

# Horseheads Middle School



Explore-Empower-Excel

## 2024-2025 Orientation

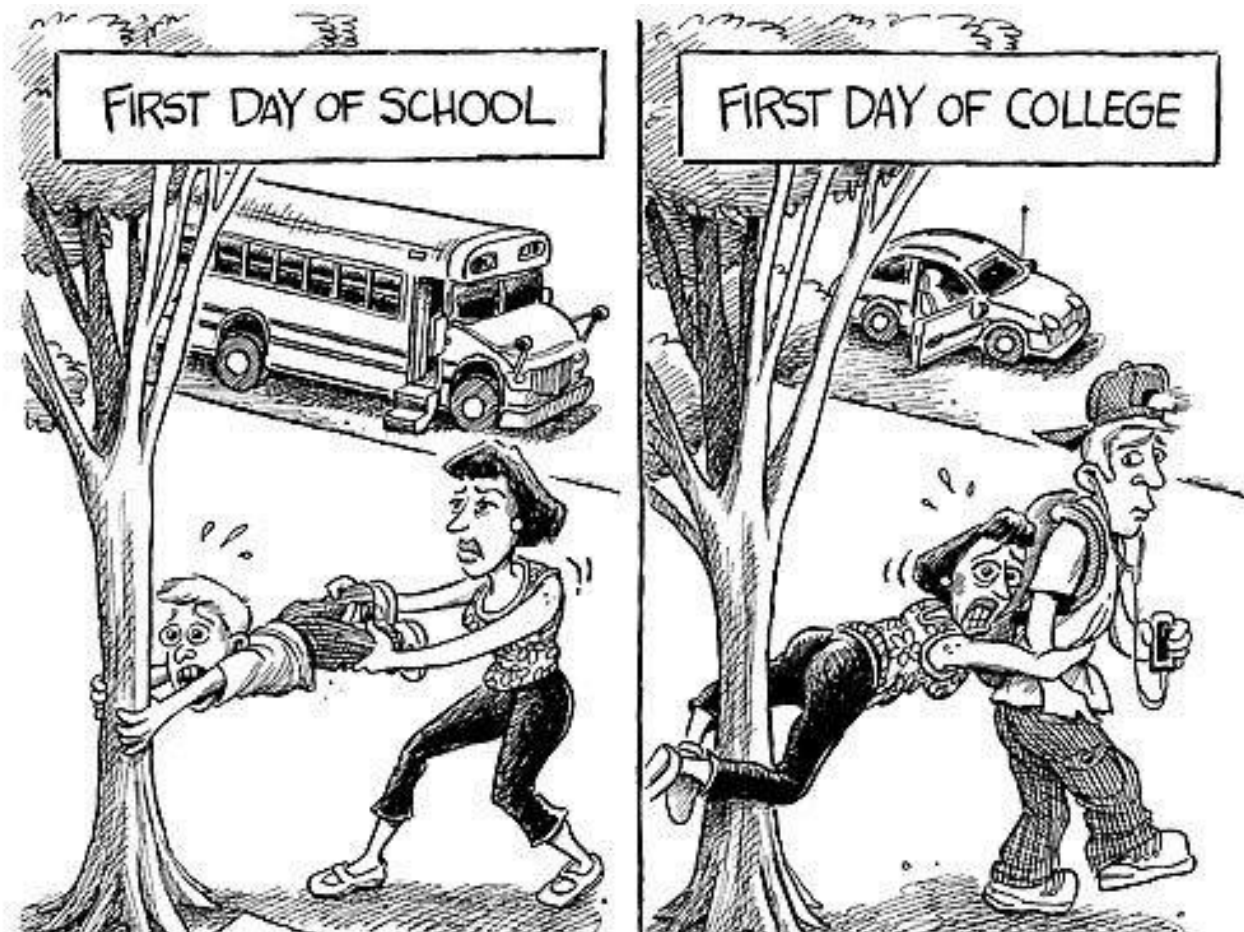
# Video Overview of Horseheads Middle School



[ORIENTATION.mp4](#)

**Video Created by Mr. Donovan, Student Leadership Team and HMS Live Crew**

# Do Not Worry, We Will Take Care Of Your Children!



# Students will find their way around the building.



Students will be able to open their lockers.



Students will have enough time to get from one class to another.



Students will have enough time to eat.

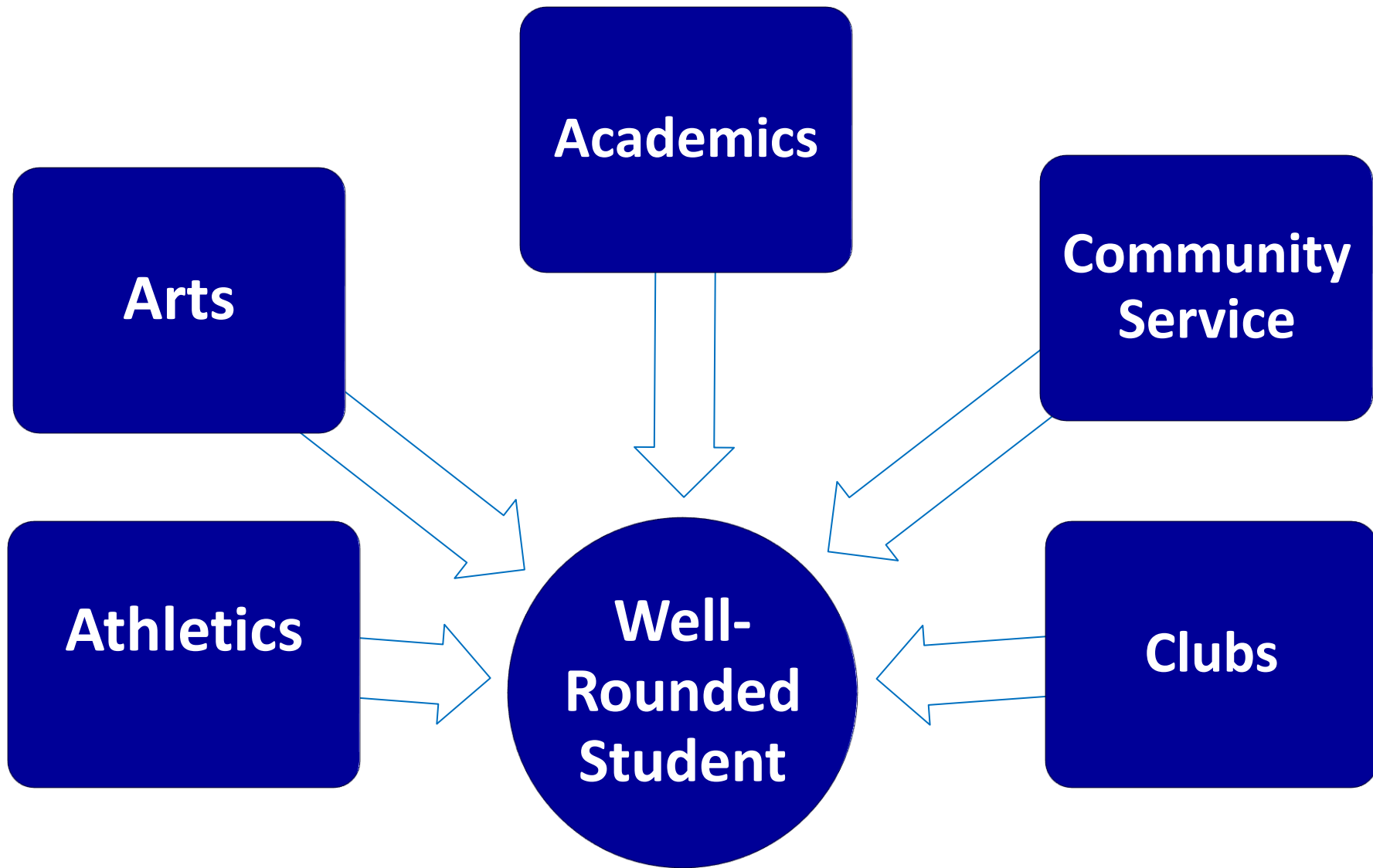


"I hear the school paper gave the cafeteria 5 stars!"

Students will have many people at the middle school to help with their transition.







**Arts**

**Academics**

**Community  
Service**

**Athletics**

**Well-  
Rounded  
Student**


**Clubs**

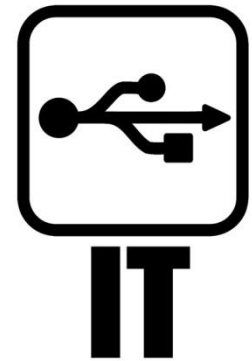
# Middle School Student Opportunities

- Interscholastic Athletics
- Student Council
- Library Workers
- School Store Workers
- HMS Live
- Band
- Orchestra
- Vocal Music
- NYSSMA



# Middle School Student Opportunities

- Science Olympiad
- 10<sup>th</sup> Period Guest Speakers
- Community Service Events
- School Musical
- Technology Guild 
- Studio in Art (HS Credit)
- GSA



# Middle School Student Opportunities

- Harmony Bridge
- National Junior Honor Society
- Yearbook Club
- Boces Career Day
- PONY Express Passes
- Mock Interviews
- Variety Show
- Accelerated Math



# Middle School Student Opportunities

- Student Leadership Team
- Scholastic Challenge
- School Dances and Open Gym
- Foreign Language (HS Credit)
- Assemblies
- Algebra I (HS Credit)
- Living Environment (HS Credit)



# PONY Pass

**7<sup>th</sup> grade students who receive a PONY Pass may visit the cafeteria on Monday and Tuesday during 10<sup>th</sup> period (8<sup>th</sup> grade students have PONY on Wednesday and Thursday). Students receive a PONY Pass if they make the honor roll and do not have disciplinary consequences. **Students who achieve distinguished honor roll, will also be able to visit the café on Fridays.****

# School Counselors

**What does a middle school counselor do?**

- **Communicates between parents and teachers**
- **Works with individuals and groups**
- **Helps identify needs of students**
- **Encourages better interpersonal relationships**
- **Promotes positive attitudes and choices**
- **Aids teachers and parents in helping students**



# School Counselors

- **Assist in making use of community resources**
- **Coordinate referrals to outside agencies**
- **Assist students with academic planning**
- **Provide developmental and preventative counseling**
- **Develop orientation programs to transition students**





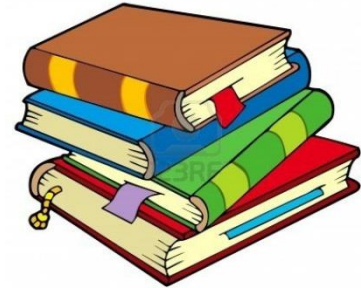
# Teaming

- **Students are divided into three teams (blue, white & grey). There are four academic teachers (ELA, math, science and social studies) on each team.**
- **The team of teachers meets every other day to assess individual student needs, evaluate student achievement and discuss student progress.**
- **Parent conferences are held during team time and can be requested by contacting your student's school counselor.**



# Required Courses

- ELA
- Social Studies
- Science
- Math
- Foreign Language



**Meets every day for 40 weeks**

**\*PE meets every other day for 40 weeks.**

# Required Courses Continued

- Health
- Technology
- Family and Consumer Science 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Meets every day for 20 weeks

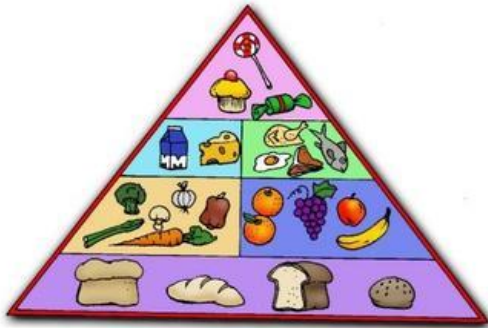


# Required Courses Continued

- **Family & Consumer Science 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**
- **\*Music**
- **\*Art**

\*Students have some choice in music and art. Some of the courses meet for 40 weeks.

**Meets every other day for 20 weeks.**



# State Testing

- 7th grade students will take assessments in ELA and Math.
- 8th grade students will take assessments in ELA, Math and Science.



# aimsweb<sup>™</sup> PLUS Testing

- aimswebPlus screens and monitors the reading and math skills of our middle school students. The standards aligned assessments helps us identify learning gaps and assess individual and classroom growth.
- Students take the computer-based aimsweb Plus assessments during an extended 10<sup>th</sup> period three times per year (fall, winter and spring).



# Sample Schedule

**Student:**

**Student ID**

**Grade: 8**

**Homeroom: 109**

**Locker:**

**Combo:**

**Team: 8 Blue**

**Counselor: Micknich**

**Semester: SEM 1**

	<b>O</b>	<b>E</b>
Period 01 Time 7:50 - 8:30	MATH 8 Stratton(104)	MATH 8 Stratton(104)
Period 02 Time 8:34 - 9:14	ENGLISH 8 Schultz(109)	ENGLISH 8 Schultz(109)
Period 03 Time 9:18 - 9:58	RAIDER BLUE BAND Treacy(400)	PHYS ED Spencer(GYM)
Period 04 Time 10:02 - 10:42	SPANISH I Ringer / M(208)	SPANISH I Ringer / M(208)
Period 05 Time 10:46 - 11:26	SOC ST 8 Schrage(107)	SOC ST 8 Schrage(107)
Period 06 Time 11:30 - 12:10	TECHNOLOGY 8 Malloy Jr(129)	TECHNOLOGY 8 Malloy Jr(129)
Period 07 Time 12:14 - 12:54	LUNCH/STUDY Schrage(107)	LUNCH/STUDY Schrage(107)
Period 08 Time 12:58 - 1:38	LIVING ENV (R) Williams(215)	LIVING ENV (R) Williams(215)
Period 09 Time 1:42 - 2:22	LIVING ENV LAB Williams(215)	ART 8 Kendall(116)
Period 10 Time 2:26 - 3:05	8B PERIOD 10 Schultz(109)	8B PERIOD 10 Arnold / M(218)



**Students will report to homeroom on the first day of school, where they will receive their final schedule.**



# Report Cards



- **Report cards are distributed every 10 weeks.**
- **Progress reports are distributed every 5 weeks.**
- **Students are provided a copy of their progress reports and report cards during 10<sup>th</sup> period.**
- **Distribution dates are listed on the district calendar and in the Middle School Newsletters.**

# Attendance

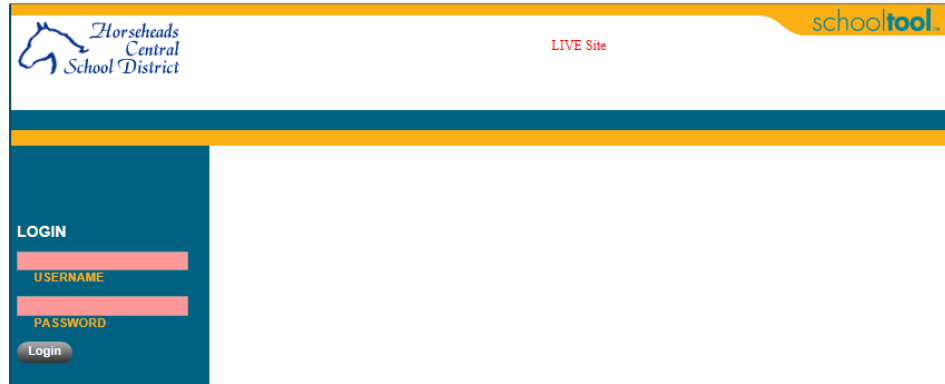


- **“Middle School attendance and GPA provide the best indication of how students will perform in high school classes.”**

source: <https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/5-Key-Findings-MG-Final.pdf>

- **Students enrolled in a high school credit bearing course, must be in attendance 85% of the scheduled class periods. Students lose credit on the 29<sup>th</sup> absence in a course that meets every day all year.**
- **When students are absent from school, they should check **CANVAS** for missed assignments and do their best to stay current with their work. Of course, their health must come first.**
- **For more information regarding attendance please visit <https://www.attendanceworks.org/research/middle-and-high-school/>**

# Parent and Student Portal



The screenshot shows the login page for the Parent and Student Portal. At the top left is the Horsesheds Central School District logo, which includes a horse head icon. To the right of the logo is the text "LIVE Site". Further right is the "schooltool" logo. Below the header is a dark blue sidebar containing a "LOGIN" section. This section has two input fields labeled "USERNAME" and "PASSWORD", and a "Login" button below them.

- **The Parent Portal is a great way to stay up to date on your child's progress. If you do not have an account, you can contact our guidance office for assistance.**
- **Students can check their progress anytime using the Student Portal.**

# Parent Notification



Horseheads schools use 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 just 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”**.

# Health Information



- **All 7th grade students are required to have a physical.**
- **An Emergency Contact Sheet will be sent out the first week of classes.**
- **Vision and hearing testing will be done in the health office for all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, unless provided by a private physician.**

# Health Information

- We encourage self-carry medication orders for inhalers and EpiPens. These must be carried on the student and left in lockers.
- Inhalers and EpiPens are the only medication that a student is allowed to carry.
- Physician's order can be obtained to have other medications, such as pain relievers, available in the health office.



# Health Information

## Continued

- **Routine medication requires a physician's order and parent signature each school year.**
- **All medications must be delivered to and picked up from the Health Office.**



# Health Information

## Continued

### Immunizations:

- If you are new to the district, a copy of your student's immunization record is required within 14 days of entry.
- Any updates to the immunization record are appreciated.





# Athletics



GO BLUE RAIDERS!

- Sports registration and sign ups must be completed through our online system (**Final Forms**). This is a secure platform that provides an easy, user-friendly way to register for our athletic programs. The system keeps track of your profile so that you enter information only once for multiple uses, family members and programs.
- All modified, JV and varsity athletic offerings are found on the athletic web page.
- **Modified Sports Begin 9/5** (accept football and cross country).

# Athletics Continued

## Fall Sports:

Varsity and Junior Varsity: Cheerleading (Varsity only), Cross Country, Football, Boys Golf, Boys and Girls Soccer, Girls Swimming, Girls Tennis, Girls Volleyball, Unified Soccer (grades 9-12)

7th & 8th Grade: Cheerleading, Cross Country (boys and girls), Football, Girls Volleyball, Girls Swimming, Boys and Girls Soccer, Golf



## Winter Sports:

Varsity and JV: Boys and Girls Basketball, Bowling, Indoor Track (Varsity), Boys Swimming, Boys and Girls Wrestling, Cheerleading (Varsity only), Unified Bowling (grades 9-12) 7th & 8th Grade: Boys Basketball, Boys Swimming, Wrestling, Girls Basketball, Cheerleading



## Spring Sports:

Varsity and JV: Boys Baseball, Girls Golf (Varsity), Boys and Girls Lacrosse, Boys Tennis, Boys and Girls Track, Girls Flag Football, Girls Softball, Unified Basketball (grades 9-12)

Modified: Boys Baseball, Boys and Girls Lacrosse, Boys and Girls Outdoor Track, Girls Softball



You May Sign up 30 Days Prior to the Beginning of the Sport.

Please visit the athletics website for start dates.

Students must have a current physical on file with the nurse.

# Athletics Continued

## **Athletic Placement Process :**

- **The Athletic Placement Process procedure timeline is posted on the athletic web site.**
- **Athletic Placement recommendations must come from a District Coach or Physical Education teacher.**
- **Any 7th or 8th grade student recommended to play at a JV or Varsity level must meet fitness and skill requirements, as well as the physical maturity component outlined by the Commissioner of Education.**



# Athletics Continued

- **Athletic Placement paperwork is distributed by the middle school nurse. All paperwork must be completed by the established deadlines.**
- **Paperwork is returned to the Health Office.**
- **Please call the District Athletic Office if you need more information.**



# Middle School Time Schedule

**7:15 – 7:38 – Parent Drop Off**

**7:30 – 7:38 – Buses Unload**

**7:38 – Students Dismissed to 1<sup>st</sup> period**

**7:45 – Morning Announcements (HMS Live)**

**7:50 - 8:30 – 1<sup>st</sup> Period**

**8:34 - 9:14 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Period**

**9:18 - 9:58 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Period**

**10:02 - 10:42 – 4<sup>th</sup> period**

**10:46 - 11:26 – 5<sup>th</sup> Period**

**11:30 - 12:10 – 6<sup>th</sup> Period**

**12:14 - 12:54 – 7<sup>th</sup> Period**

**12:58 - 1:38 – 8<sup>th</sup> Period**

**1:42 - 2:22 – 9<sup>th</sup> Period**

**2:26 - 2:30 Afternoon Announcements**

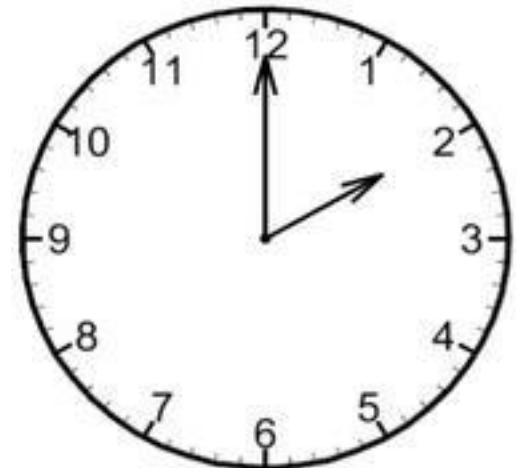
**2:30 - 3:05 – 10<sup>th</sup> period**

**3:05 Dismissal – Early Buses, Walkers and Pick-ups**

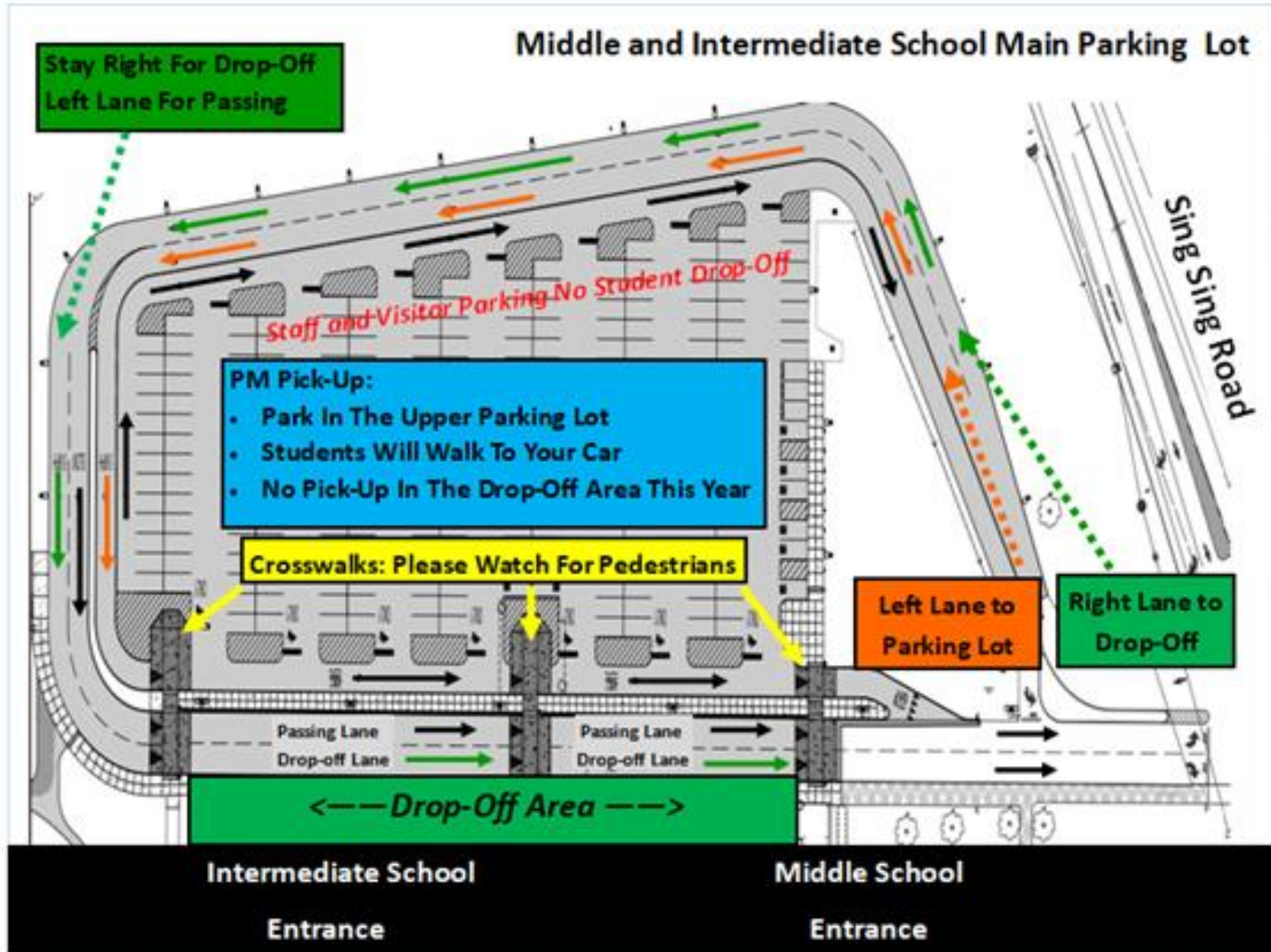
**3:08 Dismissal – Late Buses**

**Lunch is 20 minutes with a 20-minute study.**

**Students have 4 minutes to pass between periods.**



# Pick-Up and Drop-Off



Warning: The lines tends to get longer around 7:35

# Dignity for All Students Act

**New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (The Dignity Act) seeks to provide the State's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function.**

DIGNITY FOR ALL  
STUDENTS ACT



# Dignity for All Students Act

- Horseheads Middle School utilizes the *Raider Way*, *THINK, FISH Philosophy* and the District Character Education Program to promote a safe and supportive learning environment.
- The District Code of Conduct is an additional resource for guiding student behavior.
- District DASA Coordinator – Caitlin DeFilippo
- Middle School DASA Coordinator – Ron Holloway

DIGNITY FOR ALL  
STUDENTS ACT





if you  
**SEE** | **SAY**  
something | something

**Call The Safe Schools Line**

**607-795-2044 or 1-800-305-4984**

**Mr. Holloway**

[rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com)

**Mr. Hoeffner**

[thoeffner@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:thoeffner@horseheadsdistrict.com)



Signs Located  
Throughout  
The Middle  
School



## *Tips for Success*

- Come to school every day
- Turn off cell phones
- Get to class on time
- Be prepared with materials
- Use your planner
- Complete all work
- Check Canvas for assignments
- Ask for help
- Stay organized
- Follow directions of adults
- Have a *Growth Mindset*
- See something, say something

"The growth mindset is loving challenges and seeing them as opportunities to grow stronger."  
- Carol Dweck

# Middle School PTO

## **Volunteer Opportunities:**

- **Dance Chaperones**
- **Quality Award Parties**
- **Winter Art Show**
- **Teacher Appreciation Breakfast**
- **8th Grade Celebration**
- **PTO Spirit Wear Sales**



# PTO Continued

- **Please be sure to sign up for the PTO email distribution list.**
- **You will receive emails throughout the year when we have volunteer opportunities.**
- **We encourage you to attend our PTO meetings throughout the year.**



# Support The PTO

Your donations help the PTO support our students and staff. We will send a donation request at the beginning of the year, but you can donate today using Venmo. Thank you for your support!



**venmo**

**Use this QR to donate today through Venmo.**

Each \$5 Donation  
Earns You The  
Opportunity To  
Take Home  
The Cooler



# Middle School Contacts

**Main Phone Number: 739-6357**

- **Principal – Ron Holloway**
- **Assistant Principal – Tom Hoeffner**
- **Nurse – Annette Cobb**
- **Main Office Secretary – Ronda Smith**
- **Attendance Secretary – Sarah Cline**
- **Guidance Secretary – Katheryn Whitmarsh**
- **Guidance Secretary – Maggie Bleeker**
- **Guidance Counselor – Marti Clark (A-K)**
- **Guidance Counselor – Steve Micknich (L-Z)**
- **School Psychologist – Sara Michelucci**
- **Social Worker – Melanie Rahr**
- **Social Worker – Kristen Sternquist**



# Important Websites

**District Website:**

[www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com)

**New York State Department of Education  
Website:**

<http://www.nysed.gov/>

**Association for Middle Level Education**

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/mle/mleessentiaelements.html>

**National PTA Website:**

<http://www.pta.org/index.cfm>

**New York State Health Department :**

<http://www.health.ny.gov/>





# We Would Be Happy To Answer Any Questions



Call 607- 739 - 6357 or email  
[rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com)

# Thank You for Attending Our Parent Orientation

The building will be open for a  
self-guided tour.

