

# Horseheads Middle School

September, 2023



*The Safety Issue*

## Contact Us!

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

### What's Happening at HMS

**9/7/23 PTO Meeting**  
**5:30pm in the Library**

**9/7/23 Open House**  
**6:00 - 7:30pm**

**9/15/23 Picture Day**

**9/18/22-9/21/23 Aimsweb Plus Testing**

**9/29/23 Raider Day**  
***Wear Blue & White!***

**10/9/22 Columbus Day**  
**No School**

**10/11/22 Progress Reports Distributed**

Free Breakfast & Lunch  
for Pre-K Through 8th Grade!  
Please see page 7 for more details.

## Welcome Back!

The beginning of a new school year is an exciting time for our students. Seeing old friends and making new ones, and comparing class schedules and lunchtimes. Students will have many new challenges as the year commences.

Safety and security are not usually the first thing a student thinks about when returning to school. But we want our students to be prepared in the event of any kind of emergency, so safety drills will be taught and practiced regularly.

“See Something, Say Something” is a program we utilize for students to safely and anonymously report suspicious activity. Students can email either Mr. Holloway or Mr. Hoeffner to report someone or something that is of concern to them.

This issue is designed to bring awareness and important information to our families. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at: (607) 739-6357.

**See our new drop-off and pick-up  
procedures on page 2.**

## Online District Calendar

To see district and school events in 2023-24, click the link: [Calendar 2023-24](#). The district will not be printing a multi-page calendar.

# New Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures

Due to the large volume of students being dropped off and picked up, the 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 entrance to drop off your student
- ⇒ Approximately ten cars can drop off simultaneously
- ⇒ Please use caution when utilizing the passing lane to pull around cars dropping off students
- ⇒ Students should exit the vehicle as soon as it is safely stopped
- ⇒ Please be sure students have all of their belongings ready to go

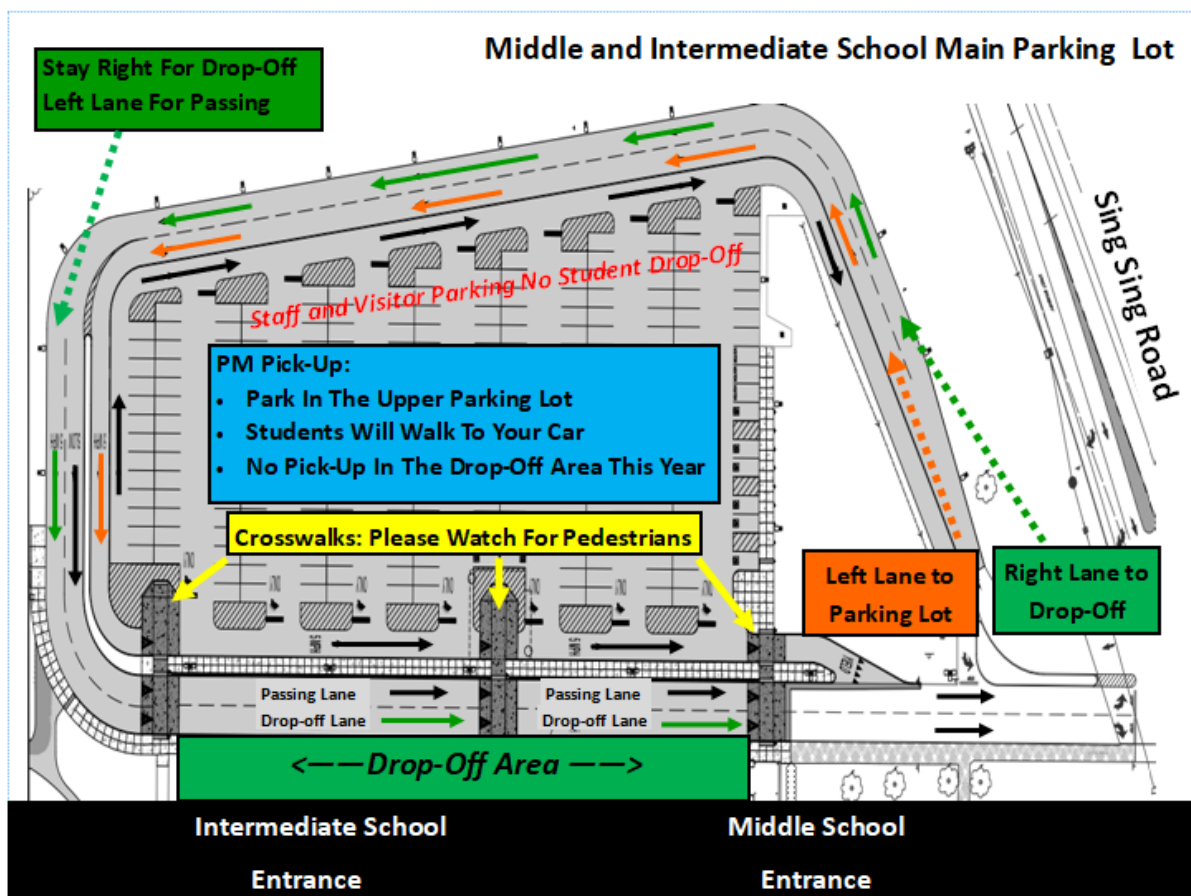
- **Do not drop students off in the staff or visitor parking lots**

- **Do not drop students off on Sing Sing Road**

- **Students should walk in the door no later than 7:40 to avoid being late to first period**

**New pick-up procedures this year.** We will no longer use the drop-off lane for our afternoon pick-up.

- Please park in the upper parking lot and wait for your student to walk to your car
- Using a consistent parking spot or general area, will help facilitate the pick-up process
- Students will cross to the parking lot using the crosswalk nearest the intermediate school



# A Parent's Guide to Horseheads Middle School

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



**“S**chool 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 an appropriate and timely response to emergencies.

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 taught building safety procedures so they are able to respond in a calm and orderly manner, should an emergency situation arise.

### **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.

# Preventive, Proactive & Responsive

## *Safety and Security at Horseheads Middle School*

September 2023 — The Safety Issue

Contact Us!

607-739-6357

[Horseheadsdistrict.com/HHMS.cfm](http://Horseheadsdistrict.com/HHMS.cfm)



*“The safety of our students is paramount”*

Dr. Tom Douglas, Horseheads District Superintendent

## Welcome Back Students

Welcome back students, parents and guardians! We hope you all had a wonderful summer break and are refreshed and ready for a new school year. To paraphrase the above quote from Dr. Douglas, student safety is our number one priority here at the middle school. Students can only learn if they feel safe and secure within these walls. Our administration continues to work diligently to promote safety each and every day.

We encourage you to remain involved in your students' education during their early adolescent years. 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.

— Mr. Holloway, Principal

— Mr. Tom Hoeffner, Assistant Principal

## Sister City Organization

The Horseheads Sister City Association is delighted to announce the 2024 exchange trip with Nakagawa, Japan. Students in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade interested in early summer travel to Japan through the exchange program can pick up an application packet in the school guidance office. Applications are due January 8, 2024. **An informational meeting will be held in early November, please look out for more information.**

We are also seeking energetic and caring families with students in grades 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade to host two Japanese students during the Oct. 28 - Nov. 1, 2023 visit to Horseheads. If you are interested in becoming a host family this fall, or in the future, please contact Kelly Murray at [kmurray@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:kmurray@horseheadsdistrict.com).

Our HSCA committee welcomes any adult volunteers willing to help organize/assist with exchange events during the fall visit. Please contact Kelly Murray at [kmurray@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:kmurray@horseheadsdistrict.com) if you are interested in assisting.



# ***Preventive, Proactive & Responsive***

## ***District and Building Safety Teams***

### ***Transportation***

### ***Points of Entry***



## **Middle School**

## **Transportation**

### **Building Safety Team**

The Building Safety Team at the Middle School consists of teachers, our school nurse, our SRO and our administration.

The mission of the Building Safety Team is to examine, plan and implement safety precautions and plans to keep our students safe in the middle school building.

### **District Bus Garage**

All Horseheads School District busses have:

- up-to-date cameras, so footage from a run may be used to verify a complaint
- Bus numbers painted on their roofs for air surveillance
- Updated 2-way radios on board to communicate with the garage and other busses and schools
- All the latest safety and technology on board

## **Emergency Response**

## **School Building Points of Entry**

### **Emergency Response Team**

The purpose of the Emergency Response Team at the Middle School is to quickly respond to medical emergencies in our building. A medical emergency is anything that requires an immediate response from trained personnel. Each team member is assigned a specific role to ensure a rapid, coordinated response.

### **Entrance to all District Buildings**

All school buildings have:

- School doors that are locked the entire day
- Door locks that can be programmed to unlock for special events and lock again after the event
- Our new Raptor system to screen our building visitors



# *Preventive, Proactive & Responsive*

## *Drills*

## *Social/Emotional Learning Environment (SEL)*

## *Safe Schools Line*

## *See Something, Say Something*



### **Raptor**

#### **Precautionary Drills practiced at all schools:**

This is a new school visitor management system to be used during the school day. All school visitors are required to provide their government-issued driver's license or other government issued ID card. The Main Office secretaries will scan the license or ID and produce a badge and name tag with the visitor's name and photo and where they are visiting within the building.

### **SEL**

#### **Social/Emotional Learning programs:**

- SEL Standards
- Support Staff
- Welcoming and Affirming Environment
- Crisis Teams
- Therapeutic Crisis Intervention
- Character Education Pillars

### **Safe Schools Line**

**Available 24/7:**

**SAFE  
SCHOOLS  
LINE**

795-2044 or  
1-800-305-4984

if you  
**SEE** | **SAY**  
something | something

**Call The Safe Schools Line**  
**607-795-2044 or 1-800-305-4984**

**Mr. Holloway**

[rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com)

**Mr. Hoeffner**

[thoeffner@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:thoeffner@horseheadsdistrict.com)



# Middle School News

*What's Happening!*



## 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)

*"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**



*aimsweb* Plus is a reliable computer-based screening assessment, which is administered in the fall, winter and spring. Beginning September 19th, 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.

## 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 appreciated!

Contact the school at: 739-6357

**Want to Donate? Use the VENMO code below.**



venmo  
@HMSPTO

## Free Breakfast & Lunch for PK - 8

Students in grades PK-8 will receive one free lunch. This includes the entree, three fruits or vegetables, and a milk. Juice counts as a fruit choice. They will pay for any ala carte items, a second entrée, or a second meal. They will also be able to get one free complete breakfast meal, paying for any ala carte items.

## SCHOOL SAFETY UPDATE

*Emergency drills are held  
throughout each school year.*

### 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.





# 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 school 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.

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

School Psychologist: Nicole Kelley

Social Worker: Kristin Sternquist

Assistant Social Worker: Melanie Rahr

School Nurse: Annette Cobb, RN and Nicole Jackson, LPN

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](mailto:rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com) if you would like to volunteer.



# School Notes

*What you Need to Know*



## 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.

<b>Distinguished High Honor Roll</b>	<b>95-100</b>
<b>High Honor Roll</b>	<b>90-94.99</b>
<b>Honor Roll</b>	<b>85-89.99</b>
<b>Failing Grade</b>	64.0 or lower in any course

A failing grade or incomplete in any class eliminates the student from the Honor Roll.

**Progress Report Cards Issued October 11, 2023**

## 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.

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.

## 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

If you have not already signed up, please visit the District webpage. 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>



# Beginning of the Year Info.

*What you need to know!*



## 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.

## Character Trait of the Month

### 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.



## 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@gstbooces.org](mailto:dlynch@gstbooces.org).



## ***Horseheads Central School 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](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com)
- **District Facebook pages** (the district and all seven schools have pages)
- **Twitter** - @HhdsSchools
- **Local television and radio stations:**
  - o TV - WENY, WETM, Spectrum Cable News
  - o 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.

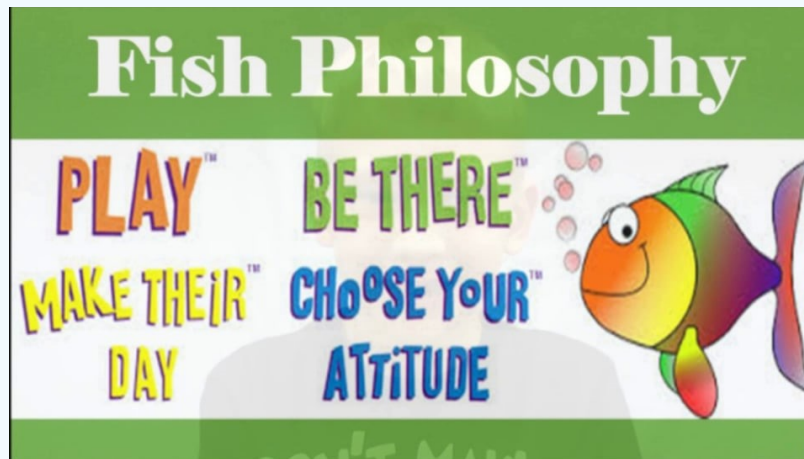
### ***School/District Communication***

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.



## 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.





*Make it a great day,*



*the Raider Way!*

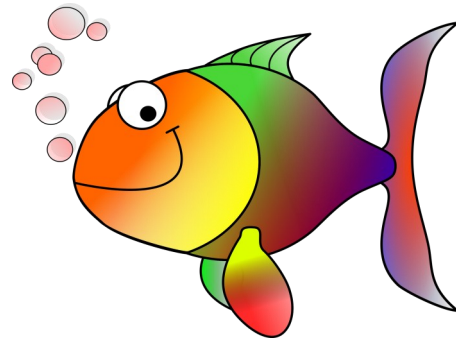
*Raider Way:*



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

*Fish Philosophy:*

- Choose Your Attitude
- Make Their Day
- Be There
- Play



*Think:*

Before you say or do anything:

- *T - Is it true?*
- *H - Is it helpful?*
- *I - Is it inspiring?*
- *N - Is it necessary?*
- *K - Is it kind ?*



"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

**H**ere 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"*.

## **Pesticide Application**

New York State Education Law Section 409-H, effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty and staff, regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The Horseheads School District is required to maintain a registry of persons in parental relation, faculty and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are **not** subject to prior notification requirements:

- A school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72 hours following an application
- Anti-microbial products
- Nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children
- Nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children
- Boric acid and di-sodium octaborate tetrahydrate
- The application of EPA designated biopesticides
- The application of EPA designated exempt materials under Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 152.25

The use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects, including venomous spiders, bees, wasps and hornets. In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good-faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification registry.

If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please complete the attached form and return it to Tony Stager, the Horseheads School District pesticide representative at: Horseheads School District, Facilities Services, 507 Fletcher Street, Horseheads, NY 14845. You may also fax this form to (607)795-2595.

Please note: Four times per year via newsletter or equivalent, a written announcement concerning impending pesticide applications, pesticide use, "emergency" applications and any other associated pesticide use will be provided. This will occur at the beginning of the school year, at the end of the winter recess, the end of the spring recess and the end of the school year. Please feel free to contact Tony Stager at the District Safety Office at 739-5601 ext. 4270 if you have any questions or require further information concerning these requirements.

### **Forty-eight Hour Pesticide Application Prior Notification Form**

**Is email an appropriate method for notifying you of an impending pesticide application? Yes/No**

If not, you will receive a brief notification letter 48 hours prior to an impending pesticide application. Every effort will be made to ensure the notification reaches you 48 hours (or more) in advance of the pesticide application. This time may vary slightly due to postal conditions beyond the control of the district.

### **Horseheads School District Request for Pesticide Application Notification**

**School Building (or field)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name & Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone or Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

Return to the Main Office, or mail to Horseheads Middle School, 950 Sing Sing Road, Horseheads, NY 14845.



## **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 Line - 607-795-2044**





## Parents/Guardians:

### You can take advantage of our 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™](#), 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**

#### **Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes:**

SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a “text message”. Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as “short code” texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you’ve ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

**\*Terms and Conditions** – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See [schoolmessenger.com/txt](http://schoolmessenger.com/txt) for more info.



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### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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***