

# The School Connection



## Principal's Post

## Horseheads Intermediate School

As we enter another school year, I reflect back on how quickly the summer passed by. I hope you had the opportunity to appreciate some time outside doing the things you enjoy.

Now we are back at it...summer is quickly fading away, and fall will be upon us soon. For some that may mean bad news with winter inevitably on its way, but for me it means cooler temperatures, changing leaves, football season, but most importantly – a fresh start to a new school year. To me, fall brings a sense of strength in knowing that renewed beginnings bring new learning. My hope is that the summer has rejuvenated our students and broadened excitement for the challenges that lie ahead.

I am truly excited to have a full staff and over 600 students back at the Intermediate School. We are ready to educate and facilitate the growth of your child's learning. There are great challenges that lie ahead such as helping students wean off of Fortnite...Lol. Please know that we are focusing on what is best for your child. We have a strategic district and an incredible school. I can't help but think how fortunate we are to have the honor and privilege of educating students in the Horseheads Central School District. We all take that seriously, and we'll do all we can to help each and every child reach for their full potential. I thank you in advance for your support.

Please read this newsletter carefully as it is full of important information about the Intermediate School and some exciting upcoming events. If you'd like to stay informed about the great things going on at Horseheads Intermediate School, dig into our social media. Follow me on Twitter and at our hashtag, like us on Facebook, and visit our website for useful resources and great information.

We have so many valuable learning experiences and fun activities lined up for your child this year at the Intermediate School. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming activities, events, and clubs. If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, do not hesitate to call the office.

**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>

Yours in education,

Michael Bostwick  
Principal

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."  
-- Jane D. Hull

September 2019  
Volume 8 Issue 1

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### ATTENTION!

Parent Resources on  
IS website.

*"Please know that we are focusing on what is best for your child."*

## Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	NO SCHOOL – SUPERINTENDENT’S CONFERENCE DAY
Wednesday, Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup> :	First Day of School
Tuesday, Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup> :	Open House, 6:30 PM
Tuesday, Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup> :	PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM, Library
Thursday, Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup> :	Board of Education Meeting, Intermediate School, 6:00 PM
Friday, Sept. 20 <sup>th</sup> :	District-wide Spirit Day
Wednesday, Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup> :	Ice Cream Social, 6:30-8:30 PM (Kickoff for the fall book fair)
Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup> – Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup> :	Fall Book Fair
Friday, Sept. 27 <sup>th</sup> :	School Pictures

## Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

Staff at the Horseheads Intermediate School would like to welcome you to our school. We look forward to a great year! The staff is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the welfare and safety of your children from the time of their arrival at school in the morning, until they are placed aboard the school buses at dismissal. In order to fulfill this responsibility, we solicit your cooperation with the following requests:

1. If you would like your child to be excused from school early, please send a note stating the time of dismissal, the name of the person to whom the child is to be released, and the reason for the early dismissal. Students will remain in their classroom until you arrive unless you call ahead to say you are on the way.
2. School begins at 8:25 AM. Homeroom period starts at 8:00 AM. Students who do not ride the bus to school **should not arrive before 7:40 AM**. No supervision will be provided prior to 7:40 AM. From 7:40 AM until 8:00 AM, students will be directed to the Cafeteria. Breakfast will be available from 7:40 AM – 8:25 AM. To avoid any potential unsafe situations, it is requested the stipulated arrival time be followed. **This is a reminder: Parent Drop-Off will only be at the Main Entrance of our school.** Please drive up and around the outside of the upper parking lot, and proceed to drop off in the canopy area at the Main Entrance of the Intermediate School. Please make sure your child is ready to **exit the curbside of your vehicle**. If you need to complete any morning routines or tasks, we ask you to park in the upper parking lot and have your student get ready to be dropped off before you get into the drop-off line. Morning buses will use the Fieldhouse entrance to drop-off students to school. No parent vehicles will be allowed to use the Fieldhouse entrance. This is for safety and to minimize traffic congestion at the school and on Sing Sing Road.
3. If your child is not going to ride home on the school bus on a given day, send a note on that day to the school office outlining your pick up plans. Children should be picked up promptly between **2:20 – 2:30 PM** in the Art Room. Adults picking up students will be asked to sign a dismissal sheet before leaving with the children. Please park in the front of the building in the upper lot, and use the side doors to the Art Rooms at dismissal. Please do not arrive before 2:20 PM. Recess is held on the blacktop of the upper parking lot until this time and classes do not end until 2:15 PM.
4. Students who have notes for early dismissal or for other dismissal arrangements are to take a note to **their homeroom teacher in the morning**. Without a note, your child will be placed on his/her regular bus.
5. On the first day of school, several papers need to be read and signed. **One very important notice is the EMERGENCY GO HOME form. Please be sure that your child is aware of the emergency address in the event of an early dismissal. Be sure to alert us to any changes that may occur throughout the school year in order for the changes to be made here at school**
6. Should any questions or concerns arise during the school year, we would ask that you contact your child’s teacher first, per school district policy. Further questions can be directed to the building administrators.

7. Please note an important message from the Transportation Department. If you should have any questions, please feel free to call us at 739-6366.
- “In an effort to cut costs and increase efficiency, we have consolidated some of our bus runs. As a result, your child’s bus number(s) and bus times may change, and your child may be on the bus a little longer than last year. In addition, due to limited space on the buses, we are no longer able to allow friends of students to ride their bus to and from school with them.”**
8. **Cafeteria Prices:** Please note that cafeteria prices have remained the same for this year: Elementary Lunch - \$2.10, Secondary Lunch - \$2.35 and Breakfast - \$1.25.
9. **Important Open House Information.** Our Annual Open House is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, between 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM.** This is always a great evening. The halls are crowded with students and their families. There will be displays in the Cafeteria by organizations including the scouts. **The evening is structured as a traditional style of Open House. Parents are welcome to travel around and meet all teachers anytime between 6:30 – 7:30 PM.** Please note that this structure will allow parents to briefly meet each teacher and learn valuable information about the school year. If you wish to spend more time with the teacher, please set up a conference for another time. If you’d like to learn more about our AIS program and how students get extra help, there will be a meeting at 6:00 PM that evening in the LGI.

## OPEN HOUSE

### Intermediate School PTO Officers (2019-20)

I’d like to introduce you all to our PTO Officers for the 2019-2020 school year. Please attend our meetings held in the Library at 6:30 PM most often on the second Tuesday of the month. Our first meeting is on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

<b>President:</b>	Gretchen Ferraro	<a href="mailto:gferraro2010@gmail.com">gferraro2010@gmail.com</a>	425-2603
<b>VP:</b>	Angela Sullivan	<a href="mailto:Aksullivan624@gmail.com">Aksullivan624@gmail.com</a>	518-708-4288
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Danielle Richardson	<a href="mailto:dani0227@aol.com">dani0227@aol.com</a>	425-6896
<b>Secretary:</b>	Christina Staight	<a href="mailto:Cstaight@aol.com">Cstaight@aol.com</a>	426-8597



## FAMILY VACATIONS



Absences due to vacation trips are not excused absences. Before making vacation plans, please consult the school calendar. Parents are strongly discouraged from taking their children out of school for family vacations because valuable classroom instructional time can never be replaced by make-up assignments. If parents decide to take their child out of school for vacations, please notify your child’s teacher.

Because such extended absences are not excused, students are expected to request their work **upon return**. You may ask ahead of time for work, but homework may change based on how students are learning the content. An appropriate time frame will be given to return the assignments. Students should be encouraged by parents to practice academic skills while on the trip (i.e. journaling, applying math to situations, finding science/historical connections, etc.)





# Dignity For All Students Act (DASA)



## *Differences between Conflict and Bullying*

### Conflict

- ▶ occurs in the heat of a moment
- ▶ is often a difference of opinion
- ▶ two or more students are upset
- ▶ does not happen continually
- ▶ students want a mutual solution
- ▶ is not planned

### Bullying

- ▶ intent to cause harm – bullies have thought about how to harm others
- ▶ imbalance of power - bullies use power to control or harm their victims
- ▶ repetition - bullies often target the same people over and over

If your child is experiencing any issues at school, please keep in close contact with the teacher(s). If the issue is serious or persistent, building administrators will handle each issue earnestly.

## HABITS OF MIND

The Intermediate School will be practicing the Habits of Mind. Habits of Mind are characteristics of what people can do when faced with challenges or problems to solve. There are 16 Habits of Mind, and our school will focus on one Habit of Mind per month beginning with **Listening with Empathy and Understanding**:

1. **Listening with Empathy and Understanding - September**
2. **Persisting**
3. **Managing Impulsivity**
4. **Thinking Flexibly**
5. **Taking Responsible Risks**
6. **Questioning and Posing Problems**
7. **Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations**
8. **Striving for Accuracy**
9. **Thinking about your Thinking ( Metacognition )**
10. **Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision**

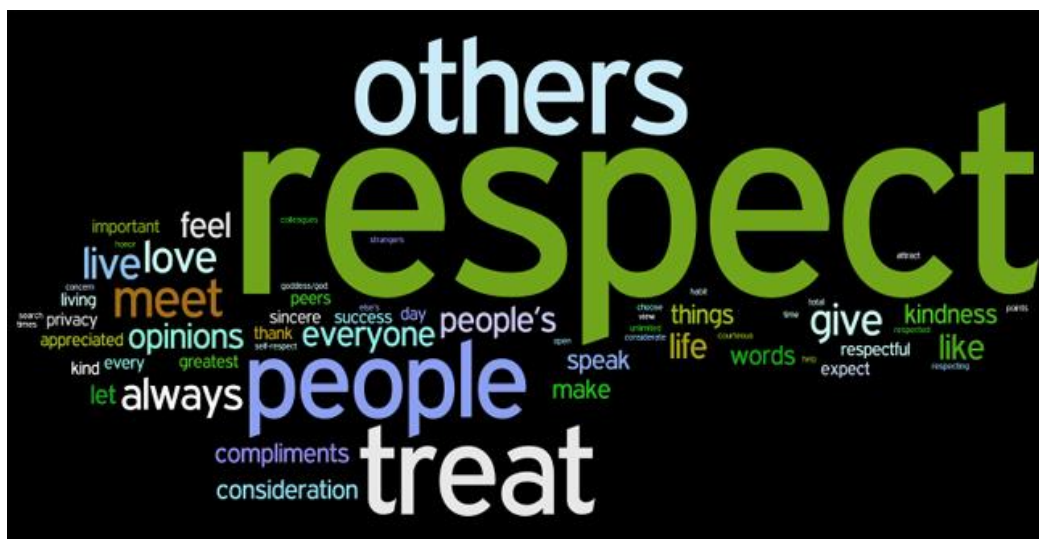
***Listening with Empathy and Understanding means to always consider other people's perspectives, listen attentively, and to care about others' opinions. Please help foster this at home.***

**If you would like to know more about the Habits of Mind, please visit**  
[\*\*http://www.instituteforhabitsofmind.com\*\*](http://www.instituteforhabitsofmind.com)

*Character Trait of the Month is...*

## Respect

- Treat others the way you want to be treated
- Be tolerant of differences
- Use good manners and positive language
- Be considerate of the feelings of others
- Deal peacefully in times of conflict



**EMOTIONAL HEALTH SCREENINGS AVAILABLE FOR ALL  
CHEMUNG COUNTY YOUTH  
AGES 4-21**

It is important to regularly check on your child's emotional health. A child who does not feel well emotionally can become physically sick and physical illness can affect emotional health. In any event, it is more difficult for a child, who does not feel well, to be interested in going to school or succeeding in school. When emotional health concerns are dealt with early we can help young people get the most out of their education and lead happy, productive lives.

<b>Good Emotional Health leads to:</b>	<b>Emotional Health Issue can affect:</b>
Good Relationships	School Performance
Good Decisions	Physical Health
Ability to deal with life's challenges	Personal Relationships
Interest in school	Actions toward others
Improved physical health	

Completing an emotional health screening is a simple effective way to look at a child's emotional development. To participate in the screening, complete a consent form and the emotional health screening for your child.

**Forms are available on the School District website: [www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com) under Emotional Health Screenings.**

For additional information contact: Marilyn Cristofaro, Community Mental Health Program Coordinator, at Family Services of Chemung County, 607-733-2820.

**ONE CALL CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



**ADVANCED ART PROGRAM**



Advanced Art classes will be offered to fifth and sixth grade students who are identified as highly talented in Art. These classes allow for students to engage in higher level projects during an extra Art time. The criteria for program selection are: 1) The student consistently demonstrates excellence in art skills, technique and creative problem solving with a variety of art forms and materials; 2) The student completes quality Art assignments; and 3) The student exhibits self-motivation, interest in pursuing Art outside of the classroom, and considers pursuing Art as a possible future career.

Initially, each student's ability level will be assessed through a Composite Drawing Test, their beginning art projects and recommendations from elementary Art teachers.

Advanced Art classes are held during the school day with your child's regular Art Teacher. Fifth Grade Advanced Art will meet on Day 3 at 1:30-2:15 PM, and Sixth Grade Advanced Art will meet on Day 6 at 1:30-2:15 PM. Parents of those students accepted will be notified and asked to sign a permission slip. Class attendance is mandatory for participating students. Please understand that space is limited, with only two classes of Advanced Art available for each grade level. Students who were in Advanced Art last year are not automatically guaranteed a spot for this school year. ALL students will be assessed on a continuous basis and can join the program throughout the year.

# INFORMATION REGARDING VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS!



## NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

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

Dear Fifth Grade Parents/Guardians:

**All 6<sup>th</sup> 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. Information must be received by **Tuesday, September 17, 2019. No appointment cards accepted.**

**Please note: 10-year-old students who are entering 6<sup>th</sup> 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(\*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 3 days after symptoms appear.

**If you have questions, please call the Health Department at 737-2028.**



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. We started small with things such as 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. Two years ago we added a 3D printer, and we're excited to see where this will take us! Be sure to follow our school hashtag to see all of the great happenings at the IS! [#ISinnovators](#)



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SCHOOL CAREER EVENTS

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](mailto:dlynch@gstboces.org).

## PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS FOR DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY

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

1. Inspect and review the student's education records;
2. Request that records be amended to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights;
3. 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
4. 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.

## ***Information about Emergency School Closings/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 freezing temperatures. If the school day is delayed, buses will run and schools will open two hours later than the usual time.

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

- **Text messaging (effective February 2019)** – 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.
- **District website** at [www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com)
- **District Facebook pages** (the district and all seven schools have pages)
- **Twitter** - @HhdsSchools
- **Local television and radio stations:**
  - o TV - WENY, WETM, Spectrum Cable News
  - o Radio – WELM 1410AM, WNKI 106.1FM/WPGI 100.9FM, WENY 1230AM/ MagicFM 92.7FM/WGMM 98.7

Note: Television and radio stations also put closing/delay information on their websites.

Please do not call the radio/TV stations or the district's Transportation Office.

### ***Important notes about school closings/delays:***

- There may be a time when any of these means of communication do not work due to Internet issues, etc, so we ask that you check more than one of our communication methods to determine if school is in regular session or not for that day.
- 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 evening programs.
- 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.
- On school delays, Pre-Kindergarten begins at 10:30am.
- 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.

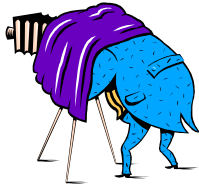
# CLASSIFIEDS

## ANONYMOUS TIP LINE

The Horseheads Central School District has an anonymous tip 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).

## SCHOOL PICTURES

The photographer will be at the Intermediate School on **Friday, September 27th**. Information packets and payment envelopes will be sent home approximately one to two weeks prior to the picture date. Don't forget to wear your smile!



## Attention!

### PRINCIPAL CHATS

**September 17<sup>th</sup>**, January 14<sup>th</sup>, and April 14<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM in the Cafeteria 6:00 – 6:30PM

in the Library

## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Labels for Education & Box Tops  
raised \$414.00 during  
2019-2020 school year!

This is amazing!

Thank you for participating in this on-  
going fundraiser!



Parent Portal

Parent Portal

## *Parent Portal*

Would you like to know more about your child's grades and attendance? Join Parent Portal to get access to up to date student records. In order to set up an account, we must have a valid e-mail address for each parent who would like access. If you haven't already signed up, visit the Main Office. You will be asked to complete a short form and present identification.

**Please note:** If you checked the Parent Portal box on your child's emergency form, or if you signed up at the school's Open House, you do not need to do anything further. You should have received further information about Parent Portal via e-mail.



The Fall Book Fair sponsored by the **PTO** will be from Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> and run through Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. It will be kicked off at the Ice Cream Social on September 25<sup>th</sup>!

Please contact Gretchen Ferraro at [gfferraro2010@gmail.com](mailto:gfferraro2010@gmail.com) or 425-2603 if you are available to volunteer.



## Electronic Devices

Electronic devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, iPods, iPads, etc. are not permitted to be used or visible during the school day unless used for educational purposes and approved by the teacher. Teachers have been instructed to take the device and turn it in to the Main Office after 1 warning. Parents will then need to pick up the device in the Office. Repeated violations of this procedure may result in a conduct referral and consequence. **Additionally, the school district is NOT liable for lost, damaged, or stolen property.**

## 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.



We will again be collecting aluminum can pull tabs this year. Thanks to all who donated pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Last year we have collected over **40 pounds**. **Please continue collecting the tabs.** As friends, neighbors, and relatives to save their tabs too! You can drop them off in the office anytime!

## RATES FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

The District needs certified teachers for day-to-day substituting opportunities in all of our schools.

### STATUS RATE

1. Uncertified Teacher without Four-Year Degree \$90/day
2. Uncertified Teacher with Four-Year Degree \$95/day
3. **Certified Teacher \$105/day**
4. Retired Teacher from HCSD \$135/day
5. Retired Teacher from Another District \$115/day
6. **Additional Pay for 20 Days' of Per Diem Substitute Teaching \$100**
7. Teaching Assistants \$11.10/hr.
8. Contract Substitute Teaching Assistant \$11.10/hr.

To apply, contact Human Resources Office at 739-5601x 4211.

### APPR of Teacher 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.

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.

Chapter 434 of the New York State Education Law requires school districts to notify parents or persons in parental relation of their rights regarding the referral and evaluation of their child for the purposes of special education services or programs. This information can be found on our district website ([www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com)) or on the New York State Education Department website ([www.nysed.gov](http://www.nysed.gov)) in "A Parent's Guide to Special Education." If you have further questions, please contact Kelly Squires, Director of Student Services, at 607-739-5601, x4300.

Michael Bostwick is the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Coordinator at the Intermediate School. Caitlin 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 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.