

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Feb. 28 - Mar. 7, 2014

Ohio Department of Education will not require PSAT in October 2014 - Last fall, Hamilton Local was notified by the Ohio Department of Education that they would be required to give PSAT assessments to high school sophomores beginning in October 2014. On Friday, February 28, State Superintendent Ross sent an email to Superintendent Lester with the news that the Ohio Department of Education will not require that the PSAT be given in October 2014.

Currently House Bill 193 is pending in the Ohio legislature.

This legislation may affect Ohio graduation and testing requirements. As a result, the Ohio Department of Education has chosen to postpone the PSAT to avoid any potential graduation or testing conflicts.

[An analysis of Sub. H.B. 193, as passed by the House.](#)

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Building Operations - Our district participated in the statewide Tornado drill this week. All schools, Hamilton Township Fire Department and Chief Confer of the Obetz Police Department successfully completed their first tornado drill of the year. Each building drilled effectively and efficiently.

Administrative Meetings - Mr. Morrison is attending an eTPES training session on Friday. The electronic Teacher and Principal Evaluation System (eTPES) training is intended to assist evaluators and teachers in their schools to implement the required state evaluation systems. This is the fourth in a series of training sessions.

At the conclusion of this fourth training session, educators should:

1. Automate the calculation of student growth measures for the purpose of evaluation.
2. Be prepared to provide reports for individual educators, LEAs.
3. Be prepared to provide summary information to LEAs and ODE.

The training is open to any person responsible for making decisions associated with student growth measures in evaluation who has access to eTPES administration (superintendent, superintendent designee, principal).

Transportation - Our transportation department is looking for local drivers to join our team. If interested, please contact Mrs. Barbara Haughn at 614-491-8044 ext. 1238.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HTHS Junior Pursues Her Dreams - Hamilton Township HS junior, Mijewell Gabriel is pursuing a career in the medical field with an emphasis in Neurology. In Washington, D.C., Mijewell was given the distinct honor of attending The Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists in late February. The purpose of the program is to allow students to learn more about the medical field, while creating a network of already established medical

personnel and future colleagues including: Noble Prize winners, heads of Medical Facilities, and winners of the Google Science Fair. Events included real-time conversations with surgeons during surgery through simulcast broadcasting, and induction into the Torch and Laurel Society, which helps to support academically gifted students in their transition to college.

Members of the Torch and Laurel Society are made known to local government officials and other business leaders to also help in the networking process. Beyond the obvious benefits of attending the program, Mijewell made many new friends from all over the country and developed a deeper passion to pursue neurology to help others. Mijewell is now eligible to receive scholarships ranging from \$10,000 to \$185,000. Her drive to study neurology is inspired by her uncle who was in a car accident shortly after graduating from HS. He became a paraplegic and lost his ability to speak.

One day after Mijewell's uncle spiked a high fever, his speech returned only for the duration of the fever. Since then, it has been Mijewell's dream to study and research the cause of this unique and extraordinary phenomenon.

HTHS Teacher of the Month: Mr. Anthony Beggrow

"Not sure if he has been chosen yet, but I nominate Anthony Beggrow. His commitment to thinking outside of the box to achieve student success for our hard to reach students is unparalleled." - HS Teacher

"Anthony is an integral member of the special education team here at HTHS. He is always willing to help out when needed for coverage in other content areas and puts much time and effort into helping our struggling students succeed. His energy and enthusiasm for the Science OGT make his review sessions with our students fun and engaging during Advisory!" - HS Teacher

"Mr. Beggrow is deserving of the HTHS Teacher of the Month because he is very thorough with documenting and keeping accurate IEPs and monitoring his case load's grades and progress. Anthony has built strong rapport with many students and they know that he cares, yet still demands quality work." - HS Teacher

"Anthony is always going above and beyond to help students get caught up with work or help them prepare for a science test. He is always coming up with ideas on how to improve student learning and how to get students to achieve at a higher level. You can tell that students really want to do well and impress Anthony when they are working with him. Anthony definitely deserves this honor of Teacher of the Month." - HS Teacher

"Anthony is always professional and dedicated when dealing with students in and outside of school. His dedication to his students is evident in his commitment to them through coursework and athletics. He is always available to help them reach their goals." - HS Staff

Anthony Beggrow stated, "I want to start off by saying thank you for choosing me as teacher of the month. It's a blessing to show up and work with such a great community of staff members. It's inspiring to show up everyday to a positive and hard working environment. A big thank you goes out to the other intervention

specialists and support staff for everything they do. It's truly a team effort working with the our students and helping them be successful."

"My typical day begins with checking grades and missing assignments on Progress Book. I spend a majority of my day in the science classes supporting our students with special needs. The science department is extremely helpful and willing to make sure our students receive the extra support within the classroom. I just began spending 8th period in a couple math classrooms for inclusion support. I'm still in the process of learning their routines and feel our students are benefiting from the extra help. You can find me in the office collaborating with the other intervention specialists or working on IEPs if I'm not in the classroom. I truly enjoy my position at HTHS and want to thank everyone for making this a great place for our students to learn each and every day." - Beggrow

HTHS Congratulates Mr. Beggrow for earning HTHS Teacher of the Month.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Great Debate - This week in 8th grade Language Arts, the students finished reading The Diary of Anne Frank and began working on the persuasive essays. The 8th graders were introduced to the concepts of social and personal responsibility and then asked to choose which value was most important. "Social responsibility" is the idea that one should prioritize the needs of society over their own individual needs whereas "personal responsibility" prioritizes the needs of one's family and closest friends. Next, they wrote a 5 paragraph essay arguing the merits of their chosen value using The Diary of Anne Frank, My Brother Sam is Dead and real world examples as support. Finally, using the knowledge gained during the writing of their papers, the students will engage in a classroom debate where they will generate arguments, counter arguments and rebuttals in order to sway their audience to one side or the other. It's a battle of wits and the students are ready to fight!

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Richard Neang Student of the Month - *"The student I am nominating for March is Richard Neang. Richard has been working hard all year to achieve his goals in Reading class. He recently scored a perfect 18/18 on his Reading SCA! Richard is always on task, and is focused and patient when it comes to his work. He is mature as a student, and shows interest in class content and keeps up to date on his class grades. He follows classroom routines each and every day without being reminded of what to do. Richard is also courteous to his fellow classmates, and often helps out with classroom duties. I appreciate Richard's willingness to learn and succeed in class."* H.I.S. Staff Member

Jason Cryder Teacher of the Month - *"I would like to nominate Jason Cryder as the Ohio Lottery Teacher of the Month. Jason works hard to provide high interest and hands-on science lessons for his students. He helps students see the applications to real life so science becomes more meaningful to them. One of the highlights in fourth grade science is the day Jason does experiments with liquid nitrogen. Students are completely engrossed in the lesson from start to finish! Jason also takes an active interest in the social-emotional well being of his*

students. He makes connections with students through lunch bunch and other small group activities. He has positive relationships with the parents of his students through open lines of communication. Jason continues to take an active role in the life of his students, as they get older by making himself available to check in on students who may need extra support in either academics or behavior. Jason is truly making a difference in the lives of our students, parents, and staff at Hamilton Intermediate School!" - H.I.S Staff Member

Diana Varney Star Support Member of the Month - *"I would like to nominate Diana Varney for the Hamilton Intermediate School Support Staff of the Month. Diana comes to work every day with a smile on her face. She is a dedicated Hamilton employee, who rarely ever misses a day of work. Diana is always friendly and pleasant with both the students and the parents. Even when she is faced with unpleasant events in the clinic, she continuously discovers a way to find the silver lining in each situation. I believe Diana Varney's work ethic and her dedication to the students, staff and parents of Hamilton Intermediate make her the perfect candidate for the Hamilton Intermediate School Support Staff of the Month."* - H.I.S. Staff Member

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Black History Month - In honor of Black History Month, third grade students worked in library and art class to create a collaborative project. Students first explored the artwork of Columbus artist Aminah Robinson, who works with mixed media to "learn from and pass along stories of the past in order to move forward." Next, each student selected one important African American in library class to research from the biography section. Using paint, discontinued fabric samples, and other mixed media, each student created an artwork that shows a portrait of the African American they researched and other objects and words that represent important parts of their life. The picture here shows a sample of completed portraits connected together to create a wall hanging to illustrate the many important contributions and life accomplishments of African Americans from 200 years ago to today! Students finished this project in library class by writing acrostic poems to go with their artwork. We hope that, like Aminah, we can use this artwork to learn from and tell stories of America's past in order to move forward!

Read Across America Day – In celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday and Read Across America Day, HES had a day full of Seuss-related activities. Students participated in dress up themes and attended our winter book fair all as part of the Seuss celebration. The highlight of the celebration was a visit from numerous community members and district employees as guest readers. The activity was a huge success and was a great opportunity to engage students in reading.

The HES staff would like to say thank you to our guest readers:

High School Students: Lawrence Jarrel, Dylan Napier, Darryl Redman, Ketdrick West, Sammy Wilburn, Kyle Ziklo

Tammy Adkins - grandparent and Hamilton Elementary educational aide

Rennie Boring - retired Hamilton Elementary music teacher

Nate Collins - parent and Hamilton High teacher

Dr. Josh Conley – parent and Hamilton Elementary Assistant Principal

Christie Devine – parent and Hamilton Elementary secretary
Liza Dixon – Hamilton Elementary Instructional Support
Shawn Ellis - South High Library representative
Hamilton Township Fire Department
Collett Hayes – parent and Hamilton Elementary Guidance Counselor
Nate Hillerich – Hamilton Township High football coach
Andy Kasaprzak - parent and Hamilton Middle teacher
Bob Lanthorn – Hamilton Township High teacher
Jim Miller - parent and Hamilton Township High Principal
Kate Miller – parent and Hamilton Elementary Instructional Support
Bill Morrison - Hamilton Local Assistant Superintendent
Linda Pettit - Educational Services - Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
Desiree Robinson - parent and Hamilton Elementary educational aide
Wynona Smith – grandparent and Hamilton Local Director of Special Services
Jan Strahm - Hamilton Local Preschool Coordinator
Mark Tyler – parent and Hamilton Elementary Principal
Dr. Susan Witten - Hamilton Local Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Right to Read Week - Our preschoolers were very busy this week as they took full advantage of Right to Read Week. They made several literacy crafts, enjoyed the opportunity to have special visitors read to them, and they were able to participate in different themes for each day of the week.

Safety First - Our preschool students participated in the state's spring severe weather awareness week by conducting tornado drills on Thursday, March 6 at 10:00 a.m. and 1:50 p.m. The students did an outstanding job with the drill.

OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Student of the Month: Cody Cottrell - Mr. Brickey and Mr. O'Reilly have named Cody Cottrell as February's Student of the Month. Cody is an extremely positive and motivated student. He takes pride making sure he meets the weekly attendance requirements. A great motivator for Cody is being allowed access to the gym. He makes sure he does his part in the classroom so the class can earn gym time, where he competes and hustles with fellow classmates in pickup games of basketball.

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Ohio Graduation Tests – The Ohio Graduation Tests will be administered the week of March 10 to all 10th grade students and any junior or senior who has not yet passed all five of the tests.

Passing all five sections of the test is one of the requirements for graduation and it is important that students come to school well rested.

No Child Left Inside – The American Academy of Pediatrics reports that free and unstructured play, especially in nature, enhances the development of

creativity, problem solving, focus, and self-discipline in children. Our Metro Parks system offers a range of locations and outdoor activities for children and families, including summer camps. Three Creeks Metro Park is close by at 3860 Bixby Rd, Groveport. For more information on facilities, camps, classes, hiking trails, etc. go to www.metroparks.net

Foreign Language Camp – Camp OFLA is a foreign language camp for students in grades 3-8 created by the Ohio Foreign Language Association. The camp is held the week of June 8-14, 2014 in Brinkhaven, Ohio. The cost is \$425. Activities will include language learning, ethnic cooking, dancing, singing, sports, arts and crafts, campfires, games and swimming. The week will culminate with a "Parent Day" on Friday night and Saturday morning for parents and special guests. For more information go to: <http://www.campofla.org/>

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Track Athletes Qualify for State Indoor Championship Meet - The following athletes have qualified to participate in the Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches Indoor State Track & Field Championships on Saturday, March 8, 2014 at the University of Akron.

400m & 800m: Austin Niemann

60m Hurdles: Lorenzo Bridges

4x400m Relay: Deric Phouthavong, Khari Berger, Dylan Napier, Jeremy Maynard

Good luck and congratulations on your achievements during this year's indoor track season.

Girls' Basketball Players Earn Associated Press All-Central District Honors - Three Lady Rangers Basketball players earned Central District Honorable Mention awards. Ariona Brown (Sr.), Josie Kasprzak (Jr.) and Lauren Longbrake (So.) were recognized in the Central District of the OHSAA for their performances during the past season. Congratulations to all three of these student-athletes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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