

## **Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Aug. 5-9, 2013**

**Biennial Budget Permits Home-School and Private School Students to Play on Athletic Teams in their District of Residency** - Home-schooled and private school students in Ohio now have the right to play on sports teams and participate in other extracurricular activities thanks to a provision in Biennial Budget HB 59. Athletic and other extracurricular associations have their own rules about student participation in competitive or inter-scholastic activities. These provisions in the state budget override those rules.

Under the new provisions, public schools must allow private school students to participate in an extracurricular activity only if their private schools do not offer the same activity.

Home-schooled and private school students must meet the same age and grade requirements as district students and pay the same Pay To Participate Activity Fee.

**HB 59 Changes Minimum School Year** - Beginning with school year 2014-2015 the law changes the minimum school year for school districts from 182 days to 910 hours for all-day kindergarten and grades 1 to 6; and 1,001 hours for grades 7 to 12.

The law maintains the five-day school week, but specifies that nonpublic schools may be open for instruction on any day of the week, including Saturday and Sunday. The law also includes the following provisions:

- Eliminates excused calamity days for schools generally, as well as the requirement for a contingency plan to make up calamity days.
- Requires school district boards to hold a public hearing on the school calendar 30 days prior to adopting the school calendar.
- Requires school districts, prior to changing the hours or days in which a school is open, to consider the compatibility of the proposed change on the scheduling needs of JVSDs.

**Hamilton Preparing Grant for HB59 Straight A Fund** - HB59 appropriates \$100 million in FY14 and \$150 million in FY15 for a new competitive grant program funded from the Lottery Profits Education Fund. The program provides competitive grants to school districts for projects that aim to achieve significant advancement in one or more of the following goals: student achievement; spending reduction in the five-year fiscal forecast; or utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom.

The amounts of the grants are capped at \$5 million for individual entities and \$15 million for consortia.

Our district is currently preparing a Straight A Fund Grant proposal that will establish a longitudinal data, assessment and instruction resource. This resource will be developed by the users and will be accessible in real-time to inform decision-making at the student, classroom, teacher, building, or district levels. The goal of the grant will be to improve student growth and success. Dr. Susan Witten has been designated by Superintendent Lester to coordinate the Straight A Fund Grant proposal.

**PSAT selected for new college-career readiness assessment** - Ohio high school sophomores will take the PSAT assessment beginning in October 2014. This assessment will show if students are on course to graduate ready for college or a career.

The PSAT is administered nationally by The College Board. It will be provided free to students under the provisions of a state law requiring that Ohio establish a college and career assessment program. The assessment will not be used for college admissions, placement or course grades, but rather to help guide high school course selection and preparation.

**KRA-L approved by ODE for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee for the 2013-2014 school year** - The Third Grade Reading Guarantee now requires that students in kindergarten through grade three take a reading diagnostic to determine if the student is reading at grade level. The diagnostics are given at the beginning of each school year. Because of this, ODE should only expect students to have mastery of the previous school year's material. It is the goal of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to develop or identify the best possible tools to help diagnose reading deficiencies.

Ohio is currently in the process of revising its early learning and development standards for children which will include end of preschool standards aligned to the common core state standards.

Schools wishing to use the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment – Literacy (KRA-L) must still meet the requirements of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. This includes administering the assessment by September 30th. Students who receive a KRA-L score that falls in Band 1, which indicates “Assess broadly for intense instruction”, should be considered and reported as not on-track. Students scoring above this range will be considered on-track.

More guidance on the KRA-L and the Third Grade Reading Guarantee can be found on ODE's website. These resources will continue to be updated as new information becomes available. The expanded assessment options for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee in the 2012-2013 school year are outlined on the following page. *Information provided by the Ohio Department of Education.*

## **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Building Operations** - As we gear up for the start of another school year, our custodial and maintenance teams are busy preparing our buildings and grounds to welcome our students and staff to the 2013-2014 school year. To honor our summer employees, the district held its annual staff cookout on Friday. I would like to give special thanks to David Shephard and Jim Ackley for manning the grill and Vince Payne for preparing the burger and hot dog toppings!

**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

**Enrollment** - New student registration for the 2013-14 school year is currently underway. Your child must be registered by Friday, August 9, 2013 in order to start school by Monday, August 19, 2013, our first day for students. Students registered after August 9, 2013 will not start school with their classmates on August 19, 2013 and will

start on a later date. Please contact our registration department as soon as possible to schedule your registration appointment by calling (614) 491-8044, ext. 1214. You can find further registration details in the Student Registration section of our website.

## **OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**Back to School Newsletter Hit Mailboxes This Week** - Click the image to open the 4-pg newsletter document.

[http://www.hamilton-local.k12.oh.us/Downloads/2013 Back to School Newsletter - 4pg.pdf](http://www.hamilton-local.k12.oh.us/Downloads/2013%20Back%20to%20School%20Newsletter%20-4pg.pdf)

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**Prepared for Students** – HTHS guidance counselors and administration have made final arrangements to the master schedule and individual student schedules. All students will have ADVISORY Period during the 2nd period of the day, and Study Hall has been converted to a Guided Study Program, coordinated by Teacher Fulton.

Principal Miller asks that all incoming freshmen attend the orientation on Monday, Aug 12th at 5pm in the HTHS Auditorium. A review of credit expectations will be presented at this time. Schedule handouts and the opportunity to find classrooms and lockers will immediately follow. On Tuesday, Aug 13th from 3pm – 6pm, sophomores, juniors, and seniors will have the opportunity to pick up schedules.

Please be prepared to pay course fees at the time of schedule pick up. Teachers and HS staff are excited about the 2013-2014 goals that are set, and are prepared to challenge students to meet those high expectations. We will begin the journey day one, Aug 19th, students' first day.

## **HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Open House** - Hamilton Middle School will be hosting an Open House and Schedule Pick-Up event at the Middle School on Thursday, August 15, 2013 from 4:00-7:30 pm. A short Orientation meeting for all incoming 7th Grade families will be held in the gymnasium starting at 6:00 pm. After picking up schedules, students and families can tour the building, practice their lockers and meet their teachers. We look forward to seeing all of the students and their families that evening.

## **HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

**Playing It Safe** - New fencing was installed this summer around our playground area. This will provide added safety to our students while they are outside during recess.

**The Intermediate School Open House** - Open house for families and students will be held Thursday, August 15, 2013 from 4:00-7:30 pm. We hope you will be able to attend. You will be able to visit classes, meet your teachers, and tour the school. Additionally, for more valuable information about the Intermediate School, be sure to regularly visit our building and teacher webpages. We look forward to seeing you soon.

## **HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Hamilton Elementary is an “A” Rated Building** – According to the Ohio Department of Education’s preliminary data HES will be rated as an “A” building when the doors open for students on August 19th. The entire community can be proud of the accomplishments of the students, staff and parents of Hamilton Elementary School. Mr. Tyler and Dr. Conley would like to congratulate everyone who made the 2012-2013 school year such a success and look forward to improving on that success this year.

**HES Open House Nights** – HES will host two open house nights this year. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade open house will be on Thursday August 15th from 4:00 to 7:30 and the Kindergarten open house will be on Monday August 19th from 4:00 to 6:00. Parents will be able to meet their child’s teacher and become familiar with building procedures. Please visit the Elementary website to view the back to school newsletter.

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**Open House** - Parents and students are invited to attend the Preschool Open House on Monday, August 19, 2013.

All Day 4:30 with Mrs. Yates

AM 2 days a week 5:00 with Mrs. Davisson

AM Class 5:30 with Mrs. Moore, Mrs. King, and Mrs. Colby

PM 2 days a week 6:00 with Mrs. Davisson

PM Class 6:30 with Mrs. Moore, Mrs. King, and Mrs. Colby

Meet the teachers, tour the building, and learn about Preschool schedule and curriculum.

**Classroom and Grounds** - A BIG thank you to Lary and Lew for their hard work in getting the Preschool prepared for the 2013-2014 school year. The building looks fantastic and ready for kids!

## **OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

**Change in State Law Prevents GED Costs from Rising** - Good news for adults in the state of Ohio seeking a GED. “According to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), language in the new state budget guarantees that first-time GED test takers will not have to pay additional money when costs for the new computer-based version triple in 2014. According to the legislation “... up to \$2 million in each fiscal year shall be used to pay career-technical planning districts for the amounts reimbursed to students” taking the computer-based GED test for the first time. The goal of the legislation is to offset any additional application or test fees in excess of the current \$40 cost,” Taken from the publication Focus Education, a service of the Hannah News Service.

In 2014, the GED tests will only be available as an on-line test. Ohio has been proactively offering this opportunity in many locations since the fall of 2012. Career counseling and information on adult education programs will be offered as part of the GED testing

process to help move the testers into a successful career.

## **OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Website Resources** – Students and Families can find everything from calendars to resource links on the district and building web pages. Building web pages include current events, action plans, and links to teacher pages, which offer information on classroom activities.

CIP – Each year the district prepares a continuous improvement plan to guide action planning. The 2013-14 CIP can be found on the Department of Teaching & Learning page.

Testing/Assessment Calendar – Several state and national tests are administered each year. A schedule of these and other assessments can be found on the Department of Teaching & Learning page.

Important Links and Forms – Posted in the right column of the district home page, this site provides all essential forms as well as links to the Ohio Department of Education website, ProgressBook, and family resources.

**Summer Activities** – Summer is a busy time in the office of Teaching and Learning. Activities include: closing out the school year; submitting final data reports to the Ohio Department of Education; updating the district improvement plan; ordering instructional materials; finalizing hiring of new staff; completing federal grant applications; organizing and analyzing state performance reports; finalizing district achievement goals, and planning for the new school year.

**Teacher Scholarships** – This summer, two of our teachers received scholarships from the Franklin County Retired Teachers Association to help fund their graduate studies. Congratulations go to Miss Avery, high school science, and Mr. Rush, 3rd grade language arts.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

**Fall Sports Begin Practice** - Fall sports have begun their practices in preparation for the upcoming sports season. Volleyball, Cross Country, Soccer, Girls Tennis, and Cheerleading began practice on August 1st. Football began practice on August 5th. Coaches and athletes are optimistic about the upcoming seasons. Please visit the Department of Athletics webpage to see a full list of schedules for all fall sports.

**Varsity Football Previewed in JHuddle Article** - The Hamilton Township Varsity Football team was labeled as a Team to Watch in OHSAA Division II Region 5. To access the article, please click on the following link:

<http://www.jjhuddle.com/news/articles/2013/8/5/division-ii-region-5-overview>

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

[See what's happening in our district this week!](#)