

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Sept. 30 - Oct. 7, 2011

Hamilton Local Board of Education Moves to Paperless Agenda - During goal setting and planning meetings this summer, the Hamilton Local School Board made a commitment to transition to a paperless agenda. An eGovernance solution called BoardDocs was selected as the tool to assist in improving governance, while saving time and taxpayer dollars.

BoardDocs' services alleviate the enormous task of assembling, printing, distributing and revising board packets. BoardDocs' unique, state-of-the-art solutions also save taxpayers money, reduce staff time, improve board effectiveness, increase transparency in governance and have a positive effect on the environment. BoardDocs includes:

- eAgenda Solution
- On-line or Manual Voting with Support for Virtually Any Type of Vote
- Automated Minutes Generation and Release
- Automated Public Scoreboard, with Voting Results and Speaker Timers
- Up to 10 Years of History with DVD Archiving of Data beyond 10 Years

BoardDocs cloud-based program is fully supported on the Apple® iPad™ which will provide our board members with real-time access of agenda information.

Board members, district level administrators, and administrative assistants have participated in on-site BoardDocs training. During the October 10, 2011 board meeting, our Board will begin using BoardDocs to conduct their monthly meetings.

Chrys Thompson, the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, will coordinate, organize, and maintain the BoardDocs program.

[Ratings Start to ID Effective Teachers – Columbus Dispatch](#) - New ratings of thousands of Ohio educators show which ones made a big difference in the classroom last year. About 7,500 teachers received a report recently that details the effect they had on their students' learning. It is the first time the state has issued such ratings, and it's part of a larger movement to revamp the way Ohio judges teacher quality.

Value Added Teacher ratings were released this fall for Race to the Top (RttT) Districts only. Hamilton did not participate in the RttT; therefore, teacher effectiveness ratings were not developed for our teaching staff. We have voluntarily requested that Hamilton be included in this Value Added Teacher Rating next year, for the 2011-2012 data. If our request is granted we will receive these reports next fall.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

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 - Roof replacement at our Education Center is currently underway. This work will replace the original roof and provide additional energy efficiency.

Truancy - Mr. Morrison introduced Officer Roslynn Walker, our new Truancy Officer, to each building on Thursday. Officer Walker is employed by the Franklin County Court

and will help the district manage and prosecute students who are truant, as well as their parents or guardians. We welcome Officer Walker to our school district!

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

Interest Rates for CDs - We were able to lock in a one year CDARS for a rate of .35%. Doesn't seem like much, but any and all savings benefits our district. It is better than the State money market rate of .04% that the State is giving schools right now. Mr. Collier talked to many banks and researched many avenues, and this is the best rate currently available. Five years ago the rates we were getting ranged from 4.5% to 5.375%. We also have moved our liquid money into a .25% checking account, so at least our money that we may need in the short term is also growing.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

HTHS "School of the Year" Presentation To Be Featured On Ohio Lottery's Cash Explosion TV Show - On Saturday, October 8, Hamilton Township High School will be featured on the Ohio Lottery's Cash Explosion TV game show for being selected as their "School of the Year" for the state of Ohio. Footage of the ceremony and interviews will be shown during the feature segment.

The show will air on WSYX-MyTV (Digital Channel 6.2) at 7:30 p.m.. A replay will air after the ABC 6 On Your Side evening newscast that follows the Ohio State vs. Nebraska football game. Look for that replay to be shown at approximately 12:30 a.m., so set your DVR or TIVO to record the show.

Cash Explosion TV game show is seen on stations throughout Ohio, and is also broadcast into parts of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and West Virginia.

Congratulations to HTHS students, faculty, staff and administration on being the "School of the Year!"

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

OSU Professor Contacts Hill –

Dear Ms. Hill,

I asked Brandon for your email. He is a student in my Chemistry 161 class - chemistry for declared chemistry and biochemistry majors. We have ~3000 students taking the first term of general chemistry - so we gave the declared majors a chance to register for this course - class size of 75 students vs. 350 students in a regular class. I teach in a room with only computer terminals and the power source of the tablet blew up the day before

school --- he helped me reboot last week as I was using someone else's computer.

Whew... It is wonderful to have Brandon in my class! I know I have a high end that needs a challenge and he is it. You gave him so much support and opportunity. I thank you! Today I showed the 1977 movie - Powers of Ten as I had the book and saw it long ago at the Air and Space Museum when my children were younger. Brandon informed me of a version with quarks. So I hope I can give him a strong foundation as I know he is going to teach me quite a bit.

Thank you again for the care you gave him when he was your student.

As you are nearby, if you ever would like to visit - with our without students, you are more than welcome.

Rosemary

Dr. Rosemary Loza
Sheldon D. Shore Distinguished Lecturer
The Ohio State University
Department of Chemistry

Perfect Example - What do student aides do at the HS? One perfect example caught in the hallway, HS student aide Demi Eggers assisted MH student Marwa Ali with her locker combination and book bag. Demi works with Mrs. Shepfer and Mrs. Powell in the Cross Categorical Room as a year-long student aide. Demi will earn Career and Community Service hours toward her Graduation requirements this year for her community commitment.

Making College and Career Count - 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 Tuesday, the senior class was involved in a Making College and Career Count assembly sponsored by Monster.com. Percy Hodge, a motivational speaker associated with Making it Count, visited the high school to speak to seniors about how to make the most out of their college and career search, in which he incorporated his personal experience and background with this process. He discussed the factors to consider when choosing a major or career field, the winning characteristics for success, and the 5 choices for success, which include building your personal brand, making connections, respecting diversity, managing time, and managing finances. HTHS Students positive responded.

HTHS Staff Member of the Month - September

Senorita Morgan

"I recommend Ms. Morgan as Staff Member of the Month because she is an amazing teacher. I know this because all of her students are always talking about how hard she is, but how much they like her and want to do well for her. She obviously has a positive affect on our kids." - HS Teacher

"Ms. Morgan truly cares for her students and enjoys her job. She is always smiling, positive, and in a good mood." - HS Staff Member

"I think Sarah Morgan should be considered for HTHS Teacher of the Month. She is a hard worker and holds her students to high expectations. She is a team player too." - HS Teacher

Ms. Morgan explains, "A typical day in my classroom involves interacting in Spanish through writing, reading, listening, and speaking. Students work individually, in pairs, in small groups, and in whole class settings. We follow a daily agenda beginning each class with bell work assignments and finishing each class with the explanation of the homework assignment. I expect my students to respect others, themselves, and the class. We have fun learning Spanish while working diligently from bell to bell."

"Thank you for nominating me as Staff Member of the Month. I appreciate the recognition of my hard work and dedication to the students and staff of Hamilton Township High School." - Ms. Morgan

HTHS Congratulates Ms. Sarah Morgan for HTHS Staff Member of the Month - September 2011

HTHS Marching Band Visits Otterbein University – 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 8th, the HTHS Marching band will be the special guests of Otterbein University and will perform during the Otterbein and Baldwin-Wallace Football Game. For more information on this College Visit, please visit the Ranger Band Website or see Mr. Frazier for details.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Blue Shirt Day at HMS - Spurred on by a group of students, Hamilton Middle School participated in the Blue Shirt Day to celebrate the World Day of Bullying Prevention. As an initiative to “STOMP Out Bullying,” Blue Shirt Day was a popular choice for students and staff alike. It is wonderful to see students getting involved in causes that are meaningful to them and to have the support of the staff at school. Hopefully, this day of blue will help raise awareness to bullying and help to “STOMP” it out!

Eighth Grade to Take the EXPLORE Test - On Thursday, October 13, all Hamilton Middle School 8th graders will be participating in the EXPLORE test, one of the Suite of Assessments put out by the ACT. The EXPLORE program is designed to help 8th and 9th graders explore a broad range of options for their future. EXPLORE prepares students not only for their high school course work, but for their post-high school choices as well. It marks an important beginning for a student's future academic and career success. The test is being given in support of the district's Post-Secondary Education Action Plan.

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Bassett Selected As Teacher Of The Month - *“Amie Bassett is a dedicated member of our teaching staff. In addition to her normal classroom responsibilities, she is always willing to take on extra projects to benefit our staff. Mrs. Bassett is very knowledgeable in technology and willingly shares her expertise with her peers. She has provided*

training to our staff about our teacher websites, our grade book program, our lesson plan template, and Google Docs. These efforts will continue to improve the communication between the school and the families of our students. The consistency that these tools provide will improve instruction, communication, and student achievement. Mrs. Bassett set-up, organized, and administered a computer based standardized reading assessment to over 250 fourth grade students. She then analyzed the data that came from this assessment. The results will be used to guide reading instruction for our students. Mrs. Bassett's efforts are greatly appreciated by our staff!" - H.I.S. Administrator

Thanthanavong Named Student Of The Month - *"Corey Thanthanavong is an extremely polite and grateful student. He is mature and expresses his gratitude for the hard work of his teachers daily (almost hourly) through outstanding behavior, and words of appreciation On Constitution Day, September 16, Corey shared his background with our class offering some insight as to why he values and appreciates his education.*

Corey was born in Laos, a country ruled by communism. As we talked about the Constitution, I asked questions to get an idea of my student's knowledge, Corey quickly stood out as the expert. He actually took on the role of teacher and explained to his classmates how lucky they are to live in a country where there is freedom, and where we are guaranteed certain rights. He truly is a role model for all of the students in his class, grade, and school.

I wish that all my students had the perspective and gratitude that Corey Thanthanavong possesses." - H.I.S. Teacher

Teachers Keep Parents In The Loop - The H.I.S. teachers are doing all they can to keep parents in the loop using their teacher websites and email communication. The Intermediate home page has had more than 7,600 views and the Intermediate Teacher Website link has had over 5,600 views since the beginning of the school year ranking 2nd to the district's main home page. Teachers post their weekly newsletters to keep families up to date on weekly events. House 4-2 emails out their weekly newsletter to 83% of their students. Some teachers even do weekly video updates for families to view at home! Teachers are also teaching lessons and posting podcast of these lessons for parents and students to view at home to know exactly what is expected. This has been a huge school to home communication link that is benefiting the students of the Intermediate School.

Sixth Grade Students Nominated For RAP Program- The RAP KIDSCONnect Program is run through the Educational Council. Our counselor and 6th grade teachers have submitted nominations of students that they feel would benefit from being a part of this group. In the after school program, students receive academic assistance and social opportunities. The activities throughout the year include homework assistance, team building, mentoring, and service learning projects. The RAP program helps students develop the necessary skills to be successful in school and the community. The students are excited to get started!

Care Packages For The Troops - In October, H.I.S. is collecting items to make care packages to send to the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some items needed include boxes of Girl Scout cookies, packets of powdered hot or cold beverages, baby wipes, hand sanitizer, eye drops, saline spray/drops, Kleenex (individual packs), toothbrushes, and dental floss/picks. Please visit [Care Packages for the Troops](#) for more information.

Hannah's Socks Is A Success - Our September Service Project, Hannah's Socks has come to a close. Students of H.I.S. collected over 200 pairs of socks. The fourth graders made the most donations this month and are the winners of the Community Service Banner that will be displayed in the fourth grade hallway.

October Count Week Incentives - Several attendance incentives were put in place this week to encourage perfect attendance for our students. Gift certificates for Red Robin meals and frosty treats from Wendy's were given away during lunch periods by Mrs. Siegel. Any students who have perfect attendance this week will earn an extra recess. The students will love being able to be outside to enjoy this beautiful fall weather. We have had great attendance this week, especially with the 5th grade reaching 98% on Tuesday!

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Record Setting Day For Parent Volunteers - Sixteen parent volunteers came to the Elementary on the day of the first Ranger Store of the year. Ten of these volunteers worked at the Ranger Store helping the students who wanted to spend some of the Ranger Bucks they had earned. The other six parents volunteered in the classroom helping teachers as needed. The staff and students of Hamilton Elementary would like to thank our parent volunteers for their commitment. If you are interested in becoming a parent volunteer please contact Liza Dixon at 491-8044 ext. 1300.

Student of the Month - Kindergarten student Olivia Bright was selected as the HES Student of the Month for September. Olivia's teacher Mrs. Geary had this to say: "Olivia Bright is our student of the month for many reasons. Olivia is a very bright five-year-old girl who enjoys learning new things in the classroom each day. One of her favorite things to do in class is learning centers and she states that her favorite center to do is Math. Olivia is a great teachers helper who enjoys passing out papers and erasing the classroom boards. Olivia is also a great friend to her classmates as she is always lending a helping hand and enjoys making her friends and teacher smile. We are very proud to have Olivia as a student and classmate in our class this school year."

Staff Member of the Month - Kindergarten teacher Emily Tonti was selected as the HES Staff Member of the Month for September. The anonymous staff member who nominated Ms. Tonti had this to say: "Her sense of humor, creativity, and infinite patience makes her awesome." Whenever a teacher is selected as Staff Member of the Month, their students all receive Ranger Bucks because no teacher can be "awesome" without "awesome" students. Congratulations to Ms. Tonti and her class.

Responsible Rangers - Our word for September/October is "Responsible." Responsible Rangers are in control of our words, bodies and actions. Each teacher chooses a child in his/her classroom that displays responsible behavior. Pictured are the Responsible Rangers for September.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Walking Field Trip - Our Preschool students took advantage of the great weather and walked to the Elementary playground. The kids were thrilled with all the big stuff to play on. Thanks to our Elementary Staff for welcoming us to their building.

Fire Drill - The Preschool students had the opportunity to practice the proper procedures for a fire drill. It is a hard concept for kids to understand that the building is really not on fire. This is a first for many students. They all did an outstanding job. We will be ready for the fire department visit next week.

October is a Busy Month - Many events have been planned for the Preschool families over the next several weeks. We invited all Board Members and staff to attend if possible.

- Thursday, October 13, 2011 - Fall Festival - 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 14, 2011 - Military Day/Hamilton Township Fire Dept.
- Wednesday, October 19, 2011 - Circle S Farms
- Monday, October 31, 2011 - Halloween Parade

OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Fall 3rd Grade OAA Testing - Ohio 3rd graders are taking the Ohio Achievement Test in Reading this week throughout the state. At this time, the Alternative Academy does not have any students enrolled in 3rd grade so we are not testing this week. Students in grades 3-8 will be taking the tests in May 2012.

Physical Education and Art Classes - Many of the Alternative Academy students are participating in Physical Education and Art opportunities weekly. Here is 1st grader, Colton French showing off his masterpiece of Spider Man.

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Ohio Achievement Assessment - Third grade students took the Ohio Achievement Assessment in Reading this week. Results will be returned to the district by the first week in December.

Professional Growth - Research shows that staff working together on common issues and using collaborative problem solving positively impacts professional growth. Staff members draw on their experiences with students, their research and reading, and classes and workshops they've taken to share knowledge with others. This sharing of expertise and perspectives allows staff to enrich each other. This is why the majority of district professional development time (late arrivals and waiver days) is spent in professional learning communities for staff to work together on to improve student achievement.

Administrative Book Study - Each year the superintendent selects a book to guide discussion as part of administrative team meetings. This year's text is John C. Maxwell's The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership. Team members receive monthly assignments and take turns facilitating the discussion, including the relevancy of the text to their work.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Technology REALLY Works for Middle School - Mrs. Bennett just loves her Smart Board. When students have learning challenges, they must be taught using specially designed instruction. That instruction typically involves using multi-sensory approaches.

Mrs. Bennett and her assistant Mrs. Martin use their Smart Board and their iPad to engage their students in academics so that learning is a collaborative process.

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

Online Safety: Phishing - Millions of people become victims of online scams or schemes every year. Being careful and knowing how to recognize common scams can help protect you. Phishing is one common method of fraud where bad people impersonate businesses in order to try to trick the victim into giving out personal information. Legitimate businesses never ask that sensitive personal information be sent on non-secure channels, like email. This site not only explains what "Phishing" is, but also provides great examples. It also contains information on how to deal with Phishing scams, action steps to avoid an attack, and how to report scams. Visit: <http://onguardonline.gov/articles/0003-phishing> for more information.

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Military Night vs. Teays Valley - There is still time for all those who have served in the U.S. Military or are currently serving to contact Mark Beggrow, at 491-3330 x1808 to sign up to be recognized for all you have done for our country during the pregame ceremony on Military Night, October 14, 2011. At this time we have 40 community members and service men and women signed up to be recognized. If anyone has a Military parent, son or daughter that is currently serving or deceased, you can also sign up to represent them at the event.

Boys Soccer Blasts Buckeye Valley - The Boys Varsity Soccer Team improved to 4-5-1 with an 8-0 pasting on the road at Buckeye Valley. Senior Josh Whitt had a hat trick while Seniors Andy Aphayboun, Kyle Maupin and Demetrous Miller, Junior Niel Skalican, and Sophomore Ruben Marquez each added a goal apiece.

Boys Soccer Roll Past Whitehall - The Boys Varsity Soccer Team won their fourth game in a row beating Whitehall 6-1 Tuesday night. Sophomore Bleu Molinar had 4 goals for the Rangers, while Senior Josh Whitt and Freshmen Erick Jaurez added a tally each. The win improves the Rangers overall record to 5-5-1. They take the field again this Saturday at home versus John Glen HS.

JV & Varsity VB defeat Circleville - The Ranger volleyball teams dominated the Tigers from Circleville on Thursday, September 29. The JV won in two quick sets and the varsity won in three sets with scores of 25-11, 25-12, 25-13. The Rangers improved their record to 9-6.

HT (JV) Football 20 vs. AC (JV) 9 - The Hamilton Township Rangers JV football team extended its win streak to four wins this weekend beating the Amanda Clearcreek JV team by a score of 20-9. Chris Chandler scored on a long run and Dillon Napier threw a touchdown to Kyle Ziklo as well by running for a touchdown to cap off the Rangers' scoring. The defense played well all game as a unit, and Magness Porter and Will Johnson each intercepted passes for the Rangers while Ketrick West also had a sack. The Rangers are undefeated against league opponents this year and will be attempting their fifth win in a row at home against Canal Winchester's JV team on Saturday, October 8th at 10:00 a.m.

Ranger XC @ Pickerington North - The Ranger Cross Country team traveled to Pickerington North on Saturday to get a preview of the regional course. It was a cold and rainy day that led to a sloppy course.

The MS girls set the tone for the rest of the day. All 4 girls set a new personal best time and a school record. Brooke McDonald ran 15:13 for the two-mile race to shatter the previous school record of 15:59 by 46 seconds! Shanell Hayes took two minutes off her previous best time to run 16:44. Aubrey Seidle ran 18:22 while Sidney Vassar ran 18:35 to set their new personal best.

The MS boys ran a tough race in the sloppy conditions. Jajuan Hopkins led the team with his time of 17:41. Donny Rakes was next to finish in his best time for the year 19:07. Patrick Snyder ran a new personal best time of 19:11.

The HS girls team ran a competitive race to both set new personal bests. Eliza Ayers ran a time of 23:09 to finish in 93rd place out of over 215 runners. Cheyenne Carter finished in her new personal best time of 26:17.

The boys team ran a solid race to finish 23rd out of 35 teams. Austin Niemann ran 19:28 as the first Ranger across the finish line. Kenneth Smith (20:05), Quinton Napier (20:39), Miguel Morales (21:09), Greg Jankowski (21:26), and Zach Ross (22:09) all ran tough races in adverse conditions.

All teams will be competing in the MSL Championships at Canal Winchester on October 15th.

JV Boys Soccer downs Bexley - The Boys Junior Varsity Soccer Team defeated Bexley 2-0 on Monday. Scoring for the Rangers was Freshmen Erick Juarez and Sophomore Bleu Molinar. The win pushed the JV record to 5-1-2.

7th and 8th VB win vs. Bloom Carroll - The 7th and 8th grade Rangers dominated Bloom Carroll Saturday with the 7th graders winning in two sets; 25-22, 23-25 while the 8th grade played very competitively and won in three sets; 25-18, 13-25, 25-21. It was a great win for both teams!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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