

## **Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Oct. 14-20, 2011**

**Congratulations to Hamilton Township High School for their selection as a 2010 State Superintendent's Schools of Promise** - On September 13, I was notified that our high school was being considered for the 2010-2011 State Superintendent's Schools of Promise recognition program. This past Monday, I received notification that our high school was selected as a State Superintendent's Schools of Promise. All public elementary and secondary schools administering Ohio Achievement and Ohio Graduation Tests and receiving a local report card rating were considered.

Our high school was selected based on the following criteria:

- Poverty: The school served 40 percent or more economically disadvantaged students, as reported in EMIS for the 2010-2011 school year.
- Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP): The school met AYP for the 2010-2011 school year.
- Graduation Rate: The school's graduation rate was at least 85 percent for the 2009-2010 school year.
- Student Performance on Ohio Achievement Tests (OAT) and Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) in reading and mathematics:
  - At least 75 percent of all students in each of the tested at grade 10 passed the 2010-2011 OGT in reading or mathematics.
  - At least 65 percent of all students in each of the tested grade 10 passed the 2009-2010 OGT in reading or mathematics.
- Low-Income Subgroup Performance: At least 75 percent of the students in each subgroup in each of the tested grade 10 passed the 2010-2011 OGT in reading or mathematics.
- Racial and Ethnic Subgroup Performance: At least 75 percent of the students in each subgroup in each of the tested grade 10 passed the 2010-2011 OGT in reading or mathematics.
- Value-Added: The school received a "Met" or "Above" for the 2010-2011 Value-Added Composite Score.
- Local Report Card Rating: The school must have a local report card rating for the 2010-2011 school year.

### **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Building Operations** - Building evaluations will begin during the first full week of November. These evaluations will score each classroom's appearance, cleanliness and how conducive it is to learning. Both teaching and custodial staffs play an important role in maintaining effect classrooms.

**Maintenance** - ASI roofers are currently working to repair parts of the shingled and membrane roof at our Intermediate School. This roof was damaged by high winds in the summer.

**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.

**Construction** - Substantial completion of our Education Center's roofing project has been confirmed. The membrane roofing manufacturer, Carlisle, will now review the project for warranty.

**Residency** - Thanks to Mr. Stevens and Mrs. Varney for their dedicated and time consuming efforts to track down non-resident students this week. They use an assortment of tools to locate and confirm residency issues within our district.

## **OFFICE OF THE TREASURER**

**Social Security Tax Deduction** - Social Security tax decrease doesn't help school districts. The Social Security tax decrease enacted for calendar year 2011 does not apply to school district employees. The rate charged is being reduced from 6.2% to 4.2%. This does not affect school employees because we do not pay into Social Security and thus will not receive Social Security when we retire. This is a great thing or a bad thing depending on how you look at Social Security and it's solvency in the future.

## **OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**Military Appreciation Receives Thorough Media Coverage** - Hamilton Local Schools' Military Appreciation Night received front page, above-the-fold placement in the [Saturday, October 15, 2011](#) edition of *The Columbus Dispatch* newspaper. In the newspaper world, above the fold placement is as good as it gets. This is the second time this calendar year that a positive story from our district has appeared in that prime position. The last time we appeared above the fold on the cover of *The Columbus Dispatch* was [Monday, January 24, 2011](#).

10TV's Kurt Ludlow produced a feature story about our military appreciation efforts and what the day meant to our faculty and students. [Visit this link to view the story](#). Thanks go to Mr. O'Brien, Cole, and Hannah for representing our school district so well.

A big thank you also goes to Mr. Payne for his efforts to share all of the positive things we are doing throughout our school district with the media throughout Central Ohio.

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**HTHS Partners with OSU** - As part of our HS Postsecondary Action Planning to: *Help more students pursue postsecondary education through local college access programs, financial aid advising, scholarship and grant availability advising, career guidance, and other services*, Hamilton Township High School is working with The Ohio State University on an ongoing research project exploring how argumentative writing is taught in the high school classroom. Researchers from O.S.U. are interested in what makes for effective practices of teaching this process because professors have begun to notice that many students come to college lacking this skill. Argumentative writing is necessary for being successful in all subjects, and is crucial to developing and demonstrating critical thought.

Ohio State professors are doing a series of pre and post tests with Mrs. McSkimin's 12th grade English students, as well as video recording two periods a day in her classroom for approximately three weeks. They will also be interviewing students to understand the thought process when writing. The information obtained in her classroom, as well as other classrooms in central Ohio, will be compiled in a final report... complete with recommendations for the process based on what the research says is effective and not

effective. The information will be used in a series of articles for a number of journals, as well as be presented by O.S.U. to organizations such as The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). Mrs. McSkimin is very excited to be part of such important research and knows it will help to make her a better teacher. She is also thrilled to know that her students' help will drive future education practices in Ohio and beyond.

**Outstanding Social Studies Teacher** - Social Studies Teacher, Mr. Robert Lanthorn has just recently been selected by a local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution as their nominee for Outstanding American History Teacher in Ohio. HTHS congratulates Mr. Lanthorn on his continued successes. More information is to follow from the DAR chapter.

**HTHS Students Apply to Marshall** - As part of our HS Postsecondary Action Planning to: *Help more students pursue postsecondary education through local college access programs, financial aid advising, scholarship and grant availability advising, career guidance, and other services*, I'm pleased to report that 20 of our HS seniors took advantage of Marshall University's "Apply on the Spot" offer this week at our College information session. This offer allowed for our students to receive an application fee waiver equally \$30.00 dollars, if they filled out an application and submitted their transcripts and class schedules during that time. A special Thank You goes to Mr. Michael Elfers for continuously and consistently arranging and coordinating college visits and informing our students of their unique programs.

**The Stock Market Game** - Mrs. Kowalski's and Mrs. Walker's students are participating in The Stock Market Game™. The program offers a vast library of learning materials correlated to national voluntary and state educational standards in Math, Business Education, Economics, English/Language Arts, Technology, Social Studies and Family and Consumer Sciences. This resource has inspired many teachers to incorporate the program into classes in creative ways — at all levels, from fourth grade to college, all across the curriculum.

Mrs. Kowalski's students are currently ranked first in the region against, Worthington Kilbourne, Lancaster, The Columbus Academy, Granville, Bexley, West, Johnstown and Knox Country career center.

The program also teaches and reinforces these essential skills and concepts in the areas of: critical thinking, decision-making, cooperation and communication, independent research, and saving and investing.

Students use real Internet research and news updates, making the simulation an even better mirror of the real marketplace. While the competitive game play creates student excitement, the educational experience delivers the biggest impact.

Students who participate in the The Stock Market Game™ program learn more than investing. As they progress, they learn core academic concepts and skills that can help them succeed in the classroom -- and in life.

Starting with a virtual cash account of \$100,000, students strive to create the best-performing portfolio using a live trading simulation. They work together in teams, practicing leadership, organization, negotiation, and cooperation as they compete for the top spot. The setup is engaging, and the learning is a natural part of the experience.

In building a portfolio, students research and evaluate stocks, and make decisions based

on what they've learned. Teams trade common stocks and mutual funds from the NYSE, Nasdaq and AMEX exchanges; earn interest on cash balances; pay interest if buying on margin and pay a commission on all trades. To determine why certain stocks perform the way they do, or why the broader market has moved up or down, they need to understand how the economy works, and to calculate their returns they need to do the math.

**Military Recognition Night Impacts Daily Activities** - Students and staff at Hamilton Township High School were positively impacted by the events of the day and participation of everyone during Friday's military-themed day. This day went along with our Military Recognition Night ceremony and football game against Teays Valley. 10TV was on hand to produce a news story and student Andrew Eliot wore his father's Navy Dress Blues in honor of his parents, both of whom served in the Navy.

## **HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Attendance Graphing/Student Involvement** - This week, the 8th grade advance math classes have been working on collecting and analyzing the middle school's daily attendance. The students are looking at the percentage of students that come to school broken up by gender and grade, student attendance for their class, and weather verses attendance. With this data, the groups are using technology to create some of the different graphs that have been discussed in class. The students are really enjoying looking at actual data that relates to them and using the computer to put the data in graphical form. When the students are finished with the graphs, they are giving input on why students do not make it to school and how to get students to school. The students are discussing how school attendance can create a better community and school.

**8th Grade Language Arts Classes Create Book Jackets** - The culminating activity the 8th grade language arts students completed after finishing the novel, *My Brother Sam Is Dead*, was a book jacket cover which included a summary, illustrations, and a review of the book. The summary contained the setting, plot, main characters, and theme of the book. The review consisted of the student's opinions and quotes from the book. This personal creation will serve as a constant visual reminder to the students of a vital era in American history, The Revolutionary War, and a classic genre of literature, which depicted it. While a fun and creative activity, the project also covered several of the grade-level indicators.

### Writing Applications:

Write responses to literature designed through the organization of an insightful interpretation based around several clear ideas, premises or images. The students are to support judgments with specific references to: the original text, other texts, author and prior knowledge.

### Writing Conventions:

Use correct spelling conventions.  
Use correct punctuation and capitalization.

### Writing Process:

Vary simple, compound and complex sentence structure.

## **HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

**October Is Fire Safety Month** - During the month of October it is National Fire Safety Month. Students are making sure they are prepared when it comes to fire safety. The entire H.I.S. population has participated in 2 fire drills. The 4th graders were also visited by the fire department on Wednesday. Thank you to the Hamilton Township Fire Department for helping to keep our students safe.

**Sixth Graders Become Composers** - Mrs. Laing's 6th grade general music students have been working since the beginning of the year on musical skills necessary to write their own songs. They have learned to identify and draw notes, how to count their duration, how to analyze a time signature, and how to create rhythms using a defined number of beats. During the month of October, they are composing songs using the rules of music theory and performing these songs using instruments called Boomwhackers. Boomwhackers are colorful plastic tubes of different lengths that make sound when you strike them against any surface. The sixth graders love performing their songs for their peers using the Boomwhackers. Mrs. Laing is very proud of the students for mastering these concepts so early in the year. Composing and performing in varying meters are two of the sixth grade indicators from the Ohio Academic Content Standards. Soon we will write individual songs, including writing our very own lyrics and setting them to melodies.

**Leaves And Science And Art, Oh My!!** - The 4th graders in Mrs. Enright's Art class have been working on a Science-inspired Art Project using leaf shapes to illustrate the 7 Elements of Art: Color, Line, Shape, Form, Value, Texture, and Space. In addition to creating this beautiful artwork, students demonstrated their knowledge of 4th grade science indicators by working as a team to discuss and answer questions related to plant, leaf, and climate concepts. The students had fun while reinforcing their understanding of connections between Science and Art in their projects! Mrs. Enright would like to thank Mr. Cryder for his assistance and collaboration in preparing this lesson.

**N.H.S. Help H.I.S. Students To Succeed** - ACES is designed to give extra help academically to students at Hamilton Intermediate School. Twenty National Honor Society students will be volunteering their time to tutor fourth, fifth, and sixth graders in reading and math. In the next couple of weeks, National Honor Society students will receive a tutoring match and set up their schedule outside of school. They will gain experience working with younger children and earn community service hours. Intermediate students will not only get extra help with their academics, but will have a positive role model to help them gain more confidence.

## **HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Recycling Rangers** - Recycling Rangers is a recycling collection group led by third grade students. One student represents each classroom and the job roles rotate each week to give all students a change to participate. The job description of a Recycling Ranger includes: working as a team to collect paper from every classroom once a week. The Rangers collect boxes from second and third graders every Tuesday and collect boxes from Kindergarten and first grade every Thursday. We have already filled four large trashcans full of items to be recycled and cannot wait to see what our total will for the year! We are excited to work together to make our world a better place!

**Zumba** - The Hamilton Elementary Staff have been busy dancing themselves into fitness! Zumba is a Latin-inspired, dance-fitness program that combines salsa, merengue, cumbia, samba and hip-hop dancing. First grade teacher Carla Wancheck has organized a group that is at 15 members and growing. Carla stated, "It is exciting to work together as a group to learn the new dance moves, all while getting a great workout!" Zumba has been called a "fitness party" and every Wednesday evening the elementary gym looks and sounds exactly that way. Aside from the obvious health benefits Mr. Tyler and Mr. Conley are thrilled with the camaraderie that the program is creating. You will notice there in no picture included so you will just have to take our word for it. The teachers were not very excited about their sweaty faces being pasted all over the website!

**Can You Hear Me Now?** - Mr. Mylar and Mrs. Archer are now able to talk to their students with the help of two new wireless microphones. The students now get the benefit of hearing both teachers through the sound system at the same time. Thank you to the PTO for supporting our Physical Education program.

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**Circle S Farms** - Even bad rainy weather could not stop the preschool families from having a great time. We had over 105 brave family members attend our Third Annual field trip to the farm. Families enjoyed a hayride, farm animals, corn maize, a hay barn, and a special treat of their famous homemade donuts and apple juice. Everyone had a great time and we thank all the families that attended. We are planning several more family outings through out the year.

**Fall Fund Raiser** - Item will be picked on Monday, October 24, 2011 from 9:00-4:00. We again thank all for participated and help to raise money for the preschool students. We will be purchasing software for the Smart boards, and classroom learning centers materials.

**A BIG Thank You** - We would like to thank the supporters of our preschool's Fall Festival: Donatos Pizza, Subway, Sky Line Chili, Obetz Dairy Queen, Leave A Mark Church, McDonalds, 31 Bags/Jen Coalter, Obetz Athletic Center, Cheryl's Cookies, Kraft Food, The Cupcake Families, all of the generous families who donated monetarily, Hamilton Township High School Cheerleaders & Ranger Roy, and mostly importantly...*All The Preschool Families who made the evening so much FUN!*

**Halloween Parade** - Monday, October 31, 2011 at 10:30am and 2:30pm the preschool students will trick or treating in the administrative building. Please join in on the fun if you can. Families will be invited to attend to watch the festivities.

## **OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

**Ohio Graduation Tests** - We will be giving the OGTs next week from 9:00am to 11:30am each morning. Students in Grades 10, 11 and 12 who have taken the tests and still have one or more sections to pass will be participating. Mr. Benton and Mr. O'Reilly have been working with individual students in preparation for these important assessments.

**Credit Recovery Continues to be Beneficial to Hamilton Township High School Students** - We are offering a wide range of courses in both correspondence and online platforms to students in need of credit recovery. Students are taking these courses outside their regular school day to make up credits, complete coursework that does not fit into their schedule because of band or choir obligations or to fulfill requirements for honor's diplomas. Currently there are 50 credits of coursework outstanding to students attending the High School or one of the Career Centers. 15 credits have already been issued this school year. I'm so glad to be able to assist so many students with their education!

## **OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**OGTs** - The Ohio Graduation Tests will be given at the High School the week of October 24 to students in grades 11, 12, and beyond who have not passed one or more sections of the test.

**2011-12 State Board Policy Goals** - State Superintendent Heffner sent out a communiqué stating that at their last meeting, members of the State Board of Education adopted three policy goals for the upcoming school year: Ohio will transition from a minimum-competency system to a college and career system by 2014-2015; the current accountability system will change to reflect the current demand of Ohio's academic content standards and assessments; and Ohio will expand our definition of schooling to include greater quality choice and integration of technology beyond a traditional setting. In the near future, Heffner will be sharing the process by which districts can join with the state board in realizing these goals.

**Family Resources** - The South High Library homework help center operates Monday-Thursday from 4-7pm. In addition, [the library website](#) offers information on location, hours and general programs along with web links to academic help. The kids and teens tabs have a Homework section that provides links to web sites to help with specific subjects. Following story time on the first Saturday of the month, the library offers Ready to Read family workshops where families learn literacy techniques for children aged 0-5 years and receive resources as well.

[Columbus Parent magazine and website](#) offers parenting tips and links to local events as well as a need-to-know section with information on health and finances. The guide section includes resources such as consignment, resale, and thrift shops for kids' clothes.

Khan Academy is a highly acclaimed, [free web-based learning site](#) that has short instructional videos as well as practice exercises for math, science, and other topics. Parents who are rusty in a subject or students who need additional help with a concept or extra practice can get self-paced instruction at [their website](#).

**Mentoring Opportunity** - Middle grade students in our after school KIDSCONnect program meet with adult mentors twice a month. The mentorship program is a facilitator led program where adult mentors meet with their mentee for an hour of activities. If you are interested in volunteering, contact program coordinator [Darlene Scheid](#).

## **OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Elementary Intervention Specialist Excels at Specially Designed Instruction** - Kierston Watts works with our kindergarten and third grade students who are identified

for special education services. The primary reason that children are identified as having a disability is because they need specially designed instruction. Mrs. Watts does an excellent job at this.

While observing Mrs. Watts recently, Mr. Conley wrote:

*“Kierston,*

*I absolutely loved the energetic and animated approach you used to help your students learn their letters and sounds... It was awesome. The game they played at the beginning where they rolled the "angry bird" to a word on the mat was a very good approach to get them actively involved in their learning and more importantly getting them excited about reading, as one student said in an upbeat voice, 'I can read!'. Great job! I also think we can do a lot with the iPad and I'm happy to see that you have embraced it as a learning tool. The students were wide-eyed and super excited to do the lesson on the iPad, such a solid approach to getting students involved and learning. You are a Really Good instructor!”*

Mrs. Watts has definitely embraced the iPad as a supplement to her instruction and is using it to help her students grow academically.

## **DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY**

**Kids and Mobile Phones** - With the digital age in full swing, many kids now have mobile phones. Along with the privilege of having a mobile phone, also comes much responsibility. Children and teens with mobile phones need to be responsible enough to follow the usage rules set by their parents, as well as those set by the school. Mobile phone companies can assist with good choices for privacy settings and child safety controls; many also now allow that specific features be turned off (ex. web access, texting, downloading). Many phones also now have GPS features, which parents can use to map their child's location, however, with GPS, also comes some risk. Children should be aware that pinpointing their GPS location on social networking sites (publicly) could be dangerous. Also, children need to understand that just because their phone has a camera or video capabilities, that they really need to think about their own privacy, as well as the privacy of others before they share any photo or video. They should know to always ask permission of any person/persons in the shot before posting/sharing. With all the risks involved with children and teens using cell phones, studies show that it is very important to set rules and limits, clearly explain your expectations, and set a good example. [For more information, please visit this website.](#)

## **DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

**2nd of the 19th Special Forces Bravo Company Honored** - The Special Forces were honored at the Inaugural Military Night of Appreciation during the pre-game ceremonies vs. Teays Valley. Over 350 National Guard Companies were adopted by OHSAA High Schools for the 2011 football season. Hamilton Township was honored to adopt the 2nd of the 19th out of Rickenbacker. The Troops were presented a camouflage football jersey worn by the Ranger Football team to take on their tours overseas.

**Inaugural Hamilton Military Night Huge Success** - The Hamilton Local School Districts tribute to all those men and women who have served or are serving in the U.S.

Military was well received by the veterans and our community. More than one hundred brave men and women who have served attended the varsity football pre-game ceremony vs. Teays Valley on Friday, October 14th to be recognized for their service to our country. Another forty-five attended as escorts or walked in memory of those who have passed or could not be in attendance.

The story made the front page of the Columbus Dispatch on Saturday morning, providing Central Ohio and the State the story behind the tribute. The Department of Athletics would like to thank all that participated in our Inaugural Military Night of Appreciation.

**Boys Soccer Opens 2011 Playoffs With A Win** - The Boys Varsity Soccer Team defeated Licking Heights at home by the score of 2-0. Scoring for the Rangers was Freshmen Erick Juarez and Sophomore Bleu Molinar. Senior Goalkeeper Kyle Maupin had seven saves to seal the victory. The win is the first tournament win at home for the Rangers since 2003. Their overall record is now 7-7-2.

**8th Grade Football Closes With A Win** - The 8th grade Rangers closed their season with a come from behind win over Everetts Middle School 22-20. Trailing 14-7 the Rangers scored and took the lead on a 30 yard run by Derek Bradford, who also converted the two-point conversion to put the Rangers ahead 15 -14. An interception return for a touchdown by Wesley Payne made it 22-14. The Tigers moved down the field and scored with 14 seconds left but the Ranger defense stopped the two-point conversion to win the game. The 8th grade Rangers finished their season 6-2.

**Ayers and Niemann Receive MSL Awards** - Eliza Ayers and Austin Niemann both received the Honorable Mention MSL award for their performance at the CC MSL Championships. Eliza Ayers ran a tough race to finish in 24th place with a new personal best time of 22:22. Austin Niemann bounced back from illness to finish in 23rd place in a time of 18:29 to receive his award.

**MSL Cross Country Championships** - The Cross Country teams traveled to Canal Winchester for the MSL Championships on Saturday afternoon. Eleven new personal best and two season best times were set at the meet.

The Middle School girl's race went first. Shanell Hayes (23rd) ran a new personal best time of 15:30 to finish just ahead of teammate Brooke McDonald's 15:31 (24th). Sidney Vassar was next to finish for the Lady Rangers in a time of 17:21 (34th). Aubrey Seidle had another solid race finishing in 18:08 (37th).

All three middle school boys team members finished the race with new personal best times. Jajuan Hopkins (40th) led the Rangers with his 15:08. Donny Rakes (16:32, 49th) and Patrick Snyder (17:12, 50th) also ran stellar races.

The High School girls looked to have a solid race from the beginning. All of the runners got out smart and were ready to go. This was shown by five new personal bests set by the Lady Rangers and their 5th place finish in the league. Eliza Ayers led the girls team with her 24th place finish in 22:22. Cheyenne Carter (24:48, 36th) set her new personal best while working together with Maili Morales (24:55, 38th). Hannah Sewell (27:24, 41st), Sarah Brush (28:33, 42nd), and Mackenzie Davisson (28:34) all ran great races to set new personal best times.

The High School boys team concluded the day for the Rangers. They set two new personal bests and two seasonal bests during the race. Austin Niemann led the Rangers

with his 23rd place finish in 18:29. Kenneth Smith set a new personal best time of 19:19 while finishing 29th. Curtis Tyler ran tough battling back from illness to run 19:23 (30th). Gregory Jankowski set a new personal best time of 20:19 (35th). Miguel Morales (20:22, 36th) and Zach Ross (21:33, 41st) both set seasonal bests. The boy's team finished 7th overall, just eight points from 5th place.

The CC team travels to Watkins Memorial for the Central District Cross Country Championships on Saturday looking for new PR's and a trip to the Regional Championships.

**JV Football Blows Out Teays Valley** - Hamilton Township High School JV football team won big on Saturday with a 44-0 victory over the Teays Valley JV team. The offense attacked Teays Valley the entire game with running backs Chris Chandler and Brandon Fort. Dillon Napier connected with TE Kyle Ziklo for multiple touchdowns and the offensive line dominated the trenches. The defense played possessed, not letting the Teays Valley offense see the endzone, and even scored twice for the Rangers. Ketrick West had two fumble recoveries and Houston Palmer scored for the defense along with Maggness Porter who intercepted a pass and took it 45 yards for a score. The Rangers are now 5-3 and are looking to add another win next Saturday when they play at Fairfield Union.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

[Get all of this week's events listed here](#)