

# Horseheads Middle School

September, 2018



*The Safety Issue*

**Contact Us!**

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

## A Parent's Guide to Horseheads Middle School

### *What You Need to Know About School Safety & Security*

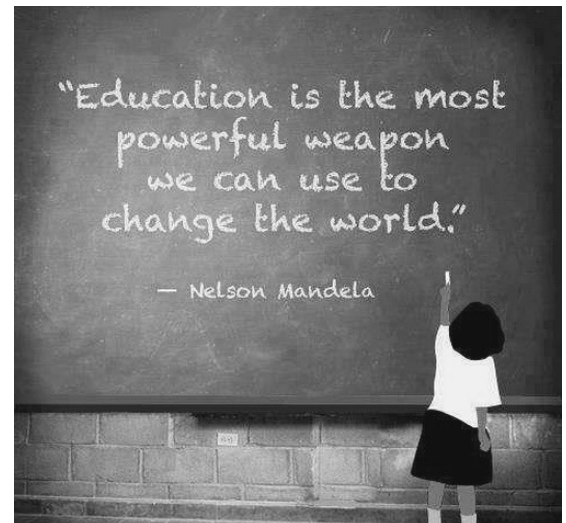
At Horseheads Middle School, we are committed to providing an excellent education for all students within a nurturing environment. The educational demands on our students continue to increase as we prepare them for careers and college. Through rigorous and relevant instruction, we provide the learning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



# ***THINK***

**THINK  
THE RAIDER WAY**

Your written and verbal communication should be:

- True
- Helpful
- Inspiring
- Necessary
- Kind

# **THE RAIDER WAY**

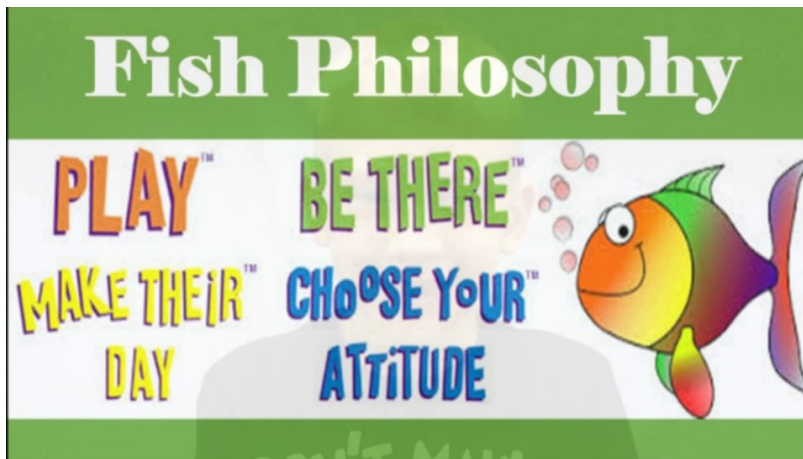
Students who follow *The RAIDER WAY* are:

- 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 everyday! 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.



## SCHOOL SAFETY UPDATE

### BUILDING SAFETY

## 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 Ron Holloway at 739-6357.



## 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](mailto:a_safe_hms@gaggle.net)

### Anonymous Tip 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](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com).
- Questions about our website or social media? E-mail [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com)

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



## **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.**

**Safe Schools Hotline - 607-795-2044**

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

## EMOTIONAL

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](http://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 and Michele Procopio

School Resource Officers: Officer West and Officer Leipham

School Administrators: Ron Holloway (Principal) and Rance Sechrist (Assistant Principal)





## DIGITAL

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.

On our website, click on "departments", then "technology" to see more issues of *Digital Citizen News*.

*Reprinted with permission from Digital Citizen News.*



## Helping to Develop the "Filter Between The Ears"

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 in appropriate 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/>



# FAMILY

## 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



Access our  
**Parent Portal**

### 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](mailto:kmclain@horseheadsdistrict.com).



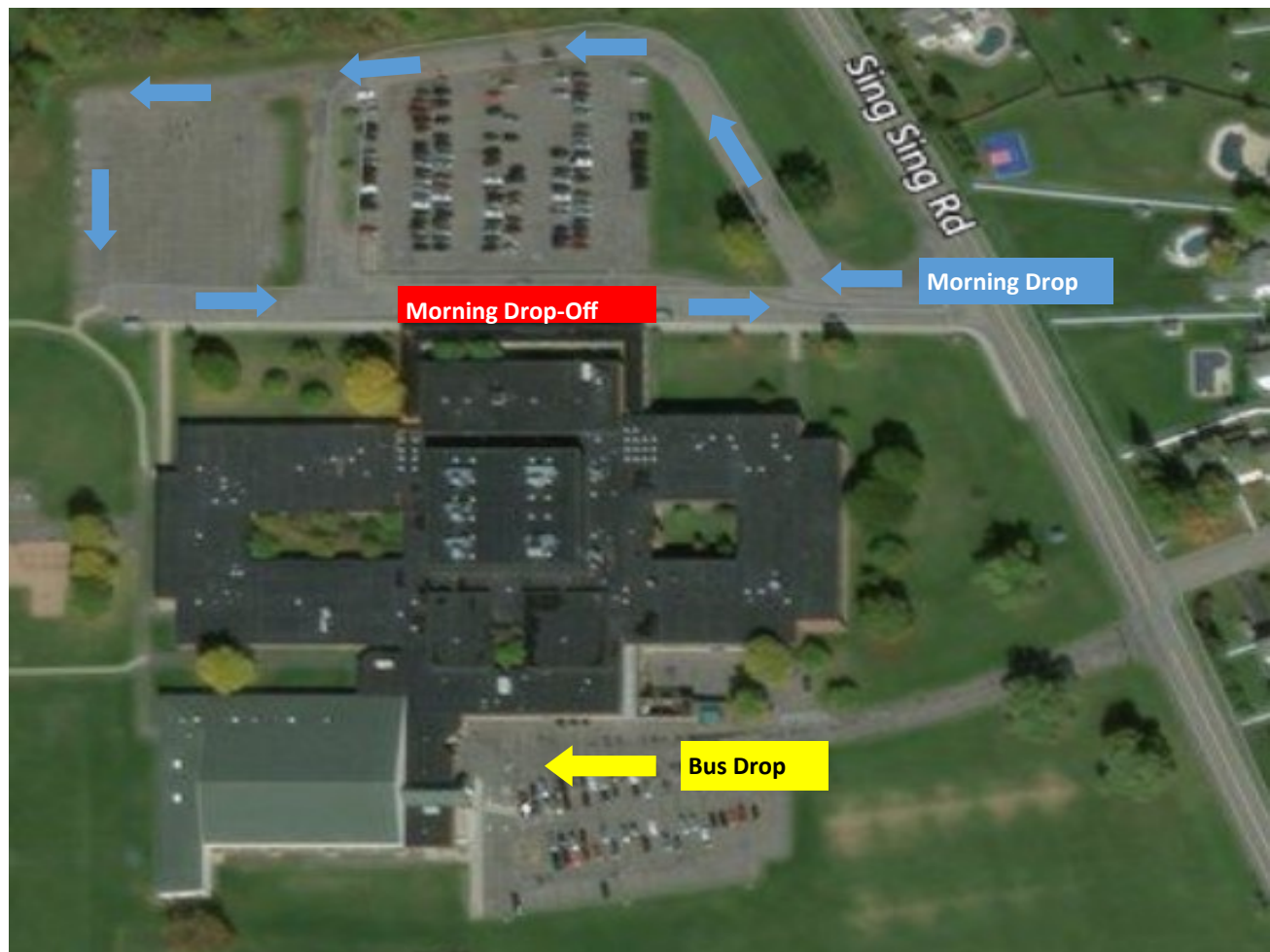
## PARKING LOT SAFETY

### 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.**
- Traffic increases the closer to 7:40 am you drop off your students. Therefore, dropping off early will help.

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



## District Dignity Act Coordinator

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Central School District is Megan Collins, director of Human Resources. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Mrs. Collins, at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601 x 4211 or at [mcollins@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:mcollins@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 [rho\\_loway@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:rho_loway@horseheadsdistrict.com).

## Notice

*The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to gender, race, color, national origin, or disability. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Megan Collins, Title IX/DASA Coordinator, and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kim Williams, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.*

### What's Happening at HMS

**9/5/18**

**1st Day of School**

**7:45 am - 3:05 pm**

**9/11/18**

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

**9/12/18**

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

**9/13/18**

**Character Assembly**

**8:00 am**

**PTO Meeting**

**5:30 pm - Library**

**OPEN HOUSE**

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

**9/21/18**

**Picture Day**

**11/1/18**

**Horseheads/Nakagawa Sister City  
Informational Session  
7:00 pm  
MS Library**

