

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Sept. 12-19, 2014

Hamilton Local Performs Well on State-issued Report Cards – The Ohio Department of Education released local report card data on September 12. Districts were given grades in nine areas: standards met; performance index; four and five-year graduation rates; value-added (yearly progress) for all students as well as gifted, lowest 20% in achievement, and students with disabilities; and gap closing, which compares performance across all demographic groups. Although the state had increased many of the required performance targets, our district continues to demonstrate successes in student achievement. There are 49 school districts in the Ohio's central region and Hamilton Local was one of the top 10 highest performing school districts. Our district also had the 3rd highest graduation rate in Franklin County. Hamilton Local's successes can be attributed to staff and families who stay focused on student achievement, and to our students who accept the challenge of high expectations. Congratulations to the entire Hamilton Local community on continued academic achievement!

Students Continue To Buck Trends; Show Academic Achievement - Our district has the fourth highest poverty rate in the county, and much has been written on how students from high poverty areas do poorly academically. The opposite is true in our district, and that is directly due to the commitment to education by the parents, students, and employees of our district. We are one of the very few school districts that annually provide data showing an inverse relationship between student academic performance and poverty level, and we take great pride in that fact. Everyone involved in the process should be proud of our results because research consistently says the exact opposite should be happening. At Hamilton Local, we are the exception to the rule, and I am proud of everyone's commitment to being that exception.

Hamilton Local Manages Finances; Gets Outstanding Return On Local Tax Investment - Our district budget is partially funded by local operating levy tax dollars that were approved more than 20 years ago. Over the past decade, we have streamlined into a much more efficient and economically sound operation. In implementing those changes, our students began showing exponential academic growth. Last year, Hamilton Local School District spent \$8,268 on each student, which was the lowest expenditure rate in the county.

Board OKs Graduation Rules, Reviews Report Cards - The State Board of Education approved rules Tuesday to implement new graduation requirements enacted into law this summer, sending them on for vetting by the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review. The board also reviewed results and trends from last week's release of state report cards for local schools.

The rules, developed by the board's Graduation Requirements Committee over several meetings in the past months, give more detail to the law on granting diplomas approved in HB487 (Brenner).

The three pathways in that mid-biennium review bill allow students to graduate if they perform well enough on a series of seven end-of-course exams; reach a "remediation-free" score on a college entrance exam like the SAT or ACT; or pass a job skills assessment and earn an industry credential.

The board's rules set the threshold for the end-of-course exams, mandating 18 points across the seven assessments, for an average score of 2.5 out of 5. The rules also limit the recognition of industry credentials to those tied to "in-demand" jobs identified by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Office of Workforce Transformation. They also designate Advanced Placement tests that can be taken in place of end-of-course exams in history, science and government, as well as address requirements for transfer, dropout and foreign exchange students.

The state raised the bar for meeting the 24 indicators this year to having 80 percent of students meet expectations, up from 75 percent on the previous report card. Data for a 25th indicator focusing on gifted education was reported but not used in the grade calculations this year as well.

Provided by Focus Education, a service of Hannah News service

Hamilton to receive \$38,000 in proposed workers' comp premium rebates - Another Billion Back in workers' compensation rebates could be in the mail very soon. Gov. John Kasich and Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer announced a plan last month to return \$1 billion in the form of rebates to public-taxing districts and private employers. That means \$44.3 million for Ohio's school districts.

If approved by the Bureau's Board of Directors later this month, each eligible school district would receive approximately 60 percent of their billed workers' compensation premium during the 2012 policy year.

New GED age requirements effective September 17, 2014 - Beginning September 17, form submission for GED testers ages 16 and 17 must include a copy of the current year withdrawal form signed by the administrator. Additionally, an [Original Consent Form](#) must be signed and notarized from the parent, guardian or court official (copies of the guardianship or court documents must be included).

Form submission for GED testers age 18 must include a copy of the current year withdrawal form signed by the administrator.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HTHS Observes Constitution Day - On Wednesday, September 17, the HTHS Social Studies Department collaborated throughout grade levels regarding topics and levels of the Constitution as it pertains to the appropriate age level. This allows the department to cover more material without being repetitive.

At the 9th grade level: The Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence and its application to the Enlightenments period will be introduced and discussed at length.

At the 10th grade level: The lesson will tie in to American History, and will be made applicable to their personal lives. Discussions of Constitution law cases that are directly applicable to the students will take place.

At the 11th/12th grade level: Students will review of the meaning of Constitution Day, then listen to and analyze the Preamble to the US Constitution to ascertain its intent. Finally students will examine the role of the people in shaping the US Constitution and will engage in a discussion that prepares them to determine if they would sign the US Constitution of 1787.

HTHS Recognizes High Achieving Students - On Wednesday, HS Administration and Counselors recognized all students who earned three or more quarters of Honor Roll during the 2013-2014 school year. Parents and family members joined us for the special Awards Ceremony where students were call up on stage to receive their certificate of recognition from Principal Miller. Also recognized during this awards ceremony was senior student, Mijewell Gabriel. Last year, Mijewell participated in the 2014 Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Washington, D.C. She was nominated to represent Hamilton Township High School and the state of Ohio at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders because of her excellent academic performance, leadership ability, and desire to serve humanity as a physician or medical scientist. Principal Miller was proud to recognize Mijewell Gabriel as the recipient of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists Award of Excellence.

To review a list of student names recognized during this special event, please [click this link](#).

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Hair-Raising Experience - Eighth grade science students have been studying the forces of electrical, gravitational and magnetic attraction. Little did they know, there was actually some physics involved in a simple trick they had seen before! Students were amazed to see static charges collected on a balloon attract paper and even hair. Miss Luchini and Mr. Aitken's classes have also been learning about the relationship of electricity and magnetism that allows us to use electric motors and generators. Science teachers surprised students with demonstrations of the principle of electromagnetic induction by creating a current in a wire with just a magnet.

Secret Agents in Math Class - 7th grade math students took on the role of secret agents this week while playing a game that required them to move up and down a number line to retrieve a sunken treasure and then escape to a waiting helicopter. The game had the students practice their adding and subtracting skills using rational numbers and brought out their competitive spirit. The game allowed them to sabotage their opponent if they landed across from them on the game board. The activity was used to wrap up the unit on adding and subtracting and the students really enjoyed being able to "play instead of learn".

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Using Technology To Take Assessments - Students in Mrs. Eckenrode & Mrs. Tadak's 5th grade Language Arts classes are using Google Forms to take their spelling assessments. In doing so, students are gaining valuable experience working with Google Forms and the keyboard. Another benefit is that students

get instant feedback on their performance through the use of Flubaroo. Using this tool as an add-on to Google Forms, both the teacher and the students have instant access to student performance. Results can be graphed and achievement compared across classes, among students and /or to show individual growth or deficits.

Constitution Day Celebrated By Students - Hamilton Intermediate School celebrated Constitution Day by discussing the history of the Constitution, reading the Preamble and discussing the importance of how the country is to work for the People. The 6th grade classes created their own classroom Preamble and participated in a Constitution Day poster contest. In the fourth and fifth grade classes the students watched a video on the Constitution. Then they looked at the first amendment and the basic rights that we have as American citizens. Fourth grade also students wrote an essay about what the First Amendment means to them.

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HES Adds Two New Teachers - Due to an increase in enrollment, the Elementary school added one additional teacher to kindergarten and 2nd grade. Mr. Lester, Dr. Witten, and Mr. Tyler worked out the details last week, and the new teachers were given a couple of days to prepare their new classrooms. Students were moved to their new classes on Tuesday and the transition was very successful! This makes three years in a row that the Elementary school has added staff during the beginning of the year due to increased enrollment.

Welcome Mrs. Colby – In Mrs. Colby’s case, it is more appropriate to say, “Welcome Back” because she was a kindergarten teacher at HES for 6 years before transferring to the preschool last year. As Mrs. Colby put it, “I have only been away for a year and ten days.” She was actually able to move back into her old classroom because the preschool unit that was in the room has moved back to the Education Center. Mrs. Colby is a graduate of the University of Colorado and taught kindergarten and first grade in California for over twenty years before coming to Hamilton. We are very happy to add Mrs. Colby and her wealth of experience to our kindergarten team.

Welcome Ms. Walther – It is also appropriate to say, “Welcome Back” to Ms. Walther, but to a lesser degree. Ms. Walther did her student teaching at HES in the second grade during the 2011-2012 school year. After graduating from Capital University, Ms. Walther began her teaching career at Hayes Elementary School in the Freemont City School District and taught there for two years. This year, she moved back to central Ohio and took a job at A Plus Children’s Academy. When the second grade position was posted, Ms. Walther was at the top of the candidate list. After the interview process, she cemented herself as the top candidate and gleefully accepted the position when it was offered. Ms. Walther has maintained a close relationship with members of the second grade team and is accustomed to their curriculum, which has enabled her to hit the ground running. Welcome Ms. Walther.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Constitution Day All students were asked to wear Red, White, and Blue and had a special coloring page and learned the Pledge of Allegiance. Teachers prepared age appropriate lessons and created a classroom rules chart.

Welcome Back - We are excited to have Mrs. Breanna Moore and her teaching assistant Mrs. Desiree Robinson return to the Preschool. The move back was smooth and the kids never missed a beat.

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Hamilton Township Hosts 4th Annual Military Appreciation Night - On September 12th, the Department of Athletics hosted the 4th Annual Military Appreciation Night as the Rangers football team played Worthington Kilbourne. Over 35 active and veteran military members were recognized in a pregame ceremony on the field. The ceremony was capped off by three WWII veterans being escorted down the track in a WWII era military Jeep. A special thanks goes out to our Athletic Secretary, Kim Schutte, and Director of Public Relations, Vince Payne for their help in organizing the event.

Volleyball Defeats Bloom-Carroll, Improves to 11-2 Overall - The Varsity Rangers Volleyball team went on the road and defeated #5 Bloom-Carroll in straight sets on Thursday to move to 11-2 on the season. This marks the first time that Bloom-Carroll has lost an MSL match since October of 2010. The Rangers are ranked #16 in the latest D-II State Poll.

7th and 8th Grade Football Defeat Teays Valley East - The 7th grade Ranger football team improved to 4-0 Monday night with a 40-6 win over Teays Valley East. The Rangers were led by Trent Salyers on both offense and defense. Gavin Dzodan did an excellent job at corner while Gabe Blosser and Trinton Matheny did an excellent job up front. The 7th Grade Rangers will be at Logan Elm next Monday at 5pm.

The 8th grade Rangers also defeated the Teays Valley East Vikings on Monday night, 22-6. With the Rangers holding a two-point margin at halftime the defense clamped down on the Vikings while the offense got on track. The Rangers are at Logan Elm next Tuesday at 5pm.

Boys' and Girls' Varsity Soccer Teams Earn Victories over the Weekend - The Boys' and Girls' Soccer teams earned victories over the weekend. The Boys' team beat the Lancaster Gales at home on Saturday night 6-0 to up their overall record to 6-2-1 and league record 2-0-1. They continue to action this Saturday at Canal Winchester. The JV game is set to begin at 5:00pm.

The Girls' team traveled to River Valley on Saturday and came away 9-1 victors. Scoring for the Lady Rangers were Junior Captain Brooke Wilhite with 3 goals, Sophomore Aaliyah Solis with 2, Freshmen Emma Purington with 2, and Senior Brooklyn Abram and Sophomore Raeanna Keplar each with a goal apiece. The Rangers record now stands at 2-6-1. The Girls' will travel to Licking Valley on Saturday at 2pm.

Girls Tennis Defeats Bloom-Carroll - Girls' tennis defeated Bloom-Carroll Tuesday evening, 3-2. Wins came from senior Danielle Rodriguez at first singles 6-3, 6-1, junior Khloee Rowe at second singles 6-4, 6-3 and from senior Alisa Askew and junior Brandy Garrett at first doubles 6-0, 6-0. A JV doubles win came from senior Sarah Alaeddine and sophomore Lexi Bostic 8-3. The Lady Rangers are now 8-2 in the MSL and 11-6 overall and have rattled off six straight victories. The Girls' team and Hamilton Township will host the MSL Girls' Tennis Tournament on Saturday, September 20th. Good luck to the Rangers as they enter post-season action.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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