

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!

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 the Tdap vaccine booster by September. The laws are very strict, and we cannot allow students to come to school after the 10th day of school without this immunization.

As you may know, the 2025-2026 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. This is becoming even more challenging with the ongoing inflation related expenses on top of maintaining our curricular programs. I encourage you all to be involved in the process and stay informed by checking out the [HCSD website](#).

The NYS ELA and Math Tests are quickly approaching (see page 5). We will be taking the tests electronically again 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. We are continuing to navigate the challenges of the school year, and we couldn't have gotten this far without your support. 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

Connect with me on X: 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 2025

Volume 13 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!

Friday, March 7th:	Spirit Day – Switcheroo Day (Kids Dress Up, Teachers Dress Down)
Saturday, March 8th:	Horseheads St. Patrick's Day Parade, 2:00 PM
Thursday, March 13th:	Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM, HS Multi-Media Center
Tuesday, March 18th:	IS PTO Meeting, 6:00 PM, Library
Thursday, March 20th:	STEM Night, 6:30 PM
Monday, March 24th:	Superintendent's Conference Day – No School for Students
Wednesday, March 27th:	Board of Education Budget Meeting, 6:00 PM, HS Multi-Media Center

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. It is that time of year again to **replenish your child's school supplies**. Some items may include pencils, pens, highlighters, glue sticks and notebook paper.
2. Join us in the fun of **exploring STEM** with demonstrations and hands-on experiments! Code robots, Rubik's cubes, 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! STEM Night is March 20th from 6:30-8:00pm.
3. The **6th Grade Celebration** is a time for our 6th grade students to come together as an entire grade level for fun activities at the end of the year. Currently it is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25th, during the school day. More information will be sent out as it gets closer.
4. We encourage students to **bring sneakers to school every day**. Sneakers are required for Physical Education (PE) class. Boots and dress shoes are not appropriate for PE and recess.
5. All schools are represented in the **Horseheads Community St. Patrick's Day Parade**. This year we are featuring Student Council. The parade is a great community event that makes its way around downtown Horseheads ending in Hanover Square! Join us on March 8th at 2:00 PM.



ATTENTION PARENTS!!!

Intermediate School PTO Officers (2024-2025)

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 welcomed 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!

Tara Spiraw

Alicia Wahl-Knowlden

Email: intermediateschoolpto@gmail.com

IS Facebook: @HorseheadsIntermediateSchoolPT



Parent Portal

Web address: <https://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads/Default.aspx>

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. Below these tabs, there is a 'STUDENT' header. Under the header, there are three dropdown menus: 'School Year', 'Marking Period' (set to MP2), and 'Courses' (set to All Courses). A red question mark icon is visible next to the 'Courses' dropdown. Below the dropdowns, there is a text box that says: 'Once on the Grades tab select marking period average from the drop down box to see what your child's averages are in each subject area.' Below this text box, there is another set of tabs: Contacts, Schedule, Attendance, Grades, Assessments, Assignments, and Letters. Below these tabs, there is 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.

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

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.

PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR SIXTH GRADE

The Intermediate School will soon be completing 2025-2026 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 Monday, April 21st***. We look forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic success!

NYS ELA and Math Tests

The ELA State Test will be given on Tuesday, April 29th and Wednesday, April 30th. The Math State Test will be given on Tuesday, May 6th and Wednesday, May 7th. The 5th grade Science State Test will be Wednesday, May 14th. 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.**

The State Tests will be taken electronically in grades 3 – 8. We will continue to give students practice on the computer with the questions they will see. One of our challenges is helping students to be fluent in their typing ability. If you'd like to encourage your child to practice, Typing.com is a great program for that!

**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.



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 backpack 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.

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!



18 OR MORE DAYS

- Excused and unexcused absences represent lost time in the classroom and lost opportunities to learn.
- Missing just one day every two weeks can add up to 18 days in a year. Absences add up before you even know it.



10 TO 17 DAYS

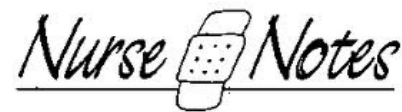
- Students who are absent an average of 15 days a year miss a year's worth of school before their senior year.
- When students miss a day of school it actually puts them two days behind their classmates.



9 OR FEWER ABSENCES

- Students with good attendance generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more.
- Children benefit and make the most of their educational opportunities if they attend school regularly and on time.

INFORMATION REGARDING VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS!



Dear Sixth Grade Parent/Guardian,

All children must receive the immunizations required by New York State Law Section 2164 to attend school. You are receiving this letter because your child will require additional immunizations to enter 6th grade. All 6th grade students must receive a booster dose of the **Tdap immunization**.

The Tdap immunization is for tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (whooping cough). This requirement has been in place since 2016.

You must provide proof of immunization. The required immunizations can be obtained from your primary care provider (PCP)/pediatrician.

In limited circumstances immunizations may also be obtained from the Chemung County Health Department. For more information on requirements contact the health department at: (607) 737-2488.

The immunization must be given no earlier than 10 years of age and no later than 11 years of age.

Student Age	When is proof of immunization required?
Students who are 11 years old when entering 6th grade	Proof of immunization must be received within 14 calendar days of the start of school (by September 16, 2025), or your child will be unable to attend school until proof of immunization is received.
Students who are 10 years old when entering 6th grade	Proof of immunization must be received within 14 calendar days of turning 11 years old and will be tracked accordingly.

Acceptable forms of proof of immunization (documentation) include:

An electronic health record from your provider's office, an immunization certificate signed or stamped by your health care provider, a record issued by NYSIIS or CIR, an official immunization registry from another state or foreign country if applicable.

You may email this information to tsenatore@horseheadsdistrict.com, fax to the office at (607) 795-2495, or drop it off at the Intermediate School.

To learn more about this and other immunization requirements in New York State visit, www.health.ny.gov/immunize.

If you have further questions, please contact the Intermediate School Main Office at (607) 739-6366. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Michael Bostwick
Principal

Tracy Senatore
RN

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

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 \$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 and

5:30PM in the Library



Keep hoarding pull tabs! **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.