

3/26/2012

Mr. Christopher T. Lester, Superintendent  
Hamilton Local School District  
775 Rathmell Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43207

Dear Superintendent Lester:

I am writing to compliment your elementary school program. I work for The Ohio Department of Education and have written this letter to my communications office, for publication or circulation. Regardless if it is published or not, I would like you to know what a great job your Hamilton Elementary School is doing. Following is my letter:

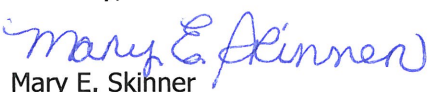
My grandson, Gabe, goes to Hamilton Elementary in Hamilton Township near Obetz. This school has received a report card grade of Excellent for the last 2 years. I am very impressed with Hamilton Local Elementary School for the three years that my grandsons have attended. Gabe had all-day kindergarten and finished the year reading. Our youngest grandson, Luke, participated in a one-half day preschool at Hamilton Local last year and a full-day preschool this year. For a very reasonable fee the preschoolers are bussed to and from the school.

But most impressive (in my opinion) is Hamilton Local Elementary School's emphasis on the positive to reinforce good behaviors and study habits. If you go onto their website you will see several programs they are working on. Just recently Gabe brought a note home saying that he has been nominated by his teacher as a Star Student of the Month. I don't know a lot about this award, but the letter was very complimentary on Gabe's demeanor, his kindness and empathy toward others. On Monday, March 12th, they had an award ceremony at the Hamilton Local Board of Education where the second and third grade elected students received a certificate for this achievement.

Every grading period each grade has a Principal's Award Ceremony; which parents and grandparents attend. During their principal's award ceremony, the children are recognized for all A's on their report card, A's and B's on their report card, respectful ranger, most improved ranger, birthday month and perfect attendance. Their new principal, Mark Tyler, takes this one step further by recognizing the parents in specific ways. At the last Principal's Award Ceremony Mr. Tyler spoke about how their attendance was up this year compared with last year; last year was a record high for attendance and they already have surpassed last year's record this year. He said that in the high school you can acknowledge the students for good attendance, or poor attendance – but at this level you have to commend the parents for making this happen. He went on to say just a little about the benefits of good attendance, i.e., direct correlation to higher test scores and attendance, etc. At this age, recognition goes a long way.

The Hamilton Local Elementary Teachers are accessible via the web, telephone and in person. They have several activities outside of school hours, where they meet with the children and their parents to do activities, such as COSI, viewing the Lorax and skating parties. The elementary school had the Columbus Zoo come to their school for an "in-house field trip". During these hard economic times, where schools are asked to do more with less and teachers are challenged with diverse learning abilities, backgrounds and the countless personal challenges each child encounters during their elementary school days – I applaud this school for the many things that they are doing to acknowledge and teach these children. I have sent a similar letter to Joe Jankowski.

Sincerely,

  
Mary E. Skinner

cc: Mr. Mark Tyler, Principal, Hamilton Local Elementary School