

# HORSEHEADS HIGH SCHOOL "NOTES"



Volume 47 Number 2

Sept/Oct 2024

## High School Phone Number: 739-5601

Ext. 1608 Main Office

Ext. 1600 Kris Earl

Ext. 1612 Attendance Office

Ext. 1602 Dan Buseck

Ext. 1630 Counseling Office

Ext. 1603 Mike McCawley

Ext. 1623 Health Office

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## SAFETY DRILLS

Throughout the school year the High School will practice important emergency response procedures for our school including fire and evacuation, lockdown, and emergency dismissal drills. Families will receive notice within one week prior to each drill.

## INTERACT SOCKTOBER CAMPAIGN

Interact, the high school community service-based group, will be collecting new socks for their Socktober campaign - sock donations will be given to a local shelter just in time for the colder winter weather. Donations will be accepted in Room 225 and outside the Main Office.

## ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY AND CAREER EXPLORATION PROGRAM

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery & Career Exploration Program or better known as the ASVAB will be held in the Multimedia Center on Friday, November 1st. The ASVAB is an aptitude test and interest inventory given by the Military & Career Exploration. If you are a junior or senior interested in taking the ASVAB, please see your School Counselor or Mrs. Matthews in the Counseling Office.

## **SPIRIT WEEK**

The students have voted and our Spirit Week themes for Fall Spirit Week are:

Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Color Day

- Teachers = purple; Seniors = black; Juniors = pink; Sophomores = green; Freshmen = white

Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> – Country vs Country Club Day

Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> – Superhero Day

Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> - Athletes vs Mathletes Day

Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> – Raider Day

The Homecoming Dance will take place on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00pm until 9:30pm at the Middle School. Tickets will be on sale during lunch periods during Spirit Week (Tuesday through Friday) and tickets will not be sold at the door.

## **STUDENT PHOTOS**

Throughout the year, our school and district may photograph, videotape, and/or interview students for its publications or broadcasts, which include school and district newsletters, videos, and social media. Additionally, local newspapers and TV stations sometimes attend school events and photograph, videotape, or interview students about events and issues. These stories will also appear on the media's websites and social media platforms. If you do not wish your child to be photographed or videotaped for school publications or the media, please contact your school office or send an email with your child's name and school to [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com). Note that student photographs will still be published in school yearbooks and they may be photographed at public events such as sporting events.

## **NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT - OPTING OUT**

The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 require that all schools receiving federal funding must provide student information to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning unless parents opt out in writing. Students who are 18 years of age or older may also opt out of this requirement. If you do not want information to be released regarding your student, please return the form below to: Kris Earl, Principal, Horseheads High School, 401 Fletcher Street, Horseheads, New York 14845 before November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Opt Out Request for Directory Information**  
**Return to HHS Counseling Office, 401 Fletcher Street, Horseheads, NY 14845**

**For parents/guardians:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not give permission for Horseheads High School to turn over the name, address, telephone listing, and school records of my child to military recruiters.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not give permission for Horseheads High School to turn over the name, address, telephone listing, and school records of my child to institutions of higher learning.

**For students age 18 or over:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not give permission for Horseheads High School to turn over my name, address, telephone number, and school records to military recruiters.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not give permission for Horseheads High School to turn over my name, address, telephone number, and school records to institutions of higher learning.

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION

The Horseheads Sister City Association is delighted to announce that the Village will be hosting fifteen exchange students from Nakagawa, Japan from October 27-November 1, 2024. These students will be hosted by nine families from our District. The Japanese students will be visiting our schools that week too! They will attend classes with Middle and High School students and visit Ridge Road Elementary.

We are also planning an exchange trip for several Horseheads Central School District students in grades 8-11 for early summer travel to Japan. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about Japanese culture and make lifelong friendships. The informational meeting will be November 7 at 7pm in the Middle School Library. Interested students can pick up an application from their school's counseling office. Applications are due December 13. We are looking for adult chaperones to travel with our students to Japan. If interested in having an unforgettable, culturally immersive experience, contact Tiffany Bratz at [tbratz@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:tbratz@horseheadsdistrict.com) by December 1.

Our HSCA committee welcomes any eligible student and adult volunteers willing to help organize/assist with exchange events during the Fall visit. If you are interested in participating in the exchange, this would be an excellent way to learn about the special relationship that Horseheads shares with Nakagawa. Please contact Tiffany Bratz at [tbratz@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:tbratz@horseheadsdistrict.com) if you are interested.

## YOUTH ACTIVATION COMMITTEE/UNIFIED SOCCER

Youth Activation Committee (YAC) meets every Tuesday morning from 7:25am until 7:45am in Library Classroom A. Please join us to promote an inclusive school community and support Unified Sports. If you have any questions, please email Dr. Tenbus at [atenbus@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:atenbus@horseheadsdistrict.com) or see one of the officers: **Natalie Williams, Coleton Owen, Adam Wolf, Caitlyn Slavin, Jordyn Lunger, Hunter Earl, Ethan Dziennik, Marloe Laughlin, Max Tenbus, Kaelyn McCarthy, or Olivia Gavin.**

Unified Soccer practices have started and the culminating event will be at Elmira High School on October 16, 2024 at 4:00pm. Please join us to cheer on Unified Raiders!

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the September Raiders of the Month for the character trait RESPECT:

Grade 12: **Logan Bates, Kiran Gulati, Ryan Schiavone, Mia Sophia**

Grade 11: **Ellia Diezhandino, Allyson Howe, Serenity Jefferson, Gabriel Merrill**

Grade 10: **Jordan Davis, Devyn Gilbert, Ava Knowlton, Emily Theetge**

Grade 9: **David Burczynski, Ja'miera Marvin, Cypress Orvek, Emyni Wells**

## KEEP READING WITH THE SORA APP!

All Horseheads students can check out ebooks and audiobooks using the Sora app. Download books to your phone or tablet any time you want. Or visit [Sora \(soraapp.com\)](http://soraapp.com)



- Your school is “The Greater Southern Tier BOCES Shared Digital Collection”
- Use **setup code gstbocesny** if you don't see the right school.
- Locate Horseheads CSD in the dropdown menu.
- Log in with your district login.

[Email Mrs. Frei <mfrei@horseheadsdistrict.com>](mailto:mfrei@horseheadsdistrict.com) in the library with any questions or title requests!

## THE BIG FIVE

In 2008 CSS Workforce NY and the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce's Business Education Roundtable successfully launched The Big Five campaign. Thousands of posters and bookmarks were distributed across Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties championing five foundational concepts of workforce readiness:

- Be honest
- Show up on time every day
- Be ready for work
- Be willing to learn
- Maintain a good attitude

Though many things have changed since 2008, these basic values are still relevant today. CSS Workforce NY, GST BOCES, and the Chamber's Business Education Roundtable have teamed up to bring Education and Business together to revitalize this initiative and introduce it to a new generation of students and employees.



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: Learn about up-to-date information about our district on Facebook and Twitter: On Facebook, the district and each of our seven schools have pages. Please "like" them to get the information on your news feed. Follow us on Twitter at @HhdsSchools to read our tweets.

NOTICE: The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Horseheads High School is Mike McCawley. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Mr. McCawley 739-5601, ext. 1603. The Dignity Act Coordinator for the Horseheads Central School District is Caitlin DeFilippo, who may be reached at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, 607-739-5601, x4211.

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. The following person(s) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Caitlin DeFilippo, Director of Human Resources, [cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com), 143 Hibbard Road, Horseheads Central School District, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601 and US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, LBJ Department of Education Building, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington DC 20202-1100, (800) 421-3481.

**SAFE SCHOOLS LINE 607-795-2044 or 1-800-305-4984**  
**REPORT A CONCERN, RUMOR, BULLYING INCIDENT, OR ANY SAFETY ISSUE**  
**ANONYMOUSLY AND CONFIDENTIALLY**  
**24 HOURS A DAY**

## TENTATIVE CALENDAR

|           |           |   |               |             |
|-----------|-----------|---|---------------|-------------|
| 23-Sep-24 | Monday    | Spirit Week                               |               |             |
| 24-Sep-24 | Tuesday   | Spirit Week                               |               |             |
| 25-Sep-24 | Wednesday | Spirit Week                               |               |             |
| 26-Sep-24 | Thursday  | Spirit Week                               |               |             |
| 27-Sep-24 | Friday    | Spirit Week                               |               |             |
|           |           | Senior Sunrise & Photo                    | Stadium       | 7:00-7:45   |
|           |           | Senior Fundraising Kick Off               | Auditorium    | 7:50-8:30   |
|           |           | Pep Assembly                              | Stadium       | 1:45-3:00   |
|           |           | Homecoming Game                           | Stadium       | 7:00        |
| 28-Sep-24 | Saturday  | Homecoming Dance                          | Middle School | 7:00-9:30   |
| 1-Oct-24  | Tuesday   | End of MP1                                |               |             |
| 2-Oct-24  | Wednesday | Start of MP2                              |               |             |
| 3-Oct-24  | Thursday  | Counseling Presentation                   | Auditorium    | 6:00-7:00   |
|           |           | Parents Night                             |               | 7:00-8:00   |
| 5-Oct-24  | Saturday  | Marching Band Home Show                   | Stadium       |             |
| 7-Oct-24  | Monday    | Report Card Distribution                  |               | Period 9/10 |
| 9-Oct-24  | Wednesday | BOCES Open House                          | BOCES         | 4:40-6:30   |
| 10-Oct-24 | Thursday  | PSAT                                      | South Gym     | 8:00        |
| 11-Oct-24 | Friday    | Conference Day                            |               |             |
| 12-Oct-24 | Saturday  | Band Alumni Reunion Weekend               | Auditorium    |             |
| 13-Oct-24 | Sunday    | Band Alumni Reunion Weekend               | Auditorium    |             |
| 14-Oct-24 | Monday    | Holiday - Columbus Day                    |               |             |
| 21-Oct-24 | Monday    | Junior Class Fundraiser Kick Off          | Auditorium    | 7:45-8:30   |
| 24-Oct-24 | Thursday  | Choir/Orchestra Concert                   | Auditorium    | 7:30        |
| 27-Oct-24 | Sunday    | Marching Band Championships               | Syracuse      |             |
| 29-Oct-24 | Tuesday   | School Picture Re-Takes                   | MMC           | 8:00-3:00   |
| 1-Nov-24  | Friday    | End of MP2                                |               |             |
|           |           | ASVAB                                     | MMC           | 8:00-12:00  |
| 2-Nov-24  | Saturday  | SAT'S                                     | South Gym     | 8:00-12:00  |
| 4-Nov-24  | Monday    | Start of MP3                              |               |             |
| 7-Nov-24  | Thursday  | Report Card Distribution                  |               | Period 9/10 |
| 11-Nov-24 | Monday    | Holiday - Veterans Day                    |               |             |
| 13-Nov-24 | Wednesday | Band Concert                              | Auditorium    | 7:30        |
| 14-Nov-24 | Thursday  | National Honor Society Induction Ceremony | Auditorium    | 7:00        |
| 19-Nov-24 | Tuesday   | Interact Blood Drive                      | Auditorium    | 7:45-3:00   |
| 20-Nov-24 | Wednesday | Senior Picture Make Ups                   | MMC           | 8:00-3:00   |
| 27-Nov-24 | Wednesday | Half Day - AM Only                        |               |             |
| 28-Nov-24 | Thursday  | Holiday - Thanksgiving                    |               |             |
| 29-Nov-24 | Friday    | Holiday - Thanksgiving                    |               |             |

Dear Partners:

September marks the beginning of the school year and **Attendance Awareness Month**, a period dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of school attendance, the negative impact of chronic absence, and strategies to engage students in school. “Chronic absence” is defined as missing at least 10% of the school days for which a student is enrolled over the course of an academic year for any reason. It serves as an early warning sign that children may be falling behind academically and are at risk of academic failure.

In New York, more than 1 in 4 (26%) elementary and middle school students and 34% of high school students were chronically absent in school year 2022-2023, with even higher rates for high school Black (46%) and Hispanic (44%) students and students with disabilities (45%).<sup>1</sup>

The vision of the NYS Council of Children and Families and the New York State Education Department’s mission are that every child and young person in New York State realizes their optimal potential. In alignment with our shared vision, CCF and NYSED are promoting Attendance Awareness Month, and we are asking you to join us in amplifying the message that attendance matters, so that every student can be successful.

This is a call to action, a pressing issue we must collectively address now!

**How does Chronic Absenteeism Impact New York Students:** The detrimental effects of chronic absenteeism are far-reaching, impacting students' educational achievements, emotional well-being, and prospects for future success. Recent data on student performance in reading and math proficiency scores further underscore the urgent need to address this issue in New York State. Shockingly, only 49% of fourth-grade students in New York State are proficient in reading, while 54% demonstrate proficiency in math.<sup>2</sup> Governor Hochul has responded to learning needs with her *Back to Basics’ Initiative* to improve reading proficiency. Yet, education can only fulfill its promise when students are in school.

**Promoting a Culture of Attendance:** A culture of attendance is the cultivation of an environment where regular participation and presence are valued and encouraged. This means emphasizing the importance and benefits of school attendance. Here are a few suggestions from Attendance Works as to how to promote a culture of attendance:

1. Supportive environment: Create a welcoming atmosphere that motivates individuals to children to attend regularly through positive reinforcement and community building.
2. Clear Expectations: Establish and clearly communicate policies and expectations regarding attendance so everyone understands its importance.

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<sup>1</sup> New York State Education Department School Report Card Data for School Year 2022-23. <https://data.nysed.gov/>

<sup>2</sup> New York State Education Department School Report Card Data for School Year 2022-23

<https://data.nysed.gov/essa.php?instid=800000081568&year=2023&createreport=1&38ELA=1&38MATH=1>



3. Incentives and Recognition: Implement reward systems or recognition programs that celebrate consistent attendance and encourage participation.
4. Open Communication: Encourage dialogue about attendance challenges and provide support to address barriers preventing children from attending school.

Please help us spread the word by sharing on your social media channels the following:

[Attendance Works: Bringing Attendance Home Video](#)

[Attendance Works: Take Action](#)

[Every Student Present: Chronic Absence Fact Sheet](#)

[FutureEd and Attendance Works: Attendance Playbook](#)

[National Student Attendance, Engagement, and Success Center](#)

[Student Engagement and Attendance Center: Action Planner for Reengaging Students to Support Everyday Attendance](#)



## Career Development Council

### What is Job Shadowing - and why should a student do it?

By Deborah Lynch

I am a Career Development Council Representative for the Horseheads School District. Along with Jenny Sonsire, we fulfill requests for career information from the students, teachers, school counselors and administrators in the District. Career Development Council, Inc. is a nonprofit, but we are also part of GST BOCES. It is an unusual alliance between a public school and a private organization, but we both have the same goal: to raise career awareness in the local student population.

Besides the classic career day in the elementary schools, we provide classroom speakers, mock interviewers, regional career events, and career-based field trips to the Middle School and High School. The High School juniors and seniors also get the added service of job shadowing. A **job shadow** is when a student visits a business professional at their worksite to observe, ask questions, and get advice. The job shadow may be one to eight hours long with most shadows falling in the two-to-four-hour range.

**In order to shadow**, a student must first visit with me or Mrs. Sonsire; we are located in **room 202 at the High School** most **Tuesdays and Wednesdays**. The students may make an appointment via email, through their school counselor, or by just popping their head in to ask for one. We chat about the student's career interests, if they are willing to get the extra training or education that the career requires, and whether or not they have transportation to the shadowing. Once we have that information, we will find a suitable shadowing host who will agree to a specific day, time and location to meet with the student. This shadowing then becomes an actual appointment for both the shadow host and student. Prior to the shadowing, we present the following information to the student:

1. **Confirmation letter:** this letter goes to both the student and the shadow host (a copy goes to the school counselor). It contains the date, time, and location of the shadowing. It includes an address for the follow up "thank you" letter from the student and a phone number for the shadow host. The letter will have a "PS" to the student that may include extra instructions, websites to review, dress code, or any other pertinent detail.
2. **Release form:** this form must be signed by the parent / guardian and turned into the Attendance Office prior to the shadowing. If the student is missing school, their teachers must also sign off on the shadowing.
3. **Student Evaluation Form:** we want to know how the shadowing went for the student. If it was bad experience, we want to know for future students – and to arrange a better shadowing for the student; if it was good but the student now wants to shadow something else, this is where the student will inform us.
4. **Maps/Directions:** in the age of GPS we may still use a printed map because many times teenagers are not aware of local businesses or even roads they frequently travel.
5. **Career Explorer Pamphlet:** this pamphlet gives general information about shadowing including expectations for behavior and dress. It includes information on what to do if the student must cancel and a list of basic career questions.

The student is then encouraged to share this information with their parents/guardian – especially if they need transportation. It is relatively easy to reschedule most single shadows, so if your student comes home with a shadowing scheduled at a challenging time for you, please know that we can reschedule it to better accommodate your availability to drive your student to the shadow.

Shadowing is a wonderful opportunity for your junior or senior, however, it comes with the **responsibility** to follow through. Mrs. Sonsire and I take a great deal of time to find a good shadowing host who will agree to meet with your student. When students cancel or just not show up, it is a wasted effort on our part, and it reflects poorly on your student. Their actions may make it difficult to arrange another shadowing with that same host for a future student. Students who do not show up for a shadowing (without canceling prior) may not shadow again through our office. If there are extenuating circumstances such as sudden illness or family emergency, we will allow for another opportunity.

We try to avoid a “no show” situation by making it easy for a student to cancel prior to the shadowing date. If your student has a shadowing schedule but is wavering about it (perhaps they are nervous or do not want to miss school), please **encourage him/her to follow through** with the shadowing. It is not just good business etiquette, but it is also an invaluable learning experience. They will learn so much about both the specific career as well as related careers. They will experience the environment so they can decide if a corporate, hospital, manufacturing, or retail space feels comfortable or exciting to them. They can use the experience for college essays or interviews. Your student will be able to start networking, connecting with potential future employers for summer employment, internships, and even full-time work once training/education is completed.

**If you would like to volunteer** as a shadowing host or to help with other career activities in the schools, please email me at [dlynch@gstboces.org](mailto:dlynch@gstboces.org) or Mrs. Sonsire at [jsonsire@gstboces.org](mailto:jsonsire@gstboces.org). We are always looking for volunteers to help with our programming. Outside of shadowing, we have short, one or two times a school year events that may take an hour or two out of your workday to participate in. You may visit our website at <http://cdc.gstboces.org>.



COME JOIN US FOR OUR

**FALL**

*Concert*

**THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 24TH**

**7:30PM**

**HS AUDITORIUM**

**FEATURING:**

**PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

**SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA**

**CONCERT CHOIR**

**CHORALE**

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