district works
to keep our schools cybersafe and our students cyberaware

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Horseheads High School Auditorium

Keynote Speaker

Joe Cicero, MS, MBA

Security, Compliance, and Management, Microsoft Security

*Learn more about Joe Cicero on
his LinkedIn page at this QR code:*



All Horseheads parents and guardians are welcome



NYS Digital Resources Family Questionnaire

SchoolTool Parent Portal Instructions

Dear Horseheads Central School District Parents and Guardians:

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) requires that districts send a digital resources questionnaire to parents and guardians. This information is meant to assist the state and districts in providing resources to students and families. NYSED asks that you complete a questionnaire for each student in grades K-12 in your family. You can access the questionnaire by logging in to the Parent Portal at <http://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads> and following the instructions below. If you do not yet have a Parent Portal account, you can request one using this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/zmB1NAWB8u>. If you have questions, please contact your school office. Thank you.

Annotations:

- Click on student's name.** (Points to Oscar Anders in the student list)
- Click on User Defined tab.** (Points to the USER DEFINED tab in the bottom navigation bar)

Mobile App Instructions:

If using the mobile app (<http://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads>): After logging in, tap FORMS at the top of the screen.

- From drop-down menu, select NYS Digital Resources Family Questionnaire.
- Click on the green plus icon to open the survey.

- Leave Start Date set to current date.
- Select appropriate response from drop-down menu next to each question.
- Click on the green save disk to save and submit your responses.
- Return to Home Screen, complete Survey for all students in the household.

Student

NYS Digital Resources Family Questionnaire [Save] [Cancel] [Help]

Start Date: 9/27/2022 [Calendar] End Date: 9/27/2022 [Calendar]

Collecting accurate data regarding digital resource access for our New York students will greatly help educators to better serve their students and families. In order to accomplish this, the New York State Education Department is asking parents or guardians to complete a Digital Equity survey for each student in the family in grades Kindergarten – Grade 12. This survey will provide information on student access to devices and internet access in their places of residence. To assist us in this process, please answer each question below to the best of your ability and follow any additional instructions provided for submitting or returning the survey.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

NOTE: You must answer at least one question for this survey to be valid.

Did the school district issue your child a dedicated school or district-owned device for their use during the school year?:
☐ None

What is the device your child uses most often to complete learning activities away from school? (This can be a school-provided device or another device, whichever the student is most often using to complete their schoolwork.)
☐ None

Who is the provider of the primary learning device identified in Question 2? (This can be a school-provided device or another device, whichever the student is most often using to complete their schoolwork.):
☐ None

Is the primary learning device (identified in Question 2) shared with anyone else in the household?:
☐ None

Is the primary learning device (identified in Question 2) sufficient for your child to fully participate in all learning activities away from school?:
☐ None

Is your child able to access the internet in their primary place of residence?:
☐ None

What is the primary type of internet service used in your child's primary place of residence?:
☐ None

In their primary residence, can your child complete the full range of learning activities, including video streaming and assignment upload, without interruptions caused by slow or poor internet performance?:
☐ None

What, if any, is the primary barrier to having sufficient and reliable internet access in your child's primary place of residence?:
☐ None

Swimming Lessons **Grades K-6**

- **Three sessions throughout the school year**
- **\$30 for each session - pay by cash or check**
(payable to Horseheads Central School District)
- **Register for Session 1 by October 14 at**
<https://forms.office.com/r/CsqVR27vwP> or
this QR code:



Register today!

Dates for Lessons:

Session #1: October 28, November 4, November 18, December 2, December 9, December 16, January 6, January 13

Session #2: January 20, January 27, February 3, February 10, February 17, March 2, March 16, March 23

Session #3: April 13, April 20, April 27, May 4, May 11, May 18, June 1, June 8

Report to PARENTS

9 Tips to Build a Habit of Good Attendance

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Even as kids grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students access learning opportunities and understand why attendance is so important for success in school. Families can use these strategies to help kids build a habit of good attendance.



Did You Know?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 2 days a month can make it harder for kids to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student might drop out of high school.

What You Can Do

1. **Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.** A structured routine helps kids feel safe and secure because they know what to expect.
2. **Prepare the night before.** Help your child pick out an outfit for the next school day and set it out so it's ready to go when they wake up. Pack backpacks then, too.
3. **Keep your child healthy.** Make sure your child has the required immunizations and is practicing healthy habits to stop the spread of germs and illnesses.
4. **Ease anxieties.** If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning. Focus on the positives about the school day, and do what you can to ease their anxieties, like introducing your child to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
5. **Develop backup plans.** If something comes up and you're unable to take your child to school on time, make plans with a family member, a neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.
6. **Limit out-of-school time.** Try to schedule medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.
7. **Seek advice.** If your child is sick, call your school for advice about whether they should come in or stay home.
8. **Know that perfect attendance isn't the goal.** There are times when your child should stay home due to illness. When this happens, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.
9. **Communicate with schools.** Oftentimes a barrier that exists for you exists for other families in the community. Work together with the school to address systemic barriers that might be causing kids to miss more days of school than they should.

Celebrating our Veterans at Gardner Road Elementary School



On **Monday**, November 13, 2023, Gardner Road Elementary School will honor the Veterans in our community. This year, we will host an evening concert at the High School Auditorium on Monday, November 13th at 7:00 PM. Do you have a relative that is a veteran? Is your neighbor a veteran? If you know a veteran and they would like to participate, please sign them up by returning the slip below and providing them with the schedule below:

- 6:30 Veterans and families arrive at the **High School Auditorium**
- receive a certificate of appreciation
 - view the collection of patriotic cards made by our students
- 7:00 Patriotic concert performed by our 2nd grade students
- 7:30 Enjoy a tasty treat on your way home donated by the GR PTO

Celebrating the Veterans in our Community Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM High School Auditorium

Name of Veteran: _____ Veteran's Phone Number: _____

The Name of the Student Inviting the Veteran: _____ Homeroom: _____

Invitee Check-Off List:

- _____ I have invited the veteran named above and they have confirmed they will come
- _____ I have informed the veteran of the schedule listed above
- _____ I have informed the veteran that they are welcome to wear a uniform

If you are a Veteran and you would like to come to our celebration, you are also welcome. Please call the Gardner Road Elementary School Office at 607-739-6347 to sign up. We look forward to honoring each of our veterans for all that they have done for our country.

Gardner Road Elementary School's Career Day

is Wednesday, November 29th
8:45 AM to 10:30 AM



Join us for a fun and educational morning showing students
all the great careers available in our area!

We are looking for parents and other important adults in our students' lives to talk about their careers. If you enjoy your career and would like to share it with the students, please consider signing up.

Gardner Road Elementary has each grade learn about a different career field:

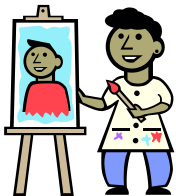
Kindergarten - Human Services ("Community Helpers")

First Grade - Health and Wellness

Second Grade - Arts and Humanities

Third Grade - Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Fourth Grade - Business, Information Technology and Engineering



If you would like to help but are not sure which career field you fall under (or what grade you would be speaking to), we are happy to talk about it before you commit to the day. Presentations are 25 minutes long and are repeated three times.

To sign up, or to get more information, please call or email Kate
McKenzie, a Career Development Rep for HCSD, at 795-5320 or

kmckenzie@gstboces.org


by October 13th.



October 2023

Gardner Road Elementary School



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Day 2 	3 Day 3	4 Day 4	5 Day 5 Fall Picture Day—Library  Photo Day	6 Day 6 Gardner Road Spirit Day Wear Blue & Gold 
9 No School 	10 Day 1 Principal Chat 5:30 GRPTO Meeting 6:00 	11 Day 2	12 Day 3 Fire Safety Assemblies TBD	13 Day 4
16 Day 5	17 Day 6 District Cybersecurity Forum HS Auditorium 6:00	18 Day 1 Unity Day - Wear Orange	19 Day 2 BOE Meeting GR Gym 6:00	20 Superintendent's Conference Day No School! 
23 Day 3 Animal Shelter Collection Drive All Week	24 Day 4	25 Day 5	26 Day 6 GRPTO Pumpkin Decorating 6:00 IS Cafeteria 	27 Day 1 28: Make a Difference Day
30 Day 2	31 Day 3 Halloween Parade 1:20 	<u>Character Education - At Home - RESPONSIBILITY</u> <i>*Discuss/choose an area for your child's backpack & school materials so they are always prepared for the day.</i> <i>*Involve children in shopping & meal planning.</i> <i>*Establish & reinforce a morning routine that your child can follow on their own.</i> <i>*Have child help with age appropriate household chores.</i> <i>*Check in with your child to make sure all school assignments are done daily.</i>		

October 2023



HORSEHEADS ELEMENTARY GRADES PK-4TH

Celebrate National School Lunch Week Oct. 9-13th!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 French Toast Sticks & Sausage Turkey Club Sub Green Beans Tater Tots	3 Chicken & Orange Sauce w/Rice NY Hot Dog on a Roll Steamed Broccoli	4 Chicken Alfredo w/Bread Cheeseburger on a Roll Steamed Broccoli Fresh Baby Carrots Cinnamon Applesauce Jello	5 Chicken Soft Taco w/Rice Bean Taco w/Rice Chicken BLT Salad w/Bread Choice Golden Sweet Corn Refried Beans	6 Buffalo Wing Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Crispy Fish Filet Sandwich Sliced Carrots
9 HAPPY Columbus Day	10 Toasted Cheese Sandwich Chicken Ranch Wrap Hot Tomato Soup Sliced Carrots	11 Pasta w/Meatsauce & Cheese Pasta w/Marinara Sauce & Cheese Tuna Melt Steamed Broccoli Fresh Pepper Strips! Homemade Fruit Crisp	12 NY MENU DAY! NY Cheddar Cheese Quesadilla NY Cheddar Cheese Quesadilla w/Chicken Fresh NY Kale & Apple Salad NY Pepper Strips! NY Grapes! NY Juice!	13 Pizza Dunkers w/Marinara Sauce Tuna Salad Sub Sliced Carrots
Come celebrate National School Lunch Week with us! It's a great time to give our lunch & breakfast a try!				
16 Baked Mozzarella Sticks w/Pasta & Sauce Breaded Chicken Drumstick w/Breadstick Sliced Carrots	17 Sesame Chicken w/Rice NY Hot Dog on a Roll Steamed Broccoli	18 Homemade NY Macaroni & Cheese w/Bread Italian Meatball Sub Green Beans Fresh Green Pepper Strips! Fruity Jello w/Whipped Topping	19 Chicken Soft Taco w/Rice Bean Taco w/Rice Chicken BLT Salad w/Bread Choice Golden Sweet Corn Refried Beans	20 CONFERENCE DAY NO SCHOOL
23 Chicken Philly Sub Ultimate Cheese Breadstick w/Marinara Sauce Sliced Carrots Oven Fries	24 Big Apple Crunch Day! Turkey & Gravy w/Bread Ham & Cheese Deli Wrap Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Green Beans	25 Cheese Ravioli & Marinara Sauce w/Bread Authentic Pulled Pork Sandwich Steamed Broccoli Fresh Cucumber Slices! Homemade Fruit Crisp	26 Beef or Bean Soft Taco w/Rice Chicken Caesar Salad w/Bread Choice Golden Sweet Corn Refried Beans	27 Pizza Dunkers w/Marinara Sauce Tuna Salad Wrap Sliced Carrots
30 French Toast Sticks & Sausage Turkey Club Sub Green Beans Tater Tots	31 Happy Halloween! Chicken & Orange Sauce w/Rice NY Hot Dog on a Roll Steamed Broccoli	<p>PaySchools Central Make Online Payments at Payschoolcentral.com!</p> <p>What is Apple Crunch Day? Schools across the U.S. show their support for fresh, local produce by crunching into an apple on Apple Crunch Day @ 2 pm. https://farmon.org/big-apple-crunch/ #BigAppleCrunch</p>		

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: \$0.75-\$1.50
NOTE: Every student receives 1 breakfast and 1 lunch at no charge per school day. Each breakfast & 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: Cinnamon Roll
Wednesday: Breakfast Sandwich
Thursday: French Toast Sticks
Friday: Mini Pancakes
Daily Options: Bagel, Asst. Cereal, Goldfish Graham, Asst. Oatmeal, Muffin Top, Breakfast Oatmeal 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 need allergy info, please notify us.**

This institution is an equal opportunity employer &

This menu is subject to change with out advance notice.