

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Feb. 27 - Mar. 6, 2015

High School Students Should Prepare To Take Advantage of Ohio's New College Credit Plus Program in 2015-16 School Year - Ohio's new College Credit Plus program can help students earn college and high school credits at the same time by taking college courses from community colleges or universities. The purpose of this program is to promote rigorous academic pursuits and to provide a wide variety of options to college-ready students. Taking a college course from a public college or university College Credit Plus is free. That means no cost for tuition, books or fees. If students choose to attend a private college or university, they may have limited costs.

Links to official College Credit Plus website:

[Info For Students and Families](#)

[What Is College Credit Plus? \(pdf\)](#)

[College Credit Plus Student and Parent Guide \(pdf\)](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[CCP Program Background](#)

Current HT Varsity Football Head Coach Is One Of School's All-Time Best - [HammyHighAlumni.com](#) founder and proud HTHS Alum, Chuck Hughes recently shared some data he gathered showing the career coaching records of HT's head varsity football coaches dating back to 1946, the year they began keeping win-loss records for the sport. What he found was that current head football coach, Nathan Hillerich has more wins as the Rangers' head coach (34) than any other coach since these records have been kept. According to Hughes' data, Coach Hillerich also has the 3rd best winning percentage on the list as well at 67% (34-17 record), but it is by far the best winning percentage over the past 36 years. Coach Paul Orr (1950-1953) won 80% of the games he coached and tallied a 28-7 overall record. Coach Jack Mondell (1975-1978) won 73% of his games and posted a 22-7-1 record as HT's head ball coach.

"In 2014 we had seven of the original 11 coaches that were with me when we started things off in 2010," shared Hillerich. "The past five years have been pretty good, and I expect the next five to be even better!"

See the entire list attached in this Wrap-up.

Senate Passes Student Testing 'Safe Harbor - The Senate unanimously passed legislation that would grant "safe harbor" to students taking the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing this year.

HB7 (Buchy), which prohibits student scores from the PARCC tests being used to hold a child back or to have an effect on their grades, was the only bill on the Senate's agenda, passing with an emergency clause to make it effective with the governor's signature.

Senate Education Chairwoman Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) said on the floor that most standardized tests don't have an effect on a student's grade, and the bill reassures parents that the PARCC will not have an effect either.

Sen. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) said the bill is just a warm-up to what the Senate plans to do to address concerns about standardized testing, with both

he and Lehner alluding to their later announcement on a testing advisory committee.

After session, Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) said they are not sure what the Ohio Department of Education was going to do when it comes to safe harbor for the PARCC tests this year, so they wanted to clarify the law. He said the bipartisan support of the bill recognizes the issues all Ohioans are having with the testing.

Source: Hannah News Service

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HTHS Teacher of the Month - Mr. Sean Cote

"Mr. Cote takes on the highest level math classes (4 preps!) and thoroughly prepared his students for college math. His students often report back to him after graduation regarding how easy their college math classes were because they were so well prepared. He possesses an extremely high level of content knowledge, and in addition to sharing that with his students, he also makes the math department stronger. Mr. Cote always makes himself available to the other math (and science) teachers for whatever they may need. We are a better department because of Sean." - HS Staff

"Sean has high expectations for all students and works hard to challenge his students to meet those expectations. He is extremely knowledgeable with the math content and I love knowing that I have him as a team member to be there as a support as questions or concerns arise. He is an awesome teacher and more than earns being teacher of the month." - HS Staff

"As a young teacher, I have always been able to go to Sean with questions concerning content and delivery. He has been a huge help to me, and he is a great asset to our team!" - HS Staff

"Mr. Cote demonstrates his dedication to his students on a daily basis. He is one of the first teachers to arrive at school and often stays late assisting students. He consistently has students in for extra help during Advisory or MAP. He also is always looking for new ways and methods of teaching in order to enhance his students' learning. Mr. Cote is a great choice for TOTM!" - HS Staff

"Mr. Cote is extremely knowledgeable and gifted in Mathematics. He utilizes his knowledge to inspire students to achieve at higher levels.

He is devoted to his students. Most days he gives up his planning time to help his students succeed." - HS Staff

Mr. Cote stated, "I am grateful to be nominated as the HTHS Teacher of the Month. I do my best each day to prepare my students for life after high school. For most of my students that means college. I challenge my students and expect them to get a true understanding of the mathematics. I do not want them to just memorize a bunch of procedures like a recipe in a cookbook. They will forget the steps, but if they understand the concepts, then they will be able to recreate them when needed in their future coursework in college."

"I normally get here about 6:30, when I answer emails, set up my smartboard, enter grades when applicable, and "makin' copies" (said in the appropriate SNL

voice). Throughout the day I teach four different classes, 2 sections of Statistics, Double Block (Alg II/Pre-calc), AP Calc, and Pre-Calc. I have freshmen in advisory so during that period, between my advisory students and any other students that I may have, I might field questions from Alg I, Geometry, Alg II, Stats, Pre-Calc, or Calculus. It keeps me on my toes. At the end of the day, I revise old files to go along with my lessons for the next day, and write up new assignments for the Stats class that is in its first year of existence. I also work with students that come in seeking extra help both during my planning period and after school. It is a pleasure to work with our students with the support of the administration and all of my colleagues here at HTHS. Thank you." - Cote

HTHS Congratulates Mr. Sean Cote for earning HTHS Teacher of the Month.

HTHS Assessment Schedule - HS Assessments for Ohio's New Generation Assessments are complete to date including 9th Grade English Assessments, Algebra & Geometry (9th grade only), American History & Government, & Physical Science. Ohio Graduation Tests (OGTs) for all 10th graders and repeat 11th & 12th graders begin March 16th. End of Year (EOY) Assessments will take place in May.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Teacher and Student Honored - For the month of February, Mrs. Colleen Bennett and 7th Grader Clarissa Thornton were honored as the teacher and student of the month, respectively. Mrs. Bennett was nominated by the administration for her work with our students and Clarissa was nominated by her Math teacher, Mrs. Wills. Congratulations to both very deserving candidates!

Students and Staff Battle on the Volleyball Court - As a reward for having perfect attendance for the most recent round of state testing, students and staff took to the volleyball court for some fun, good-natured competition. The team of all male teachers went undefeated while the female teachers finished the afternoon with only one loss. The students were definitely surprised by the athleticism of the staff!

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Parents Conference With Teachers About Student's Progress - On February 26th, teachers met with parents of many students to discuss their child's progress so far this school year. Teachers were able to discuss academic progress and to get a chance to collaborate with the parents to help meet the needs of their child. Thank you to everyone that attended the conferences.

PARCC Participation Prizes For Perfect Attendance - Hamilton Intermediate School has been working very hard on the Performance Based Assessments. Each grade level has to take three PBAs (English Language Arts, Math, Science (5th grade), and Social Studies (4th and 6th grade). Each day names are drawn from each homeroom and students receive a prize like a gift card to Walmart, Chipotle or Dairy Queen. Thank you to the H.I.S. PTO and Mrs. Sewell for supporting our students!

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Student of the Month – 1st grade student Lilly Clawson was selected as the HES Student of the Month for February. Lilly’s teacher, Mrs. Nance, had this to say: “Lilly Clawson is an incredibly hard worker. Her determination has caused her to improve her reading level by seven levels in just six months. She is very caring and is willing to try her best at everything she attempts.” Congratulations to Lilly and her family.

Teacher of the Month – Kindergarten teacher Jamie Windle was selected as the HES Teacher of the Month for February. The anonymous staff member who nominated Mrs. Windle had this to say: “Jamie has been a great addition to our Kindergarten team. She is always willing to share new ideas as well as use ideas from veteran teachers. She has also tried new teaching strategies that our third grade team has implemented to help build a foundation for her kindergartners’ math knowledge.” Congratulations to Mrs. Windle.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Preschool Participates in “Future Focused Friday” Event - It is never too early plant the seed going to college for our children! The Preschool staff members are graduates of several wonderful universities in the state of Ohio. Staff members will wear their colors on Friday, February 27, 2015 to show their pride of their Alma Mater: Devry, The Ohio State University, Ohio University, Otterbein, Muskingum, University of Dayton, and Ohio Wesleyan were all represented by staff members in honor of higher education. We know how bright the future is for all our preschoolers

Right to Read Week: Dr. Seuss - The student had a blast learning and participating in all the themed days this past week.

Tornado Drill - All Preschool students participated in the school wide Tornado Drill on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 9:50am for the morning and all day students and then again at 3:00pm for the afternoon students. The students did an excellent job of staying quiet and still during the drill. The safety of all students is always our number one concern.

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Varsity Girls’ Basketball Players Earn Gold and Silver Certificate Awards - Five members of the Girls’ Varsity Basketball team were recognized by the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association for their commitment to academics. Gold Certificate winners included seniors Allison Belcher and Devyn Stevens. Silver Certificate winners included Chase Gray-Still, Brittany Haughn, and Lauren Longbrake. These students have maintained above a 3.2 accumulative grade point average. Congratulations to these students for their academic successes.

Varsity Girls Basketball Falls Short Against Zanesville as Season Comes to an End - The Varsity Girls’ Basketball program’s season came to an end last Thursday as the Rangers were defeated in the OHSAA Sectional Tournament by Zanesville. Lauren Longbrake and Josie Kasprzak led the Rangers with 14 points each. The Rangers finished the year with a 14-9 record. Congratulations on a great season!

Indoor Track Update - Rangers Track and Field Athletes Thomas Wilson and Mike Phimmasone will compete this weekend at the Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches Indoor State Championships in Akron. They will be competing in the Triple Jump event. Best of luck to Thomas and Mike!

Also this past weekend, congratulations is in order for McKenzie Long for breaking Amber Trimble's school record of 8.24 in the 60 meter dash with a blazing time of 8.20 seconds. Outdoor Track and Field's official practices begin Monday, March 9th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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