

## **Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Sept. 2-9, 2011**

**Board of Education re-adopts four policies and re-approves one guideline** - On Tuesday evening September 6, during their monthly Board of Education meeting, the Hamilton Local School District Board of Education re-adopted the following policies, as recommended by Superintendent Lester:

DN - School Properties Disposal

EBCD - Emergency Closings

FL - Retirement of Facilities

IB - Academic Freedom

Our Board of Education also re-approved the following Guideline, as recommended by Superintendent Lester:

EBCD-G - Emergency Closings

These re-adoption and re-approval will be added to our on-line Policy Manual located at:

<http://policy.ctspublish.com/hamilton-osba/>

**Actual Attendance Counts** - Each year at the end of the first three full weeks of the school year, the Superintendent conducts Actual Attendance Counts for each building and grade level in the District. Week two counts were conducted today (Friday, September 9). The final Actual Attendance Count will be conducted next Friday, September 16. The District uses these counts to determine effective and efficient staffing and student placement throughout the District.

**In-service on Staff-Student Relations** - During the Wednesday Cabinet meeting all Building Principals were instructed to conduct in-service for all faculty and staff on student-staff relations. Board Policy GBH (Also JM) will be presented and discussed by each building administrator.

## **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**Building Operations** - Our buildings are already in mid-season form. Thanks to our Intermediate School custodial team for their incredible work applying an epoxy finish to our academic hallways at HIS! Sherry Roberts, Tamie Pallos, Chip Robey and Kim Boggs (on loan from our middle school) worked relentlessly to assure a beautiful finish.

**Campus and Athletic Grounds** - Special thanks to our lawn care specialist Darrell Neff. Darrell keeps our grounds in top shape. Also, congratulations to Darrell for the induction of his daughter, Dr. Joddi Neff Massullo, into the Hamilton Township Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Administrative Meetings** - Mr. Morrison and Dr. Witten met with our assistant principals on Wednesday to discuss:

- September's Board Agenda
- Book Study (*The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership by John C. Maxwell*)
- Attendance Counts
- Student Enrollment Accountability Reports
- Special Education Student Program/Service Enrollment Accountability Reports
- Board Policy GBH
- Alternative Academy

- Residency
- Truancy
- Sick Leave Abuse

We have regular monthly AP meetings that cover many of the same topics discussed in our monthly admin meetings, but also cover the specific issues the assistant principal's deal with on a daily basis. It is a great opportunity to network, share ideas and work through issues as a team.

**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** - Roof replacement will begin next week for our Education Center. This project should last no more than a few weeks.

**Residency** - Mr. Stevens continues to review residency. The district is very diligent in checking residency so that we can assure our community that we are focusing on educating our students to the best of our ability.

**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.

## **OFFICE OF THE TREASURER**

**State Budget For First Month of the Fiscal Year -** The State budget from July 1, 2011 to July 31, 2011 is over budget by \$16 million. During the first month of the fiscal year, the State has received \$16 million less than expected in revenue. On the spending side, the State has spent exactly their budget. As a result, the bottom line now stands at minus \$16 million. The biggest shortfalls in revenue was the estimations for personal income tax and non-auto sales tax, they came in at \$9 million and \$5 million below estimates, respectively.

## **OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**Ohio Lottery's Partners In Education Program Honors HTHS With School of the Year Award During Assembly -** Last year, the office of public relations coordinated efforts to acknowledge the wonderful teachers and students in each school throughout our district. We had every Academic All-Star and Teacher of the Month selected from our district's nominees from October 2010 - May 2011. After reviewing all of the nominations, Hamilton Township High School was selected as the Ohio Lottery's School of the Year through the lottery's Partners in Education program.

The award presentation was attended by Ohio Lottery executives, local council members, mascots from the Columbus Crew and Cincinnati Cyclones, and it was emceed by David McCreary (host of the Cash Explosion TV Show). Magic, comedy, and dancing combined to be the entertainment during the assembly program.

Congratulations to the students, faculty, staff and administration of HTHS on being selected as the Ohio Lottery's School of the Year!

## **HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**Social Studies Department Recognizes Patriot Day** - In observance of Patriot Day, students in Mr. Lanthorn's American Government classes will write a reflective essay analyzing how the 9/11 attacks, the policies enacted since, and the related wars in Iraq and Afghanistan affected the students and the community. Essays will be assigned September 9 and class discussion on September 12.

AP Government and Politics students will research the Patriot Act and debate its purpose and controversies. Research conducted on September 9 and debate held September 12.

HS teacher, Mr. O'Hearn will be covering September 11 to start off the school year in History of My Generation so I will teach the same lesson to my government students on September 9 and 12 of 2011. I will pass out the 9/11 Commission report timeline to the class so we can compare takeoff times, destination, length of time in the air, crash sites, and map of flight paths. We will then watch firsthand videos from the South Tower, Hijacking of UA 93, and the North Tower Collapses. On Monday September 12 we will compare the short-term timeline with a long-term timeline to compare the relationship between al-Qaeda, bin Laden and the United States.

In observance of Patriot's Day, Mrs. Stevens-Brown and

Mr. Varney's American History classes plan to show a short video overview of the 9/11 incident and read and process the article, Living with 9/11: The 10 year struggle to protect America without infringing on our freedoms.

This article also includes one young woman's personal account of that day.

During Mrs. Ford's World Studies classes, for the observance of Patriot Day, students will be having an open discussion of the events of 9/11 to start class. Then, will proceed to complete a timeline of the events leading up to 9/11, beginning with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. The lesson will conclude with footage from "102 Minutes That Changed America" and class discussion.

### **HTHS Educator Impacts Graduate's Future -**

*Hey, Mr. O'Brien,*

*It's one of your old students, Justin Baird. I've been trying to get a hold of you because I recently enlisted in the army as a cavalry scout. I'll be heading to Fort Benning, Georgia in January. I just wanted to let you know that, even though I wasn't the best student in your class, you were the best teacher to inspire me to do something greater and be part of something bigger than myself. If I were to graduate from Hamilton, you were the teacher I had in mind to hand me my diploma during the ceremony. You gave me all the help anytime I needed it, and just from seeing how well put-together you were, I knew that I needed that kind of discipline in my life. You're the reason I'm going to serve my country. I never thought twice about the Army until your class. I would like to visit sometime and talk to you about what I'd be getting myself into. I've been putting a lot*

*of thought into what I want to do for my country, and I'm pretty dead-set on becoming an Army airborne ranger. It's a lot of work, I know, but I'm willing to push myself to become the best, and finish the job no matter what. I've been running like a chicken with it's head cut off and riding my bike from Shadesville to the west side of Columbus to get me ready for training and active duty.*

*I hope to hear from you soon,*

*Sergeant O'Brien. Hooah*

## **HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Art Students Complete Their First Project** - Mrs. Lutz's 8th grade art students create Torn Paper Portraits. In this lesson, students "paint" with torn paper using a limited number of values found in a grayscale image. Using torn paper instead of direct painting requires them to visually divide the grey area into separate shapes and define each shape individually. Students work directly on a piece of styrene over a digital photo that was taken in class using Photo Booth. By doing this, it eliminates the need for preliminary sketches and keeps the image constantly in front of them so they can focus on the values. Using self-portraits allows the students a chance to study placement of features, facial planes, shadows, and highlights.

**Science Students Learn Techniques** - As part of their education on Science, the 7th Grade Science students have begun learning the tools of the trade and have been given the opportunity to showcase their measurement skills in class. As demonstrated in the photo below, the students are

becoming quite adept at the tools of science.

**Teacher Candidate At HMS** - We are pleased to have a teacher observer from Ashland University, Mr. Eric Mariscal (Mr. M.), in the Computer Applications classes at the Middle School. Mr. Mariscal has his Bachelors Degree in Technical Management with a focus in Accounting. Mr. Mariscal served 5 years in the military and was stationed in Camp Lejeune, Kuwait, and Afghanistan. He has also acquired 5+ years of management and accounting experience from a variety of companies. He is happily married with 2 children under the age of 3. He has transitioned very well into the classroom, enjoys working with the students, and the students are enjoying learning from him. We are very thrilled to have him.

## **HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

**HIS Will Celebrate Patriot Day On September 9th** - Staff and students will be doing the following activities to observe Patriot Day: Hats for HEROES: students will be able to wear a hat for \$1. Donations will be given to New York Police and Fire Widows and Children Fund. In Reading, students will discuss symbolism and make paper cranes that will be sent to PS 89 in New York City. In Writing, students will write poems about Heroes, peace, hope, or tolerance. In Social Studies, teachers will show illustrations created by students from PS 89 who witnessed the attacks on 9/11. In Art, each student has been creating images of hope that will be combined to create a banner of hope to be displayed in the halls. At lunch, local fire fighters, police, and military members will be invited to join our students in the cafeteria for lunch.

**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.

**Teachers Become More Proficient With Google Apps** - During Tuesday's after school in-service, Mrs. Bassett worked with teachers on understanding Google Apps. This time was spent on how to better utilize the application to share their lesson plans and to make sure there is full collaboration among the teachers.

**Students And Staff Collect Socks For Hannah** - This month, the Intermediate staff and students will be collecting socks for Hannah's Socks. This charity was started by a 4 year old in Toledo when she offered her own socks to a homeless man with holes in his socks. In the past two years, we have collected over 800 pairs of socks! To learn more about this charity, please visit [www.hannahssocks.org](http://www.hannahssocks.org). If you are interested in donating, please contact Brittany Smith.

**Teachers Take Time To Analyze OAA Test Scores** - During Tuesday's in-service after school, teachers took time to analyze their students via the OOARS Websites. They did this to see how students did on last year's OAA and had discussions on how to improve lessons from past practices.

## **HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Third Grade Students Receive Advice From Last Year's Class** - At the end of last year, third grade students were asked to write a letter to the second grade students who would take their place this year. The letters were very encouraging and told the new group about many of the experiences that they could look forward to having in the third grade. The two comments most frequently written were about how great the teachers are and reminders to "Be Good, Try Hard, and Have Fun." The third grade teachers and students would like to thank the now fourth graders for setting such a great example and wish them the best of luck at the Intermediate Building!

**Elementary Playground Gets a Face Lift** - Over the Labor Day weekend the elementary parking lots and playground were sealed and re-striped in an effort to maintain the property for years to come. As a consequence the map of the United States and other games that were painted on the playground were redone and made to look brand new. The students are thrilled with the bright new surface to play on. The Elementary Staff would like to thank The Board of Education and Mr. Lester for approving the project and Mr. Morrison for all of his hard work organizing it.

**Elementary Students Receive Training on Bus Safety** - Hamilton Local Transportation Director Barbara Haughn and Driver Shari Breech visited the Elementary and met with each grade level to review bus safety procedures.

Starting school is typically a huge adjustment for young children. For many students this is their first time in a classroom and learning all of the routines, procedures, and

of course, the curriculum that is being taught can be a real challenge. One thing that is often overlooked is the adjustment that students face in riding a bus. Teaching our students safety procedures such as staying seated and waiting at the designated safety spot are a vital part of their education. Mrs. Haughn and Mrs. Breech did an excellent job with the presentation and our students are safer as a result.

## **HAMILTON PRESCHOOL**

**Parents are Already Amazed** - Several parents have contacted me regarding the first two weeks of school. They are amazed at how much their child has changed in such a small amount of time. From walking to class on their own to learning the letters in their name parents cannot believe the growth they have already seen. The teachers are doing an amazing job with all the students and have a lot of exciting things planned for this school year.

**Fall Fund Raiser** - The Preschoolers will once again raise money for supplies and materials for the school. We are working with TEAMWORK for this fundraiser. The fundraiser will run from September 12 through September 23, 2011. Parents will pick up their items on October 13, 2011.

**Service Hour** - We are very fortunate to have four High School cheerleaders volunteer their time on Tuesdays and Thursdays to work with students, make copies, and assist in the snack room. We would like to thank Haley Burke, Morgan Willingham, Kerstin Stevens, and Danielle Shaw for all their help so this year. We welcome all students who

would like to earn service hours at the Preschool.

## **OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

**Curriculum Designed to Meet Student Needs** - We are working hard to provide individual curriculum and support to each of our students. Every one of our students comes to us with special situations and credit needs. As such we strive to provide direct intervention and curriculum as needed, whether it's targeted Ohio Graduation Test preparation or recovery of credits in 0.25 credit chunks if necessary. When students enroll I meet with them for 30 to 60 minutes. During this time we outline our major goals and create a plan to achieve them. Students are involved in the process so they are fully aware of the expectations and the requirements. We report progress to all of our parents at the same times as the other buildings of Hamilton Local and are available at any time by phone, email or direct conference to review the goals, plans and current progress.

## **OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Arts in Education Week** - Governor Kasich and Lieutenant Governor Taylor have officially recognized September 11-17 as Arts in Education Week in Ohio. An official proclamation given to the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education states, "During this week we encourage Ohioans to promote and showcase the immense role arts education has in producing engaged, successful college and career-ready students. Arts Education, comprising a rich array of disciplines including dance, music, theater, media arts, literature, design, and visual arts, is a core academic subject

and an essential element of a complete and balanced education for all students." In our district we recognize that achievement in the arts has many benefits including understanding cultures, creating art works, and appreciating the art of others. Learning in the arts also can lead to the 21st century skills needed for work place success such as flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate, the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence. As President Obama has said, "The future belongs to young people with an education and the imagination to create."

**Board Recognizes Achievement in Art** - Fourteen students were honored at the September 6 Board of Education meeting for their academic achievement in art.

One student from each grade level had artwork selected for the district permanent collection. All art works have been framed and will be displayed at the Hamilton Education Center. The students are: Ameerah Osman, Madison Thomas, Colston Ring, Aqiera Brown, Alyssa Abram, Natalie Devine, Ashley Hamilton, Daliah Edwards, Trina Moore, Indeara Cogdell, Kylie Scase, Christina Holland, Erin Jones, and Savannah Anderson. Art teachers Mrs. Nunn, Mrs. Enright, Mrs. Lutz, Mrs. Dreiling, and Mr. Linkinhoker were thanked as well for providing quality art instruction to Hamilton students.

**Columbus Art Walks Educational Resources** - The Healthy Places Program at Columbus Public Health has created Educational Resources for K-12 Educators & Parents to complement the Columbus Art Walks program. The Educational Resource provides fun and educational suggestions for how to build family outings, field trips, lesson plans, and creative projects around Columbus Art

Walks, a series of self-walking tours highlighting public art, architecture, historical and cultural sites in nine of Columbus' urban districts. Visit this link to download the Columbus Art Walks Educational Resources:

<http://publichealth.columbus.gov/Columbus-Art-Walk-Educational-Resources.aspx>

## **OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

### **Participation in Nonacademic/Extracurricular**

**Activities** - There is an important piece of each student's I.E.P. that notes their participation in nonacademic and extracurricular activities. Brandon is a Hamilton student who attends the Ohio State School for the Blind as a ninth grader. As a student there, Brandon is part of the school's marching band. They are going to Michigan this weekend to participate in a parade with the marching band. He also is a member of the school's student council, has been a cheerleader and is also able to participate in swimming. We are very proud of Brandon and the wide range of social activities.

## **DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY**

### **Reminder: Progress Book Parent Access Alerts**

**(Missing Assignments and/or Low Assignment Marks)** - Parent Access Alerts are available to parents/students and it is encouraged that this feature be setup and used. These are e-mail messages regarding student progress that are sent to the e-mail accounts of parents and students who have subscribed to the alerts within Progress Book. Parents and students can then subscribe to the desired alerts on the

"Manage Alerts" section of the Parent Access Web Site. The alert is sent directly to the specified e-mail account(s); however the parent or student must log in to their Parent Access Web Site account to view details of the assignments related to the alert. (\*Note: Once alerts are turned on, it is important to make sure to click on "Change Settings" to set the alert thresholds.)

## **DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS**

**Hamilton Welcomes the Athletes of Obetz Recreation –** The Athletic Department played host to the future Rangers of the Obetz Recreation Department during the Friday night football game vs. Bexley. Over 200 little Ranger football players and cheerleaders attended the game. Our future is looking bright!

**Hamilton Students shine at Football Game –** A special thank you goes out to the student body of the Hamilton Local School District for their exemplary behavior while cheering on the Rangers during the Football victory vs. London last Friday evening. Great job kids, you are first class all the way!

**Another Exciting Football Finish -** The Ranger football team moves to 2-0 after defeating the London Red Raiders 35-27 in an exciting football game. London scored first, taking a 7-0 lead to start the first quarter. The Rangers struck back when Zach Thompson completed a 13-yard touchdown pass to Caleb Morris. Thompson ended the day with 157 yards in the air for 2 touchdowns while adding 86 rushing yards for 2 touchdowns. Lorenzo Bridges added a touchdown run and Cody Lannom caught a touchdown

pass. The Ranger defense tallied 7 sacks on the night.

Caleb Crumley kicked a 38-yard field goal in the 4th quarter to extend the Ranger lead to 8. The Rangers will be back in action this Friday at home to take on the Bexley Lions (2-0).

**Ranger VB Teams Defeat Tigers** - It was a short night on Tuesday, 9/6 when the Ranger Volleyball teams traveled to Circleville. The JV and Varsity teams won in two straight sets and the Varsity dominated in three straight sets with scores of 25-14, 25-11, 25-12.

**Boys Soccer drops heart beaker at Circleville** - Boys varsity soccer lost a shootout at Circleville 5 - 4 Thursday evening. Senior Josh Whitt moved into the scoring lead for the Rangers with another 2 - goal performance. Junior Niel Skalican and Sophomore Cameron Dykes accounted for the other Ranger tallies

**7th and 8th Grade Football Still Undefeated** - The 7th and 8th Grade Rangers improved to 3-0 with an 8th grade victory over Teays Valley West, 24 – 0 while the 7th grade team won 56 – 0. Great job Rangers, come and watch the Middle School teams play their first home game next Monday at 6:45 pm vs. Teays Valley East.

**7th and 8th Grade Volleyball Victorious** - Both middle school teams beat Teays Valley West in two games. 7th grader Julia Scholl led the way serving 15 points in a row in game one. Final score was 25-11, 25-17. The 8th grade team beat Teays 25-13 in the first game with Brittany Haughn serving 6 consecutive points. The Rangers were down 11-18 during the second game and made a huge comeback to win 25-20. Both teams played great!

**Victory for the JV Girls Tennis Team** - The JV girl's tennis team beat Whetstone 3-2. Second singles Lisa Vann winning her match 6,2-6,4 led the team; third singles Amber Miller won 6,0- 6,1; and first doubles team Kaiya Saxton and Savannah McGowan won 6,3-6,3.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

[See what's going on throughout the district](#)