



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent

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September 18, 2026

Dear Horseheads CSD Families,

As we settle into the new school year, I want to take a moment to celebrate the successful start to the 2026–27 school year. While the first week always brings a few adjustments as students, families and staff get back into their routines, the logistics of opening our schools went relatively smoothly.

A Successful Roll-Out: Our buses are running out on the road each day, helping thousands of students get to and from school safely. I want to extend a sincere thank-you to our transportation staff, including our bus drivers and support personnel, for the important work they do over the summer to avoid operational headaches for families. Please continue to remind students about bus safety and the importance of following their drivers' directions.

Upcoming School Open Houses: We look forward to welcoming parents and guardians into our buildings over the next two weeks for our annual open-house events. These evenings are a great opportunity to meet teachers, learn about classroom expectations, explore school programs and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates and times:

- **Middle School:** Tuesday, September 22, at 6 p.m.
- **Intermediate School:** Wednesday, September 23, at 6 p.m.
- **Gardner Road Elementary:** Thursday, September 24 — 6:15 p.m. for last names A–L and 7 p.m. for last names M–Z.
- **Big Flats Elementary:** Monday, September 28 — 6:15 p.m. for last names A–L and 7 p.m. for last names M–Z.
- **High School:** Wednesday, September 30, at 7 p.m.
- **Ridge Road Elementary:** Thursday, October 1, at 6:15 p.m.

We hope you will join us for these important opportunities to connect with the educators and staff who support your children every day.

Bus, Fire & Building Emergency Drills: Throughout the school year, our schools and transportation department will continue conducting safety drills to help students and staff prepare for a variety of emergency situations. These exercises are an important part of our commitment to maintaining safe learning environments and ensuring everyone understands what to do in the event of an emergency. Please note that some drills require prior notification, while others do not.

Building Visitors Protocols: As we welcome families and community members into our schools for open houses and other events, we want to remind everyone that visitor protocols remain in place during the instructional day to help keep our students and staff safe.

All visitors coming to our school buildings during the school day must follow established check-in

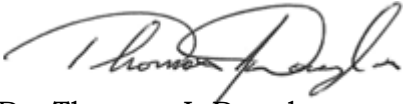
procedures at the main office. Please be prepared to present identification and follow the directions of school staff when entering our buildings.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we work together to maintain safe and welcoming schools for everyone.

Upcoming Early Dismissal Days: Please keep an eye on the district calendar and school communications for upcoming early dismissal days. These scheduled adjustments to the school day provide important opportunities for staff planning, professional development and other district activities.

We encourage families to review dismissal times in advance and make any necessary arrangements for student transportation and after-school care. Additional details and reminders will be shared through ParentSquare and our district website as these dates approach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Douglas", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools