



**Dr. Thomas J. Douglas**  
**Superintendent**

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[www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com)

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.

New York State Public Health Law 2164 requires every student entering or attending school in New York State to be vaccinated in accordance with Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. At the time of registration, the parent or legal guardian must bring a current record of immunizations. Acceptable records of immunization include an electronic health record from your provider's office, an immunization certificate signed or stamped by your health care provider, a record issued by NYSIIS or CIR, or an official immunization registry from another state or foreign country if applicable. The school nurse will review the record and inform you if any further immunizations are necessary.

**Note:** Since 2019, Public Health Law Section 2164 provides only for medical exemptions to immunization. This means that there are no longer religious exemptions for the requirement that children be vaccinated to attend either public, private, or parochial school, including summer school, or child day care settings.

Other health requirements or information:

- Education Law requires a health examination (physical exam) of public-school students. All new students entering the Horseheads Central School District must furnish a health certificate (physical) at the time of entrance and thereafter, at the beginning of Pre-K or K, 1st, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. In addition, school authority may require an examination at any grade level determined at their discretion to promote the educational interests of the student. Physical exams are also required to participate in strenuous activity (athletics), upon student's request for an employment certificate (working papers), and

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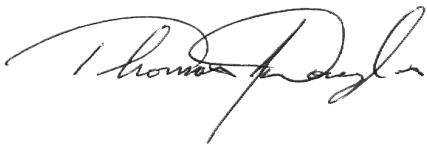
when conducting an initial evaluation or reevaluation of a student suspected of having a disability or a student with a disability. Physicals must be done by a New York state provider and documented on the required New York state health examination form. This form may be obtained from a private provider, in the school health office, or on the district website. The physical must be submitted within 30 days of your student entering school. If we do not receive the physical, they will be scheduled for a school appraisal by the school physician or school nurse practitioner.

- In accordance with education law at the same times we require your child have a physical examination, we will be requesting a dental certificate. A dental health certificate form may be obtained in the school health office or on the district website.
- All students are screened according to state mandates. If the results of any screening indicate that the child requires further follow-up, the parent/guardian will receive written notification to follow up with an outside provider. Screenings will be performed if they are not documented on a private physical. Screenings include vision in grades Pre-K or K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 11 (and new students), hearing in grades Pre-K or K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 11 (and new students), and scoliosis: girls - grades 5, 7; boys - grade 9.
- If your child shows symptoms of ill health (i.e. fever, vomiting), please do not send him/her to school. Please see our website for further information on when to keep your child home sick. Call your school nurse if you have questions on if your child should stay home sick and when to return.

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](http://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 Instagram (@hhdsschools) or on X, formerly Twitter (@HhdsSchools). Thank you for your continued support of, and interest in, your child's education.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas  
Superintendent of Schools