



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent

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October 28, 2026

Dear Horseheads CSD Families,

As October comes to a close, there is much to celebrate in our school community. From welcoming international visitors to cheering on our student-athletes, our schools continue to provide enriching experiences and opportunities for students in and out of the classroom. I also want to share several important updates about our school calendar, graduation requirements and upcoming capital project referendum.

Welcoming Our Friends from Japan -- This week, we are pleased to welcome students and visitors from Nakagawa, Japan, through our community's longstanding Sister Cities Association exchange program. This special relationship provides opportunities to build friendships, experience different cultures and broaden our students' understanding of the world. Thank you to the Sister Cities Association, host families, staff and volunteers who make this exchange possible.

Early Dismissal Reminder: November 6 -- Our next scheduled early dismissal will take place on **Friday, November 6, for students in grades 7–12**. Students in grades Pre-K–6 will follow their regular schedules. Early dismissal days in November for grades Pre-K–6 include November 12, 13 and 20, to accommodate parent teacher conferences. We encourage families to review the district calendar for early dismissal dates happening throughout the year and watch for school-specific communications regarding dismissal times.

NY Inspires: Regents Exams Will Continue -- As the New York State Education Department begins implementing its *NY Inspires* initiative, we want to clarify that **Regents examinations will continue as scheduled, and current graduation requirements remain in effect**.

The initiative outlines changes to how students demonstrate learning and earn diplomas, including a greater emphasis on skills, experiences and the statewide Portrait of a Graduate. These changes will be introduced gradually over the coming years as additional state guidance becomes available. Our district will continue monitoring developments and keeping families informed of any changes affecting our students.

Emergency Communications Testing -- On Veterans Day (Wednesday, November 11th) at 10:30 a.m., parents and staff will receive a message testing our Emergency Alert Communications via ParentSquare. This is only a test and can be disregarded. If you do not receive this test message, please let us know by emailing hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Capital Project Referendum: December 15 -- The district is preparing for a public vote on a proposed capital improvement project on **Tuesday, December 15, 2026, in the Horseheads High School North Gym**. The proposal addresses identified facility and infrastructure needs throughout the district.

We are committed to providing residents with clear information about the proposed improvements, associated costs and potential taxpayer impact before the vote.

Several public information sessions will be held, beginning **Wednesday, November 4, in the Horseheads High School Auditorium at 6 p.m.** Additional meeting details and project information will be shared through district communications and the district calendar. We encourage residents to

attend, ask questions and become informed about the proposal.

Raider Athletics Enter Sectional Competition -- Our fall sports teams have given us plenty to celebrate this season. As sectional competition gets underway, we congratulate our student-athletes and coaches. Postseason competition is an exciting opportunity to showcase the teamwork and determination that define Raider athletics. The same goes for our Blue Raider Marching Band, who will compete at State Championships in Syracuse this weekend. We encourage our community to come out, support our teams, band, and show their Raider pride. **Go Raiders!**

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Your involvement helps make Horseheads a wonderful place for students to learn and grow. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

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