

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Apr. 17-24, 2015

Transition to New Assessments: Impact on Report Cards and Educator Evaluation Part 6 - As Ohio transitions to new assessments, many have asked how the next generation of state tests will be integrated into District/School Report Cards and educator evaluation systems. In general, these tests will be integrated into Report Cards with very little change to the overall structure. The number of indicators will increase and the tests feeding into the measures will change, but the calculations used to generate the measures and Report Cards will still be very similar. This segment outlines three of the many changes that can be expected during this transition.

Educator Evaluation and Teacher Value Added

When will the 2014-15 teacher Value-Added be released? The 2014-15 teacher Value-Added will be released on a different time schedule than usual. Data from the new assessments will not be available until fall 2015, which is a few months later than before. Accordingly, and similar to the 2014-15 Report Card, the timeline for the teacher Value-Added will be pushed back a few months. The exact date has not yet been determined pending the determination of when the test data will be returned to districts.

The diagnostic data available in EVAAS is incredibly valuable to teachers, and ODE will work to ensure that the 2014-15 data are released as soon as possible while still ensuring a quality process. This is a one-year timing issue during the transition, and ODE anticipates that the 2015-16 Teacher Value-Added reports will be released in the traditional time frame.

What new grades and subjects will be included in Teacher Value-Added?

Teachers in several new grades and subjects will now receive Teacher Value-Added reports. Teachers of these subjects should plan on participating in the Roster Verification process in the spring of 2015. Teachers will only claim students that receive instruction in the relevant year.

In 2014-15, teachers of the following courses will verify rosters and receive EVAAS reports:

- English language arts and math, grades 4 - 8
- Science, grades 5 & 8
- Social Studies, grade 6
- Algebra I
- Integrated Math I
- English Language Arts I
- Physical Science

In 2015-16, additional courses will be implemented including:

- Geometry
- Integrated Math II
- English Language Arts II
- American History

In 2016-17, American government courses will be included in the teacher Value-Added process.

Please note that as of 2014-15, grade 4 social studies will not be included as a Teacher Value-Added report.

What happens if student takes an End-of-Course exam for graduation requirements, but does not take a specific course from a teacher in that year? When teachers participate in the Roster Verification process, they should only claim instructional time for students that they taught in the current school year. It is possible for one or more students not to be claimed by any teacher in cases in which no course is taken in the current school year. For example, if a student takes the physical science end-of-course exam for graduation requirements, but did not take a physical science course during the 2014-15 school year, no teacher would claim that student and the score would not be used in any teacher's report.

Source: Ohio Department of Education

House Panel OKs Budget Bill with More Education Funding - House Republicans added about \$100 million to protect schools from tangible personal property (TPP) and kilowatt hour (KwH) tax reimbursement phase-outs and excised two controversial labor provisions Monday in their final round of changes before moving the biennial budget out of committee on a 21-11 party-line vote. The bill is expected to go to the House floor Wednesday.

Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell), chairman of the House Finance Committee, said the overall TPP and KwH tax phase-outs will continue, but the nearly 100 districts that would have seen net losses from the phase-outs will get money to ensure they are held harmless. Smith said some of the funding comes out of the Medicaid reserve fund.

Source: Hannah News Service

OHIO HOUSE PASSES BUDGET – The Ohio House passed its budget plan (HB64) by a 63-35 vote on Wednesday. Earlier in the week, the bill was again amended by the House Finance Committee. Amendments included the addition of about \$100 million to hold school districts harmless from the tangible personal property (TPP) and kilowatt hour (KwH) tax reimbursement phase-outs. The overall phase-outs will continue but the 93 districts that would have seen net losses will be protected with the additional funds. The bill has now moved to the Senate where deliberations began this week in the Senate Finance Committee. Senate majority leadership said they will consider the budget legislation with information from FY15, not with the executive proposal or House-passed version.

Source: Educational Service Center of Central Ohio

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

Government Students Visit Ohio Statehouse - On Tuesday, forty-nine junior government students visited the Ohio Statehouse for a tour of its working government offices including the floor of our General Assembly and the Governor's Office, cabinet meeting room and signing desk. Students also were provided the opportunity to learn from the magnificent monuments to the people and period during which Ohio's democracy was founded and formed. After lunch, the students were lead through the underground tunnels that connect the

Statehouse to the Riffe Center and Rhodes Tower, the location of our state offices. In the Rhodes Tower, students were escorted to the 40th floor observation deck to view the expanse of Central Ohio. Showing students how to access these open public places made state and local government education more relevant for the students in attendance. One student stated during the trip, "I have a better appreciation for state government, mostly because I saw that it requires our elected officials to have knowledge of our district's needs from the voters."

Eat GREEN - After wrapping up the OGTs and studying the interdependence of life, (human dependence on plants, either directly or indirectly), reviewing concepts dealing with cell organelles (chloroplasts where photosynthesis occurs, containing the pigment chlorophyll), and touching on how organisms transform energy (flow of energy) and matter, plants became the focus of this Biology class's activity. Mr. O'Brien and his family have been vegetarians for several years and his students frequently ask what he/they eat. For the past few years Mr. O'Brien takes this opportunity to make spinach smoothies for his students. This year Mr. O'Brien's ENTIRE family came in to help and made themselves available for questions on their vegetarian lifestyle. The smoothies are a fast, simple, affordable way to eat a healthy, high energy, dairy-free, delicious meal or snack. Students said they were willing to try them, so Mr. O'Brien brought in his blender and made them! These smoothies contain spinach, bananas, pineapple, water, and ice.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students Undertake Fitness Challenge - In all PE classes recently, students participated in a core strength fitness challenge. In order to determine who had the greatest core fitness, students competed to see who could perform a plank for the longest time. The following students all tied for the win by holding their plank for eight minutes. Great job Romeo Gabriel, Chris Moeller, Andrew Wilson, Anthony Cline, Sarah Morbitzer, and Keith Dolence.

Holocaust Survivor Visits, Speaks to 8th Grade - The 8th grade students have been studying about the Holocaust in Language Arts class recently. On Friday, April 17, Holocaust survivor, John Koenigsberg, came in to tell his story. The students were very attentive to his presentation and found what he had to say to be very interesting. He also brought in artifacts that the students got to look at and ask questions about. He brought in the Star of David that he had stitched to his clothing to show that he was a Jew. His presentation was very informative to the student body and was an experience they will never forget.

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Mrs. Hyland Was Nominated Ohio Lottery's March Teacher Of The Month - *I would like to nominate Mrs. Hyland for the teacher of the month. Mrs. Hyland is constantly looking to improve all of her students. She develops engaging and interactive lessons for intervention that address the needs of all students. She is always willing to go above and beyond to help reach out to parents regarding student success. Mrs. Hyland is very helpful to her team members and is always willing to assist her co-workers with whatever needs to be accomplished! She is a great team player and dedicated teacher and is certainly deserving of the April nomination for Star Teacher!* - H.I.S. Staff Member

Lauren Sarakaitis Was Nominated Ohio Lottery's April's Student Of The Month - *I nominate Lauren Sarakaitis for Star Student of the month. Lauren is a very hard working student and is always trying her best. She comes to class prepared for the day and eager to learn. She has a pleasant attitude with teachers and other students. Lauren says her favorite subject is math. In her free time, Lauren likes to play basketball at a local park and hangout with her friends. Lauren is big fan of softball and is taking pitching lessons to help her game. Lauren's great personality and hard work make her a Star Student!* - H.I.S. Teacher

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hamilton Elementary and Planet Aid - Southern Ohio Planet Aid and Hamilton Elementary teamed up to be Earth Day Ambassadors. Territory manager, Marcus Gorman, presented to some of the second and third grade classes on Friday, April 3rd. He gave the students the opportunity to compete in an Earth Day Art Contest with the theme of "It's Our Turn to Lead!" Students were challenged to come up with creative ways to show this message. The winning student will earn a pizza party for his/her class, along with a choice of a solar robot or a gift card to Toys R Us. Mr. Gorman brainstormed with the students about ways that they can help preserve our Earth, as well as shared stories and items from his trip to Malawi.

Kids Can't Weight To Donate - Physical education classes participated in a seven-station fitness circuit. The stations included: training ropes, exercise bands, exercise poly spots, trunk rotation twisters, plyometric box jumps, canned food weight lifting, and over-under partner work. Students brought in the cans used for the weight lifting station, and then they were donated to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. Over 500 canned items were donated to this very important community resource.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Dramatic Play Benefits Preschoolers - Our first effort to develop a dramatic play center area at our Preschool was a big success with students and teachers. Our first theme was a Shoe Store. We are asked for donations of shoeboxes and shoes of any size and the response was amazing! This store directly correlates to our Math and Social Emotional Standards. We will be introducing Math concepts with this first center. Future centers will include: A Veterinarian Clinic, A Doctor's Office, A Grocery Store, and A Restaurant. We are excited to introduce a new area of development to our Preschool. Thanks to the Hamilton Preschool Boosters and Parents for making this a wonderful learning experience.

Important Dates - *More Information to come on all these events!*

Wednesday, May 13, 2015
NO SCHOOL
Family Day at the Zoo

Friday, May 22, 2015
Last Day of School for ½ day students

Tuesday, May 26, 2015
Preschool Graduation

Wednesday, May 27, 2015
NO SCHOOL
Super Hero Field Day

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Varsity Track and Field Travels to Dublin Coffman - The girls' track and field team tied for 8th place out of 16 teams with Thomas Worthington and Dublin Jerome at the Dublin Coffman Track and Field Classic on Saturday. The boys' team placed 11th ahead of Upper Arlington, Olentangy, Walnut Ridge and Worthington Kilbourne.

Mackenzie Long had an outstanding day, breaking the school records in the 100m dash (12.37) and 200m dash (25.81) and besting the 2003 records held by Symyra Brinston of 12.54 and 26.04.

The girls' 4x200 meter relay team was the only event champion on the day. Shanell Hayes, Aaliyah Solis, Zadei Edwards, and Mckenzie Long ran a winning time of 1:45.42, which also turned out to be the second fastest relay in school history.

The Boys' and Girls' teams will host the 23rd Annual Elmo Kallner Invitational meet this Saturday, April 25th with field events beginning at 9:00am and running scheduled to begin at 10:30am.

Varsity Baseball Defeats Circleville - The Varsity Baseball team defeated the Tigers of Circleville on Wednesday evening, 11-0. The team was led by Caleb Burton, Gage Churchill, Jason Miller, and Garrison Smith, who all had multiple hits in the game. Burton, Churchill and Smith also had multiple RBIs in the contest. The Rangers shutout was thrown by James Blissenbach. It was a great team win by the Rangers.

Boys' Tennis Improves to 9-1 with Tuesday Evening Win - The Boys' Tennis team continued their strong season with a 5-0 victory over Circleville on Tuesday evening. Scores for the matches are listed below:

1st singles: Watson (HT) def. Huang (CV) 6-4, 6-4

2nd Singles: Mylar (HT) def. Overly (CV) 6-3, 6-2

3rd Singles: Nichols (HT) def. Gaines (CV) 3-6, 6-1, 7-5

1st Doubles: Chaudhary / Harmon (HT) def. Meinert / Wellington (CV) 6-0, 7-6

2nd Doubles: Juarez / Underwood (HT) def. Greenlee / Dowden 6-0, 6-1

Varsity Softball Defeats Licking Heights in Double-Header - The Rangers walked away Saturday with two wins from Licking Heights improving their record to 6-5.

In the first game, the Rangers were lead by Chase Gray-Still who went 2-3, Bailey Moore who went 4-2, and Karly Wade who went 2-2. It was a great team effort to get the win. Excellent defensive plays were made by Kennedy Wade, Brittany Haughn, Autumn Blosser, and Billie Kirk. Karly Wade pitched for the

Rangers. Excellent base running was done by Larissa Moeller, Danielle Edgers, Haylee Ayers and Cameryon Still. Wade had 3 strikeouts. The Rangers won game one 8-4.

Game two was a total team win for the Rangers. Scoring 13 runs on 14 hits, the Rangers jumped out to an early lead on Licking Heights and captured a 13-6 victory on Saturday at Hamilton Township High School.

The game was decided quickly as the Rangers exerted their will early with 11 runs in the first three innings. A solo home run by [Bailey Moore](#) in the first inning and an RBI single by [Karly Wade](#), an RBI single by [Kylee Sobony](#), and an error during the second inning fueled the Hamilton Rangers' offense early.

[Chase Gray-Still](#), Moore and [Larissa Moeller](#) helped lead the Rangers. They combined for seven hits and four RBIs.

Alexis Griffith pitched a great game striking out two in her first start for the rangers. Kirk and Edgers split catching duties both doing a great job.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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