

# TRANSCRIPT

HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

*#EachWillThrive*



**CELEBRATING  
THE CLASS  
OF 2023**



**INTRODUCING THE 2023 HHS  
VALEDICTORIAN & SALUTATORIAN**

**'HAMILTON WAY' AWARD  
WINNER LEADS BY EXAMPLE**

**APRIL & MAY 2023**

# FULL LIST OF GRADUATING SENIORS

There are 208 Hamilton seniors who received a diploma this year. They are the following:

- A** Achterhof, Madison Lynn  
Albrecht, Tori Lynn  
Altwater, Brinley Jenelle
- B** Baker, Gavin Michael  
Banks, Josiah Steven  
Barry, Domanic Christopher  
Beatty, Matthew Scott  
Becksfort, Taryn Robin  
Bennett, Ethan Wesley  
Berarducci, Mia Lynne  
Berens, Alexander Robert  
Berens, Cooper James  
Berens, Jessica Anne  
Berghorst, Jenna Lynn  
Berkimer, Tyler Andrew  
Blauwkamp, Mason William  
Boeve, Kaden Troy  
Borg, Jocelyn E  
Bradley, Ariel Mae  
Brondyke, Lauren Nicole  
Brower, Kellie Ann  
Brown, Trevor Thomas  
Brus, Kalissa Dawn  
Bryde, Cayra Denae  
Buchanan, Oliver Nelson Paul-Lee  
Burch, Kayden Mathew  
Burdo, Ashley Marie  
Burns, Lacey Joy  
Bush, Patrick Steven  
Bush, Titus Luke  
Buus, Wyatt Jon  
Bylsma, Elizabeth Ann  
Byrne, Gabriel David
- C** Calderon, Bailey Elizabeth  
Callow, Chai Bounta  
Chester, Bianca Mea  
Chico, Jesus Gael  
Cole, Jaxson Russell  
Colvin, Rayne Marie  
Cook, Brayden Randall  
Cronin, Gianna Marie
- D** Dailey, Madison Hope  
Damber, Faith Marie  
DeFouw, Jacob Duncan  
Degroot, Jacob Alwin  
DeHaan, Mallory Grace  
Delgado, Joe Isaiah  
DellaVecchia, Mariana Carol  
DenUyl, Emma Ann  
DeVries, Gabrielle Arianna  
DeWeerd, Tate James  
DeWys, Lauryn Elizabeth  
Dozeman, Charlie J
- Dozeman, Matthew R  
Duong, Anastasia Natalie  
Dykstra, Abigail Mae  
Dykstra, Cheri Nicole  
Dykstra, Meron Chad
- E** Eaken, Josie Lynn  
Eding, Camaraye Marie  
Eding, Colin Allen  
Eding, Zachary Emerson  
Eustice, Payton Mae  
Everse, Kendall Lauren
- F** Farris, Catrina Joy  
Fisher, Callie HeeWon  
Fisher, Melanie Lynn  
Fitzwilliams, Emily Marie  
Flokstra, Curtis J  
Foidl, Jacob Scott  
Folkert, Sara Grace  
Freyhof, Nathan Joseph  
Frieling, Reed Wesley  
Fudge, Lily Nicole
- G** Gallagher, Laci June  
Genzink, Elyse Ashlynn  
Geurink, Brayden Allen  
Gilliland, Frankey Lane  
Goodpaster, Brant William
- H** Hancock, Ivy Elizabeth  
Haverdink, Lillian Jean  
Hawkins, Jonathan Dean  
Heneveld, Alexis Paige  
Heyerman, Emma Elizabeth  
Hoeksema, Amelia Rose  
Hopkins, Landon Connor  
Hoppes, Jeralyn Michele  
Hulst, Caiden Joel
- J** Jamrog, Madison Margaret  
Jenison-Curtis, Taryn Kay  
Jensen, Spencer Owen  
Jipping, Riley Michael  
Johnson, Emily Faith  
Johnson, Joseph Laurence
- K** Karasiewicz, Milo Marie  
Keller, Coby Clare  
Klanderman, Lily Ann  
Kleinheksel, Kilee Ann  
Kleinheksel, Kyra Joy  
Klett, Nathaniel Elijah  
Klingenberg, Tyler Michael  
Konneck, Matthew Robert-Kristopher  
Kotowski, Stella Kathryn  
Kragt, Carter John  
Kroeze, Clayton J
- L** Laarman, Abigail Sue  
Lampen, Cody Michael  
Lang, Corbin Seger  
Langeland, Grace Reagan  
Lauer, Malachi Josiah  
Lee, McKenna Lynn  
Lewis, Lilly Jean  
Lezman, Cole  
Lindholm, Abigail Christine  
Lohman, Azlan Rae  
Louden, Jason Michael  
Lubbers, Kaitlyn Hope  
Lynema, Dakota Michael
- M** Machiele, Brent Michael  
Maloney, Jacob Aaron  
Martinez, Fiona Sabine  
Matheny, Parker Riley  
Mathews, Jeremy Michael  
McCartney, Anika Rose  
McDonald, Emily Marie  
Michalak, Ryn Jasaac  
Mika, Lucas Daniel  
Miller, Rory Charles  
Minarik, Nicole Ruth  
Monarrez, Ricardo Steven  
Moreno, Marisol Alicia  
Morlan, Tristen  
Murphy, Mecciah Mae  
Murphy, Nathaniel Lee  
Murray, David Lytton  
Myaard, Cody Anthony
- N** Nevins, Seth David  
Nyhof, Jackson Scott  
Nyhof, Lillian Audrey
- O** Osborne, Austin John
- P** Parkhill, Abigail Laurin  
Parrish, Noelle Juliet  
Patmos, Camden Lee  
Peck, Ashlyn Heather  
Pepper, Shane  
Perrin, Kennedy Lynn  
Postmus, Madison Leigh  
Prielipp, Ava Elizabeth  
Prins, Morgan Joy
- R** Reister, Kiel Andreas Weeldreyer  
Renkema, Mallory Elizabeth  
Rikelme, Isaac Machiah  
Ritsema, Tyler John  
Robertson, Eli Christian  
Rookus, Clayton John  
Runkel, Kierra Anne
- S** Sal, Connor Lee  
Sanchez, Adrianna Rene  
Schalte, Joseph Michael  
Schmall, Trenton Rylee  
Schout, Megyn Jo  
Schrotenboer, Makenze Faye  
Schuel, Lucy Yune  
Schuurman, Kyle Richard  
Schwartz, Ella Grace  
Scott, Doris Ann  
Scott, Grace Mae  
Sibble, Aubrey Danielle  
Silva, Sebastian Eric  
Smallegan, Jenna Arloa  
Smith, Devin Gale  
Soerens, Norah Esther  
Soto, Aracely Giselle  
Steanburg, Amaya Faith
- T** Tebo, Brady Michael  
Theodore, Paul Ryan  
Timmerman, Eli Rolfe  
Tyler, Jack Norman
- U** Unema, Alivia Faith  
Uttech, Kayla Elizabeth
- V** Van Buren, Annika Kate  
Van Huis, Maxwell Isaac  
Vanbruggen, Sydney Marie  
VandenBerg, Aubrey Adair  
VanDenBerg, Kaydence Beth  
VanDerHulst, Kaylie Eliza  
VanDerKamp, Marissa Anne  
VanderKooi, Autumn Joy  
VanDerMeulen, Isabella Rose  
VanderZwaag, Taylor Ann  
Vandevusse, Aubrey Grace  
VanDyke, Alex William  
Veen, Skylar Raine  
Verkaik, Chloe Ruth  
Villa-Lemus, Elizabeth
- W** Wagoner, Jaylen Xavier  
Walters, Landon Michael  
Wardlow, Josiah Robert  
Weber, Anthony Michael Mark  
Weber, Jackson Wayne  
Wedeven, Noelle Marie  
Widner, Zoe Love  
Williams, Isabelle Lacey  
Wolak, Harlee Marie  
Wolbers, Allie Jean
- Y** Yoder, Kylie Paige  
Young, Elizabeth Grace
- Z** Zeerip, Alexander Scott







## Class of 2023 Top Ten Graduates

From left to right (in no order): Bella VanDerMeulen, Sara Folkert, Mason Blauwkamp, Grace Langeland, Max Van Huis, Abigail Lindholm, Cody Lampen, Kendall Everse, Kiel Reister, and Ashley Burdo.

### VALEDICTORIAN MASON BLAUWKAMP



Mason Blauwkamp, the son of Chad and Kate Blauwkamp, is the Valedictorian of the Class of 2023. Mason participated in baseball and tennis all four years at Hamilton High School and has also been on the quiz bowl team for four years and a part of the National Honor Society for the last three. Blauwkamp plans on attending the University of Michigan to study engineering.

"Hamilton has taught me a strong work ethic and good Christian values that I will go out and use in the future. I have loved having a supportive community and supportive teachers, and I have always felt a very strong sense of connection in Hamilton. It was a really fun ride, I really enjoyed high school and seeing my friends every day."

Scan the QR Code to see the video with Mason and Max as they take a look back at their experience at HHS!

SCAN ME



### SALUTATORIAN MAX VAN HUIS

Max Van Huis, the son of Dan and Heather Van Huis, is the Class of 2023 Salutatorian. During his time at Hamilton, Max participated in track and cross country all four years, band during his freshman year, and was also on the quiz bowl team.



In the fall, Max plans to attend Trine University to study mechanical engineering and run track and cross country.

"I think one of Hamilton's best attributes is the comfort that I find in the community and that has helped prepare me for life by having academic conversations with teachers, taking on responsibility and leadership roles, and meeting people because I find it so easy to talk to everyone here. My experience at Hamilton High School was great. I think there are a lot of groups and clubs to fit into anyone's schedule and interests. Being surrounded by a good group of friends during these past four years was what made high school so good and I think Hamilton is full of friendly faces."



# SENIOR AWARDS

SCAN ME



Scan this QR Code for a list of all 2023 senior award winners!

## Art Award:

Lillian Haverdink

## Athletic Boosters Scholarships:

Brant Goodpaster

Tyler Berkimer

Lauren Brondyke

Kyra Kleinheksel

## Athletic Commitment Award:

Tyler Berkimer

Kyra Kleinheksel

Brayden Geurink

Austin Osborne

Brant Goodpaster

## Business Education Award:

Parker Matheny

## CHS Grifhorst-Jordan Award:

Brant Goodpaster

## Daughters of American Revolution Good Citizens:

Maxwell Van Huis

## Drama Award - Musical:

Amelia Hoeksema

## Drama Award - Straight Play:

Lauryn DeWys

## Hamilton Way Award:

Mia Berarducci

## Instrumental Music Award:

Rayne Colvin

## Julie Genzink Scholarship for Golf and Tennis:

Autumn VanderKooi

## Language Arts Award:

Lauryn DeWys

## Mathematics Award:

Maxwell Van Huis

## Outstanding Senior Female Athlete:

Madison Jamrog

## Outstanding Senior Male Athlete:

Brant Goodpaster

## Patricia Winchester Vanderbilt Scholarship Award:

Lauryn DeWys

## Science Award:

Maxwell Van Huis

## Social Studies Award:

Mason Blauwkamp

## Spanish Award:

Aubrey Sibble

## Vocal Music Award:

Jacob Maloney



Vocal Music Award winner Jacob Maloney with teacher, Holly Israels.



Female Athlete of the Year Award winner Madison Jamrog with Athletic Director Eric Talsma.



Amelia Hoeksema, winner of the Drama Award - Musical with teacher, Paul Connelly.



Athletic Commitment award given to athletes who have received 12 varsity letters during their high school career.



Aubrey Sibble, winner of the Spanish Award with Spanish teacher, Mary Ayres.



Lauryn DeWys smiles with teacher Katie Jarvis after receiving the Language Arts Award.



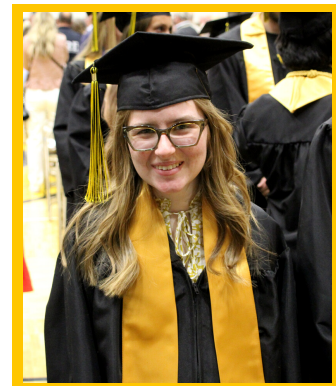
Male Athlete of the Year Award winner Brant Goodpaster with Athletic Director Eric Talsma.



# MIA BERARDUCCI WINS 'HAMILTON WAY' AWARD

**Award recognizes a graduate who exemplifies integrity, compassion, selflessness, and perseverance in the face of difficulty.**

Mia Berarducci hasn't had an easy journey throughout her high school career at Hamilton High School. In fact, she's battled her entire life. When she was just one-year-old, Mia was diagnosed with both cancer and OMAS (neurological condition attacking her cerebellum). In the following years, that was compounded by battling epilepsy and other medical challenges until she was eight. Unfortunately, last year, more medical problems arose and made her senior year a difficult one to navigate. Simply put, Mia brings the word 'perseverance' to a whole new level. Her fighting spirit and positive attitude through all of the adversity made her a perfect choice for the 2023 Hamilton Way Award.



“Since March 2022, I've been dealing with a medical issue that is very complicated and a mystery to the doctors at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital,” Mia explained. “Through all this, I try to take things one step at a time because I feel overwhelmed a lot.”

With so much excitement going into her senior year, Mia admits it hasn't been the experience she had hoped as she was in and out of the classroom and hospital. However, she remained committed to her school work and is now a Hamilton High School graduate.

“I kept saying, ‘This isn't what I was expecting my senior year to be like,’” Mia explained, “I was always in and out of the hospital and it was painful and exhausting. Somehow, I got my school stuff done. My teachers are very helpful and understanding and I really appreciate that about them.”

This summer will be a busy one for the Berarducci family as Mia gets set to undergo testing at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio this summer. Her family is hopeful that she can get medically cleared to attend Hope College's Ready for Life Program this fall.

“From day one of kindergarten on, people have come around her and they've enjoyed working with her,” said Mia's mother, Amy Berarducci, “They've loved her and she's loved them. Seeing her graduate is bittersweet because Hamilton has been a great place for her and for us, but we are excited for her future.”

## CLASS OF 2023 FEATURES THREE EAGLE SCOUTS



From left to right: 2023 Hamilton High School graduates Kaden Boeve, Seth Nevins, and David Murray.

Meet Kaden Boeve, Seth Nevins, and David Murray - three graduates of the Class of 2023 at Hamilton High School. All three students have achieved success in the classroom, but have also made their impact in our community as Eagle Scouts.

Boeve's Eagle Scout project was building benches for a homeless shelter in Holland while Nevins created and designed a patio area for a local church to have fires and retreats outdoors. Meanwhile, Murray built a quarter mile dog walking path for the Harbor Humane Society.

Following their recent graduation, all three are ready to make their mark on the world! Boeve will be working on a tugboat as a deckhand, Nevins plans to move to Traverse City to chase his dream of becoming a chef, as he enrolls at the Great Lakes Culinary Institute, and Murray is excited to get his career started as a full-time welder.



# HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL BAND MAKES HISTORY!



**For the sixth time in Hamilton history, the Hawkeyes received an overall first division rating in April's State Band Festival!**

"The overall first division at state represents a formal recognition of just how well our band program is doing," said band teacher, Joe Herrick. "As I told the students leading up to State, in order to get a first division at this level, ALL of the details need to be ironed out and perfected. The judges are looking for any excuse to knock you down in any of the categories in which we are judged. I am especially proud of these kids because they not only achieved this overall first division, but if you look at the details of the scoring, of the overall 15 grades that were given by the judging panel, 13 were A's and 2 were B's. That is performing at an extremely high level!"



New Fine Arts banners hang in the Hamilton High School cafeteria to recognize accomplishments of the band and choir programs.

# SENIOR ASHLEY BURDO ENLISTS IN THE MARINES



Senior Ashley Burdo signed her documents to enlist in the United States Marine Corps on Monday, May 15. Congratulations to Ashley and thank you for your commitment!

“After 10 months of tough consideration, I’m proud to announce that I enlisted into the United States Marines! I’m beyond excited to serve my community and country in a very impactful way as well as use this as an opportunity to develop in character, and discipline, and leadership.”



# DONUTS, PIZZA & GRADUATES!

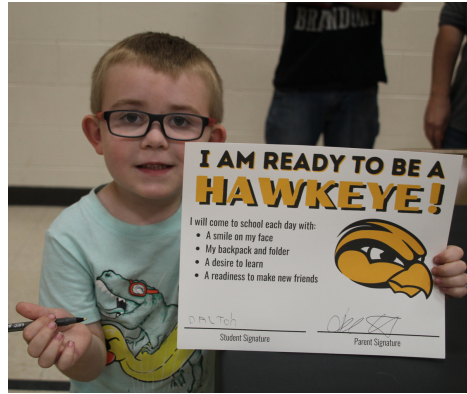
To celebrate the last day of school for the Class of 2023, seniors came together for a sunrise breakfast, all thanks to senior parents! After a half day finale, students celebrated in the Hamilton High School gymnasium with a pizza party and games. Congratulations to all of our outstanding seniors!





# COMMITTED TO BE A HAWKEYE!

On May 15 and 16, soon-to-be Hamilton Young 5 and Kindergarten students signed their names, committing to becoming a Hamilton Hawkeye! Students were joined by their family as they learned more about their school, their teacher, and what the upcoming fall will look like for them! We are so excited to have these incredible students and families in our district!



# 'DONUTS AT DAWN' HELPS BUILD SANDYVIEW COMMUNITY



The Sandyview Elementary PTO brought students, staff, and parents together on Friday, May 5 for 'Donuts at Dawn'. This tradition is another great way to help spread community! Thank you, Sandyview PTO!

# HAWKEYE PRESCHOOL GRADUATION!

While Hamilton High School's Class of 2023 walked across the stage to receive their diplomas in May, so did Hawkeye Preschool students! On Wednesday, May 24, 16 3-year-old students celebrated their graduation before 31 more 4-year-old preschoolers graduated on Thursday, May 25! Congratulations to our Young Hawkeyes!



3-year-old Hawkeye Preschool graduate, Mariah Hirdes smiles at graduation!



3-year-old Hawkeye Preschool graduate Nora Crittenden smiles on the playground.

“It is always bittersweet when they move on! They grow and accomplish so much in nine months, and it is such a joy and privilege to be a part of that. Preschool is the best of everything because we get to introduce art, music, PE, science, beginning reading, and social skills. Our group this year has given us a lot of great and goofy memories! We love them all to the moon and back!”

**Leslie Russell**  
Teacher, Hawkeye Preschool

“It is amazing in 9 months how much the children grow socially. I love seeing the friendships develop over the school year and hope they will continue as they spread out to the various elementary schools in the district. I think my favorite part is listening to the children and giggling while eating lunch together in the classroom.”

**Amy Herrema**  
Teacher, Hawkeye Preschool



4-year-old graduate Josslynn Deyarmond with Ms. Amy Herrema (left) and Ms. Katie Post (right).



4-year-old graduate Kacyn Eaton with Ms. Leslie Russell (left) and Ms. Carmen Dykstra (right).



# CELEBRATING A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!

By: Dr. Bradford Lusk

I hope this Transcript newsletter finds you enjoying the warm weather! Summer is in the air and we at HCS are excited to celebrate a great school year. I would like to take the time to express my appreciation for your support throughout the school year and beyond. Having a supportive community enables our school district to continue improving and providing an opportunity for our students to thrive in all areas.

The Hamilton community has done wonders for our school district this school year and you deserve a sincere THANK YOU. The list of items is extensive so I apologize for missing some, but some examples of support offered this year include numerous companies/organizations sponsoring our Hawkeye Hometown events (each sponsorship help to cover four community events this year), individuals/companies making significant contributions to our school district for district and family needs, our PTO's sponsoring amazing events and activities for our students, and of course, the passing of our May 2nd bond which will offer much needed support for our buildings. What is even more impressive are the day-to-day supports offered by individuals who want to remain anonymous, but care deeply about our school district and only want the best for our students and staff. Together we are able to create the best place for our students and staff to learn, work, and grow each day. This enables our students and staff to feel valued, inspired, and motivated to become the best Hawkeyes possible. Thank you!

This school year has been extraordinary in all aspects; the classroom, the stage, the field, and the community. Our students have excelled not only in the classroom, but showcased their talents in numerous extracurricular activities, bringing home high scores in music, championships in athletics, and awards in the arts. This was all done while learning how to connect and explore the post-high school careers and opportunities in our community. Ensuring our students are well-rounded individuals who are ready to make a difference in our community and society is a key component of Hamilton Community Schools.

Thank you once again for the continued support throughout this amazing school year. It has been an absolute pleasure working with you and your children and I appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigated it together. I personally wish you a safe, enjoyable, and memorable summer filled with smiles, laughter, and cherished family memories. While I am not overlooking summer, I wish only the best to our graduating Seniors in their future endeavors and I look forward to welcoming back your student(s) for another successful school year in the fall!

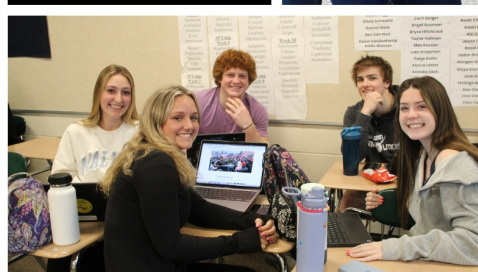
**Bradford Lusk, PhD**  
Superintendent



## 'Scoop with the Supt.' Update

Scoop with the Supt. community forums will not be held over the summer months. The next will be on Thursday, September 7 from 9:00-10:00 AM at Hawk's Nest Restaurant!

## 2023 BOND PROPOSAL PASSES



The 2023 Hamilton School Bond Proposal passed on Tuesday, May 2 to help fund improvements to safety and security, facility infrastructure, and learning environments.

Improvement projects include:

- Deconstruction of the 1952 wing at Hamilton Elementary
- 8-classroom addition at Hamilton Elementary, including Special Education and STEM
- Roofing
- Electrical, plumbing, and mechanical system upgrades, as needed
- Restroom upgrades as needed
- Community pool dehumidification system
- Security film at all school entrances
- Playground equipment upgrades and extended fencing as needed
- Physical education classroom redesign at Hamilton High School
- Fire Alarms
- Classroom casework, doors, lighting, finishes, flooring, locker, ceiling improvements as needed
- Educational classroom technology upgrades
- Replacement of aging school buses

Stay tuned to district social media, website, Transcript Newsletters for future news on planning! Thank you to all in our community who voted!





# HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS 57TH DISTRICT COURT THROUGH 'COURT IN SCHOOL' PROGRAM

On Thursday, April 13, Hamilton High School became the 57th District Court. It was the first time Hamilton has hosted the 'Court in School' program since 2011 and the first time the 57th District Court visited an Allegan County school since 2018.

"We request an order from the Michigan Supreme Court that designates Hamilton High School for an actual courtroom for today's court and proceedings," said Honorable William A. Baillargeon. "We do this in order to give students an opportunity to see courtroom incidents in action."

The students get to see live participants who are defendants with real sentencing and consequences. Following court, the students see a presentation from the court and learn about consequences of their actions.

"I think it's incredibly valuable for our tenth and twelfth grade students to go through this experience," said Hamilton High School principal, Mitch Bosch. "With our tenth graders going into driving soon and seniors to go through prom, graduation, and the next steps of life, it's important to see the real world consequences for their decisions."

On top of the court proceedings, students were able to learn about the careers of a judge, attorney, police officer, and different roles within the courthouse.

Hamilton Community Schools would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Honorable William A. Baillargeon, the attorneys, and all of the 57th District Court for making this experience possible.



## HAWKEYES AT TULIP TIME!



Hamilton Community Schools were once again well represented in the Tulip Time Festival parades in May! Our Hamilton High School & Middle School bands marched and our Dutch Dance program had stellar performances throughout. Well done, Hawkeyes!





# BOYS TRACK & FIELD WINS OK BLUE TITLE

The Hawkeyes bring home the program's First Conference Championship since 2016!



## Notable Conference Meet Results:

- Max VanHuis (12th) finished 1st in the 1600 and 3200.
- Ben Boehm (11th) won the 100 and 200 and was part of the winning 4X100 relay and 4X200 relay teams.
- Abatu Dykstra (10th) was second in the 800 and 1600.
- Parker Matheny (12th) was 2nd in the 400 and 4th in the 200.
- Jeremy Mathews (12th) was 1st in pole vault, 3rd in long jump, 4th in the 110 Hurdles and 8th in the 300 hurdles.
- Paul Theodore was 3rd in the 110 hurdles and 2nd in the 300 hurdles.

The Hamilton boys track & field team turned in a dominant performance on Friday, May 12 at the OK Blue conference meet. In total, 12 Hawkeyes made All-Conference, which is a new program record!

"What makes this team special is the fact that everyday, we compete at a high level and are focused on improvement. In a sport that is viewed by others as an individual sport," said head coach, Kevin Spotts. "Our men conduct themselves focused on a team first approach."

## HAMILTON SOFTBALL HOSTS INAUGURAL STEM NIGHT

The inaugural Hamilton Softball STEM Night was a sight to behold on May 3 as elementary students came together to watch the Hawkeyes battle West Catholic in a softball doubleheader. However, the night was more than just watching a game.

STEM Night brought recent lessons from district elementary STEM teachers, Mr. Losik and Mrs. Grossman to a new level. Throughout April, the elementary classes learned about the science of softball, including the physics of the sport.

"It was a joy to see our teaching come to life outside of the classroom," said Hamilton Elementary and Sandyview Elementary STEM teacher, Jessica Grossman. "Students were able to apply their learning in a fun and engaging way during STEM softball night. Watching the community come together to support softball and STEM made for a great evening of fun and learning!"

After arriving to the game, all students received a STEM Night water bottle sticker and activity book, which peaked their interest with fun activities and lessons to take part in. Students then headed to the batting cage where they had a chance to throw a softball as fast as they could. The Hawkeyes varsity team even wore special STEM Night jerseys and picked up two wins over West Catholic!

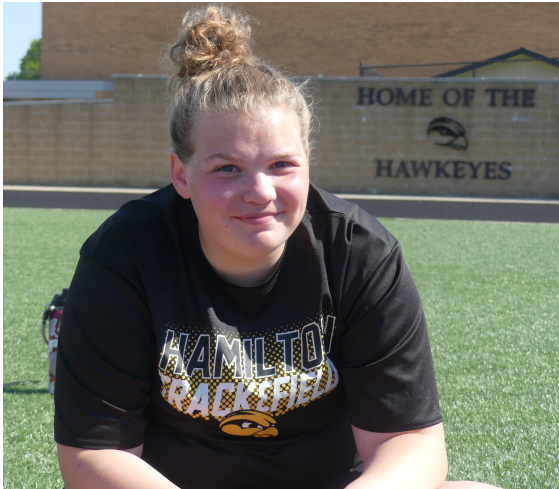
"I am proud that each student walked away with a STEM Workbook and a water bottle sticker, but even more than that, they left our ballpark with a memory, and so did our players and coaches" said softball coach, Mark Behnke. "STEM Night 2023 was special."





# 8TH GRADER CHARLEE HOOVER SHOWS MAJOR GROWTH IN FIRST YEAR IN HAMILTON

By: Zach Harig



Hamilton eighth grader Charlee Hoover has flourished in Hamilton in just eight short months.

"I expected a peer to peer program, and we have gotten so much more," said Charlee's mother, Stacy.

Her parents enrolled her into Hamilton Middle School from out of district in September. Since then, she has not only fit in, she has excelled.

**“She’s so much more included here,” added Stacy, “She’s accepted here.”**

Charlee is diagnosed with an intellectual disability and is a part of Mrs. Taylor Sale's daily living skills class at HMS, where she has quickly blossomed into a leader.

"Charlee is somebody in our Life Skills program that stands out," said Ken Lentz, Dean of Students at Hamilton Middle School. "She is an exemplifier for other students that maybe feel like they can't do some of these things, but Charlee has proven that anything is possible."

She truly has and isn't afraid to try new things, stepping out of her comfort zone this spring to join the HMS Track & Field team, running the 70-meter dash and throwing shotput.

"When I first met Charlee and she was interested in running track for us, I was all for it," Lentz, who also serves as the HMS Track & Field coach, said. "I saw the look in her eye, the enthusiasm and willingness to work hard throughout the season and she has not disappointed, she has been a blessing to the entire team."

Not only has Charlee been accepted by her peers, she is embraced by both classmates and staff for who she is - a happy, caring, upbeat eighth grader with a lights up a room.

"A lot of people love me," smiled Charlee, "A lot of kids talk to me and I have more friends [at Hamilton]."

Her mother says it's a 180 from last year as Charlee continues making friends, increasing her reading level, getting involved in sports, and simply, smiling.

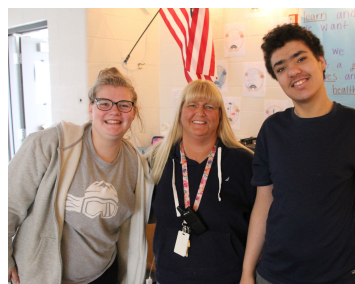
"She absolutely loves it here," Stacy added, "She's very happy and says hi to everyone in the hallway, teachers, staff, everybody. It's phenomenal here, I don't know any other way to explain it, it's pretty phenomenal here."

Charlee couldn't agree more.

"Hamilton Middle School is the best place I've ever been because people treat me like a teenager and not a little kid," Charlee added.



Scan the QR Code for a video on Charlee's success!



Charlee and classmate Nick with HMS paraprofessional, Jamie Rockhold.



Eighth grader Charlee Hoover smiles with Hamilton Middle School Dean of Students and track coach, Ken Lentz.



# HAWKEYE HOMETOWN 5K PUTS THE 'COMMUNITY' IN HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



A look at the inaugural Hawkeye Hometown 5K run held on April 29 for runners of all ages! The run had 143 runners registered and was fun for all. Congratulations to 11-year-old Megan Slagh for winning the fastest female (23:40) and 31-year-old Robert Field who won the men's overall (19:41). Thank you to our volunteers for making it a great event!

## THE START OF HAMILTON UNIFIED BASKETBALL



Hamilton Community Schools hosted its first ever Unified Basketball practice on April 29, starting a four-week program to bring the athletes together with student peers and staff volunteers. Athletes from Hamilton Middle School, High School, and HHS Alumni came together and worked on basketball skills and teamwork, all while having fun with one another!

## NBA G LEAGUE PLAYER VISITS BLUE STAR ELEMENTARY

Grand Rapids native Lacey James hasn't had an easy route to the NBA G League. After signing with the New York Knicks G League team in 2021, he was sidelined due to a concern about an enlarged heart. Sitting out his entire rookie season wasn't easy after all of the excitement.

"It was very tough for me to have to sit on the sidelines with something that I couldn't control," Lacey told the Blue Star Elementary students during an assembly on April 14.

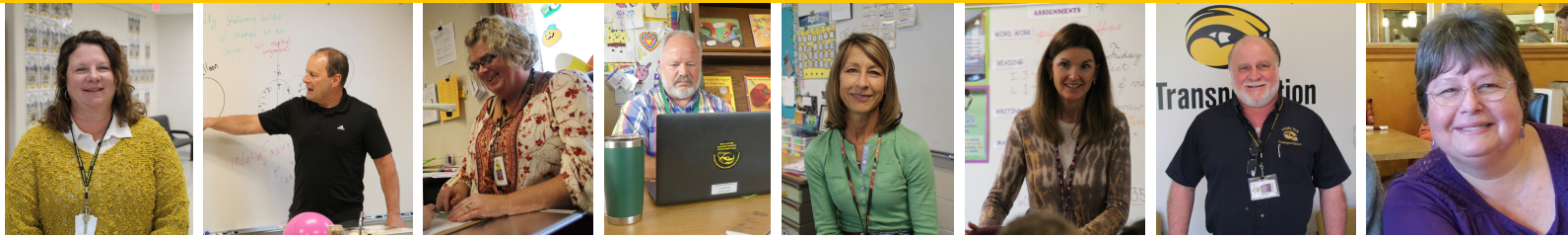
The Blue Star trait of the month is perseverance, something James knows far too well. Throughout his time at Blue Star, James spoke during the assembly but also took time to sign autographs, take photos, and walk the track with students during their recess.

"I hope the students believe in themselves, I want them to believe in themselves," James said. "This is why you do what you do and sacrifice everything. Just to see them smile and come up to you wanting a high five, that's what makes my day, this is why you do it."





# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 RETIREES!



<b>Becky Myers</b>	<b>Terry Bochenek</b>	<b>Julie Woldring</b>	<b>Kevin DeRoos</b>	<b>Laura Blowers</b>	<b>Laurie Custer</b>	<b>Steve Meppelink</b>	<b>Anne Brush</b>
28 Years	26 Years	30 Years	22 Years	17 Years	34 Years	17 Years	20 Years
Student Services Coordinator	Hamilton High School Teacher	Blue Star Elementary Teacher	Hamilton Elementary Social Worker	Hamilton Middle School Teacher	Sandyview Elementary Teacher	Hamilton Transportation Director	Hamilton Bus Driver

**Congratulations and thank you for your years of dedication to Hamilton Community Schools!**

# BLUE STAR SHOWS THANKS TO BUS DRIVERS!



From left to right: Bus drivers Sheila Brown, Kim Greving, and Diane Brueker.



Diane Brueker walks through the tunnel of appreciation.

April 25 was Bus Driver Appreciation Day and the students and staff around our district didn't hold back thanking their awesome drivers! At Blue Star Elementary, students and staff lined the hallways as the building's bus drivers walked through the applause, smiles, and cheers before the first bell to start the school day.

All three drivers, Sheila Brown, Kim Greving, and Diane Brueker also received flowers as another token of appreciation.

# THE TRADITION LIVES ON: FOURTH GRADE TRACK & FIELD DAY!



All fourth grade students from Hamilton's four elementary schools came together on May 25 for Track & Field Day at the Hamilton football stadium! A big thank you to the 40+ parent volunteers who stepped up to make this day possible!

"This a way to get all of the kids together from all four elementary buildings for a big celebration before they enter middle school," said Megan Petersen, physical education teacher at Hamilton Elementary and Sandyview Elementary.

"We work on these skills in our physical education classes and it becomes a track meet with a few field day type events mixed in. Generations come to this event because they remember their own children participating, or even remember themselves participating. We have so many generations of Hawkeye Pride going on during this day every year."

Ms. Renkema's Hamilton Elementary 4th grade class poses after winning Track & Field day!



# WORK BASED LEARNING IN FULL SWING TO WRAP UP THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

By: Ashley Meyer

Hamilton Middle and High School students have been actively engaging in Work Based Learning to round out the 2022/23 school year. Take a look at a few of the many opportunities students have participated in throughout March, April and May.

## 5th Grade Construction Pitch Out: April 17

As part of students career pathway exploration in construction, students worked to come up with solutions to the driving question, "How might we reimagine the stage area to be an inclusive & usable space for students during lunch recess?" Around 40 groups pitched their solutions to a panel of judges who selected teams to move on to the finals and pitch off to determine the top two presentations. Winning groups met with administration to come up with plans to renovate the HMS east gym stage space.



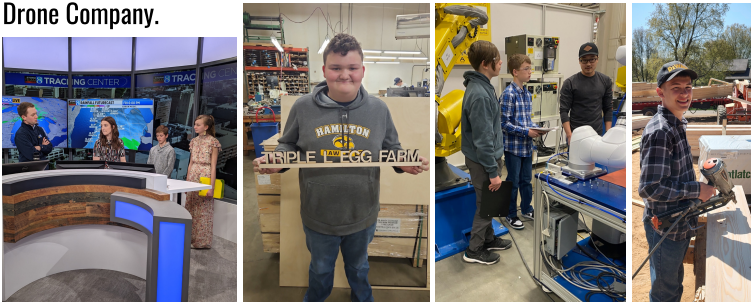
## 6th Grade Business Solutions Showcase: March 20

This winter 6th grade students were partnered at one of seven different businesses to solve a driving question given to them by the business. Each group presented to judges and the businesses selected a winner to pitch off against the winners from each business. Congratulations to the group from Mrs. Chambers' class representing West Michigan Regional Airport for winning the "Business Solutions Showcase". Thank you to our 2022/23 partners for this project, Cento Anni, Gentex, Fabcon, Holland BPW, K&R Truck Sales, JR Automation, and West Michigan Regional Airport.



## 7th and 8th grade Job Shadow Day: April 27

On April 27, all 7th and 8th grade students participated in Job Shadow Day. In all, 347 students completed a job shadow, and 40 students attended an experience provided by Hamilton Middle School which included tours of 2 businesses as well as a demonstration and presentation from Great Lakes Drone Company.



## 7th grade Manufacturing Tours: May 15

7th grade students visited three different manufacturing facilities to explore various careers. Thank you to our following partners for hosting our students: Adient, Nelson Steel, Fogg Filler, Koops, Transmatic, Mission Design, and BuhlerPrince



## 8th grade PBL Pitch outs: March 9

8th grade STREAM students presented solutions to the driving question, "How can we support the population of a key species in an ecosystem?" Thank you to the Allegan County Conservation District, the ODC, West Michigan Regional Airport, and the Careerline Tech Center for providing our students with authentic feedback and a professional audience for their solutions.



## 8th grade students visit the Agriscience and Natural Resource Programs at the Careerline Tech Center-May 18

8th grade students visited the Agriscience and Natural Resources Programs at the Careerline Tech Center (CTC) as part of the Agriscience/Natural Resource Management career pathway focus. Students worked in small groups learning about plant propagation, animal care and nutrition, etc from CTC staff and students. Thank you Careerline Tech Center!





# WORK BASED LEARNING IN FULL SWING TO WRAP UP THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

## 9th and 10th grade Prep4Success Events: April 12 and 13

On April 12, 9th grade students attended a Prep4Success event in the high school gym where they sat at a table with 5-8 students and a business professional. Groups were guided through various activities around growing students' personal "brand". Students worked on professional digital communication, tone, attitude and body language in the workplace, making phone calls and setting up their voicemail.

April 13 was a similar setup, but this time for 10th grade students that focused on the topics of "getting a job" (applications, interviews, etc), and "keeping a job" (personal accountability, common reasons employment is terminated, etc.)

Both experiences provided students with the opportunity to grow their professional network, learn about various careers, and expand their employability skills.



## BENTHEIM FOURTH GRADERS HOST MARKET DAY

Tuesday, May 16 was the culmination of a lengthy project for the fourth grade students at Bentheim Elementary. For weeks, the students have been preparing for Market Day, where they display products they wanted to sell to teachers, classmates, family, and community members. The students not only had to brainstorm what to sell, but how much it would cost to make, how much to list the product at to make a profit, and how to market it as well. Students sold everything from ice cream and homemade cupcakes, to homemade crayon pencils and bracelets.

"The point of the day is to understand the economic concepts that we've worked on in the year," said fourth grade teacher, Brian Lancaster. "They had to think of, how much will this cost me and what will my profit be? It really culminates a whole unit of economics terms and bringing it to a real and logistic lesson," Lancaster added.



## FOX 17'S CANDACE MONACELLI VISITS BENTHEIM!

FOX 17 meteorologist Candace Monacelli visited Bentheim Elementary on Monday, May 22 for the station's 'Weather Kids' segment, where they perform experiments and take questions from students. Bentheim third graders learned about climate, weather, what a career in television is like, and so much more during their morning together. Third grade teacher Audrey Kloostra said it was an engaging way for her class to finalize their learning in the classroom.

“ We did a weather unit this year and I wanted to celebrate all of the students' hard work that they did during the unit,” Kloostra said. “FOX 17 is the station I watch in the morning and I saw Candace [Monacelli] do different experiments with kids, so I reached out and they were super responsive and willing to come out here and hangout with us. This was a great way for students to see their learning actually has real-world meaning to it.”

The students will be a part of four segments on FOX 17, one airing every Tuesday night during the month of June at 7:00 PM. Be on the lookout for our Hawkeyes on the big screen!





# TRANSCRIPT

HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



#EachWillThrive

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## A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

### Hamilton High School graduates take one final trip to their elementary schools



Just hours before walking across the stage at graduation, Hamilton High School seniors visited their elementary schools, visiting with former teachers and receiving an ovation from the current students there. Another great moment and memory for the Class of 2023!