

## Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Aug. 16-23, 2013

**District Earning A Reputation As One Of Central Ohio's Best** - I would like to thank and congratulate our entire Hamilton Local team on a job well done during the 2012-13 school year! As evidenced in the newly released state report cards, our students are showing continued growth, which is made possible by our focus and commitment to their success. As a district, we are riding a wave of momentum that is carrying us to greater heights, and the central Ohio area is noticing our achievements as evidenced in this quote from *The Columbus Dispatch*.

“In the absence of an overall district grade, it's difficult to tell which would be considered the top district in central Ohio. Granville schools in Licking County had the most A's with seven. Upper Arlington, Olentangy and Hamilton had many high marks, too.” -- from the article "Many districts struggle with achievement gaps" written by Charlie Boss and Collin Binkley for *The Columbus Dispatch*, published Fri., Aug. 23, 2013.

Again, congratulations and have another outstanding school year!

**Convocation 2013** - On Thursday, August 15, we welcomed back our faculty and staff to the 2013-2014 school year with our annual Convocation Ceremony. A continental breakfast was provided and our program began at 9:00 a.m. and lasted approximately one hour and 30 minutes.

We honored our 2012-2013 retirees and recognized our staff members for service to the district during our Convocation 2013. This Convocation offered an opportunity for all district faculty and staff to pay tribute to those who have worked so diligently for the children of this district.

Following our Convocation, everyone reported to their assigned buildings for building, grade level, and content area meetings.

**2013-2014 School Year Motto** - We have selected the motto of “*You Make A Difference!*” for Convocation 2013. This motto perfectly sums up everything we do throughout the school year to positively impact the students of our district.

“No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.” ~ *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**Welcome back everyone!** - I am eager to begin this new school year because of the momentum generated by our continued academic growth and success. Our district has achieved exponential growth over the past nine years by earning a 400% improvement in attained State Report Card indicators. Our goal for the 2013-14 school year is to meet or exceed every indicator on our State Report Card. I know we will accomplish this goal because our mission is clear. We are "Improving Achievement through Total Accountability and High Expectations."

I visited each of our buildings on the first day of school and was proud to see our students and their families receiving warm welcomes from our teachers, bus drivers, secretaries, cooks, support staff, and administrators. Our custodial and maintenance team also needs to be recognized for their outstanding work in making certain our schools and grounds are in excellent shape for everyone's arrival.

I would like to thank each of our employees for their unrelenting effort in making this first day of school both promising and positive for our students.

**Welcome to our new faculty and staff** - We want to welcome the following our new faculty and staff members to our District team!

**Preschool**

Lindsay Brickey                      Educational Aide

**Elementary School**

Misty Brown                      CC Intervention Specialist  
Lindsey Hillerich                  Kindergarten  
Jennifer Lust                      Grade 2  
Christopher Trisler                Educational Aide

**Intermediate School**

Maura Dickinson                  6th Math  
Jonathon Hoyt                      Educational Aide  
Bradley Zimmerman                Intervention Specialist

**Middle School**

Kimberly Adkins                    Cook  
Kassandra Adkins                  .5 Secretary  
Stephanie Evans                    Cross-Categorical  
Ebony Newby-Brown                Educational Aide  
Mary Mayhew                        Intervention Specialist

**High School**

Rebecca Demme                    Math  
Lance Fulton                        Educational Aide  
Holly Heaton                        English/ LA  
William Merryman                  Education Aide  
Katherine Spencer                 English/ LA  
Christy Tarantino                  3-Hour Cook

**District Calendars** - Our 2013-2014 district calendar is available on our website at [www.HamiltonRangers.org](http://www.HamiltonRangers.org).

**ODE releases A-F report cards** - Yesterday the Ohio Department of Education released new district and school report cards that, for the first time, assign A-F letter grades on nine measures.

These new report cards will make the educational performance of our schools and district more transparent than ever. Our district and school report cards will also position us to have a productive dialogue with your community about strengths and opportunities that can drive the Hamilton Local School District's improvement.

The reports were made available to the public beginning on Thursday, August 22, at [reportcard.education.ohio.gov](http://reportcard.education.ohio.gov).

The new report cards have nine measures. These nine measures cannot and should not be averaged into a single grade for a school or our district. Beginning in August of 2015, the report card will include additional measures along with component and overall district and building grades.

## **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Health and Safety** - Our buildings fully initiated our new safety protocol this week, which uses audio/video monitoring systems in each building entry point. This system allows our staff to review all individuals entering our facilities to confirm their reasons for visiting. This process provides an additional layer of safety for our students and staff. To date, all feedback regarding this system has been positive, with many parents thanking us for providing such safe schools.

All of our buildings are currently being monitored with this system. Over the next few weeks, we will be upgrading our middle school and preschool to feature additional video monitoring.

**Food Services** - Last spring, the district determined that a change in our food service software was needed. The previous software, Lunchbox, worked well, but would no longer support the on-line payment application that our community has grown to use in record numbers. With this in mind, Mr. Morrison and Mrs. Hillerich visited many different school districts to get information regarding the service being used in our area. After many onsite reviews, Mr. Morrison determined that Meals Plus would be the best solution that would also be compatible with our existing online payment plan.

This summer, our head cooks went through a very intensive training with representative from Meals Plus and on Monday, they put their training to the test. While there were a few glitches in the process, by the end of the day and with the help of our technology staff, issues and concerns were addressed and we have been running smoothly. Thanks to Mary Anne Hillerich, Sharron Sewell, Susan Adkins, Judy Quinn, Lori Hunley and Lisa Way for their supreme efforts and thanks to Lisa Buchanan, Verlin Samples and Tom Motika for providing excellent technical support. Also thanks to each building principal for working through slightly longer lunches on Monday to allow the software issues to be addressed and still provide time for our students to enjoy their meal.

**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** - Mrs. Crabtree and Mrs. Varney registered 62 new Hamilton students this week.

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**HTHS Expectations Set** – On the first day back to school, HTHS Administrators Miller, Morbitzer and Thompson led a building wide assembly to review the most recent successes and achievements accomplished this past year, by HTHS students. As a follow-up, and to set the focus for this current school year, the academic, behavior, and attendance expectations were communicated with all freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Students responded positively to the message and were encourage with the challenge. Miller emphasized a focused on the 3 Rangers Words for Success, Reputation - Reaction - Respect.

**“You Make A Difference”** – The HLS Motto of the year is “You Make A Difference.” During lunch, the entire building watched together the motivational video featuring all Hamilton Local School staff and students, which focused on the positive differences that each individual makes on students’ lives throughout each year. Everyone enjoyed this inspirational video and it also motivated students to push themselves and motivate each other to be the best they can be. The HLS “You Make A Difference” video can be viewed at <http://www.hamiltonrangers.org>

## **HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Off to a Great Start** - Hamilton Middle School students and staff began the academic year on Monday with grade-level meetings in the gymnasium. Discussed at the meetings were behavior and academic expectations, attendance incentives, and a celebration of the successes from last year. Students were thrilled to be back in the building and are ready to have another outstanding year.

**Progress Report Released** - The State of Ohio released data on the progress being made by each school and our district this week and once again, Hamilton Middle School teachers were able to help our students grow at a rate higher than what is expected by the State. Congratulations to the students and staff of the Middle School for earning an A in "Progress" for the 2012-2013 school year!

## **HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

### **5th Grade Teacher Finds Unique Way to Communicate With Students and Parents**

- Teachers at Hamilton Intermediate School are always looking for fun and new ways to communicate with families about what is going on at school. 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Seiler, found a new and free service that allows teachers to create customized avatars to use on their websites! You can add voice to your avatar and they even talk and move! Mrs. Seiler used her avatar to welcome parents and students to her webpage as well as describe what is happening in math the following week. This is a great new resource that teachers and students can use!

**Intermediate Makes the Grade** - The new report cards were released by the state of Ohio this week. The Intermediate school earned an overall "A" progress rating for students in the areas of math and reading. We are very proud of the dedication and efforts of our students and staff that led to this rating.

## **HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Parents Walk Their Students to Class** - A large number of parents chose to walk their children to class during the first week of school. Parents were able to come into the building and help their children settle into their new classrooms. Many pictures were taken, hugs given and even a few tears shed, but the students quickly settled into a routine and the first week was a huge success.

**HES Staff Takes Time to Celebrate "A" Rating** - The Elementary staff took a few moments to celebrate the building's "A" rating and all of the success in the 2012-2013 school year. It was an "Excellent" opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the previous year before Mr. Tyler and Dr. Conley conducted their beginning of the year staff meeting. Everyone had a great time and appreciated the recognition!

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**Welcome To Preschool** - We had a great first week of school. The students were eager to play and learn. Thanks to all the families that attended our Open House on Monday evening. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions. This is going to be a wonderful learning experience for all.

## **Friendly Reminders for Preschool Students and Parents:**

1. School Times - AM 8:45-11:20  
PM 12:40-3:20  
All Day Students 8:40-3:20
2. Drop off and Pick up will be at Door #2 by the Gym - please park in the designated area-a staff member will be there to greet each day.
3. Enrollment Cards - Please remember to turn all three into your child's teacher by Wednesday, August 28, 2013.
4. Parents will need to be at the bus stop to meet their child each day. This is for the safety of our students.

## **OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

**Students Preparing for the Future** - This week, we have been meeting with each student to review their credits earned as well as needed this year and for graduation. Students are completing Post Secondary Planning Sheets and creating a learning plan for each subject area to drive how they will achieve their courses. Each quarter these learning plans will be reviewed and students will set goals for the next 9 weeks. We are excited about this process and know that students will take more ownership of their coursework as well as their future career or college plans.

## **OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Homework Help Center** - The South High Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library, 3540 S. High Street, provides a homework help center. Hours are 4:00-7:00 pm Monday thru Thursday and 3:00-6:00 PM on Fridays

## **OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**LOOK AT US!!** - For the second year in a row, the Hamilton Local School District has been 100% in compliance in all areas that are monitored by the Ohio Department of Education. That means we conduct ourselves with distinction with Child Find and providing special education services to our children with disabilities.

This year we have a new report card for the district, and special education is performing beautifully here as well. The Hamilton Local School District received an "A" rating from the Department of Education in the Value Added category for special education. We are 1 of only 16% of the districts in the entire state of Ohio that received that rating. Thank you for all the hard work from our staff and parents. It takes EVERYBODY to make this kind of progress. Inclusion works!!

## **DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY**

**Parent Access to Progress Book** – Progress Book Parent Access letters will be going home this week. It is important to note that the software has undergone a recent update and all parents will need to "Register" this year with the *key* provided in the letter. Once registered, users will be able to reset or retrieve usernames and passwords via the website.

Parents will be able to view homework assignments, messages from our teaching staff, cumulative progress, and detailed attendance.

Please be aware, however, that student grades and/or test results may not be entered on a daily basis. Teachers need time to collect, grade, and input the information, so please be understanding in your expectations. If you have concerns, please contact the teacher directly <https://parentaccess.mecdc.org/>

## **DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

**Varsity Boys Soccer Defeats Bishop Hartley** – The Varsity Boys Soccer team traveled to Bishop Hartley High School Tuesday evening and came home with a victory. Senior Captain Bleu Molinar scored 3 times including the tying and winning goals in an exciting 4-3 victory. Junior Erick Juarez scored the other Ranger goal. This victory brought the Rangers record to 1-1-0. The Rangers also took the field this week at Lancaster on Thursday and came away with a 2-0 victory moving their record to 2-1-0 and will return home on Thursday, August 29th to open MSL play versus Logan Elm.

**Varsity and JV Volleyball Open Seasons with Wins** – The Varsity and JV Volleyball teams have both opened their seasons in impressive fashion and each have winning records to show for it. On Saturday August 17th, the Varsity and JV Lady Rangers downed Watkins Memorial at HTHS. On Tuesday evening, the Rangers traveled to Bexley and came away with victories. The JV dominated the Lions with sets of 25-2 and 25-9. The Varsity defeated the Lions in three straight sets with scores of 25-22, 25-18, and 25-22.

On Thursday, August 22nd, the Lady Rangers traveled to Dublin Jerome and come away with a Varsity victory moving their record to 3-0. The JV lost a close match bringing their record to 2-1. Congratulations to the Rangers for their impressive starts to the season.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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