

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Sept. 6-13, 2013

Smooth Start Is A Result Of Committed Stakeholders - We have had a successful, effective, and efficient start to our school year. I believe this is due to the fact we have had no turnover in our administrative leadership team, and very little turnover in faculty and staff. Low employee turnover shows their commitment to providing the best education possible for the students of our school district. Our students are also well aware of what is expected of them when attending class each day, which allows for a smooth transition from summer break into a learning frame of mind.

I am very proud of our students and teachers for their hard work and effort put forth inside our classrooms each and every day. Our district experienced continued growth over the course of the past academic year, and we are showing no signs of slowing down as our district employees continue to collaborate in order to develop forward-thinking processes that will maximize learning opportunities for every student.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our students' parents and guardians, along with community members, for their continued support of Hamilton Local Schools.

Thank you to our Board of Education - Too often we neglect to recognize the dedication and hard work of our board members. Few people fully understand the scope and far-reaching implications of board members' responsibilities.

As we begin another school year, I want to thank each of these community members for caring about the education of the children of this community. Our school children benefit every day from the dedication and commitment to public education of school board members.

Actual Student Attendance Count - At the end of the first three full weeks of each school year, Superintendent Lester conducts Actual Student Attendance Counts for each building, grade level, and program in our district. Week Three counts for the 2013-2014 school year were conducted last Friday, September 6, 2013.

The counts indicate that our K-12 student enrollment is up 58 students from last school year. These student counts are used to determine effective and efficient staffing and student placement throughout our district.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Student Information Services - Data is being prepared for the October count submission. Ohio school districts are funded based on attendance—their “student average daily membership” or ADM—as reported to the Ohio Department of Education during the first week of October.

Administrative Meetings - Mr. Morrison met with the district's Assistant Principals, HTHS Dean of Students Matt Thompson and Alternative Academy Director Allyson

Price to review alternative academy issues, expulsion hearing procedures, residency, attendance and disciplinary issues, lockdown procedures, building and district phone trees, free and reduced lunch programs and residency affidavits on Thursday, September 12. These regular "AP" meetings also feature a book study, led by Dr. Witten. Our book study, "The Answer to How is Yes" by Peter Block, prompted an interesting discussion regarding our individual personal values hierarchy.

HTHS Assistant Principal Mike Morbitzer, Technology Director Lisa Buchanan and long time HLSD collaborator Roy Gordon, creator of Practical Solutions for Educators, demonstrated new software, OTES on the Go. This software will allow our administrative staff to use their iPads during the new OTES and OPES procedures. OTES on the Go features:

- Complete short OTES walkthrough evaluations
- Complete 30 minute narrative observations with greatly reduced typing
- Score narrative observation with the OTES rubric
- Schedule observations
- The OTES Final Summative Rating
- Can store additional evidence gathered to complete the rating
- All collected data can be viewed from the Summative Rating form

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 is currently receiving bids for electrical work on our new high school softball field.

Enrollment - Thirty-four new students have enrolled over the past two weeks. Enrollment has slowed since the rush of new registrations in July and August.

Residency - Mr. Stevens reviewed and confirmed 30 new residencies during the week.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Automated Call System Tested For Students/Parents On Saturday Morning - For the 6th consecutive year, Hamilton Local School District will be utilizing an automated call system to deliver closing/delay announcements, unexcused absence calls, and other important information. Our schools also send targeted voice messages to students enrolled in specific grade levels that are relevant at the time. We tested the system on Saturday, Sept. 14 at 11:30 a.m., and everything tested out perfectly. As always, you can also get news from [our district website](#), as well as our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HTHS Observes Patriot Day 2013 - Patriot Day is an annual required observance to remember those who died or were injured during the terrorist attacks in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. The HTHS Social Studies Department has collaborated between grade levels so that on each observed Patriot Day, each grade level and student will receive

information and material on varying topics as it pertains to the appropriate grade level. This allows the department to cover more material without being repetitive.

At the 9th grade level: A historical foundation and background of 9/11 will be established. This includes describing the events of 9/11 and its groundwork.

At the 10th grade level: Students will build upon prior knowledge regarding the historical background of the events leading up to 9/11. We will be exploring primary and secondary sources from people that lived through and lost family members during the attack. Also providing video clips to enhance understanding of content.

At the 11th/12th grade level: Student lesson will explore the political decision-making process that took place at the city, state, and national levels during and after the attacks in order to analyze the effectiveness and ability to the intended goal of pertinent policy.

As ordered by Ohio Governor John R. Kasich, HTHS flew their flags at half-staff and at 8:46 a.m., all staff and students had a moment of silence to honor the innocent Americans and people from around the world who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

School Pictures - On Monday, all Hamilton Township High School students rotated through the three photographers present from Ripcho Studios, to get their school pictures for home ordering and yearbook. Ensuring that 900 students get their picture in a timely fashion takes an organized plan. Mrs. Rochelle Dyer, Yearbook Advisor is out on maternity leave; therefore Ms. Caley Stevens took the lead coordinating the days events. The day was a success and Ripcho photographers commented to Principal Miller about how his students are the best behaved they've ever worked with.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

It's All About Me - The 8th grade Language Arts classes already have been working hard on their writing skills this year by creating "Magnificent Marvelous Me" books. These books provide the teachers with an abundance of personal and academic information about each student. Not only do they learn about the students themselves, they measure the proficiency of their writing abilities. Students include photos and design a scrapbook that they can look back on in the years to come. The students are eager to share information about themselves and their families as they present their scrapbooks to their peers.

Strong Start for Science - 7th and 8th grade science classes are off to a great start this year! All 7th graders have been reviewing the scientific method, lab safety, mass, density, and volume, as well as the metric system. This week, Mr. Good's class began working on a comic book, illustrating the kinetic molecular theory, also known as the states of matter! 8th graders are wasting no time and have already been preparing for the science OAA's that will take place at the end of the school year! 8th grade students are spending two days a week with the science teachers during their SSR time. During this time, students are reviewing possible material that they may see on the OAA's. Isn't it

hard to believe that it is already time for the first short cycle assessments for the 2013-2014 school year? All middle school students have been very busy preparing and taking their first science SCA this week; be sure to ask your child how they did on their test!

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Hamilton Intermediate School Celebrated Patriot Day - Students at the Intermediate discussed the events of 9/11 and the hero's of that day! Several classes watched video clips on the events of the day and the heroic efforts of the passengers on Flight 93. Sixth grade students then talked about the importance of volunteering to help others, and then discussed ways in which we could help others.

Fifth grade students wrote letters to give to World War II veterans who will be flying on the FREEDOM FLIGHT to Washington to visit memorials that honor them.

The Fourth grade viewed pictures/websites explaining the events of Sept. 11th, and what "Patriot" means. They were also shown pictures of the memorial/museum that is being built to honor those who died. Classes then made inferences based on that information to discuss reasons why people would want to do what they did on 9/11.

6th Grade Volleyball Team Opens With A Win! - The Ranger Volleyball Program is proud to announce the beginning of a 6th grade volleyball team. The Rangers play in a league at the Buckeye Volleyball Center in Westerville. Congratulations to the 6th grade volleyball team and Coach Dickinson for winning their first match in two sets on Wednesday.

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HES Welcomes New Teacher - Mr. Brad Zimmerman transferred from the Intermediate building to HES due to an increase in enrollment in 1st grade. Mr. Zimmerman graduated from The Ohio State University and earned his teaching certificate through Ashland University. He began preparing his classroom last Friday and on Monday afternoon he was able to begin teaching his new class. He was able to hit the ground running because of his student teaching experience at HES and the support that he received from the other teachers in the grade level. Brad Zimmerman will prove to be an excellent addition to the Elementary staff and the students in his class enjoyed their first week together.

HES Tailgate Party - HES hosted its second annual "Teacher-on-the-Town" tailgate party before the varsity football game vs. Licking Heights. The tailgate was a huge success, with over 700 elementary parents and students attending. Families were treated to free hotdogs and snacks and enjoyed the multiple games that were available to play. A special thanks to the HES parent involvement committee, the HES PTO and all of the volunteers who helped make the event the great time it was.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

The Support Team - Lisa Payne is the district's School Psychologist assigned to the preschool. She has worked diligently to maintain assessment schedules, create behavior plans, consult with staff, and contact parents about their concerns or questions. Lisa has

the task of testing all special needs preschoolers transitioning to kindergarten. It is great to work with a well-organized professional like Lisa.

Megan Kish, the Speech-Language Pathologist assigned to the preschool, currently works on Thursday mornings and afternoons with preschoolers who need assistance with expressive and receptive language activities. She is a great resource for all the preschool teachers. Megan has had great impact on the students she works with.

Lisa and Megan presented at our recent late arrival on behavior interventions and developmentally appropriate language skills. They shared several resources that we will be passing along to the families of our students. Both of these ladies are "Making a Difference" in the lives of our Preschoolers.

Patriot Day - The Preschoolers honored this day by coloring a ribbon, wearing red, white, and blue, and by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in their classrooms. You are never too young to show your country!

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Art Achievement Awards - In 2010, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution designating the week beginning with the second Sunday of September as Arts in Education Week. The resolution states: Arts Education, comprising a rich array of disciplines including dance, music, theatre, media arts, literature, design, and visual arts, is a core academic subject and an essential element of a complete and balanced education for all students." In Hamilton Local schools we recognize that achievement in the arts has many benefits including understanding cultures, creating and performing art works, and understanding and appreciating the art of others.

This is the fifth year that one student from each grade level has had a work selected to be hung in the district permanent art collection at the Hamilton Education Center. These students were recognized for their academic achievement in the arts at the September 9 school board meeting. Students honored, and their teachers, were: PK -- Desiree Wooden (Mrs. King); K -- Jaxson Hampp, 1 -- Kaitlyn Spears, 2 -- Travis Gall, 3 -- Teagan Riedel (Mrs. Nunn); 4 -- Kazi Welch, 5 -- Alayna Seitzinger, 6 -- MacKenzie Castrodad (Mrs. Enright); 7 -- Abbie Robinson, 8 -- Nikkie White (Mrs. Lutz); 9 -- Rylee Boyer, 10 -- Rylan Foster, (Mrs. Dreiling); and 11 -- Jessica Magaw, 12 -- Brad Stinnett (Mr. Linkinhoker).

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Hamilton Township High School Hosts 3rd Annual Military Recognition Night - The Hamilton Local School District Office of Athletics, administration, varsity football team and cheerleaders hosted the district's third annual Military Recognition Night on Friday September 6th at Hamilton Township Alumni Stadium. The night of recognition was open to all veterans, those who have served and also active and retired military. These individuals were honored during a pregame ceremony. Pregame festivities included the guests being greeted by Superintendent Lester and HTHS graduate (1976) Col James Jones. Col Jones also conducted the pregame coin toss and gave a pregame speech to the

football team. The Office of Athletics would like to give special thanks to Department of Athletics Secretary Kim Schutte and our district's Director of Public Relations, Vince Payne for their help in organizing this year's event.

HTHS Senior Selected As Chris Spielman McDonald's Scholar Athlete -

Congratulations to HTHS senior Sammy Wilburn on being selected as one of this week's Chris Spielman McDonald's Scholar Athletes for Week 3 of this football season! She is featured in this week's *Chris Spielman's The Week In Football* publication, Ohio's ONLY weekly football preview magazine. Grab the latest copy at a central Ohio McDonald's location.

Varsity Football Drops First Game of the Year - On Friday September 6th, the Rangers Varsity football team lost a hard fought battle with the Hornets from Licking Heights. In front of a large Military Appreciation Night crowd at Hamilton Township Alumni Stadium, the Rangers jumped out to a 13-0 lead. The Hornets battled back scoring twice in the fourth quarter to win 21-13. The Rangers record drops to 1-1. The Rangers next game is Friday, September 13th at Worthington Kilbourne.

Middle School Soccer Continues Winning Streak - The MS Co-ed Soccer team traveled to Amanda Clearcreek on Saturday September 7th and returned with a 3-0 victory. All three goals were scored by two of the 7th grade girls on the team. Kerrianna Hennings scored two goals and Lupita Garcia scored one goal. The win marked the second shutout in a row for the Rangers and improved their record to 3-1 on the year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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