

# Horseheads Middle School

October, 2023



*The Club Issue*

Contact Us!

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



## What's Happening at HMS

**10/9/23**

**Columbus Day - No School**

**10/11/23**

**Progress Reports Distributed**

**10/20/23**

**Conference Day - No School**

**10/27/23**

**Dance & Open Gym: 3:15 - 5:15pm**  
**Students may wear costumes to school**

**11/8/23**

**Picture Re-take Day**

**11/10/23**

**Veterans Day - No School**

**11/15/23**

**Report Cards & Aimsweb Reports**  
**Distributed**

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](mailto:rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com)

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



# *News from the Nurse*

## *7th Grade Physicals*

### *Hearing, Vision and scoliosis Screenings*



Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. Please see the important information below regarding the health of your child attending school.

All 7<sup>th</sup> 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 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

- **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





**Horseheads Central School District**

# **Learning in a Digital World**

A forum for parents and guardians about how the district works  
to keep our schools cybersafe and our students cyberaware

**Tuesday, October 17, 2023**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Horseheads High School Auditorium**

**Keynote Speaker**

**Joe Cicero, MS, MBA**

Security, Compliance, and Management, Microsoft Security

*Learn more about Joe Cicero on  
his LinkedIn page at this QR code:*



**All Horseheads parents and guardians are welcome**

# *Middle School News*

*Calendars, NY Menu Day*

*Sister City Nakagawa Applications*



## **Online district calendar**

To see district and school events in 2023-24, 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.

## NY Menu Day - October 12

October 9 - 13: National School Lunch Week

NY Cheddar Cheese Quesadilla

NY Cheddar Cheese Quesadilla with Chicken

Fresh NY Kale and Apple Salad

NY Pepper Strips

NY Grapes

NY Juice



## **Nakagawa Sister City Organization**



The Horseheads Sister City Association is delighted to announce the 2024 exchange trip with Nakagawa, Japan. Students in 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade interested in early summer travel to Japan through the exchange program can pick up an application packet in the school guidance office. Applications are due January 8, 2024. **An informational meeting will be held in early November, please look out for more information.**

We are also seeking energetic and caring families with students in grades 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade to host two Japanese students during the Oct. 28 - Nov. 1, 2023 visit to Horseheads. If you are interested in becoming a host family this fall, or in the future, please contact Kelly Murray at [kmurray@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:kmurray@horseheadsdistrict.com).

Our HSCA committee welcomes any adult volunteers willing to help organize/assist with exchange events during the fall visit. Please contact Kelly Murray if you are interested in assisting at [kmurray@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:kmurray@horseheadsdistrict.com).

## 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](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)

*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)*

**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** is 64.0 or lower in any course

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

**Progress Reports Distributed October 11, 2023**

### 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.

### 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.

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>

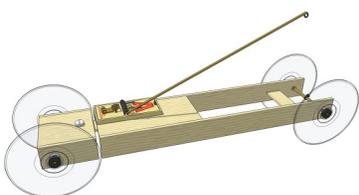


# HMS Clubs



## 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 10<sup>th</sup> periods and every Thursday after school until 4:30. Members do not have to commit to both 10<sup>th</sup> period and after school if they have other commitments and may suspend their membership during sports seasons. Technology Guild. Advisor is Ms. Patelunas.

## 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. Steele or Mr. Gush for more information.



# HMS Clubs

## Middle School Musical

Mrs. Winderl and Mrs. Stratton are excited to be co-directing “**Moana, Jr.**” this year! The show is scheduled for Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, and Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> period class will elect two representatives to serve on Student Council as 10<sup>th</sup> Period Representatives. These students are responsible for attending monthly meetings, reporting back information to their 10<sup>th</sup> 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 &

# 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 29<sup>th</sup> (Select Choir); January 17<sup>th</sup> (1st Semester Concert Choir); and May 29<sup>th</sup> (Select Choir and 2nd Semester Concert Choir). The concerts will be on our Middle School Cafetorium Stage! All concerts begin at 7:00pm.



This year's NYSSMA Festival will be held April 12-13, 2024. Several singers will be participating!

## Athletic Information

Our Winter 2023 sports seasons will begin **November 14** for JV and Varsity Sports. Online registration opens **October 14**. Modified season begins **November 28**: boys & girls basketball and boys modified swimming/diving and wrestling. Online registration opens **October 28**. More details can be found on the District website under Athletics. Please ensure that the athlete has a physical (after **November 1, 2022** for a Winter sport), on record with the school nurse.

# *Halloween Dance*

## *& Open Gym*



Friday, October 27      3:15-5:15 pm

Admission: \$5.00      Snacks For sale

Buy your tickets in the Café during lunch!

Wear your costumes - no masks allowed!

*Have a creepy good time!*

Sponsored by student council and the PTO

# 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.**

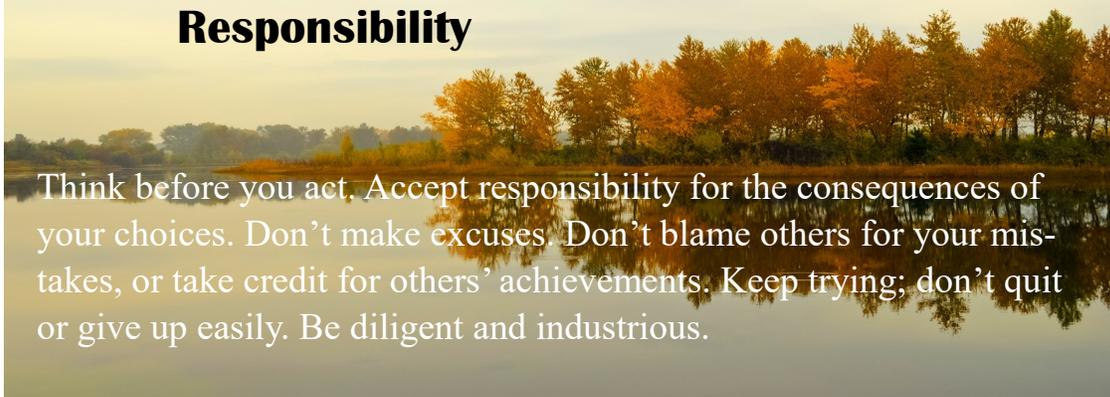
**All yearbooks must be ordered online from now until May 1.**

School Yearbooks will be distributed in June.



## Character Trait of the Month

### 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](mailto:dlynch@gstboces.org) or **Jenny Sonsire** at [jsonsire@gstboces.org](mailto: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](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.

## 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.\*

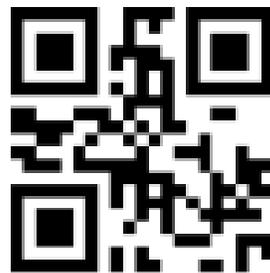
You can participate in this service\* by sending **“Y”** or **“Yes”** by text to our school’s short code number, **67587**.

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](http://schoolmessenger.com/td) for more info.



## **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.



### **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!***