

## **Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Feb. 14-21, 2014**

**Senate Bill (SB 229) legislation would modify teacher performance evaluations** - SB 229 would allow school districts to opt for the full Ohio Teacher Evaluation System evaluation for teachers annually for those deemed "Developing" and "Ineffective" on their most recent evaluations; biannually for those deemed "Skilled"; and every three years for "Accomplished" teachers.

Prior to being voted out of the Senate, amendments were added to the bill requiring that observation and contact time take place with all teachers each year, regardless of their designation. This was to allow administrators to recognize problems that might arise with otherwise high-performing teachers, even though a full-scale annual evaluation is not required.

Click [here](#) for a copy of SB 229 as passed by the Senate.

**House Committee Passes Bill Giving Students Four Calamity Days, Two for Teachers** - A week after delaying legislation that would give school districts extra calamity days to deal with lost days due to a brutal winter, the House passed by a vote of 80-16 an amended version that would give students extra days but require teachers to work during some of those days.

On Wednesday, House Education Committee Chairman introduced an amendment that would reduce the number of extra calamity days to two, giving school districts a total of seven. But districts could also schedule two additional professional days, meaning they could give the students the day off but still require teachers to show up for work.

The amendment also delayed the reporting deadline for test results at the request of the Ohio Department of Education.

**Senate considers their version of calamity day relief** - Senate Bill (SB 284) would provide additional calamity day relief for schools and to declare an emergency. This bill provides additional relief to schools by permitting school boards to use an additional four calamity days this school year provided the schools have made up the five days identified in their contingency plans adopted for the 2013-14 school year or through other adjustments to the calendar at the discretion of the local school board.

In addition, the bill provides for additional flexibility through lengthening the school day in increments of 30 minutes and permitting schools to use "blizzard bags."

Also, the bill makes clear graduation ceremonies may continue to be held on the dates that have already been planned by school boards and permits local school boards to waive graduating seniors from participating in any make up days that may be scheduled following the graduation.

Senate is likely on Tuesday so the full Senate can vote on it on Wednesday.  
*Provided by Focus Education, a service of Hannah News service.*

**2014-2015 state test schedule is available** - The Ohio Department of Education has published the testing dates for the 2014-2015 school year, including the Next Generation Assessments and the Ohio Graduation Tests. For more information, go [here](#).

## **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Student Information Services** - Mrs. Crabtree is currently working on the June or Period N report. This report features data regarding staff, student assessments and special education. December's Child Count or Period M was completed last week.

**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** - Our district registered 10 new students this week.

**Residency** - Mr. Stevens confirmed 35 residencies this week. We strive to provide great schools and opportunities for our students. To ensure that we are able to provide for our students, we are very conscious of families who may wish to attend our schools without living in our district. Because of that concern, we initiate random residency checks on a regular basis.

## **OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**Recognition programs display district talent to the masses** - Over the past several years, Mr. Payne has implemented and coordinated student, faculty, and staff recognition programs to honor and display the superior talent and effort that is circulating throughout our district. We are on the third year of actively participating in ODE's State Teacher of the Year program, which we use as a guide to select our building and district Teachers of the Year. We also nominate teachers and students for the Ohio Lottery's Partners in Education program. Our district routinely has teachers and students chosen as the monthly regional Teacher or Academic All-Star. The regional award represents the top students and teachers from schools in a six county area in central Ohio. We also honor all other employees who aren't teachers through our Staff Member of the Year recognition program.

Most recently, Jacob Ralston, a HTHS senior, was featured as an Ohio Lottery Shining Star on an episode of Time Warner Cable's "High School Sports Insider". This program airs statewide on Time Warner Cable Sports Channel and is distributed online as well. [You can see Jacob's segment here.](#)

We have had a couple other students honored in this TV segment as well: [Joe Bennett](#) and [Chris Speak](#). Click on their names to see their segments.

We will continue to search for ways to honor our teachers, staff, and students because they do outstanding things daily that deserve to be recognized.

## HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

**Preparing for the Future** - 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*, HS Administration and Counselors are introducing a new course to the HTHS master schedule. In preparation of the 2014-2015 school year College Prep will be taught to graduating seniors bound for college. In this class, students will explore college options, scholarships, grants, loans, time management, decision-making skills, ACT and SAT prep. Students will read FINANCIAL BASICS, A Money-Management Guide For Students by Susan Knox. Students will research alternative methods of attending college including online classes, community college, and other post secondary options. Students will research and prepare a financial budget.

**Future Focus Friday** - 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*, HTHS celebrates Future Focus Friday as part of our District Wide Action Plan. HTHS and the district supported this effort by wearing a shirt that proudly proclaims their college alma mater, or apparel supporting the college one is currently enrolled. All students were encouraged to participate. Future Focus Friday was celebrated on Friday, February 21, 2014. HTHS appreciates the district support and TEAM effort regarding this action step.

## HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

**A Riddle in 7th Grade** - What do an apple, a boys' choir, and a gramophone have in common? Great literature! Students in the seventh grade are reading one of the three following novels:

The Giver, And Then There Were None, and The Lottery Rose. Work is being done during the reading to understand more in-depth literature terms, characterization, and complicated story lines.

**All About Space!** - Because it is the last year using the Science Academic Content Standards before completely switching to Common Core next year, the 8th graders were lucky enough to learn about space in both 7th and 8th grade! According to the Academic Content Standards, space was to be taught in 8th grade. But, the Common Core has switched space to be taught in 7th grade. The 7th grade teachers gave an introduction to space to this year's 8th graders last year. It was a great surprise to see how much the students knew about stars, galaxies, and Earth's orbit coming into 8th grade! As a review, the 8th graders have been working on "Space Books," showing everything they have learned about space in both 7th and 8th grade. Starting next year, space will be completely covered in 7th grade and briefly reviewed in 8th grade as we make the complete shift over to common core!

## **HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

**Fifth Grade Explores The World Of Hawaiian Tiki** - Welcome to the ancient Hawaiian Islands! The fifth graders are creating Tiki Mask Mugs for their clay project and are enjoying learning about the traditions and culture of Hawaii and the Polynesian Islands. Focusing on patterns, exaggerated facial features, and tropical-inspired designs, these mugs are sure to scare away some evil spirits! Showing their enthusiasm to create a functional clay container, many students challenged themselves to create handles, lids, and other special features. Glazing will follow with bright colors inspired by the tropics.

## **HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Future Focus Friday** - In support of the district initiative of Future Focus Week and the elementary school's Post-Secondary action plan, teachers and students wore apparel from either the college they attended or their favorite college. It may seem early to begin focusing on post-secondary education while still in elementary school, but the elementary staff believes that exposing students to opportunities early in their educational careers will help students to form goals that will serve as motivation as they progress towards graduation. Teachers serve as strong role models for students, and seeing them in their "college wear" can excite students about one day following in their teacher's footsteps. Below is a picture of the staff members in their "college wear."

**HES Professional Development Day** - On February 14, the Hamilton Local School District conducted the first of two state approved waiver days where all certified staff attends for professional development, while students have the day off. The Elementary School made full use of this day focusing on preparing all certified staff for the transition to the Common Core. Teachers received professional development in the areas of critical thinking/higher order questioning and whole brain learning. Teachers were exposed to some valuable curriculum resources and worked in small groups to vertically align our curriculum to ensure that gaps in student learning do not develop.

A lot was accomplished during this day and the building administration along with teacher leaders are hard at work planning future professional development activities to build on the successes of this day.

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**Future Focus Friday** - It is never too early to plant the "going to college" seed for our children. Our Preschool faculty and staff are graduates of several unique universities. On Friday, February 21, 2014 our team wore shirts featuring the name and colors of their Alma Mater to increase awareness and honor higher education. Universities that our staff members attended and graduated from include: The Ohio State University, Marshall University, Youngstown State University, Ohio University, Ohio Dominican, Ashland University, and Otterbein University. We invited our students to join in on the fun and wear their favorite college shirt. We know how bright the future is for all our preschoolers we continue to work for their success!

**100th Day of School** - Friday, February 21, 2014 we also celebrated being in preschool for 100 days. The students decorated crowns, colored 100 items, and made a special soup of 100 different items. This is always a big day for the students they have been waiting and counting down for this day since the first day of school. Time really does fly when you are having fun learning!

## **OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

**The Future Looks Bright** - Focusing on the future is important not just on Future Focus Friday, but every day. Upon enrollment students complete a Post-Secondary Information Sheet, which details their plans and goals for their future. Academy staff uses this information in order to assist students in achieving those academic and career related goals. The Academy students are interested in careers in several different fields - Nursing, Marine Biology, Social Work, Psychology, Photography, Early Childhood Education, Business, Sports Journalism, Composing Music, Computer Technologies and Veterinary Medicine to name a few. It is exciting to see so many students with plans for bright futures.

## **OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Fun Science Site** – Most kids love the mystery and discovery process of science. The American Museum of Natural History has student and family resources on its website and a link to *Ology*, a web site for kids that addresses multiple areas of science. Check it out at: [www.amnh.org](http://www.amnh.org)

**Sign up for YMCA Summer Day Camp** – Hoover Y Park, 1570 Rohr Rd, Lockbourne is the location of one of the YMCA summer camps. Camps are designed for children entering grades 1-8 and include the option of before and after care. Breakfast and lunch are provided. Activities range from exploring nature, gardening, and team building to a summer reading program. Registration fees are waived for families registering online. Financial assistance is also available. For more information go to: [www.ymcacolumbus.org/daycamp](http://www.ymcacolumbus.org/daycamp)

## **DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

**Rangers Wrestling Earns Three Division I District Qualifiers** - The Rangers Wrestling program had three wrestlers from the Marysville Sectional to advance to the District Tournament, which will be held at Hilliard Darby High School on Friday, February 21st and Saturday, February 22nd. Qualifiers included Clayton Ray (1st Place at 170lbs), Alonzo Jewell (2nd Place at 220lbs), and Jeremy Pelfrey (4th place at 195lbs). The top four wrestlers at this tournament will advance to next week's OHSAA state tournament. Congratulations and good luck this week.

**Boys' and Girls' Basketball Players, Wrestlers Earn Mid-State League Honors** - Individual honors were handed out by the Mid-State League on Sunday. The Rangers Boys' and Girls' Basketball programs had four players receive honors. Congratulations to the following athletes:

1st Team MSL:

Lauren Longbrake - Girls' Basketball

2nd Team MSL:

Alonzo Jewell - Wrestling

Josie Kasprzak - Girls' Basketball

Bryan Marteney - Wrestling

Jeremy Pelfrey - Wrestling

Honorable Mention:

Ariona Brown - Girls' Basketball

Alex Perez - Wrestling

Clayton Ray - Wrestling

Darryl Redman - Boys' Basketball

Seth Stewart - Wrestling

**Indoor Boys Track Team Competes at Spire's Showcase** - The boys track and field team participated at the Spire Institute Showcase this past weekend in Geneva, Ohio.

Austin Niemann ran the fastest Division I time in the 400m with a time of 49.84 seconds

The boys 4x400 of Austin Niemann, Dylan Napier, Deric Phouthavong, and Khari Berger ran a new school record time of 3:31.97 and are currently ranked 6th in Division I.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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