

## Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Sept. 26 - Oct. 3, 2014

**Major update on high school graduation requirements** - The State Board of Education last week approved two essential elements of the new requirements: the graduation points system and a list of tests students can take in lieu of Ohio's tests. Here is a summary of the State Board's major decisions, the steps still needed to finalize the requirements and some items you can expect to be resolved in the coming months.

### New Decisions

**Graduation points** - As one of the three pathways to a diploma, students can accumulate their scores from end-of-course exams. The higher a student scores on any end-of-course exam, the more graduation points he or she earns:

- Advanced Level = 5 points
- Accelerated Level = 4 points
- Proficient Level = 3 points
- Basic Level = 2 points
- Limited Level = 1 point

If a student reaches 18 graduation points overall, he or she becomes eligible for a diploma.

Of these overall points, a student must earn at least four points between the math exams, four points between the English exams, and six points between the science and social studies exams.

**Substitute exams** - Students in certain courses can take a substitute exam, such as an Advanced Placement (AP) exam, instead of the state's end-of-course exam. The State Board-approved AP exams may be substitute tests for the following courses:

#### Physical Science:

- AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based
- AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based

#### American History:

- AP United States History

#### American Government:

- AP United States Government and Policy

**Retaking exams** - A student who scores below Proficient on any end-of-course exam may retake the exam after receiving extra help from the school. A student scoring Proficient or higher can retake an exam only if he or she has taken all seven end-of-course exams and still is below the minimum point requirements. Any student who automatically earned three graduation points from a course can retake the exam for a higher score.

**Highest score counts** - The highest score a student gets on a test will count. For example, if a student retakes an end-of-course exam, or if he or she takes the college admissions test before or after it is offered by the state, the student's highest recorded score will count.

Transfer students - Districts will scale down the graduation points requirements for students who arrive at a school with credit for some, but not all, tested courses. However, these students still must earn at least five points between the English II and either the Geometry or Integrated Math II exams.

Students who transfer having taken all of the tested courses will take only the college admissions test (see below for more information on this test). If the student does not reach the score needed for graduation, the student must take the English II and Integrated Math II exams and earn five points between them.

#### Major Steps Forward - Phase-in exemption and automatic points

If a student earned high school credit for a tested course before July 1, 2014, the student automatically earns three graduation points. Students who earn credit for a first semester block course in American history, American government or physical science before January 31, 2015, will also automatically earn three graduation points. If a student receives automatic points, he or she does not have to take the exam, unless that student chooses to take it. The exemption for block schedule students is part of a rule that will be finalized in December 2014.

Industry credentials - The State Board approved the criteria for the industry credentials a student may use to help qualify for a diploma.

All credentials must be tied to jobs that are in-demand, either statewide or locally. A student can use any credential for graduation that appears on the list during the student's junior year, even if that credential comes off the list during the senior year. A student may always use new credentials added to the list after his or her junior year. The department will release the first approved credentials list in December 2014.

#### Future Work

College admissions test - Reaching a remediation-free score on the approved college admissions test (like the SAT or ACT) is one of the pathways to a diploma. The State Board will select a college admissions test in the spring of 2015 to be given to the class of 2018 in the fall of their junior year (2016).

Job skills test - Earning an approved industry credential and achieving a workforce readiness score on a corresponding job skills test, such as the WorkKeys assessment, is one of the pathways to a diploma. The State Board will approve a job skills test in December 2014.

Substitute exams - The State Board will consider more AP exams, International Baccalaureate exams and dual enrollment course exams in the coming months. The department will release the score crosswalk for assigning graduation points for these exams early spring 2016, when all the state and substitute assessment results from 2014-2015 are reported and compared.

The ODE will continue to provide updates on any new developments. For a comprehensive look at the new graduation requirements, please visit [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov).

**Board of Education Operation Goals** - The primary responsibility of our Board of Education is to establish purposes, programs and procedures, which produce the educational achievement needed by our students. The Board must accomplish this while also being responsible for wise management of resources available to the District. The Board must fulfill these responsibilities by functioning primarily as a legislative body to formulate and adopt policy, by selecting a Superintendent to implement policy, and by evaluating the results. Our Board of Education carries out its functions openly, while seeking the involvement and contributions of the public, in its decision-making processes. Our Board meets monthly and encourages district residents to attend. Our Board meets in our Board Room located in our Education Center at 775 Rathmell Road. The next three meeting are:

- Monday, October 13, 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, November 17, 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 8, 6:00 p.m.

Our Board will approve our 2015 meeting dates and times during our January Organizational Meeting.

**Hamilton Local Board Educational Philosophy** - The Board believes that the purpose of education in the schools of this District is to facilitate the development of the potential of each child to the fullest. The school staff seeks to recognize individual differences and to engender achievement and progress, not only in basic skills but also in the ability to think independently and critically.

The school staff is concerned with helping young people to understand what the American way of life means; to believe in it and to act democratically in their relationships with others; to develop in themselves attitudes of respect and helpfulness toward others; to want and to be able to perform well some portion of the work of the world and to acquire knowledge and skills necessary to do this with satisfaction to themselves and society; to understand and use effective methods in framing the questions and tackling the problems that they encounter in their lives to the end that they may function politically, economically and socially in a democratic society.

The "Statement of Philosophy" of this District shall be a living document, which reflects the contributions of staff members as well as the attitude and direction of the Board.

Moreover, it must be augmented and implemented by statements of philosophy and purposes, which have been cooperatively developed at the elementary, middle and high school levels in this District.

The philosophy and the broad instructional goals of the total school program, including each graded course of study, must reflect the values characteristic of the goals listed within.

The well-integrated individual will accept these goals and the values they reflect in order to live an intelligent and meaningful life in today's world.

*Re-adopted by the Hamilton Local Board of Education in October 13, 2008.*

## **OFFICE OF TEACHING & LEARNING**

**Ohio Achievement Test in Reading** – Third grade students will take the OAA Reading test on Tuesday, October 7. This assessment is one of several measures used by the district and the state to determine which students are on track to meet grade-level requirements and which students need extra help. Results will be available to the district at the end of November.

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**COSI Academy and the OhioHealth Medical Career Discovery** - Today marked the kick-off of what has become known as “Science Season” to many in the High School. Mr. Miller and Mr. Borkow met with the more than 50 students who were accepted into this year’s COSI Academy and the OhioHealth Medical Career Discovery @ COSI to discuss the District’s high expectations for those participating. Each of the programs meets eight Saturdays throughout the school year and provides students a chance to visit science/medical facilities around Ohio and explore the various occupations in these fields while having an opportunity to explore science in a hands-on fashion. Unplanned but not unexpected, students who have been involved in the programs in past years took the reigns of the meeting and discussed the importance of continuing the District’s exceptional reputation. The upperclassmen highlighted the importance of professionalism and using the programs for career exploration and networking. Each of the students who presented described their favorite laboratory and hospital visits while emphasizing how much of an honor it was to be a part of such a select group of students. This year marks the 10th year that our District has been involved in the COSI outreach programs and our collaboration with Amy Parker, Head of Teen Programming at COSI. Our involvement has grown from just a handful of students a decade ago to presently having the largest involvement of any District. This year alone our students were granted over \$23,000 in scholarships to offset entry fees.

**Cross Curricular Teaming** - Mr. Borkow’s 7th period Integrated Science class participated in a cross-curricular exercise with Mrs. Kowalski in the Foods Room. The students chosen on the basis of the class with the highest Short Cycle Assessment average put to test an experiment proposed to them while learning the scientific process. What effect does the number of eggs have on the texture/”chewiness” of a batch of brownies? Students were broken into groups and each assigned a number of eggs ranging from 0-4. After analyzing the brownie recipe, students determined what would be the control group and what would be the experimental groups. Using their understanding of the scientific process, students correctly identified the Independent/Dependent variables and came up with a testable hypotheses for which batch would not only have a more chewy texture, but which batch would taste the best. It was emphasized to students that cooking is nothing more than chemistry and as with all experiments, following directions is key to getting intended results. The students participated in a blind taste-test at the end of the day to collect observational data. The data will be graphed and analyzed to determine if their hypothesis is supported. The exercise helped the students to understand that science is all around them and very accessible. Whether they are mixing, cooking, or refrigerating their food...they are immersing themselves in science.

## HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Potential Energy in Action!** - The 8th graders have been busy working with the new science standards in order to prepare for the next generation assessment in the spring! The students in Mr. Aitken and Miss Luchini's classes rotated through five stations, learning about the different types of potential energy through labs and online simulations. At the station pictured, the students discovered how mass and the height above the ground affected the amount of gravitational potential energy different objects have.

**Teacher and Student Nominated** - Two deserving members of the Hamilton Middle School family were recently nominated for monthly recognition. Mrs. Shannon Beeker was nominated for the Ohio Lottery's Teacher of the Month Program. Congratulations Mrs. Beeker! Eighth grader, Alaina Daniel, was nominated for the Lottery's Academic All-Star Award. Great job, Alaina!

## HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

**Project DVD For The CML** - The HIS Community Service Project for the month of September is to collect gently used DVDs (G and PG rated DVDs only) for the Columbus Metropolitan Library's: Friends of the Library group. This group helps to fund programs such as: the Summer Reading Club, Homework Help Centers, and Teen Read Week. The gently used DVDs will be sold at the group's different book sales events to include the "lobby sales" you may have seen at your local branch. Please support our project and send in your gently used DVDs (G and PG rated DVDs only)!

**History Comes Alive In The 6th Grade** - Students in 6th Grade Social Studies have been making history come alive. Students have been studying Ancient Egypt and have become members of society. Students were given specialized jobs in society to make a social pyramid and each student had to explain their job in society. The next day, students kept similar jobs where they bartered their surplus of goods. Watch out for the governors though, they and the scribes like to collect taxes for the pharaoh!

## HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Student of the Month** – Kindergarten student, Charlise Hardin was selected as the HES Student of the Month for September. Hannah's teacher, Mrs. Tonti, had this to say: "Charlise Hardin has shown tremendous growth in all areas! She is a fantastic helper in class, is friendly to all students and has started talking to more students and staff as her confidence has grown. She always gives her best even when attempting something new. Her growth has been amazing to watch." Congratulations to Charlise.

**Teacher of the Month** – 3rd grade teacher Ami Denutte was selected as the HES Teacher of the Month for September. The anonymous staff members who nominated Mrs. Denutte had this to say: "Ami Denutte has been very involved with our new math curriculum and software. She spent many hours this summer organizing and laying out our 3rd grade curriculum map. She has also helped teachers with our new math software and taught some of us how to use Flubaroo and Google Classroom. Her technology knowledge has been very helpful!" "I want to nominate Ami Denutte. She is always willing to share her ideas and share materials with our team. She likes to work with others and is really

organized. She is so good at remembering to include everyone, and is very helpful. She is an asset to the third grade math team, and works really hard! She deserves to be staff member of the month!" Congratulations to Mrs. Denutte.

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**Teacher of the Month: Emily King** - She is in her eighth year at Hamilton Preschool. Mrs. King graduated with a Masters in Early Childhood in 2007 and then completed her PK-3 Early Intervention Specialist license at The Ohio State University in 2009. Emily is responsible for the District Art Show and The Scholastic Book Fair for the Preschool. She works cooperatively with other PK teachers on unit plans, progress reports, and family events. She has continued to build strong family relationships and is respected by parents and her peers. Emily and her husband, Jason are enjoying their one year old son, Noah.

**September Learning and Themes** - Preschoolers had a very busy first month of learning and fun! Themes included: Listening and Learning at School, All About Me, Healthy Bodies, and Apples. Skills taught included: letter id, number id, color words, and shapes. Literacy and Math skills focused on listening, following directions, syllables, and counting 1-10 with one to one correspondence. The students are doing a great job and we have many fun and exciting lessons planned for October!

## **DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

**Girls' Tennis Places Second in MSL as Athletes Earn All-League Honors** - The Girls' Tennis team placed 2nd behind Logan Elm in the MSL. This placement is determined by points for wins during the regular season and MSL tournament. Along with the second place finish, three Rangers earned MSL honors. Senior Danielle Rodriguez and Junior Khloee Rowe earned 1st team awards and Senior Alisa Askew earned 2nd team honors. Congratulations to the Rangers and to these individuals for a successful season.

**Girls' Soccer Hosts Kick for the Cure** - On Tuesday evening, the Varsity Girls' Soccer team held their first annual Kick for the Cure game against Teays Valley. The Rangers fell in the contest 3-2 after a late goal by Teays. A special thanks to all who came out and supported the girls and a great cause. Later in the week, the Girls defeated Liberty Union 4-0. Junior Captain Brooke Miller brought her team-leading total to 18 with two goals while senior Captain Josie Kasprzak and freshman Emma Purington each had a goal.

**Boys' Soccer Shutout Teays Valley** - Our varsity volleyball and boys' soccer teams traveled to Teays Valley on Tuesday evening, and both came away with shutout victories. The volleyball team won 3-0, and the boys' varsity soccer team won 2-0 against a strong Teays soccer squad. Derek Bradford and Kevin Juarez scored goals for the Rangers. This brings their overall record to 9-3-1 and 5-0-1 in the MSL with three league matches to go.

**Varsity Volleyball Continues Winning Ways** - Our varsity volleyball team has now won four matches in a row after defeating Teays Valley and Amanda-Clearcreek in straight sets. This improves the team's record to 16-3 overall and 8-3 in the Mid-State League. They will finish the season this coming week at home on this Saturday against Logan Elm, then travel to Liberty Union on Tuesday, and come back home on Thursday, Oct. 9 for their regular-season

finale (and senior night) against #7 ranked Bloom-Carroll. The Rangers gave Bloom their only conference loss earlier in the year with a shutout win.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

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