

# Horseheads Middle School



## *New Year's Edition*



### January 2026

**Contact Us!**

**607-739-6357 • [Horseheadsdistrict.com/HHMS.cfm](http://Horseheadsdistrict.com/HHMS.cfm)**

### What's Happening at HMS

#### **JANUARY**

**1/12/2026**

Raider White Band & Choir Concert  
7:00pm \* MS Café

**1/19/2026**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
NO SCHOOL

**1/26/2026**

Instructional Planning Day  
NO SCHOOL

**1/27/2026**

Second Semester Begins

**1/28/2026**

Report Cards and Aimsweb Plus  
Reports Distributed

**1/29/2026**

PTO Meeting 5:00-6:00pm  
Open House 6:00-7:00pm

#### **FEBRUARY**

**2/5/2026**

Yearbook Group Picture Day

**2/6 - 2/7/2026**

Middle School Musical  
Friday @ 7:00pm, MS Café  
Saturday @ 2:00pm MS Café



**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day ♦ January 19, 2026**



### **Spelling Bee is January 27**

Our annual Regional Spelling Bee Qualifier will be held on January 27 during 10th period. Good Luck Students!

## **SEMESTER 2**

Middle school second semester begins on 1/27/26. Students will receive their second-semester schedules in 10th Period on January 23. Schedules can also be viewed through Parent Portal.

## 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 as soon as possible** 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Horseheads Middle School

## Texas Road House and HMS PTO Open House



### Boxed Dinner Fundraiser

We are looking forward to welcoming families to our second-semester Open House on January 29<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to partner with **Texas Roadhouse** and the **HMS PTO** to offer a boxed dinner fundraiser from 5:00 –6:00 PM. Pre-ordered dinners will be available in the HMS cafeteria prior to Open House. A portion of the funds raised will go to support our HMS PTO.

**Please complete the information below and return it to the main office no later than January 23, 2026. Payment may be made by cash (please provide exact change), by check payable to HMS HSO, or by using the Venmo QR code below.**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Purchaser's Name \_\_\_\_\_

*All dinners come with a baked potato with butter and a dinner roll with honey cinnamon butter.*

Dinner Option 1 - BBQ Chicken Breast \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Option 2 - Plain Chicken Breast \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Kids Option - Hot dog with steak fries \$6 \_\_\_\_\_



Venmo:  
@HMSPTO

**venmo**

# 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.

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

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

**Report Cards Issued January 28, 2026**

## 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.

## 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](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com).
- Questions about our website or social media?

E-mail [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com)

## 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

**Want to Donate? Use the VENMO code below.**



venmo  
@HMSPTO



# Scholastic Art Award Winners

page 1



Our middle school students had a very successful showing at the 83rd Annual Scholastic Art Award competition! Nine students captured gold, silver and honorable mention. Our Gold Key winner, Lake Sena, will go on to the National competition in New York City. Students were taught by Mr. Cunningham. Enjoy their beautiful work below!

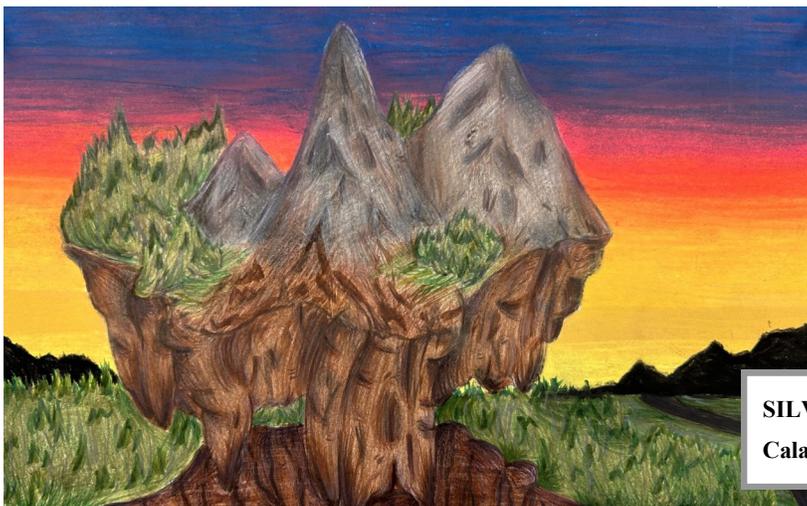


**GOLD KEY**  
Lake Sena  
for her Self-  
-portrait,  
“Seriously”



**SILVER KEY**  
Gabriel  
Peake

**SILVER KEY**  
Myanna  
Mazurovski



**SILVER KEY**  
Calais Morse



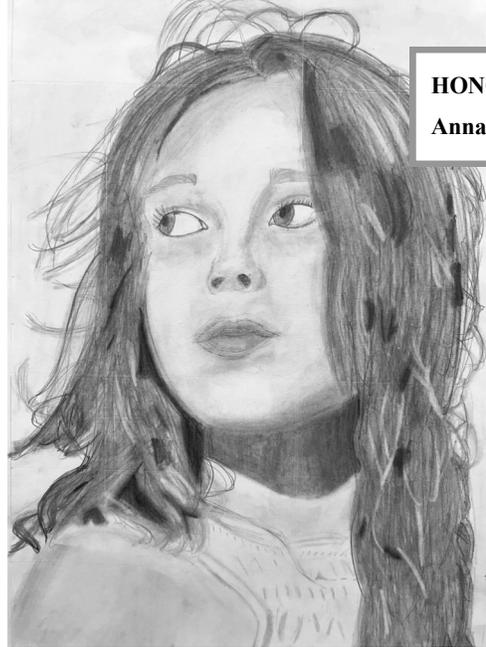
**SILVER KEY**  
Addyson  
Perry

# Scholastic Art Award Winners



page 2

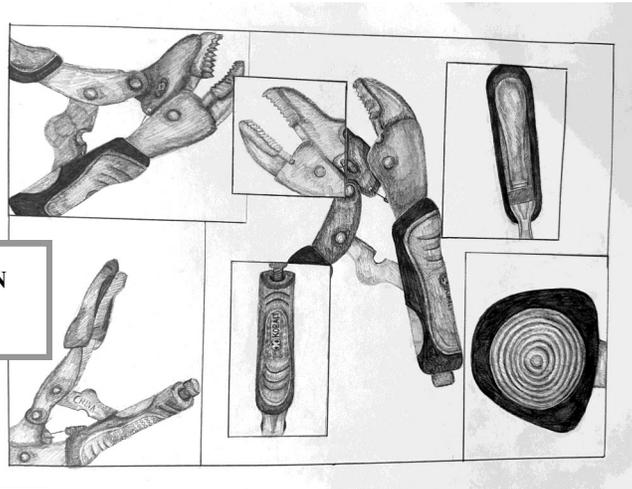
Our middle school students had a very successful showing at the 83rd Annual Scholastic Art Award competition! Nine students captured gold, silver and honorable mention. Students were taught by Mr. Cunningham. Enjoy their beautiful work below!



**HONORABLE MENTION**  
Annabelle Guardi



**HONORABLE MENTION**  
Lake Sena



**HONORABLE MENTION**  
Brooke Jones

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
Layla Little



**HONORABLE MENTION**  
Gabrielle Laughlin

## Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration

Do you have a child who is currently four or five years old, and have not yet informed the district? Please email [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com) so that we can send information on pre-kindergarten/kindergarten registration. Please include the child's name, birth date, parent(s)' name(s), address, and phone.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## Important Contact Information

- **Safe Schools Line - 607-795-2044**
- Mr. Holloway- Principal - [rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com)
- Mr. Hoeffner - Assistant Principal - [thoeffner@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto: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>



## 10 Tips for Students

### HANDLE WITH CARE

Avoid carrying the laptop by the screen. Always close the lid gently and carry it with both hands or have a dedicated spot in your school bag.

### AVOID EXTREME TEMPERATURES

Do not leave the laptop in very hot or cold environments, such as a car, as extreme temperatures can damage the battery and other components.

### TURN OFF YOUR LAPTOP WHEN YOU STORE IT

Before placing your laptop in a school bag, be sure to turn it off completely. Heat generated by the laptop could damage the battery or other internal hardware. Additionally, do not leave a running laptop on your bed, sofa, or thick carpeting, which could trap heat in the laptop.

### BE MINDFUL OF CABLES

Ensure that power and peripheral cables are not stretched or tangled, which can cause ports to become loose or damaged.

### USE ON STABLE SURFACES

Place the laptop on a flat, stable surface when in use to prevent it from falling.

### KEEP FOOD & DRINKS AWAY

Avoid eating or drinking near the laptop to prevent spills that could damage the keyboard and internal components

### CLEAN PROPERLY

Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the screen and keyboard. Avoid using harsh chemicals or sprays directly on the laptop.

### BACK UP DATA

Regularly back up important schoolwork and files to your OneDrive to prevent data loss in case of damage

### REPORT ISSUES PROMPTLY

If the laptop shows signs of damage or malfunction, report it to the school's IT department immediately for repair.

### BE AWARE OF OTHERS' DEVICES

Please be careful with other students' school bags as there may be a device inside. Also, if you see a device left behind or not attended, please take to the school's main office.



**Call The Safe Schools Line**

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

**Mr. Holloway**

[rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com)

**Mr. Hoeffner**

[thoeffner@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:thoeffner@horseheadsdistrict.com)





## 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](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com).
- Questions about our website or social media? E-mail [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com)
- **URL for Mobile App is now: [gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads](http://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads)**

## Athletic Information

*2025-26 Winter sports season has begun.*

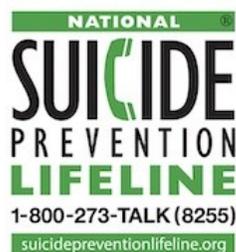
*For spring sports information, visit our district athletic website.* [Athletics](#)

### WINTER SPORTS

**Varsity and JV Sports:** Boys and Girls Basketball, Bowling, Indoor Track (Varsity), Boys Swimming, Boys and Girls Wrestling, Cheerleading (Varsity only)

**Modified Sports:** Boys Basketball, Boys Swimming, Wrestling, Girls Basketball, Cheerleading

**Unified Sports:** Bowling begins January 5.



*To report child abuse or neglect, call toll free 1-800-342-3720 or [ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps](http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps)*



## 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 Genie Connel at 739-5601, x4251 or email [gconnel@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:gconnel@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 **January 7th and 8th**, students will be taking the **winter** *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@gstbooces.org](mailto:dlynch@gstbooces.org) or [jsonsire@gstbooces.org](mailto:jsonsire@gstbooces.org).



# Students Complete Technology Guild Project



Mr. Steele's Technology students recently completed their holiday-themed Grinch woodworking project!



(left to right): Lyra Lesstino-Hoyles, Alana Wheeler, Gevenive Williams, Isabelle Wheeler, and Haven Erway.

(left to right): John Cooper, Liam Gleckner, John Bean, Gabe Peake, and Teyten Baker.



Maurianna Peake.



Maverick Carman and Zoe Hobbs.

TJ Dauphinet





## *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](http://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**

**i** 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.



*Make it a great day,*



*the Raider Way!*

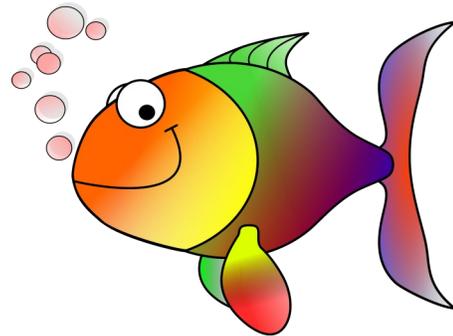
*Raider Way:*



- 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](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 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*