



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent

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September 8, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to the 2026–27 school year! We are excited to welcome our students, families and staff back to Horseheads Central School District for another year of learning, growth and opportunity.

The first day of school for students in Pre-K through Grade 12 is Tuesday, September 8.

The beginning of a new school year brings a great deal of important information for families. The information below includes reminders and resources to help your family prepare for a successful start to the school year. We encourage you to take a few minutes to review this communication and keep it available for reference throughout the year.

ParentSquare – Stay Connected

This year, Horseheads Central School District is using **ParentSquare as our primary school-to-home communications platform**. ParentSquare provides families with a convenient way to receive important district, school and classroom communications, connect with teachers and staff, complete forms and permission slips, sign up for conferences and volunteer opportunities, and stay informed about school events.

If you have not yet activated your ParentSquare account, please check your email for your invitation and complete the activation process. We encourage all parents and guardians to activate their accounts so they do not miss important information throughout the school year.

2026–27 School Calendar

Please review the **2026–27 school calendar** for important dates, including holidays, recesses, conference days, half days and other scheduled events.

[View the 2026–27 District Calendar](#)

The district's online calendar is also updated throughout the year with school and district events.

[View the Online District Calendar](#)

School Meals

School meals remain an important part of supporting our students' health and readiness to learn. Information about breakfast and lunch programs, meal eligibility, menus, payment information and other Food Services resources is available through the district.

[Visit the District Website for Food Services Information](#)

Families with questions about school meals may contact the Food Services Office at **607-739-6360**.

SchoolTool and Student Information

Parents and guardians can use the **SchoolTool Parent Portal** to access student information, including grades and attendance.

[Access the SchoolTool Parent Portal](#)

If you need assistance with your Parent Portal account, please contact your child's school.

Transportation and My Ride K-12

Our Transportation Department works hard to provide safe and reliable transportation for our students. Families can use the **My Ride K-12** app to view their child's school, bus and route information, including the bus stop location and scheduled pickup and drop-off times.

The app also allows parents and guardians to follow the bus using GPS. Please note that there is an approximately 60-second delay between the GPS signal leaving the bus and its appearance on a mobile device.

[View My Ride K-12 Information](#)

If you have questions about transportation, please contact the Transportation Department at **607-739-6338**.

School Supplies

School supply lists for the 2026–27 school year are available on the district website.

[View School Supply Lists](#)

Student Health and Immunizations

New York State requires students to meet certain immunization and health examination requirements to attend school. Families should make sure their child's health records are current, and that required documentation has been submitted to the school nurse.

NYSED requires schools to review student immunization records at the beginning of each school year. Students who are not in compliance may be excluded from school in accordance with New York State requirements.

[View New York State Immunization Requirements](#)

Students are also required to have physical examinations at specified grade levels. Families should contact their school nurse with questions regarding their child's individual health requirements.

[Visit the District Health Services Page](#)

Student Safety

The safety and security of our students and staff remains one of our highest priorities. We ask that all parents, guardians and visitors follow school procedures when entering our buildings and check in through the main office.

If you have a safety concern or hear a rumor involving the safety of our schools, please contact your child's school or a district administrator. You may also report concerns through the district's **Safe Schools Line at 607-795-2044 or 1-800-305-4984**.

Emergency School Closings and Delays

When winter weather or other circumstances affect our ability to safely operate schools, the district communicates closings and delays through several channels, including the district website and official district social media accounts.

Parents and guardians can also opt in to receive text notifications regarding school closings and delays by texting **Y** or **Yes** to **67587**.

[View Emergency Closing and Delay Information](#)

Please remember that when schools are delayed, students should not arrive at school until the buildings are open. There is no breakfast service during a two-hour delay, and Pre-K begins at 10:30 a.m.

Athletics

We are excited to welcome our student-athletes back to competition for another school year. Families can find current schedules and other athletics information through the district's Athletics webpage.

[Visit Horseheads Athletics](#)

Fall 2026 sports schedules currently include football, cheerleading, cross country, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls volleyball, boys golf, girls tennis and girls swimming.

Student and Family Resources

The district website is an important resource for information throughout the school year. Families can find district news, calendars, school information, transportation resources, athletics, health information, Board of Education information and required notifications.

[Visit the Horseheads Central School District Website](#)

Board of Education

Board of Education meetings are open to the public, and we welcome parents, guardians and community members to participate in the work of our school district.

[Visit the Board of Education Website](#)

School Websites

Families can find school-specific information and announcements through the district's individual school webpages:

[Big Flats Elementary School](#)

[Gardner Road Elementary School](#)

[Ridge Road Elementary School](#)

[Horseheads Intermediate School](#)

[Horseheads Middle School](#)

[Horseheads High School](#)

Required Annual Notifications

The district is required to provide parents and guardians with information regarding a variety of state and federal laws, regulations and district policies. These materials include information concerning student records and privacy, acceptable use of technology, student attendance, the Code of Conduct, Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), Title IX, Section 504, Child Find, students in temporary housing, pesticide applications and other required notifications.

The district's **Annual Notifications** resource provides access to the current information and documents for families.

[View Annual Notifications](#)

Parents and guardians may also review the district's current **Code of Conduct**, which governs student conduct and expectations throughout the school year.

[View the Code of Conduct](#)

New York State's Dignity for All Students Act protects students from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment and bullying on school property, on a school bus and at school functions.

Parents' Bill of Rights for Student Data Privacy and Security

In accordance with New York State Education Law §2-d, the district maintains a Parents' Bill of Rights concerning the privacy and security of student personally identifiable information. The document outlines parents' rights regarding student educational records, the collection and disclosure of student data, data security and complaints regarding potential breaches or unauthorized disclosures.

[View the Parents' Bill of Rights](#)

Pesticide Application Notification

New York State law requires school districts to provide written notification regarding the potential use of pesticides and maintain a registry for parents, guardians, faculty and staff who wish to receive 48-hour advance written notification of certain pesticide applications.

Parents and guardians who would like to receive these notifications should complete the registration form provided by the district.

[View the Pesticide Application Notification](#)

The district's current notice explains the circumstances in which advance notification is required and identifies the district's pesticide representative.

Asbestos and Fire Safety Notifications

The district maintains required public notices regarding asbestos management and annual fire safety inspections.

[View the Asbestos Public Notice](#)

[View the Fire Inspection Public Notice](#)

The district's fire inspection notice states that annual inspections are conducted and that inspection forms and related materials are available for public review upon request.

Questions?

We recognize that the beginning of a school year brings many questions. If you are unsure who to contact, please reach out to your child's school or contact the district at **607-739-5601** or hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information and, most importantly, thank you for your continued partnership with our schools. The success of our students depends upon a strong partnership between school and home, and we are grateful for the trust, support and encouragement you provide throughout the year.

We are excited to welcome our students back on September 8 and look forward to a wonderful 2026–27 school year. Here's to another year of learning, growth and success for all of our students.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas

Superintendent of Schools