



**HORSEHEADS MIDDLE SCHOOL
OCTOBER 2017**

VOTE OCTOBER 17!

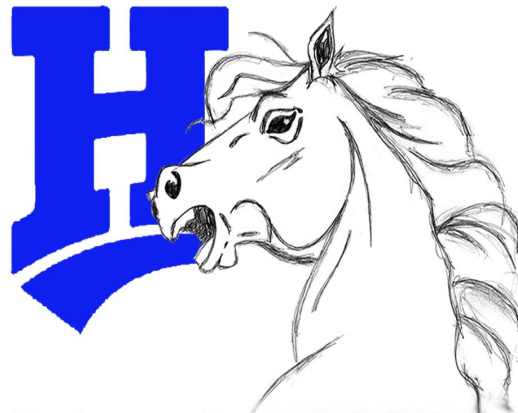
The Board of Education has approved a capital referendum for October 17, 2017. Voters will consider a \$94,685,637 capital project affecting all district schools and elect one to the Board of Education to fill an unexpired term. The vote is Tuesday, October 17, 7am to 9pm, at the Horseheads High School South Gym. Please click this link for more information: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/hh2030.cfm>.

Questions? Email hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or call (607) 739-5601, x4295.

Thank You Parents! Open House 2017

A big thank you to all for coming to our Open House on September 27! It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and to meet our new families. Please let us know what you thought about our Open House format this year by e-mailing Ron Holloway at rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com. We hope it made it easier for you to see your child's teachers and receive valuable information in a more relaxed manner. Many thanks to our PTO for a successful Spaghetti Dinner and to our multiple community agencies that provided information to our families.

With your continuing support, we will make this a productive year for your middle-schooler. As always, feel free to call the school with questions you may have at 739-6357.



Explore Empower Excel

Middle School Calendar

Monday, October 9	Columbus Day-No School
Tuesday, October 10	Progress Reports Issued
Friday, October 20	Conference Day- No School
Friday, October 27	Dance & Open Gym 7:00-9:00



From the office of
NYS SENATOR
TOM O'MARA



State Funding for Sing Sing Road Safety Improvement Project

School officials credit State Senator Tom O'Mara for securing \$230,000 in state aid to assist plan for improved safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists

Horseheads Central School District officials announced that State Senator Tom O'Mara (R,C,I-Big Flats) has secured \$230,000 in this year's state budget to assist the school's plans to improve safety along County Route 17 (Sing Sing Road) in front of the Horseheads Middle and Intermediate schools.

"I'm very grateful to have this opportunity to help support this project and applaud the Horseheads Central School District for working closely with Chemung County to take the initiative and recognize this critical need for improved safety," said O'Mara, Vice Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee. "The project's completion will ease traffic congestion in the area and enhance safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists."

"We would like to thank Senator O'Mara for his assistance in securing this important funding," said Dr. Thomas J. Douglas, Horseheads superintendent of schools. "We'd also like to thank Andy Avery and Chemung County for partnering with the district to improve safety for our students, staff, residents, and motorists along Sing Sing Road. Safety is paramount, and the traffic congestion along Sing Sing Road has been a long-standing issue. We are proud to be moving forward, thanks to Senator O'Mara and Chemung County."

School officials have been working closely with Chemung County leaders to develop the plan, which calls for the addition of turning lanes, wider shoulders, and improved striping and signage. School expansions over the years have compromised the road's use capacity and caused increasing traffic delays as well as safety concerns for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.

"This has been a safety concern for a long time so we are grateful to be able to resolve this problem and improve safety for the whole community," said Chemung County Executive, Tom Santulli. "Chemung County would like to thank Senator O'Mara for his hard work in securing aid to fund this important project."

The estimated cost of the improvement project is \$230,000 including design, construction, and inspection. Construction is expected to get underway in Spring 2018 and be completed during the summer.

The county will be the lead agency for the project and maintain the roadway in the future.

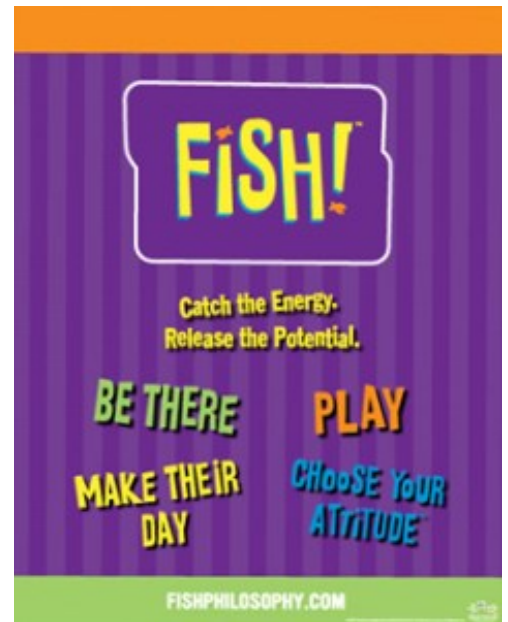
The "Fish"monger's Philosophy

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.



Construction Update

Wonder what all that commotion was in the Middle School while you were here for H.O.P. this summer? Well, construction crews have been busy all summer long, working hard to improve our school! New wireless technology has been installed throughout the building, along with new ceiling supports, tiles and LED lights. The Fieldhouse has a new hardwood floor. A new softball field, complete with two dugouts and a concession stand, has been built behind the Fieldhouse. A big shout out to our custodial staff, who made our school shine from floors to windows! Many thanks to all staff for a tremendous job!

Have a Great Day, the Raider Way!



As we begin another new school year, we will again be asking our students to THINK. The Horseheads Middle School THINK campaign encourages our students to THINK about the following five questions before speaking or acting:

1. Is it True?
2. Is it Helpful?
3. Is it Inspiring?
4. Is it Necessary?
5. Is it Kind?



Utilizing the THINK campaign and our district's character education traits, our students will continue to develop into good school citizens that follow the Horseheads Middle School "Raider Way" and the Horseheads Central School District "Raider Nation."

In addition to our *THINK and Raider Way* programs, students have been introduced to the *FISH Philosophy*. The *FISH Philosophy* helps create a positive teaching and learning environment for students and staff. The four principles include: **Be There, Make Their Day, Choose Your Attitude and Play**. We will investigate each of these principles in our upcoming Raider Way Presentations with students and future faculty meetings with teachers.

Our Middle School PTO is instrumental in communicating our character education expectations to our students. Again this year, the PTO sponsored our Three-Screen Character Education Assembly. This year's assembly, *WORTH IT*, was an interactive multi-media assembly that encouraged students to strive each day to attain their personal best. *WORTH IT!* Demonstrated to our students that the choices they make today will directly affect their future. They will were taught to take control of the decisions they make, and that through perseverance and self-discipline, they can make the right choices - choices that will lead them to success in school and in life. We would like to thank our PTO for their continued support.

Explore

Empower

Excel

Middle School Musical

We are excited about our school musical this year, Peter Pan. The show is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, February 1st and 2nd at 7PM and our performances will be at the HS Auditorium. The cast will rehearse Tuesday evenings from 6:30PM until 8:30PM. The rehearsals will increase by one hour (6PM-9PM) as needed in January. The show features a flexible cast of 30 students. There is a variety of solo singing and solo/group dancing featured. We will also need 10 students for the technical crew.



Students will audition for the cast on Tuesday, October 10th, from 6PM-9PM in the MS Cafeteria. Any MS student is eligible to audition. Students may attend two read-through sessions prior to auditions. These sessions

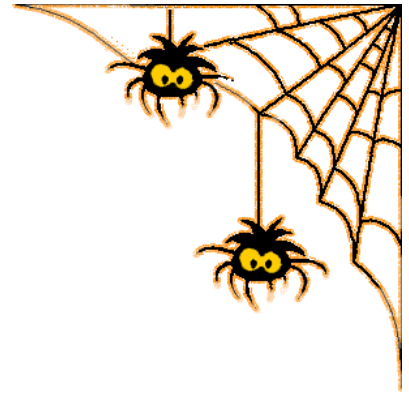


Technology Guild

The Technology Guild is an extracurricular activity that lets students expand their interest in working with tools and machines through various project-based activities. Some previous activities include hot air balloons, CO2 race cars, model rockets, Maglev, mousetrap vehicles, catapults and solar sprint cars. For each activity the student will learn to design, build and operate their device. Students do not need to be in a Technology class to be eligible to participate.

The Guild meets Thursdays during odd-day 10th periods and after school until 4:30. Members do not have to commit to both 10th period and after school if they have other commitments and may suspend their membership during sports seasons. Technology Guild Advisors are Mrs. Patelnas and Mr. Steele.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



Science Olympiad is a series of individual and team events for which students prepare from early October until the competition in February. The competitions follow the format of popular board games, TV shows and athletic events. These challenges and motivational events are based on the various science and technology disciplines such as biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, computers and engineering.

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

Science Olympiad Volunteers

If you have knowledge of a particular area of science or technology that fits with an event, we would love to have you volunteer to help the students prepare. Or perhaps you don't feel you can help, but know someone who could. The time commitment can be minimal; one hour every one or two weeks would be fine.

This is a great opportunity for community involvement with our students. It's fun and extremely rewarding to see the students succeed and work so hard for a common goal. If you are interested in helping out, please contact us.



Student Council

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

Elections for Student Council Officers will be held on Friday, October 6, 2017. Eighth grade students will elect candidates for President, Vice - President, Treasurer and Secretary. Seventh grade students will elect officers for Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. Seventh and eighth grader officers work together with the advisors to plan and organize student council meetings and events. In addition to the officers, each 10th period class will elect two representatives to serve on Student Council as 10th Period Representatives. These students are responsible for attending monthly meetings, reporting back information to their 10th period class as well as give input and vote on events hosted by Student Council. Elections for 10th Period Representatives will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017. All elected students must sign and abide by a code of conduct.

Student Council represents all middle school students. Any student wishing to participate in Student Council events is welcomed and encouraged to do so.

HMS Live

HMS Live is our daily television show broadcast through the Middle School each morning and occasional other times. The show gives students the opportunity to learn basic broadcasting skills. It features daily announcements, interviews, sports, club reports and other programs. Students meet at 7:30AM and during 10th period.



SciFair Club

The SciFair program builds research and problem-solving skills as students work together to create a virtual world. After learning basic programming skills, students in small teams become experts about a topic and build a virtual learning space so that others can learn about that topic in a fun and interesting way. At the conclusion of the program, all teams showcase their work and present the virtual worlds they have created to share the knowledge they have gained with family and community members.

ROV Club

The ROV Club is an after school activity all Horseheads Middle School students may participate in. From mid- October until mid-January, the ROV Club will be working on designing and building a remotely operated vehicle to complete three underwater tasks. The club will usually meet once or twice a week and will also go to the High School to use the pool. In January we will take your ROV's to the Bath-Haverling High School to compete against other ROV clubs from the GST BOCES region in the three tasks. ROV Advisor: Mrs. Patelunas



National Junior Honor Society

The Horseheads Middle School established its chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) in March of 2000. The purpose of the organization is to recognize students who exhibit excellence in the areas of citizenship, service, leadership and character, both inside and outside of school. These students have taken a positive role in their school and community, while maintaining a high level of academic achievement.



Those who were accepted as members last June continue to demonstrate their exemplary character and citizenship through service to the school community.

Overall, membership in the National Junior Honor Society is an outstanding goal for students to strive for. Not only are they recognized for their academic and community achievements, they also continue to cultivate their sense of citizenship, service, leadership and character, preparing them to become better participants in the school, local and global communities.

Yearbook

HMS Yearbook is a club for 7th and 8th grade boys and girls who enjoy photography, writing, and technology. The club will meet twice a month during 10th period. Space is limited to 25 students. To apply for HMS Yearbook you must complete an application and place it in Mr. O'Brian's mailbox. Students may pick up an application in the Main Office.



Athletic Information

Any 7th or 8th grader interested in playing a JV or Varsity sport will need to follow the Athletic Placement Process timeline which can be found on our Athletic web page. The APP paperwork will be available in the Health Office. The first and most important part of the process is to get the Parent Permission form turned into the nurse by 10/13/17.

Our Winter 2017 season will begin 11/6/17 for Varsity and JV, online registration opens 10/7/17. Modified season begins 11/20/17, online registration opens 10/21/17. Family ID is the online system for sports registration. More details can be found on the District website under Athletics. Please ensure the athlete's physical is on or after 11/1/16 for a Winter sport and that the nurse has a copy.



Choir Extracurricular Activities

Mr. Palmer expects to send individual soloists to this year's NYSSMA Solo Festival in Corning NY. The festival is April 6th and 7th, 2018. Rehearsals will begin in February. Also planned are National Anthem Solo performances at high school sporting events. Any student desiring to sing a NYSSMA Solo or perform the Star Spangled Banner at athletic events should see Mr. Palmer. Students performing well in this festival will become eligible for the following year Area All State Festival in November. This year over 20 singers will participate!



Come Do the Mash... The Monster Mash!

Middle School Halloween Dance and Open Gym Night



Each year in October, the PTO and Student Council sponsor a dance and open gym. In order to maintain a safe and enjoyable atmosphere for all of our students, we ask that the following procedures be followed:

- **Dance and open gym will start at 7:00 p.m. and end promptly at 9:00 p.m. Students should make certain their transportation is waiting in the front of the school at 9:00 p.m.**
- Our dance and open gym is open to students who are enrolled at Horseheads Middle School.
- To attend the dance and open gym, students must purchase a ticket during their lunch period Monday through Friday the week of the dance. No money will be collected at the door.
- All rules that apply during school hours are in effect for dances. The exception are cell phones and hats, as they are permitted. Failure to comply with school rules, may result in students being prohibited from attending other school events.
- Participants are not allowed to leave the designated areas being used for the event. Students may not leave the building until the end of the event unless a parent is present to pick them up. Once a student leaves the building, he or she will not be readmitted.
- There will be no admission after 7:30 p.m. without prior permission by an administrator.
- Refreshments are available for purchase and may not be taken outside of the designated area.
- Students who do not attend school the day of a dance and open gym will not be permitted to attend.
- Should school be cancelled the day of a dance and open gym, the event is also cancelled. It may or may not be rescheduled.
- **Please Note:** When picking up your child at the end of the dance, you will need to park in the Main Parking Lot in front of the school. Your child can wait for you to come get them or they can come find you in the parking lot.

HEALTH OFFICE INFORMATION

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.

The Health Office will soon begin Scoliosis screenings on all 7th and 8th graders in the PE classes.

Additionally 7th graders will be seen for their height, weight, vision and hearing, unless these results were provided on their routine physical exam. All 7th graders are required to have a Physical and Dental Certificate for 7th grade. This is a state mandate.

School appraisals/physicals will be on Oct 17 for students who do not have their own provider. We encourage parents/guardians to use their own providers since they know their child's medical history.

New York State Dental Requirement

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).





Horseheads — Nakagawa

Sister Cities Exchange

The Horseheads Sister City Association is delighted to announce the 2018 exchange trip to Nakagawa, Japan. The trip will take place in early July and is open to all students in grades 8-11. Application materials can be picked up in the guidance office.



The Horseheads Sister City is seeking energetic and caring families with students in grades 7th, 8th or 9th to host two Japanese students during their March 9-17, 2018 visit to Horseheads.

There will be an informational meeting at the Middle School library on Wednesday, November 2nd at 7:00pm for all those interested in March hosting or July travel to Japan. Please email kmurray@horseheadsdistrict.com with any questions.

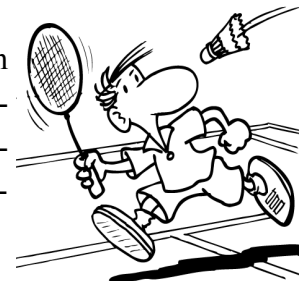


“Pie In The Face Assembly”

We want to thank our students and staff for their generous donations to assist Eisenhower Senior High School in Houston, Texas. The money will assist with relief efforts following Hurricane Harvey. In keeping with the FISH Philosophy, students had the opportunity to “PLAY” during an all school assembly. Staff members volunteered to take “a pie in the face” from our students while the student body cheered on their classmates and laughed at our teachers...and principal.

News From Physical Education Class

We are proud to enhance our Fitness unit this fall with some new strength and conditioning fun circuits along with body weight exercises to assist students with their knowledge base in personal fitness management. Furthermore, we will be doing a new badminton unit this year. We are looking forward to the students’ participation!



Building Our Future Now!

On October 17, 2017, voters in the Horseheads Central School District will consider the first part of a project to renovate and upgrade our district - a project that totals \$94.7 million and affects all of our schools, our transportation department, and our grounds. The vote is 7am to 9pm at the Horseheads High School South Cafeteria. The project seeks to improve our educational program and physical infrastructure so that we may provide the best education we can for our students. We're seeking to build on the excellence that is the Horseheads Central School District. Please vote October 17!

Residents with questions can email:

hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or call (607) 739-5601, x4295. Questions on board candidacy can be directed to (607) 739-5601, x4260.

VOTE!



School Matters

September was School Attendance Awareness Month. In cooperation with Chemung County, area school districts, including the Horseheads district, are reminding parents that good school attendance is crucial to academic success.

Research has shown that chronic absence leads to lower reading proficiency, course failure, and eventually, dropping out of school. Chronic absence is missing more than ten percent of the school year, or about 18 days. Absenteeism affects academic performance. Every day counts!



In addition to regular attendance, student success is dependent upon the support they receive at home. As students move into middle school, it becomes more and more difficult to engage students in discussions about school. New York State has a website that includes a variety of family resources that may be helpful. Please visit

<https://www.engageny.org/parent-family-library> to view these resources. The Association for Middle Level Education produces outstanding literature about the middle school student. You can visit their website at: <http://www.amle.org/Home/tabid/401/Default.aspx>

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. Her telephone number is 607-739-5601 x 4211.

MIDDLE SCHOOL 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 739-6357 x 3640 or at rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Notice

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religious practice, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender (including gender identity and expression). Inquiries regarding this notice may be made to Megan Collins, Title IX and DASA Coordinator, or Kim Williams, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.