

GARDNER ROAD

Golden Star Gazette

SEPTEMBER 2024

WELCOME BACK!

Dear Gardner Road Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! I am thrilled to rejoin the Golden Stars for a year filled with wonderful memories and meaningful learning. I hope you had a wonderful summer full of joy and relaxation. Our dedicated staff is eager to work with your children, fostering their growth and curiosity. Together, we will create a nurturing and inspiring environment where every student can shine brightly!

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Let's make this year a memorable one!

Warm regards,
Kim Malone
Interim Principal

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GENERAL INFORMATION

GARDNER ROAD SCHOOL HOURS

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

Tardy Bell - 8:15

GARDNER ROAD OFFICE HOURS

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

(607) 739-6347

MAIN OFFICE UPDATES

Beginning of School Year Checklist

- Bring in any medication and doctor's forms for medication to be given during school hours.
- Complete first day of school paperwork and return:
 - Gardner Road student handbook
 - Emergency 'Go Home' information sheet
 - free/reduced lunch form
- Set up school lunch account (if desired) on the district website under food services and look for the Pay Schools link.

Building Security

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. You will need to present a photo ID (driver's license or passport) to receive a visitors badge. For more information, click [here](#).

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. 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.

Who to call first?

We as a school 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 am the first point of contact on topics such as school policy, residency, parent portal, scheduling, or a 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 (8:00), 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 between 2:30 and 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 2024-2025, please go to <https://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/fullcalendar.cfm>, or go to the Calendar link in the main menu on the district website. Our online calendar allows us to update events throughout the year.

Annual Title I Notice for Gardner Road Elementary School

In compliance with provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, we are informing you that Gardner Road Elementary receives Title I federal funding. Therefore, you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualification of your child's classroom teacher(s). Specifically included is your right to know the following:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualification & licensing criteria for the grade levels & subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher & any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, & field of discipline of the certification or degree;
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals &, if so, their qualification.

Should you wish to exercise your right to make this request, please contact Caitlin DeFilippo, Director of Human Resources, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, New York 14845. (607) 739-5601, ext. 4211.

HORSEHEADS DISTRICT ANNUAL NOTICES 2024-2025

APPR of Teachers and Principals

The District is required to implement Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR) of teachers and principals. The outcome of the APPR is that each teacher and principal will receive an Overall Composite Rating based upon Observation and Student Performance scores. The four possible Overall Composite Ratings are Highly Effective, Effective, Developing and Ineffective (HEDI). You may request the Overall Composite Rating for the teachers and principals in the school building to which your child is assigned for the current school year by contacting the building principal of your child's school. Further, if you require additional explanation of the ratings for the teachers and principals, you may contact Tony Gill, Assistant Superintendent, at 607-739-5601, x4263. Please note that this information may be released only to parents or legal guardians. The District will verify that any request received is a bona fide request submitted by a parent or legal guardian.

Teacher Qualification

Pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind Act, parents and guardians have the right to request and receive information about the professional qualification of their children's classroom teachers. Parents wishing such information about their child(ren)'s classroom teachers should contact the building principal.

Promotion and Retention Policy

It is essential that each child experience both challenge and success from school activities. To this end, the district will make every effort to place each student in the most appropriate learning level for a successful educational experience.

Early Identification/Intervention

Classroom teachers are expected to make every effort to identify early those students at risk of failing. The Building Principal and the parents/guardian must be notified promptly if retention is anticipated, and a special support program shall be designed for each child identified as in danger of failing. Such support services may include, but are not limited to, individualized assistance before, during or after the school day; remedial classes; a change in instructional treatment, and, where appropriate, referral to the Committee on Special Education for evaluation.

Promotion/Retention

No student will be retained without an appropriate educational plan defining what will occur that is instructionally different for the student. Once the educational plan has been implemented, the student will be monitored regularly. The educational plan will be revised until the student demonstrates acceptable performance.

The following provisions shall apply to promotion and placement decisions:

- a. No student promotion or placement decision for grades three through eight shall be based solely on student performance on the ELA or Mathematics State assessments;
- b. Student assessment scores may be considered as a measure of student performance only if the decision-making process uses multiple measures of assessments and data in addition to the State assessments and the State assessments are only a minor factor in the promotion/placement decision;
- c. In making promotion and placement decisions, the school will consider in class performance, teacher observation, homework, input of the parent, social and emotional needs as well as any other applicable measures, other than State assessments;
- d. The final decision regarding placement and promotion is the decision of the building administrator;

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. The following person(s) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Caitlin DeFilippo
Director of Human Resources
cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com
143 Hibbard Road
Horseheads Central School District
Horseheads, NY 14845 (607) 739-5601

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Civil Rights
LBJ Department of Education Building
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20202-1100
(800) 421-3481

HORSEHEADS DISTRICT ANNUAL NOTICES 2024-2025

Homeless Students/Students in Temporary Housing Notice

Children and youth in temporary housing have the right to:

- Stay in the same school and get free transportation even if it is across district lines
- Participate fully in any school activities, including before- or after-school activities
- Get support services and help with things like school supplies through Title I
- Immediately enroll in school without records (school, medical, or vaccination records, proof of residency)
- Get special education services immediately if the student has a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Get free school meals without filling out an application
- Get help enrolling in pre-k, Head Start, other preschool programs, and Early Intervention
- Get help applying for financial aid for college if the student is an unaccompanied youth
- For assistance, please contact the Horseheads Central School District Director of Student Services at (607) 739-5601, x4300.

Horseheads Central School District 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:

- A student's personally identifiable information will not be sold or released for any commercial purpose;
- 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;
- 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 encryption, firewalls, and password protection.
- 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.
- 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.

Parents' Bill of Rights for Data Privacy and Security

The parent/guardian or eligible student has a right to:

- Inspect and review the student's education records;
- Request that records be amended to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights;
- Consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) authorizes disclosure without consent; and
- File a complaint with the United States Department of Education alleging failure of the district to comply with FERPA and its regulations. Complaints may be sent to Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

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.

CLOSING & 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.

The district announces school closings and delays in a variety of ways:

- **Text messaging** – Parents/guardians can receive a text message if schools are closed or delayed by opting in to our text messaging service through SchoolMessenger. To opt in, text Y or Yes to 67587. You will receive a text response confirming that you are registered for texting. For more information on text messaging, [click here](#).
- **District website** at www.horseheadsdistrict.com
- **District Facebook pages** (the district and all seven schools have pages)
- **Instagram** – hhdsschools
- **X (formerly known as Twitter)** – @HhdsSchools
- **Local television and radio stations:**
 - TV – WENY, WETM, Spectrum Cable News
 - Radio – WNKI 106.1, Bigfoot Country 95.1, Wingz 93.1 The Met, Cool 104.9, and Jamz 101.7
 - Note: Television and radio stations also put closing/delay information on their websites.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The school district has many career related events including career days, career panels, job shadows, classroom speakers, field trips, and mock interviews. We are always looking for volunteers for these events. We are looking for parents, grandparents, other adult family members and friends as well as community volunteers in every career field. If you feel your career is not of interest or you are currently at home, you may still contribute through mock interviews and other fun classroom events. Most events are only an hour or two on a given day, yet your experience and career knowledge can deeply influence a child's life, career goals, and future educational path.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about how you can get involved, please contact Deb Lynch, the Career Development Representative for the Horseheads School District, at (607)795-5320 or dlynch@gstboces.org.

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

PTO ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Friday, September 6, 2024

5:00–7:00

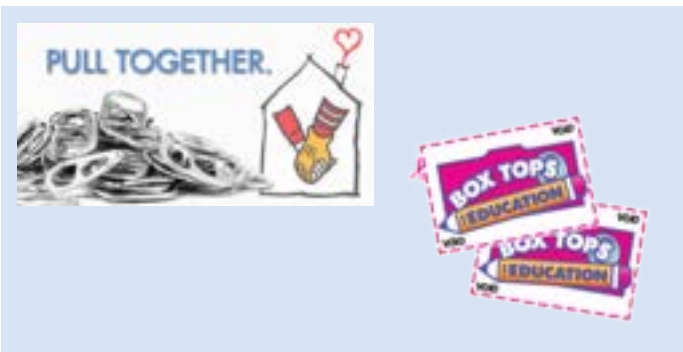
Gardner Road Playground



SEPTEMBER'S CHARACTER TRAIT



Our students at Gardner Road are GOLDEN STARS! Each month, our we focus on a different character trait. Students can earn GOLDEN TICKETS by demonstrating the month's trait! Students share their ticket in the main office and they are entered into the Character Education Bingo game. Be on the lookout for these certificates coming home! Students can also earn a GOOD NEWS CALL OF THE DAY if they have gone above and beyond – one student earns this special opportunity each day. We look forward to another great year of character at Gardner Road Elementary School!



GOLDEN STAR BUDDY 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 continue
- students want a mutual solution



BULLYING

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

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Breakfast and lunch will be free for students! If you'd like to add money to your child's account to purchase doubles or snacks, visit the link below.

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



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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 143 Hibbard Rd, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601, x4211, or cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com. The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Gardner Road Elementary is Kim Malone. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Kim Malone at (607) 739 - 6347.

