Horseheads Middle School April, 2024



The Earth Issue

Contact Us!

607-739-6357 • Horseheadsdistrict.com/HHMS.cfm

What's Happening at HMS

4/8/2024 Total Solar Eclipse! MS dismisses at 10:40

4/10 - 4/11/2024NYS ELA Computer-based Testing

4/12/2024

Third Marking Period Ends

4/17/2024

Report Cards Distributed

4/22 - 4/26/2024 Spring Break - NO SCHOOL

5/7 - 5/8/2024

NYS Math Computer-based Testing

5/15/2024

NYS Science Computer-based Testing 8th Grade Only



Total Solar Eclipse - April 8!

Make sure to wear solar eclipse glasses when viewing this awesome event!

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District News

Budget Development Meetings



2024-25 Budget Development

Budget development for the 2024-25 school year begins early in the calendar year. Regular board meetings and budget workshops are held from February to April until the final adoption of the budget to be offered to voters May 21. All meetings begin at 6pm and are open to the public. Here is the schedule for the remaining meetings:

- Thursday, April 11 Budget Meeting (if needed)
- Thursday, May 9 Public Hearing on 2024-25 Budget



All meetings are live streamed (at http://ideas.gstboces.org/hhds/), recorded, and posted to the district website. For more information on the development of the 2024-25 Budget, including links to videos and presentations from board meetings, click here: https://horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDBudget2024-25.cfm.

Budget Vote/Board of Education Election

The Budget Vote/Board of Education Election is Tuesday, May 21, 7am-9pm, in the High School South Gym.

All district residents are eligible to vote, provided they meet the following requirements:

- Are a U.S. citizen
- Are 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote
- Have lived in the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote
- Are not restricted from voting in general elections based on election law OR
- Are registered to vote in general elections

For information on absentee ballots or other questions about the budget or vote, please call (607) 739-5601, x4260 or email **hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com**.





Call The Safe Schools Line 607-795-2044 or 1-800-305-4984

Mr. Holloway

rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com

Mr. Hoeffner

thoeffner@horseheadsdistrict.com

District News

New COVID Guidelines from CDC & NYSDOH



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) have issued new guidelines regarding COVID and other respiratory viruses. The Horseheads School District is updating our guidance for returning to school for students.

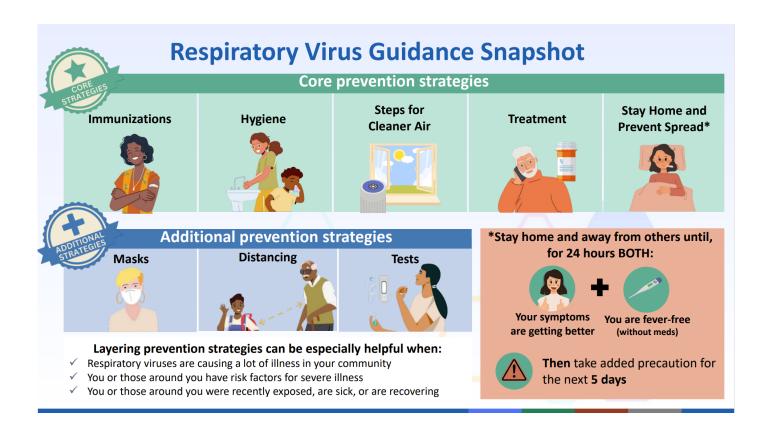
If your student has respiratory virus symptoms (fever, chills, fatigue, cough, runny nose, and headache), or tests positive for a respiratory virus, the updated guidance recommends the following:

- Stay home from school and restrict contact with others
- Inform your school nurse
- Return to school when both of the following are true for at least 24 hours:
- ✓ Symptoms are getting better overall and
- ✓ If a fever was present, the fever has been gone without the use of fever-reducing medication for 24 hours.

When returning to school, students should consider taking additional precautions by wearing a well-fitting mask for five days to prevent the spread of the disease.

If symptoms or fever return or worsen, individuals should stay home and away from others, seeking medical attention if deemed necessary.

If you have further questions please see visit <u>CDC</u> website, call the <u>Chemung County Health Department</u> at (607) 737-2488, or contact your school nurse.



Recognizing Remarkable Raiders

Raider Way Award Winners



Mid-year, we decided we wanted to think of ways to recognize our students for being great citizens. We wanted to tie in long-standing beliefs that we hold true. For years, Horseheads Middle School has operated within the frameworks of the Fish Philosophy and the Raider Way. What better way to honor our students than celebrating these traditions with the amazing way our students carry themselves on a daily basis!

FISH explores four simple practices anyone can use to be more successful by building better relationships. Together they are the FISH Philosophy:

Choose Your Attitude: No matter what the day throws at you, you can choose how you respond.

Be There: When people need you, they need all of you. Be fully present.

Make Their Day: Find simple ways to show people you value them.

Play: Bring a spirit of enthusiasm, creativity and fun to work. You'll accomplish more

The **Raider Way** program guides students as they develop into trustworthy, respectful, responsible, fair and caring citizens. So far, we have recognized the following students:

Kayci Williams

Kayci is being recognized for making Ms. Franklin's Day. Kayci made a snowman at her bus stop everyday snow was available so Ms. Franklin would see this on her way to work.



Emmie Fowler

Emmie is always the first in line to help out her school community. Emmie is involved in Student Leadership, HMS Live, Student Council, National Junior Honor Society and Youth Action Council. Emmie is always there when we need her!





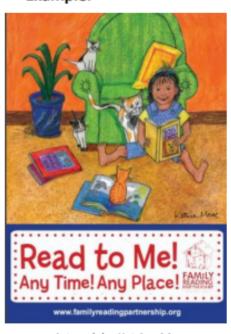
BANNER CONTEST

Dear Area Teachers and Families,

Family Reading Partnership of Chemung Valley is looking for student artwork to replace our Read to Me banners throughout the community. We are seeking bright, colorful artwork fitting our theme: Read with Me! Any Time! Any Place!

Artwork will be chosen by the FRPCV board, community businesses, and organizations and will be incorporated into our "Read to Me" frame and hung on area buildings.

Example:



Artwork by Katrina Morse

All artwork must:

- Be 2 dimensional
- Be no smaller than 8.5"X 8.5" inches or larger than 12"X 12"
- Be original and completed by a child aged 5-18 years old

*No digital art, please.

- Depict our theme: "Read to Me! Any Time! Any Place!
- Be turned in to your school's office or neighborhood CCLD branch NO LATER THAN May 1, 2024

Artwork submitted becomes the property of the Family Reading Partnership of Chemung Valley and may be used on banners, billboards, brochures and other media. Artists will be notified via e-mail if and where their work will featured. Please include the following information on the back of any submitted artwork:

Student Name	Age
School	
Parent/ Guardian cell phone	e-mail

School Notes

What you Need to Know



NYS Assessment Dates

Our 7th- and 8th-grade students will take:

English: 4/10, 4/11

Math: 5/7, 5/8

Our 8th-grade students will take:

Science: 5/15

Our 8th-grade Algebra I students will take the Algebra I Regents Exam on June 4th at 8:15am.

Our 8th-grade Living Environment students will take the Living Environment Regents Exam on June 14th at 12:00pm.

Students enrolled in Algebra and/or Living Environment are not required to take the 8th-grade math and/or science exam. Students will go to an alternate location during the exams for independent study time.

Final Exams: June 24th - 25th

Final Exam Make-Ups: June 26th

Half days for students: 6/21, 6/24, 6/25, 6/26

High school scheduling materials were sent via email several weeks ago. If you did not receive them, please check your junk mailbox or contact us at (607) 739-6357.



Important Contact Information

Safe Schools Line - 607-795-2044

Middle School Phone Number - 607-739-6357

Middle School Website - http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHMS.cfm

Horseheads District Phone Number - 607-739-5601

Horseheads District Website - http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/index.cfm

Athletic Office Phone Number - 607-739-5601 x4254

Athletic Office Website - http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/athletics.cfm

School Notes

What you Need to Know



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 tenweek marking period.

Distinguished High Honor Roll 95-100
High Honor Roll 90-94.99
Honor Roll 85-89.99
Failing Grade is 64.0 or lower in any course

A failing grade or an Incomplete in any class eliminates the student from the Honor Roll.

Report Cards Distributed April 17, 2024

Progress Reports Will Reflect Actual Grade

Students will receive their actual grade, even if it is below 50, on their progress reports. Knowing their actual grade, rather than receiving our former "Actual Grade Below 50" comment, will help students and their families better understand the work required prior to the end of the marking period.

Attendance Auto-call and Email

To keep you updated regarding your child's attendance, the middle school will send you an auto-call and email when your student(s) are absent from school. If a student is absent from first period, a call and email will be generated and delivered in the morning. If the student continues to be absent, another call will be generated and delivered in the evening with all of the periods the student has missed.

Lost your lunchbox? Misplaced your math book? Check the Lost



and Found! There are blue bins under the table in the Main Office.

PARENT PORTAL

If you have not already signed up, please visit the District webpage. Under the "Quicklinks" section, hover over "Parent Portal" and click on "Parent Portal Registration Form". Fill out the form and submit it, and a link will be sent to your email.

Checking your student's grades on Parent Portal? The URL for a computer browser is:

https://school tool.horseheads district.com

The URL for the mobile app is:

https://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads



Middle School Alternative Fundraiser FISH Shoutouts



Horseheads Middle School PTO's

Alternative Fundraiser

As parents of Middle Schoolers, we are all familiar with the joys of fundraisers - selling door-to-door, hounding the same family and friends year after year, collecting (and keeping track of) money, and delivering the goodies weeks later. The HMS PTO Alternative Fundraiser eliminates all of the headache but still lets you support all of the things we do for our students and faculty!

Thank you in advance for your participation!

- ☐ I really live for PTO and want to help. Add my name to the volunteer list.
- □ \$10 I do not want to bake, so here is the money I would have spent on those cupcakes.
- □ \$15 I do not want to walk, swim or run in any activity that has the word "thon" in it. Here is the money I would have spent on my child's "free" t-shirt.
- □ \$25 I do not want to hit up friends, family and co-workers, so here is the money I would have spent buying coupon books.
- □ \$50 I really wouldn't have helped anyway, so here's \$50 to forget my name[©]
- \$____I am making this donation to express my appreciation for having nothing to buy (and eat!), sell or do, except fill out this envelope.
 - ♦ The HMS Rewards Program
 - Art Show Refreshments
 - National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony
 - ♦ Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
 - ♦ 8th Grade Awards Ceremony
 - ♦ 8th Grade Celebration



Please make checks payable to HMS HSO



Fish Committee SHOUTOUTS

Horseheads Middle School follows the four tenets of the Fish Philosophy:

- Be There
- Play
- Make Their Day
- Choose Your Attitude



The Fish Committee wishes to recognize the following staff members for March:

Mr. Kruis (Math Skills teacher) for helping an injured student by carrying their backpack into school.

Mr. Welch (school custodian) for always taking care of the staff, students, and building.

Thank You!



Modified Sports Spring Season NY Menu Day



Modified Sports

Spring season

Registration:

February 25 - March 25

Start Dates: V/JV: March 11

Modified: March 25

Click here for sports schedules

for the current season.

Modified Boys Baseball

Modified Girls Softball

Modified Boys Lacrosse

Modified Girls Lacrosse

Modified Boys & Girls Outdoor Track

FamilyID

NY Menu Day - April

NY Chicken Spiedie Bar

Made-to-Order NY Chicken Spiedie Sub, Wrap or Salad

NY Green Beans

NY Strawberry Applesauce

NY Juice

Livestream home sports contests

Live stream athletic events at the District Stadium and Middle School Gym at the link below. Let's go, Blue! #raiderpride Live Stream Link

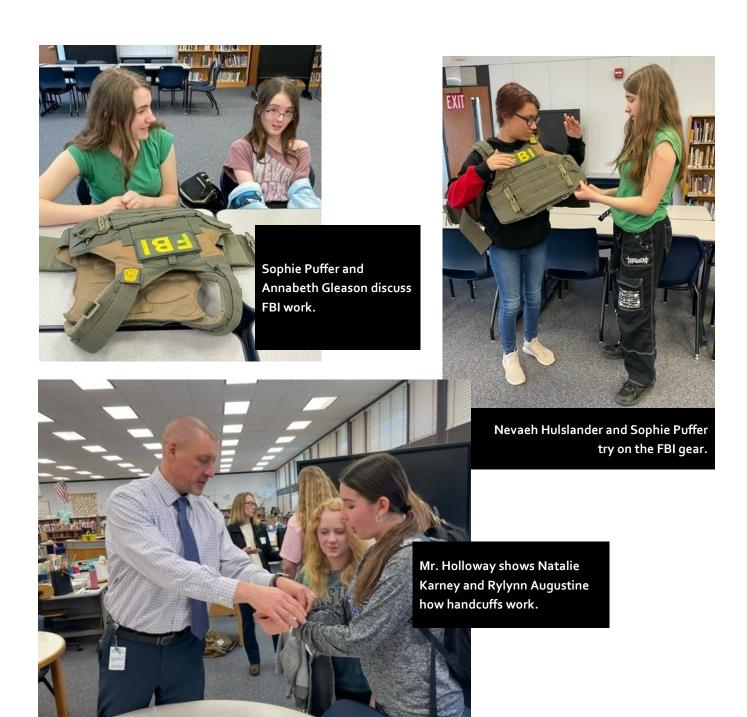


Speaker Series

FBI



The Science and Discovery Center of Ithaca is sponsoring a Guest Speaker Series for our middle school students this spring. First up was a representative from the FBI. Students enjoyed hearing about what this agency does, followed by trying on some gear.



Speaker Series

Ithaca Police K-9 Unit



The Science and Discovery Center is sponsoring a Guest Speaker Series for our middle school students this spring. K9 Rex from the Ithaca Police Department visited with our students. Participants enjoyed meeting the police dog and learning how to keep themselves safe.



Officer Buffone shares information with the students while Rex is checking out the IS side of the library.





Rex stands quietly while the students get to know him.

L to R: Officer Buffone, Emyni Wells, Sahana Gajendrean, Sadey Kraft, Laikyn Kingsley, Sophie Puffer, Julianna Uhler and Savita Sprague.

Speaker Series

Lifeflight Paramedic and Elmira Fire Department











Rylee Orbin tries on the firefighter gear.

NY/PA Scholastic Art Awards



The Arnot Art Museum is pleased to announce the winners in the 2024 New York/Pennsylvania Scholastic Art Awards program. This is the 81st year of the Museum's association with the program.

Congratulations to the following students who will have their artwork on display at the Arnot Art Museum this March. They are also invited to an awards assembly at the Clemons Center on March 17th.

Gold Keys

Saphira Allwood for her drawing "Cassius Crane" Claire Ruffer for her sculpture "Anatomy of an Eye"

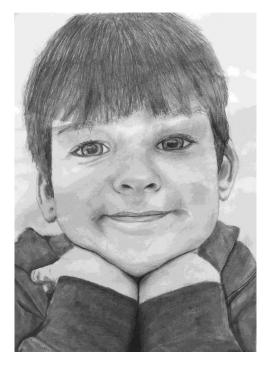
Silver Keys

Saphira Allwood (2) Leah Johnson Sophia Polise

Honorable Mentions

David Burczynski Noah Cady Mackenzie Clark Sonya Dordoni Leah Johnson Lily Vesek (3)

Gold Key awards will go on to National competition in New York City.



"Cassius Crane" by Saphira Allwood Gold Key



"Anatomy of an Eye" by Claire Ruffer Gold Key

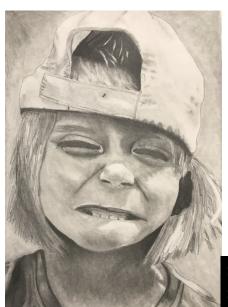
See next page for more art!

NY/PA Scholastic Art Awards











Leah Johnson Silver Key

Sophia Polise Silver Key

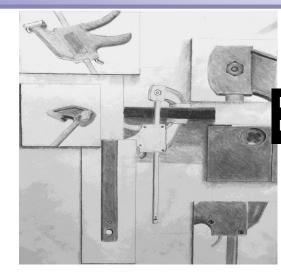


NY/PA Scholastic Art Awards





Lily Vesek Honorable Mention



David Burczynski Honorable Mention



Lily Vesek Honorable Mention







Pesticide Application

New York State Education Law Section 409-H, effective July 1st, 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 <u>not</u> 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.

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.

The Horseheads Central School District partners with



The Trusted Platform for School Community Engagement

Parents/Guardians:

You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

The Horseheads School District uses the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about school closings, safety alerts, and more.*

You can participate in this service* 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 <u>Student Privacy Pledge™</u>, 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/bt for more info.

West

(over)

Horseheads Central School District Information about Emergency School Closings/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.

The district announces school closings and delays in a variety of ways:

- Text messaging Parents/guardians can receive a text message if schools are closed or delayed by opting in to our text messaging service through SchoolMessenger. To opt in, text Y or Yes to 67587. You will receive a text response confirming that you are registered for texting.
- District website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com
- District Facebook pages (the district and all seven schools have pages)
- Twitter @HhdsSchools
- Local television and radio stations:
 - o TV WENY, WETM, Spectrum Cable News
 - Radio WELM 1410AM, WNKI 106.1FM/WPGI 100.9FM, WENY 1230AM/ MagicFM 92.7FM/WGMM 98.7

Note: Television and radio stations also put closing/delay information on their websites.

Please do not call the radio/TV stations or the district's Transportation Office.

Important notes about school closings/delays:

- There may be a time when any of these means of communication do not work due to Internet or
 other issues, so we ask that you check more than one of our communication methods to determine if
 school is in regular session or not for that day.
- If schools are closed, they will remain closed all day for scheduled activities, including remedial programs, extra-curricular activities, use of facilities by non-school groups, and evening programs.
- When school is delayed, there is no supervision for students until schools open two hours later than
 the usual time, so parents should not drop their children off at school until they open. Additionally,
 on school delays, there is no breakfast served.
- On school delays, prekindergarten begins at 10:30am.
- If a storm develops after school begins, usual procedure is NOT to close school early. This allows
 time for highway crews to plow and sand the roads and has proved to be less disruptive and
 confusing than attempting to send students home early.

School/District Communication

Our schools publish newsletters monthly or every other month. The district has an annual budget newsletter and other communications shared as needed. These will be sent by email and are available online.

The online district calendar can be found here: https://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/fullcalendar.cfm. It is updated regularly. Calendar information is also shared in school and district newsletters.



	INE	D TO	STAY	HOME	IF	
I HAVE A FEVER	I AM VOMITING	I HAVE DIARRHEA	I HAVE A RASH	I HAVE HEAD LICE	I HAVE AN EYE INFECTION	I HAVE BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL
(1)	53	00	6 0	(60)	•	
Temperature of 100 or higher	Within the past 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours	Body rash with itching or fever	Itchy head, active head lice	Redness, itching and/or "crusty" drainage from the eye	Hospital stay and/or ER visit
	I AM REA	ADY TO GO	BACK TO SO	HOOL WHE	N I AM	
Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication like Tylenol or Motrin, etc.	Free from vomiting for at least 2 solid meals	Free from diarrhea for at least 24 hours	Free from rash, itching, or fever. I have been evaluated by my doctor, if needed	Treated with appropriate lice treatment at home and proof is provided	Evaluated by my doctor and have a note to return to school	Released by my medical provider to return to school

If your child has strep throat or another bacterial infection, he/she should stay home until the antibiotic has been given for at least 24 hours and your health care provider has given permission for your child to return to school. We encourage you to seek medical attention when your child is sick and to follow your health care provider's recommendations about returning to school or other activities.

Please communicate with your school nurse about any health concerns your child might be experiencing. We want to ensure he or she receives appropriate care at school.



Follow Us!

On social media



Learn up-to-date information about our schools and district:

- Facebook: The district and each of our seven schools have pages. "Like" them to see our information in your news feed
- Twitter: Follow us on Twitter at @HhdsSchools to read our tweets
- Follow us on Instagram at hhdsschools
- Visit our district website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com.
- Questions about our website or social media? E-mail hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com
- URL for Mobile App is now: gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads

To report child abuse or neglect, call toll free 1-800-342-3720 or ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps



We encourage all students to reach out to a trusted adult if they are not feeling well physically, emotionally or socially. Parents are encouraged to call the school if they feel their student needs additional support.





Join the Horseheads Central School District as a School Bus Driver

UPDATE: Pay rate is now \$23.15/hour with required CDL (\$15.50/hr for drivers in training)



- Paid training
- Benefits package including health insurance
- No weekends, holidays, summers

To apply, call 607-739-6338 or pick up an application at our Transportation Department, 601 Sayre Street Extension, weekdays from 7:30am to 3:30pm. Our application may also be found at www.horseheadsdistrict.com/employment. (Both the district application and the supplemental transportation application are required.)

Applicants must be at least 21 years old. Fingerprint/background check and drug testing are required.

Questions?

Call 607-739-6338 or email hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

School Notes

What you Need to Know



YEARBOOK SALE

Order your 2023-2024 Middle School yearbook now! Click here:

https://link.entourageyearbooks.com/my/HorseheadsMiddleSchool2023

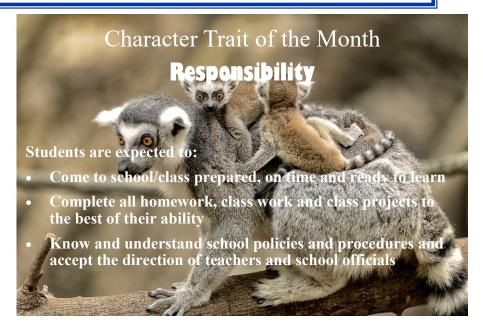
and then follow the easy on-screen ordering instructions.

The cost is \$ 18.50 and all major credit cards are accepted. The Middle School will not be handling any yearbook payments.

All yearbooks must be ordered online from now until May 1.

School Yearbooks will be distributed in June.





Career Development Council

The school district has many career related events including career days, career panels, job shadows, classroom speakers, field trips, and mock interviews. We are always looking for volunteers for these events. We are looking for parents, grandparents, other adult family members and friends as well as community volunteers in every career field.

If you feel your career is not of interest or you are currently at home, you may still contribute through mock interviews and other fun classroom events. We will be doing many of these events on-line, but they are still important experiences for the career development of our students. Most events are only an hour or two on a given day, yet **your experience and career knowledge** can deeply influence a child's life, career goals, and future educational path.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about how you can get involved, please contact Deb Lynch, the Career Development Representative for the Horseheads School District, at (607)795-5320 or dlynch@gstboces.org or Jenny Sonsire@gstboces.org



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.

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.

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 Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

This policy of non-discrimination includes access by students to educational programs, counseling services, course offerings, and activities, as well as recruitment and appointment of employees and employment pay, benefits, advancement and/or termination.

Horseheads Middle School:



Home of the Raider Way!