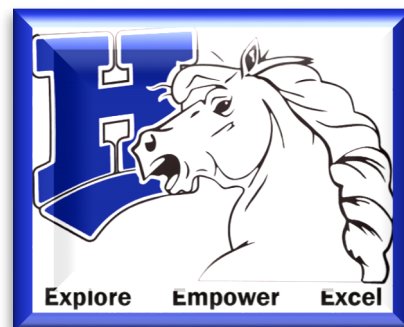


# Horseheads Middle School

January, 2019



*New Year's Edition*

## Contact Us!

607-739-6357 • <http://Horseheadsdistrict.com/HHMS.cfm>

### What's Happening at HMS

1/9/19

**MS Winter Art Show • MS Café - 6:00 pm**

1/10/19

**Strings Showcase • HS Aud. 7:00 pm**

1/15/19

**MS Raider White & Blue Bands**

**HS Aud. 7:30 pm**

1/16/19

**Grade 8 High School Information Night**

**HS Aud. 6:00 pm**

1/21/19

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
No School**

1/25/19

**2nd Marking Period Ends**

1/28/19

**Instructional Planning Day  
No School**

1/29/19

**Report Cards &  
Aimsweb Reports Issued**

1/30/19

**PTO Meeting - Library - 5:30 pm**

**OPEN HOUSE 6:30 - 8:00 pm**

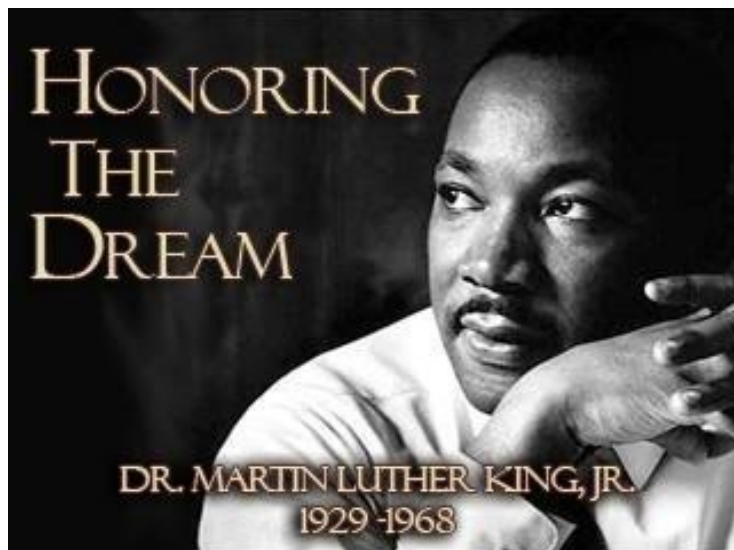
1/31/19 & 2/1/19

**MS Musical • HS Aud. 7:00 pm**



## BOCES Info Day

All 8th graders currently enrolled in FACS (Family and Consumer Science) class attended Career Day on December 14 in the Middle School Cafeteria. Many thanks to the Career Development Council and our students from BOCES for providing our students with a look at career development paths offered at BOCES.



## **Record-Breaking Food Drive**

Our superhero middle school students led a dynamic campaign to beat the challenge of 5,000 items in this year's Backpack Program Food Drive. The 8 White team topped the school with a whopping 3,069 items donated! A total of 8,281 items were collected by the students.

The leading two teams chose teachers to participate in the school-wide Food Drive Assembly, and had the chance to be chosen to participate with their teachers in the Food Drive Assembly games.

Many thanks to our families for supporting this worthy cause. All items were donated to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier.

### 8th Grade Totals:

1st Place: 8 White	3,069
2nd Place: 8 Blue	1,562
3rd Place: 8 Red	942

### 7th Grade Totals:

1st Place: 7 Blue	1,442
2nd Place: 7 Red	670
3rd Place: 7 White	596

**Way  
to Go**

*The Student Council  
collected more than  
8,000 items for the  
BackPack Program for  
the Food Bank of the  
Southern Tier!*

### **What is the Backpack Program?**

Organized by the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, the Backpack Program provides schoolchildren with healthy food over the weekend. Items include fruits and vegetables, proteins and grains to provide nutritional meals when school is not in session. To sign up for the program, or to volunteer, visit the Food Bank's website:

<https://www.foodbankst.org>

The Horseheads Central School District partners with



The Trusted Platform  
for School Community Engagement

## Parents and Guardians

### You can now take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Horseheads schools will soon use the SchoolMessenger system to deliver **text messages**, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.\*

You can participate in this free service\* just by sending "Y" or "Yes" by text to our school's short code number, **67587**.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with **"Stop"**.



SchoolMessenger is compliant with the [Student Privacy Pledge™](#), so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

Opt-In from  
your mobile  
phone now!



Just send  
"Y" or "Yes"  
to 67587

#### Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes:

SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a "text message". Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as "short code" texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you've ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

\*Terms and Conditions – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See [schoolmessenger.com/txt](http://schoolmessenger.com/txt) for more info.



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## Health Unit Notification

During the last marking period of each semester, seventh grade health classes will be studying the Human Physiology Unit. This is an abstinence-based unit which will include the male and female reproductive systems, conception and birth, the risks of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS prevention.

You have the option of exempting your child from the HIV/AIDS prevention information. However, we strongly encourage your child to participate. HIV information must be presented to every child by State mandate. Therefore, it is the parent's responsibility to provide this information which will be included in the Health final. If a student is exempted, he/she is assigned to a study hall and required to do an independent study unit in health.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your concerns before making your decision, call your child's health teacher during school hours at 739-6357.

**RETURN THE FORM BELOW IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UNIT.**



.....



**Return this portion by January 10, 2019** to the Middle School Health Teacher to exempt your child from instruction in the classroom.

(student name) \_\_\_\_\_

**Does not** have my permission to participate in the Human Physiology Unit and/or HIV/AIDS prevention.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



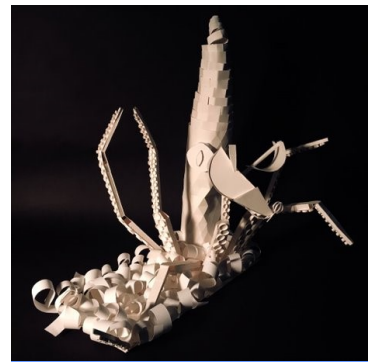
# HMS Winter Art Show 2019

**Wednesday, January 9th**

**6:00-7:30 pm**

**Middle School Cafe**

Come help us celebrate  
selected artwork from  
the first half of the year!



Nina



Rose

Kallie



Alexis

## WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

### SEMESTER TWO

MS second semester begins on 1/29/19. Prior to first period, students will report to **homeroom** to pick-up their second semester schedule. First semester schedules should be discarded.

### Eighth Grade Information for High School

An informational presentation for 8th graders heading to high school next fall will be held [Wednesday, January 16 at 6:00 pm](#) in the high school auditorium. School counselors and administrators will be on hand to answer your questions.



### Just a Spoonful of Sugar...!



*Mary Poppins* will be presented by the Middle School players  
January 31 and February 1 at 7:00pm in the High School Auditorium.

## WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW



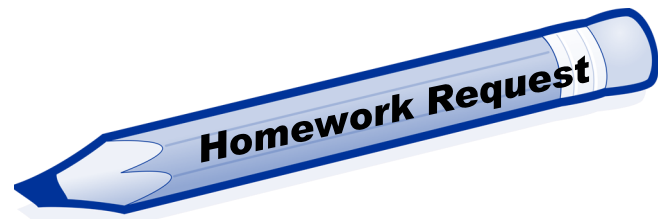
Join us in Welcoming our New Assistant Principal  
Mr. Tom Hoeffner

Mr. Hoeffner comes to us from Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, where he was an administrator at Oneta Ridge Middle School.

# Big Raider Welcome!

### PARENT PORTAL

If you have not already signed up, please visit our Guidance Office. You will be asked to complete a short form and present identification. If you have questions, please call Karen McLain at 739-5601, x4251 or email [kmclain@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:kmclain@horseheadsdistrict.com).



If your child is absent from school, it is possible for you to request assignments for your child. Contact the Main Office prior to 10:00 am on the day you wish to have the assignments. The assignments may be picked up between 3:15 and 4:00 pm.

### Progress Reports & Report Cards

Parents are informed of student progress in two ways. Progress reports are sent home with students at the five-week point of each marking period. A report card is sent home with students at the end of the ten-week marking period. We encourage parents to sign-up for Parent Portal to help keep track of your student's progress between the reporting periods.

**Honor Roll:** 85.0 cumulative average

**Failing Grade:** 64.0 or lower in any course



## Pay Attention to Attendance: Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School



### DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

#### **Make school attendance a priority**

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.

#### **Help your teen stay engaged**

- Find out if your child feels engaged by his classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats. Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, work with your school.
- Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors if necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage meaningful afterschool activities, including sports and clubs.

#### **Communicate with the school**

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.
- Ask for help from school officials, afterschool programs, other parents or community agencies if you're having trouble getting your child to school.

# Please Note:



Students enrolled in Algebra I, French, Spanish or Studio in Art at the middle school, must meet the 85% attendance rate established by the Board of Education Policy 5100. The full policy can be viewed at our district website under the Board of Education tab or at this link: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/index.cfm>.



## WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW



### **Information about Emergency School Closings and Delays**

Schools are closed when the weather makes it impossible to have reasonable attendance or when the schools or vehicles would not be able to operate safely. The school day is delayed when inclement weather conditions improve by early morning. Inclement weather may include snow, ice, and freezing temperatures. If the school day is delayed, buses will run and schools will open two hours later than the usual time.

If it is necessary to close or delay schools, the information will be posted on the district's website at [www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com), the district's Facebook pages, Twitter and the local television and radio stations.

## Computer-based Testing at HMS

The New York State Education Department continues to transition to computer-based testing (CBT) as part of its commitment to both meeting the needs of 21st century learners and improving test delivery, test integrity, scoring validity, and turn-around time on testing results. Computer-based testing simply means students take tests on a computer using a keyboard and mouse rather than on paper using a pen or pencil.

This school year, Horseheads Middle School (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade) will be participating in computer-based testing for English Language Arts and Mathematics. Teachers are developing and implementing learning opportunities to help prepare students for this shift in the NYS testing format. If you are interested in reviewing computer-based testing sample questions, please visit the question sampler section of the New York State Education Department's website at <http://www.nysed.gov/edtech/question-sampler>.

Although change is always challenging, I am confident our teachers are making the necessary adjustments to ensure our students will be prepared in April and May for our New York State Assessments.

Please do not hesitate to call Ron Holloway at (607) 739-6357 with any questions or concerns.

### Character Trait of the Month

## **Fairness**

Treat all people fairly. Be open-minded. Listen to others and try to understand what they are saying or feeling.

Don't take unfair advantage of other's mistakes.

Don't take more than your fair share.



# HMS Honors our Retirees

## Rance Sechrist

*Assistant Principal*

## Beth Tremblay

*Library*





*Mr. Sechrist*



*We will miss you!*



# *Horseheads in Winter, ca 1940s*

*Photos courtesy of the Chemung County Historical Society*

*415 E. Water St., Elmira • (607) 734-4167*

*<https://www.chemungvalleymuseum.org>*



*Hanover Square, downtown Horseheads. First National Bank building on the right.*

*Looking at what is now Louie's Restaurant, Hanover Square, downtown Horseheads, across from Simon's restaurant.*



## Pesticide Application

# NOTICE

New York State Education Law Section 409-H, effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty and staff, regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The Horseheads School District is required to maintain a registry of persons in parental relation, faculty and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are **not** subject to prior notification requirements:

- A school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72 hours following an application
- Anti-microbial products
- Nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children
- Nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children
- Boric acid and di-sodium octaborate tetrahydrate
- The application of EPA designated biopesticides
- The application of EPA designated exempt materials under Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 152.25

The use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects, including venomous spiders, bees, wasps and hornets. In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good-faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification registry.

If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please complete the attached form and return it to Tony Stager, the Horseheads School District pesticide representative at: Horseheads School District, Facilities Services, 507 Fletcher Street, Horseheads, NY 14845. You may also fax this form to (607)795-2595.

Please note: Four times per year via newsletter or equivalent, a written announcement concerning impending pesticide applications, pesticide use, "emergency" applications and any other associated pesticide use will be provided. This will occur at the beginning of the school year, at the end of the winter recess, the end of the spring recess and the end of the school year. Please feel free to contact Tony Stager at the District Safety Office at 739-5601 ext. 4270 if you have any questions or require further information concerning these requirements.

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### **Forty-eight Hour Pesticide Application Prior Notification Form**

**Is email an appropriate method for notifying you of an impending pesticide application? Yes/No**

If not, you will receive a brief notification letter 48 hours prior to an impending pesticide application. Every effort will be made to ensure the notification reaches you 48 hours (or more) in advance of the pesticide application. This time may vary slightly due to postal conditions beyond the control of the district.

### **Horseheads School District Request for Pesticide Application Notification**

**School Building (or field)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name & Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone or Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

Return to the Main Office, or mail to Horseheads Middle School, 950 Sing Sing Road, Horseheads, NY 14845.

*Many thanks to Ms. Rathbun for sharing  
her students' work!*

## STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS

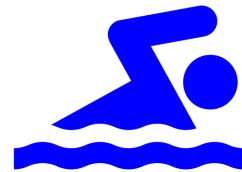
### The Girls Swimming Team of 2018

by Sarah Lenhardt

Are you interested in learning more about the modified girls swimming team? Well if you are, you came to the right place.

The swim team has about 10 girls on the team. Our swim team also has 2 divers. We have many different strokes for swimming, including free style, breast stroke, butterfly, and back stroke. Also, for the strokes you can swim 50 yards, 100 yards or 200 yards. There are also different types of kicks, including flutter kick, dolphin kick, and breast stroke kick.

Swimming is not an easy sport, but if you think this is interesting and you want to join, you should join the team next year. Practices are usually 40 min- 1 hour every day after school from 3:40 to 4:30, unless we have a meet. Meets usually last 1-2 hours and there are 10 events during a meet. It might sound like a lot, but just try your best and give your all for your team, you will be great!



### Who is Wayne Gretzky?

by James Heverly

Did you know that Wayne Gretzky was a 15-time All-Star player? Wayne Gretzky was born on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1961. Gretzky was drafted to play for the Indianapolis Racers at 17 years old, but he had to wait until his 18th birthday to officially play in the NHL.



During his career, he had many accomplishments. He was a 10-time Art Ross trophy winner, 9-time Hart Memorial trophy winner, 5-time Lester B. Pearson Award winner, 5-time Lady Bying Memorial trophy winner, and 2-time Conn Smythe trophy winner. He is also a 4-time Stanley cup champion for the Edmonton Oilers in 1984, 1985, 1987, 1988. He had played 1487 games. He scored a total of 894 goals, 1,963 assists, and he had 2857 points, which are all world records. Now you may be wondering what are points? Points, are the players assists plus the amount of goals scored. Another fact about Wayne Gretzky, is that got accepted to play in the NHL for the Indianapolis Racers at 17 years old, but you had to be 18 to play in the NHL so he had to wait until his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to play.

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1999 he retired holding or sharing 61 NHL records. He retired on the New York Rangers home ice Madison Square Garden. Shortly after, in February 2000, the NHL retired his number, 99, during the All-Star game, and he was nicknamed "The Great One".

#### Works Cited

"Gretzky, Wayne." *Sports Champions Online*. Lincoln Library Press, 2017.  
FactCite, [factcite.gst.orc.scoolaid.net/sports/1900216.html](http://factcite.gst.orc.scoolaid.net/sports/1900216.html). Accessed 17 Oct. 2018.



## A Future Tragedy

*By Cayden Chalk & Ryan Long*

*Have you ever wondered what the Earth will be like 3000 years...*



### Chapter 1: THE STORM

It is August 3 5018, the day started like any other, I've lived in Station Island all my life, at least that is what I am told. I mean it is kind of hard to tell since I was born into a world where everything is floating or flying.

I came downstairs and my mom had made breakfast. "Good morning, sleepy head," Mom said. Dad told us to be quiet as he was watching the morning news. "They said that we should be prepared for a meteor storm tomorrow," he said. I was shocked, but Dad told me not to worry as our technology will protect us from the storm.



Today the sky was orange with a mixture of red. It was cool because you could see the rocks in the sky. The newsman said the storm was a lot worse than we expected. When he said that Dad looked scared, it kind of worried me. To prepare for the storm, Dad turned on the shield that went around the house for big storms. I thought we were safe, but Dad was looking out the window with the same look on his face he had when he was watching the news. I asked him if he was okay and he said he was fine. As I looked across the street, I wondered why our neighbors had not turned on their shield yet. Dad and I spent about 10 minutes looking at their house. Then, out of nowhere, a meteor hit their house. I jumped and so did Dad. All we could hear was the rocks hitting our shield, but luckily, we

were safe. I was relieved, but I could not stop thinking about what happened to our neighbors.

Suddenly, the floor under our feet shook and everything went dark, "The battery was hit by a meteor!" Dad yelled. I looked out the windows and saw houses start to fall. Dad yelled "Hold on to something" as we started to fall. Station Island is run by a giant battery and if it gets hit we're all in big trouble....

**TO BE CONTINUED**





## **The Positive Effects of Video Games**

by Jayden Markle

Have you ever been told that video games are bad for you? Well, video games have many benefits that you may not be aware of. Research has shown that video games improve brain functions, such as processing speed and working memory. They can also promote pro-social behavior in children. Many video games can help you read if they have a lot of dialogue. This can help build reading fluency and comprehension skills. Video games can also increase your hand-eye coordination, depending on what game you are playing.

Lastly, video games promote interest through their characters and plot lines, just like books. By putting a player into a pixelated world, video games can spark an interest in players or subject matter covered in the game. That might involve specific games such as, Minecraft, Fortnite, or Call of Duty. So, the next time you hear somebody say, “video games are bad for you,” you can think of all the benefits that I have listed.

### **Works Cited**

Kulman, R. “Pros and Cons of Video Games For Children.” *Learning Works for Kids*. 2018. <https://learningworksforkids.com/2015/06/pros-and-cons-of-video-games-for-children/>. Accessed 16 Oct. 2018.

## **The Negative Effects of Gaming**

by Ayza Hayes



Do you love video games? If you do, you are not alone. Video games can put you in an alternative universe away from all your worries. Video games can also teach you a lot about the world. However, video games can be damaging to your mind. The violence that children see on video games can translate to the real world. This could lead to inappropriate social behaviors in children as young as four or five. Playing too many video games can also lead to a sedentary life style, which can attribute to childhood obesity.

From my experience, I started video games when I was only five years old. I quickly fell in love with exploring the different worlds in video games. However, I soon realized that video games can be addictive. I would get frustrated when I could not beat a level and spend hours in front of the screen. I have even seen my friends throw the controller at the floor. When kids get frustrated, I believe they should calm down by having a stress ball and shut the game down and take a breather. But, unfortunately most kids keep on playing. Lastly, I, like most gamers, would drink sugary drinks while playing to stay “focused.” This could lead to poor diets and potential health problem.

Today, kids are addicted to a game called Fortnite. Kids are going to extremes to win the game. In some cases, they stay up too late playing the game and have even stopped going to school. This is bad for education, as well as their social life. Having an education is good so you can have a job, but sometimes kids are playing games so often that they are not focusing on their school work which can lead them to fail classes and not graduate.

So, if someone tells you they are addicted to a game, you can tell them about what I just told you, so they can know when to stop playing and not let video games control their life.

### **Works Cited**

Sohn, E. “The Violent Side of Video Games.” *ScienceNews*. 12 Jan. 2004. <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/node/632>. Accessed 17 Oct. 2018.

## NOTICE

### District Dignity Act Coordinator

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Central School District is Caitlin DeFilippo, director of Human Resources. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Caitlin DeFilippo, at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601 x 4211 or at [cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com).

### Middle School Dignity Act Coordinator

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Middle School is Ron Holloway, building principal. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Mr. Holloway at 950 Sing Sing Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845; 739-6357 x 3640 or at [rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com).

### Notice

*The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Caitlin DeFilippo, Title IX/DASA Coordinator and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kim Williams, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.*

## Horseheads Middle School:



***Home of the Raider Way***