

## **Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up – August 26 - Sept. 2, 2011**

### **Preparations Begin For New Academic Standards Transition -**

Preparations are underway for school districts to transition to the revised academic content standards over the next three school years. The transition will begin with teachers and district leadership becoming familiar with the revised standards and how they compare with the previous standards. Dr. Witten will coordinate and lead the districts transition to the revised academic content standards.

ODE has posted content-specific crosswalks on each of the content area pages to support this work. An additional Comparative Analysis tool will be available in September from ODE, to assist in comparing the new and current standards.

### **Requirement To Observe Constitution Day On September 17th -**

Educational institutions receiving federal funding are required to plan an education program celebrating Constitution Day, which is Saturday, Sept. 17. This year's event marks the 224th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787. When Sept. 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, Constitution Day is held during the preceding or following week. All schools are asked to involve all students in grades K-12 in activities, and where possible, invite teachers, parents and other community members.

To help engage students in meaningful activities aligned to the school's curriculum and Ohio's academic content standards, the following resources may be useful in planning events and activities:

- [The National Archives and Records Administration celebrates Constitution Day](#) by presenting related activities and lesson plans;
- [Federal Resources for Educational Excellence](#) include information from more than 30 federal agencies on teaching and learning, with topics including the U.S. Constitution;
- [The National Constitution Center](#) is an independent, nonpartisan and nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of, and appreciation for, the U.S. Constitution, its history and its contemporary relevance; and
- [The Library of Congress](#) preserves valuable federal records, including documents from the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention of 1774-1789.

- [Liberty Day](#) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization committed to educating young Americans about the contents of the U.S. Constitution. Its website features a variety of resources, including a teacher's packet with lesson plans. Contact Ohio coordinator [Don DeVault](#) of the Ohio Lions Clubs for assistance in planning your school event.

## **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Construction/Maintenance Updates** - This week our maintenance crews, custodians and contractors completed installation of new trash receptacles at our high school football field, painting and sealing at Hamilton Intermediate, changed lights and repaired ballasts in various parking locations around the district, began floor finishing at our intermediate building and will begin sealing and striping the Middle School and Elementary School parking areas and playground.

**Enrollment** - Enrollment numbers this week have started to slow down. Special thanks to our registration department (Janice Crabtree and Maria Varney) and our community parents for registering early.

**Transportation** - Early transportation results... bus times have been great for early in the school year. As we work out the many transportation requests, times will minimize and we should be back to mid-year schedules within the next few weeks.

## **OFFICE OF THE TREASURER**

**Flex Plan Update** - We have completed the Flex Plan enrollment for the 2011-12 school year and we have 20% more people enrolled from last year. This is a program that enables employees at no cost to them to take out money for prescriptions, doctor visits...etc...PRE-TAX. This lowers their tax bill to Federal, State, and local governments. This saves our employees up to 25% on all the things above. This is a great benefit to our employees and hopefully we can continue to increase the enrollment.

## OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

**District Partners with Educational Service Center of Central Ohio (ESCCO) on New Quarterly Newsletter** - In an effort to increase communication with our stakeholders and other state, county, and non-profit educational organizations throughout Central Ohio (Franklin, Delaware, and Union Counties), the Office of Public Relations will begin working with the ESCCO to provide material for a new quarterly newsletter their company will begin publishing later this month.

We will work to highlight the many accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff while focusing on human-interest feature stories and how technology is used everyday in our classrooms.

## HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

**HTHS Proud Parent** - *Mr. Miller, I wanted to tell you a story about my family. I graduated from Hamilton myself in May 1979. In July 1979 I married my husband, Tony Hall. We enrolled our first child in Hamilton in 1985. Every single year since 1985 we have had a child enrolled in Hamilton. Our youngest daughter, Brittany Hall is a senior this year. She has been in Colorguard since she was a freshman. This year she is captain. When she graduates in 2012 my husband and I will have had a child in school at Hamilton for 27 years in a row - no breaks in between. My maiden name was Christine Hatfield. My children are Angie Hall, Eric Hall, Dustin Hall and Brittany Hall. I have a t-shirt that says "once a Ranger, always a Ranger". So true. I'm so proud of my children and keeping them in Hamilton Schools was very important to my husband and myself.*

*Now I have 3 grandchildren at Hamilton - Damion Hall goes to Middle School this year, Marcus Hall is in the intermediate school and my little Hailey Hall is in 1st grade.*

*With Brittany graduating this school year I'm starting to get a funny little feeling. I accomplished what I set out to do. This year is a year of "last" for Brittany. Last first day of school, last zucchini fest parade, last band camp, etc. -- all of the sudden it's here.*

*I think this is a pretty good story and I wanted to share it. Hamilton schools have been such a huge part of our lives.*

**GO RANGERS!!!**  
*Christine Hall*

**Spirit Shop Prepares Website** - Senior marketing students are collaborating with Mr. Vince Payne to prepare the marketing lab (School Store) to be added to the HTHS website. The store website will inform those on-line of merchandise sold in the Spirit Shop. The first item will focus on Spirit Week Class Shirts.

**HTHS Educator (Mr. Collins) Inspires Student To Become Teacher -**

*Hey Mr. Collins,*

*I think I have the right email, I'm not sure, but if I do then I'm addressing Mr. Collins, my old English teacher. This is Aaron Downing, you came to my house when I was ill with crohns disease to help me with my work. I was just watching a movie, that had a really compassionate high school teacher in it, and it reminded me of you, and I was just wondering how you were doing? It may please you to know that I did mean what I said all those years ago, when I said you inspired me to be a teacher as well, and I am in my second year of my teaching degree program. I just wanted to remind you that being a good teacher to students who need them really does make an impression, and we never forget those who inspire us.*

*From a student you helped out, and made a difference to.*

*Thank you,  
Aaron Downing*

## **HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**FORE!** - The Physical Education Department at the Middle School has taken on a new unit of study this year: Frisbee Golf! Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Balmert have been working with their students on the proper techniques, learning the rules, and of course lots of practice. The past couple of days have provided the students the opportunity to showcase their skills as they have been playing matches and competing with one another. Just another example of a way to get outside and enjoy exercise and nature!

**Keeping Informed** - In an effort to keep all of the Middle School building as informed as possible, Mr. Good and a group of 8th grade students have been placing announcements and calendar events on a PowerPoint presentation that continually loops throughout the day and is shown in the main office and the cafeteria. This allows all of the students to get the most up to date information on what is going on here at the Middle School. Thank you, Mr. Good and your students!

## **HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

**New Opportunity For Fourth Graders** - This year in place of music the 4th graders are going to a Language/Literacy Special. The Language/Literacy Special is taught by two Speech-Language Pathologists named Miss Kish and Miss Ray, who are new to the school district. Miss Ray is teaching 8th period and Miss Kish is teaching 7th period. This a brand new special to the fourth grade. The purpose of this class, which is offered once a week to students, is to provide additional practice on what the students are learning in reading class with extra emphasis on vocabulary. This review will provide study and test taking tips to help prepare for the OAA's. Miss Kish and Miss Ray plan to work closely with the teachers as well as incorporate their Speech, Language and Literacy backgrounds into the class. They both thrilled to be teaching this class and having the opportunity to build the 4th grade reading and language skills

**New Lockers For The Sixth Graders** - Students are beginning to open them more smoothly, and are glad to have this new privilege. The first week of 6th grade was a great success, and all teachers and students are excited to learn and work hard this year!

**Collaboration Leads To Student Success** - Our intervention specialists and Mrs. Siegel met to work on how to best meet the needs of our special education students. This valuable planning will provide this group of students with the intervention and support that they need in order to have a successful school year. The communication between these teachers allows them to effectively address these students' wide variety of needs.

**Keeping Up To Date With The World Around Us** - Every morning the students in 4th grade come to school, grab their breakfast, proceed to class, and sit down to watch Channel One as they enjoy their food. Channel One News is a television news network for kids making news interesting and engaging for young people.

**Teamwork Makes A Difference In The 5th Grade** - The 5th grade is looking forward to another year of teamwork and collaboration. Based on our students' growth we have high hopes and expectations for student achievement. Students are already diving into the novel studies that were so successful last year.

## **HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Science in Art Class** - How do science and art relate? The students at Hamilton Elementary School kicked off their first week in Mrs. Nunn's art class by investigating this question. Mrs. Nunn turned the art room into an "art-science lab" where each table was set up for a simple investigation with a question to answer. Students discovered what happens when they add salt to paint, mix colors together, color over textures, and paint over crayon.

Furthermore, why and how this happens was another part of the investigation. It turns out that science and art relate in many ways! Our experiment in art class directly addresses Ohio Academic Content Standards for K-3 in both art and science. This year, in connection with our school-wide science theme, students will explore much more about science throughout the building as well as through special events.

### **Students are Rewarded for Participation in Summer Reading Program**

- At the conclusion of last year, the students of Hamilton Elementary were provided with a packet aimed at encouraging them to participate in the Summer Reading Program. There was a letter to their parents addressing the importance of continuing to read over the summer, as well as a replica of our special event mascot from last year, "Flat Stanley," which students could read to and decorate. The packet also included a schedule of events sponsored by the Columbus Public Library and a Library Book-Mobile bingo card in which the students were challenged to complete various reading/learning activities throughout the summer. Students who completed the bingo card and returned it at the beginning of this year were presented with a special Library Reading Ranger Buck worth 10 Ranger Bucks!

Below are a few of the students who completed the program.

**First Two Fire Drills of the Year Very Impressive** - Ohio requires that schools conduct two fire drills within the first two weeks of school. This is a tall order for elementary students, and especially Kindergartners, because the drills can interrupt their newly established routines. HES Students did an excellent job during both drills. The first was smooth and orderly but took a bit longer than usual because it was the first ever fire drill for many of the children. The second drill was a full 40 seconds faster and very close to the building record.

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**Enrollment** - All classes are full with the exception of our special needs classes. We are working on assessing and interventions with several students and will make the needed adjustments when necessary. The students are doing a great job in all classes.

**Baby News** – Mrs. Ivery and her husband Skip are expecting their first child in March 2012. We are very happy and excited for them.

**New Speech Pathologist** - Megan Kish will be working with the preschoolers who have language needs. She is going to be at the Preschool on Thursdays. She will also be a valuable resource for all the Preschool teachers.

## **OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

**What Is The Alternative Academy?** - The Hamilton Alternative Academy is a public community school sponsored by Hamilton Local Schools, providing education to students in grades K - 12. We work with the students, parents, teachers and administrators of Hamilton Local Schools to provide the most appropriate learning environment for each of our students. Our office and classroom are located in the Hamilton Education Center where Mr. Benton and Mr. O'Reilly, our two teachers, are available assist students in any of their courses.

*Currently, the Alternative Academy offers four programs:*

### Hamilton Alternative Academy

The Hamilton Alternative Academy serves students from grades K - 12. Hamilton Local teachers have developed much of the coursework used for our Alternative Academy. This coursework follows state standards and helps

to prepare our students for state testing. We supplement our curriculum with courses from the American School of Correspondence as necessary. The bulk of our students are in this program where we are primarily working with students who are above 16 and deficient with credits or who are at-risk of not graduating on time for a variety of reasons.

Through the Alternative Academy, we also provide credit recovery coursework for students attending Hamilton Township High School, including the CBI (Work-study) students. Mr. Thompson serves as our Dean of Students and helps assist the credit recovery process.

#### Hamilton Alternative Classroom

The Hamilton Alternative Classroom (AC) serves students in grades 9-12 and is located in the High School. This program is recommended for students who have behavioral or truancy issues. These students are supported in a small group self-contained environment and can earn opportunities to attend classes outside of the classroom as well. The High School AC students work on the same coursework as the Alternative Academy students so that they may earn HS credit.

#### Hamilton Digital Academy

The Hamilton Digital Academy serves students in grades K-12 and follows a computer based learning program. This opportunity is recommended for students in grades K-8 who have "at home" parents willing to work with their child to ensure proper dedication to school work and time management. Students and parents are required to attend a two-hour training session. After training, the student takes home a computer, plugs in at home and attends school. We support our Digital students with on-site instruction, intervention and tutoring.

#### Hamilton Special Needs Academy

The Special Needs Academy serves students in grades K—12 who have been identified as having special learning needs as dictated by the state of Ohio. These students can be served through text based units developed by Hamilton Special Needs instructors. This is primarily an at-home program with instruction and intervention implemented frequently by our instructor, Mrs. Bennett.

**Students Eager To Succeed** - It's been great to see all of the students back and ready to continue their coursework. We have a full house every day. Attendance is taken according to students working on-site and submitting work weekly.

## **OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Student Assessments** - Testing and assessments are a key component of instruction and are used to determine student needs as well as to measure progress. One method is classroom assessments such as daily learning activities, projects, quizzes, and tests used to measure on-going progress. Students also take short-cycle assessments approximately every 4.5 weeks to measure their progress toward grade-level indicators. Semester and final exams are given at upper grades to assess achievement of course requirements. And high school students in advanced placement classes take A.P. exams at the end of the course to determine if they have mastered the content and may be eligible for college credit. State-level tests administered include the KRA-L for beginning kindergartners, the Ohio Achievement Assessment for 3rd through 8th graders, the Ohio Graduation Tests for 10th – 12th graders, and the OTELA for English as second language students, K-12. We also use standardized assessments to monitor student progress and to compare student learning with age-alike peers from across the country. These include the AIMSweb reading and math for benchmarking and progress monitoring K-3, the Stanford 10 for core content (1st-2nd), the OLSAT for school ability (2nd), Gates McGinitie reading assessments (4th), and the EXPLORE (8th) and SRI (8th) to see if middle students are on track for post-secondary education. High school students planning post-secondary education take pre-assessments (PLAN and PSAT), college entrance exams (ACT and SAT), and the military aptitude battery (ASVAB) as well. Dates of the various assessments can be found on the testing calendar of the Department of Teaching and Learning page of our website.

**Supporting New Teachers** - Hamilton Local is pleased to welcome two first year teachers to our staff: Samantha Long and Brandon Twiss. The district has a long tradition of providing support to teachers who are new to the profession and has aligned our program with Ohio Department of Education (ODE) requirements. Formerly called Entry Year Teachers, the state now refers to new professionals as Resident Educators. There have been some changes in requirements for these new teachers, and our local program will follow the ODE guidelines. Mrs. Jan Strahm has taken over the role of lead mentor from Ms. Cathy Loreno, who retired. Our Resident Educator program began on August 18 and 19. Mrs. Strahm coordinated the two days of orientation and training to introduce the Ms. Long and Mr. Twiss to the district, their buildings, the technology we use, expectations for the program this year, and to meet their building-level mentors. The building level mentors, Mrs. Fullen and Mr. Thompson, will work with Mrs. Strahm to provide guidance and feedback to the new teachers.

## **OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Special Education Department in Search of Surrogate Parent** – When a child is placed in a foster home in our district and that child receives special education services, we sometimes need a person to attend I.E.P. meetings to serve as the child's parent. The state of Ohio requires that each district have an identified and trained Parent Surrogate. Hamilton needs a volunteer willing to attend training in November and to attend meetings for the very few children we have under this category. The training date is November 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Anyone interested in volunteering for this to help our children who have limited if any access to their biological parents, please contact Wynona Smith at (614) 491-8044 ext. 1234.

**Social/Emotional Development for Preschool** - Preschool children learn to share, cooperate, take turns, compromise and negotiate so they play and get along with each other. Social skills that are developed in early childhood will support children in their school, work, family and community lives. This session will provide information regarding the social and emotional development of young children (ages 3-6). Participants will learn about how to support age appropriate development in this area and when to address concerns. Hands on strategies you can use immediately will be discussed and resources will be provided.

**Date & Time: 5:30 p.m. Registration / 6 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Class**

**Location: Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011**

**Educational Service Center of Central Ohio 2080 Citygate Dr.  
Columbus, Ohio 43219**

**Audience: Parents, Service Providers, Educators**

If you have questions regarding content, please contact: Joe Farry at 614.753.4680 or [joseph.farry@escoco.org](mailto:joseph.farry@escoco.org)

For registration call or email: Tina Forshey at 614.753.4681 or [tina.forshey@escoco.org](mailto:tina.forshey@escoco.org).

## **DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY**

**Progress Book Parent Access:** Progress Book Parent Access Letters were created and delivered to each of the buildings last week for distribution to parents who have not yet accessed the Progress Book Parent Access system. The letters contain the necessary login information for parents to login and

check their child's academic progress (grades, attendance, homework).

*\*Note: Parents who had already previously used the Progress Book system did not receive new letters, as the login information does not change from year to year and they can still access the system with their existing logins.*

\*Progress Book Parent Access Website:

<https://parentaccess.mecdc.org/General/District.asp>

## **DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

**HTHS Athletic Hall of Fame** - Congratulations to the 2011 inductees to the HTHS Athletic Hall of Fame. A dinner was held on Thursday, September 1st prior to the induction ceremony. Athletes inducted were Joddi (Neff) Massullo, M.D. (Class of 1994), Nate Chau (Class of 2003), Markita (May) Suttle, M.D. (Class of 1999) while Bruce and Linda Cottrell were presented the "Ranger Athletic Award of Merit." A special thanks is in order to Mrs. Kim Schutte for her efforts and hard work in the organization of every aspect of this great ceremony.

**Ranger Football Wakes To An Exciting Finish** - The Rangers started out in sloppy fashion with turnovers and penalties, going into halftime down 23-0. The defense led an exciting 2nd half comeback by not giving up a first down, while the offense scored late in the 3rd quarter with a 1-yard touchdown run by PJ Ansel. Caleb Crumley added a 37-yard field goal to put the Rangers down 23-9. Zach Thompson then threw a 60-yard touchdown strike to Caleb Morris to bring the score to 15 - 23. The fourth quarter was dominated by the Ranger defense led by the front seven, Caleb Brown, Dominique Parnell, Howard Fowler, Logan Carter, Brian Ray, Ashton Evans, Arnold McDade and Mickey Crum. Freshmen, Aaron Williams ran two punts back in the fourth quarter for touchdowns with a 78 yard return with 1:01 left in the game to put the Rangers up 27-23.

**Freshman Earns Weekly Honor** - Freshman kick return specialist, Aaron Williams brought back two fourth quarter punts for touchdown including the game winner with 1:06 left in a 27-23 comeback win over Chillicothe. Williams returns covered 61 and 78 yards, respectively. Congratulations to Aaron for a spectacular start to his high school football career and being named **THE MUSCLE MILK AND JJHUDDLE OHIO SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK!**

**2011 Ranger Volleyball** - It has been a great start to the Ranger Volleyball season. The Varsity and JV teams took on Whitehall and both came out on top. Danielle Reynolds and Caitlin Gault sparked the varsity team offensively, while Sierra Spinger led the JV with her strong serves.

The middle school teams began the week with competitive play against Amanda Clearcreek. The 7th grade lost their match in three sets, but with the close scores of 25-27, 25-15, 23-25. The 8th grade won their first match with Rachel Ralston leading the team with her serves.

**Ranger XC Improves at Canal Winchester** - The High School and Middle School cross country teams went to Canal Winchester Invitational Wednesday evening seeing many improvements throughout the entire program as the night progressed.

The Middle School boys set the tone for the night with 2 personal bests. Brett Dotson ran improved by 1:20 to run 18:19. Jejuna Hopkins improved by 1:48 to run 18:39. The middle school boys and girls team adds several new runners to the team at next weekends race at Watkins Memorial.

The High School girls ran tough through illness and injury. Maili Morales led the Lady Rangers with her time of 23:07. There were 2 personal bests set by the girl's team. Hannah Sewell improved by 4 minutes to run 28:48. Amanda Williams improved by 2:37 to run 30:30. The girl's team looks to bounce back from injuries and illness next week at Watkins Memorial.

The High School boy's team finished 9th out of 23 scoring teams. The boys ran a tough race against strong competition. Curtis Tyler led the way with another medal in a time of 17:58. Austin Niemann set another personal best with a time of 18:35. Others running new personal bests were Greg Jankowski (21:34) and Kenneth Smith (20:41). The boys look to run another great team race next week at Watkins Memorial.

**Freshman and Middle School Football Continue Winning Ways** - The freshmen football team defeated Central Crossing 50-20 in their first game of the year. The 7th grade Rangers scored their second victory of the season by defeating Pickerington Lakeview "B" 30 to 14. The Rangers ran out to a 30 to 0 half time lead and never looked back. The 8th grade Rangers football team defeated Amanda 8 to 0 on Tuesday night to take their record to 2 - 0 for the season. Led by a stout defensive effort the Rangers pulled out the victory.

**Girls Tennis Defeats Whitehall 4-1** - The Girls Tennis team traveled to Whitehall Yearling and came home with their second victory of the season. Second singles player Demi Eggers won in two sets 6-3, 6-2. Third singles Danielle Rodriguez defeated her opponent in two sets 6-1,6-2. First doubles team Amina Cheema and Taylor Baker won 7-5,6-1, and second doubles team Shelby Carter and Kylie Scase won 6-1,6-1. Congratulations to the team!

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

<http://www.hamilton-local.k12.oh.us/protected/mastercalendar.aspx>