



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent

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May 21, 2026

Dear Parents & Guardians:

Mid-May is a special time of year for students and staff, representing the culmination of a school-year of hard work and dedication worthy of our praise and thanks.

Graduation Activities & Honors

Class of 2026 Honors-level Graduates including Valedictorian and Salutatorian have been named after grades locked at the beginning of this week. They will be publicly identified pending their being notified at the end of this week. As always, the top 5% of the class will be honored as Mark Twain Scholars at a dinner on Thursday, June 4 and honored at class award ceremonies and graduations. (Valedictorian - Finn Van Buskirk, Salutatorian - Lucie McKenzie).

Early Education Action

As one class goes out, one inevitably comes in. Pre-K registration and Kindergarten screening will wrap up this week. Pre-k building assignments will begin next week as we look forward to welcoming the class of 2040 (entering Pre-K in 2026-2027) to the district with open-house events being planned over the summer.

Ad Hoc Committee Survey (School Start Times) - Final Report Forthcoming

The results of a survey seeking input on the impact of changes to school start times in the 2025-2026 School year have been reviewed by the Ad Hoc Committee and will be reported at a special meeting on June 3.

2026-27 School Budget/Board of Education Election Update

On Tuesday, May 19, voters endorsed the 2026-2027 Budget and Bus/Vehicle Purchase propositions put forward on the ballot, both by a margin of 63% to 37%. We sincerely thank everyone who turned out to make their voices heard and made our children's education a priority by voting.

Canvas Cyber-security Incident

We have been notified that we will soon receive the names of any accounts impacted by a recent cyber-security incident involving Instructure, the parent company of our Learning Management System (LMS) Canvas. The series of incidents in April and early May were reported to NYSED in accordance with New York State law and close communication with stakeholders continues. Notifications will be made when we receive actionable, account-specific information.

Spring Sports Conclusion (Key Dates)

Sports Athletic Signing Day - Thursday, May 28th

Sports Tribute Banquet - Wednesday, June 10th

Horseheads is hosting Girls Section IV Lacrosse Championships Friday, May 29th

Horseheads is hosting Boys Section IV Lacrosse Championships Saturday, May 30th

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools