

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Jan. 23-30, 2015

OSBA wants to highlight school district's success stories - As the new year begins, the Ohio School Boards Association is encouraging districts to submit their success stories to the association's Stand Up for Public Schools website. The site was created to enable schools to demonstrate how public education is making a difference for their students and communities. It is part of OSBA's Stand Up for Public Schools campaign to raise awareness about the importance of public schools and locally elected school boards. Contact our District Director of Public Relations, Mr. Vince Payne, to submit your district's stories and photos. To find out how you can get more involved with the campaign, visit www.standupforOHpublicschools.org.

Ohio's new dual enrollment College Credit Plus Program - College Credit Plus is Ohio's new system for dual enrollment. It replaces previous programs, including Post-Secondary Enrollment Options, and has been expanded to cover students beginning in the seventh grade.

College Credit Plus will be operational in the 2015-2016 year, but schools are required to take steps now to make communities aware of these options and to help students navigate their opportunities for the coming year. College Credit Plus also is open to students in nonpublic schools.

Representatives from the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Board of Regents are hosting a webcast on Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 3 p.m. to explain the program, answer questions and outline what steps districts need to take in February and March. [Go here to register](#).

Source: The Ohio Department of Education

State Superintendent Ross Presents ODE's Report on Testing to Senate Education Committee - The Senate Education Committee kicked off its deliberations for 2015 hearing from State Superintendent of Education Richard Ross on the results of the Department of Education's (ODE) report and recommendations around testing in the schools -- a report mandated under the education Mid-Biennium Review (MBR) bill 130-HB487.

After providing an overview of testing in the state, Ross identified the following steps the department will take to reduce "the testing burden on students," to improve testing efficiency and maintain accountability systems that ensure all students receive a high-quality education.

- The department will take part in the national conversation regarding federal testing requirements.

- The department will monitor the implementation of the new state tests in English language arts, math, science and social studies to evaluate whether the

state tests are appropriate. "Following three years of implementing these new state tests, we will complete a formal review of the testing vendors no later than Dec. 31, 2017."

- "The department will streamline the many approved lists, testing alternatives and substitute exams at the state level to focus on how a single test can be used for multiple purposes when feasible and will have new models and testing lists for schools and districts to use by May 1, 2015."

- "The department plans, in spring 2015, to coordinate professional development for teachers and administrators on how to make testing more efficient and less disruptive to instructional time, how to explain the purpose of each test to parents and students and how to ensure test results are being used to improve instruction."

- The department "will reduce the number of questions on Ohio's new Kindergarten Readiness Assessment by May 1, 2015, for use in the 2015-2016 school year"

- The "department will study how districts can reduce the need for additional tests by developing a way to use the new state tests to identify gifted students in certain tested areas." These findings are to be done by Jan. 31, 2016.

- The department "will collaborate with 10 districts and schools to seek U.S. Department of Education approval for using alternative, state-approved assessment systems"

Ross also highlighted legislative changes that the department is recommending. They include the following:

- Limit the amount of time a student takes tests at the state and district levels to 2 percent of the school year and limit the amount of time spent practicing for tests to 1 percent of the school year.

- Eliminate the fall third grade reading test.

- Make the administration of the state's diagnostic tests in mathematics and writing for students in first through third grades optional.

- Eliminate the use of student learning objectives (SLO) tests as part of the teacher evaluation system for grades preK-3 and for teachers teaching in non-core subject areas in grades 4-12.

Source: Hannah News Service

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HTHS Solo and Ensemble Performance - On Saturday, January 24th Hamilton Township High School sent 20 instrumental performances to Pickerington North High School for the OMEA Solo and Ensemble Contest. A wide variety of ensembles were assembled for the contest including a Tuba trio, Clarinet quartet, Flute trio, keyboard quartet, and mixed brass quartet. Students were hard at work since coming back from winter break in preparation for Saturday's performances. The student's hard work paid off putting in outstanding performances for the judges. Of the 20 performing groups, 19 of them earned medals. 11 of those 19 groups earned a Superior rating, and 8 of the groups earned an Excellent rating. The music staff is very proud of all the hard work and accomplishments of each group considering the early date of the contest combined with the weather closings and delays.

Science Demo Grabs Students' Attention - Inertia is the tendency for an object to stay at rest and an object in motion to stay in motion. The concept can be conceptualized in many different ways such as the famous pulling a tablecloth out from under a place setting or why you should always wear a seatbelt in case a car needs to come to a sudden stop. This demonstration by HS teacher, Mr. Borkow, involves a piece of chalk resting on top of a sewing ring, which in turn is resting on a bottle. The chalk lines up vertically with the bottle opening. When the ring is pulled out in a horizontal direction with no up or down motion, the chalk has inertia and does not move with the ring since they are not connected. The chalk falls directly into the small mouth of the open bottle. The demonstration can be reconstructed afterwards in student groups using a plastic cup, index card and a penny. One student holds the bottom of the cup while the other flicks the index card. If the card is flicked in a horizontal direction, the penny falls directly into the cup.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Red-Out at HMS - Middle School Student Council raised money for the American Heart Association by selling "Red Out" t-shirts to students and staff for the second year in a row. 100% of the proceeds were donated to the AHA. This year we raised a total of \$390. As a thank you to those students that purchased an AHA t-shirt, they will be given free time in the gym during their AIM period on Monday! Student Council and the American Heart Association would like to thank those that donated and wore their RED OUT shirts to school on Friday!

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Second Grading Period Honor Assemblies Are A Success - For the second grading period, 356 certificates were handed out to honor students for their success. Many of their family members were in attendance Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to see these students receive their awards for Principal's

Honor Roll, Honor Roll, and Perfect Attendance. Congratulations to all students who were honored and keep up the excellent work!

ACTs Are 2 Weeks Away - 6th grade students are preparing to take the ACT February 7th alongside our Hamilton Township High School students. These students are staying after school for mini study sessions for science, math, English and reading review. They are also utilizing study materials from the ACT. Good luck to all of our students who have accepted this amazing challenge!

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Student of the Month – 1st grade student Avery Waters was selected as the HES Student of the Month for January. Avery’s teacher, Ms. Wancheck, had this to say: “Avery Waters is being nominated for being an outstanding student and classroom citizen! She is always helpful and tries very hard to consistently make good choices. Her respect for her peers and teachers is truly astounding. Avery is hardworking, kind and thoughtful!” Congratulations to Avery and her family.

Teacher of the Month – 2nd grade teacher Logan Tigner was selected as the HES Teacher of the Month for January. The anonymous staff members who nominated Miss Tigner had this to say: “Miss Tigner has been a great addition to our building. She is so positive and always smiling! Not only does she help students at our building, but she also coaches volleyball in the district. She has taken on a lot in her first year and somehow managed to avoid getting overwhelmed.” Congratulations to Miss Tigner.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Teacher of the Month: Mrs. Emily King - Emily is in her eighth year at Hamilton Preschool. She graduated with her Masters in Early Childhood in 2007 and then completed her PK-3 Early Intervention Specialist license at The Ohio State University in 2009. Emily is responsible for the District Art Show and The Scholastic Book Fair for the Preschool. She works cooperatively with other PK teachers on unit plans, progress reports, and family events. Emily is serving as a Mentor this year for the first time to Kim Schmauch. They are working closely on RE program. She has continued to build strong family relationships and is respected by parents and her peers. Emily and her husband, Jason are proud parents to Noah.

Learning Continues! - The preschool staff is very excited about the learning opportunities planned for the remainder of the school year. This time of the year provides us with many themes, topics, and units to explore. We have scheduled several family events: COSI, Valentine’s Day activities, VIP Day, Scholastic Book Fair, and Science Day with the High School. Please watch the website for upcoming dates and times. Academics, assessments, and attendance remain our focus for every student.

A Bear Hunt - The students were thrilled to participate in our bear activities this week. Student read stories, completed an art project, enjoyed a special treat, and went on a hunt to find the bear. Students had to read clues to help them find the bear this was especially fun because they got to explore on the other side of the building and even upstairs. At the end of hunt they were excited about finding Corduroy in the library waiting to read a story to them.

OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Graduating Students - The Alternative Academy is happy to announce that two students have already earned their high school diploma this year. One was a 5th year student who completed her requirements this summer and passed her final Ohio Graduation Test in October. The other student completed all of his coursework and earned his diploma in December. Best of Luck to them!

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Senior Rangers Volleyball Player Commits to Wilmington College - Senior Volleyball player Anna McClain has committed to continue to volleyball career at Wilmington College. While playing for the Rangers, Anna received both, MSL and Central District recognitions during her junior and senior years. During her 2013, she was named 2nd Team Central District and 2nd Team MSL. During this past 2014 season, she was named 2nd Central District again and well as Honorable Mention in the MSL. Congratulations to Anna and her family and best of luck with the Quakers!

Varsity Boys' Basketball Defeats Circleville and Amanda-Clearcreek in MSL Action - The Rangers faced the number two team in the league on Saturday, January 24th, the Tigers of Circleville, and came away with their second league win of the season 51-43. The Rangers played great on the defensive end going into halftime with a 23-19 lead. The Tigers had a big third quarter outscoring the Rangers 16-10 but HT held them in the fourth to 8 points and left with the victory. The Rangers were led in scoring by Sophomore Austin Bowen with 13pts, Senior Kylor Coogan with 10pts, and Wes Payne with 10pts. Shea Mercer led the team with 10 rebounds.

On Tuesday, the Rangers had a rough start to the Amanda contest allowing 19 points in the first quarter but were able to rebound with strong second & fourth quarters to pull out the win 73-59. HT was led in scoring by Wes Payne with 18 points, Mikele Cumberland with 15, and Aaron Godsey with 10. Kylor Coogan supplied 8 assists as the Rangers passed the ball extremely well having an assist on 22 of 32 made shots.

Varsity Girls' Basketball Defeats Fairfield Union - The Varsity Girls' team celebrated a victory over Fairfield Union Friday night by a score of 60-38. They

were lead in scoring by Zadei Edwards with 16 points and Josie Kasprzak with 15 points. The following Rangers also contributed to the scoring efforts: Devyn Stevens with 10 points, Kate Moore with 7 points, Brooke Wilhite with 7 points, Chase Gray-Still with 4 points and Lauren Longbrake with 1 point. This brings their overall record to 8-6.

Rangers MS Wrestlers Place 6th at Washington Courthouse Invitational -

The Hamilton Middle School Rangers placed 6th at the Washington Courthouse Invite this past weekend. Placers included: Romeo Gabriel 1st, John Havier and Jeff Mendenhall 2nd, Raymon Patton 3rd, and Kameron Roberts 4th. Good job Rangers!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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