

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Sept. 13-20, 2013

Superintendent Lester Attends State Superintendent's Advisory Council Meeting -

Friday afternoon Superintendent Lester, along with fourteen other Superintendents selected to represent the 1,022 public and community schools in Ohio, attended State Superintendent Dr. Richard Ross' Advisory Council meeting. State Superintendent Ross uses his advisory council to keep District Superintendents informed of state level changes and learn what's going on at the local level.

It is the goal of the advisory council to make sure that every child in every school in every district in Ohio gets a great education that prepares them for the road ahead.

Hamilton Intermediate Teacher Kristen Holowicki To Be Recognized at OSBA

Central Region Fall Conference - Hamilton Local Schools Teacher of the Year, Kristen Holowicki will be recognized at the Ohio School Boards Association Central Region Fall Conference on Wednesday, Sept. 25, at the Villa Milano in Columbus. Intermediate Principal Mike Meade, Hamilton Board of Education Vice-President Pam Hallum, and Board Member Walley Obert will also attend this fall conference recognition event.

Board of Education Operation Goals - The primary responsibility of our Board of Education is to establish purposes, programs and procedures, which produce the educational achievement needed by our students. The Board must accomplish this while also being responsible for wise management of resources available to the District. The Board must fulfill these responsibilities by functioning primarily as a legislative body to formulate and adopt policy, by selecting an Superintendent to implement policy and by evaluating the results. Our Board of Education carries out its functions openly, while seeking the involvement and contributions of the public, in its decision-making processes. Our Board meets monthly and encourages district residents to attend. Our Board meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in our Board Room located in our Education Center at 775 Rathmell Road. The next three meeting are:

- Monday, October 14
- Monday, November 18
- Monday, December 9

Our Board will approve our 2014 meeting dates and times during our January Organizational Meeting.

Student Promotion and the Third Grade Reading Guarantee Requirements of Ohio

Revised Code 3313.608 - For the 2013-2014 school year, a student must reach at least a 392 on the Grade 3 Reading Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA) to move on to the fourth grade. If a student does not reach that score, the student may still move on to fourth grade if they qualify for a retention exemption. These exemptions apply to:

- Limited English proficient students who have been enrolled in U.S. schools for less than three full school years and have had less than three years of instruction in an English as a Second Language program;
- Special education students whose IEPs specifically exempt them from retention under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee;
- Any student who has received intensive remediation for two years and was previously retained in kindergarten through the third grade; and
- Students who demonstrate reading competency on a Reading OAA Alternative approved by the Ohio Department of Education.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Building Operations - Our buildings are required to do regular fire and lockdown drills with their students to ensure safety, compliance and coordination. Each building will chart their drills and provide that data to Mr. Morrison for review.

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

Rear door bus drills took place last week. Thanks to Mrs. Haughn, her drivers and building administration for helping to keep our students safe.

Bus counts were started this week on select routes. We use these counts to confirm capacity for various routes so that we can better utilize our drivers and buses. Additional counts will continue through the end of the month.

Residency - Mr. Stevens and Mrs. Varney continue to check residencies for incoming students. Each fall, hundreds of students are confirmed or denied attendance due to our investigation of residency. This process helps allow our district to continue to provide a great education for our residents. Mr. Stevens has confirmed nearly 300 new residents this summer and fall.

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. Record of immunizations must be provided to our middle school no later than Friday, September 20, 2013 or your child is subject to exclusion. Please contact Mrs. Kathy Brickey, School Nurse, immediately with questions or concerns.

Food Services - Mr. Morrison has completed the annual sponsors application for ODE's National School Lunch Program. This application was approved by the Department of Education and will allow Hamilton Schools to continue to receive reimbursements and funding for our lunch program.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

South High Skyline Chili Makes Donation To Hamilton Athletics - On Tuesday, September 17, the management team of Skyline Chili on South High Street presented a check donation of \$500 to the Hamilton Local Schools Department of Athletics to support our student-athletes. We would like to thank Joe Toupe and the team at Skyline Chili on South High Street for their generosity and we hope to develop this partnership to further increase opportunities for all of our student-athletes.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

HTHS Observes Constitution Day - On Tuesday, September 17th, 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 Enlightenment 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.

Legal Seminar for Students - HTHS Students sat through two afternoon 45-minute assemblies. One session was for upperclassmen and the other for underclassmen, on Friday Sept 13th. The Presiding Judge of Shelby County Probate/Juvenile Court, William Zimmerman and his Court Liaison, Amy Simindinger addressed students about the latest and most frequent broken laws and consequences that teenagers are facing regarding bullying, cyber harassment, sexting, Facebook threats, etc. Principal Miller agreed that this important information was necessary for students to hear and be educated on because so many students post or send pictures that are inappropriate. "This legal seminar will help influence students' decisions before making that next online post," Miller stated.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

"RAP"-ing in Language Arts - The students in seventh grade language arts have been enjoying the story "Rikki-tikki-tavi" while learning about story elements. The story tells of a brave mongoose who protects his human family and animal friends to the end, or is it the end for our brave friend? As students answer questions based on this fictional story they use a method known as "RAP". This means, "Restate, Answer, and Prove" your answer whenever you are asked to write out a response. This will be used as we continue reading more great novels and stories.

Collaboration in Math - Middle school math students have been working hard in and out of the math classroom. The math teachers are utilizing the help of Math intervention teacher Mrs. Coalter to help the students with corrections of their weekly quizzes and SCAs. The students go over the assessments in math class and then the following day Mrs. Coalter helps those students who struggled with certain concepts correct their assessment while other students work in centers on various math topics. Having another teacher review the content has been a great asset for the students because they get to learn the information in various ways and from more than one teacher.

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Showing Our Ranger Pride - The Intermediate students and staff had a great time participating in Homecoming Spirit Week! Our classrooms were full of cowboys and superheroes. Many also showed support for their grade by wearing their class colors. We all hope that our Ranger spirit will help lead the football team to a Homecoming victory!

We The People Of The United States... - Hamilton Intermediate students honored Constitution Day on September 17th in a variety of ways. Fourth graders read the book "If You Were There When They Wrote The Constitution". Each section began with a question about the Constitution. Students shared predictions about the questions before reading each section to learn more. Fifth graders discussed the importance of the

Constitution and the rights of US citizens and how the government must protect those rights. They also discussed the events that lead up to the signing of the Constitution and created a timeline of those events. Sixth grade students looked at a brief PowerPoint about why we have Constitution Day. They also broke down the "big" words in the preamble so they could understand what the words meant and how the Constitution relates to us today.

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Spirit Week - A large number of students took part in the district-wide homecoming week dress up days. Monday was Western day, Tuesday was Whiteout Day, Wednesday was Class Colors day, Thursday was Super Hero day, and Friday was Green and Gold day. As you might guess the most enjoyable day for the students was Super Hero day and the building was full of little super heroes. A big thank you to the Elementary staff for doing a great job of getting the students excited about Spirit Week and also to our parents making the effort to help children participate. Events like this help to build school and community pride that can be incredibly motivating for students as they go through the educational process and will stay with them forever.

Dental Screenings - As part of the "Make Your Smile Count" program, the Ohio Department of Health provided dental screenings to 117 of our 3rd grade students on Monday, 9/16/13. Each child was provided with a new toothbrush, sticker, and a letter to take home that tells about his/her dental health. The data obtained in the screenings helps the Ohio Department of Health learn about the dental health of Ohio's children and plan dental health programs. We were also provided a list of Safety Net dental care programs and dental hygiene programs in Franklin County. By offering sliding fee schedules, reduced fees or free care to clients, the participating dentists provide clinical dental services to needy children and families in our community.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

The Preschoolers Have School Spirit - This is always a fun themed week for the kids to show their school spirit and the Preschoolers were all in! From western day to class color to superhero day the kids had a blast getting involved with the district's Homecoming week! Ranger Pride starts early and we sure could tell this week! GO RANGERS!!!

Preschool Assessments - Over the next several weeks, your child will be assessed using two state mandated assessments GGG and DIAL 4. Get It, Got It, Go is used as a pre and posttest in preschool. It covers three areas: picture naming, rhyming, and alliteration. The second assessment is the DIAL 4. This test also has three areas of development: motor, concepts, and language. Results will be shared with parents with the progress report in October. These skills are a part of the everyday learning in our preschool. All the students are doing a great job-You sent us Great Kids!

OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

Progress Reports and Such - We are sending home copies of our student's progress today. In addition we are keeping a notebook in our classroom of each student's progress. We will be adding the Learning Plan (which drives the number of credits they need this year), Goals for each quarter, and any OCIS (Career Planning) information as the year progresses. This will serve as a resource for students and a useful tool to monitor and track their course progress.

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Community Partners - The Community Partners of Southern Franklin County held their monthly meeting on Tuesday at Grace Ministries. The Partners include the public library, businesses, the faith community, non-profit organizations, parents, and Hamilton Local schools. The Partners are best known for their holiday assistance program. Over 60 families were provided meals, necessities, and gifts for children last year. Among the other activities the partners support is the KidsConnect after school mentoring program for students in grades 6-8, and community fix-up assistance. Over the past decade, the Partners have worked together to strengthen the community by maximizing resources. The Partners are guided by these goals: to develop quality relationships and build community through cooperation and mutual trust; to work together to network shared resources in order to have greater impact; to grow together through shared responsibility; to meet the needs of the community through education and involvement in meaningful work; and to commit to excellence in all that they do. Vince Payne and Susan Witten are the district's representatives to the Partners. Learn more on the [Community Partners website](#).

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Parent Training Opportunities - Our State Support Team is [offering some really nice workshops for parents](#). There are many topics being covered. Topics like how to help your child with homework, college fairs, and how to better understand the IEP process and the evaluation/reevaluation process.

To register contact Tina Forshey 614.753.4681 or e-mail Tina.Forshey@escoco.org. To register we will need your first name, last name, mailing address, phone number, e-mail (if you have one) and the name of the training.

All sessions will be held at the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, 2080 Citygate Drive, unless indicated. Sign in and/or registration will be held 30 minutes before the session start time.

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

Progress Book Parent Access Alerts - Parent Access Alerts for missing assignments and low marks are now available. After signing up for an account with the parent registration key provided in a letter from the building, parents should sign in and click on the "Alerts" tab on the left side and check the alert types they would like to receive. It is also important to make sure the alert email is also set correctly.

**Please remember that the alert preferences must be set up each year.*

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Girls Tennis Defeats Bloom-Carroll on Senior Night - The Varsity Girls Tennis team defeated Bloom-Carroll at HTHS on Senior Night by a score of 3-2. Sophomore Khloee Rowe pulled out a three set match at third singles to clinch the victory for the Lady Rangers, 7-6, 3-6, 6-3. Other wins came from junior Danielle Rodriguez at first singles 6-0, 6-1 and senior Cassie Corfman and junior Alisa Askew at second doubles 6-1, 7-5.

Seniors that were recognized prior to matches beginning were Dhanijsa Branham, Cassie Corfman, Sarah Kell, and Savannah McGowen.

The Rangers will compete in the Mid-State League Tournament Saturday, September 21st at Teays Valley before heading into the OHSAA sectional tournament the following week.

Rangers Softball Program Holds Youth Camp - This past week, our Lady Rangers Softball program played host to its inaugural fall softball camp. The camp was held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5:30 till 7pm on the varsity softball field. Thirty campers ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade participated in the three-day event.

With the awesome help from nearly a dozen high school softball players, campers were able to learn the basics of the game. Campers learned how to hit, slide, bunt, field grounders and high pops. All the campers were extremely excited and were eager to learn from their "big kid friends." Coach Long would like to thank all the faculty and staff for their help in getting the word out to their students and for the help that all the other coaches offered during this past week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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