

## **Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Oct. 11-17, 2013**

**State Education Officials Recognize Hamilton Township High as a High-Performing School** - The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Wednesday recognized Hamilton Township High School as a School of Promise. To be named a School of Promise, an Ohio school must have a 75 percent or better average proficiency rate on the Ohio Achievement Assessments and Ohio Graduation Tests for the 2012-2013 school years. In addition, they must reach that 75 percent threshold in two subgroups; an A or B grade for their annual measurable objective (AMO) for narrowing performance gaps between groups of students on the local school report card; an A, B or C progress grade on the local school report card; and a graduation rate of A or B. The schools must also serve 40 percent or more economically disadvantaged students.

“A School of Promise Designation is just one example of what can occur when principals, teachers, students, parents and community members all believe that success can be achieved when accountability and high expectations are commonplace,” said Christopher Lester, District Superintendent.

**Hamilton Local Schools expected to receive teacher Value-Added data by Nov. 14** - Statistical Analysis System (SAS) is expected to release the teacher-level Value-Added reports for 2012-2013 on Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) on the [EVAAS website](#) by Nov. 14. As with the release of each Value-Added report, administrators will receive an automated email from EVAAS that will include existing username and login information needed to access these reports. In addition, accounts are automatically created for teachers receiving a Value-Added report and they will also receive their login information from EVAAS when the teacher reports are available.

To learn more about Value-Added data, take advantage of [regional fall workshops](#) that continue through Nov. 13. Online courses and other resources, including district and school support through the Value-Added Network of Support, are at the [Ohio Student Progress Portal](#). Direct any questions about Value-Added resources to: [Support@BattelleforKids.org](mailto:Support@BattelleforKids.org).

**Hamilton Local School Board President Jankowski and Vice President Hallum to attend state convention as delegates** - More than 600 public school boards from around the state will be represented at the Annual Business Meeting of the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Delegate Assembly on Nov. 11. During the August meeting of the Hamilton Local Board of Education, the Board named Board President Mr. Joseph Jankowski as the Hamilton delegate to the Annual Business Meeting and Board Vice President Mrs. Pamela Hallum as the Alternate Delegate.

The delegates will consider the OSBA legislative platform, a comprehensive document that defines OSBA's views and goals on a wide spectrum of education issues. The delegate meeting is a key event of the 58th annual OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show, to be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center from Nov. 10-13.

## **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Administrative Meetings** - Mr. Morrison met with the district's Assistant Principals, HTHS Dean of Students Matt Thompson and Alternative Academy Director Allyson Price to review alternative academy issues, expulsion hearing procedures, residency, attendance and disciplinary issues, building and district phone trees, free and reduced lunch programs and residency affidavits on Thursday, October 17. These regular "AP" meetings also feature a book study, led by Dr. Witten. Our book study, "The Answer to How is Yes" by Peter Block, prompted an interesting discussion regarding our individual personal values hierarchy. Mr. Morbitzer presented a very insightful review of Chapters 1 and 2.

**Transportation** - 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

**Civil Rights** - Mr. Morrison is reviewing data to submit for the new Civil Rights Data Collection Survey. This collection of data regarding the access to educational opportunities for public school students is a yearly and on-going collection of information that allows policymakers and researchers to review and develop better ways to work with children.

## **OFFICE OF THE TREASURER**

**Summer Electric Savings** - Over the summer, our district implemented four-day work weeks (10 hrs per day). We adopted this schedule in an effort to save our community tax dollars and be even more fiscally responsible. Our estimations were that we would save more than \$9,000 by doing this practice. We recently received the savings report from our summer months and the total savings was more than \$27,000! Needless to say, this TRIPLED our expected savings!

**Five-year forecast approved** - At the October 14th Board meeting the [district's new five-year financial forecast](#) was approved. Based on projections, we will not be asking for money from the community anytime in the foreseeable future. At the end of 2018, our district is projected to have more than \$7 million in the bank. This forecast shows that our district will be more than a quarter century since needing to pass an operating levy. You can [review the story published in the Columbus Dispatch](#) earlier this year about our district's financial strength.

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**3D Chair Design Project** - Students worked in groups of 4 or 5 to create a sculptural chair made out of cardboard. Teams worked together to design, build, paint, and accessorize their chair. All chairs had to have a theme and have attributes that go along with that theme.

Concepts for the project:

1. **Recycle/Re-Use/Repurpose:** Each chair was made of recycled cardboard and detailed mainly with repurposed materials we had in the art room or the students brought in.

2. **21st Century Skills:**

a. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving: Students worked in a small group dynamic to creatively problem solve.

b. Communication, Collaboration, Leadership and Responsibility: Each group delegated responsibilities to make sure each member is equally productive and to use the strengths of each group member.

c. Interdisciplinary Themes: Physics review of trusses and other support structures to stabilize the chair to support the weight of a human.

d. Creativity and Innovation: Each group decided on a Theme and used multi-media to give their chair attributes that went along with the Theme.

e. Productivity and Accountability: To maximize productivity, group members generally worked on different parts that had to be put together after each was finished, each student was accountable for their part.

**Spanish Students Order Junior's Tacos** - Students in Spanish levels 1-4 celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a visit from Junior's Tacos, a taco truck located at 5th Ave and Highland Ave near the Short North. Students ordered authentic Mexican food in Spanish (tacos, burritos, quesadillas and Jarritos, a Mexican soda).

This experience was enjoyable for students and addressed the following content standards:

**Interpersonal Communication:** Use common expressions to make requests. Use language to acquire goods and services

**Culture:** Attend, view or participate in cross-cultural activities and target culture events. Identify and use appropriate levels of formality when interacting with a member of the target culture.

## **HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**8th Graders Measure Up!** - Students in Mrs. Beeker's and Mrs. Maneff's math classes measure up for scatter plots! The students measured and recorded their height (in inches) and length of their foot (in inches). With their data and the data from 10 other students in class, they plotted their ordered pairs on graph paper. Students examined the graph to see if there was an association between height and foot length. This activity assisted students

in constructing and interpreting scatter plots for bivariate measurement data and they investigated patterns of association between two quantities.

**Post-Secondary Action Plan** - As part of the Middle School's Post-Secondary Action Plan, all 8th grade students took the ACT EXPLORE test on October 17, 2013. EXPLORE is designed to help 8th and 9th graders explore a broad range of options for their future. It prepares students not only for their high school coursework but for their post-high school choices as well.

## **HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

**New Intervention Specialist For Hamilton Intermediate** - Dustin Gaver recently joined the Hamilton Intermediate staff. He is in his fifth year as an intervention specialist. He taught for four years at Imagine Great Western Academy in Columbus. He is a 2007 graduate of Urbana University. He is working with sixth grade students.

**Thank You, Target** - A BIG thank you to the Target on Hilliard-Rome Road for donating a trunkload of school supplies. The notebooks, pencils, glue sticks, paper, crayons and markers will be put to good use this year.

## **HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**HES Fall Festival** – Over 2,200 students, siblings, parents, grandparents, and other community members came to the Elementary school for the Third Annual Fall Festival. Families had a wonderful time enjoying the numerous fall themed activities and also had an opportunity to check out the PTO-sponsored book fair. Though all the activities were fun, the petting zoo received the most attention. Students were able to feed a variety of animals including a baby kangaroo. The event was a part of the Elementary school's Parent Involvement Action Plan, which is designed to help build relationships between parents and school personnel. The HES Parent Involvement Committee worked hard for several weeks to plan and organize the event and without them it would not have been possible. Mr. Tyler and Dr. Conley would also like to thank all of the members of the PTO, the Hamilton Township Fire Department, Kraft Foods, Keith Hanson from the South High Library, The American Red Cross, Hann's Farm, all of the HES staff members who volunteered their time, Ranger Roy, and the 47 cheerleaders who assisted at every event.

**October Count Week** – Every day is an important day at Hamilton Elementary School and students are rewarded on a daily and weekly basis for coming to school. Students who come to school, on time, each and every day are entered into a weekly drawing to receive a variety of awards, which include, but are not limited to, Ranger Bucks, stickers, pencils, lunch with a teacher/principal, movie passes, etc. This week, however, was a very important week in that it was October Count Week. Taking this into consideration, we upped the ante by rewarding all students with perfect attendance 10 Ranger Bucks and selecting winners from each grade level to receive an additional 20 Ranger Bucks. The students were extremely happy and we are very proud of them.

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**Teacher of the Month** - Mrs. Breanna Moore is in her sixth year as a Preschool teacher. She is responsible for the planning and organization of our older half-day classes for 4-year & 5-year-old students. Breanna is well organized, patient, and very understanding with her students. "Breanna is always smiling and has a very nurturing way when working with her students." Breanna's son, Caleb is a currently a student in Mrs. Yates' all-day class this year. Mrs. Moore makes a difference everyday in the nurturing of her students. Congratulations to Mrs. Moore, Hamilton Preschool's teacher of the month!

**Classified Preschool Staff Member of the Month** - Mrs. Kris Murphy has worked at the Preschool for the past seven years and has been a dedicated staff member. She has a wonderful attitude, taken on the responsibility of PTO, and helps to plan activities for library and gym. Kris splits her time between Mrs. Colby, Mrs. Moore, and Mrs. Davisson. She is able to manage her time and work assignment very efficiently. Kris is always willing to lend a helping hand and really cares about her students.

**Fall Fundraiser** - The following students were the top sellers in their classrooms and will receive a Dairy Queen Gift card: Gordon Smith, Sophia Hutchison, Shalya Mecum, Railynn Robinson, Avery Thompson, Jacob Rodgers, Katie Caplinger, and Gabe Everman. Top seller, and winner of a \$75.00 Toys R Us gift card, was Shayla Mecum. She sold over \$700.00 worth of merchandise! Congratulations to all our great sellers the money raised will go towards activities and materials for the Preschool! Parents will be notified when all the products are here for pick up. Thanks to all the families who participated in this event!

## **OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

**Revamped Courses** - In collaboration with several teachers at the High School, the Alternative Academy is ready to roll out three "new" courses - Physical Education, Algebra I and Biology. The Phys. Ed class has been adjusted to meet new requirements that align with national standards. This class will include group activities, fitness testing, creating a fitness plan as well as lessons on sportsmanship and etiquette in team situations. Physical Education will also be available for our credit recovery students where students will be meeting with Mr. Thompson for their activities. Thank you Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Shaw for your help with this!

Algebra will be utilizing online instructional videos in conjunction with notes and direct instruction. Special thanks to Mrs. Morbitzer for working with us! Soon we are adding Geometry and Algebra II utilizing the same format.

The Biology course utilizes notes, power point presentations, and online textbook and will include Labs that students can do either here or at home. We are excited to add this element of learning to our student's coursework! Thank you Ms. Avery for your work in this!

## OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

**Fall 3rd Grade Reading Assessment Completed** – Due to great attendance, OAA testing was completed in record time. Tests have been returned for scoring and results will be available to the district on November 22.

**Fall Ohio Graduation Assessment** – High school students who have not yet passed one or more of the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGTs) will have an opportunity to retake tests the week of October 28. Students must pass all five tests to qualify for a diploma in Ohio.

**End of First Quarter** – The first grading period ended Thursday, October 17. Report cards will be issued on October 25.

## DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

**#5 Varsity Volleyball Wins First OHSAA Tournament Match** - The Rangers Volleyball team defeated Columbus South on Tuesday evening at HTHS in the first round of the OHSAA Central District Tournament in dominating fashion. The Rangers won the match 3-0 with scores of 25-8, 25-13, and 25-8. The #5 seeded Rangers advance to play host to #7 Heath on Saturday at 2:30 pm at HTHS. Congratulations and good luck as they continue post-season play.

**Varsity Football Rangers Improves Record to 4-3 Overall, 3-1 in Mid-State League Action** - The Rangers won their 3rd MSL game by beating Teays Valley 20-10. On the Rangers first offensive drive Aaron Williams scored on a 29-yard strike from Dante White to put the Rangers up 7-3. In the 2nd quarter Micky Crum ran for a touchdown to put the Rangers up 14-3 at the half. After a score by the Vikings in the 3rd quarter, Micky Crum threw a 92-yard touchdown pass to Deric Phouthavong to put the Rangers up 20-10. The Rangers defense held the Vikings to 10 points, coming up with big stops all night.

The Rangers stay at home this week against Fairfield Union in their last home game and senior night on Friday October 18th at 7:30pm.

**7th Grade Football Remains Undefeated** - The 7th grade Football team improved to 6-0 last night with a 34-12 victory over the Tigers from Circleville. The Rangers will end their season next week at Fairfield Union. The game will start at 5pm on Monday, October 21st. If the Rangers win, they will become outright MSL 7th Grade Champions. Congratulations on the season thus far and good luck in capturing the league title.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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