

## **Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Aug. 9-16, 2013**

**OSBA Student Achievement Fair** - OSBA Student Achievement Fair still has openings. I strongly urge building administrators to nominate their top programs for the Student Achievement Fair, which will be held Nov. 12 during the Capital Conference. The Student Achievement Fair features 100 booths of the most innovative school programs in the state. [Submit your nominations here.](#)

**Graduation Committee Continues Discussions of End-of-Course Exams** - The State Board of Education's Graduation Committee continued its discussions of new end-of-course exams and diploma requirements linked to the work of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness in College and Careers (PARCC), hearing Tuesday from three consultants experienced in Ohio education policy.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering), chairwoman of the Senate Education Committee, asked presenters to address the concern discussed among lawmakers -- the sheer number of tests. ODE staff at the committee's previous meeting described plans for 10 end-of-course exams: three each in math and English language, and two each in science and social studies. Lehner also asked whether the paper-and-pencil versions of the tests being developed would be "inferior" to the regular, computer-based versions.

Sasheen Phillips, executive director for curriculum and assessments at ODE, told the committee that 523 districts or charter schools had completed an assessment with the department's technology readiness tool, and about 240 of them had indicated readiness to meet the technology requirements for administering the test.

James Wright, curriculum and assessments director, said while the tests won't be the same, they are to be written to the same standards and cognitive level.

Phillips noted that under PARCC, schools not ready to administer tests on computers must still document progress toward doing so.

**ODE Launches Principal Toolkit on Reading Guarantee, Standards, Other Changes** - The Ohio Department of Education has developed a suite of online resources for local building leaders to help them understand and communicate a wave of policy changes going into effect, Superintendent Richard Ross noted in his weekly message to Ohio schools.

This "principal toolkit" addresses upcoming changes related to new A-F report cards for local schools, the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, Common Core standards and teacher evaluations. Included in the toolkit are sample newsletter articles, fact sheets, explanatory graphics and videos addressing those four topics, to be used by principals in communicating with teachers and families.

The toolkit is available at: <http://education.ohio.gov/Administrators/Principal-s-Toolkit>. Reposted for Focus Education. Focus Education is a report on issues related directly and indirectly to the Ohio education community. Focus Education is a service of Hannah News service.

## **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Building Operations** - I would like to thank each building custodian, Scott Ayers, David Shephard and Ed Quickert. These Hamilton School family members worked all summer to prepare our grounds and buildings. We take great pride in our facilities!

**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** - 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.

Mrs. Crabtree and Mrs. Varney have registered 54 new students this week.

## **OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**Video Explains How Hamilton Local Makes A Difference** - Each year, our district chooses a theme that is featured throughout the school year, and this year it is "You Make A Difference!" We produced a video that explains just how the employees "Make A Difference" inside and outside of their buildings. Watch it at our website [www.HamiltonRangers.org](http://www.HamiltonRangers.org)

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**Freshmen Orientation & Schedule Pick Up A Success** - Over 900 HTHS students and their family members filtered into the high school Monday and Tuesday for freshmen orientation and schedule pick up. Both evenings were a success. During orientation, HS administration and counselors introduced student handbook information and graduation requirements. Students and families then had the opportunity to work new locker combinations, find classes within their schedules, and communicate with teachers. Principal Miller is encouraged by the enthusiastic students prepared and excited to return to school, after a restful summer break.

**HTHS Welcomes New TEAM Members** - On Friday, during convocation, Principal Miller welcomed new team members, Rebecca Demme, Holly Heaton, Katherine Spencer, Lance Fulton, Billy Merryman, and transfer Ardith Parsley to the high school family. The new team members add a young and exciting energy to the high school momentum. The HS staff is encouraged to see the positive results that will come with the new team dynamics.

## **HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Staff Records Stellar Attendance** - For the 2012-2013 school year, the staff of Hamilton Middle School recorded the highest attendance rate of all the buildings in the district. The staff takes great pride in their attendance and they are extremely confident in a repeat performance for this year.

**Open House Huge Success** - On Thursday evening, 523 students, parents, guardians, and siblings came to the Middle School for our annual Open House and schedule pick-up. Students found their classrooms, met their teachers and practiced their locker combinations. The 7th Grade parents and students met with the teachers and administration in the gym to learn about the building, procedures, and differences from the Intermediate school.

## **HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

**Successful Opening Night** - Students and their families were excited to visit our building, receive their schedule, and meet their teachers. More than 600 people were in attendance. Our staff enjoyed meeting their new students and is ready to get started with another wonderful school year.

**Attendance Champs** - For the second year in a row, the Intermediate received the award for having the highest student attendance for the 2012-13 school year. Our students had a 95.74% attendance rate. We will continue to work with our students and their families throughout this school year in order to maintain our excellent student attendance.

## **HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Drop-off/Pick-up Changes at HES** - Mr. Tyler worked with HES staff, Assistant Superintendent William Morrison, Obetz Police Chief Ken Hinkle and Village Engineer Mike Corbitt to increase student safety by making changes to drop-off/pick-up procedures. The map below illustrates the new procedures. Elementary staff members and Obetz police officers will be on hand to help familiarize parents with the procedure for the first several days. For those who are familiar with how student drop-off/pick-up has been done at the elementary in the past you will note that there have been no changes made to the drop-off/pick-up circle. The only changes are for the section of the lot where parents walk their students to and from the Gymnasium doors.

**New Staff and Transfers** - The staff at HES is excited to welcome six new staff members to our team. There are three new hires: Misty Brown cross-categorical, Jennifer Lust 2nd grade, and Chris Trisler ISS. The other three new staff members are transfers from other buildings in the district. Amie Bassett comes from the intermediate building to 2nd grade, Lindsey Hillerich comes from the preschool to Kindergarten, and Sheena Turner comes from the preschool to 1st grade. We are all excited about the contributions that these six individuals will make.

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**Welcome to New Staff Members and Transfers** - Mrs. Patty Colby previously taught Kindergarten at the Elementary School and now join us in the Green Room as a AM/PM Teacher, Miss Lindsey Brickey will be assigned as a teaching assistant in the All Day Classroom, and Mrs. Jennifer Davisson will work with our students in the two days a week program. We are thrilled to have a great group of new teachers!

**First Day Of School** - Preschool will officially open its doors on Tuesday, August 20, 2013. The students will be entering on a staggered start. Please see your child's teacher at Open House to confirm their first day of school. This allows the teachers an opportunity to welcome each student in a smaller setting. We are ready and excited for the 2013-2014 school year to begin!

## **OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

**New Staff** - The Alternative Academy is happy to announce our new staff member, Deron Brickey. He is taking Mr. Benton's place as he has moved up to the Middle School. Mr. Brickey has been teaching at the Middle School since 2001. We are happy to have him as part of our team!

**New Teachers** – We have an outstanding group of new teachers joining our district. They began work on August 13 and 14 for a two-day orientation and to meet their mentors or guides. Mrs. Strahm, who serves as lead mentor and resident educator coordinator, planned the two-day event. The teachers were then introduced and welcomed to the district at convocation. New this year are: Elementary – Misty Brown (intervention), Lindsey Hillerich (kindergarten), and Jennifer Lust (grade 2); Intermediate – Maura Dickinson (6th grade math) and Brad Zimmerman (intervention); Middle – Stephanie Evans (intervention) and Kate Mayhew (intervention); and High – Rebecca Demme (math), Holly Heaton (English), and Katherine Spencer (English). We wish them all best for a great school year.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

**Varsity Sports Regular Seasons Set to Begin** – The fall sports' regular seasons are currently underway. Girls Tennis opened their season by traveling to Grove City on August 14th. Volleyball will have their first match on Saturday August 17th versus Watkins Memorial at HTHS with JV beginning at 10am. Boys Soccer will also be in action on Saturday August 17th at home versus Westland High School with JV set to begin at 10:15am.

The Hamilton Township Cross Country program will begin their season on Monday, August 19th by hosting the 2nd annual Mt. Hamilton Cross Country Invitational. Races are set to begin at 5pm with the start and finish line near the soccer stadium and a course that travels through Hamilton Local School's campus.

The Rangers Football program will play host to Pickerington Central, Springfield and Dublin Jerome on Saturday August 17th for a 4-team scrimmage. Freshman will begin at 9am and varsity is scheduled to start at 11am. Later in the week, the varsity football team will host Licking Valley on August 23rd at 7pm for their final scrimmage of the fall before opening up their regular season at home versus Columbus East High School on August 30th. This date will also mark both the Hamilton Township Alumni and Athletic Hall of Fame ceremonies. Please be sure to come out and support our Rangers!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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