

## Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Feb. 6-13, 2015

**New Education Bills Introduced in the 131st General Assembly** - The 131st General Assembly is now off and running. Bills have been introduced, committees have begun their work and biennial budget season is upon us. The following is a list of new bills introduced this session that impact education:

- HB 2, sponsored by Dovilla and Roegner, deals with sponsorship and management of community schools.
- HB 7, sponsored by Buchy, would prohibit individual student scores from tests administered in the 2014-15 school year from being used to determine promotion or retention or to grant course credit, and to make changes regarding the administration of the high school end-of-course examinations.
- HB 25, sponsored by Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard), would require the State Board of Education to adopt rules regarding the sale of beverages and food during the regular school day in connection with a school-sponsored fundraiser.
- Senate Bill (SB) 3, sponsored by Cliff Hite (R-Findlay) and Keith Faber (R-Celina), would exempt high performing school districts from certain laws; revise the law regarding the administration of state assessments; permit school districts to contract with hospitals, healthcare professionals and educational service centers for school health services; revise the competitive bidding threshold for school building and repair contracts; and require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to develop a legislative proposal assisting high-performing school districts in purchasing technology, building expansion and physical alterations to improve school safety or security.
- SB 20, sponsored by Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman), deals with audit and record-keeping requirements for community school sponsors and operators. *Source: Ohio School Boards Association*

**Middle school career-technical education expansion frequently asked questions** - To access the career-technical education middle grade programming Ohio Department of Education Web page and the frequently asked questions document from the webinar, click [here](#).

**School Board of Education Achievement and Graduation Requirements Committee Talks Science Exams** - The board's Achievement and Graduation Requirements Committee voted to recommend that Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) tests in biology be allowed as substitutes for the state's high school biology exam. The committee also voted to recommend tentative performance levels showing how AP and IB exam scores would translate to state end-of-course exams scores for purposes of earning points toward graduation.

Brian Roget of ODE's Office of Curriculum and Assessment said the AP and IB biology exams were the only two exams among the testing vendors' offerings with high alignment to state science standards.

Per a resolution approved by the committee, students could earn the maximum five points toward graduation for biology with scores of either four or five on AP or six or seven on IB. A three on AP or four or five on IB would earn four graduation points. A two on AP or two or three on IB would earn three points. Scores of one on either test would earn one graduation point.

Roget said cut score recommendations would be revisited in the summer of 2016, once two years' of student test administration data is available, to see if scores should be changed.

The committee also voted Monday to propose amendments to rules on positive behavior intervention and the use of seclusion and restraint in schools. The changes would extend the regulations to charter, STEM and college preparatory boarding schools. *Source: Hannah News Service*

**State Superintendent Reports to State Board of Education on Governor's Budget Proposal (Theme 1)** - State Superintendent Dr. Richard Ross, Department of Education (ODE) legislative liaison Jessica Voltolini, and school funding director Aaron Rausch lead discussions on three themes of Governor Kasich's proposed budget.

Theme 1 - Providing Flexibility to Schools - Involves regulatory relief for all school districts:

- Raising competitive bidding threshold to \$50,000 from \$25,000.
- Permitting schools to contract with a hospital or other licensed health care program to provide health care services to students.
- Eliminating reporting of information related to extracurricular services.
- Eliminating concurrent ESC resolution in cases where local board of education passes a resolution declaring transportation impractical.
- Removing requirement of additional coursework for licensure renewal for "high-performing" teachers.
- Providing teachers rated "accomplished" with true off-years from annual evaluation.
- Providing an option for administrators to exempt teachers from annual evaluation requirements in the year the teacher is taking the Resident Educator Summative Assessment.
- Reduce mentoring requirements for Resident Educator program to years one and two and allow districts to make local decisions regarding the professional development needs of Resident Educator program participants in all four years of the program.

Additional regulatory relief for high performing schools districts (95% proficient on Third Grade Reading Guarantee, have a 93% graduation rate, and received an 'A' overall in value add) relieved from: class size requirements, Third Grade Reading Guarantee credentialing requirements, mandatory contract for services with ESC, and required consultation with ESC regarding services for students

with disabilities.

Testing reduction recommendations made by the Superintendent of Public Instruction:

- Limits the amount of time a student takes state and district tests to 2% of the school year and limits the amount of time spent practicing for tests to 1% of the school year.
- Eliminates the use of student learning objectives as part of the teacher evaluations for preK-3 teachers and for teachers teaching in non-core areas in grades 4-12.
- Shifts mandatory fall third grade test to spring administration, and summer if needed.
- Makes optional the state's requirement that districts give the state's math and writing diagnostic tests to students in grades 1-3.

Competency Based Pilot Project created for up to 10 schools and districts to receive up to \$250,000 each year to transition to a system that advances students when they master their material.

Innovative Waiver Extension allows the state superintendent to grant 10 additional waivers from state testing and teacher evaluation requirements in order to implement a new, innovative educational program, including an alternative testing and teacher evaluation system, in the 2015-2016 school year. Approved schools or districts will be required to propose an alternative testing and teacher evaluation system. It was noted that the governor would like to extend this into 2016 to add 10 more, which would open this opportunity up to all school districts and community schools.

Straight A Fund continues through the next biennium, providing \$100 million in each fiscal year for sustainable proposals to improve student achievement, reduce the cost of running a school or district, or drive more dollars to the classroom.

Community Connectors expands to \$15 million in each fiscal year.

*Source: Hannah News Service*

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**High School Faculty Prepares For New State Assessments** – During Professional Development Day on February 13, all high school teaching staff focused their efforts on the on-going transition from the Academic Content Standards to Ohio's New Learning Standards. Miller agreed that it is essential that the entire staff understand the state's assessment and accountability requirements for all students and the district. Mrs. Carole Morbitzer presented a detailed layout of the new Assessment Schedule for the Performance Based Assessments (PBA). HS Administration, HS Counselors, and Mrs. Morbitzer have made student-centered scheduling decisions to positively influence the next several months of testing. The HS staff has remained positive and focused throughout this transition.

**NHS Hosts Second Blood Drive** - On Thursday, National Honor Society hosted the second American Red Cross Blood Drive of the school year at HTHS. Students and teachers donated blood throughout the day, while National Honor Society students checked-in donors at the registration table. Regardless of the snow delay, late arrival, a successful collection of 28 whole blood donations and eight double red cell donations took place. This collection has the potential to save 92 lives! The final blood drive of the year is Thursday, April 30 in the auditorium. Please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) for more information about donating.

## **HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**MS Prepares for New State Assessments** - On Friday, February 13, the Hamilton Middle School staff and administration spent the day preparing for the new state assessments that will begin next week. The staff was led through all of the testing procedures, test security items, and the building testing plan and schedule. All staff are now very well prepared to begin administering these new assessments. A huge thank you goes out to Mrs. Carfagna for her leadership in the testing process!

## **HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

**Mrs. Bryden Was Nominated Ohio Lottery's February Educator Of The Month** - *I would like to nominate Mrs. Bryden as the Hamilton Intermediate School Star Teacher. Mrs. Bryden is very dedicated to the success of her students. She works well beyond the allotted day to make sure that her lesson plans are exemplary and that she has differentiations that tailor to her students needs. She works well with not just her house, but all teachers in the building. I doubt any one of us have ever seen her not smiling. She is always willing to pull students in at recess and lunch to assist them with their learning as well. She is friendly and eager to help in any areas that she can, especially when it pertains to intervention instruction. She has great parent communication skills and is very proactive in engaging with students, teachers, and parents. She takes pride in her work and is constant brainstorming solutions to any current issue. Mrs. Bryden is a wonderful asset to our school.* - H.I.S. Employee

**Skyla King-Six Nominated As Ohio Lottery's February Academic All-Star** - *I would like to nominate Skyla King-Six as the February Star Student. Skyla works very hard to maintain her grades and was just recently on the Principal's Honor Roll. Skyla is also a leader in the classroom; students look up to her and respect what she says. Besides her work ethic, Skyla is respectful to her classmates and her teachers. She is always willing to help her classmates if she sees someone that may be struggling. She is polite and caring to everyone that she comes into contact with.*

*Outside of the classroom Skyla is involved with her church. Over Christmas break, she went to Mexico on a mission trip and helped to paint a church for the people in the village she visited. She sings at her church and is hoping to take singing lessons soon.*

*I am proud to nominate Skyla to represent Hamilton Intermediate School as a February Star Student!* - H.I.S. Teacher

## **HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Technology in Kindergarten** - With online assessments seemingly in the future for students as early as the third grade, the need to develop computer literacy and typing skills has become a focus as early as kindergarten. Mrs. Fisher's Kindergarten class really enjoyed their first experience with the ChromeBook cart. While using the ChromeBooks, students accessed their personal Google Apps Accounts. Students spent time using STMath and [www.typingclub.com](http://www.typingclub.com) as well. We introduced home row keys, and we're excited to recognize that "f" and "j" have bumps so our pointer fingers can always find their way "home." Each student worked at his/her own pace to work on recognizing letter key locations and strokes.

**Excellent Student Teacher at HES** - Student teacher, Jordan Ashbrook, from Otterbein University is teaching baseball fundamentals to kindergarten and first grade classes. In the picture below, students are practicing accuracy while playing a game called "ANGRY BIRDS." Other skills covered include striking/hitting and fielding. Mr. Ashbrook has been an excellent student teacher, and as a college baseball player, has been a role model for students. It is never too early to plant the seed of attending college with children. Mr. Ashbrook's next placement will be at our high school. We would like to wish him the best of luck in his next assignment and in his career. It is obvious that he will be an excellent physical education teacher.

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**Valentine's Day** - Students enjoyed trading Valentines with their classmates, received a special treat from the Preschool Boosters, and made a creative art project to help them celebrate this exciting day. Many students were able to write their classmates names on the card and then read them to give to them.

**Valentine's Academics** - All Preschool students participated in a variety of fun activities all about Valentine's Day! One activity that incorporated the PK Standards in Math was Candy Heart Graphing. During this activity the students were actively engaged in sorting their candy hearts by color, then placing their hearts on the graph above the appropriate color word. Each of the students then colored their graph to match the candy they had. When the students finished their graph, they discussed which colors had more and which colors had less. The students were then able to take their graph home to share with their family they also got to enjoy the candy!

## **OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

**Mmmm-mmmm Good** - Starting next week, students will be served breakfast and lunch each day. Special thanks to the Middle School lunch staff and Mrs. Hillerich for helping to implement this important program. Students are able to focus better and are grateful for the delicious meals!

## **DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

**Hamilton Township Hosts Wrestling Classic** - The Hamilton Township Athletic Department and Wrestling program hosted its annual home varsity wrestling invitational tournament last weekend. The Hamilton Township Wrestling Classic had 13 teams participating from throughout the state of Ohio. The Rangers

started off slow in the tournament but pulled it together during the semi-final round and blew past 6 teams to finish in 8th place. Hilliard Davidson won the tournament.

For the Rangers, Robert Daniels was the lone 1st place finisher. Other placers for the Rangers included Wyatt Koehl who placed 2nd, Ethan Whitmer who finished 4th, and Robert Marquez and Andrew Moeller who finished 5th. The Rangers travel to Washington Courthouse this weekend for their last tournament before the OHSAA Sectional Tournament, which is scheduled for February 28, 2015 at Newark High School. Thanks to all of the volunteers and those who donated items to help make the event a success.

**Varsity Girls' Basketball Moves Win Streak to Four** - Last weekend, the Varsity Girls' Basketball team won games against Logan Elm and Thomas Worthington moving their current win streak to four games. The team won Friday, February 6th by a score of 56-37 over Logan Elm. The Rangers were led in scoring by Josie Kasprzak with 15 points and Zadei Edwards with 11 points. The following Rangers also contributed to the scoring efforts: Devyn Stevens with 8 points, Lauren Longbrake with 7 points, Chase Gray-Still with 9 points, and Brooke Wilhite with 6 points.

On Saturday, February 7, the team won by a score of 53-43 over OCC opponent Thomas Worthington. The Rangers were lead in scoring by Josie Kasprzak with 12 points and Devyn Stevens with 12 points. The following Rangers also contributed to the scoring efforts: Zadei Edwards with 11 points, Lauren Longbrake with 9 points, and Brooke Wilhite with 4 points. This brings their overall record to 12-7.

Josie Kasprzak set a new school record of most 3-point goals in a single season. The previous record was held by Kim Huffman 1989/1990 season. Congratulations to Josie on this accomplishment.

This win moves the Rangers record to 12-7 on the season.

**Varsity Boys' Basketball Defeats Amanda Clearcreek** - The Rangers got off to a very fast start on Saturday ending the first quarter 21-5. The solid defense and dedication to rebounding the ball allowed great shots on the offensive end. The Rangers also won the third and fourth quarter as they separated from the Aces in the second half pulling out the 24 point victory.

The Rangers were led in scoring by Kylor Coogan who scored 17 points, with 15 points coming from 5 three pointers. Shea Mercer followed up with 16 points and Mikele Cumberland chipped in with 12.

The Rangers are now 8-11 on the season and 4-7 in the MSL.

**Middle School Wrestling Finishes Third at MSL Tournament** - The Hamilton Middle School Wrestling team traveled to Teays Valley West to compete in the MSL Individual Championship last Saturday February 7th. The team competed well and finished in 3rd place. The team was led by the following individual placers:

MSL CHAMPIONS: Romeo Gabriel, John Havier, Raymond Patton, and Jeff Mendenhall

MSL RUNNER-UP: Gasper Havier

THIRD PLACE: Logan Holland, Damian Jarman, and Corey Thanthanavong

This marks the end of a great season for the Hamilton Middle School Wrestling Team. Our Rangers finished the season undefeated in MSL Duals, the only team in the conference to do so. Congratulations on a great season!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

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