

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Jan. 17-24, 2014

House Bill (HB) 193 would delay new graduation test – On Wednesday the Ohio House passed HB 193 that would delay the new graduation tests for one year. The new graduation tests are set to begin in the 2014-2015 school year. However, HB 193 would move the starting school year to the 2015-2016 school year. Specifically, students in the class of 2019, entering ninth grade after July 1, 2015, would be the first to take new college and work-ready tests instead of the current graduation test.

The bill also would provide a range of testing options, including a career-technical option, for students to graduate, and reduce the number of required end-of-course exams from 10 to five. The bill, which passed the House 99-1 now goes to the Senate. A full version of HB 193 can be viewed [here](#).

Senate Education Committee deliberates modification of zero-tolerance policies -

The Senate Education Committee met last week and heard testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 167. SB 167 is legislation that would modify zero-tolerance policies and would require a school board to adopt a policy that allows many factors to be considered prior to the suspension or expulsion of a student. Sen. Charleta Tavares (D-Bexley) offered sponsored testimony, saying the intent of the bill is to provide support for students who have behavior problems and ensure those students get the help they may need in school.

Click [here](#) for a copy of SB 167 as introduced.

The Ohio House of Representatives passes bill that would award credit to students for religious instruction - The Ohio House passed House Bill (HB) 171 last week, which would give schools the option of awarding credit to students for religious instruction received during released time from school. The bill specifies that a student may only be released from school for religious instruction as long as the student's parent or guardian has given written consent and the course is off school property. In addition, the private entity conducting the course must maintain attendance records that are provided to the school, provide transportation when needed and assume liability for the student when excused from school for the purpose of religious instruction. The bill now goes to the Senate.

Click [here](#) for a copy of HB 171 as passed by the House.

New Way to Determine Kindergarten Readiness Coming Fall 2014 - Teachers will have from the first day of school until November 1, 2014, to complete the readiness assessment. The language and literacy portion of the kindergarten readiness assessment may be used to meet the reading diagnostic assessment requirement of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee for kindergarten if the language and literacy items are administered by September 30. For more information on Ohio's New Kindergarten Readiness Assessment click [here](#).

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Building Operations - As a proactive measure to ensure a quick response to our extreme winter weather, we have implemented a temporary 3rd shift for our custodial and maintenance staff in the event of extreme temperatures. Staff in each building volunteered to work a 10:00pm to 6:00am shift so that the buildings would be occupied

and a quick response to any weather related issues could be managed. This is another great example of Hamilton pride and teamwork!

Student Information Services - Reporting Period K is concluding. The period identifies funding for regular and special education student.

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

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

District Operating Announcements Can Be Found In Many Places - We make every effort to communicate accurate and timely notification of school closing, delays and other important announcements through the use of our district's automated call system, district website, Facebook Page, Twitter Account, and by contacting local TV and Radio Stations.

This year, WBNS-10TV has included a special "ticker" of information that only includes school districts in Franklin County and closely connected communities so families in the Columbus area don't have to wait for all of the districts to scroll by before seeing Hamilton Local's information (We are listed after Hilliard for some unknown reason). So we recommend you view WBNS-10TV to see our information more quickly than the other local TV channels.

Mr. Payne has reached out multiple times to NBC 4 to be included on their special Columbus-area ticker since we are the only district not listed as it skips from "Groveport" to "Hilliard". They have yet to include Hamilton Local with those other school districts. ABC 6 / FOX 28 only does this special ticker for the very large Columbus area school districts. Not all districts are represented in their abbreviated ticker.

We also contact 14 local radio stations with our information as well. Some of the stations that receive our info are: WTVN - 610AM, WCOL - 92.3 FM, WSNY - 94.7 FM, and WNCI - 97.9 FM.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

FASFA Pin Day - 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 Counselors coordinated Pin Day, a day to allow all upperclassmen the opportunity to register for their FASFA Pin during their regular scheduled lunch period. The Free Application for Federal [Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) is the form used by the U.S. Department of Education to determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) by conducting a "need analysis" based on financial information, such as income, assets and other household information, which you (and your parents if you are a [dependent student](#)) will be asked to provide. The form is submitted to, and processed by, a federal processor contracted by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), and the results are electronically transmitted to the [financial aid](#) offices of the schools that you list on your application.

FAFSA is the application used by nearly all colleges and universities to determine eligibility for federal, state, and college-sponsored financial aid, including grants, [educational loans](#), and work-study programs.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School Student Chosen by Ohio Lottery's Partners In Education Program - Congratulations to Hamilton Middle School 7th Grader Bethany Robinson for being chosen as the Ohio Lottery's Regional Academic All Star for the Month of December! Nominated by Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Vincent, Bethany has stood out among her peers for her outstanding performance in the classroom and for her excellent citizenship at the school. We are all very proud of Bethany for being selected for this honor!

Paying it Forward - The 8th Grade Honors Language Arts class is sharing its joy of reading with seven Kindergarten classes. Middle school students brought a craft for a "meet and greet" in December. They were welcomed with shy smiles but left with an abundance of warm hugs! The students continue to make the trek to the elementary every other Tuesday to tutor students and read with them in small groups or individually. From the smiles, it's difficult to tell who is enjoying this new partnership more!

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

What An Honor - A total of 385 students from Hamilton Intermediate were recognized for their achievements this week. 25 fourth graders, 12 fifth graders, and 16 sixth graders earned principal's honor roll. 63 fourth graders, 60 fifth graders, and 84 sixth graders earned honor roll. And 40 fourth graders, 38 fifth graders, and 47 sixth graders had perfect attendance for the second nine weeks. The principal's honor roll students did an excellent job of presenting the awards to their fellow students.

We Have a Dream... - Students at Hamilton Intermediate acknowledged Martin Luther King Jr. Day in a variety of ways. Fourth grade students read about Dr. King and his contribution to the Civil Rights Movement and wrote about their "dreams for mankind". Fifth graders partnered up and read a book about MLK and worked together to summarize the main events of his life. In sixth grade, students played a MLK memory game to see what they already knew. Students also completed a timeline of important dates/events in the life of MLK.

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thank You for the Box Tops - Thank you to everyone who brought in Box Tops for Education. We recently received a check for over \$3,100! Hamilton Elementary uses the money earned from Box Tops for Education for attendance and behavior incentive items for the Ranger Store. Thank you to everyone in the community for your continued support. Keep sending in those Box Tops for Education!

Cross-curricular Learning - Students in Mrs. Forrest's third grade class have been working on describing and analyzing characters in fiction and non-fiction stories. Students read multiple fiction and non-fiction works and described the characters' feelings, actions, speech, and thoughts using character traits. Students were then told to create a list to describe themselves with new character traits that they had discovered combined with character traits that they have known. They took these lists to Mrs.

Griffith's Computer class, and she taught them how to make "word clouds" using the program, "[Wordle](#)." Students loved creating really cool "Wordles" using their new knowledge of character traits.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

The Support Team - Hamilton Preschool is fortunate to have a great team of experts to assist with student needs.

Lisa Payne, the School Psychologist assigned to the preschool, works diligently to maintain assessment schedules, create behavior plans, consult with staff, and contact parents about their concerns or questions. Lisa has the task of testing all special needs preschoolers transitioning to kindergarten. It is great to work with a well-organized professional like Lisa.

Megan Kish, the Speech Pathologist assigned to the preschool, currently works on Thursdays and Fridays with preschoolers who need assistance with expressive and receptive language activities. Megan is a great resource for all the preschool teachers. She has had great impact on the students she works with.

Collett Hayes, the Elementary Guidance Counselor has been a great resource for Preschool students and families this year. Collett meets with teachers and students to discuss concerns about behavior, anxiety, and transitioning to a school setting. Collett has been instrumental in assisting us with several students and always offers a reassuring message to our families.

These three professional educators really make a difference in the lives of our Preschool Students!

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Amendment to Whose IDEA Is This? - As a result of the change to prior written notice (PWN) requirements stating that the IEP can no longer serve as Prior Written Notice, an amendment was needed to Whose IDEA Is This? The Memorandum to Amend Whose IDEA Is This? must now be distributed anytime Whose IDEA Is This? is provided to parents until notice of a revised parent procedural safeguards notice is made available for dissemination. This amendment is posted on the district website and can be [accessed through this link](#).

A guidance document for the requirements of providing a copy of Whose IDEA Is This? and the amendment is also posted and can be [accessed through the this link](#).

Effective immediately, the district must provide a Prior Written Notice (PWN) with every IEP. Any questions about this new requirement can be directed to the Office of Special Education.

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

New K-3 Reading Resource – The Columbus Metropolitan Library successfully launched a new services page on their website for students in grades K-3, [Third Grade Reading](#).

This page also provides information about their new Reading Buddies program, providing one-on-one practice reading with library staff and volunteers in support of Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee. A large-scale public launch is scheduled for late February.

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Girls Basketball Defeats Fairfield Union - On Saturday afternoon, our HTHS varsity girls basketball team defeated the Fairfield Union Lady Falcons by a score of 51-48. The Rangers were lead in scoring by Lauren Longbrake with 19 points and Kaylee Davis 13 points. The following Rangers also contributed to the scoring efforts: Josie Kasprzak & Ariona Brown tallied six points each, Chase Gray-Still with five points and Blarie Gray-Harrison finished with two. This brings the Rangers' overall record to 8-6.

JV Boys Basketball Downs Circleville - The JV team got back in the win column with another league win on Tuesday night. It was a tight contest until midway through the 4th quarter where the Rangers shooting & free throws sealed the 10-point win. The 48-38 victory evens out their record at 7-7 on the season and a winning record in the league at 5-3.

Indoor Track Season Successfully Begins - The indoor track team kicked off their 2014 season at Ohio Wesleyan with high expectations.

[See highlights from this Week 1 event here.](#)

- Lorenzo Bridges ran a personal best 8.16 seconds in the 60m hurdles. His time set a new school record and ranks him the 4th fastest high school hurdler in Ohio and 13th in the United States this year.
- Deric Phouthavong ran the second fastest 60m dash time in school history at 7.17 seconds. He is currently ranked 10th in Ohio.
- Austin Niemann won the 400m dash and is ranked 7th in Ohio.
- Thomas Wilson won the Triple Jump and is ranked 4th in Ohio.

Personal records were set by Aaliah Solis, A'riel Harris, Alicia Sweet, Shanell Hayes, Miguel Morales, Dylan Napier, Alec Carey, Jacob Rollins, and Alex Rollins. The next competition will be on Sunday, January 26th at Ohio Wesleyan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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