

Horseheads Middle School

October, 2022



The Club Issue

Contact Us!

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



What's Happening at HMS

10/7/22

**Conference Day
No School**

10/10/2022

**Columbus Day
No School**

10/12/22

Progress Reports Distributed

10/28/2022

**Dance & Open Gym
3:15 - 5:15pm**

**Students may wear costumes to
school - no masks**

11/8/22

Picture Re-take Day

11/11/22

**Veterans Day
No School**

Opening-day Assembly

Our students were treated to an enjoyable musical performance by motivational speaker Jared Campbell in September. Mr. Campbell talked about three topics affecting middle schoolers, including Resiliency, Dependency and Bully Prevention

"His music drives students to really think about their words and actions towards one another but he adds plenty of humor to make their time with him captivating!", according to his website.

"Jared is an award winning singer/songwriter from upstate New York and has toured the country speaking at hundreds of schools and conferences. "

WeatherSTEM Donates Weather Sys- tem to District



A state of the art weather system at our new stadium is providing weather data, thanks to a donation from WeatherSTEM and its founder/CEO, Ed Mansouri, a Horseheads graduate. "The amazing schools in Horseheads nurtured and encouraged my passion for weather from a very young age," he said.

[Click here for more information.](#)

News from the Nurse

7th Grade Physicals

Hearing, Vision and scoliosis Screenings



Welcome to the 2022-2023 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 mailed home with any abnormal results.

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 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.

- **Conjunctivitis/Pink eye** - Your child may return after receiving prescribed medication for 24 hours

- **Head Lice** - Your child may return after treatment; and no live lice present.

- **Strep Throat** - Your child may return after 24 hours of prescribed treatment

- **Cough/Congestion/ wheezing** - Your child may return when symptoms resolve.

Any symptoms suggestive of COVID 19 or close contact exposure:

We are not currently COVID testing or contact tracing, but we have limited at-home tests available upon request. If your child is symptomatic we may request that your child is tested prior to returning to school. If your child has tested positive for COVID, they need to remain out of school for five days. They may return on day 6 as long as they are fever free for 24 hours and symptoms have significantly improved. They will need to wear a mask on Day 6 through Day 10.

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,

Annette Cobb RN

Horseheads Middle School Nurse





GIRLS + TOOLS

Explore the trade fields of carpenters, electrical workers, plumbers and pipefitters, and more! Gain direct knowledge and experience of the trades through various hands-on workshops.

FOR GRADES 6-8

WEEK 1

October 17
3:15– 4:45

October 20
3:15– 4:45

WEEK 2

October 24
3:15– 4:45

October 25
11:30–3:00

WEEK 3

November 2
3:15– 4:45

November 3
11:30–3:00

WEEK 4

November 7
3:15– 4:45

November 10
3:15– 4:45

Explore the trades through projects like:

Drywall Installation • Drywall Patching • Proper Painting Techniques • Leveling • Electrical Wiring • Basic Plumbing

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Last day to register is Friday, October 14

These workshops are FREE!

These workshops were made possible through the generous contributions provided by the **Fund for Women**.

To register or for more information, visit our website:
sciencediscoverycenter.org | (607) 973-2918

News from the Middle School Café

Rob Cole, Manager

Jennifer Basch, Manager



NEW YORK MENU DAY! October 19

NY Macaroni & Cheese—made with Great Lakes Cheddar & Bread

Fresh NY Kale & Apple Salad

Fresh NY Seedless Grapes

NY Apple Cider

Chilled NY Milk



Contact the Food Service Department with any questions:

Rob Cole, Manager 607-739-5601 x 3671

rocole@gstboces.org

Jennifer Basch, Manager 607-739-5601 x 3674

jbasch@gstboces.org



Middle School News

Calendars, Open House and PTO

Sister City Nakagawa Returns



Online district calendar

To see district and school events in 2022-23, please go to <https://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/fullcalendar.cfm> or go to the Calendar link in the main menu on the district website. The district will not be printing a multi-page calendar this year. Our online calendar allows us to update events throughout the year and may be printed at home.



Thank You!

We greatly appreciate all those who signed up to serve on the PTO.

Want to help?

Email Ron Holloway at rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com in the middle school office at (607) 739-6357.

Nakagawa Sister City Program Returns

The **Horseheads Sister Cities Association (HSCA)** is pleased to announce that we are searching for adult volunteers to be part of a team to renew the exchange visits between Horseheads and sister city Nakagawa, Japan. We would like to plan an exchange that will start in March 2023 when a delegation of students and adults from Nakagawa spend a week in Horseheads exploring and experiencing family life, schools, and area attractions. Usually, the trip to Horseheads is the first time the Japanese students have been abroad, so it is a very influential experience for them.



We hope for a reciprocal exchange trip to Nakagawa in early July 2023, wherein Horseheads students and adults travel to Nakagawa exploring small community Japanese culture in a similar way.

We are unable to renew this exchange without leaders. Parents and/or educators interested in being part of a team to bring this experience back to our students please contact Kelly Murray – kmurray@horseheadsdistrict.com.

An informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9th at 7:00 pm in the MS Library for students in grades 8-11 who reside in the Horseheads school district tax area. Please attend this meeting if you are interested in exploring Japanese culture through this experiential young ambassador opportunity. If you are an adult interested in being part of a team to support our exchange, we invite you to join us too.

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

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.



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	64.0 or lower in any course

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

Progress Reports Distributed October 12, 2022

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://schooltool.horseheadsdistrict.com/sthhweb>

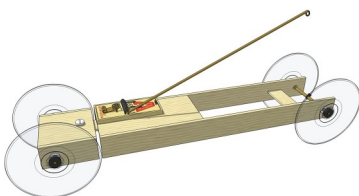


HMS Clubs



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

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

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

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



Exploring the World of Science

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD VOLUNTEERS

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

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

HMS Clubs

Middle School Musical

Mrs. Winderl and Mrs. Stratton are excited to be co-directing “**Shrek Jr.**” this year! The show is scheduled for Friday, February 3rd at 7:00pm, and Saturday, February 4th at 2:00pm right here on our brand new 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. Advisors are Mrs. Winderl & Mrs. Stratton.



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. The GSA at the Middle School is facilitated by Ms. Marinaccio weekly during 10th period. All are welcome.

HMS Live

HMS Live is our television show produced in the school and broadcast throughout the year. The show gives students the opportunity to learn basic broadcasting skills. It features announcements, interviews, sports, club reports, and other programs. The club meets during 10th periods. The advisor is Mr. Donovan.



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. Space is limited to 25 students. To apply for HMS Yearbook you must complete an application and place it in Sra. Nicolae's or Ms. Kendall's mailbox. Students may pick up an application in the Main Office. Advisors are Sra. Nicolae and Ms. Kendall.

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 two representatives to serve on Student Council as 10th Period Representatives. These students are responsible for attending monthly meetings, reporting back information to their 10th period class as well as give input and vote on events hosted by Student Council. 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. Stratton.

HMS Clubs

National Junior Honor Society



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

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

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

New candidates for the NJHS will be selected following the application process which begins in May. Students are inducted into the National Junior Honor Society every June. Advisors are Ms. Leland and Ms. Kelly.



Choir Co-curricular Activities

Seasonal concerts this year are: November 30th (Select Choir); January 18th (1st Semester Concert Choir); and May 31st (Select Choir and 2nd Semester Concert Choir). The concerts will be on our new Middle School Cafetorium Stage! All concerts begin at 7:00pm.



This year's NYSSMA Festival will be held in the Spring. Several singers will be participating!

Athletic Information

Our Winter 2022 sports seasons will begin **November 14** for JV and Varsity Sports. Online registration opens **October 16**. Modified season begins **November 28**: boys & girls basketball and boys modified swimming/diving and wrestling. Online registration opens **October 23**. **Unified bowling registration begins December 4 and starts January 3**. More details can be found on the District website under Athletics. Please ensure that the athlete has a physical (after **November 1, 2020** for a Winter sport), on record with the school nurse.

THINK

Your written and verbal communication should be:

- True
- Helpful
- Inspiring
- Necessary
- Kind

THE RAIDER WAY

Students who follow *The RAIDER WAY* are:

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



Halloween Dance

& Open Gym



Friday, October 28 3:15-5:15 pm

Admission: \$5.00 Snacks For sale

Wear your costumes - no masks allowed!

Have a creepy good time!

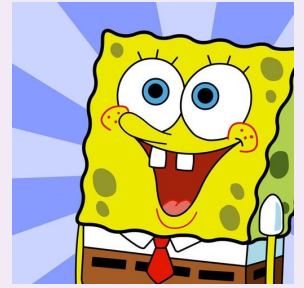
Sponsored by student council and the PTO



SAY CHEESE!

Picture Re-takes & Make-ups

Tuesday, November 8th



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.



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.





Information about Emergency School Closings and 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.

If it is necessary to close or delay schools, the information will be posted on the district's website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com, the district's Facebook pages, Twitter and the local television and radio stations. Horseheads schools now uses SchoolMessenger to alert you of school closings or emergencies. Opt-In from your mobile phone: Just send "Y" or "YES" to 67587.

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.



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