

Horseheads Middle School



Earth Edition



April 2025

Contact Us!

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

What's Happening at HMS

APRIL

4/14 - 4/18/2025

SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL

4/23/2025

8th Grade Panoramic Photo

4/23/2025

Report Cards Distributed

4/29 - 4/30/2025

NYS ELA Computer-based Testing

MAY

5/6 - 5/7/2025

NYS Math Computer-based Testing

5/13/2025

NYS Science Computer-based Testing

8th Grade Only

5/26/2025

MEMORIAL DAY RECESS - NO SCHOOL

5/28/2025

Progress Reports Distributed

5/28 - 5/29/2025

Aimsweb Plus Testing

5/28/2025

Choir & Select Choir Concert

7:00pm MS Café

**OUR POWER
OUR PLANET**

**HAPPY
EARTH DAY**
APRIL 22



Earth Day at 55 Years

Earth Day was created by a grassroots movement on April 22, 1970. This year marks 55 years of a dedicated effort to clean up our planet. Going global in 1990, Earth Day has become a worldwide celebration of successes and discoveries of issues that still need our attention.

This year's theme is "Our Power Our Planet", promoting using solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, and tidal generated energy.



District News

Budget Development Meetings



2025-26 Budget Development

Budget development for the 2025-26 school year has begun. Regular board meetings and budget workshops are held from February to April until the final adoption of the budget at the vote on Tuesday, May 20. Here is the schedule:

- Thursday, April 10 Budget Workshop (if needed), 6:00 p.m., Multi-Media Center
- Wednesday, April 23 Regular Meeting and Budget Adoption, 5:15 p.m.*, Multi-Media Center
- Thursday, May 8 Public Hearing on the Proposed 2025-26 Budget, Multi-Media Center



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 2025-26 Budget, including links to videos and presentations from board meetings, click here: <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDBudget2024-25.cfm>.

Budget Vote/Board of Education Election vote will take place on May 20, 2025.

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.



YEARBOOK SALE

The 2024 - 2025 Horseheads Middle School Yearbook is now available to order! The cost is \$20.00 plus tax, per book.

Go to: [Upstate Images - 2025 Horseheads Middle School kw | Entourage Yearbooks Link](#)

The cost is \$20.00 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.

Or order here:



Middle School News

Mock Interviews:

Story and photos by Samantha Eck, Community Information Specialist



Our students did a great job during mock interviews this year! They dressed to impress and confidently answered the employment questions with professionalism.

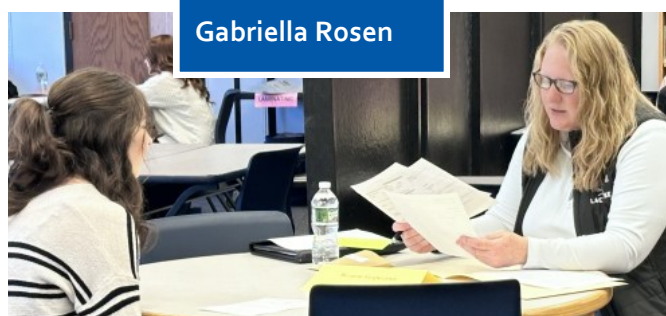
A huge shout out to our students for their hard work and preparation and a big thank you to our interviewers for providing this valuable real-world experience and for volunteering their time!



Charlie Ruhmel



Tristan Bates

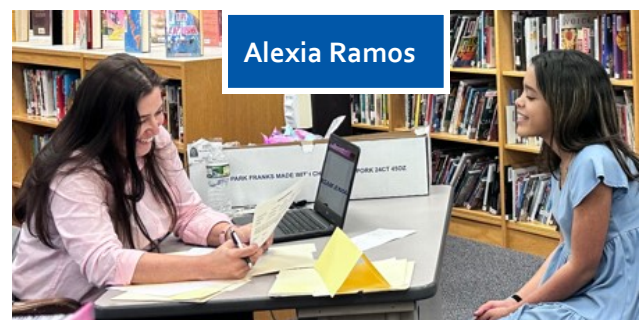


Gabriella Rosen

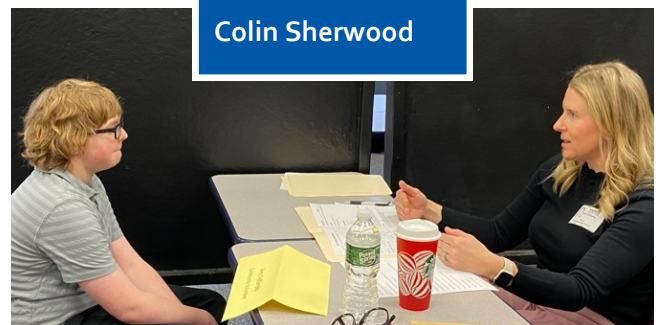


Mason Earl & Rylee Gardner

A big Raider Shoutout to Ms. Mashanic and Ms. Oliver for preparing our students for a real-world job interview!



Alexia Ramos



Colin Sherwood

PTO News

Alternative Fundraiser & Volunteer Information



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

HMS PTO Supports:



venmo

@HMSPTO

Please make checks
payable to HMS HSO



PTO is looking for volunteers!

Please consider joining our PTO and help us have an outstanding school year! There will be plenty to do:

- Three school dances
- 8th-grade Celebration
- Refreshments for awards ceremonies
- Have other ideas?

Organizing and funding these events takes time and effort. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

Contact the school at: 739-6357



My Ride K-12 App

The HCSD Transportation Department is proud to announce it is enhancing student safety and security by implementing a new mobile app that allows families and students to look up bus route information and receive real-time alerts.

[Click here for more information.](#)



We Are
HIRING



SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Horseheads Central School District accepts applications for substitute teachers throughout the school year. Both certified and non-certified positions are available. Uncertified substitute teachers may be approved as long as they meet the following minimum qualifications:

- ✓ Have been graduated from high school at least 4 years*, AND
- ✓ Possess an Associate's Degree or higher, OR
- ✓ Have completed at least two years of post-secondary education, OR
- ✓ Have completed a minimum of 12 credits of post-secondary education, OR
- ✓ Have served and been honorably discharged from the military

*Except for those substitute candidates who have satisfactorily completed or are in the process of completing a student teaching assignment in the pursuit of a college degree towards the teaching profession

Apply Now

Visit: horseheadsdistrict.com/employment.cfm
Call: (607) 739-5601 Ext. 4211





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
 - o 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.



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 [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 for more info.



Parent Information Regarding Final Exams



IMPORTANT FINAL EXAM INFORMATION:

All exams will be given on the date posted. Tests will not be rescheduled for any reason. No exams will be given early and a missed exam must be completed on the make-up days.

NYS Assessment Dates

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

English: 4/29, 4/30

Math: 5/6, 5/7

Science: 5/13 (8th grade only)

*Algebra I students will take the Algebra I Regents Exam on **June 18th** at 12:00 PM.*

*Living Environment students will take the Living Environment Regents Exam on **June 17th** at 12:00 PM.*

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



Middle School Final Exams:

June 23rd - Math and Science Final Exams

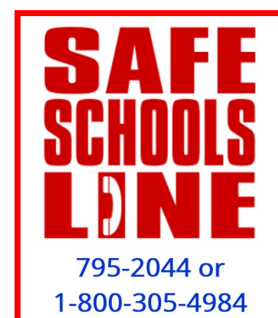
June 24th - ELA and Social Studies Final Exams

Make-Up Days are June 25th and 26th

There will be no final exams given early. If exams are missed, they may be completed on the make-up days. Students not completing exams will be scored as a zero. Final exams count 10% of the final course average. Please note that some courses will begin in-class final exams on June 11th.

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

High school scheduling materials were given to your student in January. If you did not receive them, please contact us at (607) 739-6357.



Parent Information



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.

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

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

Report Cards Distributed April 23, 2025

Lost and Found

Lost your lunchbox? Misplaced your sweatshirt? Check the Lost and Found! There are blue bins under the table in the Main Office.

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.

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.

Important Contact Information

- Safe Schools Line - 607-795-2044
- Mr. Holloway- Principal - rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com
- Mr. Hoeffner - Assistant Principal - thoeffner@horseheadsdistrict.com
- Middle School Main Office - 607-739-6357
- Middle School Website - <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHMS.cfm>
- Horseheads District Phone Number - 607-795-5601
- Horseheads District Website - <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com>
- Athletic Office Phone Number - 607-739-5601 x4254
- Athletic Office Website - <http://horseheadsdistrict.com/athletics.cfm>

School Nurse Information



Clothing Donations Needed


The nurse's office is looking for donations of clothing for our students. Please bring new or gently used, clean items to the nurse's office.

For Girls: shirts, sweatshirts, or hoodies in sizes medium, large and extra large
bottoms: leggings & sweatpants in sizes medium, large and extra large
underwear: in sizes medium, large, and extra large

For Boys: short sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, or hoodies in sizes large and extra large
bottoms: sweatpants and shorts in sizes large and extra large

Thank you for helping us out!

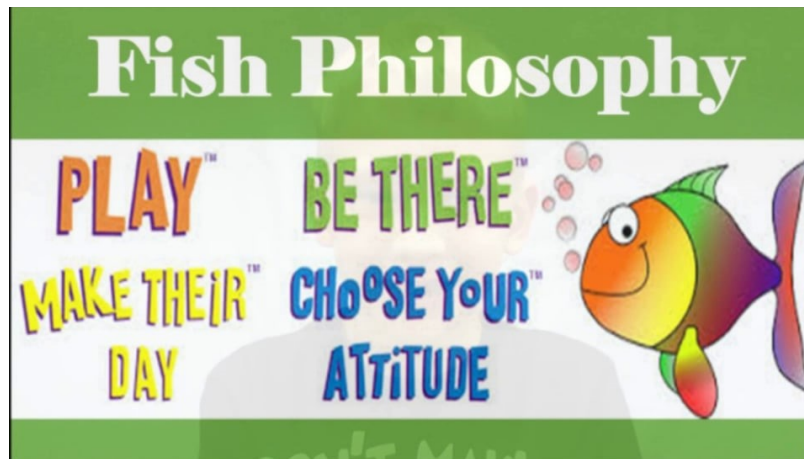
Ms. Wright, RN, and Ms. Palma, LPN

I NEED 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
						
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 READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL WHEN 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.

The Four Principles of the Fish Philosophy



The “Fish”monger’s Philosophy

What’s a fishmonger, you ask? A person who sells fish of course! In 1930s Seattle, Washington, a fish-market stall opened at the Pike Place Market. The Pike Place Fish Company served its customers well for decades. When former employee, now owner, John Yokoyama, began to stir the pot, he found a better way for his employees to enjoy their job. The self-proclaimed World Famous Pike Place Fish Market became known as the place where the fishmongers threw fish — literally! The fishmongers put on a show that the customers loved. They would throw whole fish across their stall, sometimes to the customer. Each transaction became a positive, uplifting experience for everyone. The fish market became one of Seattle’s top tourist attractions. How did this happen? Fish Philosophy, of course.

The workers there found that four basic principles were their key to success:

Be there in the moment (for their customers)

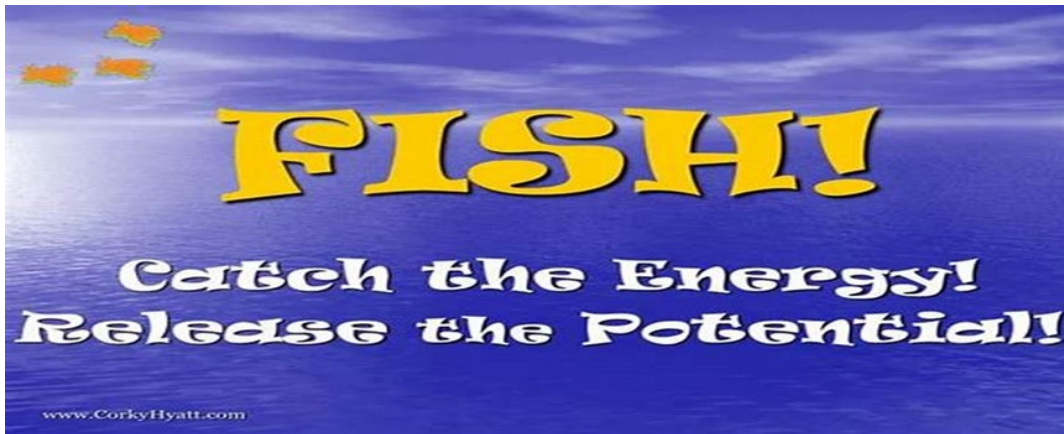
Play (by putting on a show)

Make their day (involving the customers)

Choose your attitude (how do you want to feel?)

At Horseheads Middle School, we want to be there for our kids every day! By following these “Fish Philosophies” at school and at home, we will all benefit by having more fun, being involved in each others’ daily lives, and continuing to learn and grow in a positive atmosphere.

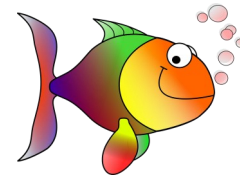




Hello! Every month our school newsletter highlights those in our HMS community that are caught doing something above and beyond and go that extra mile.

The FISH Philosophy principles of *Be There*, *Make Their Day*, *Play*, and *Choose Your Attitude* provide opportunities to positively effect our experiences! As a committee, we like to help spread this philosophy by doing things in and out of school to make HMS the best!

Students and staff in our building are welcome to see Mrs. Blowers (room 113) if they wish to recognize someone who is living the FISH Philosophy.



Fish Committee shoutouts to:

Mrs. Winderl and **Mrs. Stratton** for a great play presentation and a wonderful talent show. Their hard work and dedication to the HMS students really fits our FISH Philosophy. Thank you, ladies!

Andrew McKibbin gets a shout out for always acting in the spirit of our philosophy. Nice job Andrew!

Character Trait of the Month Responsibility

We take ownership of our actions, carefully consider our words and actions using the *THINK* framework (True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary, Kind), and strive for excellence with determination and perseverance.



Parent Information



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

Athletic Information

2024-25 Spring Season - for more information, see our district athletic website.

Varsity and JV Sports: Registration opens February 17. Start date: March 17

Modified Sports: Registration opens February 24. Start date: March 31

Unified Basketball: Registration opens March 7. Start date: April 7

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](#)



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



Call The Safe Schools Line

607-795-2044 or 1-800-305-4984

Mr. Holloway

rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com

Mr. Hoeffner

thoeffner@horseheadsdistrict.com



PARENT PORTAL

Don't have Parent Portal? Please visit our website. In the "QuickLinks" section in the middle, near the bottom, hover over "Parent Portal". You will be directed to complete a short form online. If you have questions, please call Karen McLain at 739-5601, x4251 or email kmclain@horseheadsdistrict.com

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

<https://schooltool.horseheadsdistrict.com>

The URL for the mobile app is:

<https://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads>



aimsweb Plus is a reliable computer-based screening assessment, which is administered in the fall, winter and spring. This year on **May 28th and 29th**, students will be taking the **spring** *aimsweb* Plus benchmark assessments in reading and math. *aimsweb* Plus allows us to monitor our students in reading and math and provides us with valuable information we can use to make educational decisions for our students. Results will be shared with parents and students three times per year. Our goal is for each student to demonstrate academic growth from fall to winter and winter to spring. No special preparation for the *aimsweb* Plus testing is required.

If you would like additional information regarding the *aimsweb* Plus assessments, please visit the *aimsweb* Plus website at <http://www.aimswebplus.com/> or call us at 739-6357.



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, or **Jennie Sonsire** at (607)795-5320 or dlynch@gstboces.org or jsonsire@gstboces.org.



Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures



Due to the large volume of students being dropped off and picked up, the line can become very long. We ask that you help alleviate unnecessary wait time by following these simple procedures:

- **Utilize the entire drop-off lane**

- ⇒ Please do not wait until you have pulled up to the middle school entrance to drop off your student
- ⇒ Approximately ten cars can drop off simultaneously
- ⇒ Please use caution when utilizing the passing lane to pull around cars dropping off students
- ⇒ Students should exit the vehicle as soon as it is safely stopped
- ⇒ Please be sure students have all of their belongings ready to go

- **Do not drop students off in the staff or visitor parking lots**

- **Do not drop students off on Sing Sing Road**

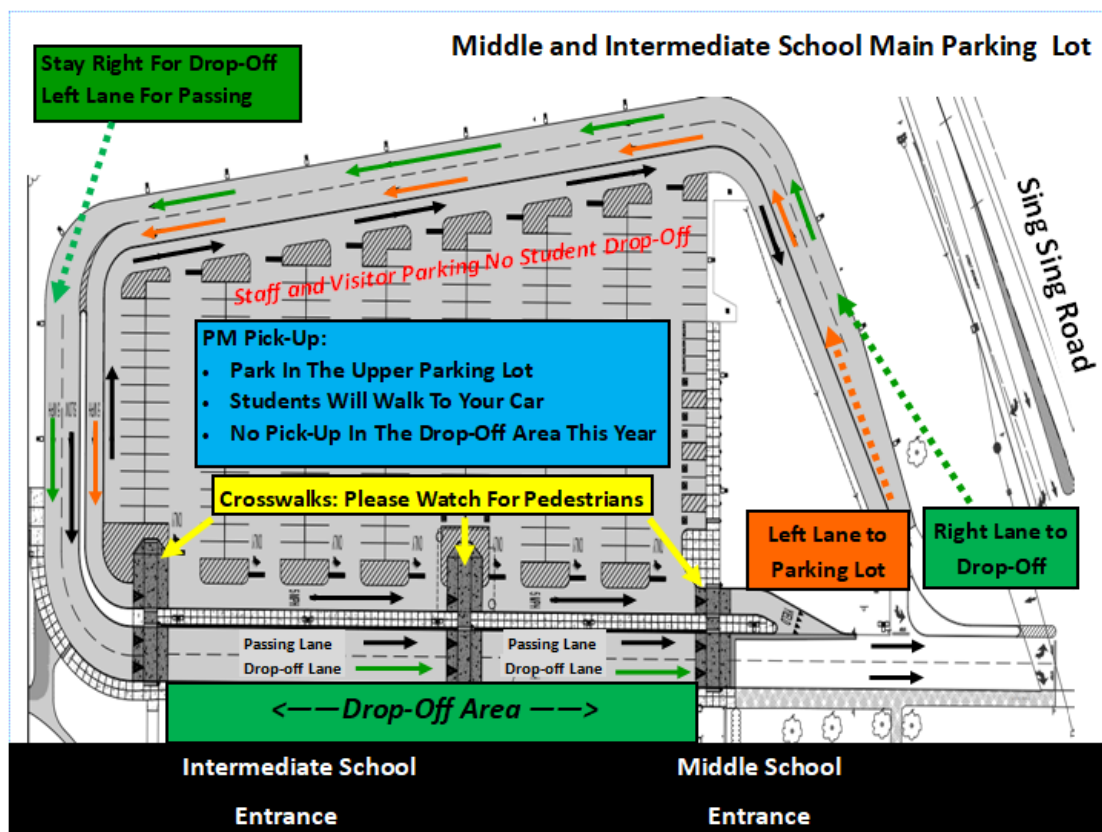
- **Students should walk in the door no later than 7:40 to avoid being late to first period**

Pick-up procedures:

Do not wait in the drop-off lane or any of the driving lanes in the parking lot.

Please park in the upper parking lot and wait for your student to walk to your car

- Using a consistent parking spot or general area, will help facilitate the pick-up process
- Students will cross to the parking lot using the crosswalk nearest the Intermediate School



Make it a great day,



the Raider Way!

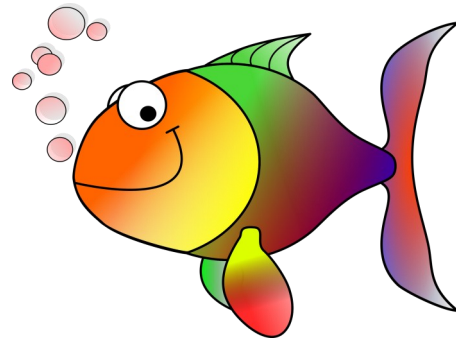
Raider Way:



- Fair and Just
- Respectful
- Responsible
- Good Citizen
- Trustworthy
- Caring and Kind

Fish Philosophy:

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



Think:

Before you say or do anything:

- *T - Is it true?*
- *H - Is it helpful?*
- *I - Is it inspiring?*
- *N - Is it necessary?*
- *K - Is it kind ?*

Non-discrimination Policy



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