

The School Connection



Principal's Post

Horseheads Intermediate School

As we enter another school year, I reflect back on the wonderful summer we had. The weather was very enjoyable, which allowed for plenty of outdoor activities. I hope you had the opportunity to appreciate some time outside doing the things you enjoy.

Now we are back at it...summer is dwindling away, and fall will be quickly approaching. For some that may mean bad news with winter inevitably on its way, but for me it means cooler temperatures, changing leaves, football season, but most importantly – a fresh start to a new school year. To me, fall brings a sense of strength in knowing that renewed beginnings bring new learning. My hope is that the summer has rejuvenated our students and broadened excitement for the challenges that lie ahead.

I am truly excited to have a full staff and 680 students back at the Intermediate School. We are ready to educate and facilitate the growth of your child's learning. There are great challenges that lie ahead with state expectations for performance. Please know that we are focusing on what is best for your child. We have a strategic district and an incredible school. I can't help but think how fortunate we are to have the honor and privilege of educating students in the Horseheads Central School District. We all take that seriously, and we'll do all we can to help each and every child reach for their full potential. I thank you in advance for your support.

Please read this newsletter carefully as it is full of important information about the Intermediate School and some exciting upcoming events. If you'd like to stay informed about the great things going on at Horseheads Intermediate School, dig into our social media. Follow me on Twitter, Like us on Facebook, and visit our website for useful resources and great information.

We have so many valuable learning experiences and fun activities lined up for your child this year at the Intermediate School. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming activities, events, and clubs. If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, do not hesitate to call the office.

Follow me on Twitter: [@MichaelBostwick@Horseheads_IS](https://twitter.com/MichaelBostwick)
Like us on facebook: Search Horseheads Intermediate School
Website: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHIS.cfm>

Yours in education,

Michael Bostwick

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."
-- Jane D. Hull

September 2014
Volume 3 Issue 1

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ATTENTION!

[Parent Resources](#)
on IS website.

"Please know that we are focusing on what is best for your child."

Mark Your Calendars!

<u>Monday, Sept. 1st:</u>	NO SCHOOL – LABOR DAY
<u>Tuesday, Sept. 2nd:</u>	NO SCHOOL – SUPERINTENDENT’S CONFERENCE DAY
<u>Wednesday, Sept. 3rd:</u>	First Day of School
<u>Tuesday, Sept. 9th:</u>	Open House, 6:30 PM
<u>Tuesday, Sept. 16th:</u>	PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM, Library
<u>Thursday, September 18th:</u>	Ice Cream Social, 6:30-8:30PM
<u>Sept. 19th – Sept. 24th:</u>	Fall Book Fair
<u>Thursday, Sept. 25th:</u>	Board of Education Meeting, Transportation Department, 6:00 PM

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

Staff at the Horseheads Intermediate School would like to welcome you to our school. We look forward to having a great year. The staff is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the welfare and safety of your children from the time of their arrival at school in the morning, until they are placed aboard the school buses at dismissal. In order to fulfill this responsibility, we solicit your cooperation with the following requests:

1. If you would like your child to be excused from school early, please send a note stating the time of dismissal, the name of the person to whom the child is to be released, and the reason for the early dismissal. Children being dismissed early will wait in the school office and may be picked up at the requested time.
2. School begins at 8:25 AM. Homeroom period starts at 8:00 AM. Students who do not ride the bus to school **should not arrive before 7:45 AM**. No supervision will be provided prior to 7:45 AM. From 7:45 AM until 8:00 AM, students will be directed to the Cafeteria. Breakfast will be available from 7:45 AM – 8:20 AM. To avoid any potential unsafe situations, it is requested the stipulated arrival time be followed. **The drop-off site is in the back of the building by the Field House**. The front of the building is designated for buses only. To keep traffic moving at the drop-off area in the morning, please pull up all the way to the designated sign and encourage your child to have his or her things ready to exit quickly.
3. If your child is not going to ride home on the school bus on a given day, send a note on that day to the school office outlining your pick up plans. Children should be picked up promptly between **2:20 – 2:30 PM** in the Art Room. Adults picking up students will be asked to sign a dismissal sheet before leaving with the children. Please park in the front of the building in the upper lot, and use the side doors to the Art Rooms at dismissal. Please do not arrive before 2:20 PM. Recess is held on the blacktop of the upper parking lot until this time and classes do not end until 2:15 PM.
4. Students who have notes for early dismissal or for other dismissal arrangements are to take a note to **their homeroom teacher in the morning**. Without a note, your child will be placed on the assigned bus as regular.
5. On the first day of school, several papers need to be read and signed. **One very important notice is the EMERGENCY GO HOME form**. Please be sure that your child is aware of the emergency address. Please be sure to alert us to any changes that may occur throughout the school year in order for the changes to be made here at school.
6. Should any questions or concerns arise during the school year, we would ask that you contact your child’s teacher first, per school district policy. Further questions can be directed to the building administrators.

7. Please note an important message from the Transportation Department. If you should have any questions, please feel free to call us at 739-6366.

“In an effort to cut costs and increase efficiency, we will be consolidating some of our bus runs. As a result, your child’s bus number(s) and bus times may change, and your child may be on the bus a little longer than last year. In addition, due to limited space on the buses, we are no longer able to allow friends of students to ride their bus to and from school with them.”

8. Important Open House Information. The Annual Open House is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 9th, between 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM**. This is always such a great evening. The halls are crowded with students and their families. There will be displays in the Cafeteria by organizations including the scouts. PTO will begin their annual membership drive. Please join our organization as we do so much for the school. We need and appreciate your support. **The structure of this evening will be as follows: 5th grade Team/Classroom presentations will be from 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM with visits to special area classes from 7:00-7:30 and 6th grade special area visits will be from 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM with Team/Classroom presentations from 7:00 PM to 7:30PM.** Please note that the structure of the evening will allow parents to briefly meet each teacher and learn valuable information about school this year. If you wish to spend more time with the teacher, please set up a conference for another time.

OPEN HOUSE

Intermediate School PTO Officers (2014-15)

President:	Lynette Hampton	jhampton@stny.rr.com	607-426-4524
Treasurer:	Debbie French	frenchsd526@aol.com	607-742-7941
Secretary:	Mariam Khawar Spear	mkhawar@elmira.edu	607-739-3315



FAMILY VACATIONS



Absences due to vacation trips are not excused absences. Before making vacation plans, please consult the school calendar. Parents are strongly discouraged from taking their children out of school for family vacations because valuable classroom instructional time can never be replaced by make-up assignments. If parents decide to take their child out of school for vacations, please notify your child’s teacher.

Because such extended absences are not excused, students are expected to request their work upon return. An appropriate time frame will be given to return the assignments. Students should be encouraged by parents to practice academic skills while on the trip (i.e. journaling, applying math to situations, finding science/historical connections, etc.)





Dignity For All Students Act

(DASA)



Differences between Conflict and Bullying

Conflict

- ▶ occurs in the heat of a moment
- ▶ is often a difference of opinion
- ▶ two or more students are upset
- ▶ does not happen continually
- ▶ students want a mutual solution
- ▶ is not planned

Bullying

- ▶ intent to cause harm – bullies have thought about how to harm others
- ▶ imbalance of power - bullies use power to control or harm their victims
- ▶ repetition - bullies often target the same people over and over

If your child is experiencing any issues at school please keep in close contact with the teacher(s). If the issue is serious or persistent, building administrators will handle each issue earnestly.

HABITS OF MIND

The Intermediate School will be practicing the Habits of Mind. Habits of Mind are characteristics of what people can do when faced with challenges or problems to solve. There are 16 Habits of Mind, and our school will focus on one Habit of Mind per month beginning with Listening with Empathy and Understanding:

1. **Listening with Empathy and Understanding - September**
2. Persisting
3. Managing Impulsivity
4. Thinking Flexibly
5. Taking Responsible Risks
6. Questioning and Posing Problems
7. Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations
8. Striving for Accuracy
9. Thinking about your Thinking (Metacognition)
10. Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision

Listening with Empathy and Understanding means to always consider other people's perspectives, listen attentively, and to care about others' opinions. Please help foster this at home.

If you would like to know more about the Habits of Mind, please visit <http://www.instituteforhabitsofmind.com>

Character Trait of the Month is...

Respect

- Treat others the way you want to be treated
- Be tolerant of differences
- Use good manners and positive language
- Be considerate of the feelings of others
- Deal peacefully in times of conflict



Please help support the Habit of Mind and Character Trait at home!

ANNUAL EMOTIONAL HEALTH SCREENINGS AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS

ANNUAL EMOTIONAL HEALTH SCREENINGS AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS

EMOTIONAL GROWTH MATTERS TOO!

Through a partnership with Family Services of Chemung County and the Chemung County School Districts, a Free, Confidential and Voluntary Emotional Health Screening will be offered to all students in the county during the coming school year.

How a child feels influences the success of their relationships at home, in school and in the community.

Checking on their emotional health on an annual basis is important, just as important as having their vision and hearing screened. Completing an emotional health screening is a simple effective way to look at a child's emotional development

Additional information will be sent home from your school. Consider allowing your child the opportunity to participate in this program. For additional information contact: Marilyn Cristofaro, Community Mental Health Program Coordinator, at Family Services of Chemung County (607-733-5696). You can also access screenings on the district website by going to: www.horseheadsdistrict.com



ADVANCED ART PROGRAM



Advanced Art classes will be offered to fifth and sixth grade students who are identified as both highly talented and highly interested in Art. The criteria for the program selection are:

1. The student consistently demonstrates excellence in art skills, technique, and creative problem solving with a variety of art forms and media.
2. The student consistently completes assignments on time and in a quality manner.
3. The student demonstrates a positive attitude in Art. The student exhibits self-motivation with a high degree of interest in pursuing Art. Initially, each student's ability level will be assessed through a Composite Drawing Test and beginning art projects. Recommendations from former Elementary Art Teachers are considered in the selection process.

The Advanced Art Program begins mid-late October. Advanced art classes are held during the school day, and are in addition to the student's regular art class. Fifth Grade AA classes meet on Day 3 at 1:30 PM - 2:15 PM. Both 6th Grade AA classes meet on Day 6 at 1:30 PM – 2:15 PM. Parents of those students accepted will be notified and asked to sign a permission slip. Class attendance is mandatory for participating students. Students must remember to be on time and prepared for this class. Please understand that space is limited with only two classes of Advanced Art available for each grade level. Students who were in Advanced Art or an Art Enrichment program previously are not automatically guaranteed a spot for this school year. ALL students will be assessed on a continuous basis for potential inclusion or removal from this program.

Students are required to bring a wooden #2 pencil to each and every art class.

ANONYMOUS TIP LINE

The Horseheads Central School District has an anonymous tip line for students, parents, and community to use to report rumors, tips, or other items of concern regarding district schools. The service is available twenty-four hours, seven days a week. All calls are anonymous, unless the caller wishes to leave his/her name. The tip line numbers are 795-2044 and 1-800-305-4984 (toll free).



Parent Portal

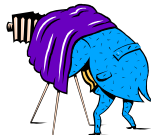


Would you like to know more about your child's grades and attendance? Join Parent Portal to get access to up to date student records. In order to set up an account, we must have a valid e-mail address for each parent who would like access. If you haven't already signed up, visit the Main Office. You will be asked to complete a short form and present identification.

Please note: If you checked the Parent Portal box on your child's emergency form, or if you signed up at the school's Open House, you do not need to do anything further. You should have received further information about Parent Portal via e-mail.

SCHOOL PICTURES

The photographer will be at the Intermediate School on **Friday, October 3, 2014**. Information packets and payment envelopes will be sent home approximately one to two weeks prior to the picture date. Don't forget to wear your smile!



The Fall Book Fair sponsored by the **PTO** will be held Monday, September 19th, through Wednesday, September 24th.

Please contact if you are available to volunteer.
Lynette Hampton – jhampton@stny.rr.com
607-426-4524

SPRING BOOK FAIR

Labels for Education & Box Tops raised \$944.70 during 2013-2014 school year!

This is amazing!

Thank you for participating in this on-going fundraiser!



Electronic Devices

Electronic devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, iPods, mp3 players, etc. are not permitted to be used or visible during the school day. Teachers have been instructed to take the device and turn it in to the Main Office as soon as possible. Parents will then need to pick up the device in the office. Repeated violations of this procedure may result in a conduct referral and consequence. Additionally, the school district is NOT liable for lost, damaged, or stolen property.

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

Substitute Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Substitute RNs needed for per diem work during the school year.

Teaching substitutes must meet the following criteria: 1) An Associates' Degree or higher; OR 2) completion of at least 2 years of College; OR 3) Graduated from High School for at least 4 years and completed at least 12 college credits; OR 4) an Honorable Discharge from the military.

Sub RNs and LPNs should bring in evidence of their license.

Attention!

PRINCIPAL CHATS

October 21st, January 20th, and May 26th

9:00 AM in the Cafeteria

6:00 PM in the Library



Pull for the House.



Many Hearts. One Home.

We will again be collecting aluminum can pull tabs this year. Thanks to all who donated pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Last year we have collected over **200 pounds**. **Please continue collecting the tabs.** As friends, neighbors, and relatives to save their tabs too! You can drop them off in the office anytime!

ART SUPPLIES NEEDED

Mrs. Crans' Art Class is in need of the following materials:

- All colors of yarn (partial skeins gladly accepted)
- Styrofoam Egg Cartons
- Styrofoam Meat Trays (clean)
- Clean plastic containers with or without lids such as yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese
- Small Self-Stick To/From Tags
- Disposable Scotch Tape Dispensers
- Twist Ties (ex. From Bread Wrappers or Garbage Bags)
- Newspapers

Any items you can donate are greatly appreciated.



Michael Bostwick is the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Coordinator at the Intermediate School. Judith Christiansen is the DASA Coordinator for the district. All concerns regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying should be directed accordingly.

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 Judy Christiansen, Title IX Coordinator, or Kim Williams, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601