Horseheads Middle School

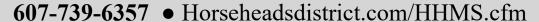


Club Edition



October 2025

Contact Us!





What's Happening at HMS

OCTOBER

10/08/25

Progress Reports Distributed

10/10/25

Conference Day

No School

10/13/25

Columbus & Indigenous Peoples Day

No School

10/31/25

Halloween Dance & Open Gym 2:15-4:00pm @ MS Gym

NOVEMBER

11/05/25

Picture Retakes & Make Ups

11/05/25

Report Cards & Aimsweb Reports Distributed

11/11/25

Veterans Day-No School

11/18/25

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

11/19/25

Raider Blue Band & Select Choir 7:00pm-MS Café

11/26-11/28

Thanksgiving Recess 1/2 Day on 11/26 No School

Thank You!

HMS thanks all the many families who attended our Fall Open House! It was a fabulous turnout and we were happy to answer all your questions! We also greatly appreciate all those who signed up to serve on the PTO. We look forward to partnering with all of you to make this a great year.

If you would like to help, email Ron Holloway, principal, at rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com

Or call the Middle School office at (607) 739-6357.



Make it a great day,



Raider Way:



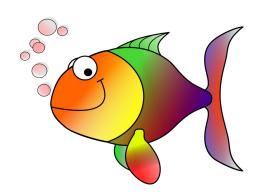
Fish Philosophy:

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

Think:

Before you say or do anything:

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



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





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 tenweek marking period.

Distinguished High Honor Roll95-100High Honor Roll90-94.99Honor Roll85-89.99Failing Grade64.0 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 8, 2025

Lost and Found

Lost your water bottle? Misplaced your sweatshirt? Check the Lost and Found! There are blue bins under the table in the Main Office.

Parents, please:

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.

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.
- Questions about our website or social media?

E-mail <u>hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com</u>

SEESOMETHING SAY SOMETHING

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.



School Nurse Information



7th Grade Physicals Hearing, Vision and Scoliosis Screenings

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year. Please see the important information below regarding the health of your child attending school.

All 7th graders and students new to the Middle School will need a physical. Screenings will begin soon for hearing, vision and scoliosis. A letter will be coming home.

It is often difficult to know when to keep your child home. The following is a list of conditions and symptoms that indicate when you should keep your child home.

They include, but are not limited to:

- Fever greater than 100.4 F Your child may return when their fever has been gone for over 24 hours without medication, and if no other symptoms are present
- **Vomiting/Diarrhea** Your child may return when symptom free for greater than 24 hours without medication or other symptoms
 - Rash Your child may return with a physician's note that it is not contagious
 - Strep Throat Your child may return after 24 hours of prescribed treatment
 - Cough/Congestion/Wheezing Your child may return when symptoms resolve

As a reminder, frequent hand washing is always our best defense against illness.

Please remember that medication given at school must have a doctor's order. All medications must be delivered to the Nurses' office by a responsible adult, in a pharmacy-labeled container. As always, feel free to contact your school nurse for any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your cooperation, Mrs. Wright, RN Horseheads Middle School Nurse

The Health Office is in need of socks, underwear and elastic-waist pants for students.

Important Contact Information

- Safe Schools Line 607-795-2044
- Mr. Holloway- Principal rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com
- Mr. Hoeffner Assistant Principal thoeffner@horseheadsdistrict.com
- Middle School Main Office 607-739-6357
- Middle School Website http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHMS.cfm
- Horseheads District Phone Number 607-795-5601
- Horseheads District Website http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com
- Athletic Office Phone Number 607-739-5601 x4254
- Athletic Office Website http://horseheadsdistrict.com/athletics.cfm

Sister City Association News



The Horseheads Sister City Association is delighted to announce that the village will be hosting ten exchange students, four chaperones and six honorary delegates from Nakagawa, Japan, from October 26-October 31, 2025. The Japanese students and honorary delegates hope to visit some of our schools that week too!

We are also planning an exchange trip for several Horseheads Central School District students currently 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 October 9, 2025, at 5:30 pm, in the Middle School Library. Interested students will be able to pick up an application from their school's guidance/counseling office. Interested students should pay attention to the daily school announcements to learn when the applications become available. Applications are due November 21, 2025.

This year, we are also asking that student ambassador candidates participate in at least one activity with the Japanese students during their visit in October as part of the interview process. In addition to the application, students must be in good academic standing, regularly attend school, and demonstrate *The Raider Way* inside and outside of school.

We are also looking for adult chaperones to travel with our students to Japan. If interested in having an unforgettable, culturally immersive experience, please contact Tiffany Bratz at <u>tbratz@horseheadsdistrict.com</u> by November 21, 2025.

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 Horseheads shares with Nakagawa. Please contact Tiffany Bratz at tbratz@horseheadsdistrict.com.



The 2025 participants in Japan.







Hello and welcome back to school! Every month our school newsletter highlights those in our HMS community that are caught doing something above and beyond and go that extra mile.

The FISH Philosophy principles of *Be There*, *Make Their Day*, *Play*, and *Choose Your Attitude* provide opportunities to positively effect our experiences! As a committee, we like to help spread this philosophy by doing things in and out of school to make HMS the best!

Students and staff in our building are welcome to see Mrs. Franklin (room 113) if they wish to recognize someone who is living the FISH Philosophy.

Summer/September shout outs go to:



All our summer school and ESY staff for making it a great and successful summer for our students.



Mrs. Frisbie for going above and beyond for her ESY students and ensuring they were treated as the teenagers they are.



The maintenance, grounds keepers, and custodial staff that made our building clean and ready for learning.



Mrs. Whitmarsh for getting this newsletter together and out every month.

Character Trait of the Month Responsibility



Think before you act. Accept responsibility for the consequences of your choices. Don't make excuses. Don't blame others for your mistakes, or take credit for others' achievements. Keep trying; don't quit or give up easily. Be diligent and industrious.



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.
- Questions about our website or social media? E-mail hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com
- URL for Mobile App is now: gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads

Athletic Information

2025 Winter Sports Registration & Start Dates

October 17

JV and Varsity Sports; Start November 17

November 1

Modified Sports; Start December 1

December 5

Unified Bowling; Start January 5

More details can be found on the District website under Athletics.

Please ensure that the athlete has a physical (after **November 1, 2024** for a Winter sport), on record with the school nurse.

Winter Sports

Team	Modified	JV	Varsity
Boys Basketball	Χ	X	Χ
Girls Basketball	X	Χ	Χ
Boys Swimming & Diving	X		Χ
Boys Wrestling	Co-ed		Χ
Girls Wrestling			Χ
Indoor Track			Χ
Cheerleading	X	Χ	Χ
Bowling			Χ
Unified Bowling			X

If you have questions, please contact the Athletic Office at 607-739-5601, x4254 or kgranger@horseheadsdistrict.com.

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.

HMS CLUBS





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 after school until 4:00. Members may suspend their membership during sports seasons. Technology Guild Advisors are Ms. Patelunas and Mr. Steele.



School Store

We will be accepting applications in early October for school store workers.

Students work during their lunch period (40 minutes) every-other day. Responsibilities include selling store items, cleaning and organizing the store, maintaining a log of sales, and keeping the cash box secure. Academic and discipline records will be considered, Interested students should listen to the announcements and apply.

Student Leadership Team

The Student Leadership Team meets with Mr. Holloway, school principal, to discuss middle-school issues and concerns from the student perspective. The team will work on projects to improve the middle school climate and culture. Advisor is Mr. Holloway.

Science Olympiad

Science Olympiad is a series of individual and team events for which students prepare from early October until the competition in February. These challenges and motivational events are based on the various science and technology disciplines such as



Exploring the World of Science

biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, computers and YMPIAD 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. Steele or Mr. Johnson for more information.

HMS CLUBS





Middle School Musical

This year's play will be "Legally Blonde, Jr."! The show is scheduled for Friday, February 6th at 7:00pm, and Saturday, February 7th at 2:00pm right here on our stage! The cast consists of approximately 30 students with 10 in the technical crew. There is a lot of solo singing as well as group singing and dancing featured. Auditions and rehearsals will begin early October. Any Middle School student is eligible to audition for the musical. Advisor is Mrs. Stratton.

Yearbook

HMS Yearbook is a club for 7th and 8th grade students who enjoy photography, writing, and technology. The club will meet twice a month during 10th period until 2:30. A parent/guardian to pick them up from school. Space is limited to 25 students. To apply for HMS Yearbook you must complete an application and place it in Sra. Nicolae's or Mrs. Andrew's mailbox. Students may pick up an application in the Main Office. Advisors are Sra. Nicolae and Mrs. Andrews.

GSA



Gender & Sexuality Alliances, or GSAs for short, are student-run organizations that unite LGBTQ+ and allied youth to build community and organize around issues impacting them in their schools and communities. A growing body of research confirms that the presence of a GSA has a positive and lasting effect on student health, wellness, and academic performance. It can also protect students from harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and improve school climates for all students in the long-term. Along with providing space to organize, GSAs are spaces where students can receive support, socialize, and find community together. Advisors are TBD.

HMS Live

HMS Live is our daily television show produced in the school and broadcast in the mornings. The show gives students the opportunity to learn basic broadcasting skills. It features announcements, interviews, club reports, and other segments. The HMS Live advisor is Mr. Donovan.



Student Council

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

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 grade 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 one representative 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. 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. Advisors are Ms. Leland & Ms. Camidge.



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.

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 September 11th and 12th, 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.

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@gstboces.org or jsonsire@gstboces.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
- 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
 - 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 <u>Student Privacy Pledge™</u>, 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 for more info.

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NOTIFICATIONS - 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.

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.

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.

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