

Superintendent's Weekly Wrap-up: Aug. 30 - Sept. 6, 2013

Testing window for third grade reading instruction option begins Oct. 7 - Third-grade teachers now have several ways to comply with the reading instruction qualifications contained in the Third Grade Reading Guarantee law. One way is to earn a passing score on the *Teaching Reading: Elementary Education Test*, a test of research-based principles of reading instruction. Registration is now open [here](#) for the first window offered for the test, also referred to as the Praxis 5203, which runs Oct. 7-19. When registering, teachers should select their employing school district or community school as a score recipient. Test windows also will be offered in December and throughout 2014. Test preparation materials and other resources are available [here](#). Ohio's required passing score for the test is 162. The Praxis 5203 is not interchangeable with the test and coursework required to obtain a reading endorsement; however, it will provide the qualification to instruct third grade students determined to be 'not-on-track' or retained as outlined in Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee law. For a complete list of Third Grade Reading Guarantee teacher qualification requirements and options, click [here](#).

New HTHS Softball Field On Schedule For November 2013 Completion - The Hamilton Local School District and the Hamilton Local Boosters are 50/50 partners in financing the construction of the new softball field located on the east side of our Hamilton Township High School property near the corner of Rathmell and Lockbourne Roads. The current field is located on our main K-8 campus adjacent to the Hamilton Intermediate School. The current facility will be used for some junior varsity games and middle school softball teams. Our new facility will be complete with dugouts, electronic scoreboard, and bleachers with a capacity of more than 100.

Superintendent Lester is coordinating the construction of this facility, which will be the home of our Hamilton Rangers Softball Team. Our softball program will be starting a new era under first-year head coach Samantha Long. The team will open their 2014 season at the new facility on March 29 against Columbus Briggs. We are looking forward to having our high school softball program compete on the school's campus. For more information on the Ranger Softball Program [visit our softball team web page](#).

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Hamilton Middle School football program featured on the front page of The Columbus Dispatch - On Tuesday, September 3, 2013, *The Columbus Dispatch* printed an article titled "Girls hang tough" written by education reporter Charlie Boss that appeared on the front page and continued on page A6 that included information about our middle school football program and their acceptance of having a female teammate. The story was also the lead on www.dispatch.com and included an "In your own words" video feature as well. If you missed it, take time to [read the article and view the video](#).

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

Honor Students Get Head Start - The honors chemistry students are off and running!

They designed an experiment to determine the physical and chemical properties of various powders. They will use their data to determine new uses for these powders mimicking the work of material science engineers. (Material science can be thought of as applied chemistry.)

No Texting And Driving – “No texting and driving was the emphasis during this much needed educational video to open the eyes of our young and inexperienced drivers,” Principal Miller stated. During ADVISORY, the high school building wide watched an education video that interviewed real life people in real life scenarios about the accidents they caused why texting and driving. Students responded well to the seriousness of this genuine concern that affects teenagers across the Nation.

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Two are better than one - When you walk into Room 133 of our middle school, two different teachers, Mrs. Drews and Mrs. Mayhew, greet you. Whose classroom is it? Both! Working together in a team teaching set-up, both of these dynamic teachers work with a combination of regular education students and special needs students to make a blended, mixed ability classroom that meets the needs of all learners. The two teachers plan their lessons together and with the other 8th grade Language Arts teachers, provide instruction together, create assessments, together, and share in grading. It is difficult to differentiate between who is the Language Arts teacher and who is the Intervention Specialist. This co-teaching assignment will help all of the students in the classes to be as successful as possible, no matter their label or ability level!

HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

6th Graders Learning to Master Lockers - 6th grade students at Hamilton Intermediate are excited to have lockers for the very first time this year. Throughout the week, students have been working hard to learn their locker combinations and many of them are already pros! They have shown that they can handle this new responsibility. Great job 6th grade!

Sixth Grade Band Students Ready to Play! - The Hamilton Intermediate Sixth Grade Band is excited to begin learning to play their instruments. This week, the brand new band members were given their shiny, new instruments and learned a few of the basics, such as how to put them together and how to hold them correctly. Of course, the most exciting part is learning to make those first few sounds on the instruments. The students have already begun taking home the instruments to practice regularly between classes so they can be their very best.

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kindergarten and 1st Grade Playground Expansion – Mr. Lester and Dr. Conley collaborated on a plan to expand the Kindergarten and 1st grade playground. The process simply involved moving a small section of fence that took an under used section of the

2nd and 3rd grade playground and connected it to the smaller Kindergarten and 1st grade playground. The younger students love the new addition to their play area and the older children have not even noticed that it is gone.

Elementary Students Receive Training on Bus Safety – Hamilton Local

Transportation Director Barbara Haughn and Driver Pam Howe visited the Elementary and met with each grade level to review bus safety procedures. In addition every bus practiced a rear door evacuation drill. 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. Howe did an excellent job with the presentation and our students are safer as a result.

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL

Fall Fundraiser - Our annual fall fundraiser will run from September 16, 2013 through Friday, September 27, 2013. Money raised will go directly to the preschool students. We are planning on purchasing center activities, outdoor recess equipment, and books for our Library. Flyers will be coming home soon! Thanks to all the families who are willing to help with this fundraising activity.

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! Thanks to Mrs. Haughn and her team of bus drivers!

Teaching in Action - The Preschool prides itself on the wonderful supportive teaching staff that works very closely with students in each classroom everyday. After three weeks of school routines, procedures, and learning goals have been established in each class. Students are busy with Reading and Math Groups, Centers, Library, Computers, Snack, and their favorite time Recess! Parents are already amazed at what their little ones can do!

OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

First Successful Fire Drill - The Alternative Academy completed their first successful fire drill last week. It is required to complete 9 drills throughout the year.

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Late Arrival – Remember that Wednesday, September 11 will be the district's first two-hour late arrival of the school year. These monthly late arrival events are used for staff teams to work together on planning, problem solving, instructional design, assessments, intervention, and data analysis. Late arrival and teacher professional development days for the year are listed on the district calendar.

Parent Tips for School Success

Attendance. Show your child that school comes first by scheduling appointments after school, on weekends, or during school holidays. Every day or part of a day missed is a missed learning opportunity. Regular and timely attendance also helps students develop habits they will need in future schooling and jobs.

Organization. Organization and planning does not come easy for all children. Help your child set up a system that works for them. One idea is using a color-coded folder for each class or subject. This keeps homework, graded papers, notes, etc. at hand so that assignments are not missed. It also helps to have a regular time set aside each day for studying, homework, & reading. This gives students time to digest concepts learned during the day, eliminates cramming and last minute panic to finish projects, and reinforces that school and learning is a top priority in the home.

Enthusiasm. Show interest in what your child is learning by asking questions and talking to them about it. You don't have to be the expert. Have them explain or teach what they are learning to you. It will help them better understand what they've learned as well.

Monitor. Check in with your child each day about school. Make sure assignments and reading are complete. Use Progress Book to review grades and assignments.

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Varsity Football Opens with Win – The Varsity Rangers Football team opened the season 1-0 for the 4th consecutive season by beating Columbus East 48-6. The Rangers were led by Lorenzo Bridges who rushed for 157 yards on 14 carries. The defense dismantled East's offense and held them to six points and only 165 total yards. The Rangers continue their season on Friday September 6th against a tough Licking Heights squad. The game will begin at 7:30pm at Hamilton Alumni Stadium on Military Appreciation Night.

Varsity Volleyball Continues Impressive Start – The Rangers Varsity Volleyball team improved their record to 7-0 after wins versus MSL opponents Fairfield Union and Teays Valley this week. The Rangers have impressively managed to win all of their matches by sweeping the first three sets (21 consecutive set wins). The Rangers continue in action on Saturday, September 7th at 10:00 a.m. as they play host to Eastmoor.

Middle School Soccer Posts Historic First Win – In the first year for a Hamilton Middle School soccer team, the Rangers came away with a 3-1 victory in their second game. On Tuesday evening, the Rangers hosted Tree of Life and came away with the win. Rangers' goals were scored by Keaton Miller (2) and Dalton Willis. All three of the Rangers goals were scored in the final 10 minutes of the game. The Middle School Rangers also won against London on Thursday evening with a 4-0 victory bringing their record to 2-1-0.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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