

## Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Oct. 10-17, 2014

### **Legislation would exempt new teachers in the Ohio Resident Educator Program from the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System**

- New legislation proposed by Rep. Michael Henne (R-Clayton), HB631, would exempt new teachers in the Ohio Resident Educator Program from the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES), while also removing teachers' evaluation reports from the list of publicly available records. Co-sponsors include Reps. Heather Bishoff (D-Blacklick), Tim Derickson (R-Oxford) and Margaret Ann Ruhl (R-Mt. Vernon).

*Provided by Focus Education, a service of Hannah News Service.*

### **Ohio Department of Education seeks ESEA waiver to eliminate double-testing issue for advanced students**

- On Oct. 3, the Ohio Department of Education formally requested a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education to address situations of "double testing" students. This waiver request is [here](#) for public viewing and comment. The waiver asks that, starting with the 2014-2015 school year, any student taking advanced, high school-level coursework (math, reading or science) prior to attending high school will be assessed on the relevant aligned assessment. If approved, an eighth-grader taking Algebra I would take the Algebra I assessment, not the eighth-grade math assessments.

*Provided by The Ohio Department of Education EdConnection*

### **Calculator guidance for Ohio's State Tests**

- To address questions about the use of a calculator on Ohio's State Tests, the Ohio Department of Education has created calculator guidance. Here are the documents for the [grades 6 and 7](#), [grade 8](#), and [high school](#) assessments. The guidance applies to the level of the test and not the grade level of the student taking the test. For example, a middle school student taking an Algebra I or Geometry test may use the allowable calculator for high school for each of the tests. For additional information, go to [Mathematics](#), [PARCC Math](#) and [PARCC testing](#) webpages.

*Provided by The Ohio Department of Education EdConnection*

### **Update on new assessments for American history and American government**

- This year's sophomores, juniors and seniors are held to the Ohio Graduation Tests for graduation. However, any of these students taking American history or American government must also take the state tests due to [state law](#) that requires the instruction and assessment of the historic documents in American history and American government. The end-of-course examinations in American history and American government will be ready to administer in spring 2015. Students taking and completing either of these courses the first semester of the 2014-2015 school year will take the district-created, interim end-of-course tests that were given in the 2013-2014 school year. These were used to meet the mandates of the above law. Students taking second semester or full year courses in American history and American government this year will take the new state tests. The OGT will count for the students for graduation. The state tests will not. House Bill 487 exempts students taking equivalent courses and tests in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or Post Secondary Enrollment Options programs in American history and American government for credit. *Provided by The Ohio Department of Education EdConnection.*

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources Geological Survey is making Teacher Toolkits available for Earth Science Week** - To help observe Earth Science Week, which runs Sunday, Oct. 12 through Saturday, Oct. 18, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Geological Survey is making Teacher Toolkits available, while the supply lasts. These toolkits, which include experiment materials, a calendar, posters, and activity sheets, among other items, are free (except for shipping costs) and can be ordered by calling the Geologic Records Center at 614-265-6596 or emailing [geo.survey@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:geo.survey@dnr.state.oh.us).

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**American Education Week set for third week of November** - It's time to make plans to celebrate American Education week, Nov. 17-21. The week is set aside to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child receives a high-quality education. The celebration features a special observance each day of the week. For more information and resources to help districts mark this week, visit [www.nea.org/grants/19823.htm](http://www.nea.org/grants/19823.htm)

**Parent Tips - Know! The Facts, Respect The Meds** - October is National Medicine Abuse Awareness month; bringing to light the dangers of prescription (and over-the-counter) medicine abuse and encouraging parents and other caregivers to be a part of the solution. Did you KNOW! teen medicine abuse is on the rise? According to the Partnership Attitude Tracking Study (PATS), there was a 33% increase in American teens abusing prescription drugs over a five-year period. Prescription meds now rank in the top three most popular drugs of choice among youth, just after marijuana and alcohol. Statistics reveal that ONE in FOUR teens have misused or abused prescription drugs.

What exactly is prescription drug abuse? Anytime a person takes a medication prescribed for someone else, or takes his/her own prescription for reasons not intended by his/her physician – like getting high.

What drugs are teens abusing? The most common drugs of abuse are OPIOIDS (painkillers), DEPRESSANTS (to relieve anxiety or induce sleep) and STIMULANTS (especially those used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder - ADHD).

Where are teens getting such drugs? The majority of youth obtain prescription meds from the home medicine cabinets of family and friends - many times without them even knowing.

Why are young people abusing prescription drugs? Teens abuse prescription drugs for a number of reasons. They may use not only to get high, but to stay alert, go to sleep, lose weight, stop pain or as a study aid. Many teens and adults falsely believe prescription drugs are safer than illegal drugs; and many say they'd be in less trouble if caught using a prescription drug vs. an illicit "street" drug – both of which contribute to teen use.

Why should you be concerned? Regardless of why young people choose to abuse prescription drugs, their developing bodies and minds are negatively impacted (in addition to the legal, social, educational and personal ramifications it can cause). Depending on the drug and what it is mixed with, physical side-effects may include anything from chest pains and decreased breathing to

seizures and loss of consciousness – which can ultimately lead to death. Prescription drugs also change a person's brain chemistry, potentially leading to addiction and interfering with the brain's neurotransmitters which can impact everything from basic survival functions, like breathing, to more complex functions, like the ability to think, solve problems and make decisions.

Respect the meds! Prescription medications have many beneficial effects. When used under proper medical supervision, they can help us live longer, healthier lives. But these same medications have the potential to produce dangerous and even deadly side-effects, especially when misused or abused. Because of this potential for harm, prescription medications should be used precisely as prescribed, and only by the person for which they are intended.

For more information and resources on preventing the misuse and abuse of prescription medications, please visit [cardinalhealth.com/GenerationRx](http://cardinalhealth.com/GenerationRx).

Sources: Cardinal Health: Generation Rx. The Brain's Response to Prescription Drug Abuse NIH Publication No. 09-742 (2009). Partnership for Drug-Free Kids; Partnerships Attitude Tracking Study (PATS).

## **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Scott Ayers Earns District Classified Employee of the Quarter Recognition -** Congratulations to Scott Ayers, our district Head of Maintenance, for winning the district's classified employee of the quarter! Mr. Ayers has been with the district for eighteen years and has served as Head of Maintenance for the past eight. He directs our exceptional maintenance department and provides invaluable support to our district and building administration.

Mr. Ayers is available 24/7 and is often our first responder to major utility and safety related issues.

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

### **HTHS Support Staff Member of the Quarter - Mr. Mike Savino**

*"Savino - He is great. Always willing to work with students and is extremely flexible for students so that they can get back to the classroom." - HS Teacher*

*"ISS is ran the way In-School-Suspension should be ran. Mr. Savino has high expectations for students and holds them accountable. I recommend him for HTHS Staff Member of the Month." - HS Teacher*

*"I recommend Mike Savino for Staff Member of the Month. He does an excellent job communicating with teachers." - HS Teacher*

*"Mike also does an excellent job monitoring and working with the student athletes of Hamilton Township." - HS Staff*

Mike Savino stated, *"I would like to thank all HS faculty for nominating me for support staff member of the month. I really appreciate the honor. It is hard to describe a typical day in ISS because I never really know what is about to go down. I like the unpredictability, which can make some days fly by and some days rather slow. On the slow days I try to help where needed in coverage or assist with any other issues. I also get a chance to get some football preparation*

*and planning in on my slow days."*

*"I appreciate all the help I get from the HS faculty and administration. Although my job is not very glamorous, I love coming to work (believe it or not!). I have great relationships with the students, many of whom I know through coaching them in football or baseball. They do not want to get sent to me for ISS though because they know that they are about to be miserable. Even though this is my main motivation to keep them out, I try to find common ground to form a relationship and help them see that keeping themselves out of ISS is more of a maturity issue than anything else. I understand that our teachers are the best in Ohio and I try to get students back to class to take instruction as fast as possible, so long as the child is willing to take accountability for their actions and any consequence that could follow. If I ever have issues in the ISS room Mr. Miller, Mr. Morbitzer, and Mr. Sweet are always ready for action and are great at finding the right solution." - Savino*

*"Through coaching I have learned that nothing beats great teamwork, and I feel we have that in bunches here. Thanks again for the honor and let's have another great year!" - Savino*

HTHS Congratulates Mr. Mike Savino for earning the HTHS Support Staff Member of the Quarter.

**HTHS Students Learn To Save Early** – Hamilton Township High School Personal Finance Classes welcomed Mrs. Monique Murphy from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) on Monday to address the importance of Savings and Investments. Students learned the difference between starting to save now versus beginning at the age of 25 and 55. Students were astonished that at the rate of 5% there is over hundreds of thousands of dollars difference in savings when starting at these different ages. Lesson objective: Invest early and often.

## **HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**It's Electrifying** - 7th grade science students concluded an electricity unit by building circuit boards and lighting dollhouses. The students demonstrated their knowledge of circuits by building circuit board games. Each board had questions about electricity. When answers were chosen with a stylus a correct answer would complete a circuit lighting a light bulb. Some students added a second circuit to their boards that would electrify a different light or buzzer for incorrect answers. Students could also demonstrate their knowledge by running electricity in a dollhouse. The dollhouse had two lights on a parallel circuit. Each light had a switch. Students could also add a third light controlled by a three-way switch. 7th grader Kale Flaherty said, "It was fun using the wires and electricity to answer questions." Mackenzie Denney thinks, "This is a good way to learn how to build a circuit." Apologies go out to parents who suffered damaged to their Christmas lights, house, or sidewalks in the construction process!

**Building Classified Employee of the Quarter** - Congratulations go out to Ebony Newby-Brown on being selected as Hamilton Middle School's Classified Employee of the Quarter for the 1st quarter of the school year. Miss Brown works with the Cross-Categorical classroom, but is always willing to help out in any capacity.

## **HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

**Emily Parks is Building Classified Employee of the Quarter** - Emily Parks is the Support Staff Star for quarter at Hamilton Intermediate School. Emily is consistently a team player for our building. She goes out of her way to be flexible with students and staff. Emily does a great job of running the library and helping students to find “just right” books. She assists the staff by setting aside collections of books to support different classroom units. We can count on Emily to do whatever it takes to help our school and for that we say “thank you” with our nomination!

**6th Grader, Lauryn Fegan Is October’s Star Student** - Ms Lauryn Fegan was nominated as Star Student for October. Lauryn’s dedication to her studies can be witnessed through her perfect attendance and willingness to ask questions during her recess time. She earned all “A”s on her progress report. She always participates during class activities and discussions. Lauryn is thoughtful and eager to help her classmates and teachers. Lauryn is a well-rounded student who contributes a positive, hard-working vibe to our school.

**Mrs. Beatty Is October’s Teacher Of The Month** - Mrs. Beatty was nominated for teacher of the month. Within the last two years, she switched from the emotionally disturbed unit to an inclusion intervention specialist. As soon as the transition took place, she was constantly asking questions and eager to learn more regarding co-teaching, collaborating, and supporting students. Tracey works well with her team members and colleagues, keeps parents up to date, and ensures that her students are achieving at high levels in all academic classes. Many people have praised her ability to work with students extremely well in a small group setting during intervention and specials lab. Mrs. Beatty is truly an asset to Hamilton Intermediate School.

## **HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Classified Staff Member of the Quarter** - Educational aide Carol Amos was selected as the Classified Staff Member of the Quarter for the 1st quarter of the year. The anonymous staff member who nominated Ms. Amos had this to say: “Carol has been doing a wonderful job of helping our students be successful in the lunchroom. It is so helpful to have students being more independent during lunch, and they couldn't have done this without Carol's guidance.”  
Congratulations to Ms. Amos!

**Community Education** - Mrs. Hocking's second grade class completed a unit on community and community helpers. The students were assigned a community helper role that interested them. Students researched and completed an individual presentation on their community helper. Community family members were invited into the classroom to discuss their roles as community helpers. Thank you parents for sharing about the Army and COTA careers.

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**Building Classified Employee of the Quarter: Mrs. Darlene Chandonnet** - Darlene is well organized, always willing to help teachers and parents, and is able to stay calm in any situation. Darlene is responsible for the Alternative Academy and the Preschool. Staff members are amazed that she knows each

and every student in both schools and many of their families. "I enjoy working with Darlene because she is so helpful and always has a kind word for everyone."

**Fire Assembly** - Thanks to the Hamilton Township Fire Department for their wonderful fire safety assembly. The kids learned the stop-drop-and roll motion and the emergency number to call 911. The students then had the chance to look through an ambulance and fire truck. This is always a great opportunity for the students to interact with the fire department. Due to the weather our fire drill was rescheduled. The preschoolers have been practicing leaving the building, staying in line, and waiting to hear the all clear from the office.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

**MS Volleyball Green Team Places 2nd in MSL Tournament after Undefeated Regular Season** - The Rangers MS Green Volleyball team completed their season on Tuesday evening in the MSL Buckeye Volleyball Tournament's championship match. The Rangers finished their regular season 16-0 and their only loss on the year was the Bloom-Carroll in the championship of the tournament. Congratulations to the team and coaches on a great season!

**7th and 8th Grade Football Defeat Circleville, Remain Undefeated in MSL** - The 7th and 8th grade football teams continued their impressive seasons by defeated Circleville earlier this week. The 7th grade won 40-0 on Monday evening and the 8th grade won 30-8 on Tuesday evening. The 7th grade, whose only loss is to non-MSL opponent West Jefferson, improved their record to 6-1 and the 8th grade moved their record to 7-0.

**Cross Country Teams Compete at MSL Meet** - The Boys' and Girls' Cross Country teams competed in the MSL Buckeye Championship at Ohio Christian University on Saturday, October 11th. Eight out of the fifteen runners ran personal records. The girls' team was led by Sophie Little with a PR of 24:31, followed by Maddie Rollins, Danielle Shaw, Ali Belcher, and Aubrey Seidle. The boys' team was led by MSL Honorable Mention Jake Rollins with a PR of 18:58 followed by Khari Berger, Michael Hicks with a PR of 21:31, Garrick Napier, Austin Mylar with a PR of 22:25, Jajuan Hopkins with a PR of 23:21, and Donny Rakes. In the Boys' Open race all three Ranger runners ran PRs. Jason Plantz ran a PR of 23:24, followed by Ben Sipe with a PR of 24:30, and Greg Hogle with a PR of 25:17. Both teams return to action this upcoming Saturday October 18th at Watkins Memorial for the OHSAA Division I District Meet.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

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