

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Sept. 27 - Oct. 4, 2013

Budget Bill 59 and ORC 3313.537 allows home schooled and non-public students to participate in extracurricular activities in the parents' residential district - The Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) distributed and published on July 23, 2013, regarding the Budget Bill 59 and the provisions contained therein, which affects participation opportunities for students, not enrolled in a district and/or attending Hamilton Local Schools.

The Budget Bill 59 legislation speaks to "students" regardless of grade level as well as to all "extracurricular activities" as within the meaning of ORC 3313.537. To the extent that most of our focus is on interscholastic athletic competition/participation, OHSAA tends to focus on grades 7-12.

This legislation permits students who are home educated (excused from compulsory attendance by the superintendent of the public school district of residence), and/or those who attend non-public schools that do not offer a specific sport or sports, to have the opportunity to participate in those sports at the public 7-8th grade and/or high school that the student would be entitled to attend under the tuition statute, i.e., the school located in the parents' residential district.

ODE begins implementation of H.B. 59 school-funding provisions - The new formulas and reports tied to state foundation payments will begin changing in October as the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) begins the implementation of H.B. 59 school-funding provisions. The budget bill requires that state foundation payments be based on fiscal year 2013 calculations until September 29, 2013. After September 29, 2013, ODE will base payments on the new fiscal year 2014 formulas.

ODE will continue to make regularly scheduled state foundation payments. October payments for traditional districts and community schools will be based on new fiscal year 2014 formulas.

District Pays Respects To Long-Time Employee - On Friday, September 27, 2013, one of our long-time employees, Mr. Lewis Hatfield, passed away unexpectedly at The Ohio State University Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital. He was known by many as "Lew" or "Louie" and was admired for his youthful energy and work ethic.

Lew was hired into our District in October of 1976 as a high school custodian after a 21-year career and retirement as a Sergeant in the United States Air Force. He worked 37 years in the District in custodial and maintenance positions.

On a personal note, Lew was one of the hardest working, professional, and respectful individuals that I have had the privilege of working with.

Obviously, this is very sad time for family and friends of Lew and our school district. It is important that our Hamilton Local Schools community pull together and assist the Hatfield family with the difficult task of coping with Lew's unexpected passing.

Ohio eTranscript coming to Hamilton - Hamilton Township High School students will soon have a new, free way to send their electronic transcripts swiftly and securely to Ohio colleges and universities, as well as to some out-of-state schools.

Ohio eTranscript is a joint venture of the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Board of Regents, partnering with Parchment, a national electronic transcript service. Ohio eTranscript will streamline college admissions by allowing Hamilton students to complete the entire process online. This system is user friendly and should also reduce costs and save time for our high school.

Electronic transcript services benefit our high school counselors, students and parents by:

- Enabling school staff to focus on the more pressing business of educating students;
- Providing schools training and implementation services. Training can be completed in an hour;
- Providing email updates throughout the transcript-delivery process; and
- Allowing transcript requests any time, any day of the year.

Principal Miller and his staff will notify students and parents as soon as the District has access to the Ohio eTranscript system. We are hopeful that this electronic transcript system will benefit our Hamilton students for many years to come.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Lew Hatfield - I'd like to express my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Lewis Hatfield. I had the privilege of working with Mr. Hatfield over the past twelve years and have never found anyone more dedicated, hard working and respected than Lew. His passing is truly a great loss to our district and this community.

Health and Safety - Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction Richard A. Ross today announced that Ohio schools may now begin submitting school safety plans via a secure online portal to help first responders in case of an emergency. The portal is one of the many recommendations included in the Attorney General's School Safety Task Force announced earlier this year. Ohio law requires each Ohio school to submit school floor plans and safety plans to the Ohio Attorney General's Office. The plans are placed on the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) so they can be used by law enforcement and first responders in case of an emergency. Mr. Morrison is working with Obetz Chief of Police Ken Hinkle to prepare for this grant opportunity as well as other safety and security opportunities.

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. Record of immunizations must be provided to our middle school or your child is subject to exclusion. Please contact Mrs. Kathy Brickey, School Nurse, immediately with questions or concerns.

Student Information Services - Next week (October 7 - 11) is "October Count Week". This is the week that the state uses attendance data to determine funding for public schools.

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

Employment - The school district is always looking for local residents who would like to work as substitute custodians, bus drivers or cooks. If you are interested in joining our classified team, please contact Mr. Morrison at 491-8044 ext. 1203.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

District's Use of Technology in the Classroom to be Featured by *The Wall Street Journal* - Earlier this week, Mr. Payne worked with Jason Bellini of [The Wall Street Journal](#) to highlight our district's use of technology in the classroom. The feature story highlights 2013 Ohio Teacher of the Year, Carole Morbitzer's "Top Five Tech Tools" being used on a regular basis in her classroom. Her "Top 5" included: [SMARTBoard](#), Discourse software, Slate/Airliner Tablet, [Schoology](#), and [Remind 101](#).

[The Wall Street Journal](#) is published six days per week with more than 2.4 million subscribers (including nearly 900,000 digital subscribers). [WSJ.com](#) attracts more than 13 million unique visitors each day from around the world.

The video feature will be added to [The Wall Street Journal website](#) on Monday afternoon, October 7, 2013.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HTHS Support Staff Member of the Month - Billy Merryman

"Billy Merryman has a positive attitude and is a good role model for athletes and all students. He uses interactive teaching techniques to compliment Mrs. Harger's lessons." - HS Teacher

"I nominate Mr. Merryman as Staff Member of the Month. He is a team-player, he builds strong relationships with students and athletes, and he is a great presence in the building" - HS Teacher

"I nominate Billy Merryman for Staff Member of the Month. He has built a great rapport with the Cross Cat students and his athletes look up to him as a coach. He is a great addition to the High School." - HS Teacher

"Thank you! I think that I was chosen because the other staff members in the building are simply awesome. The MH room is something that you have to experience to get a grasp of the daily challenges that our kids face every day. Mrs. Harger does an amazing job planning and getting the room ready for the day, but as we both know, sometimes what we plan for may take a little extra time. Patience is key with our kids and most of them look forward to coming to school each and every day. A typical day for myself usually starts with a reading lesson of functional words with our more severe students. Words like emergency exit, staff lounge, etc. These are words that they may see throughout the school or in a work place. I then have an advisory class in our cafeteria with some sophomore students. The rest of the day includes trips to Personal Finance with a few of our students, and lessons in History, Math, and Science with our students. Thanks again for the recognition, but it would not be possible with all the help and support of the other staff members in the building. We really appreciate the visits from you all that stop and say hi or purchase coffee from us in the mornings. I try to get our kids as much interaction as possible, so taking time out of your schedule to stop and

see us really brightens up their day. Thanks again." - Billy Merryman

Go Rangers!

HTHS Congratulates Mr. William Merryman for earning HTHS Support Staff Member of the Month.

HTHS Teacher of the Month - Tiffany Murgatroyd

"I strongly recommend Mrs. Murgatroyd as our Teacher of the Month. She is obviously here for the kids first. Since she arrived to the HS, the staff moral has even boosted more than I though possible." - HS Staff Member

"Tiffany Murgatroyd is a great teacher and co-worker. She has spent a great deal of time this year and last working with student council: coordinating elections, dances etc., and still has found the time to help other teachers with their extra-curricular events. Most notably, in my opinion, was her dedication to helping Chris Rollins with his English assignments after school last year. Her generosity and compassion for everyone deserves to be recognized." - HS Teacher

"I recommend Tiffany Murgatroyd. She worked one-on-one after school with Chris Rollins last year so that he could continue his high school studies. She spends numerous hours after school preparing lessons for her English students. She supports other staff members in events they host and has a positive attitude while doing so." - HS Teacher

"I am greatly humbled for being chosen as staff member of the month. I don't feel that I what I do stands out any more than the work of the other great staff members in the high school. I enjoy coming to school every day to work in a positive environment, and I gather my enthusiasm from the students. This past month, I took on the responsibility of High School Student Council Advisor, Sophomore Class Advisor and OMUN Advisor, in addition to teaching English 9 and an English elective, Modern Communications. It is a treat to share great literature with the students and use our "Factual Fridays" to increase students' understanding of non-fiction in relationship to current issues in our world. Modern Communication class is new to me and I am hearing enthusiastic feedback from the students. I held our student council elections with the students at the beginning of the year and the students ran some outstanding campaigns! We just finished our Homecoming Dance and elected our Homecoming representatives. Even though I thought these two events went well, I have more ideas for next year. I'm starting OMUN groups and know that I can count on this supportive staff for their help with allowing kids to work together on their resolutions during advisory period. With all of the support from other staff members, my transition from the middle school to the high school was much easier on me than I had anticipated last year. I'm excited to start my second year in the high school and energized to work with a great group of students as their advisor and teacher. Thanks for the nominations." - Tiffany Murgatroyd

HTHS Congratulates Mrs. Tiffany Murgatroyd for earning HTHS Teacher of the Month.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Reading Rangers - Students in the 7th grade language arts have started reading their first novel. Many are reading The Skin I'm In and others are into The Westing Game. All

students are developing a sense of major vs minor story elements within a story to give it depth. Along with this is discussion of how other story elements such as foreshadowing, and setting affect the story. Many come in to class asking if we are going to read more to find out what happens to favorite main characters.

Middle School Staff Trained for Evacuation - On Wednesday, part of the Late Arrival time was spent training the Middle School staff on the use of the Evacu-trak system, used to get non-ambulatory individuals down flights of stairs during an emergency evacuation or drill. Shaye Miller, the district Physical Therapist, trained the staff and used Mr. Jason Benton as her example. Thanks to Shaye and Jason for their help!

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Social Studies Teacher Joins HIS Team - Ms. Pelfrey joined the HIS staff earlier this month as a 5th grade social studies teacher. She taught in southern Florida for six years before returning to Ohio to be closer to family. Ms. Pelfrey earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Rio Grande and a master's degree from Florida Atlantic University.

Mrs. Holowicki Is Outstanding- On September 25th, Mrs. Holowicki was recognized as a 2013 Outstanding Teacher of the Central Region by The Ohio School Boards Association. She was honored during a banquet at Villa Milano. Mrs. Holowicki is certainly deserving of this award for her excellence in teaching and dedication to our students.

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Student of the Month – 1st Grade student, Tommy Edwards was selected as the HES Student of the Month for September. Tommy's teacher, Mr. Zimmerman, had this to say: "Tommy is a very hard working student! He loves to be at school, and is passionate about his work. Tommy is a great role model for his classmates by doing his best work each and every day. He is also a very Respectful Ranger!" Congratulations to Tommy and his family.

Staff Members of the Month – Intervention Specialist Randy Rose (left) was selected as the HES Teacher of the Month, and educational aide Kim Bennett (right) was selected as the Classified Staff Member of the Month for September. The anonymous staff members who nominated Mr. Rose and Mrs. Bennett 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." "She has encouraged a special education student to work towards total independence. It is exciting to see this students be so aware of his progress and inspired to do more. Kim always gives her very best each day with a smile." Congratulations to Mr. Rose and Mrs. Bennett.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Circle S Family Day - Thanks to the record-breaking number of family members who enjoyed a day at the farm. Everyone enjoyed a hayride, sunflower maze, petting zoo, and a special treat. Family Days like this are special. The weather was perfect and the kids had a blast! As we saw first hand this is a place where pumpkins and friendship grow!

He Made a Difference - The Preschool Staff and Students will fondly remember Mr. Lewis Hatfield for his funny conversations, thanking the Lord for work to be done, and his generous nature. Lew loved his job and the kids at the preschool and we loved him right back! Lew surly Made A Difference!

HAMILTON ALTERNATIVE ACADEMY

Gifted Education Back in Legislation - The state department of education is revisiting the Gifted Education rules and regulations. They are seeking input from stakeholders across the state and will hopefully have the new details out soon.

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Ohio Achievement Assessment in Reading – Third grade students will take the Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA) in Reading on Tuesday, October 8. This fall test helps identify students who are reading at grade level, those on track to master 3rd grade reading skills, and those students who need additional instruction and intervention. Students will take the OAA again in the spring.

Content Help for Parents – Many of us struggle to help our children with mathematics, science, and other content because it may have been a long time since we have studied these subjects. Here are some sites that might be help to refresh knowledge or to provide resources to help reinforce student learning at home:

www.coolmath.com/parents/
www.khanacademy.org
www.kids.usa.gov/grown-ups/index.shtml
www.math.com/parents.html
www.pbs.org/parents/

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

HHS Students Attend OHSAA Foundation Leadership Conference – The Department of Athletics and was able to send seven student-athletes to attend the annual OHSAA Foundation Student Leadership Conference. The conference was held at the Ohio State University Student Union Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom. The guest speakers included Harvey Alston, Antonio Smith, Rick Metzger, Coach Ty White, Scoonie Penn, Janine L. Oman, Dom Tiberi, Roy Hall, and Nick Jackson.

The topics of the day included the role of the student athlete, bullying and hazing, the role of team captains, healthy lifestyles, sportsmanship and leadership as well as community service projects. The student-athletes participated in the event with the hopes that they will use their leadership skills to help all Rangers Athletic programs.

Athletes that attended the conferences collectively represented Boys Basketball, Baseball, Football, Boys Track and Field, Girls Basketball, Girls Track and Field, Volleyball and softball. A special thanks to Head Girls Basketball Coach Carla Shaw for chaperoning the trip.

Girls Tennis Places 3rd at Mid-State League Tournament - The Rangers Girls Tennis team competed in the MSL tournament on Saturday, September 28 at Teays Valley and

placed third, behind Logan Elm and Circleville. First round winners at the tournament were junior Danielle Rodriguez at first singles against Fisher Catholic, 10-1, sophomore Khloee Rowe at third singles against Fisher Catholic, 10-0, and seniors Savannah McGowan and Cassie Corfman at first doubles against Fisher Catholic, 10-6. Junior Danielle Rodriguez was one of only seven players in the league to receive 1st Team-MSL honors for her success this season at first singles.

Congratulations to Danielle and to the Rangers for their placement in the tournament.

Volleyball Celebrates Senior Night with a Victory over Teays Valley -

Congratulations to the JV and Varsity volleyball teams for defeating Teays Valley in the last home match of the season. The JV team won in two sets with scores of 29-27 and 26-24. The JV finished their home season with an impressive undefeated record, not even dropping one set all season long at home. Seniors Caitlin Douglas and Christine Swanson led their varsity team to another league win for the season and for a successful senior night. The varsity won 25-21, 25-20, and 25-22. Both the JV and Varsity teams improved their records to 15-4 with their victories over the Vikings.

Varsity Football Downs the Aces - For the first time in 25 years, the Varsity Football Rangers traveled to Amanda-Clearcreek High School and came away with a victory. The away game-losing streak was ended with a 28-23 victory over the Aces. The Rangers took an early lead with a 1-yard touchdown run by Lorenzo Bridges. Micky Crum then intercepted a pass and returned it 49 yards for a touchdown to give the Rangers a 14-0 lead. Dillon Hawthorne blocked a punt in the 4th quarter to set up a touchdown strike from Dante White to Micky Crum to put the Rangers up two scores with 6 minutes to go in the game. The Rangers held on to win their second game in a row. The Rangers move to 3-2 overall and 2-0 in MSL play.

The Rangers travel to Liberty Union on Friday, October 4 to take on the undefeated Lions with kickoff slated for 7:30pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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