

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up – Sept. 23-30, 2011

Two National Safety Events Coming Up In October - October 16-22, 2011 is [America's Safe Schools Week](#), and October 17-21, 2011 is [National School Bus Safety Week](#). Sponsored by the National School Safety Center, state governors and state school superintendents, [America's Safe Schools Week](#) promotes school safety.

[National School Bus Safety Week](#) is sponsored by the National Association for Pupil Transportation and others, and is set aside to promote school bus safety.

Building Principals Report on Short Cycle Assessment Data Collection and Academic Progress Monitoring - Today, we completed our 27th day of the 2011-2012 school year. Our buildings and teachers are completing our first Short Cycle Assessments for the school year.

Our Short Cycle Assessment Program was implemented during the 2004-2005 school year. These assessments test each child in the district every 4-5 weeks in five core subjects. District educators use the data from these assessments to evaluate educational levels and modify classroom instruction to fit each child's educational needs.

I have asked Intermediate Building Principal Mike Meade to give a five-minute presentation during our October 10th Board meeting on Intermediate Building Short Cycle Assessment Data Collection and Academic Progress Monitoring. I have also asked High School Principal Jim Miller to give a high school report during our October 11th Cabinet meeting on the same topic. During our November 14th Board meeting Elementary Principal Mark Tyler will present the elementary building report. Middle School Principal Jeff Endres will present at our November 15th Cabinet meeting.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Building Operations - We would like to welcome Mr. Lary Beretich to the Education Center. Lary will be temporarily filling the custodial position of Zach Space. Welcome Mr. Beretich!

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 - Mr. Morrison and Mr. Lester met with Nick McCullough and Mike Couvreur of Kleingers & Associates to begin initial planning for a

new transportation/maintenance compound. We hope to begin design sometime during the month of October and complete plans during the spring.

Mr. Morrison has also been working with engineers to install and locate tracer lines for our fiber network as well as our other utilities so that new guardrail posts can be installed safely around our campus.

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. Please contact Mrs. Kathy Brickey, School Nurse, immediately with questions or concerns.

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

State Budget for First Two Months of This Year - The State budget from July 1, 2011 to August 31, 2011 is the State is under budget by \$80 million. During the first two months of the fiscal year, the State has received \$55 million less than expected in revenue. On the spending side, the State has spent \$135 million less than expected. As a result, the bottom line (after rounding) now stands at a positive of \$80 million. The bottom line, just for October, was the State spent a lot less money in October at the tune of \$135 million under budget in October alone. This is great news so far with the expenditures, but the State needs the revenues to pick up and come in-line with estimates.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Office Coordinates A New Year of Teacher and Student Awards - On the heels of having Hamilton Township High School selected as the Ohio Lottery School of the Year for the state of Ohio, Mr. Payne will continue to coordinate efforts with all building principals and teachers to recognize as many excellent students and teachers as possible throughout the school year. Our first set of nominees for this academic year will be mailed to the Ohio Lottery's Partners In Education office this Tuesday.

Communication Efforts With Class of 2011 Continues; Class of 2012 To Join Group This Spring - By utilizing LifeTrack Services, Inc., our district is working to make a continual effort to communicate with our youngest alumni to gather details and data about their experience and preparation for their future while attending Hamilton Township High School. Recently, Mr.

Payne worked with Mr. Miller to produce follow-up letters that will be distributed to Class of 2011 graduates in future months. Class of 2012 will join the program in May, prior to graduating from HTHS.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

College and Career Corner - 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*, the HS Library Media Center now has a College and Career Corner designed to assist students in preparing for the future. This corner includes books to help students with preparing for the ACT, SAT and ASVAB tests, choosing a career, and applying to colleges as well as for financial aide. All students are encouraged to make use of these materials.

New HS Attendance Incentives - As HTHS reaches an all time high attendance percentage, meeting over 96% for the year, Mr. Fitzgerald continues to raise the bar by offering breakfast to homerooms having the highest attendance rate each week. Three homerooms had perfect attendance last week. Congratulations Mrs. Ford, Ms. Morgan, and Mr. Sweet's homeroom classes. Pictured below, Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Jackson working away at 6:30 a.m., Monday morning.

Our Thanks to the Hamilton Township Alumni Association - Thanks to a generous donation from the [Hamilton Township Alumni Association](#) again this year, the library has been able to continue adding some great reading materials for our students. This addition to our collection is particularly helpful since all English classes are now assigning silent reading on a regular basis. The students have been very pleased with the new books available to them. We were also able to add some new resources to our College and Career Corner, enabling the students to better prepare for life after high school. Our [Alumni Association's](#) support is very much appreciated!

HTHS Band to ONU - 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*, eight members of the Hamilton Twp. Marching Band performed at Ohio Northern University's football game against Otterbein University, on Saturday September 17th. The students arrived in Ada at 9am for a field rehearsal after traveling 90 minutes to the campus. Caity Murphy, Lauren Stokes, Tyler Foltz, James Jankowski, Nic Brewer, Abbie McDaniel, Bailey Martello, and Nate

Soltysik got to march in a parade through Ada, explored ONU's campus, and performed pregame and stand tunes with the band. The students "had a blast" playing "Charge" and the Ohio Northern fight song. Many of our high school band members learned about the musical opportunities they have in college and look forward to continuing their band experiences after graduation.

Pink Out - During Homecoming Spirit Week, HS students demonstrated their Spirit and Pride for The Volley for the Cure Pink Out Game, on Wednesday. Students dressed in Pink all day and posed at lunch for a group photo.

Supreme Court of Ohio Transportation Grant - Due to the collaboration and communication between HS assistant principal Fitzgerald and Government teacher, Mr. Lanthorn, Maureen O'Connor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio contacted Mr. Lanthorn to inform him that HTHS qualified for a Supreme Court of Ohio transportation grant in the amount of \$200 for the 1-50 mile distance category. Grant funds are dispersed within 30 days after the Supreme Court visit. Transportation grants are made possible by the Ohio Judicial Center Foundation. The Foundation was created for the charitable and educational public purposes of preserving the artistic, architectural, and historic integrity of the Ohio Judicial Center, which serves as the home to the Supreme Court.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

RAP Begins at the Middle School - Each school year, The Educational Council's KIDSConnect program hosts and runs an after-school program for our students in grades 6-8 at Hamilton Middle School. Thirty students are selected and apply for spots in the program that helps the students with school work, team building, community service, mentoring, and socialization skills. This program provides a great service to our students and is truly appreciated by all involved.

RESPECT Cart Going Strong - Hamilton Middle School students are able to earn Ranger Bucks for doing things around the school that follow our code of RESPECT. When students are "caught" doing something respectful, like picking up trash in the halls, helping a classmate who dropped his or her books, having perfect attendance, or many other examples of respectful behavior, they are given Ranger Bucks as a reward. These Ranger Bucks are then used to purchase items from the Ranger Cart on Friday's during lunch. The cart contains many different items that have been purchased and donated by the staff at the MS, from candy to lotions, to book bags to pens and pencils and even pleasure books for reading. The students love to shop

at the cart and always look forward to Friday when the cart is “open” for business. Thanks to Mrs. Buxton for organizing and staffing the Ranger Cart!

8th Grade History Classes Present - In the 8th Grade History classes taught by Mrs. Rinaldi and Mr. Browning, students are presenting speeches and visual aides depicting different aspects of Colonial America. Students have a variety of topics and are working off of a rubric from their teachers. Not only are these students learning research skills and facts about historical times, but they are also gaining valuable experience in public speaking.

EXPLORE Test Planned for 8th Grade - The week of October 9th will bring the EXPLORE Test back to Hamilton Middle School for the second year. This test, part of the ACT Suite of assessments, will provide our district with information about our student’s progress and readiness for post-secondary education. By administering the assessment during the fall, we will be able to get the results back and use the data to help improvement at the MS.

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

6th Graders Alert Families - A few lucky sixth grade students have had the opportunity to record Alert Now messages. These messages go out every Sunday and give families the latest information on what Hamilton Intermediate has going on during the upcoming week.

OSU Students Observe Teachers - This week Mrs. Bassett and Mrs. Smith welcome two OSU students that will be observing in their classrooms for the next ten weeks. The students have to do six hours of observations a week from September 26 to December 2, 2011 to complete their Advanced Field Experience: Middle Childhood Reading & Language Arts Education class. Emily Brotherton and Elyse D'Andrea are both seniors at The Ohio State University.

Students Say Cheese! - On Tuesday, the students at the Intermediate school gathered with their homeroom classes to get their class pictures taken. The students also got their individual portraits taken for the school’s yearbook.

Teachers Working As A Team - After school on Tuesday, teachers and staff met and learned more about value added. This is one aspect they are looking at when teachers are creating lesson plans and differentiating among their students. Teachers are working very hard to enhance achievement to meet and exceed the growth expectations for their students.

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Heather Ivery Joins the Elementary Staff - In a proactive measure to meet the needs of our growing 2nd grade student population, we are pleased to announce the addition of Heather Ivery as our newest 2nd grade teacher. Mrs. Ivery began her teaching career with the District last school year and started this year in one of our preschool classrooms. Due to this enrollment shift, she was transferred to HES. Mrs. Ivery is as outgoing and energetic a person as you will ever meet and we are so happy to have her join our team.

The following is an excerpt from the parent letter that Mrs. Ivery sent home to introduce herself. "I grew up in Groveport and lived there until college. For my undergraduate degree, I attended the University of Kentucky and was a swimmer during my four years there. While at Kentucky, I student taught with second grade so I am very excited to be back! I have been at Hamilton for the past year teaching preschool and I absolutely love it here! I could not be more excited to be joining the Elementary School Staff!

Spirit Week - A large number of students took part in the district-wide homecoming week dress up days. Monday was Western day, Tuesday was Class Colors day, Wednesday was Pink day for Volley for the Cure, Thursday was Super Hero day, and Friday was Green and Gold day. As you might guess the most enjoyable day for the students was Super Hero day and the building was full of little super heroes. A big thank you to the Elementary staff for doing a great job of getting the students excited about Spirit Week and also to our parents for making the effort to help children participate. Events like this help to build school and community pride that can be incredibly motivating for students as they go through the educational process and will stay with them forever.

Box Tops For Education and Labels For Education - Hamilton Elementary School is collecting Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education. Box Tops earnings will be used for student incentives to improve attendance and behavior, such as perfect attendance prizes and items in the Ranger Store. Labels for Education will help us earn playground supplies and physical education materials. There will be weekly contests throughout October to see which Elementary homeroom can collect the most box tops and labels. Please help by checking products in your home for Box Tops and Labels for Education, and then clip and send them to school.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Box Tops For Education - We are once again collecting Box Tops for learning center materials for our preschool classrooms. Last year the preschool collected over 2,300 box tops! Kris Murphy is the lead teacher for this event.

American Fund Raising Services - The preschool students and families out did themselves this year with our Fall Fund raising event. We wish to thank all who helped with this event. Money raised will be used to purchase kitchen and library materials. Nathan Messer was out top seller with the amazing amount of \$996.00!

OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Alternative Academy Students Admitted to College - We are excited to see that our students are applying for and being accepted into college. One senior has already been accepted to Columbus State and is planning to enter the nursing field. Mr. Benton and Mr. O'Reilly are available daily to assist students in researching careers, college programs and completing applications.

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

3rd Grade OAA on October 4 - Third grade students will take the Ohio Achievement Test in Reading on Tuesday, October 4. Students should be well rested and have a good breakfast in order to do their best work.

HLSD Teachers Win Scholarships - The Franklin County Retired Teachers Association (FRTA) awarded three of our teachers \$1000 scholarships to pursue their graduate studies. Congratulations to Mr. Koehler (2nd grade), Miss Morgan (HS Spanish), and Mr. Lanthorn (HS Social Studies). They were honored this summer at a banquet and will have their photos published in the Ohio Retired Teachers Newsletter. The FRTA representative reported, "It was a joy and honor for us to meet these extraordinary educators and to be able to assist them in pursuing graduate studies."

College and Career Success Network - Mr. Miller and Dr. Witten met this week with representatives of the Central Ohio College and Career Success Network to discuss future partnerships with higher education that could help our students access post-secondary credit and opportunities. Dr. Witten will represent HLSD on the advisory committee; Mr. Miller and his leadership

and guidance teams will partner with the Ohio College Access Network, which is a component of the Success Network. Initiatives are currently in the research and design stage.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special Education Preschool Goes Retro - Mrs. King's preschool class was learning "The Twist" as part of their group activity time. Mrs. King and her assistant, Ms. Newsome, are a great team. They work with our special education preschool children in an inclusive classroom where at least half of the children are not identified with disabilities. You will never be able to pick out the special education children in this activity. What you will be able to do is see the smiles on all of their faces and know that these children are having a wonderful time.

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

Google Apps - Students, Teachers, Bus Drivers and Administrators are using Google Apps for Education this school year as a way to collaborate and share information in "real time." The Google Apps environment allows for safe collaboration of information and ideas using mail, calendars, documents, spreadsheets, presentations, forms, drawings, and much more.

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

HT Searching For Those Who Have Served - The Hamilton Local School District Office of Athletics and Hamilton Township High School varsity football players and cheerleaders are teaming up to hold a special Military Recognition Night on October 14 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Hamilton Alumni Stadium, 1105 Rathmell Road, Columbus, Ohio.

Kickoff will be at 7:30 p.m. as the Rangers take on the Teays Valley Vikings. The Military Appreciation Night is open to all veterans, those who have served and also active and retired military. All those who have served, active and retired military service men and women from both school districts are invited to take part in the evening's festivities which will include a special half-time ceremony, a presentation of the colors and reserved seating on the 50-yard line.

Admission is free for all military participants who register and attend. Please plan to arrive by 6:30 p.m. in order to receive organizational information for our recognition.

Fill out the information sheet below and send to Director of Athletics, Mark Beggrow, to the above address by mail or [email Mr. Beggrow](#). The information will be used to contact each participant prior to the game to verify his or her attendance at the ceremony.

Name: _____

Address _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email _____

Branch of Service _____

Circle One: Served Active Duty Reserves Retired

HT Football vs. Circleville - The Ranger football team moves to 3-2 by dominating Circleville 49-6. The Ranger offense was lead by quarterback Zach Thompson who set a school record with five touchdowns passes. Caleb Morris caught two passes, while Micky Crum, Caleb Brown, and Michael Waugh each had one reception. Brandon Fort and Chris Chandler reached the endzone on the ground. The Ranger defense held the Tigers to six points and caused five turnovers.

HT (JV) Football 28 vs. Circleville 18 - The Hamilton Township Rangers JV football team won their third straight game against league opponents on Saturday when they traveled to Circleville to take on the Tigers. Dillon Napier connected with Tight End Kyle Ziklo for two touchdowns passes. Chris Chandler outran the defense on an 87-yard touchdown run. Napier also had a rushing touchdown to cap off the Rangers' 28-point total. Defensively, Will Johnson had two interceptions and Ketrick West had a forced fumble and fumble recovery, stopping the Tigers' attempts to score. Magness Porter and Jordan Mitchell also intercepted passes on key two-point conversion attempts by Circleville.

Boys JV and Varsity Soccer down Fairfield Union -

Freshmen Erick Juarez scored a pair of second half goals, one in the JV game and one in the Varsity game to pace the Rangers to a pair of 1-0 victories over Fairfield Union at the Soccer Stadium Thursday night. Senior Goalkeeper Kyle Maupin also had an outstanding game to preserve the shutout in the Varsity game. The win improves the Rangers league record to 2-2-0 and 3-5-1 overall. The Rangers next game will be at Buckeye Valley this Saturday morning at 11:00 am.

Ranger VB Defeat Rockets - The Ranger Volleyball teams traveled to

Berne Union on Sept. 24th and dominated the Rockets. Our JV won in two straight sets and the varsity won in three straight sets with scores of 25-12, 25-17, 25-11.

Ranger XC at Malone University - The boys and girls Cross Country team traveled to Malone University for the 43rd Annual Moose Follies invitational Saturday. The course was hilly and the competition was tough. The boys team left with four new personal best times while the girls all ran a great race.

The boys team began the day with a bang. Curtis Tyler led the team with his 19th place finish and new personal best of 17:21. Kenneth Smith finished 74th overall (19:53 PB) while Heath Napier finished 75th overall (19:54 PB). Quinton Napier was the fourth man on the team in his time of 20:47. Greg Jankowski finished as the fifth man on the team with his new personal best time of 21:05. The team finished 12th out of 16 teams and were only a few points out of the top 10.

The girls team ran tough to finish close to their personal best times. Maili Morales finished first on the girls team and 30th overall in her time of 23:14. Eliza Ayers was 38th overall in her time of 23:32. Cheyenne Carter finished in 27:46 while Hannah Sewell finished in 28:29.

The high school and middle school cross country teams travel to Pickerington North this Saturday.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[See all of this week's events here.](#)