

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Aug. 22-29, 2014

Update on Ohio's New High School Graduation Requirements - Ohio House Bill 487 recently established new requirements for earning a high school diploma in Ohio. Summary:

- The new graduation requirements take effect with the class of 2018—students who are entering ninth grade for the first time in the 2014-2015 school year.
- Students in the classes of 2015, 2016 and 2017 and those who are repeating ninth grade this school year will continue to operate under Ohio's current graduation requirements, including taking the Ohio Graduation Tests in the spring of their 10th-grade years.
- Required courses - The new requirements did not change the current courses or number of course credits that students must complete to be eligible for graduation. View that information [here](#).
- Assessments - In addition to course credits, students must earn points toward graduation on seven end-of-course exams. These exams will replace the Ohio Graduation Tests.
 - The courses in which students take an end-of-course exam will be: English I and II, algebra I, geometry, integrated math I and II, physical science, American history and American government.
 - Districts have the option to use the state end-of-course exams to replace their current course final exams and use the state's test as part of the class grade. This will help avoid double testing in future years.
- Graduation points
 - The State Board of Education has not yet approved the minimum number of points a student must accumulate to become eligible for a high school diploma.
 - The Board's Graduation Requirements Committee will propose 18 points as the minimum for graduation eligibility. Of those points, students must earn a minimum of four total points across the English end-of-course exams, four total points across the math exams, and six total points across the science and social studies exams.
- More flexibility for students and families - Students who do not earn the required number of graduation points can still meet the requirements for a diploma if they earn a remediation-free score on a national college admission test.
- Students also can qualify for graduation by earning an approved industry-recognized credential and achieving a workforce-readiness score on a related job skills assessment.

Click [here](#) for a tool outlining Ohio's new high school diploma requirements.

School Board Looks to Tie Workforce Diploma Pathway to 'In-Demand' Credentials - The State Board of Education's committee on graduation requirements voted Wednesday to recommend that the state recognize training for "in-demand" jobs as one path to earning a high school diploma.

Earning an industry credential and passing a job skill assessment is one of three pathways to a diploma approved in recent mid-biennium review legislation. The other two pathways require earning points based on results of end-of-course exams, or achieving a "remediation-free" score on a college readiness test like the ACT or SAT.

ODE staff presented two options for the committee to consider: holding those students to the same standards as others, which is to earn 18 points across seven tests; or allowing them to meet the standards for late-grade transfer students, who must earn a total of five points across the second English and math exams.

The committee also voted to recognize students' college-readiness exam scores from any administration of the tests, not just the required, state-funded administration in students' junior years.

The committee also voted to set a 2022 cutoff for administration of the Ohio Graduation Test for students who don't graduate on time or are seeking an adult education diploma. *Provided by Focus Education - a service of Hannah News*

Common Core State Standards hearings - Over the past two weeks, the House Rules and Reference Committee considered House Bill (HB) 597, legislation that would eliminate and prohibit Ohio's use of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Nearly 50 witnesses offered proponent testimony urging committee members to repeal the standards.

HB 597 contains the following provisions:

- eliminates/prohibits the use of CCSS after the current school year;
- eliminates/prohibits the use of Ohio's Standards for Science and Social Studies (adopted in 2010);
- prohibits the use of PARCC assessments;
- puts in place the Massachusetts Standards for Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies from "pre-CCSS" for two years (2015-16 and 2016-17);
- new Ohio standards in the four subject areas to be developed by the State Board of Education for use beginning with the 2017-18 school year:
- institutes a legislative steering committee to review any new proposed state standards;
- replaces the recently passed seven end-of-course exams (in HB 487) with five end-of-course exams required before graduation; and,

- contains unprecedented specificity on what the standards for each subject area should include.
- Important Links:
 - [Bill Language](#)
 - [Bill Analysis](#)

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Building Operations - Operations during the first two weeks of school have gone very well. A smooth transition into our regular school year from our summer schedule is always appreciated.

Campus and Athletic Grounds - Once again, our school grounds and athletic fields are second to none! Thanks to our groundskeeper Ed Quickert and our custodial staffs for making our campus and fields the best.

Transportation - Our first set of bus counts will take place this Tuesday, September 2. This will allow the district to determine if transfers will need to occur to provide more efficient and effective transportation services due to increased enrollment. We strive to provide the safest and most effective fleet in Central Ohio.

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

Civil Rights - Mr. Morrison will begin working to complete the 2013-2014 U. S. Department of Education's Civil Rights Data Collection this week. This collection of data regarding the access to educational opportunities for public school students is a yearly and on-going collection of information that allows policymakers and researchers to review and develop better ways to work with children.

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Family Web Resources – Students and families can find calendars, district information, and academic resources on the following web pages:

The Ohio Department of Education offers an array of resources for parents, including information on learning standards at <http://education.ohio.gov/Parents>

Hamilton Local School District's web site hosts district and building level information. To learn about the district testing and assessment schedule, Ohio learning standards, gifted education, and the district's plan for continued improvement go to <http://www.hamiltonlocal.k12.oh.us/teachingandlearning.aspx>

For other important forms and links visit

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

For building-level information, go to the district web page,

<http://www.hamiltonrangers.org/> and click on *Schools*.

Homework Help Center – The South High Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library, 3540 S. High Street, provides a homework help center during the school year. Hours are 4:00 – 7:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 3:00 – 6:00 on Fridays.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

Outstanding School of Central Region – Each year, the Central Region of the Ohio School Boards Association designates schools in the area that have received state or national recognition for their success in educating students at a high level as *Outstanding Schools of Central Region*. The Central Region recognized Hamilton Township High School as an *Outstanding School* based on its selection by the Ohio Department of Education as a 2013 School of Promise.

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 under 2 minutes.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Brrrrrrrrrr! - After being challenged by Hamilton Intermediate School, the staff at the Middle School accepted the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge on Thursday afternoon. Raising money for the fight against ALS, the majority of the MS staff we doused with buckets of ice water, courtesy of many student athletes. It was a chilling experience and a great way to raise money and awareness for ALS.

You can view the entire video of our ice bucket challenge

It's a Cinch! - Starting this year, the 8th grade Science classes are piloting a new program that will help individualize instruction in the Science classroom. CINCH Learning is a web-based system that gets to know the students' strengths and weaknesses and assists the teachers in meeting individual student needs. Miss Luchini and Mr. Aitken are piloting the program this year using new Chromebook carts in order to help deliver their lessons. This new and exciting technology is allowing our students the opportunity to really shine in Science class!

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Announcement Team Tryouts This Week - The 6th grade students will have the opportunity to tryout for the 6th grade announcement team. This team will be in charge of delivering the morning announcements each morning to the Intermediate building.

Ready Or Not Here We Come - The fourth grade students are already in full swing preparing for the Next Generation Social Studies Test. Students have started the year learning about timelines and how to create them.

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HES Staff Members Participate in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge – Over thirty Elementary staff members responded to the challenge of Hamilton Preschool and took part in the ALS ice bucket challenge. In addition to the money that staff members will donate to ALS this activity proved to be a fun team building activity and a great way to beat the heat at the end of a hot week. The Elementary staff did its part to keep this fundraising phenomenon going by challenging the Intermediate building staff and one of the Elementary schools in the Teays Valley school district. [Watch the elementary team take the challenge.](#)

HES Houses a Preschool Class – Due to an increase in enrollment one preschool class has moved to the Elementary building. Mrs. Moore and her educational aide Mrs. Robinson teach a morning and afternoon preschool class in our kindergarten hallway. The students and teachers have adjusted quite well to the new location and are off to a great start. Kindergarten teachers are especially excited to have the preschool class in the same hallway so they can collaborate with Mrs. Moore and get to know some of their future students.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Bus Safety - Please remind your child of safe behavior on the school bus and at the bus stop. All Preschool bus riders participated in the back door procedures for evacuating the bus safely. They all did a great job! Special thanks to Mrs. Haughn and her team of bus drivers for all they do to transport our students to and from school safely each day!

5 STARS - Your child is enrolled in a learning and development program with a level of quality that exceeds Ohio's childcare licensing standards! High Quality learning and development programs are important because early experiences last a lifetime. Your child has approximately 1,892 days from the time he or she is born until kindergarten. What happens on this journey lays the foundation for success in school and life.

A Step Up to Quality **Five-Star Rating** means your child is in a program that has demonstrated the highest level of quality. There are more staff members per child, the administrator and teachers have higher educational qualifications, the staff completes 20 hours of professional development every two years, teachers develop lesson plans that support each child's growth and families and community are valued! We are very proud of this rating and will continue to improve and grow our program!

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

Parent Access to Progress Book – Progress Book Parent Access letters will be going home this week.

Parents will be able to view homework assignments, messages from our

teaching staff, cumulative progress, and detailed attendance.

Please note, however, that student grades and/or test results may not be entered on a daily basis. Teachers need time to collect, grade, and input the information, so please be understanding in your expectations. If you have concerns, please contact the teacher directly.

Parents new to Parent Access will need to “Register” with the key provided in the letter. Once registered, users will be able to reset or retrieve usernames and passwords via the website. *Login information has NOT changed for parents who used Progress Book Parent Access at Hamilton last year.*

<https://parentaccess.mecdc.org/>

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Rangers Athletes Recognized as *This Week In Football's* McDonald's Scholar Athlete - Senior Cheerleader Mijewel Gabriel and Senior Football Player Joshua Sweet are to be honored as McDonald's Scholar Athletes in the *This Week In Football* publication. Mijewel's profile will be published the week of August 25th. Joshua's profile will be published the week of September 1st. These publications will be available at Central Ohio McDonalds and also can be viewed by clicking [here](#). Congratulations to these two student-athletes on this recognition.

Come out and support each of these individuals on Friday nights beginning on August 29th with the Varsity Football's first game against Columbus East at 7:00pm.

Girls' Tennis Defeats Fisher Catholic - Girls' tennis defeated Fisher Catholic Tuesday evening, 5-0. Singles wins came from senior, Danielle Rodriguez at first singles (7-6, 6-1); junior, Khloee Rowe at second singles (6-2, 6-0); and junior, Samantha Scase at third singles (6-1, 6-2). At first doubles, senior, Alisa Askew and junior, Brandy Garrett won (6-0, 6-3) and second doubles won by default.

Varsity Volleyball Remains Undefeated - The varsity volleyball team defeated Grandview Heights on Tuesday to improve their record to 5-0. The Rangers won the tough battle with scores of 25-23, 14-25, 25-12, 22-25, and 15-13.

On Wednesday evening, the Lady Rangers won an exciting four set match against MSL opponent Circleville after losing the first set 17-25. The Rangers won the second set 25-20 and battled Circleville in a back-and-forth third set to win it 28-26. After pulling out the exciting third set, the Rangers dominated the fourth set and won the final set 25-5. The girls improved their record to 6-0.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Remember to [“Like” us on Facebook](#) & [“Follow” us on Twitter](#).