

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the Horseheads Central School District! We are pleased that you have moved into our community and we hope that you will find our district to be a nurturing environment where every student can achieve his or her highest potential.

When children enter school, we need to have a great deal of information in order to provide them with a safe, quality education. Please be sure to complete all forms to the best of your knowledge. The information which the district is asking for is very important; it is necessary for the teacher's records, health records, guidance folder, and census information. The information requested on the forms included in this packet will be held in the strictest confidence per state and federal privacy laws.

Students wishing to be enrolled in the Horseheads Central School District must first establish residency within the district. Generally, a student's legal school district of residence is presumed to be the district in which the students' parent(s) or legal guardian resides. At the time of registration, the parent(s) or legal guardian will need to provide **two** documents to prove residency in our district. Additional information may be requested if necessary. If you are having difficulty obtaining any of these documents, please call Central Registrar Karen McLain at (607) 739-5601 ext. 4251.

By law, all new students, as well as existing students of certain grade levels, must meet immunization requirements set by the state. At the time of registration, the parent or legal guardian must bring a current record of immunizations that is signed by the student's doctor. The school nurse will review the record and inform you if any further immunizations are necessary.

Note: In June 2019, New York State amended Public Health Law Section 2164 abolishing the exemption from vaccinations due to religious beliefs for school attendance. This means that there are no longer religious exemptions for the requirement that children be vaccinated against measles and other diseases to attend either public, private, or parochial school, including summer school, or child day care settings.

Other health requirements or information:

- All new students entering the Horseheads Central School District must furnish a health certificate at the time of entrance and thereafter, at the beginning of Pre-K or Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th grades. In addition, school authorities may require an examination at any time to promote the educational interests of such students. If the student does not present a health certificate from his/her own physician or notify the school of a scheduled physical, the school physician will examine the child. A Health Evaluation and Certificate of Immunization form may be obtained in the school health office and/or your private physician's office.
- Health screenings have been expanded to include the dental health of students in New York State. When we require that your child have a physical examination, we will be requesting a dental certificate as well. In addition, within 30 days after entry into 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th grades, a dental health certificate will be requested. A dental health certificate form may be obtained in the school health office.
- The school provides additional health services including screening tests for vision, hearing, color perception, height, weight, blood pressure and scoliosis.

(over, please)

- If your child shows symptoms of ill health (i.e. fever, vomiting), please do not send him/her to school.
- Chapter 53 of the New York State Education Law requires students who transfer into a district to be screened to determine if their educational needs qualify them for remedial or special education services. Testing will occur within a timely manner, unless appropriate and current test data is available from the child's previous district. Our district personnel will likely administer state competency tests to determine if the student is making satisfactory progress toward earning a high school diploma in New York State.
- Chapter 434 of the New York State Education Law was amended to require school districts to notify parents or person in parental relation of their rights regarding the referral and evaluation of their child for the purposes of special education services or programs. This information can be found on our district website (www.horseheadsdistrict.com) or on the New York State Education Department website (www.nysed.gov) in "A Parent's Guide to Special Education". If you have further questions, please contact Director of Student Services Kelly Squires at 607-739-5601 ext. 4300.

We are excited to have the opportunity to provide a quality education for your child. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school's principal, nurse, or classroom teacher. They will be happy to assist you.

We encourage you to learn more about our district and schools, and keep informed throughout your child's school years. Our district website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com has a wide range of information about our schools and our district. You can also stay up-to-date by liking us on Facebook – our district and all seven of our schools have pages – and following us on Twitter - @HhdsSchools. Thank you for your continued support of, and interest in, your child's education.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools

TDWL Rev 6/20/19
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