

## **Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Mar. 28 - Apr. 4, 2014**

**Hamilton Participates in Field Testing New School Assessments** - Ohio students are getting a taste of the new exams they'll be taking in coming years as the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) launched field testing Monday for assessments tied to more rigorous learning standards.

Tests aligned to the Common Core standards in math and English and developed by Pearson Inc. are being administered as part of Ohio's participation in the Partnership for Assessments of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). Ohio adopted its own standards for science and social studies apart from Common Core and contracted with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) to develop those assessments.

Field-testing of the PARCC assessments runs from Monday through Friday, April 11; testing extends until April 18 for the AIR assessments of Ohio's science and social studies standards.

For this first testing window, schools are administering the performance-based sections of the assessments, which are meant for students to demonstrate how they can apply their understanding of academic content. The sections, akin to essay sections on earlier tests, take longer to score and so are being administered first.

A second round of field-testing, for end-of-year sections consisting mostly of multiple choice questions, will take place Monday, May 5 through Friday, June 6.

Two sections of Algebra II at Hamilton Township High School will be participating in the field tests. Math teachers and instructional technology staff were trained on April 3 to administer these computer-based tests. Students will take the first round of testing on April 10 & 11.

Field-testing of the computer-based exams is hoped to give a fuller picture of Ohio schools' technological capabilities. ODE Chief of Staff Jason Rafeld told State Board of Education members earlier this month that while department surveys of connectivity and computing power showed a rosier picture than initially expected, field-testing will determine how those surveys match with reality.

*Provided by Focus Education, a service of Hannah News service.*

**House Bill (HB)193 would push PARCC tests back to the 2015-2016 school year** - Doubt about schools' technological capacity is a factor in calls by the Ohio House to delay administration of the PARCC assessments. In January, the House overwhelmingly passed HB193 (Brenner), which would push administration of the PARCC tests back to the 2015-2016 school year, reduce the number of end-of-course exams required for a high school diploma, and require ODE to conduct a comprehensive survey of schools' ability to administer online tests.

ODE has more information on administration of the field-testing at

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Testing/Next-Generation-Assessments/2013-2014-Field-Tests>.

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**Third Grade Reading Alternative Assessments announcements** - The Ohio Department of Education recently announced the approval of three alternative assessments for students who do not meet or exceed the promotion score on the Ohio Achievement Assessment for reading as required by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. The approved assessments are:

- Iowa Assessments Form F Level 9 (Grade 3)
- Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) - Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP)
- Terra Nova 3

According to the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, the alternative assessment for reading will align to end-of-year third grade standards. A student must achieve the accepted third grade level of achievement as designated by the assessment. This may be comparable or more rigorous than the Ohio Achievement Assessment for reading.

Districts can determine when they administer the alternative assessment during the student's third grade year, which includes the summer. The alternative assessment may only be used for promotion purposes if a student has not reached the promotion score on the third grade Ohio Achievement Assessment for reading.

For more information about the alternative assessments or the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, please visit the Ohio Department of Education [website](#).

**Education Committee Reports Out K-12 MBR Bill** - The House Education Committee Thursday afternoon reported out the K-12 mid-biennium review (MBR) bill, HB487 (Brenner), by a vote of 13-4. The vote came after the unanimous adoption of an omnibus amendment, which encompassed 30 different amendments. Among the changes approved through the omnibus pertaining to PK-12 education are the following:

- Permits students enrolled in community schools to have access to extracurricular activities in the district of residence.
- Makes the following changes to the College Credit Plus (CC+) Program: permits school districts to negotiate agreements below the \$40/credit hour floor; permits seventh and eighth graders to participate; and permits out-of-state colleges whose programs are approved by the Board of Regents to participate.
- Specifies that students cannot be counted as "served" under the Operating Standards for Identifying and Serving Gifted Students if they are charged for the course.
- Amends HB215 (DeVitis) bill into HB487. This addresses law enforcement volunteering in schools.
- Delays the effective date by one year for the seventh and eighth grade career

- technical education; and career advising and dropout recovery waiver changes; and delays the deadline for the career advising policy from September 2014 to December 2014.
- Makes EdChoice and Cleveland Scholarship students subject to retention under the third grade reading guarantee.
  - Revises the calculation for the value-added progress measure on the school and district report card to use only the most recent school year instead of up to three years of data, and specifies that only data from students who have been enrolled and assessed by that school for two years or more be used.

## **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Building Operations** - Mr. Morrison has completed the building evaluations. This process provides direction to both custodial and teaching staff in terms of our expectations for classroom organization and cleanliness. Follow-up reviews will take place next week.

**Campus and Athletic Grounds** - Mr. Morrison met with Josh Hambrick of the Brickman Group to review our campus grounds and plan for spring/summer upkeep. The Brickman Group was one of our original contractors with our new building projects and have been good partners with the district over the last five years.

**Transportation** - Our transportation department will continue to look for local drivers to join our team. If interested, please contact Mrs. Barbara Haughn at 491-8044 ext. 1238

**Food Services** - Mr. Morrison completed a Direct Certification import this week to audit current free and reduced lunch counts. This audit is completed three times per year to help update and confirm our students currently on assistance.

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**HTHS Seniors Important Info/Dates Posted** – During Thursday’s Senior Assembly, the following important items were addressed with all students of the graduating class of 2014

### **CAP & GOWN**

Caps and gowns will be available for purchase at the senior breakfast for \$50. You must have a cap and gown in order to participate in the graduation ceremony.

### **CREDIT RECOVERY**

Seniors completing credit recovery should have their exams completed and turned in by Monday, April 21st! Students still needing to turn in their credit recovery work can turn it in to the guidance office.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

All seniors must have their community service hours documented both online and by paper form to Mr. Morbitzer by Friday, May 9th. In order to enter your community service hours, you must have an account through the high school website. If you do not have an account, go to the high school webpage, click on the C & C Service Project link and you will find the registration at the top of the page. You can enter your hours on the website and then turn in a Service Hours Validation form that is available in both the guidance office and Mr. Morbitzer's office, as well as online, which requires you to fill out where and with whom you completed your community service hours and the tasks performed for community service.

## DIPLOMA PRESENTATION REQUESTS

Seniors who are wishing to choose a current district employee or Board of Education member to present them with their diplomas must have their presentation request completed and turned into Mrs. Bailey in the main office on or before Friday, May 2nd! There will be no exceptions to this deadline, as gowns will need to be ordered for the presenters.

## SENIOR HONORS ASSEMBLY

The Senior Honors Assembly will be held Tuesday, May 6th, at 7 pm in the high school auditorium for seniors who are receiving scholarships and awards. This event is invitation only, in which invitations will be sent out in May.

## SENIOR FINAL EXAMS

Thursday, May 15th: Periods 7, 8, & 9

Friday, May 16th: Periods 4, 5, & 6

Monday, May 19th: Periods 1, 2, & 3

Tuesday, May 20th: Make-up Exams

## SENIOR BEHAVIOR

Seniors are expected to conduct themselves according to the same rules of behavior required for other students. The school will take appropriate measures regarding disruptive behavior and pranks, which interfere with the normal school routine. We ask for your cooperation in helping end the year in an orderly and appropriate manner. We hope no students choose to disappoint family and friends by unwise actions, which result in their exclusion from end of the year ceremonies as part of the required disciplinary measures. All graduating seniors are held to the highest behavior expectations. Any inappropriate behavior between now and graduation will be handled according to the conduct policy in the student handbook, including exclusion from the graduation ceremony. A blank diploma will be given to any graduate who exhibits any inappropriate behavior during the graduation ceremony. May 20th, at 2:15 pm. Seniors who do not pay their fees will not participate in the graduation ceremony and will not receive their diploma!

## SENIOR BREAKFAST

Senior Breakfast will be Wednesday, May 21st, at 7:30 am in the high school cafeteria. Seniors will pick up their caps and gowns during the senior breakfast and they will have their composite pictures taken in their cap and gown immediately following breakfast.

## GRADUATION REHEARSAL

Seniors will report to the World Harvest Church on Thursday, May 22nd, at 9 am for graduation rehearsal. Graduation rehearsal is mandatory! Seniors who do NOT attend graduation rehearsal will NOT walk at graduation! Please prepare for rehearsal to last until 11 am. World Harvest Church is located at 4595 Gender Road, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110.

## GRADUATION

Graduation will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 22 in World Harvest Church. Seniors will need to be at World Harvest Church by 6:30 pm with their cap and gown. Ladies should wear light-colored or pastel dress clothing (dress, dress pants, skirt, etc.) as they will wear gold gowns. Gentlemen are expected to wear a dress shirt and long dress pants with dress shoes, as they will wear green gowns. NO JEANS, SHORTS, TENNIS SHOES, OR FLIP-FLOPS! Students not in compliance with the dress code will not take part in the graduation ceremony. World Harvest Church is located at 4595 Gender Road, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110.

## HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

**1, 2, 3, 4, I Declare a Thumb War** - Do you know the steps of the scientific method? 8th graders began reviewing for their science OAA this week, as they are only five short weeks away! In order to review the steps of the scientific method, students competed with their classmates in a few friendly thumb wars. Students had to hypothesize whether the person with the shortest or longest thumb would win the most thumb wars before they were able compete in the thumb wars. After many wars, students have completed their first portion of their science OAA review by explaining each step of the scientific method as well as reasons why it is important to use the scientific method during every experiment/lab.

**STAR Rangers Recognized** - The following students have been named STAR Rangers by the teachers and staff at Hamilton Middle School. STAR stands for Students Taking Action for Respect. These students demonstrate respect for themselves and others in the building. Congratulations and keep up the great attitude and behavior!! Shelby Bethel, Morgan Bowden, Haley Burgy, Essence Carter, Wyatt Collins, McKaela Cooper, Brandon Damron, Alaina Daniel, Dalton Darst, Veronica Dellerba, Melissa Dilworth, Madison Euton, Megan Euton, Josh Fikes, Austin Fraley, Arron Frazier, Chris Green, Victoria Harper, Kerrianna Hennings, Robby Hodge, Michael Krigbaum, Teagan Littrell, Caley Mason, David Mata Lucero, Devin Minniear, Amy Morrison, Blake Newsome, Christian Nixon, Nelson Pineda, Katie Powell, Terrianna Rapp, Hannah Ray, Tyler Rice, Lauren Rose, Brett Saultz, Natalie Spencer, Joe Watson, Carlyssa Waugh, Jacob Wilson, Eema Zahan.

## HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

**Abigail Coldren Star Student** - *“I would like to nominate Abigail Coldren as the House 5-1 Star Student. Abbie exhibits a wonderful work ethic in class and always puts forth her best effort. She is constantly helping others and works particularly well with students who sometimes struggle socially and/or academically. She encourages all students to try their best and tries to get every student involved during group activities. Abbie is a dependable and responsible student. Outside of school, Abbie is very active in the community. She enjoys playing softball and basketball. She also enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Abigail is not only a great student but a great person, and for those reasons I feel that she exhibits wonderful qualities for a Star Student nomination.”* - H.I.S. Staff Member

**Stephanie Pond is a Star Teacher** - *“I would like to nominate Stephanie Pond. Mrs. Pond goes to great lengths to make sure her class is a comfortable learning environment for her students. Her warm and calm demeanor allows her to make personal connections to students. She frequently has students in her room during lunch to share a chat or recess time to get extra help. Mrs. Pond is always on the look out for new and engaging reading passages and activities in her class that apply to students’ lives outside of the school day. She is wonderful at collaborating with other teachers in the building, and that makes her a great part of any meeting or team. Mrs. Pond truly is a STAR teacher.”* - H.I.S. Staff Member

**Matt Schutte Star Support Staff of the Month** - *“I would like to nominate Matt Schutte as the April Star Support Staff person. Matt always comes to work ready to help students. He strives to help students with diverse needs learn better. Matt also does a great job helping students learn to better respect themselves and others. I am so happy to have his help in the classroom.”* - H.I.S. Staff Member

## HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Student of the Month** – First-grade student Kara Armbrester was selected as the HES Student of the Month for March. Kara’s teacher, Mrs. Heidlebaugh, had this to say: “Kara is an excellent student and classroom friend. She works hard to be a better reader everyday. She is reading above grade level and really interested in any type of chapter book. She always participates and is willing to help other students who may be struggling. She is kind to others and always positive. She comes everyday with a smile on her face. She always asks how she can do better and get a better grade, when she already receives many Mastered and Exceeds marks on her report card. She also is a behavior role model in class. She is quick to follow directions, works well with any student, and strives to be the best student she can be.” Congratulations to Kara and her family.

**Staff Members of the Month** – Third-grade teacher Jennifer Martinez (left) was selected as the HES Teacher of the Month, and cook Jackie Camden (right) was selected as the Classified Staff Member of the Month for March. The anonymous staff members who nominated Mrs. Martinez and Mrs. Camden had this to say:

"Jennifer is a wealth of knowledge and always has creative ideas to get students thinking. She's always so innovative and helpful. At the beginning of the year, she took on the task of helping teachers gain access to their Scootpad accounts. She's all-around awesome! Jennifer Martinez is also one of the teachers that helped create the Better Lesson database. She has traveled to present this information at a National conference. I think we all need to check out the website, incorporate the wonderful activities into our classroom practices, and then feel proud that one of our own teachers was selected from 1000's of potential candidates to be part of this. She has also been video taped teaching the lessons to be incorporated into the website and has been featured in Ohio School's magazine!"

"Jackie always has a smile on her face. She greets the students in the morning and is helpful with breakfast. She always takes great care to make sure that each student gets the proper serving at lunch. Jackie is a pleasure to work with."  
Congratulations to Mrs. Martinez and Mrs. Camden.

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**Mrs. King's Class is gearing up for Kindergarten.** The students are working on sight word activities to prepare them for reading next year. Every two weeks parents receive a note listing the new sight words and the words the class is reviewing. Currently, the students have done color, number, shape, and 15 other beginning sight words. They are using these words when reading repetitive books containing their sight words, practicing spelling and writing their sight words, and doing a variety of centers focused on sight word ID and spelling. Mrs. King's Class is excited about the progress they are making with sight word practice. When they are reading books and find that they know what the text says or can figure it out using sight words and the picture, they build their confidence. We look forward to see their continued progress this year!

### **Mark Your Calendars For These Important Preschool Events:**

***Preschool Registration*** - Preschool Packets may be picked up in the Preschool office beginning Monday, April 7, 2104. Preschool registration will take place on Thursday, April 17, 2014 from 9:00am - 3:40pm. Packets must be completed before they will be accepted. Students will be placed in a class once a completed packet has been received. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Strahm at 614-491-8044 ext. 1231.

***Preschool Graduation*** - Our graduating preschoolers will receive their certificates during the annual graduation ceremony, which will take place on Friday, May 16, 2014 in the HTHS Auditorium. Our 10:00 a.m. ceremony will be for the graduates that attend All Day or AM classes. Our graduates that attend PM classes will have their ceremony at 1:30 p.m. We will be sending more graduation ceremony information home very soon.

## **OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Annual Spring Art Show** – The opening event for the annual spring art show will be Wednesday, April 23 from 4:00 – 7:00 PM at the district Education Center, 775 Rathmell Rd. Student work from grades P – 12 will be on exhibit as well as art work from HLSD

staff members. Those attending can vote for the People's Choice awards. Tickets for voting will be sold (cash only) for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Funds from voting will be used for prizes for the People's Choice winners as well as to support future exhibitions. High school art students will also offer face painting for children.

**Getting Involved with your Child's Learning** – Family involvement strengthens student learning and improves academic achievement. Students with active family support have better attendance, pass more classes and earn more credits resulting in higher grade point averages and higher test scores. As a result, they are more likely to continue their education beyond high school and learn social and behavioral skills that help them at home, at school and throughout life. Resources are available on [the Ohio Department of Education website](#).

## **DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

**Softball Wins Season Opener; Inaugural Game on New Field** - The HTHS softball team defeated Grandview Heights 10-2 on Tuesday evening in a contest that marked the first game (and win) at the newly constructed high school field. The result also gave Sami Long her first career victory as head softball coach.

After giving up two runs in the first inning, Karly Wade and Autumn Blosser were able to keep the Bobcats off the scoreboard the remainder of the contest as the Rangers bats came to life. Bailey Moore had two base hits for the Rangers. Chase Gray-Still, Billie Kirk, Kylee Sobony and Kerstin Stevens each recorded hits. The Rangers' offense really heated up in the bottom half of the 4th inning. After Taylor Blissenbach led off with a double, Kennedy Wade crushed a two-run home run over the left field fence. The Rangers went on to score two more that inning. Karly Wade got the win as pitcher for the Lady Rangers. Congratulations to the Rangers and Coach Long for the victory.

**Boys Finish First, Girls Third as HTHS Track and Field Plays Host to Booster Invitational** - Congratulations to the Boys & Girls Track & Field teams for their performances at the Booster Invitational on Tuesday evening. The boys' team placed 1st and the girls' placed 3rd out of 11 teams.

Event Champions Include:

Deric Phouthavong - 100m

Lorenzo Bridges - 110 Hurdles

Austin Niemann - 400m & 4x800

Dylan Napier - 4x800

Erick Juarez - 4x800

Khari Berger - 4x800

Aaron Johnson - Discus

Zadei Edwards - 300m Hurdles & 4x200

A'riel Harris - 4x200

Aaliyah Solis - 4x200

Shanell Hayes - 4x200



The boys' team will travel to the Wildcat Premier at Hilliard Davidson High School while the girls' team will travel to the Falcon Invitational at Fairfield Union this Saturday.

**Boys' Tennis Opens Season with a Victory** - The Boys' Tennis team started their 2014 season on a winning note by defeating Logan Elm 3-2. Winning for the Rangers were Austin Mylar (1st singles), Ethan DeBoard (2nd singles), and Cross Nichols (3rd singles). With the team match tied at 2-2, Senior Ethan DeBoard pulled out the victory for Hamilton by winning the third set by the score of 6-1. The Rangers next home match will be Monday, April 7th vs. Granville.

**7th and 8th Grade Baseball Teams Open Season with Victories** - The 7th and 8th Grade Baseball teams opened the season with victories over the Bloom-Carroll Bulldogs. The 7th grade Rangers posted a 12-6 win. They were led by Chase Chaffin, Brandon Lyle, Cameron Schreck, Corey Hise, and Shane Yocum.

The 8th grade Rangers opened with a 6-1 victory. Adam Denny pitched a complete game while striking out 12 and allowing only two hits. Robert Wade, Dalton Willis, and Denny had two hits each with Wade driving in three runs and Willis driving in two. Colton Lytle had four unassisted put outs in the field.

Congratulations to both teams on a successful start to the 2014 season.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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