

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Aug. 23-30, 2013

Student Attendance Counts - Each school year at the end of the first three full weeks of the school year, the Superintendent conducts Actual Attendance Counts for each building, program, and grade level in the District. Our second of the three student attendance counts was completed today. The District uses these student numbers to determine the most effective and efficient staffing and student placement throughout the District.

Our week-two counts indicate that we have experienced some growth at the 1st and 5th grades. These concerns are currently being addressed with the addition of a 1st grade teacher and a 5th grade teacher. Our preschool enrollment has also grown by approximately 50 students due to the addition of an Half Day AM/PM Two Days Per Week Program.

Ohio to Receive Funds to Help Cover Cost of AP Tests for Low-Income Students - The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) will receive \$327,846 under a program announced Tuesday by the U.S. Department of Education to cover a portion of the fees charged to low-income students for taking advanced placement (AP) tests. Nationally, more than \$28.8 million will be distributed to 42 states.

Based on the anticipated number of test-takers and other factors, grants under the Advanced Placement Test Fee Program are expected to be sufficient to pay all but \$10 of the cost of each advanced placement exam taken by low-income students. States may opt to require students to pay a portion of the costs.

“This administration has taken unprecedented steps to boost college- and career readiness for our young people, especially first-generation college goers,” U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said in a statement. “Participation in Advanced Placement courses gives these students a jump start in college by challenging them to develop stronger study and critical-thinking skills. These grants will eliminate some financial roadblocks and enable more minority students to gain access to rigorous AP courses, which will help them succeed in today’s knowledge economy.”

By subsidizing test fees for low-income students, the program is intended to encourage those students to take AP tests and obtain college credit for high school courses, reducing the time and cost required to complete a postsecondary degree.

The grants can be used to help pay for low-income students taking approved AP tests administered by the College Board, the International Baccalaureate Organization, and Cambridge International Examinations. Levels of funding per state were determined on the basis of state estimates of the numbers of tests that would be taken by low-income students. *Originally reported by Focus Education. A service of Hannah News service.*

New exams will replace the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) - The State Board of Education's Graduation Committee gave preliminary approval Wednesday to its recommendations on changing requirements for Ohio students to earn a diploma, including options for some districts to administer slightly fewer end-of-course exams and the creation of a new board to bless career credentials.

The committee unanimously voted to direct the Ohio Department of Education to draft a report based on the recommendations, including any changes to state law or administrative rules necessary to implement the proposal. The report will be submitted to the full board for its September meeting in advance of a possible vote in October.

The graduation requirements are built around a series of 10 end-of-course exams -- three each in English and math, and two each in history and science -- based on the Common Core and Ohio Core education standards. New exams will replace the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT). Exam scores will correspond to points earned toward graduation, with 25 points needed to graduate. The new proposal also requires a minimum number of points in each of the four subject areas; achieving only the minimum score for proficiency on all tests would not be sufficient for graduation.

The new tests are set to debut in the 2016-2017 school year, though absent the change in state law the board is seeking, schools will be required to administer the OGT that year as well.

The proposal also allows school districts to identify tests that serve as alternatives to the end-of-course exams, such as Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests.

Also included is permissive authority for local districts to offer eight end-of-course exams instead of 10, enabling them to administer two math and English tests instead of three. To reconcile that change with the 25-point graduation scoring system, exam scores would be weighted 50 percent more for districts administering two tests. Districts making this change would have to administer the second and third tests in the math and English sequences, not the first and second.

Those later endorsements would need to meet three requirements: that they qualify a person for a full-time job; that the job can serve as a career; and that the endorsement can serve as the basis for further credentials or degrees.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Student Information Services - With the school year beginning, Mrs. Crabtree is now reviewing and preparing data for submission for the October Child Count. This data is used to determine funding for Hamilton Schools.

Campus and Athletic Grounds - Our maintenance crew, Scott Ayers and David Shephard, have been working diligently to prepare our athletic fields for our fall season. Our grounds specialist, Ed Quickert, has been managing our facility grounds since this

spring, as well as our athletic fields, which continue to be some of the finest in the state. With assistance from custodian Lew Hatfield, and our building custodial staffs, our facilities look great!

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

Enrollment - Mrs. Crabtree and Mrs. Varney enrolled another 27 new students this week.

Residency - Mr. Stevens confirmed 77 student residency concerns last week. Marvin confirms residency for all new enrollees as well as yearly checks on students enrolled under residency affidavits.

Health and Safety - Our high school is piloting the new eTrak Emergency Response System (ERS). This device provides staff the ability to instantly send an emergency message to pre-programmed recipients. Within seconds, our school office can notify local law enforcement of emergency situations.

Other - I'd like to say a special thanks to all those individuals associated with the 2013 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The ceremony is very well organized and professional. The banquet room was beautifully decorated and the food is always great. Thanks to Mrs. Kim Schutte for her continued work with this wonderful event!

I would be remiss if I did not also comment on the inductees. The three gentlemen who were inducted on Thursday night, two of which I work closely with on a regular basis, are prime examples of Hamilton excellence. Almar Walter has continued his education, receiving three college degrees at the University of Findlay and is currently the Director of Intercultural Services at UF. Rod Davisson, who received his first degree in Business Administration from Franklin University and his Law Degree from Capital University, is also the former Mayor of Obetz, current Village Administrator and the winner of the Ranger Athletic Award of Merit, was not only a great athlete at HTHS, but has also continued to provide his services and support to our school district since his graduation and is always available to me when I have legal questions or concerns. Rod has also played a major role in supporting our youth athletic programs. The Hall of Fame Committee also recognized Mark Tyler, our current Hamilton Elementary Principal and former head track & field coach. Mr. Tyler has been employed by our district since 2001 and has moved up the ranks from teacher to administrator. Mark is a shining example of someone that truly cares about the children, students and athletes of Hamilton Local Schools and brings his exuberance and enthusiasm to his elementary students and staff every day. He is truly a gift our administrative staff and a great role model for our elementary students.

Introducing the inductees were former Hamilton employees January Murgatroyd, Jon Morris, Mark Beggrow. Matt Lowe, our alternative classroom teacher and football coach introduced Mark Tyler.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

Preparing Students for College - As part of our HS Postsecondary Action Planning to: *Help more students pursue postsecondary education through local college access programs, financial aid advising, scholarship and grant availability advising, career guidance, and other services*, the HS Social Studies team has introduced a new AP Government Class (Lecture Style) located in the HS Auditorium with the top 50 AP juniors and 50 AP seniors. This large classroom setting is to prepare our students for the college setting and high expectations. AP Government is led by Team Teachers Lanthorn and O'Hearn.

HTHS Executes Perfect Fire Drill – The state requires school districts to perform and practice evacuation, tornado and other safety drills throughout the school year in preparation of an event should a school have to evacuate during the regular school day. During the first two weeks of the school year, HTHS practiced this drill. Perfectly executed drills include silent evacuation and complete organization. Once the attendance count is confirmed 100% accurate, students may filter back into the building and directly back to class. Pictured below, students are re-entering the building after making a complete building evacuation in less than two minutes.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

High School Credit at the MS - Some students attending Hamilton Middle School this year could have the possibility of leaving the building with 40% of the credits they need to become sophomores in high school. In addition to the Algebra 1 class that was taught here last year, students now have the opportunity to earn □ a credit of Health and □ a credit of Personal Finance, both classes being taught by high school licensed teachers. While the Algebra 1 students were selected using performance criteria and teacher recommendations, Health was a general elective, open to any 8th grade student taking electives, and Personal Finance is being offered to second-year, high-performance, Computer Applications students. During the first two weeks of the year, all students taking High School classes are off to an incredible start.

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Speeding Ahead With Ranger Pride - Taylor Murphy is a sixth grader at the Intermediate school. Last winter she joined the ASPO (Adapted Sport Program of Ohio), where she learned the fundamentals of wheelchair racing. After learning about wheelchair racing, she decided to join the Hamilton Intermediate Track Club. Her goal is to be the first Hamilton Ranger wheelchair racer to win a State Championship. This summer she had her first race against other wheelchair athletes at the ASPO Excel Games. She won 1st place in all the races in her class! Her personal record times are 100m 27.0, 200m 53.03, 400m 1.53. She also won 2nd place in the shot put and discus events.

Thanks to the change in rules from the OHSAA, disabled athletes are finally allowed to

participate with their fellow able-bodied athletes on a school track team. Taylor will be able to be on the Hamilton Ranger track team next year in the seventh grade. She is looking forward to being part of her school team and to proudly represent the Rangers. She said, "I will be able to be on my school team with my friends, wearing the same uniform, doing the same thing. I just have to do it a different way." Taylor is looking forward to track club this spring. She also said, "I love the feeling I get when I am on the track."

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Box Tops For Education - Hamilton Elementary School recently received over \$2,000 from Box Tops For Education. Box Tops earnings are used for student incentives to improve attendance and behavior, such as perfect attendance prizes and items in the Ranger Store. All of the students and staff at HES are thankful for the Box Tops that we receive and ask that our community keep up the great work. Please help by checking products in your home for Box Tops then clip and send them to school

New Traffic Pattern at HES Working Very Well - This year the Elementary school implemented a new traffic pattern and made changes to drop-off/ pick-up procedures to increase student safety. Mr. Tyler and Dr. Conley are happy to report that the plan is working as intended and that the staff members on parking lot duty have received numerous compliments from parents. Mr. Tyler and Dr. Conley would like to thank Asst. Superintendent William Morrison, Obetz Police Chief Ken Hinkle, Village Engineer Mike Corbitt, and the HES staff members who collaborated on the plan. A big thank you also goes to the numerous Obetz police officers that helped direct traffic during the first several days of school.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Second Step - This violence prevention curriculum will be used once a month during library time to teach students how to understand and manage their feelings. Children learn everyday by watching and listening to how teacher, friends, and family members interact. This program will help them learn how to make a friend, be a friend, and solve problems with other students. If you have any questions about this program please feel free to contact me.

Contact Information - Please do not hesitate to call our preschool with any concerns or questions you may have throughout the school year. We are all here to assist you and your child. You can contact Preschool Coordinator, Jan Strahm's office at 614-491-8044 ext.1231 If it is an emergency or urgent, you may call her cell phone at 614-554-2057. For attendance calls, general information, or to leave comments call our preschool administrative assistant, Darlene Chandonnet at 614-491-8044 ext. 1240.

Important Forms to Return

Three enrollment cards-Yellow, pink, and green all three need to be completed and returned with current address, phone numbers, and emergency contact information. This

information is very important. Please notify us if any changes need to be made during the school year.

Computer Network And Internet Acceptable Use Form-Hamilton Local Schools are pleased to make available to every student access to interconnected computer systems, computer equipment, and the Internet. Parents need to complete the permission slip and return to their child's teacher.

Lunch Forms-Please complete and return to your child's teacher families only need to fill out one form just let us know you have already turned this form in at another school.

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

New/Updated Computer Labs – Computer labs at the High School got a new look this summer. Not only did they get new carpeting, but they also received new computers and software upgrades!

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Athletic Hall of Fame Inducts New Members – The Hamilton Township Athletic Hall of Fame inducted its newest members on Thursday evening at Hamilton Township High School. The 2013 inductees include Mark Tyler, Almar Walter, and Rod Davisson. The Department of Athletics would like to congratulate these individuals and thank them for their contributions to Hamilton Local Schools' athletics.

A special thank you to Kim Schutte for all of her efforts coordinating the Athletic Hall of Fame inductions and ceremony. Also, thanks to Joe Jankowski who served as the Master of Ceremonies for Thursday evening's induction banquet. Pictured below are this year's inductees as well as a picture of all of the Hamilton Township Athletic Hall of Fame members who were in attendance.

These three individuals will also be honored during a pregame ceremony before the football team's season opening game versus Columbus East High School on Friday August 30th.

Cross Country Successful at Home Invitational – The HS and MS programs competed in their only home invitational of the season on last Monday afternoon. The Mt. Hamilton Invitational had 9 high school and 5 middle school teams compete.

The HS Girls team finished 3rd overall with 99 points. Bexley took 1st with 25 and Hilliard Darby 2nd with 36. Leading the Lady Rangers and improving her finish from last year was Danielle Shaw (22nd). Ali Belcher, Natalia Welton-Torres, Aubrey Seidle, and Shanell Hayes round out the top 5 for the Lady Rangers while competing in their first high school invitational.

The HS Boys finished 3rd overall with 89 points. Hilliard Darby took 1st with 21 points

followed by Bexley with 44. Austin Niemann led the Rangers with his 13th place finish. Quinton Napier (16th) also cracked the top 25 to receive a medal. Jacob Rollins, Khari Berger and Michael Hicks round out the top 5 for the Rangers.

The MS Girls team had a very successful start to the year. Maddie Rollins finished 4th overall with over a minute improvement from her time last year at this meet. Christine Shaw finished 6th in her first XC race. Sophie Little took 2 minutes off her best time last year to finish 10th. Donnie Harris finished 24th in her first XC race.

The MS Boys team had a successful day with personal records. Garrick Napier set a new PR of 14:54. Jason Plantz took several minutes off his PR by running 16:50 while Greg Hogle completed his first XC race.

Varsity and JV Girls Tennis Win Over Central Crossing – The Varsity and JV Girls Tennis teams pulled out their first victories of the season on Monday evening versus Central Crossing 3-2. Varsity wins came from junior Danielle Rodriguez at first singles 6-2, 6-2, seniors Dhanijsa Branham and Savannah McGowan at first doubles 6-1, 6-2 and senior Cassie Corfman and junior Alisa Askew at second doubles, 7-5, 6-3.

JV wins came from sophomore Brandy Garrett at first singles, 8-1, junior Sarah Alaeddine at third singles, 8-3, and sophomores Heather Boyer and Taylor Salisbury at second doubles, 8-2. Congratulations to all the girls for a well-played match!

The girls continued the week with wins over Fisher Catholic and Bloom-Carroll.

Volleyball Continues Great Start to Season With Wins over Circleville -

Congratulations to the varsity and JV volleyball teams for their victories in their league opener against Circleville. The JV won a hard fought battle with scores of 25-22, 22-25, and 25-22. The varsity won their match with scores of 25-19, 25-22, and 25-22. The JV improved their record to 4-1 and the varsity improved their overall record to 5-0. Good luck to the Ranger volleyball teams on Tuesday, September 3, as they take on Fairfield Union at home.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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