

# Horseheads Middle School



## *Spring Edition*



**March 2026**

### **Contact Us!**

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

### **What's Happening at HMS**

#### **MARCH**

**3/4/2026**

MS Variety Show  
7:00pm • MS Café

**3/11/2026**

Progress Report #3  
Distributed

**3/18/2026**

Concert Band & Orchestra Concert  
7:00pm • MS Café

**3/19/2026**

Raider Blue & Raider White Band Concert  
& HS Pop  
7:00pm • MS Café

**3/23/2026**

Conference Day • NO SCHOOL  
7:00pm • MS Café



#### **APRIL**

**4/3 - 4/10/2026**

Spring Break  
NO SCHOOL

**4/30 - 5/1/2026**

NYS ELA Testing

**5/4 - 5/5/2026**

NYS Math Testing

**5/6/2026**

NYS Science Testing

### **Final Exams**

Final exam testing will take place June 24–25, 2026. Students will begin working on in-class exam components during the week of June 8.

Please note that early exams cannot be accommodated. Any student who misses a scheduled exam will have the opportunity to complete it on June 26.

### **High School Scheduling**

High school scheduling materials were given to your student in January. If you did not receive them, please contact us at (607) 739-6357.

### **Science Olympiad Team Results**

Our Science Olympiad Team recently competed at the Southern Tier Regional Tournament. See the results on page 4.

# District News

## Budget Development Meetings



### 2026-27 Budget Development

Budget development for the 2026-27 school year has begun. Regular board meetings and budget workshops are held from February to April until the final adoption of the budget at the vote on Tuesday, May 19. Here is the schedule:

Thursday, March 12 Regular Business & Budget Meeting, 5:15 p.m., HS Auditorium  
▶ **2026-2027 Budget Update**

Thursday, March 26 Budget Meeting, 6:00 p.m., HS Auditorium  
▶ **2026-2027 Budget Update**

Thursday, April 16 Budget Meeting (if needed), 6:00 p.m., HS Auditorium  
▶ **2026-2027 Final Budget Development**

Wednesday, April 22 Regular Business & Budget Meeting, 5:15 p.m., HS Auditorium  
▶ **2026-2027 Mandatory BOCES Admin. Budget adoption & 2026-27 Budget Adoption**

Thursday, May 7 Public Hearing on the Proposed 2026-27 Budget, HS Auditorium  
▶ **2026-2027 Adopted Budget Presentation**

All meetings are live streamed (at <http://ideas.gstbores.org/hhds/>), recorded, and posted to the district website. For more information on the development of the 2025-26 Budget, including links to videos and presentations from board meetings, click here: <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDBudget2024-25.cfm>.

### **Budget Vote/Board of Education Election vote will take place on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, from 7:00am - 9:00pm at the high school north gym.**

All district residents are eligible to vote, provided they meet the following requirements:

- Are a U.S. citizen
  - Are 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote
  - Have lived in the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote
  - Are not restricted from voting in general elections based on election law
- OR
- Are registered to vote in general elections

For information on absentee ballots or other questions about the budget or vote, please call (607) 739-5601, x4260 or email [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com).

## YEARBOOK SALE



The 2025-2026 Horseheads Middle School Yearbook by Upstate Images is available for sale for \$20 + tax. This year's yearbook is a Signature Series Hardcover book, and it will be delivered to the school and then distributed to students in June. The **deadline** to purchase a yearbook is **May 8th**. To avoid extra production and delivery fees, please make sure to purchase your book before the deadline.

<https://link.entourageyearbooks.com/my/HMS2026>

# Parent Information



## 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.

**Distinguished Honor Roll: 95-100**

**High Honor Roll: 90-94.99**

**Honor Roll: 85-89.99**

**Failing Grade of 64.0 or lower in any course**

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

**Progress Reports Issued March 11, 2026**

## Lost and Found

Lost your lunchbox? Misplaced your sweatshirt? 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.

## 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)



## 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



The 2025-2026 Science Olympians!

Left to right:

Sophia Hoffman,  
Eric McGrain,  
Kruthik Patel, and  
Landon Andrews.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM RESULTS

The Middle School Science Olympiad competed at Maine-Endwell Middle School on Saturday, February 7 at the Science Olympiad Southern Tier Regional Tournament.

### Silver Medal

**Kruthik Patel** - *Heredity*

### Bronze Medal

**Eric McGrain & Kruthik Patel** - *Crime Busters*

**Sophia Hoffman & Landon Andrews** - *Circuit Lab*

**Sophia Hoffman & Landon Andrews** - *Potions & Poisons*

**Eric McGrain** - *Disease Detectives*

**Congratulations to our Science Olympians!**

**Coaches: Mr. Johnson & Mr. Steele**



## Character Trait of the Month

### **R-e-s-p-e-c-t !**

Be courteous and polite. Judge all people on their merits and abilities. 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.



## **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)



# Parent Information



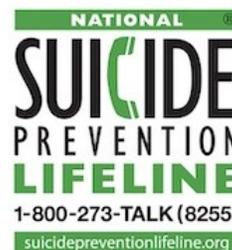
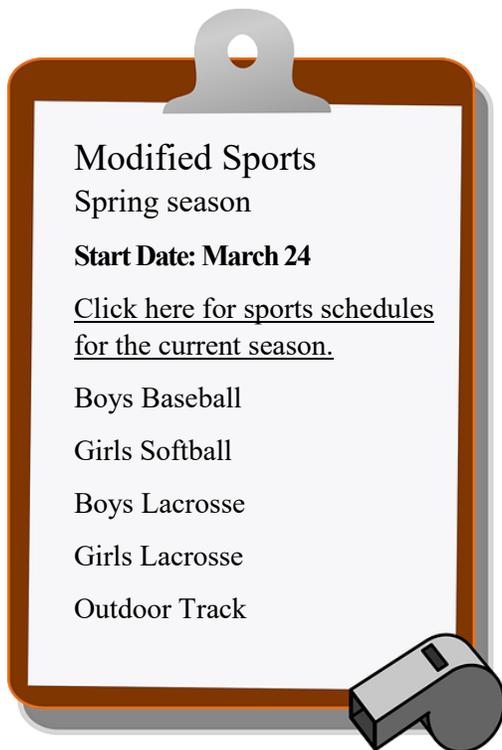
## Learn up-to-date information about our schools and district:

- 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)
- URL for Mobile App is now: [gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads](http://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads)

## Athletic Information

*2025-26 Modified Spring sports begin March 24.*

*For spring sports information, visit our district athletic website. [Athletics](#)*



*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)*



## PARENT PORTAL

Don't have Parent Portal? Please visit our website. In the "QuickLinks" section in the middle, near the bottom, hover over "Parent Portal". You will be directed to complete a short form online. If you have questions, please call Genie Connel at 739-5601, x4251 or email [gconnel@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:gconnel@horseheadsdistrict.com)

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://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads>



*aimsweb* Plus is a reliable computer-based screening assessment, which is administered in the fall, winter and spring. This year on **May 27th and 28th**, students will be taking the **spring** *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.



## 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, or **Jennie Sonsire** at (607)795-5320 or [dlynch@gstbooces.org](mailto:dlynch@gstbooces.org) or [jsonsire@gstbooces.org](mailto:jsonsire@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 Horseheads Central School District partners with



The Trusted Platform  
for School Community Engagement

## 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**

**i** 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.



*Make it a great day,*



*the Raider Way!*

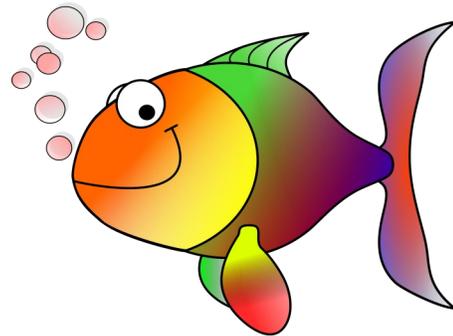
*Raider Way:*



- 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 ?*

## Non-discrimination Policy



### 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*