

Horseheads Middle School

September, 2019



The Safety Issue

Contact Us!

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

A Parent's Guide to Horseheads Middle School

What You Need to Know About School Safety & Security

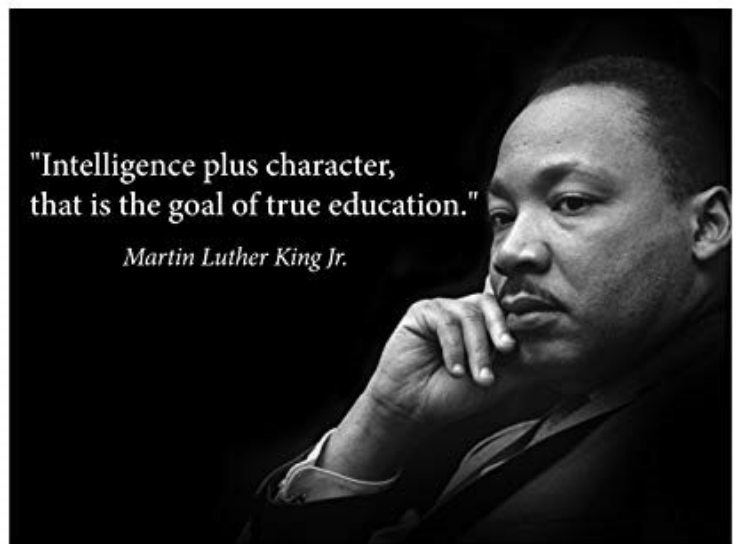
At Horseheads Middle School, we are committed to providing an excellent education for all students within a nurturing environment. The educational demands on our students continue to increase as we prepare them for careers and college. Through rigorous and relevant instruction, we provide the learning opportunities necessary for success in middle school, high school and life beyond graduation.

Horseheads Middle School operates within the framework and fundamental characteristics of our **Raider Way**, **THINK** and **Growth Mindset** programs. We also encourage our staff to practice the FISH Philosophy, which includes the four simple principles of **Make Their Day**, **Choose Your Attitude**, **Be There** and **Play**.

Increasingly, there is a growing need to prepare our students mentally and physically for the current times we live in. As a team, we need to take a closer look at safety, security and body and mind health issues.

In this month's newsletter, we will outline some basic principles to empower parents and students to achieve the most complete and successful educational experience.

If, at any time, you have questions or concerns regarding our school or your student's experiences, please contact us.





SAFETY

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.

PTO Spirit Wear Sale Begins Online September 12th.

ORDER BY
SEPTEMBER
26

HORSEHEADS HIGH SCHOOL
HORSEHEADS MIDDLE SCHOOL

 \$21.00 BSN SPORTS PHENOM LS T- SHIRT Available in 2 other colors.	 \$18.00 BSN SPORTS Phenom Short Sleeve T-Shirt Available in 2 other colors.	 \$36.75 BSN SPORTS Recruit Hoodie Available in 1 other color.	 \$21.00 BSN SPORTS Women's Phenom LS T- Shirt Available in 2 other colors.	 \$18.00 BSN SPORTS Women's Phenom SS T- Shirt Available in 2 other colors.
 \$36.75 BSN SPORTS Women's Recruit Hoodie Available in 1 other color.	 \$17.25 BSN SPORTS Youth Phenom SS Tee Youth Available in 2 other colors.	 \$32.00 BSN Sports Youth Recruit Hood Youth Available in 1 other color.	 \$47.00 Nike Club Fleece Hoodie Available in 1 other color.	 \$23.00 Nike Core Long Sleeve Cotton T- Shirt Available in 2 other colors.

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No orders will be accepted after the deadline.

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Horseheads CSD Staff Perform Random Acts of Kindness



Mr. Hoeffner treats a first responder to a Lifesaver.



Mr. Holloway treating a customer to sweet treats at the Arnot Mall



Horseheads Administrators treat an employee to a free lunch at Subway.



Horseheads Administrators preparing washers for free loads of laundry.



DO
SOMETHING
GOOD
EVERY DAY

THINK

**THINK:
THE RAIDER WAY**

Your written and verbal communication should be:

- True
- Helpful
- Inspiring
- Necessary
- Kind

THE RAIDER WAY

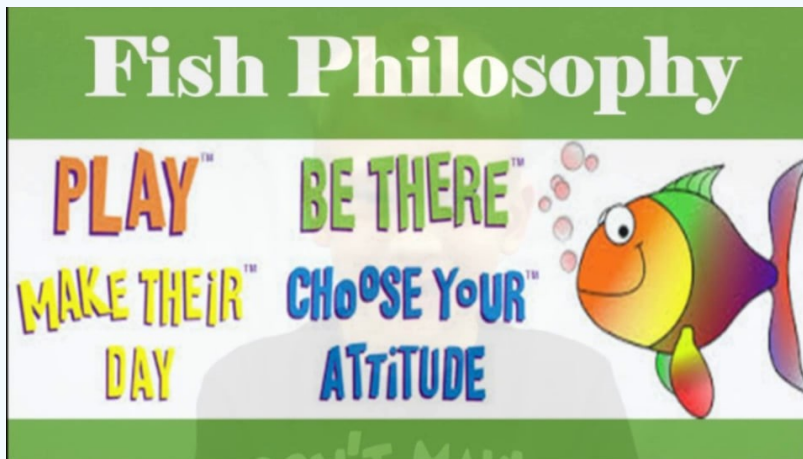
Students who follow *The RAIDER WAY* are:

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



The Four Principles of the Fish Philosophy:

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.





GROWTH MINDSET

"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 © ④ ⑤ ⑥ 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"*.

SCHOOL SAFETY UPDATE

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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.



SAFETY & SECURITY

MIDDLE SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY

Safety for our students, staff, and community is a top priority. All visitors must come to the middle school 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.

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.**

Please provide as many details as possible so we can better address your concern.

“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



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](#)



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

Middle School Open House

Thursday, September 12, is our first Open House from **6:30 to 8:00 PM**. This is an open format where you can meet our teachers, tour our school and learn about various opportunities for our students and parents. Teachers will also provide a handout describing their course expectations and procedures, as well as a general overview of the material students will learn.

EMOTIONAL HEALTH SCREENINGS AVAILABLE FOR ALL CHEMUNG COUNTY YOUTH AGES 4-21

It is important to regularly check on your child's emotional health. A child who does not feel well emotionally can become physically sick; physical illness can affect emotional health. In any event, it is more difficult for a child who does not feel well to be interested in going to school or succeeding in school. When emotional health concerns are dealt with early, we can help young people get the most out of their education and lead happy, productive lives.

Good emotional health leads to good relationships, good decisions, an ability to deal with life's challenges, an interest in school and improved physical health.

Emotional health issues can affect school performance, physical health, personal relationships and actions toward others.

Completing an emotional health screening is a simple effective way to look at a child's emotional development. To participate in the screening, complete a consent form and the emotional health screening for your child. **Forms are available on the school district website; www.horseheadsdistrict.com, then click on Middle School. Completed forms can be sent to Family Services of Chemung County, 1019 East Water St., Elmira, NY, 14901, ATTN: Marilyn Cristofaro.**

For additional information contact: Marilyn Cristofaro, Community Mental Health Program Coordinator at Family Services of Chemung County, 607-733-5696.



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)





If you're like most people, you and your student may use multiple digital devices everyday. But what about digital safety?

DOCTOR DIGITAL is here to help! *Digital Citizen News*, a publication of BOCES, offers tips and news to help us navigate the digital world. Don't miss an issue! Click on the link below:

<http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/digcitnews.cfm>

Reprinted with permission from Digital Citizen News.



Attorney and child advocate **Parry Aftab** advises that parents work on developing their child's "filter between the ears." Some general guidelines:

- Limit kids' leisure time online to under an hour and a half a day, including time spent text-messaging via cell phone.
- Talk to kids about the dangers of offline meetings with strangers who have contacted them via the Internet.
- Use software to filter inappropriate sites for young teens.
- Keep young kids off social networks and dating sites.
- Consider giving kids more leeway on the friends they can accept on chat, IM, or as email buddies, but ensure that you know their offline identities. No friends of friends.
- Filter or block image searches, which can be a way around many filters.
- Block peer-to-peer technologies and teach kids not to download pirated software, movies or music.
- Password theft is a problem at this age, so teach kids to guard passwords.
- Try to keep the computer in a central location, and watch kids' behavior with interactive devices such as cell phones and interactive gaming gadgets like Xbox Live. If these devices include parental controls, as Xbox Live does, use the controls. But be aware that even with the controls in place, these games can be risky for young teens because they enable users to chat with strangers.

Source: <https://www.cnet.com/news/developing-safe-and-smart-internet-citizens/>

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.

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

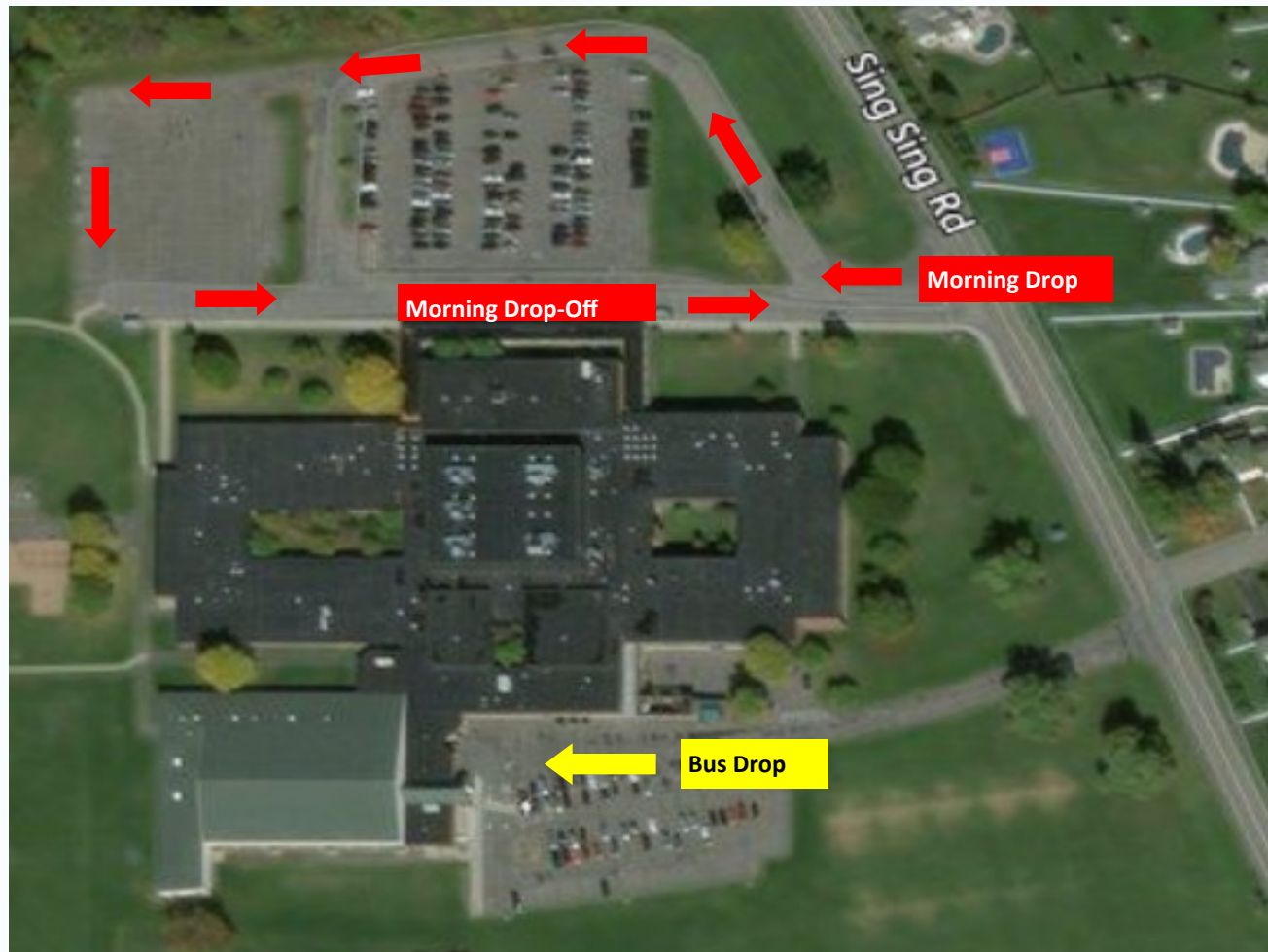


Parking Lot Safety

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.

The road in front of the Middle School has been re-designed to improve safety and traffic flow.



aimsweb Plus is a reliable computer-based screening assessment, which is administered in the fall, winter and spring. Beginning September 16th, students will be taking the fall 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.

What's Happening at HMS

9/4/19

**1st Day of School
7:45 am - 3:05 pm**

9/10/19

**8th Grade Raider Way Presentation
During Lunch/Study Time**

9/11/19

**7th Grade Raider Way Presentation
During Lunch/Study Time**

9/12/19

**PTO Meeting
5:30 pm - Library**

**OPEN HOUSE
6:30 - 8:00 pm**

9/13/19

**Character Assembly
8:00 am**

9/20/19

Picture Day

10/1/19

8th Grade Panoramic Photo

10/8/19

1st Progress Report Issued



HORSEHEADS -

NAKAGAWA



SISTER CITIES
EXCHANGE

The Horseheads Sister City Association is delighted to announce the 2020 exchange trip with Nakagawa, Japan. Students in 8th-11th grade interested in travel to Japan through the exchange program can pick up an application packet in the school guidance office. Applications are due January 6, 2020. **An informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 7:00pm in the Middle School Library.**

We are also seeking energetic and caring families with students in grades 7th, 8th or 9th grade to host two Japanese students during their Oct. 28-Nov. 2 2019 visit to Horseheads. If you are interested in becoming a host family this fall, please contact Kelly Murray at kmurray@horseheadsdistrict.com.

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

PARENT PORTAL

If you have not already signed up, please visit our Guidance Office. You will be asked to complete a short form and present identification. If you have questions, please call Karen McLain at 739-5601, x4251 or email kmclain@horseheadsdistrict.com.

The URL for the **computer browser** is:
<https://schooltool.horseheadsdistrict.com>

The URL for the **mobile app** is:
<https://schooltool.horseheadsdistrict.com/sthhweb>



If your child is absent from school, it is possible for you to request assignments for your child. Contact the Main Office prior to 10:00 am on the day you wish to have the assignments. The assignments may be picked up between 3:15 and 4:00 pm.



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. We encourage parents to sign-up for Parent Portal to help keep track of your student's progress between the reporting periods.

Honor Roll: 85.0 cumulative average

Failing Grade: 64.0 or lower in any course

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.



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.

NOTICE

District Dignity Act Coordinator

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Central School District is Caitlin DeFilippo, director of Human Resources. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Caitlin DeFilippo, at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601 x 4211 or at cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Middle School Dignity Act Coordinator

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Middle School is Ron Holloway, building principal. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Mr. Holloway at 950 Sing Sing Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845; 739-6357 x 3640 or at rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Notice

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Caitlin DeFilippo, Title IX/DASA Coordinator, and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

This policy of non-discrimination includes access by students to educational programs, counseling services, course offerings, and activities, as well as recruitment and appointment of employees and employment pay, benefits, advancement and/or termination.

Horseheads Middle School:



Home of the Raider Way