

Ridge Road Reporter



February 2021



Dear Parents,

Happy February Everyone!

Thank you to all parents for participating in our parent/teacher conferences this past week. I know the zoom meetings have been very different from our normal conferences. The end of the second marking period will be on Friday, February 5th. All progress reports for Cohort B students will be sent home with them on Thursday, February 11th. All students in Cohort A will have their report cards mailed to them on Thursday, February 11th. All remote students will have their report cards placed in their pick-up packets to go home with them on pick-up day. Please take a few minutes to reflect on the parent/teacher conference discussions and review the progress reports with your child. This is the perfect time to celebrate his/her growth and make plans on how to build strength in other skill areas for the second half of the school year.

Our Character Education trait for the month of February is **Trustworthiness**. Our students will be involved in many learning activities geared around trust. Please take some time to talk about this wonderful virtue with your child at home.

Tips for Parents

- Have a family game night
- Model honesty in everyday life
- Focus on the “Fun” of participating in something instead of winning
- Point out characters from books and movies that display trustworthiness and why

Sincerely,

Mrs. Bailey

Anne-Marie Manikowski-Bailey Principal

Monday, February 1st – No School

Monday, February 1st will be a Superintendent's Conference Day for all Horseheads District Staff. School will not be in session for all students.

Wednesday, February 3rd

Because of the Conference Day on Monday, February 1st, Students in the A Cohort will attend in-person school on Tuesday, February 2nd and Wednesday, 3rd. Please mark this change on your calendars.

No School February 15th and 16th

School will not be in session on Monday, February 15th and Tuesday, February 16th for Presidents' Day. Enjoy a special long weekend with your family!

Ridge Road PTO

Our next PTO meeting will be on Tuesday, February 9th at 6:30 pm, via zoom. Please reach out to the Ridge Road Office at 739-6351 or e-mail Mrs. Bailey, if you would like a link to attend the meeting. All Ridge Road Parents are invited to attend the meetings and participate in our PTO.

Please know that we understand that we are not running our normal extra activities and family nights due to Covid. However, we would still like to keep our PTO meetings going so we are ready to move forward when we can start our extra events for the students again!

FASHION FUN DAYS!

Later this month, the students will be able to vote on what they would like to see for some fashion fun days at Ridge Road in March. I will be sending their selections and dates home once the days have been decided. To get us started, I have added two days in February. The students can wear the fun fashion if they are in person or learning remotely that day.

Friday, February 5th – Favorite Team Day- In honor of the Superbowl all staff and students can wear clothing to support their favorite sports team! (This can be any sporting team, not just football!)

Monday, February 8th- School Spirit Day! Students are invited to wear their favorite Ridge Road clothing or the color red.

Valentine's Celebration

Please know that we usually have the students bring in valentines to share with their classmates and also many parents send in snacks and goodies for the classroom parties. **Due to Covid-19, we are respectfully requesting that valentines not be shared this year and that goodies and snacks for sharing with other students are not sent in to school.** Thank you for your support with this issue. We hope to get back having our normal celebrations soon.

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, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601. This policy of non-discrimination includes access by students to educational programs, counseling services, course offerings, and activities, as well as recruitment and appointment of employees and employment pay, benefits, advancement and/or termination.

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Ridge Road is Anne-Marie Bailey. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any Ridge Road student should be referred to Mrs. Bailey at 607-739-6351.



Digital Citizen News

February 2021

SOMEONE
HACKED
MY SHADOW



Volume 4 : Issue 6 - February 2021

This month we focus on Digital Privacy

3 Major Issues Concerning Online Privacy

Source: <http://go.gstric.org/406-issues>

- * **Spying and Snooping** - When you are online, you are spied by a number of trackers which keep a record of your search history and track all your online activities. This provides a clear picture of who you are and your interests. Most of the time, this tracking is for advertisement purposes but sometimes this information is used by cybercriminals.
- * **Information Mishandling** - Some sites on the internet may need personal information to give you access to their services. These sites often store that information in cookies. Most of the time this information is not encrypted and can be accessed by anyone. This mishandling of personal information may lead to serious consequences.
- * **Location Tracking** - Many internet users post their current location along with tagging friends and family members in their social media. It's fun and exciting to share your life events, but this data does not remain restricted to your expected audience only. You are providing data gives first-hand info to the world about where exactly you are and what your next move is, which is certainly risky and insecure.

How to Protect Your Digital Privacy (New York Times Privacy Project) - <http://go.gstric.org/406-NYTprivacy>

10 Tips to Improve your Internet Privacy (Kaspersky Labs Cybersecurity) - <http://go.gstric.org/406-KasperskyTips>

CALENDAR CONTEST

TIME IS
RUNNING OUT!



GET A FULL PAGE FOR YOUR ART!



**STUDENTS!
GET YOUR
ORIGINAL ART
PUBLISHED IN
OUR ANNUAL
DIGITAL
CITIZENSHIP
CALENDAR!**

**CONTEST DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 28th 2021**

GET ALL THE DETAILS AND ENTRY FORM
AT <http://go.gstric.org/406-contest>



**WATERFALL (1961)
MC ESCHER**

SEE IF YOU CAN LOCATE A
LARGER IMAGE OF THIS ART
WORK. STUDY IT. DESCRIBE
WHAT YOU SEE.

MORE ABOUT MC ESCHER
<http://go.gstric.org/406-escher>

OBJECTIVE REALITY
SUBJECTIVE REALITY
VIRTUAL REALITY
AUGMENTED REALITY
MIXED REALITY
MY REALITY

WHAT IS YOUR REALITY?

What things define the reality of your life? What type(s) of news do you watch? What type(s) of articles do you read? Do you have a limited number of sites that you visit online? Do you always talk to the same people?

All of these things may influence your view of your reality. We know that certain news groups and websites have certain biases. If you use social media it may feed you news and headlines based on your likes. We hear lots of fake news and misleading information. (more on page 4)

5 competencies of digital citizenship

ISTE has made teaching about Digital Citizenship more active by introducing five competencies focused on getting students DOING more to demonstrate DC Values.

INCLUSIVE:

I am open to hearing and respectfully recognizing multiple viewpoints, and I engage with others online with respect and empathy.

INFORMED:

I evaluate the accuracy, perspective, and validity of digital media and social posts.

ENGAGED:

I use technology and digital channels for civic engagement, to solve problems and be a force for good in both physical and virtual communities.

BALANCED:

I make informed decisions about how to prioritize my time and activities online and off.

ALERT:

I am aware of my online actions, and know how to be safe and create safe spaces for others online.

<http://go.gstric.org/406-5comps>

Rethinking Digital Citizenship



Richard Culatta

Chief Executive Officer, ISTE

"Far too often, digital citizenship is taught in a negative way — here's the list of all the stuff you should not do online. And while I appreciate the intent behind anti-cyberbullying campaigns, we don't teach other things as "anti-" in schools. And so we must challenge ourselves to do better."

- Richard Culatta (2019)

▶ Rethinking Digital Citizenship (2018 11:08)
<http://go.gstric.org/406-Rethink>

▶ Making Digital Citizenship about the Do's, not the Don'ts (2019 3:14)
<http://go.gstric.org/406-TheDos>

#digcitcommit

DEVELOP HABITS TO PROTECT YOURSELF

FROM

FRAUD

- ▶ Improve Your Passwords - use Multi-factor authentication if available.
- ▶ Manage your email - use spam and malware filters. Be wary of attachments.
- ▶ Avoid suspicious or special offers - if it sounds too good it probably is.
- ▶ Filter what you share on social media.
- ▶ Do a Facebook privacy checkup or use whatever tools are available on your social media.
- ▶ Filter your phone calls - don't answer calls if you don't know who they are from.
- ▶ Check your credit report regularly - investigate unknown charges.



SECURITY in 2-D!

PUT ON
YOUR



GLASSES

If you've heard your colleagues, school representatives, or teachers talk about "2-D" or "2-D compliance" and think it sounds technical, here's the break-down of the basics:

"2-D" is a section of the NYS Education Law that deals with security of student data and employee data.

"Student data" is anything that can identify a student; like:

- Name, address, family members
- Student ID numbers, medical and government records
- Place and date of birth, mother's maiden name
- Anything else that can be used to identify an individual student!

Everyone in your school district (Admins, principals, teachers, staff, etc.) is required to help prevent the "unauthorized release of personally identifiable information".

Any computer program, app, information database, digital record keeping, etc, supplied by an outside company (Google, Apple, etc) must sign an agreement with each school district that they will not collect and/or share student data.

The Bottom line:

Section 2-D was created to keep student information safe and it's all of our responsibility to help keep it secure!

A QUICK LOOK AT ENCRYPTION

What a Difference an "S" makes

One of the methods that the Internet uses to increase the privacy and security of information is encryption. **Encryption** takes information that would normally be easily readable by humans and "scrambles" it using a random string of characters (the "key"), and then sends it across the Internet to the user. The user's then uses the key to unscramble the information so that you can read and use it.

Example of Plain text (not encrypted data) vs. Encrypted text

PLAIN TEXT PACKET (NOT ENCRYPTED)

credit card number
45678901234000
expiry data 12/25
cvv code 678

ENCRYPTED TEXT PACKET

bGiJtYrSh74GtSZj
h&iloLmD98D13zZs
uljMd77SGgd38&\$d
yYAssaNskdSzd

More and more web sites are using encryption so that you can be sure all of the data that passes from their server to your browser can not be read by a third party trying to steal your information. You have probably noticed that a lot of addresses start with **https:** instead of **http:** - adding the "s" means that the connection is encrypted. You will also notice when you are using these sites that there is a padlock icon in the address bar.



Whenever you are submitting personal information with credit card or account numbers make sure that the site is using **https:**





The New York State Association for Computers and Technology in Education (NYSCATE) held a Virtual Annual Conference from November 20-23, 2021, and we were there. Our very own GST BOCES Instructional Support Teacher and Digital Citizenship Team Member, **KATIE COOKE**, did a virtual presentation during the "Fab 5 Presentations" about Digital Citizenship and the resources available through our services. There were over 100 attendees in the live session and who knows how many will go back and watch it asynchronously!



Visit the NYSCATE website

<http://go.gstric.org/406-NYSCATE>

Visit the NYSCATE Annual Conference Page

<http://go.gstric.org/406-conference>

View and listen to Katie's presentation

<http://go.gstric.org/406-pres-cooke>



WHAT IS YOUR REALITY? WHAT THINGS EFFECT HOW YOU VIEW YOUR REALITY IN 2021?

(continued from Page 1) On page 1 of this newsletter we began our article with an image created by the artist MC Escher. Escher had a very different way of looking at the world, which he illustrated in his work. We continued by asking you to think about sources of information and how they influence your view of reality.

Social media has created an entirely new profession of workers who are actually called "influencers". They make their livings by influencing you to try and buy products from various manufacturers and vendors. We also hear daily about social media platforms removing posts that are misleading, fake, or fraudulent. We are confronted by sites and sources that are labeled as "fake news". Do you allow fake news peddlers and influencers to have an effect on how you view your world?

Our news recently was taken over by disturbing events in our nation's capitol where protesters were convinced that their reality entitled them to be violent and destructive. We suggest a few sites below that may help you to make sense of what happened.



Drawing Hands
MC Escher (1948)

Help Kids Spot Fake News and Decode Media Messages

Grades K-5 - <http://go.gstric.org/406-media-K-5> or 6-12 - <http://go.gstric.org/406-media-6-12>

Talking to Kids About the Violence at the U.S. Capitol - <http://go.gstric.org/406-capitol>



Dear
Techie
Tom

Dear Techie Tom:

There have been a lot of stories lately on ground hog social media about accounts being hacked.

How can I create a password that will be hard to be hacked?

Hard to Hack Phil

Dear Hard to Hack Phil,

What a great question! Try to avoid using any easy to guess information such as a pets name, your birthday, your kids names, your address or your phone number.

You may want to try using a passcode phrase to make a unique password that doesn't have any easy to access information in it.

For example: **My20catslike*s**. Or use the first letters from your phrase for example you could use the phrase: "My socks are red and blue today!" to create the password **Msarab2day!**

Another tip is to have different passwords for different type of accounts. One password might be for your school accounts, a different one for any free accounts you may create, and another unique password for any banking or high-level security accounts.

Stay safe out there!

Techie Tom

You can use the site at <http://go.gstric.org/406-test-password> to check and see how long it would take a hacker to get your password.

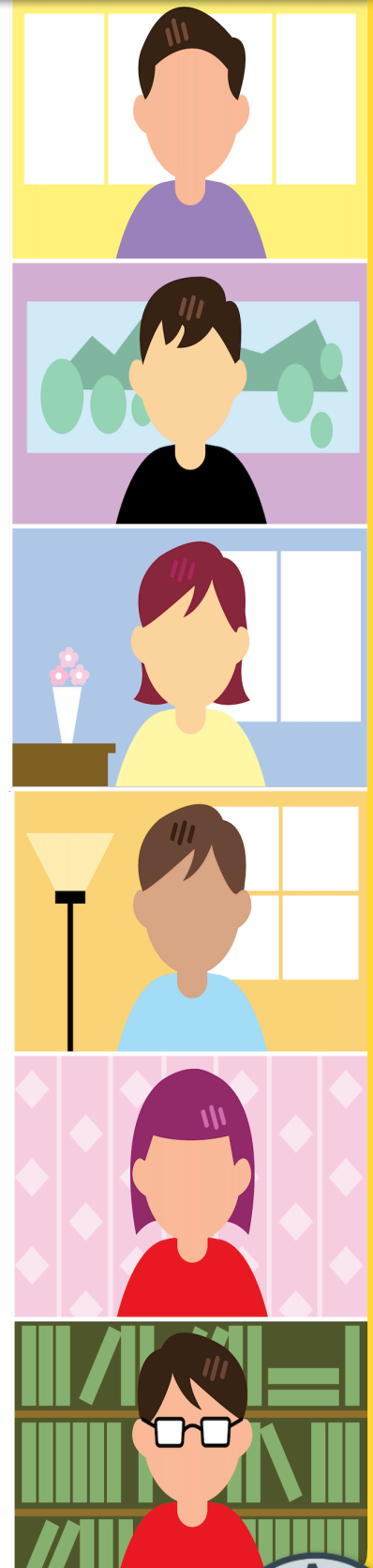


The Golden Rules of Chat Etiquette

Chats can be good educational tools but they also have some rules of behavior that you should abide by to be a good digital citizen.

The golden rules of chat include:

- Being respectful with the rest of classmates, teacher and all participants
- Respecting the opinions and interventions of others even if they are different than yours
- Following the rules set by the teacher for the activity that will be carried out in chat
- Using an appropriate font, with a readable size
- Not writing everything in capital letters since this is interpreted as shouting
- Checking your own grammar and spelling, as it can make reading difficult for other people
- Asking questions clearly and concisely so that they are perfectly understood by all
- Reading the contributions made previously so as not to repeat issues
- Sticking to defined themes, avoiding personal or irrelevant issues
- Using Emojis to avoid misinterpretation of text and communicate emotions is OK, but they should not be overused or abused












Ridge Road Elementary School

February 2021



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>1 No School Superintendent's Conference Day</p> 	<p>2 Cohort A Day 1 Kindergarten Registration</p>	<p>3 Cohort A Day 2 Hybrid A Cohort Students are in Session</p>	<p>4 Cohort B Day 1 BOE Budget Presentations 6:00 HS MMC</p>	<p>5 Cohort B Day 2 Fashion Fun– Favorite Team Day!</p>
<p>8 Cohort A Day 3 Fashion Fun– School Spirit Day!</p>	<p>9 Cohort A Day 4</p>	<p>10 Wednesday Assembly Pre- recorded: Black History Month</p>  <p>2:35 Faculty Meeting– Ed Camp Learning 8:00-Cim Team Meetings</p>	<p>11 Cohort B Day 3 Report Card Day!</p> <p>Progress Reports Sent home for Remote and Cohort B, Mailed Home for Cohort A</p>	<p>12 Cohort B Day 4</p>
<p>15 No School</p> 	<p>16 No School</p>	<p>17 Wednesday Assembly Pre- Recorded: Dental Health</p> 	<p>18 Cohort B Day 3</p>	<p>19 Cohort B Day 4</p>
<p>22 Cohort A Day 1</p>	<p>23 Cohort A Day 2</p> 	<p>24 Wednesday Assembly Pre- recorded: Science Assembly AM– CIM Meetings</p>  <p>2:35– Faculty Meeting</p>	<p>25 Cohort B Day 1</p> <p>BOE Meeting 6:00 HS MMC</p> 	<p>26 Cohort B Day 2</p>