

TRANSCRIPT

HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

#EachWillThrive



The Transcript Newsletter was one of 30 print newsletters nationally recognized by the National School Public Relations Association during their 2023 NSPRA Awards!



FINDING SUCCESS IN HAMILTON



**STEVE LUBBERS WINS
COACH OF THE YEAR!**



**HAWKEYE HELPERS
PROGRAM CONTINUES!**

JUNE & JULY 2023

STEVE LUBBERS NAMED TENNIS COACH OF THE YEAR

Long-time Hawkeye Tennis Coach Recognized by the Michigan Tennis Coaches Association

By: Zach Harig

Steve Lubbers still recalls the impact coach Wayne Tanis had on him during his time at Hamilton High School decades ago. Tanis, who coached basketball, football, and golf for the Hawkeyes also started the tennis program in Hamilton, something Lubbers is very thankful for.

In 2000, Lubbers became a volunteer assistant coach on the Hamilton boys tennis team when his oldest son was a sophomore. One year later, he found himself in the head coaching seat, just like Tanis. The first order of business for Coach Lubbers was to create stability and a standard of excellence for his players.

“The program went through a little bit of change in the years prior to me taking the job,” Lubbers explained, “I think we had three or four head coaches in four years or so.”

With that cycle of coaches, it became difficult to uphold any sort of expectations for the athletes, Lubbers recalled. That would all quickly change.

“The first year or two, the feeling towards tennis was that you could mess around a bit and just have fun. Of course, we wanted to keep it fun, but we had to change the stigma and take the sport seriously at the same time,” Lubbers explained.

Mission accomplished. Within three years as a head coach, Lubbers says the tennis program started to gain respect among the students and staff around the district. Years later, when seasons changed for girls tennis, Lubbers took over that program as well - all with the same standard.

Fast forward 15 years, and both Hamilton boys and girls tennis programs are flourishing. As Lubbers explains, the Hawkeyes may not be in the state record books, nor do they have a regional championship or division one tennis players, but they play the game the right way and have earned respect from programs across the state. The boys tennis program has found its share of success with three all-state tennis players over the years: Justin Folkert (singles), and Grant Wolfram and Austin Haverdink in doubles.

Moreover, both the boys and girls tennis teams have made academic all-state every year that Lubbers has been head coach. No, he will not take any credit for that, but academics and success in the classroom is the first thing he mentions to his players and parents every year.

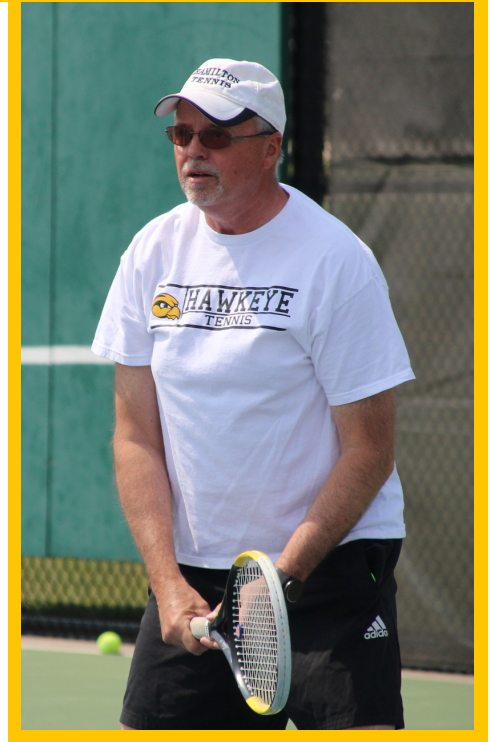
In June, Lubbers found himself in the well-deserved spotlight after being named the State of Michigan’s Division 3 Girls Tennis Coach of the Year by the tennis coaches association. The award came just weeks after being named the regional coach of the year as well.

“It’s quite an honor, to be honest,” Lubbers said, “To be voted in by your peers, some of whom are more long-standing than I am, it’s an affirmation of the time and work you’ve put in.”

Hamilton Athletic Director, Eric Talsma says Lubbers embodies everything that high school athletics should be about.

“Through the years, Steve has created a wonderful culture in the Hamilton Tennis program,” Talsma mentioned. “All players are valued and are supported by the coaching staff. We are very proud and honored to have Steve leading both our girls and boys tennis programs.”

Lubbers says he never had goals of coaching as long as Coach Tanis once did in Hamilton, but it means the world to him to follow in his footsteps and give back to his alma mater.



FROM HOMESCHOOL TO HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL, THE VAN WIEREN BROTHERS FIND SUCCESS AS HAWKEYES

By: Zach Harig

It certainly wasn't an easy decision for the Van Wieren family to change up what they have done for years. Going from homeschooling to public education is never easy, but with two sons in high school, it was time for the family to discuss it.

"When we were talking about going to Hamilton or homeschooling, or even other options, we were thinking, what are the extracurriculars?" Explained younger brother, Broden.

Broden, who was set to enroll as a high school freshman, alongside his parents and his older brother Turner, decided Hamilton High School was the best option for them. Despite feeling confident in the decision, worry set in on day one.

"At the beginning of the year, I was like, 'Man, this is so much different from anything I've ever done. Will the teachers like me? Will I make friends?'" Recalled older brother, Turner, who just completed his sophomore year of high school.

The answer to that question came quickly. Not only were the two Van Wierens accepted in Hamilton, they were getting set to find major success. Both Turner and Broden say between the teachers and staff and Hamilton High School, they have found a perfect academic home.

"So far, I have felt so accepted at Hamilton and it has been one of my best experiences ever and one of the best decisions to come here," Turner smiled. "It was very nerve-racking at first, but I've truly enjoyed it and it has been a great experience."

Both brothers have not been shy about jumping into extracurriculars at Hamilton, either. The two both participated in tennis, wrestling, theatre, and golf in the 2022-23 school year and loved every second of it.

"At Hamilton, there are so many things I can learn from and different programs like theatre," Turner added. "Then there's the fantastic teachers here and how they really understand their subject. I can't get that from an online class or my mom, they really help me learn."

Broden says one of his favorite things in Hamilton is how he's surrounded by other students and a great community-like atmosphere at HHS.

“ I'm really happy here, the extracurriculars have been great, along with the teachers. It has been really fun being involved with other kids, not just my brother and I at home. ”
~ Broden Van Wieren

Their mother, Meredith, has also been extremely happy with the decision to become Hawkeyes.

"The boys have just loved it, they've had some really great successes already in just one year."



Brothers Turner (left) and Broden (right) smile in the hallways of Hamilton High School.



GRACE ADVENTURES CAMP PROVIDE END OF YEAR FUN FOR HAMILTON 7TH GRADERS



Students await their chance to get on the rock climbing wall!



Hamilton 7th graders pull a truck in the strength competition!



Taking aim during in the archery group!

Schools all do different things to celebrate their students at the end of the school year. However, 7th graders at Hamilton Middle School had one of the more unique experiences on Wednesday, June 7 as Grace Adventures came to the school to setup a camp.

"Part of our mission at the middle school is to help build memorable and fun experiences for our students to build relationships and comradery among the students and teachers," said teacher and organizer of the day, Abby Perdok.

From the morning to the afternoon, students took part in various activities including a rock-climbing wall, archery, obstacle course, laser tag, and other team games.

"This provides them the option to have fun with their classmates and sort of put a ribbon on the seventh grade year," Perdok added. "It allows them to be sent off into summer with some fun memories and activities that they had with their friends and teachers, too."

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY STUDENTS HURL WATER BALLOONS AT MR. KRAMER ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!



The last day of school was filled with fun all across the district, including at Hamilton Elementary. Students took part in field day competitions, including cup stacking, tug of war, rock-paper-scissors hopscotch, and so much more. However, the lasting memory will be throwing water balloons at principal, Mr. Dean Kramer!

The Hamilton Elementary PTO provided water balloons for students to go up one class at a time and get their best shot at Mr. Kramer, who was protected by a Hamilton Hawkeyes football helmet, sunglasses, and a hoodie but certainly felt the lasting blows of the 400+ water balloons! However, Kramer says it was an easy way to show appreciation for his students' hard work throughout the school year.

“ At Hamilton Elementary our kids and families did an amazing job fundraising for our Hawkeye Hustle, bringing in over \$20,000 to the PTO,” said Mr. Kramer. “As a result, we wanted to celebrate in a fun way with one final reward where every student could participate, and we figured everyone would LOVE throwing a water balloon at the Principal! They sure did seem to have fun, and I had a blast too! A special thank you to the PTO and each of our families for the amazing support for Hamilton Elementary!”

17 HAMILTON EIGHTH GRADERS RECOGNIZED FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF CHARACTER

Congratulations to 17 Hamilton eighth graders who were nominated for students of the month multiple times throughout the school year! These students lead by example and perfectly illustrate what it means to 'Be The Good'. They were all recognized during a Character Assembly on Friday, June 2. The students are (some not pictured):

Korra Kapenga
Ashlyn Brown
Cora Williams
Josi Popma
Gunnar Veenman
Libby Bickel
Sophia Bolger
Julia Brown
Morgan Childs
Leah Elkins
Kaylee Lampen
Shawn Lawson
Maya Miller
Brooke Petroelje
Reece Nykamp
Sierra Prince
Christine Rithamel



READY FOR HIGH SCHOOL! HAMILTON'S CLASS OF 2027 CELEBRATES AT GRADUATION



THANK YOU TO OUR 2022-23 VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS!

HCS would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to our building/department volunteer coordinators from the 2022-23 school year. The building/department volunteer coordinators receive requests from teachers and staff for volunteers and donate 100-200+ hours each school year taking care of requests and volunteering in our schools!

Thank you to our coordinators:

- Venus Green - Blue Star Elementary**
- Amanda Flokstra - Bentheim Elementary**
- Carla Borr - Bentheim Elementary**
- Shelby Zoet - Sandyview Elementary**
- Jenna Walbeck - Hamilton Elementary**
- Jenn deFouw - Fine Arts**
- Lisa Mast - Athletic Concessions**
- Tara Weber - District Coordinator of Volunteers**



Venus Green



Amanda Flokstra



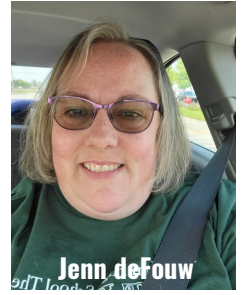
Carla Borr



Shelby Zoet



Jenna Walbeck



Jenn deFouw



Lisa Mast



Tara Weber



Volunteers!

We are so appreciative of all that they do in every classroom of all of our buildings throughout our district! Also, another big THANK YOU to all of our district volunteers as a whole!

Sept. 22, 2023 *Third Annual*
HAWKEYE
HOMETOWN
TAILGATE

Hosted by Hamilton Community Schools & Cultivate Community Church

Save the Date! The third annual Hawkeye Hometown Tailgate will take place on Friday, September 22, 2023 from 5:00-7:00 PM at both Hamilton Middle School and Cultivate Community Church! This year's event is once again entirely FREE for all with food, street performers, bounce houses, a petting zoo, a car/tractor show, band and vocal music performances, and so much more! There is no RSVP necessary, though you can find more information on our Facebook event page by scanning the QR Code. After the Tailgate, stick around to watch the Hamilton football team take on Holland Christian at 7:00 PM!

This event and other community events hosted wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our local businesses! Thank you for making this happen!



SCAN ME



Scan this QR Code for Facebook Event updates and to help promote the event!



Car & Tractor Show

The 3rd Annual Hawkeye Hometown Tailgate will feature a car & tractor show at Hamilton Middle School on Friday, September 22! Registration is FREE, but car & tractor show vehicles MUST be registered to park. While the Tailgate doesn't start until 5:00 PM, we ask that vehicles are in place at around 3:30 PM to help alleviate traffic that afternoon.

Scan the QR Code to register your vehicle(s) for the car & tractor show!



SCAN ME



2023-24 ORIENTATION DATES



BENTHEIM ELEMENTARY

Monday, August 21 5:30 - 6:30 PM

BLUE STAR ELEMENTARY

Thursday, August 17 5:30 - 6:30 PM

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY

Monday, August 21 5:30 - 6:30 PM

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

5th & 6th Grade: Monday, August 14 3:00 - 6:00 PM
7th & 8th Grade: Tuesday, August 15 3:00 - 6:00 PM

HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, August 14 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tuesday, August 15 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM & 2:00 - 6:00 PM

HAMILTON VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Monday, August 14 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Bookshark Orientation 1:30 PM

SANDYVIEW ELEMENTARY

Monday, August 21 4:30 - 5:30 PM

READY FOR SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN CAMP PREPARES YOUNG HAWKEYES FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

In partnership with Ready For School, Sandyview Elementary hosted another outstanding Kindergarten Readiness Camp over the summer. The four week program helped prepare the 21 students for kindergarten lessons, rigor, and activities.

"Each day the children had large group and small activities. Some of the skills the children worked on over the 4 weeks were beginning sounds, letter identification, rhyming and writing of words," said Amy Herrema, a Hawkeye Preschool and Kindercamp teacher. "Our math activities included number-identification to 20, connecting quantity of numbers and simple addition problems. We also enjoy hunting for bugs and frogs!"

The students joined their family for a picnic celebration on July 14 to celebrate all of their accomplishments throughout the summer!

"We are so thankful for our partnership with Hamilton Schools. It was gratifying and heartwarming to see all of the parental support at the end of the camp celebration," said Anna Beird of Ready For School. "The Hamilton staff was gracious and helpful as Sara Leonard and I navigated our first summer with this program. I am passionate about the early education of our children in our area. It takes a village to work with all of these students and it is a gift to have Hamilton be a part of Ready for School's Village."



HAMILTON SOFTBALL LEAVES THEIR MARK ON STATE RECORD BOOKS AFTER HISTORIC 2023 SEASON

By: Zach Harig

After a 30 win season and a share of an OK Blue conference championship in 2022, the standard was elevated for the Hamilton varsity softball program. Heading into the spring of 2023, the returning players not only expected a repeat of that success, they expected more.

The Hawkeyes would start the 2023 season 10-0 before hitting a rough patch of sorts, dropping four of their next six games. However, those close losses were a blessing in disguise, according to head coach Mark Behnke. The team regrouped in a big way going on a 12 game winning streak to end the regular season and enter district play.

In the district championship against South Haven, the Hawkeyes would trail 4-1. While there were moments of concern for Behnke, he knew the senior leadership would step up. Kyra Kleinheksel would deliver a two-RBI double to swing the momentum and Madie Jamrog put the clamps down in the circle, just like she did all season long. The Hawkeyes would come away with a 6-4 win and the program's first district championship since 1997.

After a 4-2 win against Wayland in the regional semifinal, the season would come to an end with a 4-1 loss to Vicksburg. Still, a 34 win season, a district championship, and an offensive season for the state record books is nothing to be disappointed in.

“I’d be lying if I said that I saw 34 wins coming, but I did think we could get into the state tournament and have a shot,” Behnke explained. “Hitters one through eleven, we could really hit the ball, but we could also bunt the ball, there’s a lot of ways we could get you because we don’t generally give up a lot of runs.”

And a big reason for not giving up a lot of runs was The University of Akron signee, Madie Jamrog who dominated in the circle for the Hawkeyes, going 29-5, pitching 194 innings, striking out 303 hitters with a 1.66 ERA.

“The biggest takeaway [from the season] is the girls on the team,” Jamrog said, “We had a great team bond and great culture.”

While Behnke continued to rave about his senior leaders: Jamrog, Kyra Kleinheksel, and Ava Prielipp, he says the 34 win season was possible because of the way the youth stepped up.

“We knew we had three seniors and other letter-winners returning this season that could play,” Behnke added. “That played out exactly how I thought it would but we brought in three freshmen who hadn’t played an inning of high school softball and two juniors who were on JV for two years but they’re good players. They all stepped up in a big, big way.”

In fact, freshman Ella Davison burst onto the scene with a 23-game hit streak to begin her high school career. Davison led the Hawkeyes with a .643 batting average and 81 hits, which put her 26th all-time in the MHSAA record books - nearly unheard of for a freshman.

“The standard was to compete for championships and that’ll always be the standard,” Behnke said talking about the season and the youth, “I’ve never seen a softball season like this before here, we’ve had a lot of good players that have played here, but we never thought we’d have a freshman hit .643 and a sophomore [Taylor Oosterink] hit over .500.”

Speaking of record books, the 2023 season of Hawkeye softball will be remembered in more ways than just the wins and losses and the team culture. Hamilton hitters as a team left their mark on the MHSAA state record books. Here’s a look at where the Hawkeyes will rank in team stats this season, according to the MHSAA record books:

503 Hits (7th all-time)
90 Doubles (Top 20 all-time)
40 Triples (4th all-time)
336 RBIs (Top 15 all-time)
.438 Team Batting Average (8th all-time)

The three seniors can hold their heads high knowing they have helped raise a standard within the program. With 64 combined wins over the past two seasons and a lot of returning talent next spring, the championship aspirations will continue to climb... and Behnke is quite alright with that.



THE DRIVE TO SUCCESS: HAMILTON MOTHER SHARES HER EXPERIENCE AS AN OUT-OF-DISTRICT PARENT

Early morning alarm clocks and wake ups can be a burden for any parent during the school year, especially if there's a longer drive to school involved and the student is not yet driving themselves.

For Heather Curtis, it's a routine she knows far too well. Over the past three years, she has been waking up with her daughters Taryn and Mackenzie to drive them to school and get them there on time, which isn't always easy with a 28 minute commute each way (on a good day).

Curtis enrolled her daughter, Taryn, from out-of-district when she was a sophomore in high school. Not fully knowing what to expect at the new school and drive, they took it day-by-day.

"Taryn was in drivers training, so she would drive to school and I would drive her home. It was nice having someone to split that longer drive up with," Heather laughed.

Within weeks, Curtis says she saw a tremendous change in Taryn. By the end of her first year in the district, she was doing well academically, socially, and athletically on the softball field. While all of those things were great, it was her mental health and attitude that her mother noticed the most.

"She was happy and thriving there," Heather added, "She was finding success in sports and academics, and that was my drive to doing this and making this longer drive to Hamilton. I'm always all about my kids and Taryn was having positive influences socially and was heavily involved, so how can you not make the drive?"

The following year, Curtis made the decision to enroll her younger daughter Mackenzie into Hamilton after homeschooling her for years. While Mackenzie found similar successes as her older sister, things got a bit more busy for their mother.

"After Mackenzie enrolled was when it all set in," Heather chuckled. "I was driving around like 'Holy cow,' driving to get her from softball games and other events, there was a lot of driving involved in that. I was actually happy when there were some away games because some of them were closer to us than the home ones."

Now, two years later, Mackenzie is set to begin her freshman year at Hamilton High School in the fall and Taryn graduated from HHS in May. Admittedly, Curtis says gas prices have been a topic of discussion for her and her husband over the past three years but leaving Hamilton Schools simply is not an option, even if Mackenzie may have her driving around more than usual this year with plans to do competitive and sideline cheer as well as track.

“ I've had absolutely great experiences with the staff; from in-school counseling, to front office staff, and teachers communicating with me consistently, I find so many things that accommodate our family and what we've needed, it's a place we will not leave. ”

Taryn is now attending Wayne State University this fall as a science major and according to Heather, Hamilton helped prepare her.

"Work Based Learning is huge at Hamilton and it's probably my favorite part of their academic experience there," she mentioned. "Just the fact that they're showing these kids the careers that are out there instead of just telling them to go to college is huge. They're truly showcasing every single aspect and with Mackenzie not yet knowing what she wants to do after high school, she has the Careerline Tech Center at the Ottawa Area ISD as an option to explore and she'll be diversified in different experiences through the Work Based Learning programs."

Make no mistake about it, Heather will be counting down the days over the next year-and-a-half before Mackenzie gets her drivers license. However, for the time being, she'll continue to make the drive from Moline to Hamilton, all with a smile on her face because her kids are not only happy, they're thriving as Hawkeyes.



Left: Curtis family poses after 2023 HHS graduation in May with graduate Taryn.

Top: Heather Curtis (left) with daughter Mackenzie. Bottom: Taryn Curtis-Jenison at 2023 graduation.

PREPARING FOR A GREAT 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

I hope this article finds you well and enjoying the beautiful summer weather. While summer is always a great time to spend time making memories as a family, HCS continues our planning for a great 2023-2024 school year, along with starting some bond projects. As you may have seen, the M40 Connector Project is well underway and is on track to be finished by the start of the school year. This project includes connecting the drive from the new maintenance/bus garage to M40, which helps alleviate traffic on 136th Street. Allowing traffic to enter the district campus from M40 benefits bussing and also allows parents and students the opportunity to get to the high school or middle school from M40, instead of 136th only. Along with the connector part of the project occurring, the parking lot serving the athletic fields behind the middle school has been repaved. We had a number of potholes and uneven parts to the parking lot, which are now gone and a smooth surface is available to the public. We are also in the process of having the old bus garage parking lot reduced and repaved to create a much needed structure for parking, along with creating green space for athletic team usage. By reducing the parking lot, it allowed for us to create more area for grass to be grown, which increases our playing areas for youth teams. These projects complete the 2016 bond and alleviate some issues plaguing our community for some time.

MDOT is also working hard to complete their traffic project of widening M40 to three lanes from our connector point to 136th Street, along with straightening 48th Street at M40 and installing a cul-de-sac at 48th Street. While these projects have been hampered by some unexpected delays and difficulties, MDOT is working through them to ensure that the project will be done as soon as possible and done the correct way. Along with the work being done on the road, MDOT will be installing a traffic light at the intersection of M40 and 136th. This addition to the intersection should prove to be beneficial for both school and community traffic, along with adding another safety measure for our community.

HCS does have other bond projects currently taking place which include work in the high school media center, a middle school stage redesign, and updating of the Hamilton Elementary cafeteria. These three projects come from the recently passed 2023 bond proposal. The high school's separation wall in the media center is well underway and will be completed by the start of the school year. This process has gone very smooth and adds an additional learning space to the high school. The middle school stage has been cleaned up, storage added, and will create a better learning environment for our students. This project has been transformational for the stage, as it now allows for the students to use the stage for a multitude of reasons, along with cleaning up an area which makes the gym/stage area look a lot better. The work being done in the kitchen at Hamilton Elementary upgrades a number of much needed items in the kitchen area, which allows for a more conducive and safer working environment for our staff. Equipping the staff with a better work environment will benefit the efficiency of food prep and delivery for students. Each project is being done in an efficient timeframe, along with coming in under budget. All the projects are part of the 2023 bond scope and will better the educational experience for our students. Be sure to take a look at the images from the bond projects on the back page of this Transcript!

We are also excited to announce that our Before & After School Care program is set to take place for the 2023-2024 school year! After hearing from our community the need to provide care for our students, HCS was able to organize and staff a program to offer relief to parents before and after school. While we work through the fine details, we will be updating the community on registration and program details as they become available. Please stay tuned to our district social media and parents should be on the lookout for email communication throughout the month of August. We are excited to offer this opportunity to our community and look forward to serving Hamilton in another beneficial way.

While we do not wish away summer and all the great memories which are created during this time, HCS is excited to welcome back the students for another great school year. Enjoy the remainder of summer and we look forward to seeing everyone back in the classrooms on August 23!

Take care, stay safe, and as always #GoHawkeyes



Dr. Bradford Lusk
Proud Superintendent
Hamilton Community Schools



'Scoop with the Supt.' Forum Update

Scoop with the Supt. community forums will resume on Thursday, September 7 from 9:00-10:00 AM at Hawk's Nest Restaurant! Join Dr. Lusk for great conversation, free coffee and free light breakfast!

**Thursday, September 28 | 9:00-10:00 AM

Thursday, October 5 | 9:00-10:00 AM

Thursday, October 19 | 9:00-10:00 AM

**September 21 forum moved to September 28 due to a scheduling conflict.

"THINGS TO KNOW FROM SRO JOE"

2023-24 Welcome Letter from Deputy Knapp

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I want to take this opportunity to welcome the students and families of Hamilton Community Schools back for the 2023-24 school year. Please know that your child's safety, well-being, and security is the number one priority for both myself and our district as a whole. As a School Resource Officer, a portion of my responsibilities consist of preventing and responding to school-based law enforcement needs, fostering positive relationships with educators, families, and youth. I take great pride in these responsibilities, along with promoting a positive school climate each day in the buildings.

Communication with parents and families is extremely important. You can help by making sure your contact information is always current. Information may be updated through PowerSchool or by visiting your child's school.

When visiting our schools, please note the follow items:

- Entry and exit from all of our schools is monitored during school hours.
- All visitors must check in at the main offices, utilizing our visitor management system, and receive a temporary identification badge before proceeding into the building.

We ask all parents/guardians and visitors who bring or pick up their child to school to adhere to our traffic flow patterns. Please use the student drop-off, pick-up locations as directed by your child's school and only use the parking lot locations designated for parent parking. There will be some minor changes made this year; specifically to the Middle School and Blue Star Elementary school. A letter to those parents will be sent out before school starts.

If I can be of assistance to you or your family, please do not hesitate to call or stop by my office which is located in the High School Student Services area. Thank you for your continued support and entrusting the safety of your children to us.

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



**SAVE THE DATE: 4TH ANNUAL
HAMILTON VICTORY DAY!**



Help promote the Victory Day Facebook Event!



SCAN ME



The fourth annual Hamilton Community Schools Victory Day will be held on Saturday, September 30 at 3:00 PM at the Hamilton Football Stadium! We hope to see another great turnout of community members to come cheer these athletes on! More information can be found on the Facebook Event page by scanning the QR Code.

As a reminder, upcoming district events and calendars can be found on our district website: HamiltonSchools.us and specific building calendars can be found by clicking on the 'Schools' tab and selecting your school.

HMS TEACHER BILL MOUSEL AWARDED THE FIRST-EVER 'ONE SCHOOL' AT A TIME \$1,000 GRANT

Since 1989, Bill Mousel has been a teaching staple inside the Hamilton Community School district. On Tuesday, June 27, Mousel was awarded the first-ever 'One School at a Time' program grant in the state of Michigan from WOODTV, Spartan Nash, and Family Fare.

The grants are awarded based on the creativity, community impact, school impact, and execution of the school's grant proposal. In the month of June, Hamilton Middle School's application scored the highest in the four categories thanks to Mousel's vision.

"It isn't so much what it means for me, it's what it means for the kids and the opportunity for them," said Mousel, 7th grade math teacher at HMS.

Mousel, who also teaches the 'Strong Start' program at HMS every morning to get kids up and moving, says the money will go towards bettering that program and the physical education program as a whole at the middle school.



I'm just happy that we can offer kids some more variety and some more equipment that is high quality and can replace some stuff that is obviously worn out."

~ Bill Mousel



Take a look at Bill's interview!

The check presentation was live on WOODTV's noon broadcast on June 27 and also aired during WOODTV News at 5:30 PM!

"I'm just very grateful, I'm grateful to Family Fare and just grateful on behalf of the kids that we can do even just a little bit better of a job for them by the way of equipment," smiled Mousel.

BRANT GOODPASTER, THANO KLETT MAKE ALL-STATE!

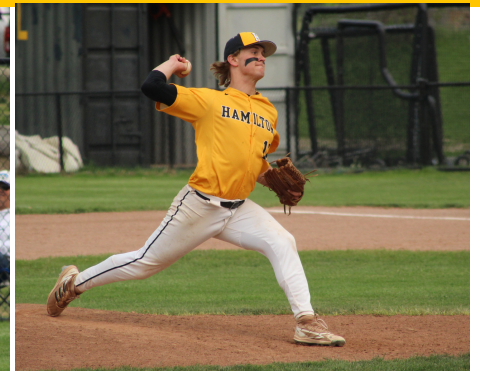
For the first time since 2015, the Hamilton baseball program has a first-team selection on the All-State team with 2023 graduate Brant Goodpaster! Goodpaster was a 2022 second-team All-State selection and will certainly go down in the program's record books! Take a look underneath the photos on the right for Brant & Thano's impressive stat lines!

As a whole, the Class of 2023 helped the Hawkeyes reach new heights in their career. The class won three consecutive district championships ('21, '22, '23) for the first time in school history and also won the program's third-ever regional championship in 2022. Way to go, Hawkeyes!



Brant Goodpaster

- 108 career singles - best in school history
- 125 career hits - 2nd in school history
- 101 career runs scored - 2nd in school history
- .432 batting average, 8 doubles, 2 triples, 10 stolen bases, 22 RBI in 2023



Thano Klett

- 1.27 career Earned Run Average - best in school history
- 8-0 record, 64 innings pitched, 112 strikeouts, 29 hits allowed, 7 earned runs, .77 Earned Run Average in 2023

EUROPE EXPLORATION!

Group of Hamilton students and staff take educational trip to Europe! Read up on it below!

HHS Teacher Brian Grabinski led the trip and kept notes every day:

Day 1

Everything went smooth on our new flight. We got into Zurich around 10:30. Fortunately, our tour director, Giovanna, had found another bus to take us directly to Lucerne to meet up with the rest of the group so that we would miss as little as possible. The bus took us directly to the pier for our boat cruise of Lake Lucerne and afterwards we took a train to the top of Mount Rigi for wonderful views of the Alps and the region around Lucerne. Then back to our hotel in Zurich for dinner.

Day 2

We left Zurich in the morning. The drive through Switzerland was amazing! Stunning scenery. We got into Italy and stopped at Lake Como with some time to get lunch and explore Como a bit. Then we continued on to Massa, Italy. Our hotel was about a block from the beach and many kids spent some time in the water.

Day 3

Today we visited Cinque Terre. It is 5 isolated villages along the Italian coast. Due to the mountains, access is primarily limited to the trains and boats. We visited 3 of the 5 villages. Unfortunately, it rained much of the day but the sites were still amazing and the sun did come out for a bit when we got to the third village. In the evening we returned to our hotel in Massa for dinner.

Day 4

We left Massa in the morning and made our way to the French Riviera. Our first stop was in Monaco. It is a tiny independent nation right on the French coast. The wealth there is amazing. Over 30% of its residents are millionaires, and it showed. After a bit of time in Monaco we continued to Nice and toured the city and walked along the Mediterranean coast before having dinner. After dinner we took our bus to our hotel in Cannes. Our hotel was less than a mile from the coast so as a group we went down to the Mediterranean for more fun at the beach.

Day 5

In the morning, after breakfast, we headed into the French city of Avignon. Avignon was the center of the Catholic Church for much of the 14th century. The pope had fled Rome early in the 1300s for security reasons and settled there. The Palace of the Popes was constructed and the papacy remained there until returning to Rome towards the end of the 14th century. We had a local guide that took us around Avignon and then we had lunch before exploring the Popes Palace on our own. After leaving Avignon we stopped for dinner and then returned to our hotel for the evening.

Day 6

After breakfast at the hotel we went to Pont du Gard. Pont du Gard is a massive portion of the ancient Roman aqueducts. We spent some time there exploring and even swimming a bit in the river that the aqueduct crosses. From there we went to the city of Nimes. We did a walking tour around Nimes and then had lunch before meeting up to visit the amphitheater. Nimes has an great Roman amphitheater still almost entirely intact. It is like a miniature version of the Colosseum in Rome. We spent a lot of time with an audio guide inside the amphitheater before having some free time to explore the city some more. Sully even found an "aqua ball" and dominated the 7 and 8 year olds that were also in there. Then we went to dinner and returned to our hotel for the night.

Day 7

This was mainly a travel day to Spain. We left early and traveled across the Pyrenees Mountains to our hotel along the Costa Brava along the Spanish coast.

Day 8

We woke up early and headed into Barcelona for the day. Our first stop was at Park Guell, designed by one of Barcelona's most famous architect Antonio Gaudi. Originally it was designed as a gated community but when no one moved in it became a park. Gaudi's work is ver reminiscent of Dr. Seuss and the buildings and structures have almost no straight lines. Gaudi believed that straight lines did not exist in nature and so they should not exist in his work either. After touring the park we went on a bus tour of Barcelona and then to the Sagrada Familia. The Sagrada Familia is the most famous landmark of Barcelona and has been under construction since 1882. It was begun by Gaudi and the current plan is to have it completed by 2030. We then split for lunch before taking a walking tour down las Ramblas. Then we had free time before meeting for a Tapas dinner. After dinner some went to a Flamenco show while others had some additional free time for exploring, shopping, etc. we then returned to our hotel for our final night.

“ It's been amazing to see our kids explore Europe and experience new things. This year as we were traveling through the Alps on our second day there, I heard a kid say, "How can I go back to Hamilton after seeing this!" Obviously, he was exaggerating but it does show the immediate impact the experience had. That's really the goal, we live in a great place but there are a lot of other great places out there and we're hoping to experience as many of those places as possible! ”

~ Brian Grabinski



Hawkeye Helper program teaches students new skills while improving our district

Since 2019, the Hawkeye Helper program has helped students make money, learn skills, and help better our district during the summer months. This summer, rising seniors Liam Pothoff, Solomon Brenner, Jordyn Deters and rising junior Bradon Brouwer are all working with the Hamilton Maintenance & Operations department on several different projects. The four students work four day weeks, eight hours per day and assist with several things all across the district, including air filters, irrigation systems, painting and cleaning, landscaping, and much more.



From left to right: Todd Kuiper, Bob Hippey, Bradon Brouwer, Jordyn Deters, Solomon Brenner, Liam Pothoff, and Keith Folkert.

“ I learned how to drive a big tractor, which is nice to know,” smiled Bradon Brouwer.

While Brouwer was helping Mr. Bob Hippey move skids with the tractor, Jordyn Deters was learning how to back up a trailer to load mulch, Liam Pothoff was working with power tools and Solomon Brenner was learning about irrigation systems and changing sprinkler heads.

“It’s a nice opportunity because it gives us a chance to not only make money but it gives us a job that’s close to home and it helps us better the district we’re learning in,” Pothoff added.

For Maintenance & Grounds Supervisor, Keith Folkert, he enjoys the extra hands in his department during July and August, but it’s more about helping the students learn important life skills that will better their future.

“What I like most about what we’re giving them new opportunities to learn new things and giving them good resume building equipment and skills they may not pick up at other jobs in other places,” Folkert said.

It also helps the students take pride in their work and in our district. “When school starts up again I’m going to walk into school and say ‘Hey, I painted that!’ Or ‘I changed those air filters!’ Most students don’t get to see the work that goes on behind the scenes, but we get to help with that work, and I think that’s pretty cool,” explained Deters.



Scan this QR Code for a video on our 2023 Hawkeye Helpers!

Notice of Herbicide/Pesticide Program

Hamilton Community Schools hereby provides notice to the public, and property owners adjacent to school property, that applications of herbicides and possibly other pesticides may be periodically applied to school grounds and facilities. Herbicide applications will be made for control of weeds/vegetation in fence lines, pavement cracks, and turf areas- Pesticide applications will be made only after all other methods have been evaluated or in an emergency by certified applicators employed by Hamilton Community Schools. Prior notification of planned applications will be posted in a prominent location at the school entrance. Additionally, notices will be posted on the Hamilton Community Schools’ website (www.hamiltonschools.us). This notice is published per regulation 637, Act 171, Public Acts of 1976. as amended. Please contact Maintenance & Grounds Supervisor Keith Folkert using the contact information below with any questions.

Asbestos Management

Hamilton Community Schools conducted an extensive asbestos inspection of all district buildings during the 1988-89 school year. From this, a comprehensive management plan was established in 1990. This plan details the response actions HCS took and continues to take regarding asbestos containing materials found in district buildings.

The plan is available at the HCS Maintenance building. Community members are welcome to view the plan during normal business hours: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Monday - Friday.

We have endeavored to make our schools a safe place in which students can learn. Our procedures for dealing with the asbestos reflect that concern. Please let us know if we can answer any questions.

Hamilton Community Schools Notice of Availability: Annual Water Quality Report

Hamilton Community Schools has been identified as a non-transient, non-community public water supply. In accordance with amendments to Act 1976PA399, Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, R 325.10416, Hamilton Community Schools has available an annual water supply quality report. This report contains copies of all laboratory test results and compliance/violation data for the previous calendar year. To view this report, please contact:

Hamilton Community Schools
Keith Folkert, Maintenance & Grounds Supervisor
4815 136th Ave.
Hamilton, MI 49419
Phone (269) 751-7507

INTRODUCING NEW DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION, NICOLE CIGANIK

Hamilton Community Schools is very excited to introduce its new Transportation Director, Nicole Ciganik! She comes to Hamilton from Forest Hills Public Schools and has over 20 years of experience. Read up on her biography below!

I am very excited to work with you all at Hamilton Community Schools!

Before joining Hamilton I spent the last 3 years at Forest Hills and prior to that I spent 20 years in Montcalm County between Montcalm ISD and Central Montcalm.

I was born and raised in a small town in Montcalm County. I have 3 adult boys and one grandson. When I'm not at work you can usually find me spending time with my family at the race track, playing poker or enjoying the outdoors in some capacity.

I started my transportation career in 2001 working with special needs as a bus aide. I worked as a one on one while obtaining my credentials to drive. I have spent time in different roles always working to further my career to land where I have today. I have been a driver, a trainer, a mentor, a behavioral coach, Certified Restorative Practice Trainer, PBIS Committee Member, CPI Trainer, dispatcher, router, automotive knowledge and experience, supervisor and just recently finished my courses to become a Certified Transportation Director.

The last two years I have spent my time covering the role of our director who was out on medical and I led our team to 2nd in the region at the Bus Rodeo, and just this past week we accepted the Judy Brouley Perseverance in Action Award as a team. I have also been highlighted in the School Transportation News Magazine as a Rising Star.

I pride myself in TEAM work, Student Safety and Pupil Transportation. I am an active member of MAPT, serving as your region alternate representative.

I have created a parent group within the community to help acknowledge, recognize and celebrate the drivers with monthly celebrations and end of year recognition banquets. In which I would love to do the same here within the Hamilton Community.

I am really excited to join the Hawkeyes and bring my experience to the team and Hamilton Community. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and seeing where it takes us. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this role alongside all of you.



Phil and Morgan Koops.

MORGAN KOOPS HIRED TO LEAD HAWKEYE PRESCHOOL AND BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Hamilton Community Schools is ecstatic to announce the hiring of Morgan Koops as the new Preschool and Before & After School Coordinator. Morgan grew up in Plymouth, Indiana before moving to Hamilton in 2017 with her now husband Phil. Since joining our district as the secretary at Sandyview Elementary in 2020, Morgan has been a major asset to the Hawkeye Preschool program, making her a perfect candidate for the position.

“ I'm excited for this opportunity,” Koops said, “I think this is something that the community really needs. There are so many people that can benefit from this and I'm excited to be involved with the kids. I'm hoping this brings people to our district now that we offer this.”

Koops is hopeful all preschool classes in the district will be full this fall as she continues to help grow those programs. Meanwhile, with Before & After School Care being a first year program, the district would like to remind the community to be patient through this new process. We will continue to keep positions posted to continue growing the programs within our elementary buildings.

Find more information regarding the Hawkeye Before & After School programming on our website: hamiltonschools.us

TRANSCRIPT

HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



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#EachWillThrive

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****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**

Bond Dollars at Work!

Hamilton Community Schools continues to put your bond dollars to use to better serve our students, staff, and community. Take a look at the improvements below, which all have safety and security and learning environments at the forefront. Some of this work helps complete the 2016 bond project while the 2023 bond work begins! All of this work will be completed by the time school begins. More planning will take place this fall to prepare for spring projects and beyond. Thank you to our outstanding community yet again for your support of the 2023 school bond proposal. Please stay tuned for more updates on social media and in future Transcript newsletters!



**M-40 Connector to Hamilton Transportation
(Completion of the 2016 Bond Project)**



**Hamilton Elementary Kitchen Upgrades
(2023 Bond)**



Repaving of athletics parking lots (2023 Bond)



**Hamilton High School Media Center
Renovations & Parking Lot (2023 Bond)**



**Hamilton Middle School East Gym
Stage Improvements (2023 Bond)**

****All photos as of
July 27, 2023**

