

## **Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Oct. 4-11, 2013**

**Long-time Hamilton Administrator / Educator To Resign** - We have been made aware that at some point during this school year, Mrs. Amy Siegel will be leaving the Hamilton Local School District and her position as Hamilton Intermediate School Assistant Principal. Amy's husband recently accepted a job offer in North Carolina and the family will be relocating there.

As soon as their Columbus home sells, Amy will resign her position with our district so that her family can begin their new adventure in North Carolina.

Amy began her education career with the Hamilton Local School District in August of 1995 as a 6th grade Science teacher. In 2007, Amy began her administrative role after serving as a 6th grade team leader for three years and a math coach for two years.

Amy has been dedicated to the students, parents, and community of our school district for more than 18 years, and we appreciate all that she has done to have a positive impact during her time at Hamilton Local.

We wish Amy the very best of luck in her future endeavors as the Raleigh area is getting an outstanding educator and administrator.

**New HTHS Softball Field Still On Schedule For November 2013 Completion** - The construction of the new Hamilton Township High School Softball Complex on the corner of Rathmell and Lockbourne Roads is coming along as planned. Here are a few of the latest installations at the facility.

Superintendent Lester is coordinating the construction of this facility, which will be the home of our Hamilton Rangers Softball Team. The Ranger Softball Team will be starting a new era under new head coach Samantha Long. The team will open their 2014 season at the new facility on March 29 against Columbus Briggs. We are looking forward to having our high school softball program compete on the school's campus. For more information on the Ranger Softball Program [visit our softball team web page](#).

**Budget Bill 59 requires Hamilton school administrator to certification eligibility for home educated and non-public school students prior to participation in all interscholastic sports** - The Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) distributed and published on July 23, 2013, regarding the Budget Bill 59 and the provisions contained therein, which affects participation opportunities for students, not enrolled in a district and/or attending Hamilton Local Schools.

Nothing in the Budget Bill 59 legislation changes the premise that athletics participation is a PRIVILEGE to be accorded to students who have met the eligibility standards established by the member school principals of the OHSAA. While it will admittedly be more difficult to ascertain eligibility, especially scholastic eligibility, for a student who does not attend Hamilton schools, it must be done in order for the student to have this

privilege of participation. This certification process will require the cooperation of the entity, which is providing the education. If the student is home educated, the school administrator must reach out to the individual or entity that is delivering and/or will be evaluating the student's academic work to make arrangements for the submission of grades or progress reports (pass/fail analysis) at the time when the school's grading periods close. A good time to make arrangements for this process is when the parents and students arrive at the school for the mandatory pre-season meeting, which is required for participation in all interscholastic sports.

In order to assess scholastic eligibility for a student enrolled in high school, the "credit hour" and duration of the course (e.g. 9 week, semester, full academic year) are critical to the analysis of "five one credit courses or the equivalent." If a student completes a yearlong course "early," that course may not be used to determine eligibility for future grading periods.

In addition to the scholastic assessment, the Hamilton school administrator must review with the parents the need to provide reliable data on which to evaluate the OHSAA age, semester, residence and transfer bylaws. In short, before a home-educated student's name can be added to an eligibility certificate, the school administrator must be certain that all standards, that are applicable to all other students, have been met.

For students who attend a non-public school, the certification process should be easier. Again, the Hamilton administrator must reach out to the principal or other head administrator of the non-public school to insure that the student's records are forwarded to the Hamilton school and that grades will be provided based on the public school's grading periods. What might be most difficult to ascertain about scholastic eligibility is the eligibility of a home-educated student (and even a student attending a non-public school) who comes to you as a first time participant during the first grading period of the fall. The OHSAA does not permit summer school or "extended time" to be given a student beyond a grading period to "restore" scholastic eligibility. Work completed after a grading period will often be reflected on the previous grading period's grade report. You should be cognizant of when work was completed when assessing eligibility in the fall or eligibility for a student who was not on your roster at the end/beginning of a grading period.

This answer is not meant to be an all-inclusive response. For technical assistance, please contact either Roxanne Price or Deborah Moore of the OHSAA compliance staff at [rprice@ohsaa.org](mailto:rprice@ohsaa.org) or [dmoore@ohsaa.org](mailto:dmoore@ohsaa.org) .

**Graduation Requirements Update From State Board Of Education October Meeting** - Sasheen Phillips, executive director, Center for Curriculum and Assessment, gave a graduation requirements update to the board. After giving a brief summary of the requirements, she said that when students earn a 2.0 or lower on the test, they will be able to retake the test as long as they receive remediation from the district. It is understood that when retakes are taken, the highest score will be counted. The intent of the retakes is for students who are moving towards graduation. "You cannot earn points towards

awards or recognition based on scores from a retake, only the first test result,” Phillips stated. Within the credit flexibility legislation, districts could adapt their policy to include end of course tests.

“Other End of Course exams could be used to fulfill graduation requirements,” Phillips noted, “and these would include AP exams.” With regard to weighted exams, districts can decide on the number of exams required; they could omit one math or one English language arts areas. ODE would “weight” the exams so that students could still earn the number of points they need toward graduation.

Phillips said that Alternative Demonstration of Proficiency would include SAT or ACT exams or Career-Tech assessments.

A Diploma Endorsement Board, she continued, would determine other academic endorsement and recognition opportunities. This would also include honors recognition and high level of academic achievement students can earn and would be phased in.

Next steps including feedback to achieve individual student needs will take place next month at the full Board meeting. There will be a presentation of the Graduation Requirement proposal at that time.

Phillips reported on the Proposed Graduation Requirements Transition Plan. The class of 2017 will take the end-of-course exams and there will be a transition to the class of 2019. The class of 2020 will take all ten exams.

## **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Health and Safety** - Ohio immunization law (ORC 3313.671) requires children to meet state immunization requirements for continued school attendance. The Ohio Department of Health has revised the School Immunization Requirements to include a dose of Td or Tdap to be administered before a student enters the seventh grade. Record of immunizations must be provided to our middle school or your child is subject to exclusion. Please contact Mrs. Kathy Brickey, School Nurse, immediately with questions or concerns.

With the passage of HB 59 in June 2013, the School Security Grant Program was established to benefit school districts across the state. The School Security Grant Program is being administered by the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) and authorizes OSFC to reimburse public schools, including community schools, for:

- Up to \$2,000 for one emergency communications system or Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) In-School unit per eligible school building; and
- Up to \$5,000 for costs incurred with a purchase of a security entrance system consisting of a door, security camera, an intercom and remote access equipment for one entrance per eligible school building.

Mr. Morrison participated in an ODE sponsored webinar on Wednesday to review the requirements and procedures for apply for this grant.

**Transportation** - Our district administrators have completed another random bus count to confirm student numbers being transported. Mr. Morrison reviews these counts to confirm cost effective use of our buses. Bus counts allow us to make corrections to routes to better serve our students and families and to better serve our community by keeping our transportation department efficient and effective.

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's Use of Technology in the Classroom Featured by *The Wall Street Journal*** - Mr. Payne worked with Jason Bellini of [The Wall Street Journal](#) to highlight our district's use of technology in the classroom. The video feature story was included in WSJ's series on Innovation in Education and highlights 2013 Ohio Teacher of the Year, Carole Morbitzer's "Top Five Tech Tools" being used on a regular basis in her classroom. Her "Top 5" included: [SMARTBoard](#), Discourse software, Slate/Airliner Tablet, [Schoology](#), and [Remind 101](#).

Here is [the link to the Journal report on innovation in education](#) along with [a link to the videos](#) in the series. You can also [see our video feature on YouTube](#) as well.

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**HTHS Responds To National Bullying Prevention Week** - Hamilton Township High School faculty, staff, and students met **National Bullying Prevention Month** head-on with creative programming to raise awareness throughout the school. [Get the complete details here.](#)

## **HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Prepping for Success** - Within the past few weeks, the 8th Grade Language Arts teachers have been working on a myriad of introductory skills with the students. The students' knowledge was first assessed with a Reading OAA Pretest. The results of this will help the teachers plan lessons based on the students' strengths and weaknesses. The teachers have also reviewed a variety of introductory reading skills and strategies that will help the students throughout the year. These skills include analyzing analogies, skimming and scanning, choosing an independent reading book for SSR (Sustained Silent Reading), and determining reading speeds (based on the text). The students have also been writing summaries and reviewing text structure, which are two very important skills to master for the OAA.

**Building Bridges with the High School** - Last Friday, the Middle School cross-categorical class walked to the High School to participate in a social skills/cooking activity with the cross-categorical High School students. They made delicious grilled cheese and fruit smoothies! Students followed recipes from the program *Cooking to Learn*. This program is designed to provide a hands on, practical way to help students increase reading comprehension, vocabulary, expressive language, problem solving, written language, math and science skills. These skills are incorporated into each recipe. Students had a great time socializing with friends and cooking foods they can independently make at home!

## **HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

**Teacher Of The Month** - Elizabeth Enright is Hamilton Intermediate School's Star Teacher for the month of October. *Elizabeth is actively involved with several committees within the building. Most recently, she has taken on a leadership role for the SLO committee. Elizabeth has prepared SLO in-service materials and presentations for the building and has made herself available to assist staff members at any time. She is always ready to be helpful and does so with a smile!*

*Elizabeth also creates dynamic and interactive lessons for her art students. The students are engaged and have meaningful experiences based upon the Common Core Standards that Elizabeth works hard to align with each grade level. Her students create pieces of art that build not only their mind but also their self esteem!*

*Elizabeth is truly "making a difference" in the lives of her students and colleagues at Hamilton Intermediate School! - H.I.S. Staff Member*

**Support Staff Of The Month** - *I would like to nominate Brandi Baker as the Star Support Staff person for the month of October. Brandi shows a great deal of patience when working with her students in the Cross Categorical classroom. Brandi understands that sometimes it is more important for her to adapt to her students' needs in order to help them be successful both academically and socially. She takes great pride in working with the kids everyday. Brandi makes a difference in the lives of her students at Hamilton Intermediate School! - H.I.S. Staff Member*

**Student Of The Month** - *I would like to nominate [Eshanti](#) Lynch for the Star Student. Eshanti has been an extremely positive and motivated student from the moment she walked into class on the first day of school. Her academic success is obvious and she has proven that she takes pride in her work by turning all assignments in on time and ensuring that they are done to the best of her ability. She is always willing to help other students and is a positive role model. Eshanti enjoys art and reading, and outside of school she participates in track, cheerleading, and gymnastics. She is an excellent representative for Hamilton Intermediate School. - H.I.S. Staff Member*

## **HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**HES Third Grade Students Take the Fall Reading OAA** - On Tuesday, third grade students had their first opportunity to take an Ohio Achievement Assessment and show what they have learned during their elementary career. Attendance was nearly perfect and students showed the test taking strategies they have learned by using the allotted two and a half hours to check their work. The results should be sent to the building in approximately six weeks and teachers will use the data to make educational decisions according to student needs.

**Famous Author Visits HES** - Carol McCloud, author of "Have You Filled a Bucket Today" visited Hamilton Elementary. Through visuals, readings, songs, and role-plays she taught the students how each of us carries an invisible bucket. This concept, which coincides with our 2013-14 character-building theme, is simple. These invisible buckets hold our good thoughts and feelings.

When our bucket is full, we feel happy and when our bucket is empty, we feel sad. We "Fill" buckets when we are kind, caring and respectful. We "dip" into buckets when we are unkind, mean, or disrespectful. Children quickly understand that their actions and words can either fill or dip into another person's bucket. At the conclusion of the assemblies, Ms. McCloud asked the students to take a pledge to do their best to be "bucket fillers" each and every day.

Ms. McCloud also provided each classroom teacher with an autographed copy of her book, as well as bucket filler stickers to use with the children.

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**Fire Drill** - The Preschoolers did an outstanding job with their first official fire drill with the Hamilton Township Fire Department. Students were well behaved, walk out of the classroom in orderly fashion, and found their designated spot on the front lawn. The alarm was loud but the kids didn't seem to mind. We conduct fire drills each month with the students. The Fire Department will be back in November for a fire safety assembly.

**October Lessons** - Rhyming and Concepts of Print are the key skills for the month of October. Your child will be learning to rhyme through the use of books, pictures, and listening skills. Concepts of Print teaches students the parts of a book, where to begin reading a book, the author and illustrator, and how stories are created. These skills can be practiced at home with your child. Early Reading skills are essential to each child. It is amazing how fast our students are learning these concepts.

## **OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**End of First Term** - The end of the first grading period is Thursday, October 17. Report cards will be issued on Friday, October 25.

**Student Teachers & Observers** - Our district has frequent requests from teacher training programs to place students in our classrooms. These programs recognize that we have outstanding teachers, strong academics, and safe schools that can provide their teacher interns with good models of practice. Prior to accepting these students we require written agreements with the teacher training institutions that specify the responsibilities of their institution and our district. In addition, teacher interns must have completed background checks. Once an agreement is in place and a request for placement has been made, our teachers can choose whether or not to host a student. Universities compensate the district for placements in the form of fee scrip (tuition waivers) that our teachers can use to further their education.

## **DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY**

**iPads for MS Algebra** - Hamilton Local Schools is implementing a new 1-1 iPad program in Mrs. Morbitzer's Middle School Algebra 1 class. Students in Algebra 1 will each receive their own iPad for use with coursework relating to their class. Students in this class learn in a blended flipped setting. With the blended classroom, Mrs. Morbitzer teaches at the Middle School a couple days a week, but on the other days, Mrs. Morbitzer teaches from the iPads. She creates videos on the Algebra 1 content and loads them on the interactive online website, Schoology. The students watch the videos on their own and then use apps like Schoology to communicate and complete assignments posted by Mrs. Morbitzer. The iPads are also equipped with numerous math apps, as well as note-taking and sharing apps to enhance the learning experience.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

**Rangers Volleyball Team to Host OHSAA Sectional Volleyball Match** - The Varsity Volleyball team has earned the #5 seed in the Central District Sectional/District Tournament. Due to the high seed, the Rangers will host the first sectional match at home against South High School on Tuesday, October 15th at 6:00 pm. If the Rangers defeat South in the first round, the second round sectional match will also be played at HTHS on Saturday, October 19 at 2:30 pm.

Click here to see the [2013 volleyball tournament bracket](#) and follow the Rangers during their tournament run.

**Rangers Varsity Soccer Gearing up for OHSAA Tournament** – The Rangers Soccer program also learned their tournament draw over the past weekend. The Rangers will face the winner of the Tri-Valley and Westerville Central match, which will be played on October 16. The Rangers will travel to the winner of that match on October 19 at 7pm. Good luck to the Rangers as they enter post season tournament play.

Click here to see the [2013 soccer tournament bracket](#) and follow the Rangers during their tournament run.