



2019–2020 School Year

Horseheads Middle School Newsletter

Orientation Edition

Welcome To Horseheads Middle School

On behalf of all of us at Horseheads Middle School, we welcome you as a new member of our school community. Students and staff at the middle school work within the framework and fundamental characteristics of our *Raider Way* and *THINK* programs.

Our *Raider Way* program guides students as they develop into trustworthy, respectful, responsible, fair and caring citizens. In addition to the *Raider Way*, we also ask students to *THINK* before interacting with peers and staff. *THINK* requires students to ask themselves if their written and spoken communication is *True*, *Helpful*, *Inspiring*, *Necessary* and *Kind*.

Working within the framework of the *Raider Way* and *THINK* programs, we are committed to providing a quality education for all students within a nurturing environment. The educational demands placed on our students continue to increase as we prepare them for college and careers. Through rigorous and relevant instruction, we provide the learning opportunities necessary for success in middle school, high school and life beyond graduation.

We encourage all students to develop a *Growth Mindset*. By having a *Growth Mindset*, students can develop the grit necessary to persevere through

challenging tasks and view failure as an opportunity for learning. In addition, we encourage students to follow the *FISH Philosophy*, which teaches us to *Choose Our Attitude, Make Their Day, Be There and Play*.

Student success increases when schools and families work together. Therefore, please contact us with any questions, concerns or suggestions as we work together to provide valuable learning opportunities for our students.

*Stay tuned for
future HOP
Dates!*

Orientation Opportunities For Students

Our guidance counselors offer multiple orientation opportunities for students. Students will visit the middle school prior to the end of their 6th-grade year, and are invited to participate in one of our 2-hour summer orientation programs. These programs are designed to prepare students for their first day of middle school. Students will practice finding their way around the school and opening lockers. Please note our summer Horseheads Orientation Program (HOP) dates listed above. We look forward to seeing our students this summer for a valuable orientation experience.



Monthly newsletters are emailed. If you would like a hard copy, please contact the middle school main office.

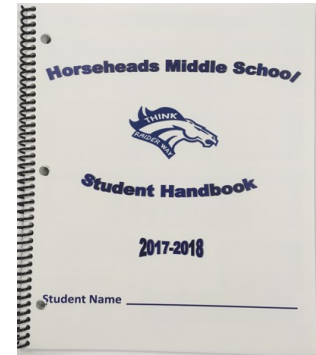
Student Handbook



Be sure to use Parent Portal to help you keep track of your child's grades. Visit the guidance office if you need to sign up.

All students will receive a student handbook to help them plan and adjust to middle-school expectations. Students should use the handbook to keep track of homework, record test dates and plan for long-term projects.

In addition, students must read the District Code of Conduct and Middle School Building Procedures. Important phone numbers and websites can be found in the front of the handbook. When used effectively, the handbook can help make the transition to middle school a positive experience.



Grade Reporting

"Blue Notes"

"Blue Notes" are not required to change dismissal plans at the middle school. Notes are only required if students are leaving early for appointments.

Visit Our District Website At: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/index.cfm>



Middle School Main Office - 739-6357
Principal – Ron Holloway
Assistant Principal – Tom Hoeffner
Nurse – Annette Cobb
Main Office Secretary – Ronda Smith
Attendance Secretary – Hanne O'Donnell

Student progress reports are distributed to students during 10th period approximately five weeks before the end of each marking period. Report cards are distributed to students during 10th period at the end of each marking period. The district calendar shows our progress report and report card distribution dates. In addition, you will receive an all call to remind you when pro-

gress reports and report cards are issued.

Please be sure you have registered for the Parent Portal. This system allows you to monitor your student's grades throughout the marking period. If you need to register for Parent Portal, please visit our guidance department.

If you would like to schedule a meeting to discuss your student's

progress, please call your student's guidance counselor.

Students can keep track of their progress using the Student Portal at anytime during the school year.



Middle School Contacts

Guidance Secretary – Sue Burrell
Guidance Secretary – Kathryn Whitmarsh
Guidance Counselor – Steve Micknich (A-K)
Guidance Counselor – Marti Clark (L-Z)
School Psychologist – Nicole Marinaccio
Social Worker – Jessica Emanuel
Social Worker – Melanie Rahr



Middle School Time Schedule

Students are expected to be in first period by 7:45 for morning announcements.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7:15 – 7:38– Parent Drop Off | 10:46 – 11:26 – 5th Period |
| 7:30 – 7:45 – Buses Unload | 11:30 – 12:10 – 6th Period |
| 7:38 – Students Dismissed to 1st period | 12:14 – 12:54 – 7th Period |
| 7:45 – Morning Announcements (HMS Live) | 12:58 – 1:38 – 8th Period |
| 7:50 – 8:30 – 1st Period | 1:42 – 2:22 – 9th Period |
| 8:34 – 9:14 – 2nd Period | 2:26- 2:30 Afternoon Announcements |
| 9:18 – 9:58 – 3rd Period | 2:30 – 3:05 – 10th period |
| 10:02 – 10:42 – 4th period | 3:05 Dismissal – Early Buses, Walkers and Pick –ups |
| | 3:08 Dismissal—Late Buses |



Sample Student Schedule

	O	E
Period 01 Time 7:50 - 8:30	ART 7 Cunningham(118)	PHYS ED Spencer(GYM)
Period 02 Time 8:34 - 9:14	STUDYHALL Stratton(104)	FAM&CONSUMER SCI 7 Abernatha(214)
Period 03 Time 9:18 - 9:58	SOC ST 7 Porter(121)	SOC ST 7 Porter(121)
Period 04 Time 10:02 - 10:42	SCIENCE 7 Hartman(217)	SCIENCE 7 Hartman(217)
Period 05 Time 10:46 - 11:26	MATH 7 ACCEL Rutherford(119)	MATH 7 ACCEL Rutherford(119)
Period 06 Time 11:30 - 12:10	LUNCH/STUDY Amey(112)	LUNCH/STUDY Amey(112)
Period 07 Time 12:14 - 12:54	TECHNOLOGY 7 Cerroni(125)	TECHNOLOGY 7 Cerroni(125)
Period 08 Time 12:58 - 1:38	SPANISH IA Nicolae(102)	SPANISH IA Nicolae(102)
Period 09 Time 1:42 - 2:22	ENGLISH 7 Carpenter(115)	ENGLISH 7 Carpenter(115)
Period 10 Time 2:26 - 3:05	7R PERIOD 10 Hartman(217)	7R PERIOD 10 Brightman(125)

Required Courses

Meets Everyday for 40 Weeks:

- ELA
- Foreign Language
- Science
- Social Studies
- Math
- *Concert Band

Meets Every Other Day for 40 Weeks

- *Accelerated Art
- Physical Education
- *Raider White Band
- *Raider Blue Band
- *Orchestra

Meets Everyday for 20 Weeks

- Health
- Technology
- 8th-Grade Family and Consumer Science

Meets Every Other Day for 20 Weeks

- Art
- *Choir and General Music
- 7th-Grade Family and Consumer Science

* Students have some choice with their music and art

Students at Horseheads Middle School are scheduled for 10 periods each day and follow an odd- or even-day schedule.

Express Pass

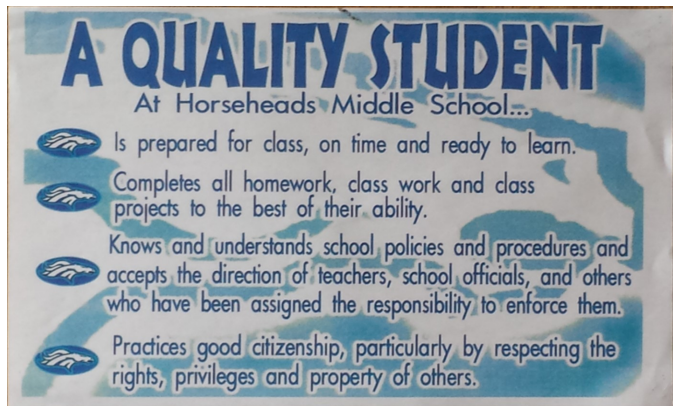
Students who earn an average of 85 or higher will be placed on the Honor Roll. We distribute Honor Roll Certificates to students during 10th period at the end of each marking period. Students who make the Honor Roll and the Quality Party will be awarded an Express Pass. Students may use the Express Pass to visit the cafeteria during 10th period and the library during study halls.

Quality Party

Students meeting the criteria on our Quality Student Poster are invited to the Quality Party supported by the Horseheads Middle School PTO and the Horseheads Youth Bureau.

Prior to the end of each marking period, students receive a Quality Award Card for teachers to sign. A teacher signature indicates the student is Quality in their class.

Students are eliminated from the party if two or more teachers indicate they have not met the criteria on the Quality Student Poster. Students may also be eliminated for inappropriate behavior which results in disciplinary action.



New York State now requires all incoming 7th grade students receive one dose of the Meningococcal Vaccine prior to entering the 7th grade school year. Your child will not be able to attend school beginning 9/17/19 without proof of immunization. If you are new to the district, a copy of your student's immunization record is required within 14 days of entry.

Health Information

- All 7th grade students are required to have a physical dated September 4, 2018 or later.
- An Emergency Contact Sheet will be sent out the first week of classes. Please remember to return these forms.
- Vision and hearing screenings will be conducted in the health office for all 7th grade students, unless provided by a private physician.
- We encourage self-medication orders for inhalers and EpiPens.
- Inhalers and EpiPens are the only medications that a student is allowed to carry. They must be carried by the student and not put in their locker.
- Physician's order can be obtained to have other medications available in the health office for students to use as prescribed. Examples include: pain relievers and cough drops.
- Routine medication requires a physician's order and parent signature each school year.
- All medications **must be delivered** to and picked up from the Health Office by a **parent**.

Middle School Opportunities

- ⇒ Student Council
- ⇒ Library Workers
- ⇒ School Store Workers
- ⇒ HMS Live
- ⇒ Band
- ⇒ Orchestra
- ⇒ Vocal Music
- ⇒ Science Olympiad
- ⇒ 10th-period Guest Speaker Series
- ⇒ Community Service Events
- ⇒ Quality Parties
- ⇒ Robotics
- ⇒ School Musical
- ⇒ Athletics
- ⇒ Technology Guild
- ⇒ Accelerated Art (HS Credit)
- ⇒ Accelerated Math (Algebra I HS Credit)
- ⇒ Foreign Language (HS Credit)
- ⇒ Harmony Bridge
- ⇒ National Junior Honor Society
- ⇒ Yearbook Club
- ⇒ BOCES Career Day
- ⇒ PONY Express Pass
- ⇒ Mock Interviews
- ⇒ Variety Show
- ⇒ Student Leadership Team
- ⇒ Scholastic Challenge
- ⇒ School Dances
- ⇒ Assemblies
- ⇒ Summer Earth Science (2-Year Program HS Credit)
- ⇒ Foreign exchange student program with Sister City Nakagawa, Japan.

Athletic Opportunities

Fall Sports

Varsity and Junior Varsity:

- Boys Cross Country
- Football
- Boys Golf
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Soccer
- Girls Cheerleading
- Girls Cross Country
- Girls Swimming
- Girls Tennis
- Girls Volleyball

7th & 8th Grade:

- Girls and Boys Cross Country
- Football
- Girls Volleyball
- Girls Swimming
- Girls and Boys Soccer
- Coed Golf

Winter Sports

Varsity and Junior Varsity:

- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Boys and Girls Bowling
- Boys and Girls Indoor Track
- Boys Swimming
- Wrestling
- Girls Cheerleading

7th & 8th Grade:

- Girls and Boys Basketball
- Boys Swimming
- Wrestling

Spring Sports

Varsity and Junior Varsity:

- Boys Baseball
- Boys and Girls Lacrosse
- Boys Tennis
- Boys Track
- Girls Track
- Girls Softball
- Girls Golf

7th & 8th Grade:

- Boys Baseball
- Girls and Boys Lacrosse
- Girls Softball
- Girls Track
- Boys Track

⇒ **Please visit the Athletics website for registration dates and other important information.**

<http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/athletics.cfm>

Student Attendance



“Middle School attendance and GPA provide the best indication of how students will perform in high school classes.”

source: <https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/5-Key-Findings-MG-Final.pdf>

Students enrolled in a high school credit bearing course, must be in attendance 85% of the scheduled class periods. Students lose credit on the 29th absence in a course that meets every day all year.

When students are absent from school, please contact the middle school main office to request their work. It can be picked-up between 3:15 and 4:00.

Student Arrival and Dismissal



Due to construction on the county road and our parking lots over the summer, there may be changes to the current drop-off and pick-up procedures. Therefore, specific information regarding drop-off and pick-up will be shared at a later date.



Stay Tuned For More Information!

