

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: January 2-6, 2012

Governor Says Education and Workforce Development Are Focus - Governor Kasich said that education and workforce development efforts will be priorities in 2012. However, the administration's school-funding plan will not be released this January, which was a self-imposed deadline. The administration said the timing of the release will be when they feel the funding formula is right. Both Senate Finance Committee Chair Chris Widener and House Finance Committee Chair Ron Amstutz doubt a new formula can be in place by this fall. They did say that if discussions begin relatively soon, the formula could be ready for the 2013-14 school year.

[Kasich's New School-Funding Formula Delayed – Columbus Dispatch](#)

The Republican administration concluded a series of public meetings on the issue in September, but has yet to release a draft proposal promised for October. Now the governor's office appears certain to miss a self-imposed deadline of January for unveiling its method of paying for Ohio schools.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Registration - Mr. Morrison and Mrs. Crabtree met with Rob O'Leary of eSchoolView to review a software package that will allow the school district to offer online registration. This software is in the development stage, but we hope to have this accessible to the public by June 2012.

Building Operations - Hamilton Local School District has adopted the Alert Now phone notification system to inform all district parents of closings, cancellations, unexcused absences, and any other emergency alert information concerning our district buildings or property. To utilize the Alert Now notification system, we import a call list generated from each student's primary contact phone number. At any time, if your child's primary contact number is changed please make certain their building secretary is made aware of the new contact number. Once the district's Superintendent has made the announcement, our Alert Now notification system will contact you within minutes.

If school is canceled or delayed for two (2) hours due to inclement weather the following local television and radio stations will carry also the announcement:

TV Stations:

WCMH - NBC 4 WSYX - ABC 6 WBNS – 10 TV WTTE – Fox 28

Radio Stations:

WTVN – 610 AM WCOL – 92.3 FM WNCI – 97.9 FM WCKX– 107.5 FM

You can also visit [our district web site](#) for school closing, delay, or emergency information.

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.

Maintenance - Mr. Morrison is meeting with contractors this week to review the playground at the Intermediate School. A resurfacing project will begin shortly after the end of the current school year.

Construction - Multiple construction projects are being established this week. Mr. Morrison is meeting with engineers from Kleingers to determine the benefits of additional road work on our Elementary /

Intermediate / Middle School campus. He will also begin meeting with architects and engineers to determine the appropriate steps towards building a new bus compound. Cost analysis will be completed soon to determine which projects can move forward.

Residency - Fourteen new students enrolled in Hamilton Schools after the winter break. All students / parents / guardians must provide residency verification before children can start school. Our Attendance Officer will visit each residence to confirm occupancy.

Health and Safety - The cold and flu season is upon us and with that, we would like to remind each of you to cover your cough and clean your hands after coughing or sneezing. These simple tips can make the difference in stopping the spread of germs that make you and others sick. Good hygiene keeps students and families healthy and good student health leads to better attendance...and better attendance leads to more effective learning!

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

District Looking At Website & Multimedia Improvement Options - In an effort to make our district's information more accessible to everyone who is searching for it, Mr. Payne met with Rob O'Leary from eSchoolView on Friday to discuss the options of incorporating a mobile version of our website that will be optimized to work with smartphones (iPhone & Droid) and tablet devices.

Mr. Payne was also presented with a product that would provide opportunities to add live streaming of various events to our website as well. We are looking at this product to potentially provide public viewing access to Board of Education meetings, athletics, and other events or activities.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

Preparing Students for College - 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*, recent alumnus, Artasia Brown, returned to the high school to speak to Miss Hill's classes about her experiences at OSU. Artasia is an English major and a part of the Honors/Scholars College. She spoke about the need for developing self-discipline and self-motivation in order to be successful at college. She also spoke about her experiences as a part of PASS, which is a group for freshmen minorities that focuses on scholarship, leadership, character, and service. A particularly important experience she enjoys is the yearly picnic at Goodale Park. The students give food, clothing, supplies, etc. to the homeless and spend the day getting to know them. She shared that one aspect of OSU that she loves is their focus on helping the community. For example, a group called Buckeyethon that raises money for Children's Hospital an all night dance-a-thon hosted another activity she participated in. Finally, she also spoke about the wide variety of extracurricular clubs such as the Ukelele Club and Koolaid Club, the students with shoes duct taped to their feet as they jumped into Mirror Lake the weekend of the Michigan game, campus food, easy campus and city-wide transportation, living on campus, fun courses she took such as badminton, and managing an on-campus job while still being successful.

OMUN - This year at Ohio Model United Nations, the delegates from Hamilton worked extremely hard. This experience allows them to demonstrate and show off their leadership skills. Although none of the resolutions from Hamilton passed, there were still many things accomplished through the trip such as a better understanding and empathy for other countries. The trip and experience was a success.

HTHS Graduates Share their College Experience - 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 Graduates, Denerica Curry, Chelsea Winderl, and Ty Anderson presented to the current junior and senior classes during a morning assembly on Tuesday, December 20th. The purpose of the assembly is to familiarize HTHS Students with day-to-day college life that these speakers are currently experiencing.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Student Writings Selected - Students in 7th grade Language Arts read Dr. Martin Luther King's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech. They worked at interpreting the metaphors, understanding the historical time line and the culture at this time in our history. They then had an opportunity to create a reflective writing based on his Nobel Peace Prize speech. After a lot of hard, grueling work four students achieved the goal of having their writing sent in to the 2012 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Writing and Multimedia Contest. These students were: Anthony Morbitzer, Kendra Dalton, Derrick O'Neal and Briann Settles. Mrs. HerendeenAckerman, their Language Arts teacher, submitted their writings. To see the chosen essays, [click here](#).

The Sober Truth Returns to the Middle School - Agent Phillip Williams, an officer with the Ohio Investigative Unit, came to speak to 8th graders on Friday, Jan. 6. The Ohio Investigative Unit deals with narcotics, gambling, food stamp fraud, tobacco and most importantly, underage alcohol violation enforcement. Agent Williams discussed the dangers, consequences and penalties of underage possession and consumption of alcohol. Role playing activities were conducted with the students. Students volunteered for these roles and asked many thoughtful questions. Agent Williams also discussed careers in law enforcement. He gave helpful advice on classes they should consider and steps they could take to work towards this type of career. He ended his discussion by encouraging all of the students to make wise choices for their health and safety.

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Donate Books for Reach Out and Read - For January's Community Service Project H.I.S. is collecting books for the Reach Out and Read program. Reach Out and Read prepares central Ohio's youngest children to succeed in school by partnering with doctor's to prescribe books and encourage families to read together. This pediatric literacy program encourages family literacy activities in the home prior to a child entering the school system. Focus is given to families living in poverty. Last year, we donated over 1,000 Books!!!!!!

Extra, Extra Write All About It - In Mrs. Brown's class her students read a weekly newspaper for one of their social studies assignments called News-2-You. In collaboration with the occupational therapist, Mrs. Hendrick, students write about what they learned in social studies during their weekly handwriting group. All of students have really improved their handwriting, it has benefited everyone not just students that receive occupational services.

Debut Concert For 6th Grade Band - After weeks of practice and preparation, the Hamilton Intermediate sixth grade band performed their first concert on Thursday, December 15th. The students gave an excellent performance and impressed everyone in attendance, which included parents, teachers, and administrators. Three band members, who are also on the announcements team, did well speaking to

the audience during the introduction and closing of the concert. Every band member was present at the concert. "Jingle Bells" was the highlight of the night and demonstrated how hard these students practiced for the concert. The sixth grade band looks forward to seeing you at their spring concert on Thursday, May 17, 2012.

A Secret Santa Visits H.I.S. - On December 20th, a person who would like to be known as "Santa" dropped off a wrapped gift in our intermediate school office. A very grateful 6th grade student (Destiny Starr) was brought to tears when she opened the gift and saw a brand new flute inside. "Nothing like this has ever happened to me before," Destiny said. She was excited to try out her new flute, since her current flute is in need of expensive repairs.

Dynamite December For The Dogs - Thank you goes out to all the staff and students who donated items for December's Community Service Project. H.I.S. collected \$356.95 and 210 items to donate to the Capital Area Humane Society. Sixth grade students and staff collected the most items and monetary donations for the month of December.

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Student of the Month - Third grade student Ayden Nott was selected as the HES Student of the Month for December. Ayden's teacher Mrs. Black had this to say: *"Ayden is kind and works cooperatively with his peers. He comes to school prepared to learn and is extremely positive. He is the kind of student who is dedicated to learning and tries to solve his own problems. He is wise beyond his years and achieves academically and socially. It is a privilege to work with Ayden."* Congratulations to Ayden and his family.

Staff Member of the Month - Special Services aide April Wilhite (the taller teacher in the center of the photo below) was selected as the HES Staff Member of the Month for December. The anonymous staff member who nominated Mrs. Wilhite had this to say: *"April does an excellent job with all her students and has such a good attitude."* Whenever a teacher or aide is selected as Staff Member of the Month, their students all receive Ranger Bucks because no teacher can be "excellent" without "excellent" students. Congratulations to Mrs. Wilhite and her students.

Cleanest Classrooms of the Month - The building custodians select a "Cleanest Classroom of the Month" in each grade level. The winning classes get to display a golden broom "trophy" in their room during the month. This is done in an effort to both recognize the good cleanliness habits of our students and teachers and to develop pride in the cleanliness of the building amongst our students. The winning classes for the month are: Mrs. Taylor's class (Kindergarten), Mrs. Nance's class (1st grade), Mr. Fourman's class (2nd grade), and Mrs. Gaus's class (3rd grade).

High School Band and Choir Performs for HES - On the last day before winter break our elementary school students were treated to a performance by our high school band and choir. The band and choir did an outstanding job and the elementary students loved the concert. Mr. Tyler and Mr. Conley would like to thank all of the members of the band and choir as well as Mr. Frazier and Ms. Chute for their time and effort and the elementary specials teachers for organizing the event.

"We CAN Do It" - On November 7th, 2011 the elementary began a school-wide program called "We CAN Do It!" Students were asked to bring in (at least) two canned items that would serve two purposes of the program. First, the cans were used as weights. Many building teachers and staff members collaborated to make a soup can exercise video that was shown in the mornings to all classrooms. The students followed along with the video and completed their workout each morning. The second purpose was

achieved on Friday, December 16th when the exercise program concluded and 1,419 canned goods were donated to [the Community Partners of Southern Franklin County](#) to be distributed to families who needed assistance over the holiday season. Thanks to all who helped make this a huge success.

Gingerbread Man - "Run, run, as fast as you can. You can't catch me I'm the gingerbread man" could be heard coming from many of our kindergarten classrooms. Mr. Allgood, Mrs. Taylor, Ms. Wagner, Mrs. Geary, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Hajes, Ms. Colby, Miss Disabato and Mrs. Heidlebaugh used the classic story to teach math, science, writing, and even a little art. The kindergartners enjoyed tasting gingerbread men and graphing whether they ate the head, arm or leg first. The highlight of the unit was making gingerbread men out of salt-dough to take home as presents for the parents. The cooks even got in on the act by allowing our teachers to bake the gingerbread men and guarding the ovens so the gingerbread men didn't escape.

Hamilton Preschool

Happy New Year! - 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 topics and units to explore. We have also scheduled several family events: roller skating, VIP Day, COSI, and a winter fund raiser. Please watch the web site for upcoming dates and times. Academics, assessments, and attendance remain our focus for every student.

Winter Fund Raising for Reading! Cookie Dough Sale - From January 9 through January 20, 2012 our preschool students have the opportunity to raise money for our "Reading Buddy" event. We have chosen the Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough Company for this fund raising sale. Students will be raising money for our preschool and themselves. Any sales over five tubs will go directly to the preschool. Money raised from event will be used to purchase books and reading materials for our library. Our *Build a Reading Buddy* event will take place during the week of February 27, 2012. This is a great event and the kids LOVE the animals!

Welcome Back - Mrs. Susan Yates returned to her classroom after the holiday break and we are thrilled to have her back. Mrs. Adams will be assisting in Mrs. Yates' classroom as well. Susan is a natural team leader and an outstanding resource for our preschool staff.

OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Earning a Diploma Takes Discipline But Pays Off - The Alternative Academy has helped two more students earn their high school diplomas. This brings the total for the 2011-2012 school year to seven graduates. The latest student just turned 22 years old and has a child who is three years of age.

Last year only three students had earned their diploma by this point in the school year. It's encouraging that more students are being successful and following through with their programs to earn a diploma. We all know this will benefit them greatly as they enter the work force or attend a college or training program.

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Holiday Help - Thanks to the generosity of our community, on December 20, 2011 volunteers from [the Community Partners of Southern Franklin County](#) assisted 46 adults and 67 children with holiday support.

Our guidance counselors identified families who would not have been able to provide either food, gifts, or both during the holiday. The majority of families requested coats, jeans, and tops with many needing shoes as well. Food and hygiene items were also desired. Each family received as many of the needed items as possible and a box of holiday meal fixings (a ham or turkey, rolls, cranberry or applesauce, potatoes, oranges, milk, and stuffing). They also got bread, hot dogs, as well as peanut butter and jelly. Families could also "shop" for additional canned goods and miscellaneous items that had been donated. All the kids got presents from their wish list and those who had only requested necessities received gifts as well. This successful event required a lot of organization and planning, collecting donations, shopping, money, and volunteer time. Hamilton Local School District staff and students raised \$1,540, collected nearly 2,000 food items, donated Christmas trees, and adopted several families.

In addition, hours of volunteer time, donations, and adoptions were made by several partner organizations, their staff and members, including the [YMCA – Hoover Y Park](#), [South High Library](#), [Educational Council - KIDSCONnect](#), [Kraft Foods](#), [Ponderosa on South High Street](#), [Grace Ministries Church](#), [Leave a Mark Church](#), [Lockbourne United Methodist Church](#), and [Walnut Hill United Methodist Church](#).

Local Professional Development Committee - The Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) operates under authority from the Ohio Department of Education to determine if licensed educators have met the professional development requirements for license renewal. Professional educators renew their licenses every five years and must have the equivalent of six semester hours of professional development/learning that aligns with an approved Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP). Upon receiving an initial or renewed professional license, educators must develop an IPDP. Once the plan is approved by the LPDC, the educator may begin to accrue professional development hours toward their next renewal. The district LPDC has developed online tools to facilitate plan development and tracking of professional development. The LPDC meets monthly to review educators' documentation and make recommendations for license renewal. The committee is made up of both teachers and administrators; each building has a representative on the committee to assist peers with the process. Mrs. Strahm serves as chair.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Hamilton Township High School to Host Transition Evening - Please mark your calendar for Monday, January 30 to attend our inaugural Transition Evening. During this evening, we will present speakers that will offer information about support for students with disabilities beyond the school environment.

Featured speakers will include:

Patricia Jordan – Bridges to Transition is a partnership between the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC) and the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD). Bridges to Transition provides school to work transition services for students aged 14-22.

Tami Thornburg – Bureau of Rehabilitation Services Coordinator who coordinates summer work experience and assists with job training after graduation from high school.

Nancy Taggart – Representing the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD), Nancy will be presenting information about the FCBDD school program and adult transition services. There are some changes coming, which she will briefly address.

College Students – Get first hand information from students who are attending college, who were in IEPs in high school. Here how they are doing and what challenges they are facing in college.

Dotti Ellingsworth – Representing the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (FCBDD), Dotti will present information intake services and eligibility requirements for accessing the services provided by the FCBDD.

More information will be presented in the coming weeks. Mrs. Shepfer's class is preparing invitations to go home with students.

With this event, we are hoping our community will learn about some of the opportunities available to our students with disabilities beyond high school and what families need to do right now to prepare for access to those services.

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

Highlights from the “Hamilton Local School District Computer Network and Internet Acceptable Use Policy Agreement” - This week we are highlighting an area concerning Social Networking Web Sites [Section 8, b. (vii)]:

8. Unacceptable Uses

(b.) Uses or activities that cause harm to others or damage to their property. Among such uses or activities are (but not limited to) the following:

(vii) Social Networking Web Sites:

1. District Staff members and students who personally participate in social networking web sites are prohibited from posting data, documents, photographs, or inappropriate information on any web site that might result in a disruption of classroom or District activity. The Superintendent/designee has full discretion in determining when a disruption of classroom or District activity has occurred.
2. District staff is prohibited from providing social networking web site passwords to students.
3. Fraternalization between district Staff and students via the Internet, personal email accounts, social networking web sites, and other modes of virtual technology is also prohibited.
4. Access of social networking web sites during school hours is prohibited.

Violation of the prohibitions listed above will result in staff and/or student discipline in accordance with State law, Board policies and regulations, the Student Code of Conduct and/or staff negotiated agreements. Nothing in this policy prohibits District staff and students from the use of education web sites.

The complete “[Hamilton Local School District Computer Network and Internet Acceptable Use Policy Agreement](#)” can be found on the district's website.

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Ranger Basketball Serve the Community - Over the holiday, our boys basketball program participated in a community service project at the YWCA Family Center in Columbus. The Family Center was designed to house 40-50 families, but currently houses over 70 families that are otherwise homeless.

HTHS assistant coach Jerry McAuliffe and his wife Brenda prepared 160 pounds of barbecued chicken, 50 pounds of potatoes and assorted vegetables to feed the residents and staff at the Family Center last Friday night December 30, 2011.

With the help of five HTHS basketball players; Senior Caleb Morris, Junior Niel Skalican, Sophomores,

Kenan Alexander, Daryl Redman and Masai Rains, along with Coach Elfers, Coach Stevens, Coach Chapman, and their wives, this group served over 150 meals at the Family Center.

Caleb Morris said, "Going to serve at the shelter was a great experience. Seeing how appreciative all of the families were, helped me realize how blessed I am to have a roof over my head and my own bed to sleep in. I definitely plan on doing this again in the future." Niel Skalican added, "It felt good knowing that I was trying to make a difference in my own community. The people were very nice and respectful, which made it an enjoyable and rewarding experience."

Our thoughtful Rangers prepared and served food, assisted with setup and clean up during their four hours of service. Thanks to the coaches and players for their efforts during the holiday season!

Cross Country Team "Stuffs the Truck" - Coaches Anthony Beggrow and Matt O'Hearn, along with members of the Cross Country team, organized a "Stuff the Truck" event to provide food and clothing for those in need in our local community during the holiday season. The event was a huge success and much appreciated by the local community members.

HTHS Wrestling Impressive in Tri-meet - The HTHS Wrestling Team traveled to Bishop Hartley for a tri-meet. The Rangers had a great night of wrestling with two big wins over their opponents.

HTHS 63 Bishop Hartley 15,
HTHS 83 Columbus South 0

Congratulations to the Ranger Wrestling team and good luck in future events!

HMS Wrestling at The Cambridge Invitational - Hamilton Middle School wrestlers recently competed in the Cambridge Invitational, which is one of the toughest tournaments in the state of Ohio. Over 32 schools participated in the invitational. Our Hamilton Middle School wrestlers have shown continuous improvement in their wrestling skills as the season progresses. Congratulations to Jason Miller on his 7th place finish in his division.

HTHS Wrestling Travel to Freshman Classic - The HTHS freshman wrestling team competed in the Groveport-Madison Freshman Classic. Their hard work and wrestling skills helped the Rangers' overall team performance. Congratulations to the following freshman wrestlers Brandon Baker, Ethan Whitmore, Brandon Fort, and Austin Napier on their matches.

Congratulations to the top performers:
Ethan Whitmore - 2nd place
Brandon Fort - 2nd place

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Get all of this week's events listed here](#)