

# TRANSCRIPT

HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

*#EachWillThrive*



**STUDENTS  
RETURN  
TO THE  
CLASSROOM!**



**OFFICER KNAPP TEACHES FOURTH  
GRADERS ABOUT RESPECT FOR  
THE AMERICAN FLAG**



**A MESSAGE FROM NEW  
SUPERINTENDENT, DR. LUSK**

**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2022**

# FEELING RIGHT AT HOME IN HAMILTON

By: Dr. Bradford Lusk

Hello Hamilton families, I hope this message finds you well! It has been incredible to meet several staff members, community members, and stakeholders in-person over the past few months.



However, for those of you that I have not met in-person yet, I look forward to meeting you soon and working with you throughout the school year. I have thoroughly enjoyed the warm welcome and kind words shared so far.

As for a little bit about me and my background, I am a proud father of two (son, Reece-11 and daughter, Kennedy-10) and husband to my intelligent and beautiful wife of 16 years, Ainsley. I earned my Bachelors from the University of Michigan, Masters and Specialist from Grand Valley State University, and Doctorate from Eastern Michigan University.

Coming back to West Michigan is very exciting for us as I began my career here and it is also where we started our family. I started my career teaching History and Government for four years at Grandville High School, where I was then selected to serve as an assistant principal for another four years.

During my time at GHS, I was able to coach wrestling, football, and rugby. After eight years at GHS, I was hired to serve as the principal at Fowlerville High School. During my 10 years at FHS, we were able to grow as a staff and offer students more opportunities to better themselves academically and personally.

What drew me to Hamilton was how similar my personal and professional background is to this community. I grew up in a rural setting (working summers bailing hay and construction type jobs) and was raised in a blue-collar family which respected hard work to make an honest living. I was fortunate to have supportive parents who instilled a strong work ethic in me, both in the classroom and in the workforce. Being the first and only college graduate from my family means a lot to me as I understand and appreciate the sacrifices made to allow me that opportunity. Having grown up and worked in a similar district (Fowlerville), I am excited to work and grow with everyone in Hamilton.

As I explained during the interview process, I will be taking the start of the school year to listen, learn, and then lead after gathering information. After meeting with many staff members and community members, I was inspired and excited to be involved in such a special place. Hamilton is a special place to learn, work, and grow and I am excited to continue that excellent tradition. My family and I are excited and humbled by the opportunity for me to serve and lead the Hamilton Community School district.

The school year has started well and it has been great seeing all of the smiley faces of students and parents each day. The events held at the schools and community have been well attended! I really enjoyed meeting and talking with community members at the 'Scoop with the Supt.' community forum and was amazed by the support and attendance at the Hawkeye Hometown Tailgate. Hamilton is a special place to be and I feel blessed to be a part of it.

Take care, enjoy the day, and as always #GoHawkeyes!



## 2ND ANNUAL HAWKEYE HOMETOWN TAILGATE BRINGS HAMILTON COMMUNITY TOGETHER

The 2022 Hawkeye Hometown Tailgate returned on Friday, Sept. 16 which once again brought the community together! Over 2,500 people attended this year's event which featured free food, rally towels, yard games, a petting zoo, a car & tractor show, street performers and so much more. The Hamilton choir and band also had incredible performances for the crowd.

This event was made possible by the support of local businesses and we can't thank them enough for support Hamilton Community Schools and their community!



# HAWKEYE HELPERS PROGRAM MAKES AN IMPACTFUL SUMMER RETURN TO THE DISTRICT

By: Zach Harig



From left to right: Frankey Gilliland, Dakota Lynema, and JJ Loudon help assemble a play kitchen for a preschool classroom at Sandyview Elementary.



Class of 2024 student Jordyn Deters smiles as she prepares to paint a kitchen at Blue Star Elementary.

The unique and impactful ‘Hawkeye Helpers’ program began inside of Hamilton Community Schools in 2019. The initiative would put Hamilton High School students to work inside of the maintenance, operations, and grounds departments.

After a successful debut summer, things came to a screeching halt in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the ‘Hawkeye Helpers’ have returned in a big way at the end of June and have made a big impact. Seniors JJ Loudon, Frankey Gilliland, and Dakota Lynema as well as junior Jordyn Deters assisted with several different roles and duties inside of the maintenance and grounds departments.

Maintenance and grounds supervisor Keith Folkert and Bob Hippey of student services helped start the program and have been thrilled with its impact.

“The benefit, I believe, is that they learn some new skills that they have never done before,” said Hippey. “They have been driving tractors, trucks, hauling scrap and other items for us.”

It’s a win-win for Folkert’s team as summer projects continued to ramp up.

“We had three construction projects happening this summer and my team was caught up in those,” Folkert added. “This helps us, it allows us to get down to different buildings and do some things that we otherwise wouldn’t be able to do.”

The four students worked Monday through Thursday and helped in a variety of ways including painting school walls, assembling furniture for classrooms, moving pallets and assisting with grounds keeping, among other duties.

“This gives them pride in how the rooms look and what happens at the school as well as some behind the curtains scenery of what makes a school function,” Folkert added.

They all say the program will help them in their future endeavors.

“I learned a lot about power tools, team building, and working with others,” said senior Frankey Gilliland. “This was a really good opportunity for us, there are a lot of things we’re able to do now because we took this program.”

# HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ADDS CLIMATE CONTROL, AIR QUALITY TO EVERY BUILDING

By: Zach Harig



Hamilton Community Schools is furthering its commitment to its students and staff in the 2022-23 school year. Over the summer, the maintenance team was hard at work to install climate control and air quality to every classroom in the Hamilton district. The upgrades will improve HVAC and will pump refrigerant into each room, when necessary in the early and late months of the school year.

Last summer, Hamilton Elementary and Blue Star Elementary joined Hamilton High School as the three schools in the district with controlled climates. Hamilton Elementary media clerk Stacy Smith says she felt more energy and happiness this past school year in the cooler library, and that her students felt the same way.

“By having climate control and them investing in us, I feel very loved and appreciated by our administration and district,” said Hamilton Elementary media clerk, Stacy Smith. “I saw a big change in the students’ smiles when they entered the library.”

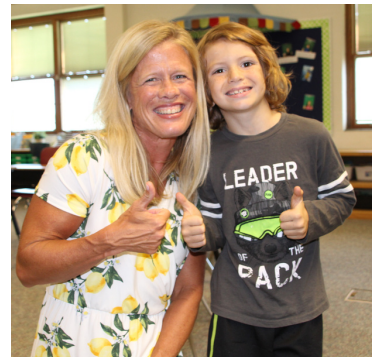
Sandyview Elementary, Bentheim Elementary, and Hamilton Middle School were all completed this summer to ensure the comfortability of the learning environments in every building within the district.

“We’re extremely excited to that this project was completed by the end of the summer, so that our air quality and climate will have improvements for the students and staff of Hamilton Schools,” said maintenance and grounds supervisor, Keith Folkert.

# STUDENTS RETURN FOR 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR



On August 24, students returned to their classrooms across the district. The morning was filled with hugs, smiles, laughter, and learning!



# "NO MATTER WHAT COMES, THERE'S A WAY OUT"

Sandyview Elementary's Mrs. Foshaug won't let cancer bring her down



By: Zach Harig

Since 2003, Elizabeth Foshaug has been dedicating her life to Hamilton Community Schools. Upon moving to West Michigan, she knew that Hamilton would be the district for her and her children right away.

"I fell in love with the place and the community feeling here," said Foshaug. "I love how we all support each other here and I couldn't imagine going anywhere else."

Mrs. Foshaug serves as the media librarian and custodian at Sandyview Elementary and no matter which role she's in at the time you come across her, she has a smile on her face. In fact, not even a cancer diagnosis could bring her down.

"My journey has been interesting," Foshaug said looking back. "I started with my first mammogram in November of last year and they found two suspicious spots on my right breast that led to an ultrasound and we needed a biopsy. I found out on December 29, that it was malignant and that meant surgery, chemo, and radiation."

That's when she developed a plan with her supervisors, Mr. Jared Randall and Mr. Lon Haverdink to allow her to keep working while navigating around a busy schedule filled with appointments. However, her journey was only just beginning.

"In the beginning of March, I had my first infection and went into the hospital and removed the first port and had a second one put in. By the end of June, I had a third port that was infected and had it removed," Foshaug added.

Unfortunately, that wasn't all. Foshaug was also beginning a second battle with cancer, this time in her thyroid which was diagnosed in April. Just one week after her third port was removed, she would need surgery to remove half of her thyroid. Thankfully, both surgeries were successful.

While the past year has been a whirlwind for her, she continues to keep a smile on her face and couldn't be more excited to be back with the students throughout the 2022-23 school year.

"Tough stuff comes, cancer is a scary word, but no matter what comes, there's a way out," she smiled. "You just have to persevere and keep working through it."

On August 24, just after the end of the first day of school, Mrs. Foshaug rang the bell to signal the end of her radiation treatments. She will still undergo maintenance radiation for the next several months, but will keep the smile on her face for her 19th year with the district!

# 'JUMANJI MATH' RETURNS TO HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. Mousel & Mrs. Malloch engage students in unique STEM learning



By: Zach Harig

In the first week of school, it's all about engaging students with unique learning opportunities. Nobody is doing that better than Mr. Bill Mousel and Mrs. Jackie Malloch in the Hamilton Middle School.

On the second and third days of school, Mr. Mousel brought back his 'Jumanji Math' experience for his students which features things you don't see every day in a classroom.

"This is a very early lesson that will give students a math opportunity that is very different from what they've had," said middle school math teacher Bill Mousel. "It's going to have riddles and puzzles to solve and their challenge is to escape the Jumanji game."

The game features lock boxes, rolling dice, numbers, and a foggy classroom.

"We just want them really energized to do some math and set them up for success later in the year," Mousel added. "We're just hoping to spark their interest."

Teams of three have to get done with their riddles before other teams to escape the game.

"The takeaway is this will be a math class that will be a lot of fun. They're going to like math this year, even if they haven't in the past. They'll now be wondering what's coming next," Mousel smiled.

## VENTRILOQUIST TEACHES BLUE STAR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ABOUT RESPECT

It can be difficult for students to get reacclimated to the classroom in the first week of school, especially at the elementary level. However, Blue Star Elementary made sure their students had fun and laughed while learning important school and life lessons.

On August 26, ventriloquist and retired educator, Rich Kornoelje, and his friend 'Scary Harry' joined the Blue Star Elementary respect assembly and addressed the students with jokes, songs, and stories. The focus of the presentation was for students to be engaged while ultimately listening and learning about three core values: doing the right thing, The Golden Rule, and always doing your best.

"When I first began teaching, Mr. Kornoelje was my principal, and I learned a great deal from him. What a fantastic thing it was to have him teach the students at Blue Star. It was a time filled with learning, smiles, and laughter," said first year Blue Star Elementary principal, Kari Huckaby.



# 'HIGH FIVE FRIDAY' BECOMES A HIT AT HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

By: Zach Harig

The hallways of Hamilton Middle School were lined by students and staff on Friday, Sept. 9 to start a new tradition: 'High Five Friday'. A concept created by principal Liz Morehouse, allows for each student and staff member to high five one another twice while walking the hallways. The event was even featured on FOX 17 News!

"The purpose of High Five Friday is to provide a positive start for the day while strengthening our sense of community in the school," said Mrs. Morehouse. "It was an opportunity for students to utilize our four school pillars of be Respectful, be Responsible, Be Safe and Be Engaged."

This will become a monthly tradition at Hamilton Middle School.



## SUPERINTENDENT LUSK HOSTING 'SCOOP WITH THE SUPT.' COMMUNITY FORUMS

Hamilton Community Schools superintendent, Dr. Bradford Lusk is hosting a new community forum twice per month at the Hawk's Nest Restaurant (3420 M-40 Hamilton) called 'Scoop with the Supt.'. On the first and third Thursdays of every month, Dr. Lusk is sitting down with parents and community members to discuss the topics that are important to them while enjoying a donut, coffee, or ice cream cone.

### Dates & Times:

Thursday, Oct. 6: 4:00 - 5:00 PM (Ice Cream & Coffee)

Thursday, Oct. 20: 9:00 - 10:00 AM (Donuts & Coffee)

Thursday, Nov. 3: 4:00 - 5:00 PM (Ice Cream & Coffee)

Thursday, Nov. 17: 9:00 - 10:00 AM (Donuts & Coffee)



## K9 OFFICER JOHN RATHJEN & PARTNER FLYNN VISIT BENTHEIM ELEMENTARY

On Wednesday, Sept. 14, Holland Police K9 Officer John Rathjen and his partner, Flynn visited the young fivers and first grade classes at Bentheim Elementary. Officer Rathjen and Flynn performed several demonstrations and showed students what K9s can be used for.

"We come to schools so that kids can see police officers, learn about the job, and get an understanding of what we do and the tasks that K9s do," said Officer Rathjen, who is also a Bentheim Elementary parent.

Flynn, a nine-year-old German shepherd, has been with Officer Rathjen and his family since 2018.

"This is something that the kids can go home and talk to their parents about. It's a cool experience for the kids and we just try to make it a joyous experience," he added.



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## OFFICER JOE KNAPP TEACHES FOURTH GRADERS ABOUT RESPECT FOR THE AMERICAN FLAG

By: Zach Harig

Allegan County Sheriff's Officer Joe Knapp has been serving the Hamilton Community and the rest of Allegan County for years. On Tuesday, September 5, Officer Knapp made a visit to Sandyview Elementary to teach the fourth grade class about the importance of the American flag.

"The reason I do this is to teach the the importance and understanding of proper respect for the flag," Officer Knapp said. "I want kids to learn that at a young age that it's not just something they see on a flag pole, it has meaning and needs to be respected for the lives lost defending it."

Knapp served in the United States Air Force for five years from 1989-1994. We would like to thank Officer Knapp for his service and commitment to the Hamilton students and community.

