

Horseheads Middle School

February, 2024



The Late Winter Issue

Contact Us!

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

What's Happening at HMS

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 MS Caf 

2/10/2024

Middle School Musical @ 2:00pm MS Caf 

2/8/2024

Yearbook Group Picture Day
8th Grade Panoramic Photo

2/19-23/2024

February Break - NO SCHOOL

3/5/2024

Variety Show @ 7:00pm MS Caf 

3/13/2024

Progress Reports Distributed

Middle School Musical

Mrs. Winderl and Mrs. Stratton are excited to be co-directing "Moana, Jr.!" The show is scheduled for Friday, February 9th at 7:00pm, and Saturday, February 10th at 2:00pm right here on our stage! There is a lot of solo singing as well as group singing and dancing featured. Admission is \$5.00. Don't miss it!



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District News

Budget Development Meetings



2024-25 Budget Development

Budget development for the 2024-25 school year begins early in the calendar year. Regular board meetings and budget workshops are held from February to April until the final adoption of the budget to be offered to voters May 21. All meetings begin at 6pm and are open to the public. Here is the schedule:

- Thursday, February 15 – Regular Meeting
- Thursday, February 29 – Budget Workshop
- Thursday, March 14 – Regular Meeting
- Thursday, March 27 – Budget Workshop
- Thursday, April 11 – Budget Meeting (if needed)
- Thursday, May 9 – Public Hearing on 2024-25 Budget



All meetings are live streamed (at <http://ideas.gstbooces.org/hhds/>), recorded, and posted to the district website. For more information on the development of the 2024-25 Budget, including links to videos and presentations from board meetings, click here: <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDBudget2024-25.cfm>.

Budget Vote/Board of Education Election

The Budget Vote/Board of Education Election is **Tuesday, May 21, 7am-9pm**, in the High School South Gym.

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

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

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



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.

The Horseheads Central School District partners with



The Trusted Platform
for School Community Engagement

Parents/Guardians: You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

The Horseheads School District uses the SchoolMessenger system to deliver **text messages**, straight to your mobile phone with important information about school closings, safety alerts, and more.*

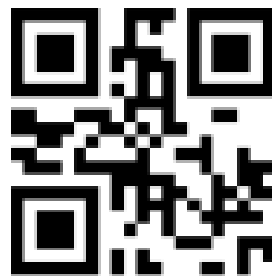
You can participate in this service* by sending **“Y”** or **“Yes”** by text to our school’s short code number, **67587**.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with **“Stop”**.



SchoolMessenger is compliant with the [Student Privacy Pledge™](#), so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

**Opt-In from
your mobile
phone now!**









**Just send
“Y” or “Yes”
to 67587**

i Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes:

SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a “text message”. Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as “short code” texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you’ve ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

*Terms and Conditions – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See schoolmessenger.com/td for more info.



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.



Middle School News

District Census

Modified Sports Spring Season

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:



Modified Sports
Spring season
Registration begins February 5
Start Dates: V/JV: March 11
Modified: March 18

[Click here for sports schedules for the current season.](#)

Modified Boys Baseball
Modified Girls Softball
Modified Boys Lacrosse
Modified Girls Lacrosse
Modified Boys & Girls Outdoor Track

[FamilyID](#)

NY Menu Day - February 8

NY Chicken Wing Dip w/Tostitos chips & Warm Dinner Roll

NY PB Yogurt Dip & Cheese Stick

NY Ranch-Roasted Potatoes

Fresh Carrots &

Celery Sticks

NY Apple Slices



Livestream home sports contests

Live stream athletic events at the District Stadium and Middle School Gym at the link below. Let's go, Blue!

#raiderpride

[Live Stream Link](#)



Middle School News

FISH February Shoutouts

Science Olympiad Team

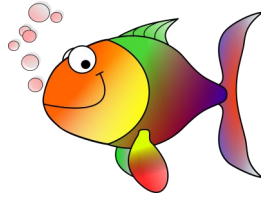
Spelling Bee Results



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:

In January we had a Snowman Week filled with dress-up days and contests.

The winners of the snowman coloring contests were: Ms. Nikki and Lauren, and Charlie Haugabook.

Our Mad Libs contest winner was Sophia Puffer.

The FISH Committee sponsored a staff soup and dessert cook off on the recent Conference Day. Our winners were:

Soup: 1st place was Mr. Gush and 2nd place was Ms. Licht.

Desserts: 1st place was Mrs. Johnson and 2nd place was Mrs. Salisbury.

Thank you to all that participated! We had a great turn out with great food.

In February, the FISH committee will be working on spreading kindness in school and our community with many activities planned for students and staff. We encourage everyone to join in the fun and make the middle school a kinder place!

Science Olympiad Team Prepares for Competition

The Science Olympiad team will face it's first competition of the season at Maine-Endwell on Saturday, February 24.

GO RAIDERS!



Spelling Bee Results

Congratulations to **Dhruv Shrisudersan**, winner of the 2024 Middle School Spelling Bee! **Niyati Sharma** finished in second place. Both will compete in the Regional Spelling Bee in Corning next month. Good luck!

Mock Interview Time at the Middle School Can You Help?

**Wednesday, March 29
Confirm by March 15**

**For more information or to sign up,
contact Deb Lynch at
dlynch@GSTBOCES.org**

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.**



Join the Horseheads Central School District as a School Bus Driver

UPDATE: Pay rate is now \$23.15/hour with required CDL (\$15.50/hr for drivers in training)



- Paid training
- Benefits package including health insurance
- No weekends, holidays, summers

To apply, call 607-739-6338 or pick up an application at our Transportation Department, 601 Sayre Street Extension, weekdays from 7:30am to 3:30pm. Our application may also be found at www.horseheadsdistrict.com/employment. (Both the district application and the supplemental transportation application are required.)

Applicants must be at least 21 years old.
Fingerprint/background check and drug testing are required.

Questions?

Call 607-739-6338 or email hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.



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.

Progress Reports Distributed March 13, 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.



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@gstboces.org](mailto:Jenny.Sonsire@gstboces.org)





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!