

## **Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Dec. 2-9, 2011**

**Associations Continue Push Against House Bill 136** - HB 136 (School Choice) seeks to transfer public dollars to support private education. On Dec. 1, the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA), the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) and the Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) issued a press release and an analysis outlining the significant costs that would likely accompany House Bill (HB) 136. The legislation proposes the statewide Parental Choice and Taxpayer Savings Scholarship Program (PACT). HB 136, sponsored by Rep. Matt Huffman (R-Lima), would dramatically change Ohio's school voucher policy, a program that uses public tax dollars to subsidize private and parochial school tuition.

The three school management organizations commissioned the Education Tax Policy Institute (ETPI) to conduct the analysis to help school district leaders educate their own legislators about the negative effects HB 136 would have on Ohio public education. The ETPI analysis, conducted by consultants William Driscoll and Howard Fleeter, determined that HB 136 could create approximately \$480 million in new costs for Ohio's education funding system as the bill's provisions are phased in over a very short period of time. The additional costs would come as students who already attend private schools suddenly become eligible for taxpayer-subsidized vouchers.

**Superintendent Recommends Approval of Resolution to Oppose HB 136** - Superintendent Lester will recommend that the Hamilton Local Board of Education approve a resolution opposing House Bill HB 136 (School Choice), or any legislation that seeks to transfer public dollars to support private education that is based upon household income, during the Monday, December 12, Board of Education meeting.

**Now That the Dust Has Cleared (an UPDATED version of the "Budget Bill vs. SB 5" chart prepared by Hamilton Local Schools Legal Counsel Kimball H. Carey of Bricker & Eckler LLP. (This version clarifies that in RTTT districts, the requirement for "performance pay" is subject to collective bargaining.)**

What word would you choose to describe the year 2011 in Ohio public education? Controversial? Confusing? Scary? Depressing? All of the above?

For me, it would probably be something like "disorienting." Going in, it was easy to see that the political winds were blowing in a different direction, and that there were going to be some changes. What was surprising (to me at least) was the truly dramatic nature of the changes to public employment that found their way into Senate Bill 5. Senate Bill 5 tried to do much more

than simply adjust or re-balance the power relationships in public employment. It turned the whole thing upside-down and hit the “reset” button. It became law. Then, just as we were all scratching our heads trying to imagine what life under SB 5 was going to be like, it was put “on hold” while the General Assembly passed a budget bill dealing with a number of the same issues (House Bill 153). The effect of all this was confusing and paralyzing. By the time the public finally had its say on SB 5—voting to repeal the law in toto—the “fog of war” had taken its toll. We knew that SB 5 was gone, but also knew that the budget bill had picked up some pieces of SB 5. What was left?

By now, many of you are already becoming familiar with some of the major new developments wrought by the budget bill -- particularly the changes relating to teacher evaluation, “performance pay,” and RIF. House Bill 153 touched on relatively few of the issues tackled in SB 5, and it is clear that HB 153 has not revamped collective bargaining in a fundamental way, as SB 5 would have. Nevertheless, there are some elements of SB 5 that do survive in HB 153, and I thought it would be worth talking about those here.

What you see on the following page is my attempt to identify the most significant “reform” elements of SB 5 that were addressed in some way by the budget bill. As you can see in the graph located on the next page, this allows for only a very generalized description of these changes. However, I hope that you find it helpful in sorting out what really did and didn’t happen in this strangest of all years in public education.

	<b>DIDN'T happen</b> (SB 5 repealed)	<b>DID happen</b> (in HB 153)
RIF (reduction in force)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat prohibition of all bargaining on grounds for RIF or layoff order</li> <li>• Relative quality of performance must be "principal factor" in determining layoff order for teachers AND nonteachers</li> <li>• For teachers, "quality" specifically defined as including value-added performance and other factors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For TEACHERS, prohibits use of seniority as a factor in determining layoff or recall order, except when evaluations are "comparable" (ORC 3319.17)</li> <li>• NO change to nonteaching RIF statutes (ORC 124.321 <i>et seq.</i>, 3319.172), so use of seniority <i>not</i> prohibited for nonteaching personnel</li> </ul>
Teacher Compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compensation for ALL teachers to be "based upon performance"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Districts participating in federal "Race to the Top" funding must develop performance-based salary schedules (apparently subject to bargaining) (ORC 3317.141)</li> </ul>
Teacher Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt; &gt; &gt;</li> <li>• Requirement for performance-based evaluations under state-designed "framework" specifically made to prevail over conflicting labor agreements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SB 5's requirement for performance-based teacher evaluations in compliance with state-designed "framework" WAS in fact included in HB 153 (with some modifications, including establishment of four named performance levels)</li> <li>• <i>However</i>, HB 153 does not include specific protection from collective bargaining override (ORC 3319.111, .112)</li> </ul>
Principal Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt; &gt; &gt;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SB 5's requirement for principal evaluations "comparable" to those designed for teachers WAS in fact included in HB 153 (with some modifications, including establishment of four named performance levels) (ORC 3319.02, 3319.112)</li> </ul>
Sick Leave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sick leave accrual and usage to be set under general policy governing all leaves of absence</li> <li>• Policy may require physician's statement for use of sick leave</li> <li>• Severance pay capped at 50% of accumulation, up to 1000 <i>hours</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sick leave NOT REQUIRED for substitutes, adult education instructors who are scheduled to work the full-time equivalent of less than 120 days per school year, or persons who are employed on an as-needed, seasonal, or intermittent basis</li> <li>• Regular part-time employees accrue sick leave at civil service rate (4.6 hours for every 80 hours of service) (ORC 3319.141)</li> </ul>
Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total ban on bargaining health benefits, except as to % of premium</li> <li>• Minimum employee contribution of 15%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Employees Health Care Board abolished and functions transferred to Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS). DAS assumes responsibility for administering health care policy for public schools, other Ohio political subdivisions, and institutions of higher education. DAS charged with conducting massive study which may (or may not) lead to regional health care pooling, which may (or may not) be made mandatory. (ORC 9.901, Section 515.60 of HB 153)</li> </ul>
Subcontracting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total ban on bargaining limits on contracting out of services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinstates authority for contracting out student transportation in non-civil service districts (subject to numerous restrictions) (ORC 3319.0810)</li> </ul>

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

**Building Operations** - Hamilton Local Schools have adopted the Alert Now phone notification system to inform all district parents of closings, cancellations, unexcused absences, and any other emergency alert information concerning our district buildings or property. To utilize the Alert Now notification system, we import a call list generated from each student's

primary contact phone number. At any time, if your child's primary contact number is changed please make certain their building secretary is made aware of the new contact number. Once the district's Superintendent has made the announcement, our Alert Now notification system will contact you within minutes.

If school is canceled or delayed for two (2) hours due to inclement weather the following local television and radio stations will carry the announcement:

TV Stations:

WCMH - NBC 4   WSYX - ABC 6   WBNS – 10 TV   WTTE – Fox 28

Radio Stations:

WTVN – 610 AM   WCOL – 92.3 FM   WNCI – 97.9 FM   WCKX–  
107.5 FM

You can also [visit our district web site](#) for school closing, delay, or emergency information.

**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.

**Construction** - Mr. Morrison met with Andrew Maletz, Vice President of SHP Leading Design and Nick McCollough of Kleingers & Associates to review plans for a proposed new bus garage. Mr. Morrison will be working towards fine-tuning the proposal so that the project fits both our needs and our budget.

## **OFFICE OF THE TREASURER**

**GAAP Conversion Is Complete** - The GAAP conversion is done and the auditors are finalizing the completion of the audit over the next two weeks. It will then be submitted to the Auditor of State by December 31, 2011.

Everything is running smoothly in the Treasurer's Office and we are certain to receive another clean audit.

## **OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

### **District Shares Successes During 2nd Annual State of the Schools Event**

- On Friday, December 2, our district presented the 2nd annual Superintendent's State of the Schools Luncheon to a capacity crowd in our Board of Education Meeting Chamber.

During the event, our Preschool Choir and the award-winning HTHS Chamber Singers treated our guests to performances of holiday favorites before presentations by Mr. Tyler, Mr. Miller, and several other district representatives.

**Annual Report Being Delivered This Week** - In conjunction with the Superintendent's State of the Schools presentation, we mailed our 12-page annual report publication to each home in our district. Look for it in your mailboxes any day.

This year's report highlights many different topics that include, but aren't limited to: Our district's continued focus on each child; the success of our short-cycle assessment program; new coaching hires for wrestling and softball; and our five-year financial forecast.

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**Owl-Banding Field Trip** - On Saturday, a select group of Biology II and A.P. Biology students, escorted by Mr. Carity and Mr. Kuenzli, took a trip to Camp Wyandot, near Clear Creek Metropark. The overnight trip was a genuine outdoor field biology research experience. Students set up two sets of mist net runs in order to catch and band Northern Saw-whet Owls. The data taken on the owls is submitted to a database that stores information on owls netted from various stations in North America.

Five owls were recovered from the nets. Four of them we banded and one of the owls was re-captured from earlier in the night. The data collected from this trip will be analyzed to determine patterns in owl migration, feeding, and various ecological interactions

**The Business and Accounting Dept Receive FREE Resources** - Mrs. Walker coordinated and communicated with The Actuarial Foundation, who were pleased to provide Hamilton Township High School and the Business and Accounting Department with the "Building Your Future" financial literacy resource material, at no cost to the school. The classroom set (25 student books with teacher's guides) has been sent to the HS Business and Accounting Department as a gift from an individual donor through The

Actuarial Foundation Giving Program. These books are being donated on behalf of Mr. Wesley S. Daughtry, a member of the actuarial profession. He made a charitable contribution of \$250.00 to the Actuarial Foundation covering the cost of these materials and HTHS was selected to be the recipient.

“Building Your Future” helps students easily grasp the essentials of personal finance. All books in the series are classroom ready, with Teacher’s Guides that provide handouts and answer keys, instruction and assessment suggestions, definitions and resources.

### **HTHS Staff Member of the Month – Mrs. Shepfer**

*"I nominate Mrs. Shepfer because she is a hard-working and dedicated teacher and coach. She is organizing a study group for seniors on IEPs to help ensure that they graduate on time." - HS Teacher*

*"I have had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Shepfer for six years. I could not ask for a better co-worker. She has a lot of patience and love for her kids in our class. She teaches the kids that if they put their minds to it they can do anything. She also does everything she can to get the kids prepared for the real world and that they can live independently. Mrs. Shepfer is the best teacher and makes me want to be a better person and aide." - HS Teacher*

*"Mrs. Shepfer goes above and beyond for her students and for other students throughout the building." - HS Teacher*

*"Mrs. Shepfer has changed everything for me. She has helped me with many personal issues. She is always there for me with listening ears and ready to talk. She was also my tennis coach. She always knows just what to say to teach me something new. She has inspired me to look into colleges that have special needs teaching. The way she teaches has inspired me to teach and help children just as she does." - Student Aide*

*"Mrs. Shepfer deserves to be teacher of the month because she is a wonderful teacher. She gives the kids in her class an opportunity to do whatever they want after high school. The kids love her because she's such a kind and helpful person." - Student Aide*

*"She is totally dedicated to her career because you can tell by her attitude and expressions she uses." - Student Aide*

### **Comments from Mrs. Shepfer's MH students below:**

*"Mrs. Shepfer helps us with our work and we need someone like that. My*

*math grade has gone up since she has been my teacher." - MH Student*

*"She is good at her job and what she is doing. She makes sure everyone is doing their work and teaches new things." - MH Student*

*"Mrs. Shepfer is a great teacher who helps us improve our grades. She helps me in multiplication and is a caring person." - MH Student*

*"Mrs. Shepfer is an awesome person and helps me with my education and getting ready for college. She helps me improve my writing and gets me interested in science and history." - MH Student*

*"She helps me learn in math and lets me do fun stuff. She's a nice teacher and respects her kids." - MH Student*

*"She keeps me on track when we get our work done. She will give us some free time such as read a book or play a group game." - MH Student*

*"I have questions for Mrs. Shepfer and she gives me the answers." - MH Student*

*"She helps me to read by doing Edmark with me. She lets me go to team sports when I get my work done." - MH Student*

*"Mrs. Shepfer makes me laugh and I like to learn to read and she helps me." - MH Student*

*Mrs. Shepfer stated, "If staff members nominated me for staff member of the month, I am honored. I feel they would nominate me because I am very dedicated to my job and the students."*

*"Describing my typical day is a difficult task, because I think of my day as anything but typical. That is the reason I love my job. Each day brings a new adventure. Throughout the day I set a positive tone and create a supportive environment for the students to succeed. I need to make sure that I am servicing all of their individual needs so usually there are three or four activities going on at one time. My day may range from working with a student on their science homework to teaching another student how to properly form the letters in her name. Whatever the day may bring, I am surrounded by the most wonderful group of students who love Hamilton and are eager to learn." - Mrs. Shepfer*

**2nd Annual College & Career Night** - As part of our HS Postsecondary Action Planning to: *Help more students pursue postsecondary education through local college access programs, financial aid advising, scholarship and grant availability advising, career guidance, and other services*, On December 8th, in conjunction with regularly scheduled parent teacher conferences, Hamilton Township High School hosted their 2nd annual College Fair & Financial Aid Night for all parents and students. This event is part of a continuing effort to expose students to post-secondary opportunities and to get more family involvement in this aspect of the students' lives.

HS Administration fed the first 300 individuals with the hope to set a new attendance record for a school conference event.

Representatives from a variety of schools, colleges, universities, U.S. armed forces, and other career-based businesses attend this year's event. Thanks to Mr. Sweet for heading all coordination concerning this special event including assistance from Mrs. Steele and Ms. White. It was a major success.

List of all colleges, universities, branches of military and other programs that attended our event:

1	Bowling Green State University	18	Ohio Northern University
2	Bradford School	19	Ohio State University
3	Capital University	20	OSU Newark
4	Central Ohio Technical College	21	Ohio University
5	Chamberlain College of Nursing	22	Ohio University Lancaster
6	Columbus State Community College	23	Otterbein University
7	DeVry University	24	Salon Schools Group
8	Eastern Kentucky University	25	United States Air Force
9	Hocking College	26	United States Army
10	ITT Technical Institute	27	United States Marines
11	Marietta College	28	United States Navy
12	Marshall University	29	University of Rio Grande
13	Miami-Jacobs Career College	30	University of Toledo
14	Mount Carmel College of Nursing	31	Urbana University
15	Ohio Christian University	32	Wyotech
16	Ohio Dominican University	33	Flex Students
17	Ohio National Guard	34	Rwanda Project

## **HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**STAR Students Nominated** - STAR Rangers are Students Taking Action for Respect. The following students have been nominated by a staff person

at the Middle School for demonstrating respect to themselves and others: Dean Sutherland, Sarah King, Jason Walker, Kylie Wright, Austin Jewell, Sidney Cramblit, Jacob Harper, Taylor Salisbury, Joe Carter, Lexy Mason, Joelle Smith, Hannah Cole, Noah Waugh, Alyah Taval, Collin Bowling, Kathryn Hicks, William Ayres, Honesty Detty, Emily Kamer, Katie Perez, Destiny Grandstaff, Anthony Madden, Kimberly Rose, Robert Grutsch, Olivia Raines, Wyatt Koehl, Orion Skinner, Kasey Novotni, Celina Saksith, Austin Randolph, Colt Barney, Shanell Hayes, Jaelin Knight Edwards, TJ Rudolph, Kasey Bottorff, JD Hirst, Jeremy Streets, Alexis Mason, Krysti Calhoun, Dakota Stevens, Maria Salgado, Alex Rawlins, Matthew Burke, Taylor Thompson, Derek Bradford, Corey Harmon, Leah Settles, Autumn Blosser, Tonya Thompson and Analicia Posadas.

Keep up the great, respectful attitudes, STAR Rangers!

**Student Council Helping Out** - The Middle School Student Council has been collecting canned food for the local food pantry this holiday season. The competition between classes is fierce and the winners will be announced soon! Keep up the great work helping our community!

## **HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

**Deck The Halls With Sounds Of Music** - The Hamilton Intermediate School sixth grade band is presenting their winter concert on Thursday, December 15th, at 7 p.m. in the High School auditorium. These 75 students have been working hard for the past three months and are excited to show the community their accomplishments. Many of the band members have been voluntarily practicing during their recess time in order to be the best musician they can be at the concert. Some of the musical selections include traditional favorites such as "Hot Cross Buns" and the students' favorite, "Jingle Bells." The sixth grade band will perform a spring concert on May 17th, as well. We hope to see you in attendance for a fun evening of music!

**December Is For The Dogs** - H.I.S. will be accepting items to donate to the Capital Area Humane Society for their December charity. This year, we will be accepting dollars for "Hearts for Paws." Each time a student brings in a dollar/change, you will be able to give him or her a heart to put a name on to hang outside of their homeroom. Click [WISH LIST](#) to see items that can be donated. If you would like to make a donation please drop it off at the Intermediate building during the month of December.

**Battle Of The Books Begins** - This week several 5th and 6th graders met with Mrs. Smith to discuss this year's Battle of the Books competition. All the students are very excited to get the new list of books to read this year. The 6th graders are students who participated in B.O.B. as 5th graders. They

were able to answer many of the 5th graders' questions. The 5th graders will need to read 12 books in preparation for their competition in February while the 6th graders will be reading 20 book to prepare for their competition in May. A BIG thank you to the Intermediate PTO for purchasing almost 100 books for the students!

**Columbus Stays Cozy With Coats** - Thank you to all the students and staff members at H.I.S. for donating coats, hats, gloves and scarves to the Salvation Army for the winter season. We collected over 370 items. Congratulations to the 5th grade for bringing in the most items for this community service project.

## **HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**AR Cards** - The students are having some serious fun reading in Mrs. Gartland's class. They are using the AR (Accelerated Reader) program where they read books at their reading level and take quizzes on comprehension of their books. When students pass an AR card (approximately 10 books at 80 percent or higher), they get their card hung in the hall and a small prize from the library and Mrs. Gartland. Several students have passed two cards (lunch with the teacher) and some students are even asking to read at indoor recess!

**Hamilton Elementary Students Take a Journey Through a Soil Tunnel** - A representative of the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation Department visited our school and gave interactive presentations to the second and third graders using a painted canvas tent. The canvas tells the story of soil below the surface including different soil types, layers, plant roots and animals that live underground. Kindergarten and first graders also participated by completing a scavenger hunt while inside the canvas tent. They were able to point out chipmunks and painted turtles, mushrooms and corn plants, and even found trilobites in the bedrock. These activities help meet the Earth and Space Sciences standards of what soil is, why it is important and how to conserve it.

**HES Students Create Comic Books** - In art class, third grade students recently completed a unit on comic books. Students read comic books and learned about how they are created. They discussed reasons why comic books are often considered a form of art; they are colorful, creative, and use pictures to tell a story. Some students discovered that they may want to consider careers as comic book illustrators. Students worked in groups to create their own original comic pages with the computers. First, the groups worked together to brainstorm an idea for a comic. Many students chose stories about everyday life; they discovered comics are not always fictional.

Next, they acted out the story in pictures taken with the computer camera, props, and backdrops. Third grade students worked in computer applications class to learn how to edit pictures in Comic Life. The students used information learned in language arts about sequencing to successfully tell a story through the pictures. In addition, students explored how to use the frame of the camera to show what they wanted to communicate. Each group worked incredibly hard on this project for multiple weeks and should be proud of the results!

**Kindergarten Spanish Lesson** - Over the past seven weeks, Mrs. Fisher's Kindergarten class has taken part in a Spanish Unit with their Student Teacher, Senora Marilyn. Many lessons during their time with her were taught completely in Spanish. To begin the unit the class explored their concepts of print, such as the title, front cover, and back cover of a book in Spanish. To compare and contrast Spanish and English texts they used Eric Carle's book, From Head to Toe. In order to interact with the story appropriately the classes learned the Spanish vocabulary for head, shoulders, knees, toes, eyes, ears, mouth and nose. To wrap up their unit, they invited their parents in to show off their newly acquired vocabulary by performing *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes* completely in Spanish.

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**Central Ohio Mentor Network** - The first year of Ohio's Educator Resident Program is in full swing and with it comes lots of excitement and energy, as well as questions and concerns. The ESC of Central Ohio has established a Resident Educator Network that will meet five times throughout the year. It is a network to help mentor teachers and teacher leaders from Franklin, Delaware, Union, Licking, Madison, and Pickaway counties. It is a regional professional development learning community designed to help mentor teachers receive ODE updates, network, and learn from each other as we work through this first year. Mrs. Strahm has been and will continue to attend these sessions during the school year.

**Gingerbread Man** - Preschool students in Mrs. Davisson's class had their first homework assigned this past week. The students, with the help of their parents, had to decorate a gingerbread man. The families were asked to be creative and make it a fun experience for everyone. The kids did an outstanding job and were so excited to bring their creation back to share with their friends. All the gingerbread men are on display in the hallway. Thanks to Mrs. Davisson and Mrs. Adams for their fun idea!

## **OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

**Alternative Academy Adopts A Family for the Holidays** - The Alternative Academy staff graciously purchased a tree, lights, and ornaments for their adopted family. The staff collected money and purchased a gift card to Walmart so the parents can buy some presents for their four children.

**OWjL Camp Announces Summer Dates** - Ohio Wesleyan University and the Junior League of Columbus are hosting a week-long residential summer camp for gifted and talented students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. It will be held in June on the campus of Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. If you know of any student interested in attending this fun and academically challenging opportunity, contact your guidance counselor at school for an application. (Week 1: June 10-15 for grades 6 & 7; Week 2: June 27-22 for grades 7 & 8; Week 3: June 24-29 for grades 6 & 7). Applications are due to be postmarked by January 30, 2012. The cost is \$599 for the week, however full and partial scholarships are available.

## **OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Modified Assessment Pilot** - State assessments play an important role in public education today. States, school districts, and schools are using student performance on these assessments to improve instruction and to focus on the needs of specific student populations. To accomplish this, it is critical that all students participate in state assessments. Only then can the needs of every student be recognized and addressed. In an effort to more appropriately assess all students with disabilities in state assessments, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has been working with other states, the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and school districts in Ohio to research modified assessment strategies for persistently low performing students. ODE has announced that its work with the modified assessment continues, and that Hamilton Intermediate School has been selected to participate in the Spring 2012 Modified Assessment Pilot. The pilot is being administered to a cross section of students in grade 5 and covers reading and mathematics. The goals of this research effort are to ensure that eligible students with an individualized education program (IEP) are appropriately assessed and receive credit for the progress they are making. The pilot assessments will take place in February and March.

**Community Partners' Parent Survey** - The Community Partners of Southern Franklin County conducted a survey during parent/teacher conferences to identify topics that parents/adults are interested in learning more about. The partners will use the results to develop a plan to supplement informational resources for local adults.

**TeacherInsight Report** - Our district contracts with the Gallup Consulting for an online assessment that applicants for teaching positions must complete as the first step in the application process. We have just received our annual report that provides our data, how we compare to districts across the country, and a demographic breakdown of candidates. We had 238 applicants and four openings this year – two teachers and two speech/language pathologists. Our general candidate pool average score was higher than the national average by 2.4% and our candidates, who were identified as having “potential for success,” was 7% higher. Having a higher quality pool helps us find the best candidates. This year's hires were in the top 20% of all candidates nationally. We learned that 80.8% of applicants were female, 67% were under 30 years old, 94% were residents of Ohio, and 9% represented minorities. We also learned the top five reasons that people applied to our district: vacancy announcement; desirable location; reputation; web site; and, referral by a person.

## **OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Third Graders Doing Well** - Mrs. Watts recently shared the results of her third graders' current topic evaluation in math. This topic test was over division, which is a difficult concept for most children. Of Mrs. Watts' seven third grade students, FIVE scored As and Bs on this test and TWO had very high Ds (almost Cs). The only accommodation these children got for this test was questions and directions read aloud. Mrs. Watts was so excited and proud of her students; she could not wait to share the results. These students are working so hard and their hard work is showing results.

## **DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY**

**Ohio on iTunes U** - There are many teaching and learning resources available on iTunes. Ohio on iTunes U allows Ohioans to share free educational resources, professional development materials, and community resources, which have been provided by educators, state agencies and community partners.

To access Ohio on iTunes U: From within the iTunes software, go to the iTunes U area and click on “Beyond Campus” from the Quick Links section. Next, choose “Ohio” from the alphabetical listing page. From Ohio's area, you can subscribe to your favorite content.

*(credit: Apple, Inc.-iTunes,*

*<http://itunes.apple.com/institution/ohio/id386794145#ls=1>)*

## **DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

**Benches Dedicated at HTHS Activity Entrance** - Four Benches have been placed at the Activity Entrance of the high school to welcome our students and guests. The benches signify excellence and dedication, identifying the Staff Member of the Year, Student of the Year, Academic Athlete of the Year and one dedicated to the memory of long-time Rangers fan, Bruce Cottrell. The High School and Athletic Department administrators and staff members will select the honorees. Our first dedication will be in May 2012.

**Cross Country Teams Hosting Dodgeball Tournament** - The Cross Country Team will be hosting a Dodgeball tournament in the high school gym on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. They are inviting all high school students and district staff to create teams and join the tournament.

There must be at least six people on a team with a maximum of 10. Only six people play at a time and one individual from each gender must play in each game. Matches will be a best-of-three game format and you can substitute players between games.

The cost is \$5 per individual on a team. Completed rosters can be sent to Anthony Beggrow at HTHS.

*The winning team will receive t-shirts. Spectator admission is two canned goods that will be donated to the Obetz Food Pantry.*

**Middle School Boys Basketball Win Openers** - The 7th and 8th grade boys basketball teams began their season with a victory over Amanda Clearcreek. The 7th grade boys won by a score of 46-20, and the 8th grade earned a two-point victory.

**8th Grade Lady Rangers Basketball Picks Up First Win** - Hamilton Middle's 8th Grade Lady Rangers defeated Amanda Clearcreek by a score of 29-12 for their first win of the season. The Rangers' swarming defense held the Lady Aces to four first half points in building a nine-point halftime lead. The win moves the Lady Rangers to 1-2 on the young season. Leading the way for HMS was Lauren Longbrake with 15 points. Brittany Haughn added six points and Autumn Blosser, Katie Moore, Brooke Wilhite, and Taylor Thompson each added two for the victory.

**Freshman Girls Basketball** - The Freshman Girls Basketball team took on Delaware Christian in their season opener Saturday. Nine girls contributed to the team's scoring. Anna McClain, Devyn Stevens, Abby Souders, and Ali

Belcher all had six points. Jerica French, Lyndsay Hankins, Chelsie Tripp, Zadei Edwards, and Kylee Sobony all with four points. Maegan Watkins also contributed with two of her own points.

**JV Girls Basketball** - Last Saturday, the JV Girls Basketball team took on the Amanda Clearcreek Lady Aces. The girls had 10 Lady Rangers contribute to the scoring. Blaire Gray-Harrison led all Rangers scorers with nine points. Devyn Stevens tallied eight points. Zadei Edwards contributed five points. Michaela Blankenship and Kylee Sobony each chipped in four points. Kayla Bledsoe had three points. Jessica Boyle and Erica Reshan dropped in two points. Jesse Logan and Anna McClain tallied one point each.

**Varsity Girls Basketball** - On Saturday, the varsity girls basketball team defeated the Amanda Clearcreek Lady Aces. The girls had nine Lady Rangers contribute to the scoring with two reaching double figures. Maya Ford led the way with 13 points, and Josie Kasprzack dropped in 11. Danielle Reynolds, Ashley Mitchell, Kaylee Davis, and Kristina Pickett each had six. Chelsea Robinson finished with five. Ariona Brown had three and Blaire Gray-Harrison contributed with two points.

**Middle School Wrestling Gains Experience at the Buckeye Valley Tournament** - Congratulations to our middle school wrestling team on their performance last weekend at the Buckeye Valley Tournament. The Rangers finished 3-2 in their team duels.

Hamilton Twp. 60 Bishop Ready 12  
Hamilton Twp. 49 Mount Vernon 48  
Hamilton Twp. 43 Worthington McCord 42  
Hamilton Twp. 45 Upper Arlington Hastings 48  
Hamilton Twp. 32 Dublin Grizzell 50

**JV Wrestlers Excel at Groveport** - The Rangers opened the season with a strong performance at the Groveport-Madison Tournament. Many of our young wrestlers performed at high levels and our top finishers were:

Alonzo Jewell - 1st Place  
Jacob Morgan - 2nd Place  
Jacob Perfery - 3rd Place  
Sam Hallum - 4th Place

Congratulations to all of our JV Ranger Wrestlers for an impressive start to the season! Our next JV Tournament is the Key Club JV Wrestling Tournament at Circleville on Saturday, December 10.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

[Get all of this week's events listed here](#)