OCTOBER 2026-27

THE RAIDER RUNDOWN

Horseheads Middle School Newsletter

CLUB Edition

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

OCTOBER

Conference Day
10/9 No school

Columbus Day
10/12 No School

Progress Report #1 Issued
10/14

Halloween Dance
& Open Gym
10/30 @ 2:15-4:00pm

WHAT'S AHEAD

~~NOVEMBER~~

Half Day
11/6

Picture Retakes & Make-Ups
11/6

Veterans Day - No School
11/11

Concert Band & Orchestra
Concert - 11/17
7:00pm in MS Cafe

Report Cards & Aimsweb
reports issued
11/18

Thanksgiving Recess
No School
11/25-11/27

Thank You!

HMS thanks all our Families who attended our Fall Open House. We had a great turnout and were excited to answer all your questions.

We look forward to partnering with all of you to make this a great year!

Exciting Opportunities Await!

Looking for something to do that involves leadership, science skills or drama? Turn to page 6 to find out more about the various clubs offered at the middle school.



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



Relocation Reminder for Parents

If you move within the district, we require two proofs of residency when you submit the address change for your child(ren). Accepted forms of proof are

- Bank contract or mortgage agreement showing purchase of home with name and address
- Signed rent or lease aggreement with landlord's name, address and telephone number, or DSS processed landlord statement
- Most recent utility bill (phone, gas, electric)
- Deposit receipt for gas, electric or phone service start-up
- Driver's license or State ID card with picture showing current district address
- Currently active bank account/checkbook statement with name and address imprinted (bank may be contacted to verify existence of account)
- Payroll stub with address

Please contact Genie Connel, central registrar, with questions @739-5601 x4251

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:

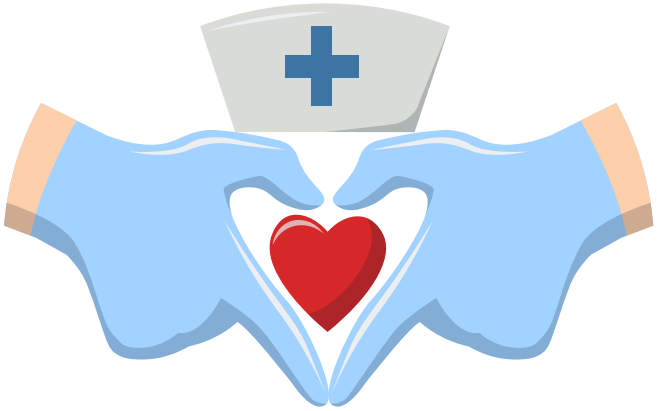
- **Fever greater than 100.4 F -** Your child may return when their fever has been gone for over 24 hours without medication, and if no other symptoms are present
- **Vomiting/Diarrhea -** Your child may return when symptom free for greater than 24 hours without medication or other symptoms
- **Rash -** 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.

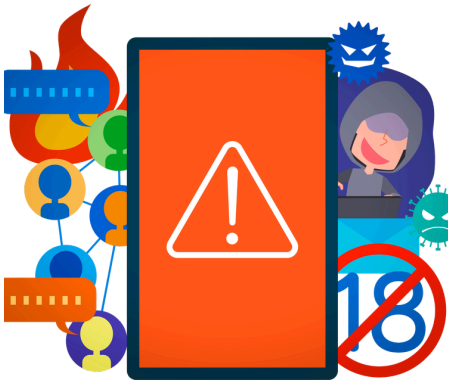
Thank you for your cooperation,
Mrs. Wright, RN
Horseheads Middle School Nurse

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

Halloween Dance & Open Gym - October 30





Science Olympiad

Science Olympiad is a series of individual and team events for wehich students prepare from early October until the competition in February. These challenges and motivational events area based on the various science and technology disciplines such as biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, compters and engineering.

The students must have knowledge of science facts, concepts, processes, skills and science applications, along with building expertise. As there is such a diverse field of events offered, we find that with limited coaches and time, we are always looking for volunteers who can lend their expertise to help prepare the team! Contact Team Advisors Mr. Steele or Mrs. Kujawski for more information.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD
Exploring the World of Science

HMS Live



HMS Live is our television show produced in the school and broadcast in the mornings. The show gives students the opportunity tolearn basic broadcasting skills. It features announcements, interviews, club reports, and other segments. The HMS Live advisor is Mr. Donovan.

Technology Guild



The Technology Guild is an extracurricular activity that lets students expand their interest in working with tools and machines through various project-based activities. Some previous activities include hot air balloons, CO2 race cars, model rockets, Maglev, mousetrap vehicles, catapults and solar sprint cars.

For each activity the student will learn to design, build, and operate their device. Students do not need to be in a Technology class to be eligible to participate.

The Guild meets every Thursday after school until 4:00pm. If they have other commitments, they may suspend their membership during those conflicts. Technology Guild Advisors are Ms. Patelunas and Mr. Steele.



School Store

We will be accepting applications in early October for school store workers.

Students work during their lunch period (40 minutes) every-other day. Responsibilities include selling store items, cleaning and organizing the store, maintaining a log of sales, and keeping the cash box secure.

Academic and discipline records will be considered, interested students should listen to the announcements and apply.The school store advisor is Mrs. Amey.

Yearbook

HMS Yearbook is a club for 7th and 8th grade students who enjoy photography, writing, and technology. The club will meet twice a month during 10th period until 2:30pm. Students will need to be picked up by a parent/guardian. Space is limited to 25 students.

To apply for HMS Yearbook, you must complete an application and place it in Sra. Nicolae's or Mrs. Andrew's mailbox. Students may pick up an application in the Main Office. They are due October 7.





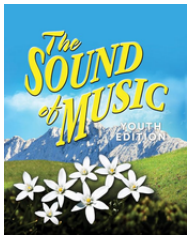
Student Council

Student Council acts as the student government for the Middle School. As a group, they host several activities such as dances and open gyms, as well as many charitable events throughout the year.

Eighth grade students will elect candidates for President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. Seventh grade students will elect officers for Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. Seventh and eighth grade officers work together with the advisors to plan and organize student council meetings and events. In addition to the officers, each 10th period class will elect one representative to serve on Student Council as 10th Period Representatives. These students are responsible for attending monthly meetings, reporting back information to their 10th period class as well as give input and vote on events hosted by Student Council. All elected students must sign and abide by a code of conduct.

Student Council represents all middle school students. Any student wishing to participate in Student Council events is welcomed and encouraged to do so. Advisors are Ms. Leland & Ms. Camidge.

Middle School Musical



This year's play will be "The Sound of Music, Youth Edition." The show is scheduled for Friday, February 5th at 7:00 pm, and Saturday, February 6th, at 2:00 pm right here on our stage!

The cast consists of approximately 30 students, with 10 in the technical crew. There is a lot of solo singing as well as group singing and dancing featured. Auditions and rehearsals will begin in early October. Any Middle School student is eligible to audition for the musical.

The advisor is Mrs. Stratton.

Student Leadership Team

The Student Leadership Team meets with Mr. Holloway to discuss middle-school issues and concerns from the student perspective. Members work on projects to improve the middle school climate and culture.



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



Is Your Backpack Too Heavy?

Your backpack should weigh no more than 10% of your body weight. (Weigh yours and see how you do!) You don't have to suffer all day with back or shoulder fatigue. So what can you do to lighten the load?

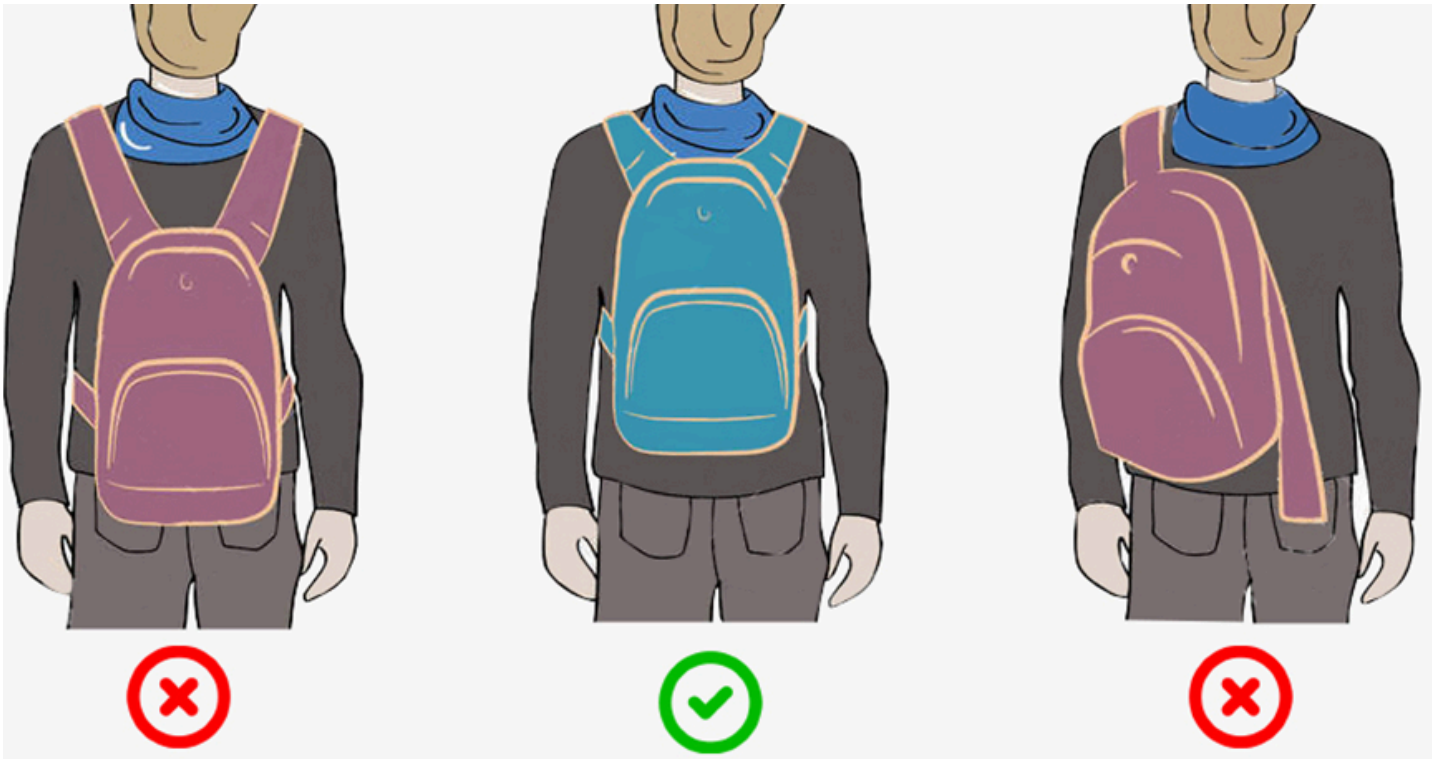
1. Wear your backpack properly
2. Reduce the weight of your backpack
3. Use your locker!

How to Wear It?

No! Too low!
Puts weight on your lower back, where you are weaker.

Yes! Just right!
Puts weight higher on your back, where you are stronger.

No! Not good!
Wear both straps to distribute the weight to avoid pain.



Ergonomics, or Human Engineering

Ergonomics, in its simplest form, is the study of how the human body and its environment work together for an efficient outcome (i.e., is your chair the right height? What about your desk and computer? Do you have eye fatigue? Are you in pain while studying or working?)

Adjusting the items you use (furniture, desks, computers, etc.) in the spaces you frequent will result in more productivity and a happier you! Visit https://ergo-plus.com for more information.

Fundraiser for Sister City Program

"Spaghetti Fundraiser withHome-Made Sauce"



Proceeds to Support the Horseheads Sister City Program

Friday – October 2nd
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
at the Horseheads Fire Department

(134 N. Main Street, Horseheads)

Spaghetti, Salad, Bread/Butter.

Adults: $12.00
Kids 10 & Under: $8.00

Tickets available at the door.

**** ALSO TAKE OUTS AVAILABLE!**

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.

Progress Report Cards Issued October 14, 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

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.