

The School Connection



Principal's Post

School has been underway now for few weeks, and we have worked out quite a few bugs in our system. I know things aren't perfect, but if you look at what has been accomplished in a few short months, while abiding by stringent Department of Health (DOH) guidelines, we have found a great deal of success.

As we head into October, procedures and routines are falling into place. Your child is engaged in learning, and hopefully taking an active role in their education. I firmly believe that education starts at home with modeling, support, and clear expectations. Parent partnerships with the school can serve as a critical piece to your child's growth and academic development. Please support your child and seek opportunities from their teachers to continue learning at home. On page 4 you will see tips for developing successful homework habits.

The itslearning platform will be active for parents in the near future. This is the main Learning Management System (LMS) for everyone this year. You can log-in and track the assignments and completed work using your Parent Portal credentials. If you don't have a Parent Portal account, [click here](#).

There are many effective ways parents can help improve student academic growth that are not time-consuming. Some include following helpful homework tips, reading with your child, asking them to explain their answers, taking advantage of teachable moments, involving them in problem-solving, asking them to create their own solution, and so many more. Please take some time to check out our parent resources page on our website (**link to the right**). Also, page 3 of this newsletter has a nice introduction to transition of common core standards to the Next Generation Standards.

I look forward to an incredible month of October full of learning and excitement. As always if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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>

*Also check out the new PTO Facebook page.

"Your children will see what you're all about by what you live rather than what you say."

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- Wayne Dyer

Horseheads Intermediate School

October 2020
Volume 9 Issue 2

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PARENT ARTICLE

ATTENTION!

[Parent Resources](#)
on IS website.

"Parent partnerships with the school can serve as a critical piece to your child's growth and academic development."

Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, October 2nd:	School Pictures – Cohort B and remote students
Monday, October 12th:	NO SCHOOL – COLUMBUS DAY
Tuesday, October 13th:	PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM (via zoom)
Thursday, October 15th:	Board of Education Meeting, Gardner Road Elem. School, 6:00 PM
Friday, October 16th:	District-Wide Spirit Day
Wednesday, October 21st:	Unity Day (Anti-bully message), all students wear orange.
Friday, October 30th:	End of Marking Period 1

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through the technological challenges along with solidifying individual class schedules. There are many schedule changes that occur due to beginning of the year drills, procedures, and events. I'd like to remind of about our district website that contains a lot of information about our learning model, protocols, procedures, and technical help. [Click here!](#)
2. The **Presidential Service Award** program honors students who volunteer throughout their community. Students who volunteer 50, 75 or 100+ hours over the course of the school year will be honored with an award. Please contact Mrs. Doubrava in the Intermediate School office for more details.
3. **Emergency Drills:** Throughout the school year, we will practice several drills which include fire, shelter, bus off-site evacuation, and lockdown. They are to help us be better prepared and to ensure the safety of all in the event an emergency did happen.
4. NYS Law states that **we need a doctor's notice to dispense medication** even such things as over the counter medications. Students may not take medication on their own. Contact the school nurse with any questions.
5. **Halloween:** Due to the strict health restrictions regarding food sharing in school, along with having students split into multiple groups (cohort A, B, and remote), we will not be having Halloween celebrations this year.
6. Cars are not permitted to park in the bus and fire lanes at any time. This includes after school and evening events. If you are picking up a student during the school day, please park in the large area and come to the front door. Our fire lane must be kept open.
7. Please encourage your child to read. The School's goal for each student is to read **25 books** a year for Grades 5 and 6. Students are recognized on the announcements as **Ferocious Readers** as they reach the goal.
8. **Morning Drop-off:** Students are not to arrive before 7:40 AM. Our Cafeteria is being used by Middle School students until this time. Student arrival between 7:40 AM – 8:00 AM is dependent upon good behavior.
9. **Dismissal:** Children should be picked up promptly between **2:15 PM - 2:30 PM** in the Art Room. Adults picking up students will be asked to sign a dismissal sheet before leaving with students. Please park in front of the building in the upper lot and use the side doors to the Art Rooms. Please do not arrive prior to 2:15PM. Recess may be on the black top until 2:20 PM, and this is a safety concern.



The Board of Regents adopted revised English Language Arts and Mathematics Learning Standards on September 11, 2017. We are now in full implementation of the ELA and Math Next Generation Learning Standards (NGLS) They can be found [here](#). We are no longer implementing the common core curriculum.

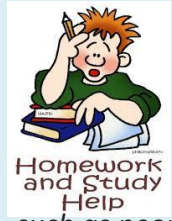
The new standards have been the result of over two years of collaborative work to ensure New York State has the best learning standards for our students. Over 130 educators and parents worked together to make recommendations and revise the standards, resulting in a new set of revised English Language Arts and Mathematics Learning Standards. Additional information about the timeline for implementation in schools is available from [Standards and Assessment Implementation Timeline](#).

Simple Things You Can Do At Home

English Language Arts	Math
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply more non-fiction text; read non-fiction texts aloud or with your child, discuss nonfiction texts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of what your child struggled with last year and how that will affect learning this year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply series of texts on topics of interest, find books that are challenging at their level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notice whether your child <u>REALLY</u> knows why the answer is what it is.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand evidence in every day discussions/ disagreements. Read aloud or read the same book and discuss with evidence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Push children to know/ memorize basic math facts. Provide <u>TIME</u> for your child to work hard with math at home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read often and constantly with babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and children. Read multiple books about the same topic. Let your kids see you reading. Family reading! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know what the priority work is for your child for their grade level, spend time with your child on priority work, ask your child's teacher about their progress on priority work.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage writing at home, write "books" together and use evidence/ details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask your child to <u>DO</u> the math that comes up in your daily life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have your child make a claim, and back it up with evidence. <i>Ex: I claim that the plants need to be watered. My evidence is that the soil is extremely dry.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure your child is <u>PRACTICING</u> the math facts he/she struggles with. Make sure your child is thinking about Math in real life

PARENT'S GUIDE TO HOMEWORK

[Click here](#) for the full Homework Guide



★ **Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.**

Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.

★ **Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary, are available.**

Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance.

★ **Help your child with time management.**

Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Think about using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big projects, especially if the project involves getting together with classmates.

★ **Be positive about homework.**

Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.

★ **When your child does homework, you do homework.**

Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is reading, you read too. If your child is doing math, balance your checkbook.

★ **When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.**

Giving answers means your child will not learn the material. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him or her.

★ **When the teacher asks that you play a role in homework, do it.**

Cooperate with the teacher. It shows your child that the school and home are a team. Follow the directions given by the teacher.

★ **If homework is meant to be done by your child alone, stay away.**

Too much parent involvement can prevent homework from having some positive effects. Homework is a great way for kids to develop independent, lifelong learning skills.

★ **Stay informed.**

Talk with your child's teacher. Make sure you know the purpose of homework and what your child's class rules are.

★ **Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework.**

Have your child do the hard work first. This will mean he will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Easy material will seem to go fast when fatigue begins to set in.

★ **Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration.**

Let your child take a short break if she is having trouble keeping her mind on an assignment.

★ **Reward progress in homework** *If your child has been successful in homework completion and is working hard, celebrate that success with a special event (e.g., pizza, a walk, a trip to the park) to reinforce the positive effort.*

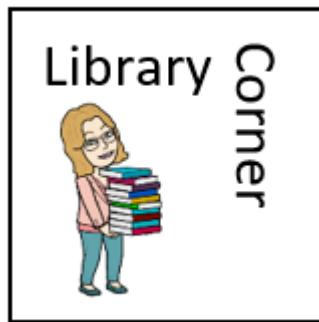
HABIT OF MIND AND CHARACTER TRAIT OF THE MONTH

The Habit of Mind: **Persisting** means to stick to it! Persevering in task through to completion; remaining focused. Looking for ways to reach your goal when stuck. Not giving up!

Character Trait: **Responsibility** is doing what you are expected to do, persevere, always do your best, use self-control, think before you act, be accountable for your choices/action.

Parents can help reinforce **responsibility**.

- Students can do chores at home
- Accountable for doing things in a timely manner
- Teaching time management
- Develop routines and procedures
- Encourage taking initiative



We are all excited and happy to see children back to school and reading! I am going into classrooms with lessons, so all hybrid students have learned how they can sign out books from our library and from SORA. All links to those can be found on our library page (Destiny Discover), which is accessible through the district's web site under Quick Links. There are many helpful resources on this page. Remote students can use the BOOKHUB link on the library page to request curbside pickup. A sheet was sent home with directions with their learning materials for class last Wednesday. Books can be returned in the library bin by the lobby and must be quarantined for 5 days. I would like students to have at least one book from the library to read all the time. Students can sign out more in SORA and put a hold on books both in SORA and our library. If you have any questions about our procedures, please email me at slewis@horseheadsdistrict.com.

SCHOOL MATTERS!



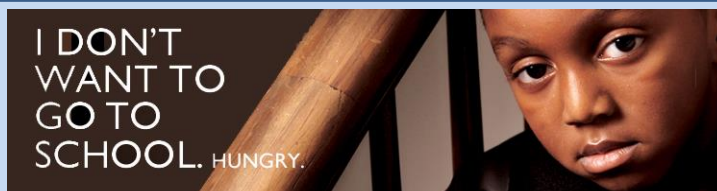
September was School Attendance Awareness Month. In cooperation with Chemung County, area school districts, including the Horseheads district, we are reminding parents that good school attendance is crucial to academic success.

Research has shown that chronic absence leads to lower reading proficiency, course failure, and eventually, dropping out of school. Chronic absence is missing more than ten percent of the school year, or about 18 days. Absenteeism affects academic performance. Every day counts!

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S GRADES AND ATTENDANCE?...PARENT PORTAL

Parents of students in grades 5-12 are able to view information about their child's attendance and grades with the "Parent Portal." In order to set up an account, we must have a valid e-mail address for each parent who would like access.

Please note: If you checked the Parent Portal box on your child's emergency form, you do not need to do anything further. You should have received further information about Parent Portal via e-mail. If you haven't already signed up, contact the Main Office. You will be asked to complete a short form and present identification. Please note that this feature is only available for parents of students in grades 5-12. If you have questions, please call 739-5601, x4251 or e-mail kpeters@horseheadsdistrict.com.



The Backpack Program is scheduled to begin in October and will continue throughout the 2020-2021 school year. The program will provide a bag of non-perishable food for eligible children each Friday afternoon for him or her to eat over the weekend. The food is discreetly given to each child in the program at the end of the day and is intended to be opened by your child at home. To receive forms or information, contact Amber Summers, IS Social Worker, at 739-6366 ext. 3741. For more information go to the website www.foodbankst.org/backpack-program.

Board of Education Recognition Week October 19th – October 23rd

We would like to thank all of our Board of Education (BOE) members for their hard work and dedication. They play a vital role in the success of our students in our great District. If you see a BOE member, please **Kristine Dale, President; Brian Lynch, Vice-President; Tom Casey, Daniel Christmas, Warren Conklin, Mary Anne Holleran, Shehla Javed, Doug Johnson, Najeeb Rehman, and Sara Yorio (Student Representative).**

DELAYED START PROCEDURE

The Horseheads Central School District along with other GST BOCES Districts will be using a "delayed start" procedure for inclement weather days rather than close the schools for the entire day. The delay would open each school two hours later than the normal start time. School would end at the regular time on a "delayed start" day. The media will be contacted and the decision to "delay start" will be broadcast to the public. If the decision to "delay" is later changed to "close," the media would be notified and the correction made. Once informed school is closed, the decision is final.

This means transportation will arrive at the bus stop two hours later as each school will open two hours later. Staff will arrive later and students being dropped off should arrive two hours later than the regular start time (9:45 AM). Lunch will be served at regular times.

PLEASE NOTE: No breakfast will be served on a "Delayed Start" Day.



INFORMATION REGARDING VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS!



PLEASE READ THIS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Dear Fifth Grade Parents/Guardians:

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 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. **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 24 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(*Remember to please send in tissue boxes)
- 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 be considerate of others—you are contagious for the first three days that cold symptoms appear.

TECH SUPPORT FORM

We ask parents, guardians, and students who have technology questions, including issues with district-owned devices and questions about the itslearning management system or other district programs, to use the technology support form to submit a support request:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KtLKlY3tDEGU4Az1zjSEePHH3UhzI7lDs958K7D4_QIUREpNSVMxWEsMTgxMEw4QVZTRlRQSkpJQS4u.

A technician will respond as soon as possible. You may also call 607-481-2850 and leave a detailed message about your technology issue. Know that the details of the form allow us to assist you better than a voicemail. Our tech staff will respond to the forms or voicemails between 9am and 3pm Monday through Friday.

Note that because return calls are not coming from district phones, calls may appear as Restricted or Unknown. Please note that we are unable to repair devices that are not owned by the district.

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

Substitute Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Substitute RNs needed for per diem work during the school year.

Teaching substitutes must meet the following criteria: 1) An Associates' Degree or higher; OR 2) completion of at least 2 years of College; OR 3) Graduated from High School for at least 4 years and completed at least 12 college credits; OR 4) an Honorable Discharge from the military.

Sub RNs and LPNs should bring in evidence of their license.



Pull for the House.



Many Hearts. One Home.

Please start hoarding pull tabs! We began our drive to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Last year we gathered over 40 pounds which was the most out of any school in the region! **Get others involved** – ask your friends, neighbors, and family members to collect! Pull tabs can be brought to the office.

RATES FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

The District needs 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.

Intermediate School PTO Officers (2020-2021)

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

Michael Bostwick is the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Coordinator at the Intermediate School. Caitlyn DeFilippo is the DASA Coordinator for the District. All concerns regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying should be directed accordingly.

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to gender, race, color, national origin or disability. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Caitlyn 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 Road, Horseheads, NY 14845. (607) 739-5601.