

## Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Feb. 13-20, 2015

**Closings Alter Testing Schedules, ODE Provides Scheduling Relief** - As we prepared to begin required state testing this week, Mother Nature had different plans. As always, we placed the safety of our students and employees above anything else when deciding to close school every day this week due to different weather factors. The Ohio Department of Education gives us a window to administer the assessments/tests, and we worked to modify those schedules after each day our district was closed.

On Friday, February 20, ODE released information stating that they would provide districts with additional dates to administer Mathematics and Language Arts testing as long as the closures occurred within the testing window. This is the case for Hamilton Local, and we have worked to reschedule dates to fully comply with state requirements.

Below you will notice the updated assessment schedules for the coming weeks and are requesting the support of parents and guardians in helping us reach our goal of 100% student attendance during these dates and the remainder of the school year. Student attendance is critical to success in the classroom and that is no different during scheduled assessment/testing dates as well.

### *Hamilton Elementary School*

Wednesday, February 25	3rd Grade Math
Thursday, February 26	3rd Grade Math

### *Hamilton Intermediate School*

Tuesday, February 24	English/Language Arts - Unit 1
Wednesday, February 25	English/Language Arts - Unit 2
Thursday, February 26	English/Language Arts - Unit 3
Friday, February 27	Math - Unit 1
Monday, March 2	Math - Unit 2
Tuesday, March 3	Soc. Studies/Science

### *Hamilton Middle School*

Tuesday, February 24	Math
Wednesday, February 25	Math
Thursday, February 26	English/Language Arts
Friday, February 27	English/Language Arts
Monday, March 2	English/Language Arts
Tuesday, March 3	Science

### *Hamilton Township High School*

Monday, February 23	9th Grade English
Tuesday, February 24	9th Grade English
Wednesday, February 25	9th Grade English
Thursday, February 26	9th Grade ONLY Algebra & Geometry
Friday, February 27	9th Grade ONLY Algebra & Geometry
Thursday, March 5	Am. Hist. & Gov. / Phys. Science

Here are a few tips from the U.S. Department of Education on how parents and guardians can help their children succeed in school and on assessments/tests.

<p><i>Parents and guardians have a great impact on student success by helping to create an environment of achievement at home by displaying the following behaviors:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage your child and provide praise for the things that he or she does well.</li> <li>• Meet with teachers and ask for test preparation activities that you and your child can do at home.</li> <li>• Make sure that your child attends school regularly.</li> <li>• Provide a quiet place for studying at home and make sure your child is well rested on school days.</li> <li>• Provide books &amp; magazines for your child to read.</li> <li>• Help your child avoid test anxiety.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Parents and guardians can also help reduce test anxiety by encouraging their child to do the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan ahead by studying for the test well in advance to avoid "cramming" the night before.</li> <li>• Get a good night's sleep before the day of the test.</li> <li>• On the day of the test, read all directions carefully before beginning work.</li> <li>• Look quickly at the entire test to see what types of questions are on it. This tactic will help determine how much time to spend on each part of the test.</li> <li>• Skip difficult questions and go on. If there is time at the end of the test, return to them and try again.</li> </ul>
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**Board conducts a public hearing to address the 2015-2016 school calendar**

- As per Ohio Revised Code 3313.48(B), the Hamilton Local Board of Education will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m. to receive testimony from the public at large on the 2015-2016 school calendar. During this public hearing, the board will be addressing 2015-2016 school year calendar topics that include, but are not limited to:

- the total number of hours in the school year;
- length of school day; and,
- and beginning and end dates of instruction.

**State Superintendent Reports to State Board of Education on Governor's Budget Proposal (Theme 2)**

- 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 2 - Focusing on Student Success

School Counseling – Requires the Educator Standards Board to adopt standards for school counselors, including Ohio-specific knowledge of career counseling, and then implements an evaluation system for school counselors. It provides \$1 million each year for professional development.

AP/College Credit Plus Incentives – Provides \$13.5 million over the biennium to credential teachers in economically disadvantaged high schools and those

schools with limited or no credentialed teachers to teach College Credit Plus courses. It provides \$5 million FY 17 to reward districts that successfully increase participation in College Credit Plus or AP courses.

Career Tech Reimbursements – Requires school districts to offer credentials to students who enroll in in-demand credential careers, but provides \$1 million in each year to reimburse the school district to cover the cost of getting those credentials for economically disadvantaged students.

Credit Flexibility – Extends the ability for students to use credit flexibility to the 7th and 8th grades. Superintendent is required to engage the business community to develop business relationships for provide students with credit flexibility opportunities, increasing student engagement and job readiness. Directs ODE to rebrand credit flexibility and reduce barriers to participation for students, schools and businesses.

Third Grade Reading – Provides \$3 million in each fiscal year to assist with the implementation of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee in challenged areas; summer options will be considered.

#### Early Childhood Education:

- In FY16, the co-pay systems between 0-200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) will be aligned between the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and ODE.
- In FY17, ODE will collaborate with ODJFS to develop a joint process for early childhood education program eligibility determination, applications, attendance tracking and alignment of co-pays.
- Provides funding for additional preschool slots for economically disadvantaged 4-year-olds.
- Allows community schools sponsored by exemplary authorizers to offer preschool opportunities.
- Provides mental health counselors to work with teachers to address behavioral problems and reduce the preschool expulsion rates. This provision involves ODE working with the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services.
- Partnership with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities - \$5 million in each fiscal year for transition services and coordination of services for students with disabilities to increase the number of students receiving services and to help them transition from school to work. The Federal Government will match some of these dollars.

*Source: Hannah News Service*

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**Assessment Schedule Change** - Due to the inclement weather and snow days, HS Assessments for Ohio's New Generation Assessments have been re-scheduled to the dates shown in Mr. Lester's above report. The strategic plan, elaborate and detailed schedule is in place to utilize an upstairs academic wing of the high school for Assessments. This will require teachers and students to move to other classrooms so that instruction is not lost. It is essential that the entire staff understand the state's assessment and accountability requirements for the students and the district. The HS Team is in constant review of the Assessment Schedule, Room Assignment, and Testing Administrator Assignment in order for a flawless testing season.

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**Hosting a Visit** - Representative from the West Jefferson School District paid a visit to the Preschool this past week. They were inquiring about our development of the Preschool and on going growth. The teachers had a opportunity for a brief question and answer session and then Mrs. Strahm led them on a tour and explained the licensing and SUTQ process required by ODE for a site license. We were chosen for this visit by ESC of Central Ohio. They have recognized our program as being one of the best in Central Ohio.

## **OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

**Another Strong Year for Credit Recovery** - Students from Hamilton Township High School are benefitting greatly from our Credit Recovery Program. Since the beginning of the school year, 51 students have completed 51 courses totaling 29.75 credits. There are 64 students who are still working on 71 courses worth 51.25 credits. Thanks to the support of the alternative academy staff, the guidance office, Mr. Sweet and the Hamilton Township High School staff, students are able to utilize this valuable resource.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

**Varsity Boys' and Girls' Basketball Teams Learn Tournament Draw** - Over the past two weeks, the Varsity Boys' and Girls' basketball teams have learned their draw for the OHSAA Sectional tournaments. The Girls' will play the winner of Watkins Memorial and Zanesville on February 25th at 7:00pm. If Watkins wins, the game will be at HTHS. If Zanesville wins, the game will be at Zanesville.

The Boys' will play March 6th at 7:00pm. They will face the winner of New Albany and Mifflin. The game will be held at the school that wins that matchup. Good luck to the Rangers as they enter post-season tournament action!

**7th and 8th Grade Boys' Basketball Teams Advance to MSL Semi-Finals** - Both the 7th and 8th grade boys' basketball teams have advanced to the semi-finals of the MSL tournaments. The 7th grade boys' team is scheduled to play Saturday morning at 11:30am at Logan Elm McDowell. The 8th grade team will

travel to Teays Valley East on Saturday morning at 11:30am. If either team wins, the Finals will be held at Teays Valley East on Tuesday, February 24th with the 7th grade championship game beginning at 5:30pm followed by the 8th grade championship game. Good luck to both teams as they continue their seasons.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

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