

Horseheads Middle School

January, 2024



The Winter Issue

Contact Us!

607-739-6357 • Horseheadsdistrict.com/HHMS.cfm

What's Happening at HMS

1/8 - 1/11/2024

Aimsweb Plus Testing

1/15/2024

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - **No School**

1/17/2024

Raider White Band & Choir Concert
7:00pm in MS Caf 

1/29/2024

Instructional Planning Day - **No School**

1/30/2024

Second Semester Begins

1/31/2024

Report Cards & *Aimsweb Plus* Reports Distributed

2/1/2024

PTO Meeting @ 5:30pm in MS Library

2/1/2024

Second Semester Open House
6:00 - 7:30pm

2/9/2024

Middle School Musical @ 7:00pm in MS Caf 

2/10/2024

Middle School Musical @ 2:00pm in MS Caf 

2/8/2024

Yearbook Group Picture Day



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
I HAVE A DREAM

Sister City Applications Due Jan. 8

The Horseheads Sister City Association is delighted to announce the 2024 exchange trip with Nakagawa, Japan. Students in 8th grade interested in early summer travel to Japan through the exchange program can pick up an application packet in the main office. Applications are due January 8, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Tiffany Bratz tbratz@horseheadsdistrict.com.

SEMESTER 2

MS second semester begins on 1/30/24. Students will receive their second semester schedules in 10th Period at the end of semester one. Schedules can also be viewed through Parent Portal.



Spelling Bee is January 9

Our annual Regional Spelling Bee Qualifier will be held on Tuesday, January 9 during 10th period. Good Luck Students!

News from the School Nurse

Dear Parents, Guardians,

Mrs. Cobb



Through the Drug Free Community Coalition of Chemung County, CASA-Trinity, Inc. is conducting the Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) Survey in all districts in Chemung County. Our 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students will participate the week of December 18,

I NEED TO STAY HOME IF...						
I HAVE A FEVER	I AM VOMITING	I HAVE DIARRHEA	I HAVE A RASH	I HAVE HEAD LICE	I HAVE AN EYE INFECTION	I HAVE BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL
Temperature of 100 or higher	Within the past 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours	Body rash with itching or fever	Itchy head, active head lice	Redness, itching and/or "crusty" drainage from the eye	Hospital stay and/or ER visit
I AM READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL WHEN I AM...						
Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication like Tylenol or Motrin, etc.	Free from vomiting for at least 2 solid meals	Free from diarrhea for at least 24 hours	Free from rash, itching, or fever. I have been evaluated by my doctor, if needed	Treated with appropriate lice treatment at home and proof is provided	Evaluated by my doctor and have a note to return to school	Released by my medical provider to return to school

If your child has strep throat or another bacterial infection, he/she should stay home until the antibiotic has been given for at least 24 hours and your health care provider has given permission for your child to return to school. We encourage you to seek medical attention when your child is sick and to follow your health care provider's recommendations about returning to school or other activities.

Please communicate with your school nurse about any health concerns your child might be experiencing. We want to ensure he or she receives appropriate care at school.



IS IT A COLD OR FLU?

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	COLD	FLU
Symptom onset	Gradual	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Usual
Aches	Slight	Usual
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Usual
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, cough	Mild to moderate	Common
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Headache	Rare	Common

#FIGHT FLU



Health Unit Notification

During the last marking period of each semester, seventh grade health classes will be studying the Human Physiology Unit. This is an abstinence-based unit which will include the male and female reproductive systems, conception and birth, the risks of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS prevention.

You have the option of exempting your child from the HIV/AIDS prevention information. However, we strongly encourage your child to participate. HIV information must be presented to every child by State mandate. Therefore, it is the parent's responsibility to provide this information which will be included in the Health final. If a student is exempted, he/she is assigned to a study hall and required to do an independent study unit in health.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your concerns before making your decision, call your child's health teacher during school hours at 739-6357.

RETURN THE FORM BELOW IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UNIT.



Return this portion by January 16, 2024 to the Middle School Health Teacher to exempt your child from instruction in the classroom.

(student name) _____

Does not have my permission to participate in the Human Physiology Unit and/or HIV/AIDS prevention.

Student: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Middle School News

District Census
NY Menu Day



2023-2024 District-wide Census

The district is conducting a census of the entire district to provide important demographic information and to assist in the process of redrawing elementary boundary lines as we prepare to move to three PK-4 schools (Big Flats, Gardner Road, and Ridge Road) in the 2025-26 school year.

Please submit your information if you haven't already done so. The census is for the entire district, so we also ask that you encourage neighbors to do the same, even if they do not have children in the district.

Here is the link and QR code to the census form: www.Horseheads.fyi/Census or:



NY Menu Day - January 11

Homemade Chili made with NY ground beef w/cornbread

NY Roasted Seasoned Potatoes

NY Strawberry Applesauce

NY Juice

Chilled NY Milk

New Clothing Closet for the MS

The Middle School Site Team is organizing a gently used clothes closet for student use. Students may bring in items beginning January 3 through the 19th. Items should be in good condition (no stains or tears) and may include tops, bottoms and shoes.

There is also a need for dress clothing. The Site Team held a donation drive among staff earlier this year. Students were able to pick out dressy outfits for their mock interviews earlier this year, which helped make them very successful.

Many thanks in advance for supporting our drive to help support our students.

Student Council has Another Successful Food Drive

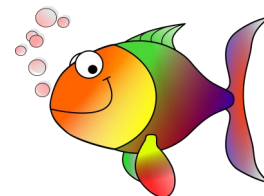
Students at the middle school recently completed their annual December food drive. The students collected a total of **3,128** items, which will be donated to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier.



Fish Committee **SHOUTOUT**

Horseheads Middle School follows the four tenets of the Fish Philosophy:

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



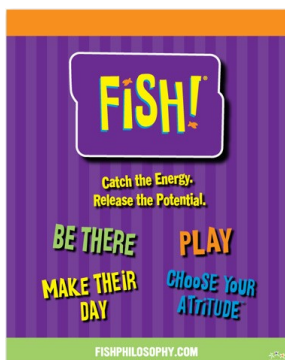
The Fish Committee wishes to recognize the following staff members for December:

Mr. Steele (Technology Teacher), for creating the wooden candy cane holders for the countdown-to-break for our students. This is a new tradition every December!

Mrs. Franklin and Mrs. Karnas (both Teaching Assistants), for making the ribbon countdown-to-break candy cane holders on the fly when we realized that we wouldn't have enough of the wooden ones finished in time.

Mrs. Smith (Main Office Secretary) for always working hard and taking the time to help the FISH committee keep everything running smoothly.

Mrs. Nicolae (Spanish Teacher), Mrs. Kendall (Art Teacher), and the yearbook staff for helping to make our "Elf Photobooth" such a success. Staff and students could dress up and take group pictures for this fun photo op.



Mrs. Andrews, 7th grade Math Teacher, popped in the photo booth for a quick snapshot.

Follow Us!

On social media



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

To report child abuse or neglect, call toll free 1-800-342-3720 or ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps

**SAFE
SCHOOLS
LINE**

795-2044 or
1-800-305-4984

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.

 **SEE SOMETHING.
SAY SOMETHING.**



School Notes

What you Need to Know



Progress Reports/Report Cards

Parents are informed of student progress in two ways. Progress reports are sent home with students at the five-week point of each marking period. A report card is sent home with students at the end of the ten-week marking period.

- Distinguished High Honor Roll 95-100**
- High Honor Roll..... 90-94.99**
- Honor Roll 85-89.99**
- Failing Grade** is 64.0 or lower in any course

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

Report Cards Distributed January 31, 2024

Progress Reports Will Reflect Actual Grade

Students will receive their actual grade, even if it is below 50, on their progress reports. Knowing their actual grade, rather than receiving our former “Actual Grade Below 50” comment, will help students and their families better understand the work required prior to the end of the marking period.

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.

Lost your lunchbox? Misplaced your math book? Check the Lost and Found! There are blue bins under the table in the Main Office.



PARENT PORTAL

If you have not already signed up, please visit the District webpage. Under the “Quicklinks” section, hover over “Parent Portal” and click on “Parent Portal Registration Form”. Fill out the form and submit it, and a link will be sent to your email.

Checking your student’s grades on Parent Portal? The URL for a computer browser is:

<https://schooltool.horseheadsdistrict.com>

The URL for the mobile app is:

<https://gst1.schooltool.com/horseheads>



School Notes

What you Need to Know



YEARBOOK SALE

Order your 2023-2024 Middle School yearbook now! Click here:

<https://link.entourageyearbooks.com/my/HorseheadsMiddleSchool2023>

and then follow the easy on-screen ordering instructions.

The cost is \$ 18.50 and all major credit cards are accepted. **The Middle School will not be handling any yearbook payments.**

All yearbooks must be ordered online from now until May 1.

School Yearbooks will be distributed in June.



Character Trait of the Month

Fairness

Treat all people fairly. Be open-minded.

Listen to others and try to understand what they are saying or feeling.

Don't take unfair advantage of other's mistakes.

Don't take more than your fair share.

Career Development Council



The school district has many career related events including career days, career panels, job shadows, classroom speakers, field trips, and mock interviews. **We are always looking for volunteers** for these events. We are looking for parents, grandparents, other adult family members and friends as well as community volunteers in every career field.

If you feel your career is not of interest or you are currently at home, you may still contribute through mock interviews and other fun classroom events. We will be doing many of these events on-line, but they are still important experiences for the career development of our students. Most events are only an hour or two on a given day, yet **your experience and career knowledge** can deeply influence a child's life, career goals, and future educational path.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about how you can get involved, **please contact Deb Lynch**, the Career Development Representative for the Horseheads School District, at (607)795-5320 or dlynch@gstboces.org or **Jenny Sonsire** at jsonsire@gstboces.org



School Notes



Mrs. Schiefen, MS Reading Teacher
"Ugly Sweater Contest"

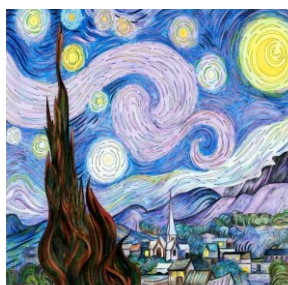
Mrs. Schiefen's reading class has been busy working on designing "ugly sweaters" for the holiday. Students could choose an artist, musician, athlete or any public icon of their choice.

This submission was designed by Katelynn Miller from the 7Blue team.

Great job Katelynn!

Vincent Van Gogh by Katelynn Miller

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER



Vincent Van Gogh

Vincent Van Gogh was one of the most famous painters. He painted more than 900 paintings in 10 years. Some of his most famous paintings were the Starry Night, Café Terrence at Night, Sunflowers, Almond Blossoms, Irises, and many more. In 1884 Vincent fell in love with his neighbor's daughter, Margot. He was so in love with her that he cut off his left ear and sent it to her. Vincent thought that if he did that then she would love him, but instead of Margot loving him she hated and feared Vincent, then after that Vincent decided to go to a nearby field and he shot himself in the chest. He did not die until 2 days later. Sadly, his younger brother Theo died and was buried right next to Vincent. Even though Vincent Van Gogh's paintings are so famous today, he didn't get a single penny for any of his work.



School Notes



Mrs. Schiefen, MS Reading Teacher
"Ugly Sweater Contest"

Mrs. Schiefen's reading class has been busy working on designing "ugly sweaters" for the holiday. Students could choose an artist, musician, athlete or any public icon of their choice.

This submission was designed by Logan Corey from the 7Gray team.

Great job Logan!

Ozzy Osbourne by Logan Corey

Ozzy Osbourne is a popular music artist. Ozzy's real name is John Michael Osbourne, and he was born on December 3rd, 1948, in Birmingham, England. His family lived in one of the poorest districts. Ozzy dropped out of school at the age of 15 and was sent to jail for robbery at the age of 17. After he was released, he joined local bands in England. One such band was Black Sabbath before going off on his own. Some of his well-known songs are "Crazy Train" and "No More Tears". Ozzy has 6 kids. He married his second wife, Sharon, who was his manager. They have lived in California for over 20 years. Many people remember when Ozzy bit the head off of what he thought was a rubber bat, but it was a real bat. No wonder he had the nickname "Prince of Darkness."



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
 - 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.

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.*

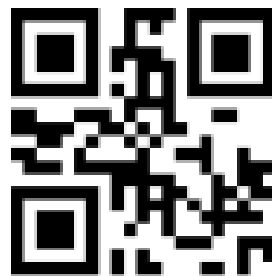
You can participate in this service* by sending **“Y”** or **“Yes”** by text to our school’s short code number, **67587**.

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/td for more info.





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!