NOVEMBER2026-27

THE RAIDER RUNDOWN

Horseheads Middle School Newsletter

FALL *Edition*

Contact Us! (607) 739-6357 ● Horseheadsdistrict.com/HHMS.cfm

WHAT'S HAPPENING

NOVEMBER

Friday, 11/6
Picture Retakes & Make-Ups

Wednesday, 11/11
Veterans Day - No School

Tuesday, 11/17
Concert Band & Orchestra Concert * 7:00pm MS Cafe

Wednesday, 11/18
Report Cards & Aimsweb Reports Issued

Wednesday, 11/25 - Friday, 11/27
Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER

Friday, 12/4
MS Half Day

Tuesday, 12/22
Progress Report #2 Issued

Winter Recess
12/23/2026 - 1/1/2027

VETERANS DAY
November 11th



Nevaeh Force poses with her father during the Middle School Veterans Day parade. Thank you for your service!

Welcome Back Raiders!

Middle School Contacts

Middle School
Main Office (607) 739-6357
Principal
Ron Holloway
Assistant Principal
Tom Hoeffner
Main Office Secretary
Ronda Smith
Attendance Secretary
Amanda Garner
Nurse: Angela Wright, RN
LPN: Lynette Palma

Guidance Office:
Secretary
Maggie Bleeker
Secretary
Kathryn Whitmarsh

School Counselors
Sarah Haskell (A-K)
Rachel Raftis (L-Z)

School Psychologist
Sara Michelucci

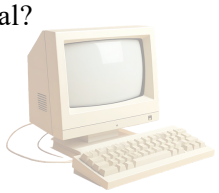
Social Workers
Tim Wood
Melanie Rahr

Parent Portal

Parents can use Parent Portal to check your student's grades and assignments. You can also email your student's teachers.

In the "QuickLinks" section on our website, hover over "Parent Portal Log-in". You will be directed to complete a short form online. If you have questions, please call Registrar Genie Connel at 739-5601 x4251 or email gconnel@horseheadsdistrict.com

Checking your student's grades on Parent Portal?
URL for computer browser:
https://schooltool.horseheadsdistrict.com
URL for the mobile app:
https://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads





Horseheads Community Open Lap Swim
High School Pool
Tuesday - Friday
5:30 - 6:45am
Questions? Contact our Atheltic Office at 607-739-5601, x4254.

Health Office Information

School Nurse: Mrs. Wright, RN

LPN: Ms. Palma



Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year. Please see the important information below regarding the health of your child attending school.

All 7th graders and students new to the Middle School will need a physical. Screenings will begin soon for hearing, vision and scoliosis. A letter will be coming home.

It is often difficult to know when to keep your child home. The following is a list of conditions and symptoms that indicate when you should keep your child home.

They include, but are not limited to:

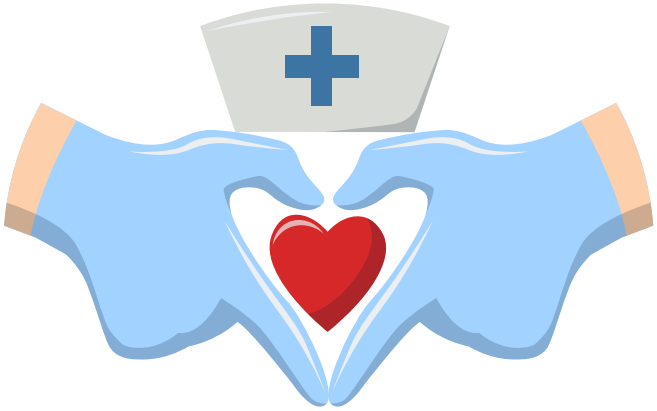
- **Fever greater than 100.4 F -** Your child may return when their fever has been gone for over 24 hours without medication, and if no other symptoms are present
- **Vomiting/Diarrhea -** Your child may return when symptom free for greater than 24 hours without medication or other symptoms
- **Rash -** Your child may return with a physician's note that it is not contagious
- **Strep Throat -** Your child may return after 24 hours of prescribed treatment
- **Cough/Congestion/Wheezing -** Your child may return when symptoms resolve

As a reminder, frequent hand washing is always our best defense against illness.

Please remember that medication given at school must have a doctor's order. All medications must be delivered to the Nurses' office by a responsible adult, in a pharmacy-labeled container. As always, feel free to contact your school nurse for any questions or concerns.

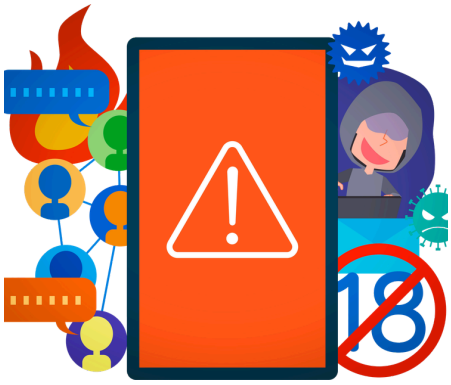
Thank you for your cooperation,
Mrs. Wright, RN
Horseheads Middle School Nurse

The Health Office is in need of socks, underwear and elastic-waist pants for students.



FBI Buffalo Presents:

DIGITAL DANGERS



Behind the Screens: The Hidden Risks Facing our Youth

a virtual presentation by FBI Buffalo in collaboration with the FBI Buffalo Citizens Academy Alumni Association

SAVE THE DATE
NOVEMBER 19, 6-8PM

FORMAT

In-person WATCH GROUPS hosted by WNY schools

REGISTRATION

Enroll your school to receive more information by emailing **BUFOUTREACH@FBI.GOV**

Enrolling ensures your school will receive future registration information; it does not commit your school to hosting a Watch Group

AUDIENCE

DETAILS

Digital Dangers is a virtual presentation designed to inform parents, educators, and school communities about today's most pressing online safety concerns and provide resources for parents and educators to use at home and in the classroom.

Join us for this virtual online safety event exploring how seemingly harmless online interactions can turn into threats of manipulation and violence against our youth.

For this virtual presentation, FBI Buffalo invites schools in Western New York to host in-person Watch Groups, where parents and educators from participating schools can view the presentation and be empowered to help prevent the children in their lives from becoming victims.

Questions? Contact bufoutreach@fbi.gov



FBI Buffalo Citizens Academy Alumni Association is a nonprofit organization separate and apart from the FBI

Sister City Organization: Nakagawa
FACS Class Citizenship Project

The Horseheads Sister City Association is hosted eleven exchange students and three chaperones from Nakagawa Town, Japan, on October 26-October 30, 2026. They students visited our schools that week too!

We are planning the next exchange trip for several Horseheads Central School District students currently in grades 8-11 for early summer travel to Japan. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about Japanese culture and make lifelong friendships. Interested students will be able to pick up an application from their school's guidance/counseling office. **Applications are due November 20, 2026.** We are also asking that student ambassador candidates participate in at least one activity with the Japanese students during their visit in October as part of the interview process.

In addition to the application, students must be in good academic standing, regularly attend school, and demonstrate the Raider Way inside and outside of school. We are also looking for adult chaperones to travel with our students to Japan. If interested in having an unforgettable, culturally immersive experience, please contact Tiffany Bratz at tbratz@horseheadsdistrict.com by November 20, 2026.

Our HSCA committee welcomes any eligible student and adult volunteers willing to help organize/assist with exchange events during the fall visit. If you are interested in participating in the exchange, this would be an excellent way to learn about the special relationship Horseheads shares with Nakagawa Town. Please contact Tiffany Bratz at tbratz@horseheadsdistrict.com.

The 2025 participants in Japan!





FACS Class Citizenship Project

Mrs. Kenefick's Family and Consumer Science (FACS) class recently completed their Citizenship Project. Due to the wonderful generosity of our students and their families, we were able to make and donate 32 cat beds to our local animal shelters!

Thank you so much for your support! Enjoy this photo of their work and some of the kitties enjoying their new beds!

Manufacturing Day Field Trip

TECH Class Takes a Field Trip

Middle school students recently visited Corning Community College's Airport Corporate Park location to learn more about opportunities in the manufacturing field.

Manufacturing Day is a national grassroots movement that demonstrates the reality and future of modern manufacturing careers. * Many thanks to Mr. Steele, Mr. Edgerton, and Ms. Jukawski for leading the trip.

* Manufacturing Day (mfgday.com)



Technology students had a great time learning about the trades during their recent field trip. Bottom left: cutting and handling sheet metal. Bottom right: usng a grinder to smooth the edges.





Parent Information

Horseheads Central School District is launching ParentSquare as our new district-wide communication platform. ParentSquare brings school, district, and classroom communication into one place, making it easier for staff to connect with families and for families to stay informed.

Helpful Videos and Tutorials (Watch These First):

- ParentSquare Overview (2 minutes)
- Creating Your Parent Account (2 minutes)
- ParentSquare Academy - Supporting Your Student Course

Other Resources:

- Getting Started Guide
- Opt Out Form

Community News & Events

Stay connected with our community! While Horseheads Central School District will no longer send home printed flyers with students, we will continue sharing news, programs and upcoming events from our nonprofit community partners through ParentSquare. Just log-in, scroll down in your ParentSquare feed, and find these opportunities posted alongside school-related announcements. Be sure to check back regularly so you don't miss out on something your family might enjoy!

To submit event flyers on behalf of a non-profit organization operating in the school district, email an electronic copy (.jpg, .png, or .pdf file) to hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com for review and approval.

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.

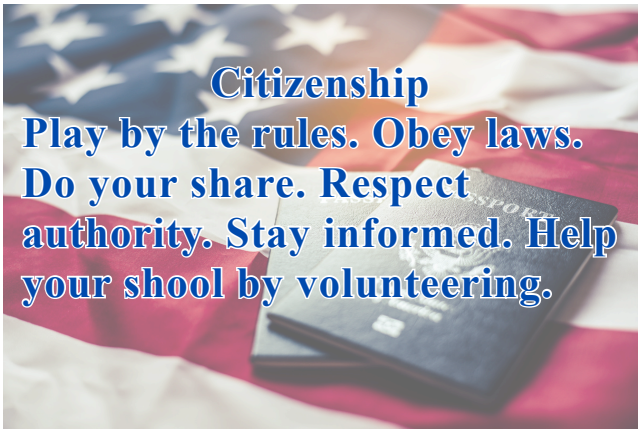
If you feel your career is not of interest or you are currently at home, you may still contribute through mock interviews and other fun classroom events. We will be doing many of these events on-line, but they are still important experiences for the career development of our students. Most events are 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 Jenny Sonsire, Career Education Resource Specialist, Career Development Council, Inc., at (607)795-532, or jsonsire@gstboces.org.

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





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.vom/athletics.cfm

Weather / Text Messaging Services from the 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:
- 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.

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[tm], 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

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.

Parent Information

Progress Reports/Report Cards

Parents are informed of student progress in two ways. Progress reports are sent home with students at th 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 Honor Roll	**95-100**
High Honor Roll	**90-94.99**
Honor Roll	**85-89.99**
Failing Grade	**64 or lower in any course**

A failing grade or Incomplete in any class eliminates the student from the Honor Roll, and, therefore, the PONY Pass.

Report Cards Issued November 18, 2026

Lost and Found

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

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:

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

- Facebook: The district and each of our seven schools have pages. "Like" them to see our information in your newsfeed.
- Twitter: Follow us on Twitter @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?
- Email 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 appreaciated! Contact the school at 739-6357

Want to Donate?

Use the VENMO code below.

venmo

@HMSPTO