

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Nov. 29 - Dec. 6, 2013

Hamilton Intermediate School Recognized by State Superintendent as a School of Honor for Second Straight Year - Intermediate Principal, J. Michael Meade, received notice yesterday from State Superintendent, Richard Ross, that his Hamilton Intermediate building was one of only 37 school buildings in Ohio to be recognized as a High Progress School of Honor by the Ohio Department of Education.

“High Progress Schools of Honor establish an educational goal for their students and continue to pursue and exceed that goal each year,” said Dr. Richard A. Ross, superintendent of public instruction. “The principals, teachers, parents and community members provide a high-quality education and believe that children can overcome significant challenges, and that they can learn.”

Letter to Principal Meade from Superintendent Ross:

Dear Principal Meade:

I am happy to share the good news that the Ohio Department of Education has named Hamilton Intermediate School a High Progress School of Honor, based on your 2012-2013 Local Report Card.

To become a High Progress School of Honor a building must first be a Title I or Title I-eligible schools with at least 40 percent of its students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. In addition these schools must rank in the top 10 percent for gains in proficiency, or if high schools, in the top 10 percent in graduation rates. Finally, High Progress Schools of Honor must have an Annual Measurable Objectives grade of C or higher and have met or exceeded Ohio's value-added measure for the last three years.

Clearly your school is doing whatever it takes to make sure that your students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to achieve academically. This makes you an outstanding example of what is possible when students, educators, parents and community members work together believing that all students can succeed. Please share my thanks with all of those who contributed to your school's success. I hope you will share your strategies generously with other Ohio schools.

Congratulations and my very best wishes for continued success. I know the determination and compassion for students that led to your school's success will continue to make you an asset to your community.

*Best regards,
Dr. Richard A. Ross
Superintendent of Public Instruction*

Only 6 school buildings in Franklin County received the High Progress School of Honor award, two of which were community schools. The other four were comprised of Hamilton Intermediate (Hamilton Local), Goshen Lane Elementary

School (Gahanna-Jefferson City), Brookside Elementary School (Worthington City), and Huber Ridge Elementary School (Westerville City).

All 37 of Ohio's High Progress Schools of Honor have these distinguishing characteristics:

- Score in the top 10 percent of schools as ranked by combined gains in student achievement in reading and mathematics across all tested grade levels during the previous five-year period.
- Met or exceeded the Ohio Value-Added measure of student growth for the three most recent years.
- Had a Local Report Card rating of Effective or higher (Hamilton Intermediate is rated "Excellent with Distinction")
- Met Adequate Yearly Progress.

Substitute Bill Regarding Teacher Performance Evaluations Reported Out - Senate Bill (SB) 229 Substitute Bill Regarding Teacher Performance Evaluations Accepted and Reported Out on Tuesday, December 2 with Bipartisan Support. The changes in the sub bill include the following:

- Reforms would begin July 1, 2014. Any changes do not occur during the current school year.
- All teachers who achieve a "skilled" or "accomplished" rating may participate in the new flexibility offered by SB229.
- Following the reduction to 35 percent of the mandated student growth measure for Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) evaluations, the law will allow local school districts to utilize any measures it deems appropriate with the new 15 percent flexibility provision. These measures may include but are not be limited to teacher evaluation components, student growth data, student surveys and other measures.
- Adds a provision that requires "that in non-OTES years for 'skilled' and 'accomplished' teachers, a minimum of one observation and one evaluator-teacher conference must be conducted. Additional measures, as the district may decide, may include student surveys, teacher self-evaluations, student growth data or other measures.

House Education Committee Considers House Bill (HB) 193 and HB 334 - The Ohio House Education Committee met during the week of November 18-22. Legislation discussed on Monday included House Bill (HB) 193, HB 334 and HB 342.

HB 193 is legislation seeking to revise high school diploma requirements, including state-administered assessments. During the hearing, the Ohio Council of Social Studies shared concerns that the bill might lead to less of an emphasis on social studies when budgets are cut or in times of stress.

Click [here](#) for a copy of Substitute HB 193.

HB 334 is legislation that would allow a school district to adopt a policy to expel a student based on actions or information that may endanger the health and safety of other students or school employees.

Click [here](#) for a copy of HB 334.

Reported by OSBA's Weekly Legislative Update Facts in a Flash.

Senate Education Committee Considers Senate Bill (SB) 220 - Senate Education Committee met the week of November 18-22 and heard testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 220. The SB 220 legislation seeks to remove the prohibition on charging students fees for participating in dual enrollment programs or in alternative funding arrangements under the Postsecondary Enrollment Options program.

Click [here](#) for a copy of SB 220 as introduced.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Health and Safety - Thanks to a provision in the state budget, Ohio's school districts can now apply for a new grant aiming to make their buildings safer. Districts can receive up to \$2,000 per building for a radio system that will directly connect them with emergency responders.

Mr. Morrison prepared our grants for submission and was notified on Tuesday that our high school, middle school, intermediate school, elementary school and alternative academy have all been approved for a new MARCS emergency system.

MARCS (Multi-Agency Radio Communication System) is a 700/800 MHz radio and data network that utilizes state-of-the-art trunked technology to provide statewide interoperability in digital clarity to its subscribers throughout Ohio and a 10-mile radius outside of Ohio. The MARCS system provides statewide, secure, reliable public service wireless communication for public safety and first responders.

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

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HTHS Teacher of the Month - Rebecca Demme

"I select new teacher Ms. Demme as teacher of the month. I know that being a new teacher is quite a challenge but she seems to have it all put together. The students respect her and I see that she cares that the students are prepared." - HS Teacher

"I nominate Miss Demme. As a first year teacher and a new teacher to the District, she is going above and beyond to help her students. She provides tutoring everyday for students. She travels to get to her classes, which is difficult for any teacher, let alone a first year teacher. She is AWESOME to collaborate

with as well. I learn from her just as the students do." - HS Teacher

"Ms. Demme is a great candidate for HTHS Teacher of the Month. She holds high expectations for students yet is a learner herself. She is very open to learning from colleagues and collaborating with teammates." - HS Teacher

Demme stated, *"Wow! Thank you! It's an honor to be chosen as Teacher of the Month. I have spent most of this year learning how to balance the challenges of first year teaching. This has been a unique experience for me in some ways because, as you all know, my classroom has wheels! I have found out how important it is to stay organized, but I'm definitely still learning. I haven't gotten to know many of the teachers here at HTHS yet, and I look forward to getting to know you! The hallways are lined with smiling faces and I feel lucky to have your support. Thanks again!"* - Ms. Demme

HTHS Support Staff Member of the Month - Ardith Parsley

"Ardith is very helpful when classes go to the library. For example, she pulls books that help students with their projects. Ardith keeps staff updated on library news through e-mails to the staff. She is working really hard to learn the ropes of the library, and she is doing a great job!" HS Teacher

"Mrs. Parsley has done an excellent job taking over the media center after Peggy's retirement. It is as if, nothing has changed. Ardith would be an excellent candidate for Staff Member." - HS Teacher

"I nominate Mrs. Parsley for HTHS Staff Member of the Month. She is so nice and friendly to everyone. She manages the library very well." - HS Teacher

Parsley stated, *"I want to thank the staff for this great honor! This is such a surprise to me. Everyone has made me feel so welcome here and I am privileged to be able to work with such a great team! I truly believe that working together with a positive attitude, and being flexible, will benefit both the staff and the students."*

"My typical day begins with coordinating the library schedule and making sure the staff is informed of the library availability for that day. This includes informing the staff of any updates in the availability throughout the day, and working with them to accommodate their needs. During the day I help students find the books and resources that they need, and help both staff and students with any computer issues that may arise. I keep in close contact with Mr. Motika on these issues so we can resolve them quickly. I guide my student aides as to how they may assist in the library each day, and with their help we laminate and keep the library organized and tidy." - Ardith Parsley

"Staff, thank you again for this honor. I really enjoy working with all of you!" - Mrs. Parsley

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

HMS Donates for the Holidays - Hamilton Middle School Student Council held their first community service event this year. The students set up a school-wide canned food drive, lasting two weeks. Each intervention class competed against each other, seeing who could collect the most canned goods. The middle school students did an OUTSTANDING job this year, donating a total of 711 canned goods, which amounted to a total of 711 meals! All canned goods were delivered to the Mid-Ohio Foodbank, where they will be used to feed Columbus area families over the holidays! HMS Student Council and the Mid-Ohio Foodbank would like to thank all students and staff who donated to our canned food drive! Below is a picture of our donations being put to a great use, helping stock the shelves at the Mid-Ohio Food Bank!

MS STARS Chosen - Many middle school students were chosen by their teachers as STAR Rangers! STAR stands for Students Taking Action for Respect. These students model respectful behavior towards students and adults in our building. We are proud of them and encourage them to keep up the positive behavior as good role models to others. They are: Haylee Adams, Eric Brown, Jessica Chaires, Cody Chalfan, Ashalee Chaples, Tierra Christman, Nathan Clark, Camryn Dillon, Dakota Fahner, Molly Fitzsimmons, Akil Fletcher, Jessica Frey, Ernie Hockinberry, Matt Howell, Brianna Hunt, Miles Jackson, Brandon Lemley, Shannon Lemley, Brianna Lopez, Camden Martin, Emily McCarty, Jordan Moore, Will Mylar, Katelyn Pena, Ben Revilock, Brett Saultz, Logan Shiflet, Mietta Smith, Taylor Strait, Alexa Thanakeo, and Andy Wilson. Congratulations!!

Off to the Races - As the 8th grade students wrapped up their physical science unit, they had the opportunity to build a balloon-powered car. Each student was required to construct a car that experienced rolling friction and was powered by a balloon. The students used many items found around their homes to help build their cars. Colton Lytle earned 1st place with his car traveling 59 feet! His name will be engraved on the "Balloon Car Trophy" which is displayed in the trophy case in the middle school's cafeteria. Austin Fraley placed 2nd with his car traveling 49 feet and Pete Hayes came in 3rd place with his car traveling a total distance of 38 feet. Mr. Aitken and Miss Luchini were very impressed with all of the balloon cars this year, good job 8th graders!

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Mellowed Out And A Little Twisted - Students at Hamilton Intermediate mellowed out and got a little twisted for a good cause the two days prior to Thanksgiving break. On Monday, the students were allowed to wear pajamas to school if they donated a dollar. On Tuesday, students donated a dollar to wear backward, mismatched, and inside-out clothes. The donated money went to the Community Partner's "Stuff a Stocking" program. The students raised almost \$285 to spread a little holiday cheer to the community.

Holiday Shopping - There were no "Black Friday" sales, but students at Hamilton Intermediate enjoyed shopping at the Holiday Shoppe during the week of

December 2nd. Students could bring in money to purchase presents for family members and friends.

“I like the Holiday Shoppe because everything is \$7 or less and very affordable. I bought presents for my aunt, friends, brother and parents.” - Brookelyn West

“I like the Holiday Shoppe because you can get presents for people. I bought a bracelet for my sister and slime for my brother.” - Sydnie Frey

“I like that I am able to buy presents for my family. I got presents for my mom, my dad, my brother and my dog.” - Frank Hannan

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Student of the Month – 3rd Grade student, Jon Saxton was selected as the HES Student of the Month for November. Jon’s teacher, Mrs. Forrest, had this to say: “Jon comes into class every morning with a giant friendly smile. He is always polite and respectful to everyone in class and all teachers. He gets along with every student in our classroom, and tries his best to be their friend. Jon is always willing to help and offer a lending hand to any student who is in need. He follows directions and takes pride in his work. Jon is a wonderful example of a star student”. Congratulations to Jon and his family.

Staff Members of the Month – Librarian Karen Schutte (left) was selected as the HES Teacher of the Month, and Cook Christine Rhodes (right) was selected as the Classified Staff Member of the Month for November. The anonymous staff members who nominated Mrs. Schutte and Mrs. Rhodes had this to say: " Karen is so dedicated to our students and their families. She puts in countless hours and works incredibly hard to plan our special events". “Christine always has a smile on her face. She greets the students in the morning and is helpful with breakfast. Congratulations to Mrs. Schutte and Mrs. Rhodes.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Preschool Staff Member of the Month: Mrs. Michele Moore - Michele has worked at the Preschool for the past six years and has been our artistic leader for bulletin boards and the showcase. She always offers to assist with specials and projects in all of our classrooms. Michele is always willing to lend a helping hand and really cares about her students. She works closely with Mrs. Yates in the All-Day Classroom. Congratulations Michele!

Second Step and The Importance of Teaching Social Skills - Hamilton Preschool has implemented the *Second Step* program. *Second Step* is “designed to promote social competence and reduce social-emotional problems by teaching children skills in core areas of empathy, emotion management, and social problem solving” (Second Step Teacher’s Guide). All Preschool classes have been using this program for the past two months. The students are learning about how to recognize different emotions and express their emotions in a constructive way.

The teaching assistants use the program in library and the students love it. They are so excited to hear about the emotion of the day and engage in the activity. Last week the students practice making faces to go with a variety of emotions. They got to use emotion puppets and took pictures making the faces. They thought this was a BLAST! *Second Step* is a program that will be used throughout the year to help the students manage their emotions and problems they encounter in the classroom in order to successfully get along with their classmates and do well in school.

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Facts for Families – The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) offers information on 110 different child rearing topics ranging from bedwetting and discipline to depression and substance abuse. According to the website: “Not all children grow from infancy through their adolescent years without experiencing some bumps along the way. While every child is unique and special, sometimes they encounter emotions, feelings or behavior that cause problems in their lives and the lives of those around them. Families often worry when their child or teenager has difficulty coping with things, feels sad, can't sleep, gets involved with drugs, or can't get along with family or friends.” *Facts for Families* provides concise and up-to-date information on issues that affect children, teenagers, and their families as a public service. “*Facts*” may be duplicated and distributed free of charge as long as AACAP is properly credited and no profit is gained from their use. *Facts for Families* is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, and Urdu among other languages. To access the resources [click here](#).

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Varsity Girls Basketball Opens Season with Win - The Lady Rangers celebrated their season opener with a victory over Whitehall-Yearling 64-22.

The Rangers were led in scoring by Blaire Gray-Harrison with 11 points and four rebounds, Ariona Brown had 10 points and three assists, Josie Kasprzak netted 10 points including two three-point goals and three steals, and Devyn Stevens chipped in 10 points, including two three-point goals.

MS Wrestling Begins Season with Third Place Finish at Washington Courthouse Duals - The middle school wrestling team began its season last Saturday with a 3rd place finish at Washington Courthouse. The HMS wrestlers beat Teays Valley West 46-24 and McClain 51-18. The team will travel to Olentangy Liberty this weekend. Our varsity wrestling team will open its season at the Liberty Classic.

Our varsity team will host the Hamilton Township Wrestling Classic on Saturday, December 14th with matches set to begin at 8:30am.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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