

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Oct. 18-25, 2013

Hamilton Board Members and District Administrators to Attend OSBA 2013

Capital Conference - The 2013 Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Capital Conference runs Nov. 10-13 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus. The Capital Conference features nationally acclaimed speakers headlining the general sessions, Early Bird Workshop, luncheons and other events. Over 100 breakout sessions and informational seminars examine creative solutions and proactive approaches with a focus on public education.

Approximately 10,000 people are expected to attend this year's conference, which features more than 100 sessions of panel discussions, workshops, one-on-one assistance and nationally renowned speakers addressing a variety of educational issues.

Keynote presenters at the 2013 Capital Conference include Ohio native Wil Haygood, a prize-winning *Washington Post* staff writer whose article was the inspiration for the recently released feature film, "Lee Daniels' *The Butler*"; Dr. Yong Zhao, an internationally known scholar, author and speaker whose work focuses on the implications of globalization and technology on education; and John Ratzenberger, Emmy-nominated actor, entrepreneur and philanthropist, who is best known for playing the character Cliff Clavin on the sitcom "Cheers."

In its 58th year, the Ohio School Boards Association leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.

State Superintendent Dr. Richard Ross addresses Ohio's graduation requirements

People frequently ask me about changes to Ohio's graduation requirements. It has been difficult to give a clear answer because so much has been in flux, complicating this issue. Here is what we know right now:

As the rules stand today, schools must begin giving students in grades 3-8 and in high school the Next Generation Assessments during the next school year (2014-2015). In addition to the Next Generation Assessments, next year's 10th-graders (the Class of 2017) must also take the Ohio Graduation Tests. Students will need the graduation tests to meet legislative graduation requirements. Necessary changes in legislation and related timing issues have prevented the Ohio Department of Education from establishing how the Next Generation Assessments will affect future graduation requirements.

A Graduation Requirements Committee of the State Board of Education is working to develop the new graduation rules. However, legislation is needed to make the rules effective for the Class of 2018. Until we know if or how legislation will change, the department will not be able to tell schools which assessments will be used for graduation requirements for the Class of 2018 and beyond. Reaching a decision on this and providing guidance to schools are high priorities of the department. We will be working closely with the Ohio General Assembly to get closure on this issue.

In the meantime, here is what I can tell you: This year's Ohio Graduation Tests will align to both the current standards and Ohio's New Learning Standards. Next year, both the Ohio Graduation Tests and Next Generation Assessments will align to Ohio's New Learning Standards.

Please stay tuned in to changes as we move forward. Without changes to current law, we will be left with a cumbersome and inefficient assessment system for graduation. We are working with all parties to resolve this situation and will share updates as they become available.

New ODE training module provides guidance on approval processes for student learning objectives - To assist local review committees to ensure that student learning objectives (SLOs) are held to a similar quality standard across all Ohio districts, the Ohio Department of Education has released a new training module titled *Module 6, Calibration of Student Learning Objective Review*. Divided into four parts, the training program illustrates how approval of SLOs will be calibrated through fair review procedures that systematically require high quality and rigor. The training stresses the importance of building consensus on how to interpret SLO checklist criteria. Participants will gain practice in providing specific feedback to teachers to help strengthen their SLOs, and learn about the importance of structuring a systematic comparison of SLOs within and across district content areas. Module 6, which complements the previous five Student Growth Measures sessions, is [posted under Additional Resources here](#) with accompanying handouts.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Student Information Services - Mrs. Crabtree is currently reporting data on Period G (Student Graduation, 2012-2013) and Period K (October Count), which effects current year funding. Financially, Mrs. Crabtree has also submitted our district's five-year forecast to ODE.

Campus and Athletic Grounds - With the fall sports season winding down, Mr. Fitzgerald and our maintenance and custodial crews will begin winterizing our outdoor facilities. This process helps us to prepare our fields and facilities for the sometimes-harsh Ohio winters and also allows us to reopen the facilities more quickly and efficiently in the spring.

Legislative Updates - Committee Report - The House Health and Aging Committee met this week and held a hearing on HB 264. HB 264 is legislation that deals with students with diabetes in school. During testimony, the Ohio Association of School Nurses (OASN) cited several concerns over the guidelines, plans, training and procedures required by the legislation. OSBA did not testify at this hearing, but plans on meeting with legislators along with the OASN to discuss a number of concerns we have with this bill.

The House Manufacturing and Workforce Development Committee met this week and heard testimony on HB 168. HB 168 is legislation that seeks to create a subprogram of the Post Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) allowing students to participate in certified apprenticeship programs. Several construction trades associations offered opponent testimony on the bill, citing concerns over students working on construction sites as well as costs to taxpayers.

Lastly, the Senate Education Committee met this week and heard a presentation and update from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) on early childhood expansion grants that were provided through the biennial budget bill, HB 59. The grant provides “high-quality” preschool programs for children ages 3-4 from low-income families.

In addition, the committee passed HB 97, legislation designating October as “Dyslexia Awareness Month.” HB 97 was later passed by the full Senate and sent to Gov. John Kasich for signing.

The House Education Committee did not meet this week.

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

Health and Safety - Mrs. Brickey completed pre-school vision screenings this week. As the child enters school, the importance of vision becomes even more critical. Also at this age children expand their independence with activities that provide added safety risks. Our screening procedures allow us to identify students that may need additional resources and allows us to help their parents seek assistance if visual acuity issues are detected.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HTHS Invited To Represent Science Lessons At OSBA - Teachers and students at the Hamilton Township High School have been selected to have two booths at this year's Ohio School Board Association Capital Conference to be held in November. The first booth will showcase the use of gamification techniques and virtual badge reward systems to help promote learning through the use of a GPS-based treasure hunt. The second booth will showcase the science department's use of flashcards to foster the learning and application of instructional scientific vocabulary in an attempt to further science literacy and test proficiency. Students will accompany Phil Borkow, Anthony Beggrow and Matt Carity to the Greater Columbus Convention Center where the projects will be showcased to Board Members, Superintendents and other educators from across the state of Ohio.

Postsecondary Action Planning Supported By HTHS Band - 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*, on Saturday, October 19, the Hamilton Township Marching Band had the privilege of visiting and performing at Capital University. The students attended a meeting with admissions officers and learned

about the process of applying to college and how to apply for scholarships. Capital students led campus tours and answered any questions that the students had about residence life, student organizations, and majors that the University offers. For lunch, the students got to eat in the main dining hall in the student union and experienced a typical college meal. Finally, the band performed during halftime as special guests and presented a spectacular show, representing Hamilton proudly. These visits are a wonderful opportunity for Hamilton students to learn more about local colleges, the application process and to showcase their talents for new audiences.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Connections Across Curriculum - 8th grade Lang Arts students are reading their first class novels of the year. The Newbery Honor Book, *My Brother Sam is Dead*, by James Lincoln and Christopher Collier, and the Newbery Medal Winner, *The Fighting Ground*, by Avi, are both historical fiction novels dealing with the Revolutionary War. In Social Studies, students are learning about the causes of the war, the important people, the battles of the war and the results of the American victory. As they read, the novel brings the history to life and the history makes all too real the adversities their favorite characters may have actually faced. Students also are studying types of propaganda and creating their own recruitment posters for the Patriots or the Loyalists.

Artfully Done - The students in Mrs. Lutz's 7th and 8th grade art classes have been very busy creating wonderful masterpieces! In 7th grade, the students completed a study of the artist, Georgia O'Keeffe. They studied how she viewed nature and how it was important to view objects in a magnified perspective. Students chose a flower and created a painting with a "close-up view" of the flower. Students focused on demonstrating different values with color mixing and how to create visual textures in their painting. 8th grade students completed a "Scratch-Art" lesson that focused on the textures of the Koi fish. The scratchboard the students used is a board covered in gold foil and then covered in black paint. The students have to "scratch" the paint away using various knives and needles, revealing the gold foil underneath. This process can be quite challenging since the students need to think in reverse. Instead of adding color or shadow they need to remove the black paint so the highlights and lighter values are shown. Students focused on how to demonstrate visual textures and details using tools they might not have ever used before. This project is one the students really enjoy completing!

Roller Coaster Physics - 8th grade students have finally constructed their roller coasters and are now presenting their design to Cedar Point's Design Team (their classmates). Students have been working with their group to create a PowerPoint presentation, describing their design as well as the physics behind their design. This project allowed the students to show their creative side all while learning about physics! The students were very pleased with their final products, wanting to spend more time experimenting with different roller coaster designs! Next up on 8th grade's science agenda...Earth Science!

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Volleyball Season A Success! - This year, Hamilton Intermediate School made district history by putting together the first-ever sixth grade girls' volleyball team. More than 25 girls came to tryouts, and nine were chosen to play on the team. The girls who were not able to make the team this year had the opportunity to continue building their skills through the Green and Gold Spikers program at Hamilton Township HS with Varsity Head Coach, Carole Morbitzer and her high school athletes. The HIS sixth grade team consisted of Taylor Abercrombie, Paige Bratcher, Kaylee Garren, Paige Kidwell, Julia Lyle, Brooklyn Miller, Sarah Sue Morbitzer, Riley Thomas, and Elexus Van Dyne, coached by a new teacher to the district, Maura Dickinson, who is teaching 6th grade math at Hamilton Intermediate School. The girls competed this fall season at the Buckeye Volleyball Center in Westerville, and played against three teams of girls who play for that club. Our Rangers finished with a perfect season by not dropping a set or match throughout their schedule. The girls worked hard, had positive attitudes, and showed teamwork on and off the court leading them to their undefeated record.

Announcement Team Selected - The Hamilton Intermediate 6th grade Announcement Team is ready to report the news of the school!! After the initial interest of over 160 students and a rigorous application and tryout process, our ten excellent 6th grade announcers have been selected and are on the job. These school leaders report to the office before 1st period to review and practice their announcements and when the bell rings, they let everyone know what's happening at school, as well as in the district, with excitement and accuracy. Based on the announcers' great ideas, we are even planning on adding some student-selected trivia and fun facts to the announcements this year. A 'big thank' you goes out also to the students who serve as our announcer substitutes, who step up when the announcement team members are absent. The 6th grade announcers do an excellent job representing our school each morning! Our 2013-2014 Announcement Team members are: Jebadiah Schumaker, Conrad Hinkle, Sarah Funnell, Savannah Fraley, Micah Music, Gavin Wilhite, Victoria Fields, Tiara Lopez, Alexandria Rose, and Venessa Jackson. Congratulation and keep up the great work!

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Randy Rose Named Ohio Lottery Teacher of the Month – Reigning HES teacher of the month Randy Rose was also selected as the Ohio Lottery Teacher of the Month. Mr. Rose was selected in part because of the nomination of a fellow staff member who had this to say, "He always has such a good attitude for both staff and students. He goes above and beyond for students in our district."

HES Conducts Vision and Hearing Screenings – Each year District Nurse Kathy Brickey and Mrs. Brumfield from the Elementary school conduct vision screenings and Speech Pathologists Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Kish conduct hearing screenings of all Kindergarten, First and Third-grade students. This is a very important procedure as it identifies issues that can be a detriment to the student's achievement and quality of life at an age where they may not yet be able to properly communicate these problems to their

parents. The team recently finished the Kindergarten screenings and identified over sixty vision or hearing problems. The parents of every student were notified so that these concerns can be addressed by the appropriate medical professional. Mr. Tyler and Dr. Conley would like to thank these ladies for the valuable service they preform.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Creating Lasting Friendships: The Relationship Between Peer Models and Special Need Students - Mrs. King teaches the special needs preschool class. She has a 50/50 ratio of typically developing students and students with a variety of special needs. The opportunity to attend preschool and be in this class not only offers an academic start to their educational career, but it allows the students a chance to be around all types of children. The students learn how to accept each other and help each other without viewing their peers as different. Mrs. King's class is full of young teachers in the making, all wanting to help their classmates and forming strong friendships. Mrs. King in all 7 of her years as a teacher has never seen her students have such a strong desire to help one another. If you walk into her classroom you would see students working on letter matching together, students helping students get into their chair, students helping each other to class, and friends playing together and enjoying it! Miss Kish, the speech and language pathologist at the preschool sees a huge impact on her students. "Peer models model language development and it is amazing how quickly language students will imitate what they hear their same age peers saying. This increases my students progress!" The students in the Mrs. King's special needs class are getting a great academic experience and a lifelong lesson in acceptance and empathy.

OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Future Focused Friday - Guest Speaker - Mitch Price - The Alternative Academy was excited to host Mitch Price on Friday to speak to the students in the Academy. Mitch spoke about his job as the accounting manager of his company Price Custom Homes. He shared information about high school, college and post-secondary trials and errors. There was an emphasis on the importance of interpersonal skills and never giving up. He shared the importance of doing your best in high school and the idea that, "You may not always use everything you learn in math, but the important part is learning to problem solve." It was a wonderful real-life learning experience for all who were there. The Academy plans to continue hosting guest speakers once per month this school year.

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

7th Grade Football Earns Mid-State League Championship – The 7th grade Football team won their final game of the season on Monday, October 20 against Fairfield Union to finish their season 7-0 and winning the MSL at the 7th grade level. Congratulations to the players and coaching staff on this outstanding accomplishment!

Cross Country, Boys Soccer, Girls Tennis, and Volleyball Athletes Earn MSL Honors – The following Hamilton Township Rangers earned All-MSL honors for their fall sports season efforts.

1st Team

Bleu Molinar – Boys Soccer
Danielle Rodriguez – Girls Tennis
Sierra Springer – Volleyball

2nd Team

Caleb Holley – Boys Soccer
Erick Juarez – Boys Soccer
Anna McClain - Volleyball

Honorable Mention

Cameron Dykes – Boys Soccer
Shanell Hayes – Girls Cross Country
Quinton Napier – Boys Cross Country
Kylee Sobony – Volleyball
Grant Taylor – Boys Soccer

Congratulations to all on these honors. MSL Honors for Football season will be decided on Sunday, November 3, 2013.

Varsity Football Improves Record to 5-3 Overall, 4-1 in the MSL - The Rangers dominated the Fairfield Union Falcons 49-0 in their final home game of the 2013 season. On a night that honored Football, Cheerleading, Cross Country, and Band and Color Guard Seniors, the Rangers had their first shutout since 2003. The Rangers are tied for first in the MSL and travel to take on the Bloom-Carroll Bulldogs (5-3 overall) on Friday October 25th with kickoff set for 7:30pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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