

The School Connection



Horseheads Intermediate School

Principal's Post

In a few more weeks, spring will be upon us. I think the students are ready for the nicer weather to stay so they can get outside more to burn off the winter cabin fever! Although it has been a fairly mild winter!

We had some great events throughout the month of February at the Intermediate School. The Variety Show was a huge hit with IS students. There were many talents displayed that evening including singing, dancing, comedy, instrumental performances, and more. Thanks to all of the parent volunteers who made this possible. Check out page 2 for more information about STEM Night!

Attention fifth grade parents! Please be sure to read page 6 regarding the NYS school immunization regulations. All 6th grade students will need to receive **2 doses** of the Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccination along with the Tdap vaccine. The laws are very strict, and we cannot allow students to come to school after the 10th day of school without these immunizations.

As many of you know, the 2020-2021 school budget talks are in full swing. Horseheads School District is always focused on building a fiscally responsible budget while trying to provide the best learning opportunities for students. I encourage you all to be involved in the process and stay informed by checking out the [HCS D website](#). There will also be a Community Budget Workshop this Thursday at 6pm at the Multi-Media Center.

The NYS ELA and Math Tests are quickly approaching (see page 5). We will be taking the tests electronically this year. If you want to check out more about what these tests will look like, check out [this link](#) from NYS Education Department.

Thanks for your continued support of your child and our school. I encourage you to stay in close communication with the teachers and Parent Portal for academic information. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact our office. Every so often I include a parent article. Check out the link on the right hand side of this page about bringing out the genius in every child!

Yours in education,

Michael Bostwick
Principal

Follow me on Twitter: Michael Bostwick@[M_Bostwick](#)
School Hashtag: [#ISinnovators](#)
Like us on Facebook: Search Horseheads Intermediate School
Website: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHIS.cfm>

The research is overwhelmingly clear: *When parents play a positive role in their child's education, students perform higher in school.*

March 2020
Volume 8 Issue 7

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Parent Article

ATTENTION!
[Parent Resources](#)
on IS website.

"Horseheads School District is always focused on building a fiscally responsible budget while trying to provide the best learning opportunities for students."

Mark Your Calendars!

Thursday, March 5th:	Board of Education Budget Workshop, Multi-Media Center, 6:00 PM
Friday, March 6th:	STEM Night, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Tuesday, March 10th:	IS PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM, IS Library
Monday, March 16th:	Middle School Parent Orientation for Grade 6, MS Café, 6:00 PM
Thursday, March 19th:	Board of Education Meeting, Multi-Media Center, 6:00 PM
Friday, March 20th:	NO SCHOOL – SUPERINTENDENT’S CONFERENCE DAY
Monday, March 23rd:	Gr. 4 Presentation/Open House, MS Café, 6:00 PM

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. It is that time of the year again to replenish your child’s school supplies such as pencils and paper. Some items available include pencils, pens, mechanical pencils, highlighters, glue sticks and notebook paper.
2. Join us in the fun of exploring STEM with demonstrations and hands-on experiments! Code robots, play the giant chess game, learn about animals, explore scientific concepts, fill a cavity, and much more! Try to save your egg from its big fall in the Egg Drop Contest! March 6th from 6:30-8:30pm. Other upcoming events:
 - April ~ Grade 6 Teams will visit the Middle School for an Orientation Program during the school day.
 - April - May ~ Mr. Bostwick and Mrs. Doubrava will visit fourth grade students at each elementary school for an Orientation Program during the school day.
3. The 6th Grade Celebration will be on Wednesday, June 24th. More information will be coming out in the months to come about how you can help out.
4. Letters were recently sent home regarding the new Maturation Curriculum. If you have any questions or did not receive the letter, please contact the Main Office.
5. Afternoon Pick-Up: Afternoon recess ends at 2:20 PM for many classes. Our upper parking lot is used during recess for basketball and other games. This is especially important with snow and mud. **Parents should not arrive before 2:15 PM to pick up students for dismissal. If you arrive early, please park in the row farthest away from the basketball hoops facing the Main Parking Lot.**
6. We encourage students to bring sneakers to school every day. Sneakers are required for Physical Education class. Boots and dress shoes are not appropriate for Physical Education classes. Additionally, appropriate clothing should be worn for outdoor recess.

ATTENTION PARENTS!!!

We are always looking for interested parents who would like to help out with school events. That could be as simple as chaperoning an event or working at the Book Fair. Everyone is also welcome to join our PTO meetings listed on the district calendar. **Please contact the school or one of the officers if interested.** We appreciate your support and value the partnership!

Intermediate School PTO Officers (2019-2020)

President:	Gretchen Ferraro	gferraro2010@gmail.com	425-2603
VP:	Angela Sullivan	Aksullivan624@gmail.com	518-708-4288
Treasurer:	Danielle Richardson	dani0227@aol.com	425-6896
Secretary:	Christina Staight	Cstaight@aol.com	426-8597



Five years ago we launched a Makerspace in the Intermediate School. A Makerspace is a place for students to tap their creativity and innovation by investigating/making things they are passionate about. Students have been working on making challenges, electrical circuits, tech devices such as Makey Makey/Little Bits/Ozobots, and we even have a take apart station where students can deconstruct electrical devices to see how they work. Be sure to follow our school hashtag to see all of the great happenings at the IS! [#ISinnovators](#)

PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR SIXTH GRADE

The Intermediate School will soon be completing 2020-2021 classroom placements for students. We create class sections with the intent to achieve a mix of students by ability, gender, personality, and individual special needs. While we are unable to honor specific requests for teachers, we value your input from a parent's perspective. If you have specific information about your child's needs which should be taken into consideration or a specific previous personal experience, please ***put them in writing and send them to the Intermediate School by Thursday, April 2nd***. We look forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic success!

Parent Portal

Web address: <https://schooltool.horseheadsdistrict.com>

Parent Portal allows instant access to your child's grades and progress. Try to make it part of your homework routine at least once a week to allow them to look at their grades with you. Below are a couple of helpful tabs to help you navigate through your child's grades & assignments.

The Assignment tab allows you to see your child's assignments in all subject areas. Use the Courses drop down box to sort the assignments by subject.

The screenshot shows the Parent Portal interface. At the top, there are tabs for Contacts, Schedule, Attendance, Grades, Assessments, Assignments, and Letters. The 'ASSIGNMENTS' tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a 'STUDENT' section with a 'School Year' dropdown set to '2013-2014', a 'Marking Period' dropdown set to 'MP2', and a 'Courses' dropdown set to 'All Courses'. A red question mark icon is visible next to the 'Courses' dropdown. Below this, there is a 'STUDENT' section with a 'View' dropdown set to 'Marking Period Average' and a 'for' dropdown set to 'MP1'. A red question mark icon is visible next to the 'for' dropdown. An arrow points from the 'ASSIGNMENTS' tab to the 'Courses' dropdown, and another arrow points from the 'GRADES' tab to the 'Marking Period Average' dropdown.

If you are having trouble logging in to your Parent Portal Account or have forgotten your login/password information, please contact <mailto:hcsdportalinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com>

2020-2021 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

The Board of Education and District are currently developing the Proposed 2020-2021 School Budget to be offered to voters on May 19th. Here is a schedule of public meetings regarding the proposed budget. All are welcome. The Multi-Media Center is located in the South Wing of Horseheads High School.

Thursday, March 5th	Budget Workshop, Multi-Media Center, 6:00 PM
Thursday, March 19 th	Board of Education Regular Meeting, Multi-Media Center, 6:00 PM
Thursday, April 16 th	Budget Workshop, Multi-Media Center, 6:00 PM
Wednesday, April 22 nd	Board of Education Meeting, Multi-Media Center, 6:00 PM
Wednesday, May 5 th	(Tentative) Board of Education Candidates' Forum, Multi-Media Center, 6:00 PM
Thursday, May 7 th	Public Hearing, Multi-Media Center, 6:00 PM
Tuesday, May 19th	Budget Vote/Board of Education Election, High School South Gym, 7:00 AM- 9:00 PM

For more information on the proposed budget, including videos and presentations from the Board of Education Meetings above, please visit the District Website at <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/Budget2020-21.cfm?school=District>. Questions? Please email hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or call (607) 739-5601.

NYS ELA and Math Tests

The ELA State Test will be given on March 25th and March 26th. The Math State Test will be given on April 23rd and April 24th. These tests help us determine how each student is performing with specific skills in both ELA and Math toward the standards' expectations. It is just one data point we consider when making important decisions. 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. **Please note that a refusal of the State Tests does not mean students will be exempt from AIS if they qualify.**

**We explain to students that the tests are important and 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 him/her.
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 him/her 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 him or her to make the best guess and move on.
11. Tell your child to attempt to answer all of the questions and not to leave any blank.
12. Encourage your child to stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early.
13. Tell your child to attempt to answer all of the questions and not to leave any blank.
14. Encourage your child to stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early.



Clearly going to school regularly matters!

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and become discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your child keeps a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your child goes to school every day unless they are truly sick (i.e. stomach bug or fever)
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for arriving to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or friend to take your child to school.

As an added incentive, the Intermediate School is encouraging students to come to school as they "Pop Toward Super Attendance." Classes will work toward spelling "We Are Super Awesome Innovators" to earn a popcorn party for achieving up to 97% class attendance. Students are also recognized for their individual efforts of attending school with pencil and bag of popcorn each marking period for achieving the 97% mark.

Please let us know how we can best support you and your child so that he/she can show up for school on time every day. If you are struggling in any way to get your child to school, please contact us so we can work together to solve the problem. We want your child to be successful in school!



NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE
PLEASE READ THIS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Dear **Fifth Grade** Parents/Guardians:

All 6th grade students need to receive 2 doses of the Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccination along with the Tdap vaccine. The laws are very strict, and we cannot allow students to come to school after the first 10 days of school without these immunizations.

Your child may get the required immunization through your health care provider, Five Star Urgent or Walk-In Clinics or through the Chemung County Health Department, at (607)737-2028, appointment, only if qualified.

You must provide proof that your child has received the Tdap immunization in order for your child to attend school in the fall. Your health care provider or health department will provide you with this written proof once your child receives the immunization. Please bring this proof to our Health Office or fax it to us at 795-2495. Information must be received **by Tuesday, September 22, 2020** or cannot attend on **Wednesday, September 23, 2020**. **No appointment cards accepted.**

Please note: 10-year-old students who are entering 6th grade will not be required to receive the Tdap vaccine at this time and will not be excluded from school, but will be tracked and must be immunized upon turning 11 years old.

If you have further questions, please contact the health office at 739-6366 (Option 2). Thank you for your cooperation.



HEALTH CORNER



It is that time of the year again to remember good health practices. Please keep your child home if he/she has had a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, vomiting or diarrhea in the past two hours. Because there is no known cure for the common cold, prevention is the key to keeping colds away. Most of the time you acquire a cold virus by touching your eyes, nose or mouth with an object that has the cold virus on it.

Therefore, to help avoid catching a cold:

- Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with warm soapy water.
- Sneeze into a tissue, rather than your hands, then discard the tissue
- Don't touch your face—your hands may have come in contact with a cold virus!
- Drink 8 glasses of water daily.
- Get plenty of rest—up to 12 hours a night!!

Please keep your child home if they have experienced a fever or vomiting within the last 24 hours.

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 in to Human Resources. Questions? Email us at hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com

NEED 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 \$105 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at 739-5601 x 4211.

Attention! PRINCIPAL CHATS

October 9th, January 8th, and **April 14th**
9:00 AM in the Cafeteria
6:00 – 6:30 PM
in the Library



Pull for the
House.



Many Hearts. One Home.

Keep hoarding pull tabs! So far we have collected far less tabs than usual. **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: **Respect**

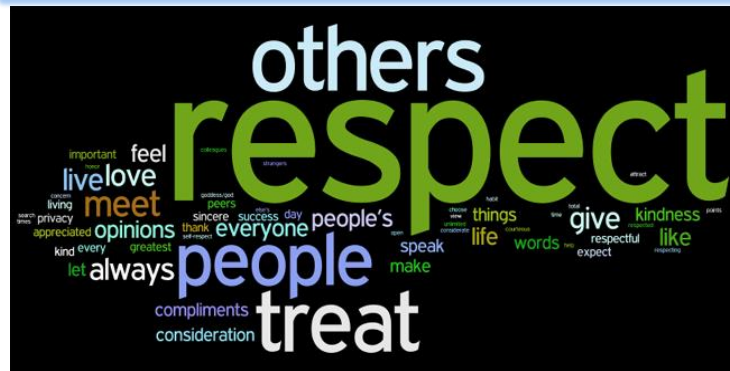
- Having Respect for someone means you think good things about who a person is or how he/she acts. You can have respect for others, and you can have respect for yourself.
- Showing Respect to someone means you act in a way that shows you care about their feelings and well-being.
- Showing Respect for others include things like not calling people mean names, treating people with courtesy, caring enough about yourself that you don't do things you know can hurt you.

The Habit of Mind:

Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations

These are some situations you would use Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations:

- When I learned about swimming and life-saving, I used my knowledge to save someone who was choking.
- After I finished studying about the environment, and how harmful a single piece of litter can be, I began cleaning up garbage whenever I saw some, and I always put garbage in a bin.
- Learning how to add, subtract, multiply and divide helped me when I was shopping or saving up for a special item.



SAFE SCHOOLS LINE

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 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 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.