

TRANSCRIPT

HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

#GreatThingsHappenHere



**AWARD OF
MERIT**

Hamilton Community Schools

for outstanding achievement in the Newsletter category for

Transcript Newsletters



TELEVISION SUPERSTARS!

HMS Hawkeye Coffee Shop
featured on WZZM 13 News!



**A RAINY BUT
STELLAR HOMECOMING**



**CONTINUED SUCCESS FOR
THE HAMILTON BAND**

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2023

JACKSON MILLER & LARISSA BRONDYKE CROWNED HOMECOMING KING & QUEEN!



Freshmen - Brett Schrotenboer & Sadie Buus
Sophomores - Tyler Michielsen & Annika Johnson
Juniors - Isaac Dykstra & Abby Atwood
Seniors - Josh Langeland & Leah VanderHulst
Jackson Miller & Larissa Brondyke
Carson McIntire & Makena Scholten
Sam Windon & Faith Tubergen

2023 Homecoming King & Queen: Jackson Miller and Larissa Brondyke!



**HIGH SCHOOL
ASSEMBLY VIDEO**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
ASSEMBLY PHOTOS**

PARADE PHOTOS



HAWKEYE VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM VISITS HAMILTON ELEMENTARY ON HOMECOMING!



Hamilton Elementary students enjoyed another visit from the Hamilton varsity football team on Homecoming! The players arrived at the end of the school day and walked down the hallways which were lined with students giving them high fives, holding up signs, and showing their support!

After every last high five was given, the players walked into classrooms and played games, answered questions, and took photos with the students. As the students were released at the end of the day, the players formed tunnels at the exits of the school. It was a last memory for these young Hawkeyes who certainly look up to these Friday night stars!

HAMILTON 7TH GRADERS GET UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO TOUR TIARA YACHTS



Scan the QR code to watch the Tiara video!



By: Zach Harig

Work Based Learning visits to local businesses are always exciting for our Hamilton students. However, on Thursday, October 19, some 7th grade students were given the unique opportunity to tour Tiara Yachts in Holland and see inside one of the most famous yacht companies in the world.

"We're learning about manufacturing, how things are made, and getting our students to think about the future and certain job opportunities," said Hamilton Middle School teacher, Nick Kronemeyer. "We're also learning what goes into those jobs and the skills and trades required."

During the tour, students saw the progression of building a yacht, all the way from the shipments of high-quality wood, to the electronics and GPS systems involved, and the indoor pools used to ensure the boat is ready for the open water.

"I had a lot of fun at Tiara Yachts," said 7th grade student, Teshar Farris. "We learned a lot about how they're built and what goes into a boat and I never really knew a lot about them. It was really fun learning how to make it and all of the time that goes into them."

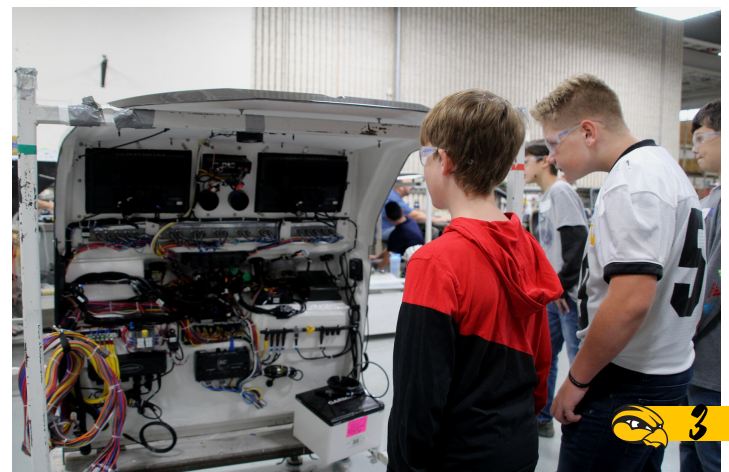
Each 7th grade group visited three companies: Fogg Filler, Tiara Yachts, BuhlerPrince, Metal Flow Corporation, Nelson Steel Products Inc., Mission Design & Automation, and Koops Automation Systems.

"We love our partnership with local companies allowing our students to continue their career pathway exploration," said HCS Work Based Learning coordinator, Ashley Meyer. "Students learned about high wage, high demand careers, and got to see first hand how things are made."

During their one hour visit, Tiara not only showed the students their assembly stations, but also discussed the various careers available through their company and what it takes to make a successful employee.

"As we walked through with the students, it was awesome for them to see these big boats are like houses and how many different things that go into it," Kronemeyer added. "From satellites, carpentry, GPS systems, making sure the boat floats, and all of the different traits that are required. I think this experience was particularly cool for our students."

Thank you to all of our Work Based Learning partners for working with HCS to provide these outstanding opportunities!



A SEASON OF THANKS

Happy holidays everyone,

I hope this Transcript finds you well and enjoying the changing seasons! It is always a great time of year with the leaves on the ground, crisp breeze whirling around, and holidays upon us. I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and found luck in the woods if you are a hunter. At the time of writing this article, the Lusk freezer is empty! Hopefully that changes before the season is over.

With radio stations having switched to Christmas music long ago, the Thanksgiving leftovers gobbled up, and Black Friday behind us, it is the season for giving thanks and celebrating all that we often take for granted. The end of a calendar year allows us to reflect on the calendar year and to put into perspective all which we accomplished during the year. I wish each of you a blessed holiday season and cherished memories with family and friends during this special time of year.

HCS is a special place for all to learn, work, and grow in each school year. The continued support of our stakeholders, coupled with the school spirit our students, parents, and staff display is contagious in and out of the classroom. I often hear comments from neighboring school officials and/or stakeholders in different districts about how many good things they hear about Hamilton. This positivity is becoming far reaching and exemplifies the heart of our mission; putting the Community into Hamilton Community Schools. As always, thank you for your continued support.

Whether it is the awards won by buildings (iReadiness, MiHeart Safe, US News World and Report to list a few), achievements by students in extracurriculars (athletics, band, theater, clubs, etc.), or PTO sponsored events (Hawk Walk, Fund Run, Fun Nights, etc.), we are fortunate to have excellent staff, students, and stakeholders who make each school year special. This continued success builds a culture of excellence in and out of the classroom for the next incoming class of Hawkeyes!

As the calendar turns to December and a new year is upon us, take the time to make cherished memories with those special to you and take some time to enjoy the holiday season. As Andy Williams says, "It's the most wonderful time of the year."

Take care, Happy Holidays, and as always #GoHawkeyes,

Dr. Bradford Lusk
Proud Superintendent
Hamilton Community Schools



Upcoming Scoop with the Supt. Dates:

Join Dr. Lusk for great conversation, free coffee and light breakfast at one of our upcoming 'Scoop with the Supt.' community forums, all held at Hawk's Nest Restaurant (3420 M-40):

Thursday, December 21 | 9:00-10:00 AM

Thursday, January 18 | 9:00-10:00 AM

Thursday, February 1 | 9:00-10:00 AM

Thursday, February 15 | 9:00-10:00 AM



**District
Facebook**



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Website**



**Bond
Updates**

NEW & IMPROVED DISTRICT SIGNAGE!



Thanks to a safety and security grant from the state of Michigan, we installed brand-new and improved outdoor signage at Hamilton High School, Hamilton Middle School, and our athletic fields!

These enhancements help ensure an easily navigational campus for all, including our first responders and visitors. The upgraded signage will boost safety measures, include QR codes to our outdoor emergency evacuation route, and enhance the overall experience within our school grounds.



A SWEET SURPRISE!

Dr. Lusk & Mat Rehkopf surprise HCS staff with cider and donuts!



Monday, October 16 may have been 'National Bosses Day', but our district leaders, superintendent Dr. Lusk and Director of Teaching & Learning Mat Rehkopf spent time going to all district buildings and surprising our staff with treats and appreciation!

Lusk and Rehkopf checked in with all of our staff members while delivering cider and donuts as a small 'thank you' for all of the hard work put in every single day by our amazing staff!

HHS SENIOR DAVE HERNANDEZ WORKS TOWARDS CAREER AS A PARAMEDIC AT CAREERLINE TECH CENTER

Hamilton High School student Dave Hernandez jumped at the opportunity to attend the Careerline Tech Center in his senior year. As he puts it, Hernandez "just wants to help people," and he's well on his way towards achieving that goal.

This year, Hernandez is enrolled in the Emergency Medical Services class through the Ottawa Area ISD. After the completion of this course, Hernandez can obtain his EMT-B license, putting him well on his way to attending paramedic school some day.

"We've learned hands-only CPR, basic anatomy, skills for taking pulse, and respiration," Hernandez said. "Long-term with this, I'd like to graduate from the CTC with my EMT-B license and find a place that will allow me to attend paramedic school that will lead me into that career."

The partnership between Hamilton Community Schools and the Careerline Tech Center helps provide opportunities in 29 different programs for HHS students.

"I'm very grateful for the opportunity I have to do this," Hernandez smiled.



HAMILTON SUMMER PBL: JUNE 17-21, 2024

WHO: Current 2023-24 8th and 9th graders

WHAT: Project Based Learning! Students work in small group at a local business to solve a problem given by the business.

WHEN: June 17-21, 2024 | M-TH 8am-3pm | Fri: 8am-10am

WHY: To satisfy a Work Based Learning graduation requirement for the training category and practice employability skills!

**SIGN UP TODAY! EMAIL ASHLEY MEYER:
AMEYER@HAMILTONSCHOOLS.US**



- All transportation is provided (students picked up from home)
- Lunch and snacks are provided
- Deadline to sign up: February 15

GONE VIRAL!



On Friday, October 13, 2023, the national anthem began to play in the football stadium prior to the JV football game. Outside of the stadium, our 10U soccer players quit playing all on their own, lined up, and showed respect for our country.

What a great moment captured by Emily Janssen that has now received over 45,000 likes on Facebook (and over 2,000 shares!)

Note: The coaches did remove their hats as well, this photo was taken moments after the anthem began.



HAMILTON SOCCER TEAMS COME TOGETHER FOR 'REC NIGHT'

The Hamilton soccer programs came together on Tuesday, September 26 ahead of the Hawkeyes varsity boys soccer against Kelloggsville. Youth players from the Hamilton Recreation program came out to take photos with the varsity players, receive autographs, create a tunnel for pregame introductions, and even take to the field during halftime.



“ This special night was a dual celebration of really important people in the Hamilton Soccer Community--our seniors on the varsity boys team and the various male and female youths at the Hamilton recreational soccer level,” said boys varsity soccer coach, Tyler Robinson. “Without either group, Hamilton Soccer would not be the thriving, positive machine that it is today. Obviously, we're still growing and needing to get better at every level here in Hamilton when it comes to all things “soccer”, and special nights like this one certainly serve to aid in that positive trajectory.

MRS. SLAGH'S READING BUDDY PROGRAM ENGAGES BLUE STAR KINDERGARTENERS IN READING



Scan the QR code above to watch the 'Reading Buddies' video!



It's not uncommon to see kindergartners bring stuffed animals to school. However, the way their teachers choose to utilize these friends in education can be creative.

Blue Star Elementary teacher Kelly Slagh has implemented a 'Reading Buddy' program for her students in which they read quietly to their stuffed animals.

"We are learning about the fact that we are readers," Slagh explained. "They are taking the opportunity to read their books and looking at sight words that they know while reading familiar story books. We're having a lot of fun reading to our reading buddies, it's a very exciting process."

It's a unique way to get the students learning and excited about reading.

“ Having the reading buddies with them engages them with their book because they're able to show what they know and pretend they're a teacher like me and they love to play pretend,” Slagh added.

HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL BAND RECEIVES AN OVERALL 1ST DIVISION RATING AT MSBOA!



Congratulations to the Hamilton High School marching band for earning an overall 1st division rating at the MSBOA Marching Festival for the 7th year in a row!

“ I really feel that we have a great system in place for success right now,” said band director, Mr. Joe Herrick. “Both Mr. Connelly and myself compliment each other quite well on the instructional side of things. His strengths are in the individual marching and color guard areas while mine are more on the musical side and the big pictures and forms. Both of us can do everything, but leaning into our strengths really helps give a nice balanced approach to the instruction. From there, all we need are students motivated to learn and work hard, and at Hamilton, that’s always been the case!”

Hamilton Community Schools is once again hosting 'ABC' (Academics, Basketball, Community) Night in 2024! Join us on Friday, January 12, 2024 at Hamilton High School for a night recognizing the academic achievements of our Hamilton High School students while watching the Hawkeye varsity basketball teams take on Coopersville!

EVENT SCHEDULE:

- 5:15 PM: Doors open
- 5:30-6:00 PM: Boys basketball poster signing
- 6:00 PM: Girls basketball game vs. Coopersville
- After the girls basketball game: Academic awards
- 7:15-7:45 PM (roughly): Girls basketball poster signing
- 7:45 PM (roughly): Boys basketball game vs. Coopersville



ABC Night will feature a photo booth, autograph sessions, t-shirt tosses, raffles, face painting, academic awards, rec basketball fun, and more!



HAMILTON'S GOT TALENT PUTS ON A SHOW!



The Hamilton's Got Talent top 20 finalists put on a great show at the Hamilton High School Auditorium on Saturday, October 21!

- Elementary Category AND Overall Winner: Jovie Lubbers (Sandyview)
- Middle School: Addyson Beidler (HMS)
- High School: Samantha, Madeline, & McKenna Wilkinson (Virtual School)
- Adult/Mixed Ages: JJ Louden

8TH GRADE STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT BUDGETING & FINANCES DURING REALITY STORE SIMULATION



Financial success starts at a young age which is why Hamilton Community Schools continues the annual '8th Grade Reality Store'. Work Based Learning coordinator Ashley Meyer, along with several business professionals from our community set up the financial simulation at Cultivate Community Church to give students a glimpse into adulthood.

Students went through ten stations beginning with rolling dice for their family situation (married or single, amount of children, etc.) before selecting a career, home, vehicle, and everything in between. Immediately, the students learned about taxes and insurance on their big dream houses and vehicles.

"I am very thankful for this experience because I can look back and say oh I learned this in 8th grade," said HMS student Daisy Solis. "It's important to learn how to keep track of my money."

Fellow 8th grader Chase Morrison chose to be a kinesiologist, which brought home a nice salary but he learned a lot from the rest of his situation.

"I had a child and was married but my wife made no money and was unemployed, I pay \$4,000 in taxes," he explained.

Some students had to attend college for their careers and quickly learned about student loans, interest on those loans, and debt.

"It's just sad, things cost way too much," Solis chuckled, "You look at the prices of things you need and want and keep thinking 'Am I going to go into debt?'"

At the end of the ten station process evaluating their financial situations, students were hit with a 'reality check', which set some of them back depending on how much money they were saving in their emergency funds.

"My reality check I had something happen where I had to pay \$10,000," Morrison added, "The reality check definitely changed things quickly."

Some students didn't have medical or dental insurance through their employers and learned how expensive those medical bills can be after breaking their legs, needing a surgery, etc.

"You fell and broke your leg, do you have health insurance?" Asked one community professional at the reality check station. "You do have health insurance? Okay, that's \$274."

“As an adult, I'll have to make some better decisions,” Solis added. “My parents give me some money here and there for doing chores or other work and I haven't really thought about what things cost, but now I will definitely look and think twice.”



Scan the QR code to watch the Simulation video!



WORK FOR US!



Apply Now!

Hamilton Community Schools is Hiring!

Bus Drivers • Custodians • Food Service • Paraprofessionals • AND MUCH MORE!

Apply Today using the QR Code or at HamiltonSchools.us



FIRST TIME SLEDDING!

Meet 6th grader Esteban from Venezuela! On Tuesday, October 31, when the first snowflakes flew, his teacher Ms. Katie Lillmars took him outside to see snow for the first time!

After seeing the snow, Esteban told Ms. Lillmars that he really wanted to go sledding. The next morning, Ms. Lillmars met him at the door to begin the school day and told him that her class was taking him sledding. The class borrowed a sled from STREAM teacher Mr. Hickok and taught Esteban about the snow and sledding!

“ Since his arrival in September, my class has shown so much compassion, kindness, and eagerness to learn his language and help him feel comfortable here in Hamilton,” said Lillmars.



“ The kids just love having him here. I always knew that Hamilton was a special place but if you aren't here, you don't understand. It's true that great things happen here.”

Ms. Katie Lillmars, 6th Grade Teacher

Esteban and Ms. Lillmars were also featured on WZZM News! Scan the QR code to see the segment!



TEACHING YOUNG HAWKEYES ABOUT BUS SAFETY & BEHAVIOR



Throughout bus safety week, Hamilton Community Schools bus drivers were all over our district teaching our youngest students about the importance of bus safety and positive behavior. On Wednesday, October 25, Miss Sheila Brown (Bus 38) and Miss Diane Breuker (Bus 17) visited Bentheim Elementary to speak with Mrs. Perdue's young fivers. Photos of their visit are above!

The students watched a safety presentation video with 'Willie the Whistle' before learning how to cross the road, get on the bus, how to behave on the bus, and how to safely exit the bus.

“ We need to start bus safety at a young age,” said Miss Sheila Brown, “The students learned how to get on and off of the bus, crossing in front of the bus, the dangers of the actual bus and getting away from the wheels. We also made sure they're watching their driver and behaving during the ride,” Brown added.

This visit comes after several different drivers went to Hamilton, Blue Star, and Bentheim Elementary schools during the official bus safety week to present to kindergarten classes.

Thank you, HCS Transportation for taking the time to teach our young Hawkeyes this important lesson!

Scan the QR code to watch the Bentheim bus safety video!



2019 HAMILTON GRADUATE JESS ROCKHOLD CONTINUES TO FILL IMPORTANT ROLES AT HCS

Districts all across the country struggle to find substitute teachers. On top of that, it's even harder to find a substitute teacher that students know and trust. Here in Hamilton, we're lucky to have a familiar face filling several roles in several of our district buildings.

Jess Rockhold graduated from Hamilton High School in 2019. Thanks to her outstanding experience as a student, she hasn't gone far. In fact, she returned as soon as she could to help fill different roles around our district.

"I've been subbing for the past year and a half in Hamilton," Rockhold said. "I love it, every single day is a new opportunity to make a relationship with someone else, whether it's a staff member or a student. Being in the district that I graduated from, the relationships that I've been able to build have made a huge impact on me."

After bouncing around for most of the 2022-23 school year, Rockhold had a chance to get the taste of being a full-time teacher to start this school year.

Rockhold was a long-term substitute teacher in 5th grade at Hamilton Middle School from the start of the year to the end of October. Now, she is making the jump to Hamilton High School to fill in for a maternity leave.

"It's kind of unique in the way that I get to come to school every day and be in the same classrooms and form those relationships with those students instead of bouncing around," Rockhold added.

As a young substitute teacher, Rockhold has been working and learning alongside several of her former teachers.

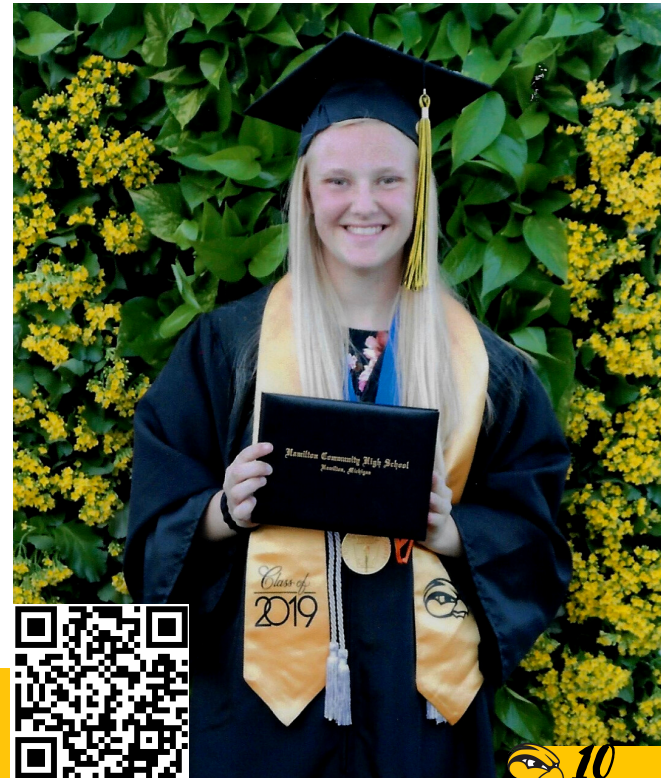
"What all of the teachers here poured into me as a student was phenomenal, so to be able to continue growing those relationships is amazing," she said. "Hopefully I can give back to the community a little bit, especially with as much as they all gave to me."

This full-time substitute teaching position at HCS isn't the only thing that Rockhold has going on right now. While she continues to get this first-hand experience, she is also enrolled in full-time online classes as a secondary math major.

"This position at HCS has given me the opportunity to be in a classroom and get experience, but day-to-day it is a crazy schedule," she chuckled. "I get to school and have a great day with the students, soccer season just wrapped up but I was also a soccer coach so I would go to our game or practice and then come home in the evening and work on school work and make sure I'm still taking care of my classes as well."

Rockhold credits 7th grade teacher Deanna Malloch for helping her fall in love with teaching at the middle school level. As a senior at HHS, Rockhold was a teaching assistant in Malloch's classroom and helped teach her all of the skills she needs to be successful in her current role.

In the future and after college graduation, she would like to remain teaching within Hamilton Community Schools.



“ Walking into any of these buildings here in Hamilton, this is home. This is where I grew up, it's my comfort zone.”

Scan the QR code to watch Jess Rockhold's staff spotlight video!



ED MCMAHON RETURNS TO HAMILTON FOOTBALL CHAIN CREW AFTER 2022 ACCIDENT



By: Zach Harig

Most athletic departments struggle to find volunteers, but Hamilton is not one of them. Take the Hamilton football chain crew for example, this crew has nearly 100 years of combined experience on the sidelines.

With 30 or so years of experience for Cal Schrottenboer, nearly 25 each for Dawn Safford and Mark Rudolph, and another decade for Ed McMahon, Hamilton has one of the most experienced crews in the state.

Despite those ten years of experience, McMahon still calls himself the baby of the crew.

“I’m the young guy,” McMahon smiled, “My oldest son Connor was a junior when I started doing it. He went through the program and my twin boys also went through the program.”

Despite his sons graduating from HHS, Ed has happily kept his position on the chain crew next to his good friends.

“It means a lot to be part of the community and out here supporting the guys, it’s good to give back to the school that gave a lot to my sons,” McMahon added.

There wasn’t much that would take Ed away from the Hamilton sidelines, until tragedy struck in July of 2022.

“I was involved in a hi-lo accident at my place of employment. The hi-lo came through the door and it grabbed my left foot and it basically took my left foot and ankle, crushed my foot, removed a couple of toes. It was unrepairable so they ended up amputating my foot and ankle at about the mid-shin level.”

Even after the surgery and rehabilitation, Ed wanted to get back to the best seat in the house at Hamilton Stadium. After taking the 2022 football season off, he made his return to the sidelines this season for the game against Holland Christian and another game against Spring Lake.

“I hesitated this year coming back, and I probably shouldn’t have but I enjoy it,” smiled McMahon. “I just wasn’t sure of myself but I did fill in for the game against Holland Christian and I plan on being back next year full time.”

It might take him just an extra second or two to help reset the chains now, but that won’t keep him away from fulfilling his role next to Dawn, Mark, and Cal.

“The comradery, just like the Hamilton football players, we are a team and we do things cohesively, it’s good to be here with them and taking it all in.”

Even with the highs and lows over the past 15 months, anyone who knows Ed knows that he’ll still have a big smile on his face.

“My wife sent me a picture after the accident that said, ‘You’ve been given this mountain to show that it can be moved and to show others that anything is possible.’ My message is you have to look at the bright side of life, you can take the negatives and turn them into positives. Yes, I had an accident, yes I’m now handicapped. However, this doesn’t define me as a person and what I can do and accomplish in life.”



Scan the QR code to watch Ed’s video!



“THINGS TO KNOW FROM SRO JOE”



Things to think about during Winter Driving:

For the teens and adult Hawkeyes in the community:

Despite all your precautions, you find yourself stopped or stalled on the road. Don't panic. Follow these safety rules: Stay with your car and don't overexert yourself. If you must run your car's engine to keep warm, be certain the exhaust pipe is clear of snow, ice or dirt, and check it periodically. Run the vehicle for only 5-10 minutes each hour and be sure to open the windows a little bit for proper ventilation. Keeping the car running continuously could lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Michigan speed limit laws require drivers to move at a speed that is “reasonable and proper” for the road conditions. This means that even if you are driving at or under the posted speed limit, you could still get a speeding ticket if the road conditions make that speed unreasonable for safe driving. Which also means if you go into the ditch or slide into another vehicle you can receive a ticket for traveling too fast for conditions or failure to maintain control of a motor vehicle. It doesn't matter how slippery the roads are or the weather conditions while driving, you are responsible for maintaining control of your vehicle.

For the Little Hawkeyes in the community:

Don't dress infants or toddlers in puffy coats or snowsuits. The extra bulk keeps the harness straps from fitting tight enough against the baby's chest. Dress your little one in lighter layers to keep the straps snug, then cover them with a blanket.

In other safety news:

Since August I along with other trainers from the Sheriff's Department have been working on getting classrooms and building safety measures into place and training the teachers and staff across the entire district. We finished up these trainings on November 10 in all six district buildings. Also, additional safety measures have been put into place with our HCS transportation department. October 16-20 was Bus Safety Week in which I rode on a school bus for both HS/MS route and Elementary routes to help identify problem areas for the buses while traveling the district roadways. There was a marked patrol car and deputy that was following the bus in case of someone running the red flashing lights.



Deputy Joe Knapp | Hamilton Community Schools SRO | Allegan County Sheriff's Department

7TH GRADER KAYLA VANDER ZWAAG LEADS BY EXAMPLE AS AN ASD UNIFIED PEER

Hamilton Middle School is filled with students leading by example. 7th grader Taylor Vander Zwaag would fit the description of 'leader' in her classes and hallways at HMS.

Vander Zwaag serves as one of the Unified student peers in Mrs. Allison Lesh's Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) classroom. This year, she is helping the ASD students with different tasks every single day but more importantly, she is showing her classmates what it means to be a great friend and accept everyone.

"I actually have a cousin who is Autistic, and I love to help out with him," Kayla said. "I think it's very important that we include them and it's a great thing that Hamilton Middle School does. When these students can't do things, we're always there to help them through it and support them."

Kayla is one of eight students who is serving as an ASD Peer this school year! Way to go, Kayla and the rest of these outstanding Hawkeyes for being great leaders!



Scan the QR code to watch Kayla's spotlight video!

Kayla Vander Zwaag smiles next to her friend Ashlynn.

MRS. SALE'S HAWKEYE COFFEE CREW HIGHLIGHTED ON WZZM NEWS!



Every school day morning at Hamilton Middle School, staff members get their caffeine fix with a smile and joke from Taylor Sale's Intensive Resource students as well as Allison Lesh's Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) students! As the school day begins, the students put on their aprons and get to work fulfilling custom orders from teachers and various staff members. From coffee, to tea, to cream and sugar, the Hawkeye Coffee Crew does it all!

After the orders are completed with the name of the teacher labeled on the cups, they're placed on trays and the students take to the halls to deliver them to their classrooms.

Behind every delivery, Mrs. Sale and Mrs. Lesh's students share a morning greeting, typically followed by a joke of the day.

Sale, who was hired into the position in 2016, started the coffee shop and it has evolved from there.

"Over the past several years, we have adapted and grown the program, but our intention has stayed the same," Sale said. "Beyond the functional daily skills that are taught in order to run the shop and fill the drink orders, our goal is to authentically create and foster relationships between teachers and students who receive specialized programming at HMS."

The program helps expand upon the community that Hamilton Middle School is known for.

"Students have a chance to meet and practice communication with new people, are exposed to more general education classrooms, and build relationships with staff they might not have the opportunity to without this experience. The "Coffee Crew" has such a strong positive presence in the building and the students are an integral part of the HMS community," added Sale.

As for the students, 6th grader Anna Council says it's the coffee shop is the highlight of her day.

"I love doing the coffee deliveries," Council told WZZM reporter Riley Mack during an interview, "I love to help people and spread happiness and joy."

The Hawkeye Coffee Shop was featured on WZZM News on November 3rd!



Scan the QR code to watch WZZM 13 news segment!



SHOWING INTEGRITY: BLUE STAR 4TH GRADERS RETURN FOUND MONEY



Left to right: Mia Cooper, Elijah Pennington, and Anibal Sanchez.

It was a roller coaster of a morning on Monday, November 6 for Blue Star Elementary 4th grader Anibal. After getting off of the bus and into the classroom, one of his classmates had asked if he had lost a 20-dollar bill. After original saying no, Anibal decided to go check his backpack to make sure he still had his money his mother had given him.

That's when it set in - the money was gone, and panic immediately set in. Meanwhile, his classmates Elijah Pennington and Mia Cooper were off of the bus and walking down the hallway when they came across the money on the ground.

Elijah says he picked it up, brought it to the school office and notified secretary Mrs. Deb Scholten where they had found it.

Minutes later, Anibal's tears turned to relief when he found out his money was returned. It's a simple act of doing the right thing by Elijah and Mia, but one that went a long way for their friend, Anibal.

“This just shows that they are kind-hearted and caring about other people and their belongings,” Anibal said.

Fittingly enough, Blue Star Elementary had just held a school-wide assembly on 'Integrity' and what it means to do the right thing. Elijah and Mia said those words and examples from their teachers helped remind them of the right thing to do on Monday morning.

“Some teachers told us stories about how they showed integrity,” Elijah said. “Today, Mia and I showed integrity by returning the money.”



Scan the QR code to watch the interview!



HHS SENIORS LEARN FROM HCS TEACHERS THROUGH 'TEACHING PRACTICES' CLASS



Solomon Brenner
with Duane Bosma
HMS Math



Joelle Boeskool
with Jana Zweering
Hamilton El. Kindergarten



Shayna Kragt
with Brooke Spyke & Sue Nykamp
Hamilton El. Kindergarten



Erica DeJonge
with Lisa Rumsey & Karlynn Blahnik
Bentheim El. Kindergarten

Hamilton High School seniors looking to go into education are being given an outstanding opportunity again this year through the HCS 'Teaching Practices' class. These four HHS students are learning skills for their future!

“I'm very grateful that this opportunity is here in Hamilton,” said Solomon Brenner. “I think it's a wonderful program for anyone that wants to go into education because you're right there, you're in the classroom, learning from great teachers, and overall, it's just a great time being in the classroom.”



Scan the QR Code to watch these videos on our YouTube channel!



HAMILTON SWIM & DIVE WELL REPRESENTED AT STATE!

Our Hamilton girls Swim & Dive team was well represented at state on November 17 and 18 at Oakland University!

State Qualifiers:

200 Medley Relay: Adi Garvelink, Lydia Lucas, Alyssa Volkers, Keira Volkers

200 Freestyle: Alyssa Volkers

200 IM: Alyssa Volkers

50 Freestyle: Lydia Lucas, Charlee Hoover (Paralympic)

100 Butterfly: Alyssa Volkers

100 Freestyle: Charlee Hoover (Paralympic)

500 Freestyle: Addie Grabinski

200 Freestyle Relay: Alyssa Volkers, Keira Volkers, Maya Ludema, Lydia Lucas, Addie Grabinski, Emma Reilly

100 Breaststroke: Adi Garvelink, Lydia Lucas

400 Freestyle Relay: Alyssa Volkers, Addie Grabinski, Emma Reilly, Lydia Lucas, Maya Ludema, Keira Volkers

Divers (Left to Right): Layla Winklepleck, Josi Popma, Joselyn Paskvan

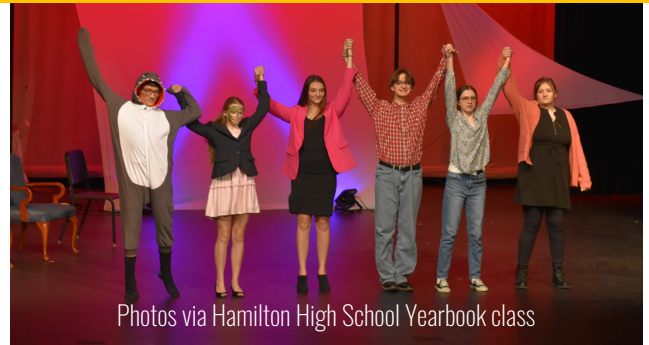


HAMILTON THEATRE DEPARTMENT KICKS OFF 2023-24 SEASON

The Hamilton High School theatre department had an outstanding start to the 2023-24 season on November 9 with 'A Night of One Acts', featuring the works of Don Zolidis. The department put on three shows that week and reviews were off the charts! Three weeks later, the dynamic season continued with 'The Mousetrap', by English crime novelist and playwright,

Agatha Christie. Those in attendance saw a show full of twists, surprises, and intrigue.

“ The Hawkeye Theatre Program successfully kicked off their 23-24 season with two amazing productions. If you didn't get a chance to see these phenomenal students perform, don't fret as you can still come out and support the students of the Hawkeye Theatre Program, March 21 - 23, as they perform Into the Woods, a musical mash-up of fairy tales. You will not want to miss this exciting conclusion to the 23-24 theatrical season,” said theatre teacher, Paul Connely.



Photos via Hamilton High School Yearbook class



FALL 2023 ALL-CONFERENCE ATHLETES



Left to Right:

Top Row: Jackson Miller, Ben Boehm, Dylan Loew, Max Brink, Noah Hernandez, Seth Lappinga

Bottom Row: Marco Catalono, Emma Reilly, Addison Grabinski, Alyssa Volkers, Abatu Dykstra

Not Pictured: Joelle Boeskool, Justin McIlwain, Seth Vigil

TRANSCRIPT

HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



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Grand Rapids, MI
Permit 1

Published bi-monthly by:

HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
4815 136th Avenue Hamilton, MI 49419

HAMILTONSCHOOLS.US

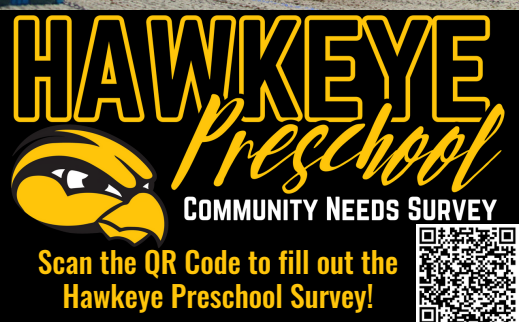


**This is a district-wide mailer sent to all residents of the Hamilton Community Schools district. If you live outside of our district and feel you received this mailer by mistake, please email your name and address to Hamilton District Communications & Marketing Coordinator, Zach Harig: zharig@hamiltonschools.us

NOW ENROLLING 2024-25 HAWKEYE PRESCHOOL!




Hawkeye Preschool is constantly looking toward a bright future, as they educate and guide our youngest Hawkeyes. At this time of the year, the brightness of the future is magnified as we are working towards opening 2024/2025 preschool enrollment. To meet the needs of our families, and our students, we are looking for your input. Are you looking to enroll a preschooler next year? Or do you think Hawkeye Preschool is in your family's near future? We want to hear from you! Please scan the QR code and fill out our survey so that we can continue to best serve our youngest Hawkeyes.



HAWKEYE
Preschool
COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY

Scan the QR Code to fill out the
Hawkeye Preschool Survey!



HAWKEYE PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

Dates & Information:

January 18, 2024 | 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

January 22, 2024 | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Sandyview Elementary

4317 46th St., Holland, MI 49423

Phone: 269-751-5372

Questions? Email Andrea Kuzee:

akuzee@hamiltonschools.us

