

## **Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up – Sept. 16-23, 2011**

**Governor's School Funding Plan Could Be Released In October** - Gov. John Kasich hopes to release his new school-funding plan in October so that lawmakers will have time to approve the plan for the 2012-13 school year.

Barb Mattei-Smith, assistant education adviser to the governor, met with the State Board of Education this week to gather feedback on what they might like to see included in the plan. Mattei-Smith also has met with teachers, treasurers and school administrators. While providing few details, Mattei-Smith did say the plan will focus on three areas: 1) The funding plan needs to be student-centered; 2) The plan needs to be sure resources get to the classroom; and 3) The plan must support multiple instructional delivery systems.

### **H.B. 153: The Biennial Budget Bill/Evaluations, Performance-based Compensation, and Seniority**

H.B. 153 was introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives on March 15, 2011. The Senate passed the bill on June 28 and the House approved it on June 29. Governor Kasich signed it into Ohio Law on June 30, 2011.

H.B. 153 mandates that the board of education of each school district, in consultation with its teachers, adopt a standards-based teacher evaluation policy that conforms to the framework for the evaluation of teachers developed under section [3319.112 ORC](#).

Additional information on educational aspects of H.B. 153 please visit [ODE Educator Evaluation Systems in Ohio](#).

## **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Campus and Athletic Grounds** - Work was completed this week on upgrades to our athletic restroom located at our football stadium. New epoxy floors, heat registers and painting make the restroom look new!

**Administrative Meetings** - Mr. Morrison and Dr. Witten attended the initial Master Teacher Committee meeting on Thursday. This meeting set the agenda for upcoming meetings and finalized procedures and responsibilities for reviewing and approving portfolio reviews.

**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.

**Construction** - Contractors have been marking utilities and fiber lines in preparation for the addition of wooden guardrail posts to be installed this upcoming week. This will allow us to remove the metal temporary posts from most of our campus locations.

**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. Please contact Mrs. Kathy Brickey, School Nurse, immediately with questions or concerns. These booster shots must be completed and documentation returned to the school district by September 30, 2011.

## **OFFICE OF THE TREASURER**

### **HB 153 Funding for FY12 and FY13 Spending Levels**

Below summarizes the appropriations in H.B. 153 by fund. A misconception appears to exist that the State increased funding in total over the FY12-FY13 biennium. However, the table shows that the total budget for FY13 spends fewer dollars than the FY11 budget.

**Table: State Spending by Fund in Millions of Dollars - FY11 through FY13**

	<u>FY11</u>	<u>FY12</u>	<u>FY13</u>
Miscellaneous:	\$9,088	\$8,378	\$8,636
Federal:	\$14,753	\$12,942	\$12,134
GRF - State:	\$18,216	\$19,460	\$20,208
GRF - Federal:	\$8,395	\$7,606	8,505
General Services:	\$1,711	\$1,477	\$1,473
Revenue Distribution:	\$3,964	\$3,167	\$2,568
State Special Revenue:	\$2,629	\$2,764	\$2,866
Total:	\$58,757	\$55,795	\$56,389

*Source: LSC Budget in Detail (As Enacted)*

## **OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**Hamilton Local Website Picks Up Where It Left Off** - Our website is our primary communication portal for news throughout our district. We had nearly one million page views last school year, and the first month of this school year has nearly identical number of visitors and page views as last year. We've had over 112,000 page views in the first month of this school year.

**Twitter Used For Closings, Delays, and Other Updates** - You can receive text alerts for closings, delays, news, and other updates from Hamilton Local Schools by following us on Twitter. Go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and setup your FREE account. Our official Twitter account is HamiltonLocalSD. Once you are logged into Twitter, search for us once you are logged into Twitter and then click "follow." It's that easy. You can get the alerts sent to your phone through text (text messaging rates may apply...contact your cell provider if you have questions), email, and on the Twitter website.

**Community Partners of Southern Franklin County** – Community Partners is an organization that supports many different programs throughout our school district. At this time, the partners are recruiting new members who would like to provide organizational support, resources, or donations to help maximize their impact within our district community. The partners include representatives from our school district, faith communities, non-profit organizations, local businesses, and district parents. The organization meets monthly to address community needs and means of providing resources and support. For information on projects, members, and opportunities to participate, [visit their website](#) or contact Mr. Payne at 614-491-8044 x1212.

# HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

**HTHS Student is accepted into the COSI Academy - Student Logan Jones shares his acceptance letter with HTHS.**



230 West Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-2738  
614.328.COSI  
[www.cosi.org](http://www.cosi.org)

Dear COSI Academy Member,

Congratulations!!! It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the COSI Academy. You are now a member of one of the most innovative programs in the country. The success of COSI Academy requires team effort and spirit, the unique skills of many crafts, demonstrated scientific knowledge, and the dedication and cooperation of every member. You were selected as a member for this elite team because you embody these traits and will add your special skills to our diverse and rich experience.

We will "Kick off" our year on Saturday, October 1st at 10:00 AM. This will be an all day event that will set the tone for the rest of the year. We will be starting by learning the goals of the year and participating in a team building challenge. Our profession and topic exposure will be Architecture. Peter Macrae from Macrae ARCHitecute, LLC will be joining us to expose us to the exciting world of architecture. We will be learning how the career intersects, science, engineering, art and more. The Kickoff will be an exciting and energetic day. Be sure to wear comfortable clothes, bring your brain, and be willing never to look at the world the same way again. We will be finished at 4:00. Lunch and a light breakfast are included. Please let me know in advance if you have special dietary needs.

COSI Academy is a fee-based program. This membership fee opens up a whole new world to you by covering speaker fees, local transportation costs (for off-site meetings), electronic outreach opportunities, facilitator fees, access to COSI's computer lab, food, and special COSI benefits. You have received a full scholarship. **All of the enclosed forms must be completed and be in COSI's possession before you may participate in the Kickoff Event on October 1st.**

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at (614) 629-3159. Once again, Congratulations Academy Member! I look forward to seeing you on October 1st.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy A. Parker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy A. Parker  
Director of Teen Programming

## Alumni Visits And Shares His Appreciation -

Mr. James N. Miller, Principal  
Hamilton Township High School  
1105 Rachmell Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43207

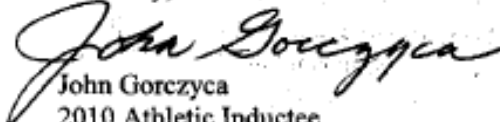
Dear Mr. Miller,

I am a 1967 graduate of Hamilton Township and a past inductee of the Athletic Hall of Fame. I was able to return to the induction ceremony and Hall of Fame game last week against London High School. I have a special place in my heart for Hamilton Township as my time spent there were some of the best years of my life.

I am writing you to tell you how proud I am of what Hamilton has become. The school and athletic facilities are some of the best I have seen in the country. The school personnel and teachers that I met were very interactive and extremely helpful. I would like to personally recognize Mrs. Kim Schutte for organizing the banquet and football game activities. Her attention to detail were well recognized by everyone I spoke to that week. Further, her husband, Mr. Dave Schutte treated me like a king. He invited me into the press box for the football game and what a treat that was. Prior to the game, Coach Matt Lowe gave me a tour of the athletic facilities. He was able to spend a period of time with me in spite of the impending game with London. Last but not least, I would like to thank Mr. Mark Beggrow for everything he did for me last week. Hamilton has a great athletic director in Mark and will definitely be an asset to the athletic program. He is a motivator.

Thank you for improving the academic environment at Hamilton. After all, this is the basis of what attending high school is all about. Please forward this letter to the individuals I mentioned. Mr. Miller, you have a great school and, again I must say, I am very proud of what I see happening at Hamilton Township High School.

Sincerely,



John Gorczyca  
2010 Athletic Inductee  
Pilot, United Airlines  
Retired Air Force Officer

**True Hero Winners Again** - True Hero has just announced that HTHS and Mrs. Morbitzer has, for the 2nd consecutive year, won the \$1000.00 Grant awarded for the excellent community service and work completed for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Congratulations.

**HTHS Grade Expectations** - As a new way to monitor, assist students, and act on those who are academically struggling, HS administration has put a new Grade Expectation Monitoring system in place. Mr. Miller takes responsibility for all seniors, due to the new graduation rate calculations, Mr. Fitzgerald monitors all juniors, Mr. Elfers monitors all sophomores, and Mr. Thompson monitors freshmen. After Mr. Beggrow runs his weekly

eligibility report through DASL, all students including non-athletes appear on a report. If any student with one or more failing grades appears on this report, Miller, Fitzgerald, Elfers, or Thompson meets with each student one-on-one in the office or at the lunch period. HS administration hopes that this extra step will keep any students from falling behind at any given time throughout the school year.

**Chemistry II** - Students learned some of the long stoichiometric calculations used in the automobile industry. These calculations also have many other real world applications as they are used to make cosmetics, synthesize medicines, and work with nuclear energy. Students worked with zip-lock sandwich bags that mimicked air bags in cars. The students enjoyed their lab so much that they chose to perform extra calculations on a grander scale by attempting to blow up a large trash bag. They worked beautifully as a group by assigning specific tasks to each other including Danielle Nash trying it at home over the weekend to work out some of the kinks. The administration was invited to see their experiment outside by the shot-put field. Unfortunately, the bag had a tiny hole in it, which upset the outcome; however, the great news is that the students did perform their long calculations correctly!

## **HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Assistant Principal Exchange** - On Thursday, September 22, 2011 the Middle School and High School Assistant Principals swapped jobs for the day. Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Thompson came to the Middle School and Mrs. Buxton went to the High School. The MS students enjoyed seeing Mr. Fitzgerald again (he taught many of them while at the Intermediate School) and meeting Mr. Thompson. It was an enjoyable day for all involved.

**Middle School Students Show Their Spirit** - As part of the Homecoming Week festivities, the students at the Middle School were very involved in dressing in the appropriate outfits each day of the week. There were many students and staff decked out in a variety of costumes and the photos will be posted on our website! Below is one example of some students on Green and Gold Day.

## HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

**Fourth Graders Take The GMRT** - The entire fourth grade was assessed on their reading levels by using the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Tests. The students were evaluated to help teachers know their student's level of reading achievement. Mrs. Bassett proctored this test for all the fourth grade students. The students will take this assessment again in the spring.

**H.I.S. Has Spirit...Yes They Do** - This week many of the staff and students participated in spirit week. From “rangers” to “super heroes” to “green and gold” gear, the spirit was flowing through the hallways of the Intermediate building!

**6th Grade Announcement Team Is Officially On The Air** - This week team one of the sixth grade announcement team started sharing the daily news with the students of the Intermediate building. There are twenty-five students who make up the two different teams that will share in this responsibility throughout the year.

Team One:

Cameron Dillon  
Christian Nixon  
Rylee Bell  
Maia Lee  
Victoria Harper  
Briana Hunt  
Emily Holl  
Briana Spaulding  
Breanna Ray  
Quishaun Sowell

Team Two:

Kristen Moats  
Katie Hines  
Trent Moore  
Kevanna Brown  
Chase Dougherty  
Ashley Hamilton  
McKenna Savage  
Danielle Edgers  
Jazlyn Simon  
Jason Plantz

Back-up Announcers:

Mietta Smith  
Emma Purington  
Joe Watson  
Destiny Lampl  
Brooke Hopkins  
Terrianna Sweeney

## HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Hero Day** - Firefighters from the Hamilton Township Fire Department and officers from the Obetz Police Department took time out of their very busy schedules to come to HES as our guests of honor on Hero Day. The Elementary Specials team organized Hero Day as an age-appropriate way to recognize Patriot Day (9-11) and Constitution Day in a joint assembly. Students wrote letters, drew picture, and made cards for our local heroes in the police and fire departments. Students listened to safety tips from both departments and were able to see a fire truck and police cruiser up close. The officers and firefighters also ate lunch with the students in the cafeteria that may have been even more enjoyable to the kids than hearing the sirens. The Elementary staff and students would like to extend a huge thank you to our heroes in both departments for taking the time to visit with us.

**Teachers Receive Training on Changes in the Math Program** - Math may never change, but technology and state standards do. The Elementary took advantage of a free training offered by Envisions, the company that created our math program. The math teachers broke out into two groups. Second and third grade teachers focused on the new technology that is available for use with our Smartboards, while the kindergarten and first grade teachers had a question and answer session about the upcoming changes in our state standards. In two years Ohio will transition from our current measure of student achievement, the Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA), to the Ohio Common Core Assessment. Taking a proactive approach, our teachers have started tailoring the instruction of our kindergarten and first grade students so they are prepared for the new test they will see as third graders. A big thank you to Kate Miller for organizing the event.

**Big News in Math Class** - Students in Mrs. Starkey's and Mrs. Bertch's math classes completed a newspaper hunt. They were looking for specific numbers to answer questions about place value. Some of the questions asked them to compare numbers and find a number that fit in between two others. They also had to find numbers on the paper and then show those numbers in expanded form. The students impressed their teachers with how quickly and accurately they were able to complete the assignment. They also had a lot of fun.

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**Spirit Week** - The students and staff had a great time participating in the week-long dress up days to support the RANGERS. The super hero day was our favorite!

**Testing** - The staff has been very busy administering the GET IT, GOT IT, GO; ASQ; and the DIAL 3 to all students. Parent will be informed of their child's progress when all testing is completed. These tests are the first benchmark to our students and will be done again in the Spring.

**Building Leaders** - Following Mr. Lester's model of building leadership within each school. The Preschool is very lucky to have many talented teachers and assistants on staff. Each one has taken on a leadership role for the various PTO events planned for this school year. Our connection with the families of our students begins at the Preschool. We know how important these relationships are.

*Fall Festival* - Emily King

*Fall Fund Raiser* - Kris Murphy and Jan Strahm

*Circle S* - Jan Strahm  
*Military Day* - Jan Strahm and Gyun Newsome  
*Winter Fest* - Susan Yates and Gyun Newsome  
*COSI* - Jan Strahm  
*Reading Buddy* - Breanna Moore  
*VIP Day* - Sheena Turner  
*Columbus ZOO* - Jan Strahm

## **OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

**Progress Reports** - Progress Reports and student's course outlines will be mailed out on Monday. For our High School students, you'll be able to view the number of credits you have as well as your completed and incomplete coursework.

**Spirit Week and Homecoming** - We were happy to participate in the Spirit Week activities by following the dress up days. Several of our students participated as well and will be attending the homecoming dance.

## **OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Value-added Update** - This week Mr. Meade, Mr. Endres, and Dr. Witten attended a state level workshop on understanding and using value-added data as a measure of improvement. The state has made some changes in how value-added data are calculated and used as part of the state rating formula for buildings that serve grades 4-8 and their school districts. State expectations are that each student make at least one year of progress as measured by year-to-year performance on the reading and math Ohio Achievement Assessments. Value-added reports provide an analysis by subject and grade level and show progress at the student, grade, building, and district levels to determine if growth expectations have been met. Within two years, reading, math and science teachers in grades 4-8 will be able to get teacher-level reports showing them the progress students have made while in their classes.

**Master Teacher** - The Ohio Department of Education developed a tiered licensure system for teachers, which includes two additional levels for an experienced teacher with a professional license and a master's degree. These new areas of licensure are: Senior Professional License and Lead Professional Educator License. A requirement of both of these new licenses is a professional portfolio that has prescribed components. Each district is to create a committee to review and assess the portfolios based on state established criteria. Our committee is composed of five teachers and five

administrators and met for the first time on Thursday. The committee set up guidelines and procedures and will be meeting again for training prior to implementing the Master Teacher process.

## **OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**There's an App for That!** - Mrs. Brown teaches a special class of exceptional children at the Hamilton Intermediate School. These children have very special academic challenges. Mrs. Brown and her assistant, Miss Stevens, use the classroom iPad to supplement and reinforce their basic skills. With the iPad, what starts as two students working cooperatively, quickly becomes a small-group project. One of the first challenges in teaching is - FIRST GET THEIR INTEREST. This iPad definitely gets their interest.

We appreciate the dedication of Mrs. Brown and Miss Stevens to these students. These pictures are proof that these children certainly are engaged in the learning process.

## **DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY**

**Learn360** - The district has access to a large online multi-media resource library (audio, photo, & video) -- correlated to state standards. These digital resources can be used to enhance teaching and learning. The resources include content from well-known publishers like the award-winning Reading Rainbow language arts series, Hollywood film clips to help teach character education, A&E, History Channel, Scholastic, PBS, Bio, and National Geographic, just to name a few. There are over 9,200 full-length videos and 28,500 video clips, 25,000 Encyclopedia Britannica articles, audio, images, newsreels, and speeches, as well as thousands of other teaching and learning resources.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

**2011 Volley for the Cure Sets Records** - The 2011 Volley for the Cure set a new attendance and fundraising record! 900 shirts/hoodies were sold and the gym was packed in pink. It was an incredible evening, not only for the volleyball team, but also for the entire community. The HTHS band added excitement in the gym and our HTHS Octet sang the National Anthem. The student body was also a great asset to the evening's excitement. In addition, we were honored to have SSG Ising from the Ohio Army National Guard as our guest speaker. He spoke to the student body and shared his personal

stories to "Pick a Fight." To top off the amazing fundraising efforts for Komen, the varsity volleyball team defeated Groveport in three straight sets. The Ranger Volleyball team also finished last week with another victory improving their overall record to 6-3. The Rangers defeated the Falcons of Fairfield Union in three straight sets. The Junior Varsity also earned another victory with a win against the Falcons.

**Homecoming Court Represents HT** - Congratulations to the young men and women selected to the Senior Homecoming Court for the 2011 Fall Athletic Season. Be sure to attend the Homecoming Football game to cheer on the Rangers vs. Circleville to a victory and find out who was crowned king and queen.

**Boys Soccer Downs Logan Elm** -The Boys Varsity Soccer team defeated Logan Elm on Thursday night 2-0. Scoring for the Rangers were Freshmen Forward Erick Juarez and Sophomore Midfielder Bleu Molinar. The win puts the Rangers overall MSL record at 1-2-0. The next action for the soccer program will be this Monday when the JV hosts Centennial at 5:00 p.m.

**Middle School Football Split at Bloom Carroll** - The Middle School Rangers split with Bloom Carroll last night in a clash between undefeated programs. The 7th grade Rangers won 36 to 8 against the Bulldogs improving their record to 5 - 0. The 8th grade team lost a hard fought battle last night 16 - 13. This drops their record to 4 - 1. Both teams are at home next week against Canal Winchester.

**MS Volleyball vs. Everetts** - 7th grade played a tough two games winning 25-18, 25-16. Hailey Sewell lead the team in serving, compiling five aces overall. Julia Scholl and Kailyn Chastain both finished with two kills each.

**Grandview Invitational - Girls Tennis** - The girls tennis team competed in the Grandview Invitational. It was a great day for tennis and the girls were able to compete against players from Grandview Heights, Whetstone, and Logan Elm. Second doubles team Taylor Baker and Amina Cheema won one match to advance to the finals bracket. They lost their second match and received second place in second doubles. Congratulations girls on your continued improvement!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

[See what's happening each week throughout our school district](#)