

The School Connection



Principal's Post

Horseheads Intermediate School

Spring has officially arrived! With the temperatures on the rise, it has been great to get outside more often. I hope spring brings you a refreshed feeling in the months to come.

As we soon head into Spring Break, I wanted to share a few important pieces of information. We hope you find some time to relax and enjoy the time together in the weeks to come. Spring Break is an important time to slow down and recharge your batteries. We encourage students to continue reading and staying active throughout the break. Please encourage your child to read at least 30 minutes and get an hour or more of physical activity while on break. This will keep them in good shape for their return to us on April 21st.

This year has been an incredible time for everyone to show their immense strength, determination, and perseverance as we continue to close the deficits from the past few years. I am extremely proud of our staff for their commitment to providing an amazing education, of our students for their efforts in navigating the struggles with great persistence at their young age, and our parents for the unwavering support and flexibility you have provided.

Thank you for all you do to support your child in their education. The time you devote to reading with them, helping with homework/projects, or even just ensuring their best quality work, is an investment that will pay off in the future. Check out the article to the right for 87 things you can do as a family to stay active. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

Yours in education,

Michael Bostwick

Principal

Connect with me on X: @M_Bostwick

School Hashtag: #ISinnovators

Like us on Facebook: Search Horseheads Intermediate School

Website: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHIS.cfm>

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."
- Benjamin Franklin

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Volume 13 Issue 8

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Parent Article

ATTENTION!

Parent Resources
on IS website.

*"Thank you
for all you do
to support
your child in
their
education"*

Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, April 4th:	Character Kick-Off Day – Favorite Holiday Day
Friday, April 4th:	End of Marking Period 3
Wednesday, April 9th:	Presentation and Open House for Gr. 4 Families, IS Café., 6:00 PM
Thursday, April 10th:	Board of Education Budget Workshop, 6:00 PM, MMC
Friday, April 11th:	Spirit Day – Wear Blue, Raider Blue or ISinnovators Gear
Friday, April 11th:	Report Cards Go Home
Monday, April 14-18:	NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK
Tuesday, April 22nd:	Parent/Principal Chat, 9AM (Café), 5:30 PM (Library)
Tuesday, April 22nd:	PTO Meeting, 6:00 PM, Library
Wednesday, April 23rd:	Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM, HS MMC
Tues., Apr. 29th-30th:	NYS Gr 5-6 ELA Assessments (see page 4)

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. **State Testing Information:** The NYS ELA Test is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29th, and Thursday, April 30th.
2. **Ferocious Readers -** We are quickly approaching that time of year for the completion of reading 4K page goal. We will have a special recognition for those students who achieve this goal. Each teacher has a system in place for students to report that they have met the 4K page goal. Please encourage your child to report to his or her teacher any books read so far this year.
3. **Dress Code Reminders:** With warmer weather hopefully on its way, it is time to review our dress code. Brief garments such as halter tops, spaghetti straps, net tops, tube tops, midriff bearing, or see-through garments are not appropriate. Undergarments should be completely covered with outer clothing. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed—this includes flip flops. Sandals and slip-on shoes on the playground equipment also pose a safety concern. Shorts should be a comfortable length and fit appropriately. On cool days, students should dress appropriately for the temperature. Thank you for your cooperation in adhering to this code. Additionally, for health reasons, sprays, perfumes, etc. should not be brought to school.
4. We encourage students to **bring healthy drinks** rather than soda for snack or lunch. High caffeine energy drinks such as Monster, Red Bull, Celsius, etc. are not permitted. **Healthy snacks that are low in sugar** allow students to focus better and maintain their attention span. No glass bottles please!
5. **Presidential Service Awards:** As the end of the school year is approaching, 6th grade students who meet the criteria for the 50, 75 or 100 hours awards and wish to receive their award at the Grade 6 Awards Ceremony will need to have their final log for the school year turned into the IS Office by Friday, May 2, 2025, to ensure the arrival of awards. Grade 5 students who meet the criteria will have their awards presented to them here at school. All 5th and 6th grade students who wish to continue working toward the award may do so through June 30, 2025. These log hours need to be dropped off in the IS Office by July 1, 2025. Awards will be available for students in September of 2025. Please contact the IS Office should you have any questions. [Click here](#) for more information and service logs.
6. **5th Grade & New Entrant Required NYS Physical Exam:** New York State requires that physical/health examinations be performed for all new students to the District and for all students that are entering grades **Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Grades 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, and 11th**. If you have a child entering any of these grades this fall, please contact your physician to schedule an appointment and make sure you send a copy to the school. Effective January 21, 2021, all physical health examinations must be documented on the [Required New York State School Health Examination Form \(nysed.gov\)](#). You may print a copy and bring it with you to your provider's office. Please obtain a copy and email it to tсенаторе@horseheadsdistrict.com or request your doctor's office fax a copy to HH Intermediate School-(607)795-2495. Please note the Doctors' offices do not do this automatically.
7. **6th grade Required Tdap Vaccine:** NYS requires 6th graders who are 11 years old to have a Tdap vaccine. This vaccine must be given no earlier than 10 years of age and no later than 11 years of age. For 6th grade students who are 11 years old, proof of this vaccine must be received within 14 calendar days of the start of the 2024-2025 school year. You may receive this vaccine at your primary provider's office or the Chemung County Public Health Department by calling 607-737-2028. For questions, please call Tracy Senatore, Intermediate School Nurse at 607-739-6366(3) or email tсенаторе@horseheadsdistrict.com.
8. **SUMMER SPORTS PHYSICALS 2025:** Summer physicals are now registered in Final Forms which replaced Family ID. The date has not yet been finalized. Please refer to the District Web Site for Dates of Summer Sports Physicals and Registration.

2025-2026 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

The first Budget Presentation for the 2025-2026 Budget is Thursday, February 13th. The Board will continue Budget Development and Discussion until the Final Adoption of the Budget is offered to voters at the Budget Vote on Tuesday, May 20th. Meetings are open to the public and are livestreamed. [Click here](#) to access the livestream. Links to the meeting recordings will be posted below. Please note that the livestream and meeting recordings may vary in quality. Because of this, we encourage you to join us in-person.

2025-26 Board of Education Budget Meeting Schedule:

February 13 th	Board of Education Regular Meeting	5:15 p.m.*	High School Multimedia Ctr
February 27 th	Board Budget Workshop	5:15 p.m.*	High School Multimedia Ctr
March 13 th	Board of Education Regular Meeting	5:15 p.m.*	High School Multimedia Ctr
March 27 th	Board Budget Workshop	5:15 p.m.*	High School Multimedia Ctr
April 10 th	Board Budget Workshop	5:15 p.m.*	High School Multimedia Ctr
April 23 rd	Board of Education Regular Meeting	5:15 p.m.*	High School Multimedia Ctr
May 9 th	Public Hearing	5:15 p.m.*	High School Multimedia Ctr

*The meeting will begin at 5:15 p.m. The Board may immediately adjourn to the Executive Session, with the intention of reconvening the Public Session agenda at 6:00 p.m., or shortly thereafter.

Intermediate School PTO Officers (2024-2025)

We are struggling to get support for PTO this school year. Please consider volunteering for activities when needed and also to help more next year. Our meetings are held in the IS Library at 6:00 PM most often on the third Tuesday of the month. Reach out via email if you have any questions or would like to help with upcoming events.

Email: mbostwick@horseheadsdistrict.com

IS Facebook: @HorseheadsIntermediateSchoolPT



NYS Assessments

The **ELA State Test will be given on April 29th and 30th and Math will be administered on May 6th and 7th to all students. 5th grade students will also take the Science State test on May 14th.** These tests help us determine how each student is performing with specific skills toward the standards' expectations. They also help us to know who needs extra help (Academic Intervention Services or AIS) for the following school year in each of these areas. However, state tests alone will not be used to determine the need for additional help. We will be using multiple sources to determine the need for extra help.

NYS has improved the testing process by decreasing the testing days from 3 to 2 days, making them untimed, questions are written by educators, and they are releasing over 75% of the test questions for our use at the local level.

**We explain to students we simply want them to try their best. However, we don't want to burden our students with stress and anxiety. Thanks for your help with this!*

Test Taking Tips For Parents

1. Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before a test and has a nutritious breakfast in the morning.
2. Maintain a pleasant home environment and avoid unnecessary conflicts. Try to make the morning of the test a pleasant one.
3. Make sure your child has taken any needed medication.
4. Ensure that your child is present during testing (children generally perform better when taking tests with their class, rather than at a make-up time).
5. Get your child to school on time the day of the test.
6. Wish your child good luck each morning of the test. Tell your child that you believe in them.
7. Remind your child the test is important, but don't put too much emphasis on them that would create stress or anxiety.
8. Encourage them to do their best.
9. Remind your child to listen carefully to the instructions from the teacher, and to read the directions and each question carefully.
10. Explain to your child the importance of using time wisely. If your child gets stuck on a question, encourage them to make the best guess and move on.
11. Tell your child to attempt to answer all questions and not to leave any blank.
12. Encourage your child to stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early.

Thank you for your support!

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Your child can access books on any device! **Sora** has a variety of genres and levels for them to read for free! Go to soraapp.com or the Intermediate School Library Page. Students will need to log in with their school username and password. They can also link to the public libraries! Check it out with your child today!



Thank You, :)

Stephanie Lewis
Library/Media Specialist

STEM NIGHT

STEM Night was a lot of fun! There were many hands-on activities and demonstrations that allowed our students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Congratulations to our Egg Drop Contest winners! Winners were chosen based on most creative design and lightest contraption to protect the egg from a 20-foot drop. From left to right: Teddy Howe, James Brookins, Jackson Brate, Jack Hastrich, Benjy Diezhandino, and Allison VanKirk (not pictured).



CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

The Horseheads Central School District is looking for interested individuals for several job positions: **cleaner, bus driver, food service worker, as well as substitute clerical, nurse, cleaner, and food service worker.** We seek candidates who are 18 or older, including retired community members. [Click here](#) for the application or stop into Human Resources. Questions? Email us at hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com

RATES FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

The District needs certified teachers for day-to-day substituting opportunities in all of our schools. Certified substitutes receive a rate of \$135 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at 739-5601 x 4211.

Attention!

PRINCIPAL CHATS

September 17th, January 21st, and April 22nd
9:00 AM in the Cafeteria 5:30PM in the Library



Keep hoarding pull tabs and thank you for your donations! **Get others involved** – ask your friends, neighbors, and family members to collect! Pull tabs can be brought to the office.

CHARACTER TRAIT AND

HABIT OF MIND OF THE MONTH

Character Trait: **Responsibility**

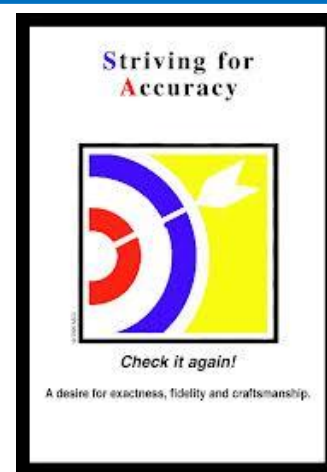
- Do what you are supposed to do
- Plan ahead
- Persevere: Keep on trying!
- Always do your best
- Use self-control
- Be self-disciplined
- Think before you act — consider the consequences
- Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes
- Set a good example for others

The Habit of Mind:

Striving for Accuracy: An important part of being able to Strive for Accuracy is understanding what your goals are - what quality looks like. The person who strives for accuracy has a goal in mind and checks their progress against that goal.

Successful people who strive for accuracy take time to **check** their product. They desire and value **craftsmanship!** They take **pride** in their work.

Keep **trying** and **checking...trying** and **checking...trying** and **checking...until** you make it the best you can.



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.

The Horseheads Central School District has a Safe Schools Line for students, parents, and community to use to report rumors, tips, or other items of concern regarding District schools. The service is available twenty-four hours, seven days a week. All calls are anonymous, unless the caller wishes to leave his/her name. The tip line numbers are 795-2044 and 1-800-305-4984 (toll free).

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, 143 Hibbard Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.