

## **Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Oct. 25 – Nov. 1, 2013**

**Straight 'A' Fund Draws Nearly 600 Applications in First Round Including Two From Hamilton** - Ohio's new Straight 'A' Fund for education innovation drew 570 applications from 420 organizations by the Friday deadline, according to the Ohio Department of Education. Hamilton submitted two of the 570 applications.

The fund's governing board, appointed by Gov. John Kasich and legislative leaders, is to narrow the field based on a financial-sustainability review of proposals by Nov. 12 and make final award decisions by Dec. 3. Pending Controlling Board approval, state education officials hope to release money to districts in January.

Hamilton Local is requesting total funding of \$500,100.00. In total, applications request funding of nearly \$868 million, according to ODE. The program has \$100 million available this round and \$150 million for the next fiscal year, appropriated through the recent state budget bill, HB59 (Amstutz).

Hamilton's Applications:

### ***1. Personalized web-based literacy program myON reader - Prepared by Superintendent Lester***

#### ***Request funding of \$184,000.00***

*The personalized web-based literacy environment established by myON reader will transform the way Hamilton Local Schools' students access and interact with text, resulting in confident, engaged, and proficient readers.*

*This research-based method will assist the Hamilton Local Schools with implementation of the Common Core standards and the 3rd Grade Guarantee, ultimately preparing every Hamilton Local student with the assurance that they are college and career ready after graduation.*

*For a fraction of the cost of a single, hard copy text, Hamilton Local Schools can provide students with a virtual backpack of enhanced digital titles, matched to their interests, needs and targeted reading level for optimal growth.*

*This program will provide two Kindle Charging Carts with 30 - 7" Kindle eBook readers each for each grade level of students kindergarten through grade 6 and one Kindle Charging Cart with 30 - 7" Kindle eBook readers in each building's media center.*

### ***2. Comprehensive Data System - Prepared by Assistant Superintendent Witten***

#### ***Request funding of \$316,100.00***

*The district will establish a comprehensive, longitudinal student data, assessment and instruction system, aligned with state standards, to inform decision-making at the student, classroom, teacher, building, and district levels for the purpose of improved student growth, achievement, and success. The grant request will fund*

*the purchase of a data system that can be customized and will house student information, such as test scores and grades, that are currently in multiple databases. Teachers can use the system for standards aligned assessment and instruction design, related interventions, and resources to meet student learning needs. Funding will provide mobile technology for teachers to make the system accessible in real time. In addition, funding will purchase mobile technology carts to support student access to learning resources and tools.*

**District Administration Meets with Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools Superintendent** - Superintendent Lester and Alternative Academy Director Allyson Price met with Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools Superintendent Bonnie Hopkins on Wednesday to discuss changes being implemented by ODE and how it will affect Career and Technical Education (CTE) planning and programming with the Hamilton Local Schools.

Items of discussion included:

- Enrollment by District and Program
- Satellite Programs
- EMIS Reporting
- Business Partnerships
- Opportunities at Eastland-Fairfield for Hamilton Alternative Academy students
- Marketing CTE programs to Hamilton students
- Strategies for improving communication between Eastland-Fairfield and Hamilton

Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools serves 16 school districts in Franklin, Fairfield, and Pickaway counties, including 67 Hamilton students. It covers an area of 700 square miles, and is the seventh largest career and technical district geographically in the state. The District has two main campuses — Eastland Career Center in Groveport and Fairfield Career Center in Carroll.

Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools strives to offer high-tech, in-demand programs in order to position students for a successful future. The Centers offer nearly 40 high school programs designed for students in their junior and senior year. In addition to traditional career and technical programs, such as Auto Technology, Welding, and Cosmetology, Eastland-Fairfield offers many programs designed specifically for students who intend to continue their education at a college or university.

**Conference Receives PARCC Assessment Update** - Larry Early, associate director of the Office of Curriculum and Assessment for the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), offered educators an update Monday on field-testing for assessments developed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). The presentation was part of Ohio's annual statewide education conference at the Columbus Convention Center.

Early said the PARCC field-testing window in Ohio is March 24-April 18 for performance-based assessment (PBA) and May 5-16 for end-of-year (EOY) Assessments. He said grades 4 and 6 will be tested in social studies, grades 5 and 8 in science, and high school students in American government and history as well as biology and physical science.

Early said the Ohio field test will be available only online, but that districts wishing to participate that do not have the computer capacity can apply for paper and pencil assessments. He said all students will participate; including disabled and English language learners, and that there will not be special versions for these groups.

The director said a student's English Language Arts (ELA) test will receive a performance level descriptor (PLD) between one and five with one being the lowest and five being the highest. He said a four should mean the student will not need any remediation classes in college. He said the scores will also play into graduation requirements, but the final numbers have not been worked out in that regard. He emphasized that this scoring is not a contract, but is a general plan.

Early said PARCC is also working to make math assessments 90 percent machine-scoreable, as the subject is more easily scored in that fashion than other subjects. He said ODE wants to get to the point where scores are available to teachers directly after completion of the test.

He said his office has surveyed all districts for the past three years, and estimates that 50-60 percent are ready to administer these assessments technologically. He said paper and pencil tests will be available at no cost, but districts should seriously consider upgrading their infrastructure for maximum benefit.

Early said that while he thinks PARCC will see this whole process through to completion, ODE has a "plan B" in case the consortium were to disappear for some reason. He said he does not have details on this alternative plan.

"Ohio is as heavily invested in this as anything we've done," Early said.  
*Story originally published in The Hannah Report on October 29, 2013. Copyright 2013 Hannah News Service, Inc.*

## **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Building Operations** - Thanks to our building secretaries Gail Bailey, Delona Joiner, Robin Mickens, Kassie Adkins, Angie Kirk, Susan Sewell, Christy Devine and Mindi Childress and our Transportation Department for making Friday morning's attendance and transportation issues work smoothly. With the weather damage suffered in many of our communities, their dedication and efforts are greatly appreciated.

**Legislative Update: House Education Committee** - The House Education Committee met this week and held hearings on HB 215, HB 216 and HB 296.

HB 215 is legislation that would authorize a board of education to enter into an agreement with a current or retired law enforcement officer to volunteer at a school in exchange for a tax credit for the service. The bill received proponent testimony and has been marked for a possible vote in committee next week.

HB 296 received sponsor testimony from Rep. Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) and Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington). HB 296 allow a school or school district to stock non-patient specific doses of epinephrine on the school premises and allow trained personnel to administer the "emergency" epinephrine to a student, staff

member or visitor in the event of a severe allergic reaction.

**Student Information Services** - The reporting of financial data (Period H) was completed by Mrs. Crabtree this week. All districts, JVSDs, ESCs, ITCs and Community Schools are required to submit this data to the state. This submission details all financial transactions including: payroll, purchase services, grant expenditures and revenues and all cash receipts and expenses.

**Transportation** - Mr. Morrison and Mrs. Haughn met this week to review data and bus specifications with a goal of entering the bidding process to purchase new buses for our fleet. The district is currently part of a consortium that will allow us to purchase new buses at a very cost effective rate.

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

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**Cell Project** - Sophomore Biology I students were given the opportunity to complete a cell project as a wrap-up to a unit on cell types and differences. Students typically struggle with this information because of the large amount of unfamiliar vocabulary as well as having trouble relating to the information, since cells are so small and often overlooked as an integral part of an organism's structure and function. Each student was charged with representing ten organelles, the functions for each organelle, and a means to describe the overall process of protein synthesis. The mechanism by which they presented the information is up to each student.

Some students presented information in visual form - with a poster, model, diorama, etc. Other students wrote stories about murder mysteries and epic journeys where cast-out cells looked for their lost organelles. Other students performed poetry (free verse, limericks, haiku, etc.). A few groups decided to perform songs and freestyles. Analogies were popular - with students likening cells to schools, factories, restaurants, etc. One student made an interactive children's book.

The Ohio Revised Science Standards and Model Curriculum for Biology takes information from Project 2061, which states:

*Benchmark 5C*

The Living Environment: Cells

Grades 9-12, page 113

Every cell is covered by a membrane that controls what can enter and leave the cell. In all but quite primitive cells, a complex network of proteins provides organization and shape and, for animal cells, movement.

The National Science Education Standards state:

NSES Content Standard C

Life Science: The cell

Grades 9-12, page 184

Cells have particular structures that underlie their functions. Every cell is surrounded by a membrane that separates it from the outside world. Inside the

cell is a concentrated mixture of thousands of different molecules which form a variety of specialized structures that carry out such cell functions as energy production, transport of molecules, waste disposal, synthesis of new molecules, and the storage of genetic material.

**NHS Supports Blood Drive** - Hamilton Township High School National Honor Society sponsored the first Red Cross Blood drive of the school year on Wednesday, located in the high school auditorium. Students and teachers donated blood throughout the day, and National Honor Society students helped with the registration process. Individuals who are at least 17 years old, or 16 with parental consent, meet height and weight requirements, and are in general good health may be eligible to donate blood. A photo ID with date of birth is required. 47 students signed up to donate, more than our average of 30. Donors entered a drawing to win Ohio State football tickets for the next home game or a Visa gift card. All donors were also entered into the grand prize drawing for Ohio State-Michigan football tickets. By the end of the school day the Red Cross collected 39 whole blood units, surpassing our goal of 35. Each unit of blood can save up to three lives, and many of our units go to Children's Hospital. Way to go Rangers! The next blood drive will be February 6th in the high school band room.

## **HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**7th Graders Continue to Have SWAG (Students With Amazing Grades)** - 7th grade math students in Mrs. Wills' class were rewarded for starting the new nine weeks off with SWAG. To meet the SWAG requirement the students had to have a C or better in math class and no missing assignments. A total of 65 students are starting the new nine weeks off right. Each week there is a different reward for students who meet and maintain their SWAG status!

## **HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

**Preparing For The Future** - As a part of our post secondary action plan, 62 sixth graders met with Mr. Meade and Mrs. Smith to discuss the opportunity to take the ACT with our Hamilton High school students through the Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS). To qualify, students had to score "advanced" on their fifth grade Ohio Achievement Assessment. Students will utilize study packets, online practice tests, and after-school study sessions to prepare for the test.

**"Fall" Into Great Art!** - Don't you just love fall? The colors, the leaves, the crisp breeze, pumpkins are everywhere...what a great season! The fourth, fifth, and sixth graders have been hard at work with Mrs. Enright in the Art Room making beautiful watercolor paintings that celebrate this colorful season! Sixth graders focused on landscapes that featured birch trees, rolling hills, and lots of realistic shadows and details. Concepts of light and shadows, color theory, and composition were all touched on throughout the project.

Fifth graders also created birch tree landscapes, but with a more abstract twist. Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night* masterpiece served as our inspiration for the sky and details: swirls of wind, glowing stars, and bright colors were the features of their project. A big fall favorite--bright, warmly colored leaves--were the focus for our fourth graders' watercolor paintings. After discussing the role and importance of leaves in nature, the students explored the shapes and lines of

various leaves. These sketches became beautifully outlined designs that were painted with both warm and cool colors.

We even experimented with the effects of salt on watercolor to create texture on the leaves and background! Stop in soon to see these amazing artworks on display at the Intermediate School. Great job Intermediate artists!

## **HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**HES Featured in the Columbus Dispatch** - Hamilton Elementary School was featured on the cover of the Metro & State section in Monday's Columbus Dispatch. The story focuses on "Whole Brain" learning. There is also a video attached to the story that shows firsthand how our students are engaged and learning. This concept has spread to all grade levels in the building as multiple teachers are beginning to implement these practices in their classrooms. Thanks to Mr. Koehler and his students and Ms. Wagner for giving excellent interviews. [Read the article and view the video here.](#)

**Second Grade Career Day** - As part of a unit on communities and careers, second grade students listened to presentations from special guests. Various community members visited the second grade classrooms to share information about their careers. They each spoke to the students about three specific things: What their job entails, what type of training or education they needed for their job, and what second graders can do now to help them prepare for a future career in that field. Students heard from a firefighter/former professional football player and professional boxer, a nurse, a heating & cooling technician, a corrections officer, a college professor, a work-at-home parent, a phone system technician, a dentist, a banker, and our very own Hamilton Rangers football coach! It was a great day emphasizing the importance of working hard to achieve future goals!

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**It's a Spook-tacular Halloween Week** - Mrs. Yates' All Day Pre-K class has been busy! We have so much going on this week, our Halloween centers include: bingo dot paint Halloween pictures, sticker sheets to create a jack-o-lantern (thanks to our PTO), Mr. Pumpkin head (making funny faces with Mr. Potato pieces on real pumpkins), pumpkin matching game, ABC ghost game, sorting Halloween rings by color words, measuring pumpkins, and estimating/counting sets of candy corn! New to the All Day Pre-K classroom is our bubble gum word wall because once you learn your sight words, they stick with you forever! We have also started journal writing. A special thanks to Mrs. Wills for donating extra notebooks to our room. In Reading, we read our first early emergent reading book in small group and students have impressed Mrs. Yates with their concepts of print skills. We are looking forward to a new book each week. Also, new to the classroom is our "Standards Suitcase!"

We have a small suitcase that has each Pre-K Ohio State Standard in it on an article of clothing (paper clothes). We open the suitcase, read a standard, and practice that skill. Why? Because we must have all of our Pre-K "necessities" to travel onto other grades after pre-K. What has been the latest greatest activity to hit the classroom is inside recess! That's right inside recess, even though we have missed going outside to our playground, we now have fun with sing along and move along exercise DVD! The students LOVE them. It is so much fun to

watch the kids move and grove! We are looking forward to doing the “monster mash” in our Halloween costumes to finish up our week of Halloween fun! All day students have earned a big prize for great October behavior from Mrs. Yates! Mrs. Yates, Mrs. Moore, and Miss Brickey are thrilled with all the students have accomplished these first months of school!

**Halloween Parade** - The Preschool students had an exciting day of fall festive activities to help celebrate Halloween. Students created a pumpkin patch scene using stickers, make silly faces with real pumpkins, and played a monster match up game. The highlight of the day was the parade! Students first paraded in the Preschool classrooms and then headed over to the administrative offices where candy and goodies were handed out by the Administrative team.

## **HAMILTON ALTERNATIVE ACADEMY**

### **Student of the Month of October - Kierstan Bealle**

Kierstan was chosen as the student of the month due to her great efforts towards her schoolwork. In addition, she is always respectful and courteous towards staff and students alike. She has worked extra hard so she can be eligible to run Track in the spring. Congratulations and great job, Kierstan!

## **OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Parent Tips for Student Success** – Studies show that a child’s academic achievement is directly influenced by their parents’ involvement in their education. Parents are the experts on their child and know the child better than anyone else. Therefore parents are in the best position to motivate, challenge, and support a child in his or her learning experience. Parent involvement is important because of who they are, not what they know. Parents have more influence on a child’s academic success than teachers do. No matter how excellent the school program, parents remain the primary educators of their children. What your child “knows” about school has a lot to do with the example parents set. If a parent shows an interest in school, the child “learns” that school is important. This could be the most important “lesson” of a child’s school career.

A parent can:

- Ensure your child is at school, on time, every day. Arrange for medical appointments, vacations, trips, etc. during days off school.
- Help your student by developing a routine or specific time for homework where you are available to help or listen if needed. You are vital to their success.
- Make sure your child eats a healthy breakfast each morning so they can function in class.
- Make sure your student is getting adequate sleep at night to support their growing body and mind.
- Be a positive role model in your child’s eyes who shows interest learning new things.
- Let your child see you reading, and read to young children whenever possible. This one activity can be essential to your child’s academic success. Achievement in all subjects improves with good reading skills.
- Notify the teacher of any concerns or questions you have regarding your child’s learning.
- Talk about school. It sounds simple, but it’s an important part of getting involved with your child’s education. Find out what subjects your child likes and

dislikes. Find out what's difficult in class, and talk about ways to make school easier and more interesting.

Get a sense of your child's life at school by asking questions that elicit more than a one-word response. Try one of these conversation starters:

- Tell me about the best part of your day.
- What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
- Tell me about what you read in class
- Who did you work with/eat with/play with/or hang out with today? What did you do?
- What's the biggest difference between this year and last year?
- What rules are different at school than at home? Do you think they're fair?
- Can you show me something you learned or did today?

Source: [www.thelearningcommunity.us](http://www.thelearningcommunity.us)

## **DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

### **Varsity and Freshman Football Earn Mid-State League Championships -**

The Varsity Rangers football team finished their regular season by defeating the Logan Elm Braves 24-21 on a game that was televised regionally on the CW's Thursday Night Lights program. Both teams were tied for first place in the MSL Buckeye division going into the contest. The Rangers brought home their first MSL Championship in varsity football since 2002.

Congratulations to Coach Hillerich and all of his players and coaching staff on this accomplishment.

Our freshmen also finished their season by defeating Bloom Carroll and winning the MSL championship. The Freshman team ended the season undefeated in MSL play. Congratulations to all of the players and coaches for this accomplishment. They join the 7th grade football program as MSL Champions this fall making three MSL titles for the football program.

We will highlight our Freshman and Varsity MSL Championships with team photos and rosters in next week's edition of the wrap-up.

**Baseball Program Completes Green and Gold Series** - The baseball team wrapped up Fall Baseball workouts with their annual Green and Gold Series. Teams are selected and coached by the Senior Captains. The gold team won the best of three series in the third game. The baseball team had 26 kids participate that do not participate in a fall sport. The baseball team now heads inside for weightlifting and conditioning throughout the winter.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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