



The Sky's the Limit! HORIZON MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Home of the Hawks -

October 14, 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Oct. 17 MW Football @ GMS 3:30
- Oct. 17 LW Football @ Horizon 3:30
- Oct. 17 JV Football @ HMS & GMS (full games)
- Oct. 18 8th Softball @ EMS 3:30
- Oct. 18 7th Softball @ Horizon 3:30
- Oct. 19 XC vs. EMS TBD 4:00
- Oct. 19 8th Softball @ N.P. 3:30
- Oct. 19 7th Softball @ Horizon 3:30
- Oct. 19 MW Football @ Horizon 3:30
- Oct. 19 LW Football @ Bowdish 3:30
- Oct. 19 JV Football @ HMS & BMS (full games)
- Oct. 24 MW Football @ Horizon 3:30
- Oct. 24 LW Football @ N.P. 3:30
- Oct. 24 8th Softball @ GMS 3:30
- Oct. 24 7th Softball @ Horizon 3:30
- Oct. 24 JV Softball @ GMS 3:30
- Oct. 25 JV Softball—TBA
- Oct. 25 XC All League @ CVHS 4:00
- Oct. 29 7th Grade Medieval Feast
- Nov. 1 Internet Safety Parent Night @ Bowdish 6:30-8:30 PM
- Nov. 10 Veterans Day Assembly 9:30 AM

HORIZON MIDDLE SCHOOL

3915 S. Pines Road
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

www.cvsd.org/horizon

*Office line: 228-4940

*Attendance line: 228-4950

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As you know, we will be hosting conferences this coming week. The purpose of the October conference is to broaden the lines of communication between school and home. The format to expect is similar to our February conference last winter. You will arrive at Horizon with your child and go to the cafeteria to pick up your child's portfolio. They are organized by their 6th period teacher. Take some time to review the portfolio with your child. In the portfolio you will find a progress report, a test scores sheet, an information sheet from each teacher, and samples of student work. This part of conferences will feel very different for our 6th grade parents and parents new to Horizon. There is not a teacher sitting with you while you and your child discuss the portfolio. After you feel you have had enough time for you and your child to review the portfolio take it to the gym and meet individually with the teachers. In the "Arena" style conferences you have a couple of minutes to check in with teachers. Just like waiting for your medicine at the pharmacy, please stand back while someone else is with the teacher to allow for some privacy. We look forward to seeing you next week.

After conference week, we begin a fall Spirit Week. This involves dressing up for the spirit days and culminates in a spirit and fall sports recognition assembly. ****Please Note**** The final dress up day on October 28th is Halloween Costume Day. Since we already dressed up every day this week we WILL NOT allow costumes at school on October 31st. Right after school on October 28th we will host our first Mixer of the year. Of course it is a Halloween theme! At the Mixers, students dance, play organized activities, eat pizza, listen to music, and hang out with friends. PTA is sponsoring this event and if you are interested in helping out, just reply to me and I will forward it to Nancy Bates, our Mixer chairperson.

If October 28th wasn't busy enough, that is the same day our 7th grade students will be participating in their culminating activity for the Medieval unit. The Medieval Feast is a fun event where kings, queens, nobles, knights, and even the peasants come together to celebrate their kingdom. Another volunteer opportunity—let me know.

Keep a spot on your calendar for our PTA fundraising auction on November 18th. This adults-only event will be a great opportunity to help the PTA earn money for the various programs they support and especially their involvement of technology purchases for our school. Over the years, PTA has purchased flat screen TV's, document cameras, digital projectors, and teacher presentation stations. They even recently purchased two new backpack vacuum's for our custodians! If you want to volunteer to help with the auction, let me know and I will forward your message to Rondielle Frye.

Finally, I want to put a call out to all military veterans. We want to invite you to participate in our Veteran's Day program on November 10th at 9:30 a.m. We would be honored by your presence. If you have veterans, including active and reserve duty personnel, in your family—please invite them. Spread the word to your neighbors that may be Veterans as well. This assembly is not limited to friends and family of our students. This community event is open to the public.

Let's make this a great year!

Mr. Hardt

Mr. Hardt Named WLMA Principal of the Year



Horizon Middle School's Jesse Hardt has been named *Principal of the Year* by the Washington Library Media Association (WLMA). He will receive the award on October 14th during the annual WLMA conference in Spokane. Now in his fifth year as Horizon's principal, Hardt is being recognized for his support of his school's library as a valuable learning

resource. His commitment to technology has allowed the library media center to expand from one lab with 26 computers to two labs totaling 56 computers. He activated a closed circuit television system and supported the creation of a class enabling students to create a weekly newscast using a variety of media. He has generously accommodated a library budget allowing for the purchase of up-to-date titles appealing to the school's many levels of readers. And, in his role as curriculum leader, Hardt includes teacher librarian, Marijke Albers, in opportunities to learn additional research-based techniques and as part of the school's leadership team. "He truly supports our library media center as an integral part of our curriculum, not only as a resource, but a teaching and learning center for our students," wrote nominator Albers. *Congratulations, Mr. Hardt!*

School Programs & Operations Levies

One of the ways our community shows support for our schools is through the passage of School Programs and Operations Levies. As state funding continues to erode, we have come to rely on our local levy for more of our critical programs for kids. In Central Valley, 23.9%, or \$24 million, of our overall budget is accounted for by the levy. Our levy pays for a variety of essential programs and activities such as:

- Technology
- Special Education
- Curriculum adoptions, instructional materials & equipment
- Extra-curricular/Co-curricular activities
- Programs for highly capable students
- Nutrition Services
- Transportation
- Utilities and Insurance

Our district's three-year levy will expire in December 2012. This means we must ask voters to consider a replacement levy in 2012.

The Horizon Library Media Center Home of the Reading Hawks

The Horizon students have taken STAR tests to determine their reading level. We let students know a personalized reading range for their most effective practice reading. All of our Accelerated Reader books are marked with reading levels. This enables students to make effective choices for reading material. The reading range reflects a comfortable reading level, at which students can most efficiently practice and improve their reading ability. The best way to improve reading ability is to read. Students should be reading every day, not only at school but at home too. Even one half hour a day can make a big difference. If you have questions about the Accelerated Reader program, please call Marijke Albers, Media Specialist at 228-4982.

Please visit Horizon's website, www.cvsd.org/horizon, click on "Services", then "Library" for a list of the Accelerated Reader Quizzes we have available at Horizon. Also on the Library page are series lists for all the series books we have in our library.

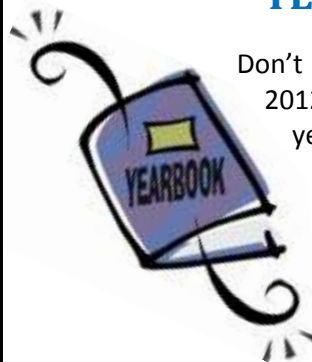
Our parent volunteers are again working to help our library media center better service our students. Ruth Horn is my first parent volunteer of the year. We could still use some help Monday or Wednesday afternoons from 1:00—2:40 PM, Tuesday or Thursday mornings 10:00—11:40 AM. Please contact me if you can spare the time.

We work to make our students life-long readers. I hope that you will continue to encourage your children to read. A literate, knowledgeable society is the basis for a strong democracy.

Marijke Albers, Media Specialist

Happiness is a conscious choice, not an automatic reaction—Mildred Berthel

YEARBOOKS!



Don't forget to purchase your 2011-2012 Horizon Middle School yearbook! For a mere \$18 you can own a hard-copy of all the memories created over the course of the school year. Deadline for orders is Friday, December 2nd.

Counselor's Corner

by Connie Mott

We are so excited to have the students back to school and settling back into their routines. So far this year, students have been getting to know their teachers, learning classroom expectations and content, will be taking fall assessments and meeting new friends. As we continue into the school year, I would like to remind parents of some general things to consider.

All students and parents, new or returning to the middle school experience, please remember that middle school is an opportunity to meet new people, develop new skills and interests, and is the time to become more independent and responsible citizens. It is very normal to have mixed emotions about this time in life. Most students are excited about the transition such as having their own locker, different classes to choose from, meeting new people, and just having more choices in general. Students can also be nervous about starting a new school, walking in the halls, eating in the cafeteria, being able to make friends, having homework, and taking health and fitness every day. Students may even feel sad that they didn't get a class with their friends, or have the teacher they were hoping for. Everyone handles transition differently, but there are many things that can be done to help your student adjust to middle school. Some examples are:

- Getting and staying organized
- Use your planner to track homework assignments
- Keep your locker neat
- Make time for homework
- Break big projects into smaller ones
- Prepare the night before
- Attend school every day
- Be friendly
- Get involved
- Be yourself

Parents can help by asking questions, listening closely, having a regular place for homework, meeting your student's teachers, highlighting the positives, and by getting involved at your student's school. Just remember, if you have any questions or concerns you are always welcome to come in or call.



Time Out With The AD

Commitment to an athletic team is an important concept for students to grasp. Every athlete must have a minimum of 10 practices before they are eligible to compete. Practices are only counted if students have *physically* participated for the majority of the practice time. The Horizon coaching staff follows the criteria set forth in our Participation Form and the WIAA:

"All absences must be either an approved school absence or a prior approved absence with the coach, by a parental note." - Horizon Middle School Participation Form

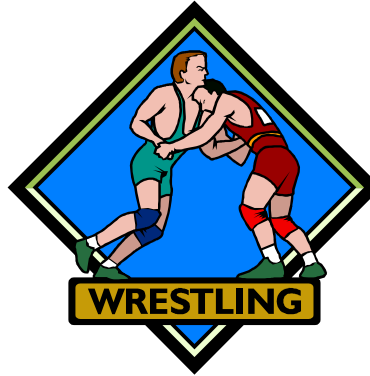
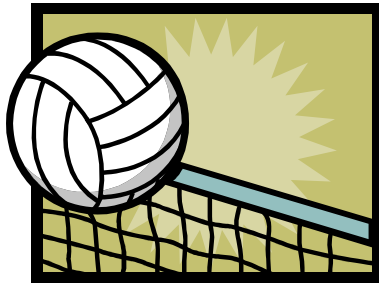
"An athlete who is absent from school for one or more periods on the day of a contest/practice must obtain permission from his/her principal or designee before he/she is eligible to take part in the contest. This protects both the player and the coach. A boy/girl too ill to attend school is probably not physically fit for competition. If his/her absence was for some other reason, the principal should determine the propriety of the absence. A pre-arranged absence for a school activity or for a doctor/dentist appointment is eligible if the absence was pre-approved by the school." - Horizon Middle School Participation Form

If you do not participate in PE you are not allowed to practice or play on that day unless a written medical excuse by a physician or administrative approval is presented or on file." - Horizon Middle School Participation Form.

18.22.4 "Schools may not give students special treatment or privileges on a regular basis to enable them to participate in non-school activities, such as reduced practice times, special workouts, late arrivals, or early dismissals." - WIAA Handbook

We understand conflicts arise; the key is communication. Let's work together as a team to make your child's athletic experience a success!

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL AND BOYS' WRESTLING



***Just a reminder that the volleyball and wrestling, for 7th and 8th graders begins October 26th. Students should listen for an announcement regarding their pre-season meeting where they will pick up paperwork for their sport. As with the fall season, all paperwork and fees will need to be completed and turned into the office, before the first practice. If you need an extra form, you will find those on our website.**

A Little More info.....

***As you may know, there has been an added emphasis on concussions in athletics. It is very imperative that you communicate with the coaching staff if your athlete has suffered a concussion, either here or outside of school. The health and wellness of our athletes is far more important than playing time.**

***Schedules for the current seasons can be found online at www.cvsd.org/horizon**

***The weather is definitely changing. Please remind your athlete to bring sweatshirts/sweatpants to keep warm during practice and/or games.**



Tentative Volleyball Schedule

- Nov. 14 8th Grade @ HMS
7th Grade @ Evergreen
- Nov. 16 8th Grade @ Greenacres
7th Grade @ Horizon
- Nov. 21 8th Grade @ Horizon
7th Grade @ North Pines
- Nov. 28 8th Grade @ Horizon
7th Grade @ Bowdish
- Dec. 5 8th Grade @ Evergreen
7th Grade @ Horizon
- Dec. 7 8th Grade @ Horizon
7th Grade @ Greenacres
- Dec. 12 8th Grade @ North Pines
7th Grade @ Horizon
- Dec. 14 8th Grade @ Bowdish
7th Grade @ Horizon

- *First Practice: October 26th**
- *All games begin at 3:30 PM**
- *Schedule subject to change**
- *Hard-copy schedule sent by 11/4/11**



Tentative Wrestling Schedule

- Nov. 10 Greenacres @ Horizon
- Nov. 15 Bowdish @ Horizon
- Nov. 22 Horizon @ Greenacres
- Nov. 29 North Pines @ Horizon
- Dec. 6 Horizon @ Bowdish
- Dec. 8 Horizon @ Evergreen
- Dec. 13 ALL LEAGUE @ Evergreen

- *First Practice: October 26th**
- *All matches begin at 3:30 PM**
- *Schedule subject to change**



6th Grade Language Arts/ Social Studies

Ricky Diaz is on a mission for vengeance. He has discovered that his mother's suspicious death was not an accident. Sparrow Hawk Red is captivating our 6th graders in Language Arts. How will Ricky survive on the streets of Mexico disguised as a ratero and steal an airplane from a Mexican drug cartel? As we read this novel, we are focusing on applying comprehension monitoring strategies to understand fiction and nonfiction text.

In Social Studies, we are studying the Five Themes of Geography to help us better understand our world. We will apply these themes in greater depth throughout the year.

We encourage you to check your student's planner for your child's homework. The sixth grade teachers look forward to working with you this year.

Ms. Peirone
Mrs. Sweeney
Mr. Weis

6th Grade Math & Science

The 6th grade math and science classes are off to a great start this year. This team includes Mrs. Schab, Mr. Morrow and Mr. Hildahl.

Our "new" math curriculum is now in its third year and is called Math Connects. This is a more traditional approach and is closely aligned with state standards. This curriculum offers support and challenges for learners at various levels and includes on-line support as well. The entire text book can be found online and your child now has an access code to find all of this information online. Your child can no longer claim they left their book at school and can't do their homework, they can just look it up on the internet. If you need help with this, have your child pick up an instruction/log on sheet from their math teacher.

We are kicking off the year in science with brand spanking new curriculum. This is an inquiry-based curriculum called Interactive Science. The text books for this curriculum are "consumable", meaning that your child writes in his/her book and can keep it forever. We are starting out the year exploring Water and the Atmosphere. Our classes will be studying the water cycle, water resources and our own aquifer. Students are also organizing their scientific vocabulary, lab reports and activities into a composition notebook they can refer to whenever necessary.

A Note from the Horizon Music Department

Parents, Please help your child succeed in Band and Orchestra by setting up a practice routine at home. This valuable home work is just that, work to be done at home to increase success in the classroom.

Concert Dates:

Band	December 1
Orchestra and Choir	November 22

Concerts are performed in the Cafeteria of the Performing Arts at 7 PM

"The Horizon Middle School Music Program has planned many musical manifestations of marvelous, and melodious mega-hits designed to melt your heart, manhandle your emotions and meander through magical mysteries from Minnesota to Mexico, in a manner of speaking. –Mickey Mouse



Seventh Grade: Language Arts and History

It was wonderful seeing so many of you at our Back To School Night!

We are really enjoying getting to know your students.

Right now we are still getting to know our student's skills and personalities.

Summary of Curriculum Map for September/October:

Writing process: Students become better informational writers; explaining their thoughts and using concrete details with commentary.

Literary Reading focus: Students analyze characters, plot and some of the elements of literature. We are discussing how **questioning, predicting and using text evidence**" before and during reading helps with understanding.

Informational Reading: Students write and use 2-column notes to gather main ideas and details that will help answer essential questions. Students ask questions about what they read, find answers within the text. They also are learning how to infer answers using text, and background knowledge. A more difficult research skill is to also ask, "What is NOT answered in this text that I might need to further research?" Right now the essential questions are about how people lived during medieval times in Europe.

History: Students are learning about reliable sources of information.

Essential Questions

What is a society?

How does a society use geography and natural resources?

How does a society develop laws and rules?

How do people meet wants and needs?

What is feudalism and how does this system meet the social, economic, and governmental needs of medieval society?

How does a medieval society diffuse ideas to others?

NOTE: We are spending more time instructing on how to think and learn, and going deeper with skills. Our "Gradual Release" methods assure more students understand and gain lasting skills, so it takes a little longer to gather several assessments over grades.

Ms. Kielbon kkielbon@cvsd.org

Mrs. Filanoski sfilanoski@cvsd.org

Mr. Weis mweis@cvsd.org

7th Grade Art

In 7th grade art the students are currently hard t work on their "Native American Spirit Animal" linoleum block printing- also known as a "Linocut." A "Linocut" is a printmaking technique, in which a sheet of linoleum mounted on a wooden block, is used for the relief surface. A design is cut into the linoleum surface with a V-shaped chisel with the raised (uncarved) areas representing a reversal (mirror image) of the parts to show printed. The cut areas can then be pulled from the backing. The linoleum block is inked with a roller, called a brayer, and then impressed onto paper or fabric.

So if you've ever walked into Horizon and noticed a young man observing in Mrs. Kielbon's class, you might have wondered, "Who is that guy?" Well, my name is Seth Parsloe, and I'm a student from Eastern Washington University and Karen Kielbon's observing teacher candidate. Currently I am earning a dual endorsement in English and social studies, and next fall I start student teaching. I need to be honest; this career path is a LOT of work, but all this work taught me something important: I couldn't ask for a better job than teaching. I love studying history, reading literature, and helping kids learn, and what amazes me is that in the end I'll get to do this on a daily basis AND get paid for it! Am I lucky? Heck yeah! Do I do other stuff? A few things I love to do in my spare time is rock climb, weight train, read great

8th Grade Language Arts and Social Studies

It's hard to believe that six weeks have already come and gone. The 8th graders hit the ground running, and we haven't looked back. The first few weeks were filled with pre-assessments that the team used to establish "learning baselines" for our classes. We asked ourselves: "What areas do they know and can move through quickly, as well as what areas are weaker and need more time?" These non-graded assessments included a district meeting writing assignment, Accelerated Reader, Gates McGinitie reading comprehension and vocabulary, as well as some formative assessments based on some of our essential questions for both Language Arts and Social Studies.

As the 1st trimester progress reports make their way home, keep in mind that there may not be a lot of "grades" in the book yet to demonstrate an accurate gage of your student's ability. There has been a shift in education that is different than what you or I experienced as students. In the past, our teachers started a new concept: we completed an assignment and they put a grade in the grade book after our one and only attempt. Then we moved on whether we, as students, had mastered the skill or not. Today, teachers are guided by a Guaranteed Viable curriculum that emphasizes giving students multiple exposures to a skill or strategy, prior to "officially" assessing them. So, in the first few weeks of school, there has not been a lot of graded work, therefore, if your student did not turn in an assignment, or did poorly on a test-their midterm grade will reflect that. Not to worry, there is plenty of time for them to recover. The transition from one grade level to another can take a little time.

What can you do to see what your student is capable of? Talk to them. Don't ask the question "What did you do today?" (We all KNOW what that answer will be: NOTHING!!) Instead, ask them what they learning...do they know? Can they articulate their knowledge? In the 8th grade, for example, they should be able to tell you what the social, political, and economic reasons were behind the Age of Exploration, and what the impact of Colonization had on our country. And, in Language Arts, they should be able to tell you how an author uses the craft of characterization to develop a character, or what the importance of establishing a focus/purpose is in their reading comprehension. Trust me; they have been VERY busy in class. As the trimester continues, we will also continue to spiral back to the skills they have already learned, while introducing new ones. We're heading to war in both Language Arts and Social Studies—The Revolutionary War that is.



New Media Class Aims to Inform

Taking communications to a new level, the newly designed media class is off to a great start. Students fill weekly roles working on the weekly news broadcast called "Hawk Talk," designing the "Hawk Blog" using Power Point, or taking pictures and designing pages for this year's Horizon yearbook. The class is taught by Mr. Hildahl, who has extensive experience in communications, broadcasting and journalism.



For the 2011-2012 school year, 8th graders who rotate through the media class will learn how to communicate the important news and events of Horizon Middle School in an effective and captivating manner. On Hawk Talk, students record stories throughout the week and download their video into the computer. Once there, the weekly editor takes the video footage, adds titles and credits as well as music. The finished product is a Window Movie File that is burned to a DVD and played in all Horizon classrooms on Friday. So far, it has been well received by staff and students.

Whether you knew this or not, our PTA purchased a big screen TV for the commons several years ago. Students in the media class update a Power Point file daily, called the Hawk Blog, where they highlight all of the important information regarding Horizon students such as the daily lunch special, birthdays, upcoming events and any accolades to be shared with students and staff. Hawk Blog serves as a great opportunity to learn how to visually inform an audience in a concise manner.

Lastly, students who rotate through media will have the opportunity to put their creative touch on the yearbook. That may involve taking pictures, designing layouts, making important decisions, writing and editing copy and much more. It looks to be a challenging, yet exciting endeavor for all students who rotate through the media class this year.

PTA: Team Work Makes the Dream Work



HORIZON MIDDLE SCHOOL 2011-2012 PTA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Rondielle Frye 926-8553

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS

Barb Keto 891-8903

Allyson Devenish 891-7618

TREASURER

Ruth Horn 844-2298

SECRETARY

Wendy Dingus 924-8981

What did I miss? If you were not able to attend Oct. 10th PTA meeting, here is a quick overview: *Conferences are next week. If you need more time with a teacher, request forms are located on tables in common area.

*Progressive Discipline: Overview of how system works.

*Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI): Where did Horizon score on MSP & how do we compare? www.k12.wa.us Choose state report card, Central Valley, Horizon School for details.

*School Safety: Details of the programs being addressed by classroom: Harassment & Bullying; Do you monitor your child's texts & Facebook?

*Career Explorations: Specific options for 6th, 7th, & 8th.

Next Meeting: Feb. 1, 2012

Message from the Board:

So far the year is off to a great start with over 135 PTA members! Yeah! Members are nice ... but *involved*

members & volunteers are critical to reaching our goals of improved communication, family advocacy, & supporting academics & programs through fundraising. The biggest myth about Middle School is parents are no longer needed or welcome in the school! There are **many** ways to be involved with your student – they just differ from Elementary. So take a moment to review the upcoming events & see where you can contribute. We promise to respect your time!

Halloween Mixer: It's Munch & Mingle Time –

Friday, Oct. 28th 2:45-4:30 p.m. Students wearing costumes will be eligible for prizes. Pizza, Pop & Snacks are provided at a low cost, so yes, your student will need to bring about \$5. There is background music & games & adult supervision. Parents are invited. We need help with food, prizes & games. Contact Chair: Nancy Bates if you can assist in any way - nancybates88@msn.com.

Doest Thou Knowest about the Medieval Feast?

The focus for 7th grade students this trimester for social studies has been Medieval History. The "crowning" activity is a Medieval Feast hosted by PTA. The feast is Friday, Oct. 28th during the students' lunch and class block. The upper gym is transformed to reflect Medieval Times. Students come to school dressed in a costume for the feudal social class to which they have been assigned by their teacher. Since it's also spirit day, students can wear their costume all day & to the Halloween mixer that afternoon.

Parents are welcome to attend with students while they eat & participate in activities related to the era. Look for an email next week asking parents to help provide food such as grapes,

cheese, breads, etc. Top needs include extra costumes & decorations. Also we would love to have anyone with juggling, magic tricks, or dance instruction talent. **Visit the PTA website horizonmspta.com for a list of items still needed to make this event a success.** Contact Chair Allison Stam if you can help with items or day of the event: allisonstam@yahoo.com or 496-4353.

Harvest w/the Hawks:

Join us Nov. 18th from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. for an Italian dinner with live & silent auctions. We are raising money for school technology needs. This will be an adult only event. We are seeking donations for auction items & help with organizing this event. Contact Rondielle if you can help @ 701-1912.

OTHER STUFF THAT'S IMPORTANT!

Snack Attack: Very popular with students & an easy way to be involved! **Open Monday – Thursday from 2:30 – 3:00** We sell snacks: Granola Bars, Pretzels, & Sports drinks all for under \$1. Volunteers are urgently needed to keep this going! Chair: Wendy twdingus@comcasat.net

Domino's Pizza Night – Way to go Horizon! We made \$135! **Next Pizza Night OCT. 21st.**

Mini Grant Awarded: PTA dollars paid for a new vacuum system that allows canister to attach to Janitor's back. Much easier & saves over 2 hours a day!

Horizon Middle
School P.T.A



Inside this issue:



HORIZON MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Home of the Hawks -

HORIZON MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Staff, students, parents, and community will strive to provide a safe and challenging environment which creates an atmosphere of mutual respect and a strong foundation for life-long learning. Through excellence in academics and the use of technology, students will become responsible citizens and complex thinkers.

- ◆ Letter from Principal Hardt
- ◆ Administration Information
- ◆ Upcoming Sports Information
- ◆ 6th Grade News
- ◆ 7th Grade News
- ◆ 8th Grade News
- ◆ Notes from the PTA Board



HORIZON MIDDLE SCHOOL

3915 S. Pines Rd.

Spokane Valley, WA 99206