

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: April 24 - May 1

Hamilton Local Presented With Top Workplaces Award - On Thursday, April 30, the editor of Columbus CEO presented Top Workplaces Awards to the 60 businesses that earned the recognition for 2015.

Hamilton Local School District is currently ranked as the 3rd best midsize organization in central Ohio according to independent data analysis company Workplace Dynamics. This is an improvement on the district's ranking of 6th best midsize organization in 2014.

"We value the input from our employees because it helps us improve and grow as an organization," explained Superintendent Lester. "Earning the designation of Top Workplace for the second consecutive year is gratifying for everyone involved in our day-to-day operation."

Out of the thousands of comments collected from the hundreds of central Ohio businesses that participated in the Top Workplaces program, Hamilton Local was one of three organizations that had a response featured by Workplace Dynamics during the award presentation ceremony.

Again, thank you to everyone who took time to participate in the Top Workplaces survey.

District Art Show Features Works Produced By Students & Staff - On Thursday, April 30, our district opened the 7th Annual District Art Exhibit to one of the largest overall crowds in the event's history. Works of art produced by students and employees are displayed throughout the Hamilton Education Center.

"Each year, I am impressed by the creativity and talent displayed by our artistic students and staff," shared Superintendent Lester. "Our art teachers' year-long efforts are evident when you take into account the number of different techniques and mediums used to produce this exhibit."

Over the upcoming months, students will be notified if their art has been selected for our district's permanent display located in the Hamilton Education Center.

Thanks goes to Mr. Payne and our district's art faculty (Mrs. King, Mrs. Nunn, Mrs. Enright, Mrs. Lutz, Mrs. Dreiling, and Mr. Linkinhoker) for taking the reins of this event in the wake of Dr. Witten's retirement. We would also like to thank Mr. Beretich and Ms. John for preparing the facility for all of our guests. We look forward to producing this event for years to come.

The exhibit display will be shown until Tuesday, May 19. Please stop by the education center if you didn't get a chance to see the show on Thursday.

May 4 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day - In 2001, the Ohio General Assembly designated the first Monday in May as School Bus Driver Appreciation Day. This year, the commemoration is on Monday, May 4, 2015. The day offers an opportunity for the Hamilton community to reflect upon the outstanding job performance of our 18 school bus drivers who transport children to and from school and school-related events throughout the year and our two bus

mechanics who maintain our bus fleet; and Supervisor Barbara Haughn who plans, evaluates, develops, implements and maintains our transportation services.

Please take a moment to thank the following women and men working in our transportation department for their efforts to keep Hamilton's children safe each day:

Drivers

Linda Biser	24 years
Tina Bonner	17 Years
Becky Boyd	17 years
Janice Stevens	17 years
Hazel Nance	16 years
Gena Perry	16 years
Peggy Hafey	15 years
Rachele Freshkorn	12 years
Darla Willis	9 years
Pamela Howe	8 years
Janette Jordan	7 years
Anita Casdorff	6 years
Tina Hood	6 years
Tamara May	4 years
Jennifer Higgenbotham	2 years
Heather Howell	1 year

Mechanics

Robert (Junior) Kendrick	19 years
James Ackley	8 years

Supervisor

Barbara Haughn	8 years
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STATE TESTING COMMITTEE MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS – The Senate Advisory Committee on Testing completed its recommendations to improve testing for next school year. The recommendations include: 1) Scaling back testing administration to once per year, while also shortening the tests and pushing the testing window closer to the end of the school year; 2) Improving accommodations for children with IEPs and providing more related training; 3) Returning test results in a timely manner; 4) Requiring test transparency; 5) Continuing to provide a paper and pencil testing option while also considering funding for technology needs; 6) Moving to a single technology platform is preferred; 7) Ensuring a “safe harbor” is in place for this year's results; 8) Developing a comprehensive communications plan; and 9) Finding a vendor that will make the necessary changes to accommodate these issues.

Source: Educational Service Center of Central Ohio

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HTHS Teacher of the Month - Mr. Casey Linkinhoker

"I believe that Casey should be the teacher of the month for numerous reasons. He is always willing to go the extra mile to help his students, whether it means working through his lunch with them on art projects, or staying after

school with them. He clearly loves what he does, and his enthusiasm inspires the students to love art as well. The pieces of art that have been created by students in his classes are amazing, and I believe that they are a direct result of his instruction." - HS Staff

"Mr. Linkinhoker goes above and beyond in his classroom. His lessons are engaging and accommodating to all students. He encourages students to be creative and try their best. He also goes above and beyond outside of the classroom. He is helpful to other staff members and is always there to lend a helping hand. I recommend Casey for HTHS Teacher of the Month - HS Staff

"I nominate Casey Linkinhoker for HTHS Teacher of the Month. He truly cares about his students and works at developing a positive rapport with them. He works in the summer and after school hours to help aspiring artists and AP students." - HS Staff

Linkinhoker stated, "I would like to thank everyone who nominated me for teacher of the month. I am honored by this distinction and appreciate the kind gesture. I really enjoy my job and I hope that shows in my day-to-day interactions with administration, students and staff. I feel like we have influential collaborations, purposeful direction, and a strong support system here at Hamilton Township High and I am proud to be apart of it. As an art teacher I try to employ different techniques, strategies, and instructional methods in order to reach all students while furthering their artistic knowledge and experiences. I feel Mrs. Dreiling and I have great art classes and students who are creating wonderful artworks that each and every one of them should be proud of. Thanks everyone for supporting the art program and if you ever need help with anything don't hesitate to ask." - Casey Linkinhoker

HTHS Congratulates Mr. Casey Linkinhoker for earning HTHS Teacher of the Month.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Art in Math - Students in 7th grade math are working on creating geometric pieces of art using shapes they have cut from magazines. Students spent last week making foldables to help them understand and use the formulas for finding area and perimeter of these shapes. After they have created their pieces of art they are measuring the shapes to find the area and perimeter of each and then a total. Students will also trade with classmates to determine the area and perimeter of another person's piece of art.

Art Show Winners - On Thursday evening the district artists gathered together to display their wonderful work. The 5th annual Hamilton District Art Show was a huge success! A large turnout of students, parents, staff, and community members made the evening a great success. Each year, a student from each grade level is selected to have their artwork added to the District's permanent collection of artwork. This artwork will be professional framed and will be on permanent display at the district's Administration Building for all to view. Alyssa Abram's 3-D Metal Flower was chosen to represent the 7th grade and Teagan Littrell's Interpretation of the Starry Night was selected to represent the 8th grade. Those in attendance could purchase tickets to vote for "People's Choice." The winner for the middle school was Teagan Littrell! She will receive gift card to an art store to buy future art supplies! Great job to ALL the artists!

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Third Grading Period Honor Assemblies Are A Success - For the third grading period, 316 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! [Click here](#) to view photos from all three assemblies!

Everything In Art Is AWESOME - The 4th and 5th grade students at the Intermediate School are having an awesome time exploring self-portraits through the style lens of Lego figures! After discussing what makes a good self-portrait and different ways to show your personality in a portrait, the students traced a large template of a blank Lego figure and got to work! Looking at images of different Lego figures, faces, and accessories helped to make their self-portraits in a more simple "Lego" style. Watching the video of the song "Everything is Awesome" from the recent Lego movie was also a great inspiration and motivator for the students! They could choose to make the portrait of themselves in the present, or themselves in the future- doing their "dream job" (a few examples- nurse, dentist, singer, basketball player, and lawyer). The students put a lot of time and thought into their portraits; many show not only what they look like, but also show their hobbies, favorite activities or sports, as well as their unique personalities.

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Student of the Month – 1st grade student, Joey Steele, was selected as the HES Student of the Month for April. Joey's teacher, Mrs. McNamee, had this to say: "Joey Steele is a very caring, enthusiastic, and dedicated individual. If a student is in need, Joey is often very quick to offer assistance and watches closely to make sure that everyone is taken care of at all times. He tries hard each day and encourages others to do their best as well. He is an active participant in lessons and offers many great ideas that often make our lessons much more meaningful to the students. Joey is a very positive individual and is a great example of the qualities displayed in so many of our Hamilton Rangers!" Congratulations to Joey and his family.

Teacher of the Month – 3rd grade teacher, Tyler Rush, was selected as the HES Teacher of the Month for April. The anonymous staff member who nominated Mr. Rush had this to say: "Mr. Rush always knows what is going on in the lives of his students. He takes time to go and see his students at their sporting events. He also takes care of two roles in our third grade team; he is a member of the building discipline and attendance committee and a teacher representative for PTO. He has also been very involved updating our school safety plan." Congratulations to Mr. Rush.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Graduation Just the Facts - Preschool graduation will be held in High School Auditorium on Tuesday, May 26, 2016, AM and ALL Day students should arrive no earlier than 10:00 am graduation will take place at 10:30 am. PM Students

should arrive no earlier than 2:00pm graduation will take place at 2:30 pm. Please park in the West Parking High School students will be directing you. Students should be dropped off at Room #133-Mrs Walker's Classroom

Parents will then go directly to auditorium! Remember your Camera!

Zoo Field Trip - Our sixth annual Family Day at the Zoo will take place on Wednesday, May 13, 2015. Information and tickets orders will be coming home next Monday. All ticket orders are due by Tuesday, May 12, 2015. This is always our most popular family day.

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

Backup Time - Backing up your data is a very important task. Unfortunately, users often learn the "hard way" the value of a good backup. Technology is wonderful, but it doesn't last forever and a common saying in the tech world, is "it's not IF your hardware fails (or a virus strikes), but WHEN". While some data can be easily replaced in the event of a crash, other data like personal photos, family videos, special work projects, etc. are often irreplaceable.

There are many options to backing up important data. External hard drives, USB flash drives, CD/DVDs, and online backup sites are all great options.

Don't fall victim to data loss...take a few minutes to backup your files!

For more information:

<https://safety.yahoo.com/Security/BACKUP.html>

<http://online-data-backup-review.toptenreviews.com/top-10-files-to-backup.html>

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Varsity Boys' and Girls' Track and Field Host 23rd Annual Kallner

Invitational - The Rangers hosted 12 Boys and 12 Girls teams on Saturday, April 25th for the 23rd Annual Elmo Kallner Invitational. The boys placed 4th and the girls 5th.

Aaron Johnson set personal records in the Shot Put, 51' 3", and the Discus, 147' 0" and was named the Kallner Field Event MVP.

Jacob Maynard was the only other event champion with a winning performance in the Pole Vault.

For full meet results, click [here](#). The Rangers will return home on May 1 to host the Central Ohio All-Star meet with over 15 teams on both the boys' and girls' sides.

Boys' Tennis Improves Record to 11-3 - The Boys' Tennis team improved their record on Wednesday evening with a 3-2 victory over West Jefferson. Wins for the Rangers came from Austin Mylar (1st Singles), Quahhar Fletcher (3rd Singles) and Andy Perna and Cody Converse (1st Doubles). The Rangers

continue match play this week and enter the MSL Tournament on Saturday, May 2nd at Teays Valley. Good luck to the Rangers in the MSL tournament.

Softball Wins Two Against Whetstone - Varsity Softball got two wins on Saturday against Whetstone. In the first game, Karly Wade pitched while Billie Kirk caught for the Rangers. The Rangers won by a score of 4-3. Abbie Blosser and Bailey Moore made great defensive plays.

In the second game, the Rangers won with a score of 19-9. Hitting was on a point for game two with all Rangers chipping in for the win. Alexis Griffiths started the game giving up eight runs. Karly Wade came in for the Rangers to get the save. Billie Kirk caught a great game for the Rangers.

Varsity Baseball Wins Two - The Varsity baseball team won two games Friday and Saturday to improve to 9-9 (6-3). They defeated Fairfield Union 5-2 on Friday and Westerville North 5-1 on Saturday, before rain canceled the second game of a double header. Receiving the wins on the mound for the Rangers were Brandon Marable and Jason Miller.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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