



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent

143 Hibbard Road • Horseheads, NY 14845
(607) 739-5601 • Fax (607) 795-2405
www.horseheadsdistrict.com

July 3, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we prepare for the start of 2025–2026 school year, please review these important updates:

Bus Route Information

The district is preparing to send out finalized bus routes the first week of August. The information will be sent out on the [My Ride K-12 Parent App](#). This mobile app is key for information on pickups and tracking buses in real-time. If your student is not yet registered for busing, please immediately call the Transportation Department at (607) 739-6338.

Early Drop-Off Applications

With new start and dismissal times taking effect this fall, families with work-related conflicts may apply for temporary early drop-off accommodations at K-4 schools (September–December 2025). To apply, call the Transportation Center at (607) 739-6338, Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Families will only be eligible if their student(s) cannot ride the bus prior to their home departure time, and if proof of work time is provided. [Click here](#) to view the new start and dismissal times, the temporary drop-off application, and a sample letter of what you would need from your employer to apply.

Please understand that space at each of our elementary schools is limited and you are encouraged to apply early. Final determination for district assistance should be communicated to applicants by the first week of August 2025.

New York State Imposed Distraction Free Learning *(Bell to Bell Cell Phone Ban)*

This is an initial reminder that New York State has implemented a bell-to-bell ban on internet-enabled devices in school buildings during the instructional day. The Board of Education has adopted a mandatory policy for this state law and the district is now developing regulations to guide implementation and expectations for the upcoming school year. Final district regulations will be shared with families around mid-August with more specific information—please review them with your student. More information on the state policy can be found [here](#). In the meantime, all families and students need to be aware of the required expectations that all internet-enabled devices should be turned off and put away throughout the entire school day.

Youth Camps and Summer Opportunities

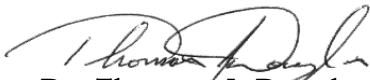
There's still time to sign up for [varsity camps](#) and [Chemung County summer programs](#), including events at [Tanglewood Nature Center](#). The [HFRC Summer Lunch Program](#) runs July 7–August 15 at Thorne Street Park. No registration needed—free for all, including adults, with fun daily activities.

For questions, contact your school's Main Office or email

hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Thank you for your continued support and be on the lookout for further updates over the summer as we transition to the new school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Douglas", written over the printed name.

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools
Horseheads Central School District