

Horseheads Middle School

September/October, 2020



The Safety Issue

Contact Us!

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

Welcome Back!

It's been a long time coming, but the new school year is finally here! I hope you are all healthy, well rested and enthusiastic about returning to the middle school.

We are very excited to welcome you back, whether you are here in person or online. Although this school year will look very different, we are ready to bring you the most normal middle school experience that we can. Our administrators and staff are standing by to guide you through the challenges this year may generate.

The middle school will follow the policies and guidelines of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), New York State Department of Education and the Chemung County Health Department. Everyone in the middle school building will be required to follow the strict guidelines set forth by these agencies and the Horseheads School District. Please know that this is for the safety of all students and staff. There no doubt will be kinks to iron out as we progress through the school year. Please keep the lines of communication open to your child's teachers, counselor and administrators.

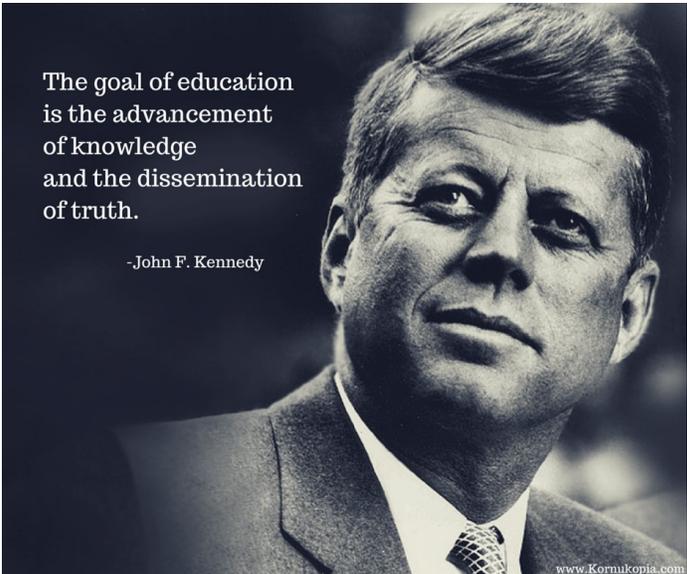
We are here to help each other!

With everyone's full cooperation, this will be a safe year for our students and staff. We ask that you follow all protocols dutifully so that we can remain open. Please call with any questions or concerns.

Let's make it a great year, the Raider Way!

Ron Holloway - Principal

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.



The goal of education
is the advancement
of knowledge
and the dissemination
of truth.

-John F. Kennedy

Horseheads Middle School ANNOUNCEMENTS



Picture Day

Cohort A- Picture Day 10/19; Makeup Day 12/7

Cohort B- Picture Day 10/22; Makeup Day 12/10

Remote Students- Picture Day 10/21 ; Makeup Day 12/9

PTO Spirit Wear

The Middle School PTO is sponsoring a spirit wear sale beginning today and closing on October 9th. You can view and purchase merchandise at the link below. 10% of the profits will go to the MS PTO.

<https://hhdsmiddle school.itemorder.com/sale>

Wednesday Schedule For Remote Learning

First Period	8:00 - 8:20
Second Period	8:22 - 8:42
Third Period	8:44 - 9:04
Fourth Period	9:06 - 9:26
Fifth Period	9:28 - 9:48
Sixth Period	9:50 - 10:10
Seventh Period	10:12 - 10:32
Eighth Period	10:34 - 10:54
Ninth Period	10:56 - 11:16

Parent Portal

If you have not yet signed up for Parent Portal, please visit the District website. Under the “Quicklinks” section, hover over “Parent Portal” and click on “Parent Portal Registration Form”. Fill out the form and submit it, and a link will be sent to your email

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://schooltool.horseheadsdistrict.com/sthhweb>

itslearning Parent Portal

To access ‘itslearning’, click here <https://horseheadsdistrict.itslearning.com/>. Parent accounts should be functional beginning September 28. Use your parent portal login credentials. Your student can login through their student menu. To view the virtual demonstration, visit our website and click on the District 2020-21 Plan. Scroll down to “itslearning”, and click on the link.

Sports News

Southern Tier Athletic Conference (STAC) has postponed the Fall Sports season. STAC will follow the NYSPHSAA-condensed plan to hold sports seasons beginning **January 4th 2021**.

All fall student athletes must re-register for fall sports according to the dates below. Student athletes will need an updated physical to participate in sports. There currently is no physical waiver for the start of winter sports.

Winter sports start date: 1/4/21
Winter sports registration opens 12/5/2020
Unified Bowling start date: 2/1/21
Unified Bowling registration opens 1/2/21
Fall sports start date: 3/1/21
Fall sports registration opens 1/30/21
Spring sports start date: 4/19/21
Spring sports registration opens 3/20/21
Unified Basketball start date: 4/19/21
Unified Basketball registration opens 3/20/21

Please continue to check the District athletic webpage for updates.

Tech Support Form

We ask parents, guardians, and students who have technology questions, including issues with district-owned devices and questions about the itslearning management system or other district programs, to use the technology support form to submit a support request: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KtLKiy3tDEGU4Az1zjSEePHH3UhzI7IDs958K7D4_QlUREpNSVMxWExSMTgx-MEw4QVZTR1RQskpJQS4u.

A technician will respond as soon as possible. You may also call 607-481-2850 and leave a detailed message about your technology issue. Know that the details of the form allow us to assist you better than a voicemail. Our tech staff will respond to the forms or voicemails between 9am and 3pm Monday through Friday.

Note that because return calls are not coming from district phones, calls may appear as Restricted or Unknown. Please note that we are unable to repair devices that are not owned by the district.

Notes from the Nurse

All **prescription medications** and **over-the-counter medications** require a medication administration order form from a physician and a parent signature. The parent or guardian must bring the medication in the original container to the health office. Students may not carry any medication (prescribed or over-the-counter) with the exception of inhalers, epi-pens and diabetic medical supplies.

All 7th Graders and new entrants are required to have a Physical and Dental Certificate. This is a state mandate.

School appraisals/physicals will not be completed due to COVID-19. Please contact your own provider. We encourage parents/guardians to use their own provider to monitor ongoing problems and provide medical consistency.

New York state now requires all schools to request dental health certificates from parents at the same time we require a health certificate (in grades K, 2, 4, 7 and 10).

A Parent's Guide to Horseheads Middle School

What You Need to Know About School Safety & Security



“School safety is the job of the entire school community. This effort requires leadership and coordination by school administration and involvement and participation from all sectors of the school community. Planning, conducting drills and participating in exercises with law enforcement, fire, emergency officials and other members of the school community ensures a comprehensive, unified approach to school emergency response planning. Building relationships and community engagement are vital to building a safer school community.”

- From the New York State Guide to School Emergency Response Planning, September, 2020

Horseheads Middle School adheres to the comprehensive safety plan developed by New York State designed to help school districts prepare and plan for varied emergency circumstances. Advance planning with emergency responders in our district ensures that we are ready to provide the correct, timely response that may be needed.

Students are drilled on procedures and policies throughout the school year. Along with the usual fire drills, there will be practice with emergency drills such as for hold-in-place, lock out and lockdown in the event of an emergency occurring inside or outside of the building. Students are educated in the procedures for these drills; their knowledge of the plan allows them to perform these drills calmly and orderly. Also, our School Resource Officer (SRO) maintains an office at the middle school.

Parents' Bill of Rights for Data Privacy and Security

1. The parent/guardian or eligible student has a right to:
2. inspect and review the student's education records;
3. request that records be amended to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights;
4. consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) authorizes disclosure without consent; and
5. file a complaint with the United States Department of Education alleging failure of the district to comply with FERPA and its regulations. Complaints may be sent to Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY

Safety for our students, staff, and community is a top priority. Visitation to the middle school is very limited. All visitors should come to the main entrance and press a buzzer to alert the Main Office. Visitors will state their purpose for being at the school, and must be let in by the school's Main Office secretaries. If dropping off an item for a student, the item must be left on a cart in the lobby with the student's name.

Reporting Potential Safety Concerns

We provide a safe and confidential way for Middle School students or their parents to report threats of violence, suicide and any illegal activity that could harm students in our school. Information will go directly to the attention of Administration. Each report will be handled and confidentiality maintained. All students will be assigned a gaggle account.

Safety concerns can be sent to: a_safe_hms@gaggle.net

Safe Schools Line

The Horseheads Central School District has an anonymous tip line for students, parents and our community to use to report rumors, tips or other items of concern regarding district schools. The service is available 24 hours, seven days a week. All calls are anonymous, unless the caller wishes to leave their name and number. **Tip Line: 607-795-2044 or 1-800-305-4984.**

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

- Ron Holloway, principal

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

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

SCHOOL SAFETY UPDATE

Emergency drills will still be held this school year. Safety precautions and social distancing protocols will be in place.

HMS Emergency Response Plan

The Horseheads Middle School Building Safety Team has created a multi-faceted response plan for potentially dangerous situations. Our plan is aligned with The Horseheads School District Safety Plan and is developed with the latest information related to school safety. Our teams are trained and committed to ensuring students and staff remain safe at school. Cooperating with local first responders is essential for building safety. Therefore, our building safety plan is reviewed, updated and shared with local first responders on an annual basis.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Drills are held at regular intervals throughout the school year. Students must listen and follow the directions given by their teacher or school official. Students will be trained throughout the year in building safety procedures.

Reinforce the importance of all safety drills with your students. Paying attention and following directions are crucial for everyone's safety.

Questions or concerns related to school building safety can be directed to Principal Ron Holloway at 739-6357.





Tech Support Form

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Character Trait for September

RESPECT

Be courteous and polite. Be tolerant, appreciative and accepting of individual differences. Don't abuse, demean or mistreat anyone. Don't use, manipulate, exploit or take advantage of others.

Cohort A- Picture Day 10/19
Cohort A- Makeup Day 12/7
Cohort B- Picture Day 10/22
Cohort B- Makeup Day 12/10

Remote Students- Picture Day 10/21
Remote Makeup Picture Day 12/9



Teamwork...

...divides the task
and multiplies
the success!



Character Trait for October **Responsibility**

Think before you act. Accept responsibility for the consequences of your choices. Don't make excuses. Don't blame others for your mistakes, or take credit for others' achievements. Keep trying; don't quit or give up easily.

Be diligent and industrious.



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, at (607)795-5320 or dlynch@gstboces.org.



Social / Emotional Health

We are here to help!



In addition to their teachers and teaching assistants, students at Horseheads Middle School have access to staff members trained in social and emotional health services. Although our training does not equip us to conduct in-depth counseling sessions, we are able to assist students and families when social and emotional health needs arise. We encourage students and families to utilize our guidance counselors, social workers, school psychologists, school nurses, school resource officers and school administrators whenever a social or emotional health need arises. We can all be reached by calling 739-6357.

Guidance Counselors: Steve Micknich (A-K) and Marti Clark (L-Z)

School Psychologist: Nicole Marinaccio

Social Workers: Melanie Rahr and Jessica Emanuel

School Nurses: Annette Cobb, Lois Love and Michele Procopio

School Resource Officers: Officer West

School Administrators: Ron Holloway (Principal) and Tom Hoeffner (Assistant Principal)



Educating the Whole Child

Horseheads Middle School consists of a dedicated, knowledgeable and passionate educators whose job it is to **Explore** ways to **Empower** students to **Excel** academically, socially and emotionally.

As adults, we know we do not perform our best when we are stressed, sick or depressed. We cannot expect any different when it comes to our children. Negative emotions and experiences interfere with a student's ability to learn. When students fear failure, doubt themselves or suffer with stress, they are less likely to succeed academically, socially and emotionally.

It is our goal to create a positive building climate where students feel safe and encouraged to participate in their education. Our community also plays a vital role in helping our students succeed. Participation in school programs and supporting our sports and academic events encourages our students to excel academically, socially and emotionally.

Our Parent-Teacher Organization, PTO, is dependent on community involvement to provide our students with various activities and supports throughout the year. We encourage you to join our PTO and assist with the PTO sponsored events throughout the year. You can email Ron Holloway at rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com if you would like to volunteer.

School Notes

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

Lost and Found

Lost your lunchbox? Misplaced your math book? 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.

PARENT PORTAL

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Athletic Office
One Raider Lane • Horseheads,
NY 14845
(607) 739-5601, x4254 • Fax
(607) 795-2440
www.horseheadsdistrict.com

September 14, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students in Grades 7-12:

This notice is to inform you that the Southern Tier Athletic Conference (STAC) has postponed the Fall Sports season. STAC will follow the NYSPHSAA-condensed plan to hold sports seasons beginning **January 4th 2021**. Dates for each season are below.

All fall student athletes must reregister for fall sports according to the dates below. Student athletes will need an updated physical to participate in sports. There currently is no physical waiver for the start of winter sports.

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Fall sports start date: 3/1/21
Fall sports registration opens 1/30/21

Spring sports start date: 4/19/21
Spring sports registration opens 3/20/21

Unified Basketball start date: 4/19/21
Unified Basketball registration opens 3/20/21

Please continue to check our district athletic web page for any new updates. Thank you.

Susan Pirozzolo
Community Information Specialist
Horseheads Central School District
143 Hibbard Rd
Horseheads, NY 14845
(607) 739-5601, x4295
supirozz@horseheadsdistrict.com

Explore • Empower • Excel



Digital Citizen News

September 2020

Learning in a
Socially Distanced
Environment

Volume 4 : Issue 1 - September 2020

Welcome Back! A Grand Reopening Edition - As we begin Year 4 of our DC Initiative

Let's Make the 2020-21 School Year a Great One!

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



"Back to School" used to mean the same thing to most of us - going shopping for new school clothes, and new school supplies, getting a "school" haircut, meeting a new teacher.

This year it will mean a lot of different things to all of us.

Some of us will be going to school 100% virtually and learning remotely like we did last spring.

Some of use may go to school in a hybrid mode with some online/remote class time and some in person time in a socially distanced classroom.

And some of us may be going "old school" with full-time, in-person classes - the way we used to do it.

Whatever mode or method your school may be using we know that this school year will be different for all of us. It will even feel different for your teachers and your principal.

Try to make this year a good year for yourself, your classmates, your teachers, and your parents. And let Digital Citizenship be a big part of it!

For the 2020-2021 school year we will focus on the eight Keys to Digital Citizenship. We will explore the ISTE standards for students, especially the Digital Citizenship standards, which can be found here, <http://go.gstric.org/iste-4-students>

The Keys to Digital Citizenship

-  DIGITAL SAFETY
-  DIGITAL IDENTITY
-  DIGITAL RESPECT
-  DIGITAL COMMUNICATION
-  DIGITAL PRIVACY
-  DIGITAL REPUTATION
-  DIGITAL LITERACY
-  DIGITAL SECURITY

ISTE standards require every student to be a good digital citizen. This means understanding the rights and responsibilities that go along with using modern technology. Beyond that, it requires students to act ethically, legally, and safely online.

It's crucial for students to understand how their personal information works online, not to mention who has access to it. That helps them contextualize the modern world and how it works, particularly when people reference "big data," "data mining," and hacking. By fulfilling these criteria, students can understand the unseen factors that affect their lives every day.



Send comments, suggestions, and questions to dc@gstiboces.org
Visit <http://dc.gstiboces.org>

Volume 4 : Issue 1 - September 2020 - page 1 of 3

The DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP Pledge

I will keep myself SAFE on the Internet

I will keep my information PRIVATE and SECURE

I value my IDENTITY

I will develop a good REPUTATION online

I will COMMUNICATE respectfully

I am not a CYBERBULLY

I am digitally and technologically LITERATE

I will give CREDIT to others for their work

I am a DIGITAL CITIZEN

Part of the GST BOCES Digital Citizenship Initiative
© GST BOCES, Elmira, NY <http://dc.gstboces.org>



NEW TO DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP?

A GOOD PLACE TO START IS WITH OUR PLEDGE.

Each of the lines of the pledge is a positive statement that goes along with the keys to digital citizenship from the front page. We encourage you to read the pledge daily and make it part of your regular routine. As you read each line think of your understanding of the key words.

Which of these topics do you need to learn more about?

Where can you get more information about what it means to be a digital citizen? Ask your teacher or librarian.

You can download a PDF of the pledge and print it from our website at <http://dc.gstboces.org> or using <http://go.gstboces.org/2020-pledge>

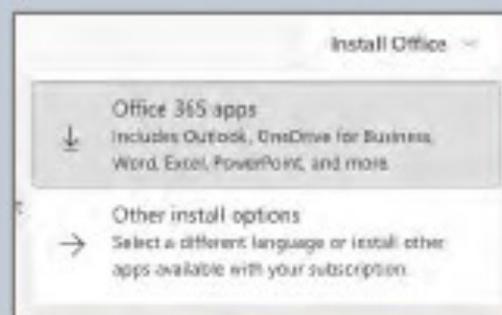
Dear Techie Tom



Dear Techie Tom,

My children are going to be using Microsoft programs for schoolwork and I was wondering if it was possible to install the Microsoft office suite to one of my home devices to allow more flexibility with multiple children using the programs at once? - Melanie C.

Yes, Melanie you can install Microsoft Office on a home device to support your children's work at home. In fact, you can install Office on up to five devices. On the Microsoft Office 365 Portal Home page, at the top right will be a link to Install Office:



Be sure to choose which Office 365 apps to install and follow the prompts to complete the process.

Sincerely,
Techie Tom

*Just a reminder that the school issued username and password will be required to use all Office 365 apps.

Microsoft®
Office 365

<https://www.office.com>



A Student's Guide to Device Maintenance Tips



Power Saving Tips

TIP: Turn off your device when you are not using it. **WHY:** It will stay charged longer!

TIP: Turn off your device before charging it in the cart. **WHY:** It will charge faster, and **WHY:** It will get hot if left on which may damage the device.

TIP: Check for the light to blink once when putting the device in the cart for charging. **WHY:** The light lets you know the charger is connected.



Web Browser Tips

TIP: Use Chrome first, especially for Schoology - Use Edge as a backup. **DO NOT USE:** Internet Explorer. Microsoft is abandoning development on it.



File Saving Tips

TIP: Save your files to your OneDrive. **DON'T** save them directly to your device. **WHY:** If your device needs to be fixed. Your files may get erased. If they are saved to your OneDrive you can access them from anywhere.

TIP: When connecting to your OneDrive use your lastname-firstname@gstbooces.org to login (this will work for all GST districts).



Windows Update Tips

TIP: Windows updates are pushed twice a month - If you see a notification about a restart or a small green square in the right of the bottom taskbar, please restart your device. **WHY:** Updates help your device run better and correct bugs/glitches.



Other Issues or Problem Tips

BEST TIP: If your device isn't working properly - try **RESTARTING** it.

ANOTHER TIP: Let your current teacher/staff member know what is happening.

FINAL TIP: Contact the IT or Tech Services Office. They are there to help.



New App gives local students access to E-books without a Library Card

Thanks to the Sora app all K-12 students in GST BOCES districts now have access to thousands of age-appropriate books electronically, including both their schools and the public library e-book collection.

To learn more about the Sora app, contact your school librarian or visit your school library webpage or the GST School Library webpage at <http://go.gstric.org/school-libraries>.

"Having access to these audiobooks and ebooks electronically means that the library comes to you",

"And the best part is that you can take your books with you on any device."

Mary Ann Munroe
School Library Systems Coordinator
for GST BOCES

**I WEAR MY
TO PROTECT
AS WELL AS**



**MASK
YOU
MYSELF**

**DIGITAL CITIZENS ARE
KNOWLEDGEABLE, RESPONSIBLE,
AND CARING PERSONS USING
TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE GOOD
DECISIONS FOR THE FUTURE**



AT LEAST 6 feet or 2 meters

COMPLIANCE_BASED_ON_SCIENCE



**GST BOCES Digital Citizenship Initiative
Safe Socially Distancing - September 2020
Visit <http://dc.gstboces.org>**



THINK

Your written and verbal communication should be:

- True
- Helpful
- Inspiring
- Necessary
- Kind

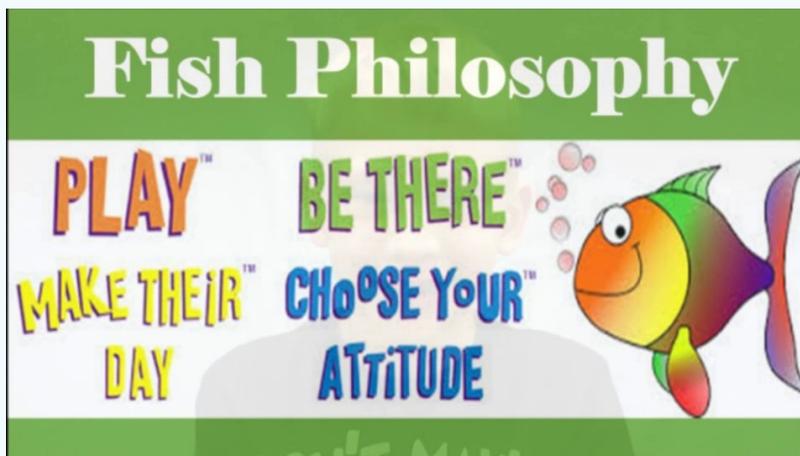
THE RAIDER WAY

Students who follow *The RAIDER WAY* are:

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



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.





"If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is to teach their children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort, and keep on learning. That way, their children don't have to be slaves of praise. They will have a lifelong way to build and repair their own confidence."

— Carol S. Dweck

Ms. Dweck is the Lewis and Virginia Eaton Professor of Psychology at Stanford University

What Kind of Mindset Do You Have?



I can learn anything I want to.
 When I'm frustrated, I persevere.
 I want to challenge myself.
 When I fail, I learn.
 Tell me I try hard.
 If you succeed, I'm inspired.
 My effort and attitude determine everything.



I'm either good at it, or I'm not.
 When I'm frustrated, I give up.
 I don't like to be challenged.
 When I fail, I'm no good.
 Tell me I'm smart.
 If you succeed, I feel threatened.
 My abilities determine everything.

Created by: Reid Wilson @wayfaringpath ©️🌐🌐 Icon from: thenounproject.com

Here at Horseheads Middle School, we strive to build confidence in all of our students, challenge them when they fail, and teach them how to develop a strong work ethic. All students have abilities; we work with them to stretch their minds to see what they can push themselves to accomplish. Effort alone is not enough to develop or strengthen a growth mindset. Trying new strategies, learning who to ask or where to go for direction when stuck are what build a successful student. As the great Albert Einstein said, *"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new"*.



Dignity For All Students Act

New York State’s Dignity for All Students Act (The Dignity Act)

seeks to provide the State’s public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function.

The Horseheads School District Code of Conduct describes harassment as follows:

“Harassment” and/or “bullying” means an intentional act against any student, on school property or at a school function, that creates a hostile environment by conduct, with or without physical contact by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse, including cyberbullying of such a severe nature that it:

- has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student’s educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; or**
- reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety.**
- reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a student; or**
- occurs off school property and creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property.**

“Emotional Harm” that takes place in the context of harassment or bullying shall be defined as harm to a student’s emotional well-being through creation of a hostile school environment that is so severe or pervasive as to unreasonably and substantially interfere with a student’s education. Such conduct shall include, but is not limited to, acts based on a person’s actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.

Continued on next page

**DIGNITY FOR ALL
STUDENTS ACT**



Acts of harassment and bullying shall include, but not be limited to, those acts based upon a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.

At Horseheads Middle School, harassment is not tolerated. Section B of the Prohibited Student Conduct, as listed in the Student Handbook's Code of Conduct, students are subject to disciplinary sanctions. Students will not engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals and health and welfare of others.

If you feel your child is being bullied at school, please contact Principal Ron Holloway immediately at 739-6357.

Safe Schools Hotline - 607-795-2044



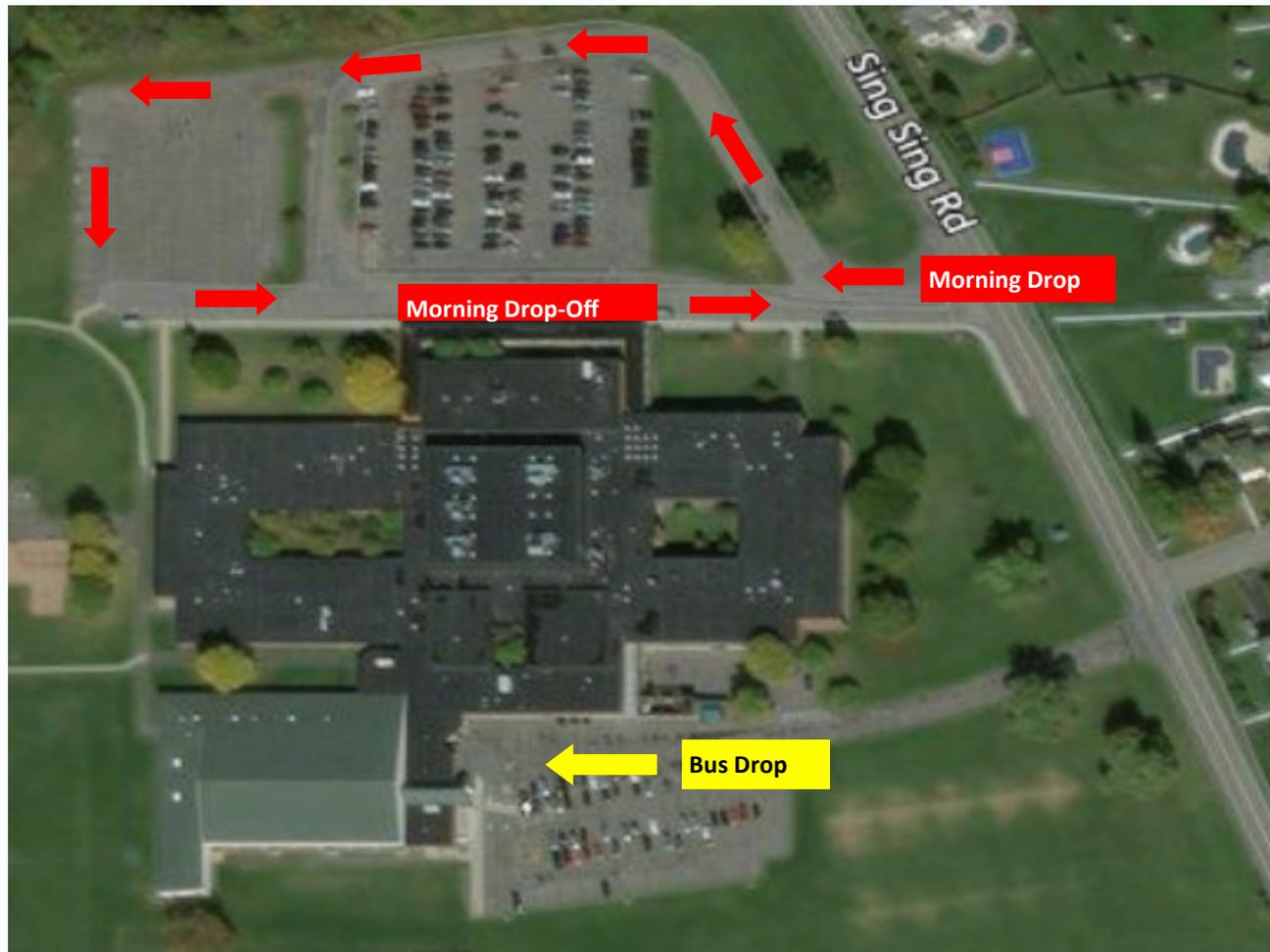
Parking Lot Safety

Due to the large volume of students being dropped off in the morning, the drop-off 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 main entrance to drop off your students. Approximately 10 cars can drop off students simultaneously. Please stay in line.
- 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 on the road.**
- Students should be exiting the car no later than 7:40. This will allow them to arrive in their 1st period class by the 7:45 tardy bell. Drop off early; the closer to 7:40 you get, the more traffic you will experience.

Thank you for your patience and helping our morning drop off go as safely and efficiently as possible.

Note that there is only one driveway into the parking lot, and one driveway out of the parking lot.





Information about Emergency School Closings and 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.

If it is necessary to close or delay schools, the information will be posted on the district's website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com, the district's Facebook pages, Twitter and the local television and radio stations. Horseheads schools now uses SchoolMessenger to alert you of school closings or emergencies. Opt-In from your mobile phone: Just send "Y" or "YES" to 67587.

What You Can Do at Home to Help Students Be Successful

1. Know their friends
2. Provide a distraction-free environment for homework
3. Provide them with organizational tools and teach them how to use them
4. Monitor Parent Portal and encourage them to do the same
5. Teach them to self-advocate
6. Help them recognize their “stressors”
7. Encourage their curiosity
8. Be a positive role model
9. Teach them to think creatively
10. Be there for them



Horseheads Middle School:



Home of the Raider Way