



# About the Horseheads Central School District

The Horseheads Central School District is one of three districts in Chemung County, located in Upstate New York's Southern Tier Region. The district has an estimated population of 27,400, spanning some 143 square miles. The communities of the Town and Village of Horseheads, Big Flats, Veteran, Breesport, Pine Valley, Erin, Millport, Cayuta, Catlin, and portions of adjacent communities make up the district. Today, some 4,200 students and more than 600 staff members teach and learn in four elementary schools, one intermediate school, one middle school, and one high school.

## Quality education

The Horseheads district is highly respected for quality in education. We're proud of the education we offer our children. Families looking to move to the area choose Horseheads because of the school system. With a commitment to quality education and continuous improvement, the district strives to meet and exceed the needs of our students and community.

Excellence in education is our highest priority. We set high standards for our students, then provide them with the tools to be successful. Initiatives that enhance educational opportunities include:

- Rigorous and relevant curriculum
- Innovation in and out of the classroom through student-driven programs, project-based learning, MakerSpace, collaborations with area businesses and organizations, and more.
- Effective, innovative professional development
- Long-term strategic plan; facilities planning
- State-of-the-art technology across the district with upgrades using Smart School Bond Act funds
- Full-day pre-kindergarten
- Character education programs with a Growth Mindset approach
- Intermediate school (grades 5 and 6) to help students transition more successfully to the secondary level
- Middle level education using the team concept
- Intensive scheduling at the high school level since 1996
- AP and college courses at the high school level

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**Our Mission: Explore Empower Excel**

**Our Vision:** Horseheads Central School District sets the standard of educational excellence by fostering innovative thinking, curiosity, and a passion for learning to maximize the potential of each individual. We engage with our local and global communities to provide a student-centered, nurturing environment.

**Value Statements:** We **explore** through local and global opportunities, a culture of innovation, and individual learning paths. We **empower** each other by rising to challenges, celebrating success, and learning from failure. We **excel** as a result of our passion for learning, the quality of our character, and the strength of our relationships.

Intensive scheduling allows high school students to spend more time in class while concentrating on fewer subjects. Similar to a college class schedule, students take four 80-minute classes each semester.

The opportunities we offer in academic areas and technology are strong and improving each year. Each of our schools has at least one computer lab and mobile laptop labs. All schools have wireless capabilities, and all classrooms have interactive whiteboards. We also have instructional technology specialists to help teachers effectively integrate technology into instruction.

Our arts and athletics programs are among the best in the state. Our music and sports teams consistently bring home regional and state honors, our artists earn honors in the regional and national Scholastic Art Awards, and our drama program stages high quality performances each year.

In addition, each of our schools has a Site-Based Team made up of teachers, school staff, parents and community members. Site teams meet during the summer and throughout the year to work on action plans to increase student achievement. Teams use data to support their decisions and planning efforts.

Each of our schools has a hard-working parent organization that provides valuable resources to our schools. Parents at the secondary level are involved in additional ways, with parent support groups for music and athletics.

## About Our Community

The Horseheads district, in the Southern Tier of New York State, is ideally located close to the beautiful Finger Lakes Region and near a number of metropolitan areas.

Close to home are a number of cultural and recreational areas, including the Clemens Center for the Performing Arts, the Corning Museum of Glass, the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center, Watkins Glen State Park, and more.

Several colleges and universities are within a two-hour drive, including Elmira College, Corning Community College, Ithaca College, Cornell University, SUNY Cortland, Syracuse University, the University of Rochester, and Rochester Institute of Technology.

Horseheads is located in Chemung County, which boasts a number of talented graduates, including professional saxophonist Chad Lefkowitz-Brown, Senior PGA Tour golfer Joey Sindelar, and former major league baseball player Kirt Manwaring.

Hailing from Elmira, our neighbor to the south, are NASA astronaut Eileen Collins, designer Tommy Hilfiger, and the late Ernie Davis, the first African American to win college football's Heisman Trophy.

Mark Twain, writer of many beloved classics including *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, wrote many of his works in Chemung County. Each year, our region designates the top 5% of the graduating classes in Chemung County and the greater region as Mark Twain Scholars.

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### ***Learn more about the district...***

- [www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com)
- Facebook - *The district and our seven schools have pages*
- Twitter - *@HhdsSchools*
- Instagram - *hhdsschools*

143 Hibbard Road, Horseheads, NY 14845  
(607) 739-5601, x4295  
[hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com)



*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 the Title IX Coordinator or the Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.*

## History

The first settlers to Horseheads, former Revolutionary War soldiers who had seen the area during the Sullivan campaign, developed a primitive school. The early education facilities were log cabins and one room schoolhouses. In the early 1800s, small schoolhouses were constructed across the community. In 1815, a two-story community building was built at what is now Teal Park. In 1850, a four-room school was built next to this original building and served the community for the next 42 years.

A Union Free School was organized in Horseheads in 1865. The first recorded graduation took place in 1885, with Board of Education President Benjamin Westlake presenting completion certificates to Harriet Armitage, Vena Barlow, Joyce Johnson, Nita McNeish, Maude Ward, and John Curtis. By 1889, the district had 200 students, one principal, and seven teachers.

## Consolidation

On April 27, 1950, residents of Horseheads and surrounding communities approved a plan to consolidate 36 area school districts into one, known as the Horseheads Central School District, creating what was then the third largest central school district in the state.

The baby boom, new housing construction in the years following World War II, and the resulting increased enrollment prompted the consolidation efforts in Horseheads. The new school district officially started on July 1.

In 1952 with an enrollment of 3300, voters approved a \$2.8 million bond issue to build new schools to meet the needs of the increasing population. All elementary students from the Village of Horseheads attended a brick school built in 1892 adjacent to the present High School. This school, later known as the Annex, once held all twelve grades and was a teacher training school after hours. The building was torn down in 1987.

Junior high and high school students attended a two-story brick building nearby. It was known as the East Wing or the “old building” of the present High School until its demolition in 1988. The site is now a park outside the High School.

Elementary students outside of the village attended small schools in Big Flats, Millport, Breesport, and Erin. As the bond project allowed for the building of new schools, these small schools were sold. Some still exist today as private homes.

In 1954, voters approved the building of three elementary schools, an addition to the Breesport school, and a cafeteria and new gym for the High School. Center Street and Ridge Road schools opened in 1954. Big Flats students moved into their new school after spring vacation in 1955.

In 1958, additional classrooms and the auditorium were added to the High School. In 1958, Broad Street Elementary opened. In 1960, additions were built at Center Street, Ridge Road, and Big Flats. In 1963, as baby boomers hit junior high school age, a junior high school was built between the High School and Center Street. The junior high building became Junior High East and is now part of the High School.

In 1966, Gardner Road Elementary School and Big Flats took on its second addition. In 1969, as junior high enrollment grew, Junior High West was completed on Sing Sing Road for half the students in grades 7 to 9. Today, the school houses seventh- and eighth-graders and is now Horseheads Middle School. In 1970, the elementary portion opened as Sing Sing Road Elementary School.

In 1975, Breesport School, then housing grades K-3, was sold, with students going to Center Street Elementary School. In 1983, Broad Street Elementary School was closed.

In 1987, ninth-graders became high-schoolers as the Junior High East building became part of the High School with the addition of a link. In 1996, the High School implemented block scheduling, and in 1997, the district’s kindergarten program became full day.

In 2000, district voters approved an \$18.3 million capital project to upgrade and enhance district facilities. The project also included the construction of an additional athletic facility at the school complex on

Sing Sing Road. The facility includes an indoor/outdoor chipping and putting green, funded by the First Tee Project of Corning and the LPGA. In 2002, the district reconfigured its grade structure. The elementary school formerly on Sing Sing Road was transitioned into Horseheads Intermediate School, housing all of the district's fifth- and sixth-graders. It opened in 2003. The remaining four elementary schools now house students in grades pre-kindergarten through four.

In 2006, voters approved a \$15.3 million capital project for district-wide facilities improvements, including the renovation of the High School auditorium, boiler and window replacement to more energy-efficient models, and the installation of a district-wide wireless network.

In 2015, secure vestibules were built at the entrances of each school building, and the district began a district-wide technology upgrade using Smart Schools Bond Act funds approved by state voters in 2014 and capital project funds approved by district voters in 2015.

In 2016, the district sold the Broad Street building, which was being rented to community organizations since its closing as a school in 1983. Also in 2016, the district began Horseheads 2030: Building Our Future Now, a comprehensive project to envision the future of the district and improve upon its education and infrastructure.

In the Fall of 2017, residents approved the first of a series of capital projects to renovate, upgrade, and rebuild district facilities. Construction for this initial project, totaling nearly \$100 million, began in 2018 and in 2021 is nearing completion, with a new state-of-the-art library at the High School; upgrades to classrooms and technology infrastructure; a new outdoor facility/stadium for athletic, music, and community use; upgraded technology, art rooms, kitchen, and cafeteria at the Middle/Intermediate complex; and more.



## *#raiderpride...*

- *The Horseheads district ranks third among the 40 districts in the Binghamton/Elmira area according to the Buffalo-area publication Business First.*
- *Horseheads High School was included in the 2015 AP® Honor Roll for maintaining excellence and increasing opportunities.*
- *Horseheads art students earn more Scholastic Art Awards than any other district in the region, including several best in show awards each year.*
- *Horseheads was one of just five districts chosen nationally to pilot the Harmony Bridge program in 2015. The program, which connects students to senior citizens through music, continues today.*
- *Our athletic program consistently earns Scholar-Athlete status as well as sectional and regional championships. Each year, several student-athletes continue on to participate at the college level.*
- *Our schools have strong community partnerships with charitable organizations, career development groups, cultural and environmental agencies, and more.*