

# HAMILTONIAN

Hamilton High School  
February 2011

4911 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Hamilton, MI 49419

(269)751-5185

## Principal

(269)751-5185 ext. 503

Mr. Douglas Braschler

[dbraschl@hamiltonschools.us](mailto:dbraschl@hamiltonschools.us)

### The Sound of Learning

The halls are alive with the sound of learning! In my last Hamiltonian, I mentioned to you some new initiatives that the staff is learning with the focus around formative assessments. These are well planned processes in which assessment-elicited evidence of students' status is used by teachers to adjust their ongoing instructional procedures or by students to adjust their current learning tactics. Let me give you an analogy.

I was in the theatre the other day watching a practice for our upcoming spring musical, "The Sound of Music!" The scene that was being rehearsed is not important, but what I saw in terms of the actors was. Some gifted actors had already learned their lines and were beginning to work on perfecting their acting. Others still had the script in their hands and were not ready to worry about hand gestures, body movements, etc. Mrs. Johr, our director, was busy working with every student where ever they were at in the learning curve. She was watching, teaching, and giving feedback to every student. The feedback was individualized for each and every student.

I use this analogy because I see some of the same things happening in classrooms as I make my walk through observations. Students are learning, teachers are working with students, teaching their lessons, and offering feedback to students where ever they are at on the learning curve. All of this practice is critical for when the performance comes around. Can you imagine attending the musical if students never went to practice? Can you imagine taking a summative assessment at the end of a unit if students never did the practice work ahead of time? I've heard students say, "I'm not doing that. The teacher isn't taking a grade on it. It's only practice." Please don't allow your child to fall in that trap. The importance of practice will only truly be known when the actual performance is given. If you hear me humming down the halls the well known song from the musical, just know that the halls are alive, with the sound of learning!!



### Michigan Merit Exam (MME)

We are 5 weeks away from our major testing cycle for juniors. The MME is a battery of tests over a three day period. The ACT will be given to juniors on Tuesday, March 1. Juniors are the only students who have to attend school that day. On Wednesday, March 2, the juniors will be taking the ACT Work Keys Tests in the area of Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information. Freshman will be taking the ACT Explore and sophomores will be taking the ACT Plan. Seniors will have a two hour delay. On Thursday, juniors will finish their testing with Michigan Math, Science, and Social Studies. Seniors will have a two hour delay and we are planning on learning activities with the rest of the students during testing that day.

### Scheduling

We will be starting the 2011-12 scheduling process soon. I would like to point out some of the new courses and other changes that the staff is developing for next year.

Business – For 2011-12, we will again be offering Business Law and Business Ownership. These courses are on an every other year cycle, so if your child has an interest in this area, they should seriously consider them for next year, since they will not be offered the year after.

Industrial Arts – There are quite a few changes going on in this department. Mr. Stevens is retiring at the end of the year and we hopefully will be hiring his replacement this spring. The courses that we are working on offering in this department will be Technical Drafting, Engineering Design 1, Engineering Design 2, and Robotics.

English – We will again be offering Short Stories and Novels 2 as elective choices for students. Both courses are rotated every other year and will not be offered the following year.

Mathematics – We will be offering three new math courses designed to meet the Michigan requirement that all seniors must have a math class. Math In Games, Math In The FBI, and Math In Sports are all designed for students who have had Algebra 2 and don't want to go on to Pre-Calculus.

We hope that all of the changes that we are making will give students several options to enhance the Michigan Merit Curriculum that all students are receiving. If you have any suggestions concerning elective offerings, I would love to hear your ideas. Just email me at [dbraschl@hamiltonschools.us](mailto:dbraschl@hamiltonschools.us).

Doug Braschler

### Hamilton High School Mission Statement

We believe that all  
students will learn;  
our mission is to guide,  
nurture, and encourage.

# Dean of Students

Mr. Mathew Rehkopf

Office (269)751-5185 ext. 621

[mlrehkop@hamiltonschools.us](mailto:mlrehkop@hamiltonschools.us)

Attendance Line (269)751-7219

Even though Prom is a long ways away, I know that students and parents like to shop early for dresses. In order to prevent further confusion about what is or isn't acceptable, we have developed a clearer set of guidelines.

## Hamilton High School

In an effort to preserve the formal nature Prom, the following guidelines have been established. Failure to follow these guidelines (as determined by sponsors/administration) could result in being asked to leave the event without a refund.

### Formal/Semi-formal guidelines:

- Dresses should be appropriate in length (mid-thigh or longer)
- Dresses should not have slits that show undergarments or discreet body areas.
- Dresses must have side panels. Dresses that only have a front panel and tie around the mid-section are not permitted.
- Dresses should not be backless unless they meet the listed requirements. They must be at the waistline or higher.
- If strapless, dresses should meet the listed requirements.
- Dresses should have a modest neckline and should not reveal excessive cleavage.
- Dresses should not expose the midriff, navel or be below the navel.

## Academic Awards

Every year, Hamilton High School recognizes our students who excel academically. This year's recognition took place at the January 28 Boy's and Girl's Varsity Basketball game against Unity Christian. In order to receive an academic letter, students must meet the following criteria:

- **Achieve a 3.9 GPA after 2 semesters in high school**
- **Achieve a 3.8 GPA after 4 semesters in high school**
- **Achieve a 3.7 GPA after 6 semesters in high school**
- 

Students receiving this award for the 1<sup>st</sup> time were presented with an academic "H" letter. Second time recipients received a lamp of knowledge pin. Seniors who have received this honor all three years were awarded an academic medal.



There were 121 total students awarded this year:

- 56 letters
- 43 pins
- 22 medals



*Prom 2011*

*Saturday, April 30*

*Laketown Conference Center*

## Library Media Center

Mrs. Connie Renkema

High School (269)751-5185 ext. 516

Middle School (269)751-4436 ext. 462

[crenkema@hamiltonschools.us](mailto:crenkema@hamiltonschools.us)

**We're growing!** With our new circulation software, Destiny, students can access the collections in any of our six district libraries! You can search the collections at home by going to our website at

**[<http://destiny.hamiltonschools.us>]**

We're also looking forward to our expanded Library Media Center at Hamilton Middle School. Just watch us grow!



### Calendar of Events

02/11	No School - Winter Break
02/14	No School - Staff In-Service Day
03/01-03	MME for Juniors
03/08	2nd Trimester Exams
03/09	2nd Trimester Exams
03/10	2nd Trimester Exams
03/11	No School - Staff Records Day
03/14	No School - Staff In-Service Day
03/15	3rd Trimester Begins
04/01 - 04/10	Spring Break
04/11	School resumes
04/26	Parent Teacher Conf. 5:30-8:30
04/27	Parent Teacher Conf. 5:30-8:30
04/29	No School
04/30	Prom
05/26	Graduation
05/30	No School - Memorial Day
06/07	3rd Trimester Exams
06/08	3rd Trimester Exams
06/09	3rd Trimester Exams - Last day of school

# Counseling Office

Mrs. Gina Sneller Counselor 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> (A-K) ext. 508 [gsneller@hamiltonschools.us](mailto:gsneller@hamiltonschools.us)  
Mrs. Dawn Safford Counselor 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> (L-Z) ext. 509 [dwalstro@hamiltonschools.us](mailto:dwalstro@hamiltonschools.us)  
(269)751-5185

**Watch for  
2011-12  
Curriculum Guides  
to come out !**

**ACT**  
**Test Dates**  
April 9  
June 11  
- at Hamilton  
[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)  
231-832

**College Goal Sunday—  
FAFSA**

**FREE**

**SUNDAY, FEB. 13, 2011**

**2:00 - 4:00 pm**

Davenport University, Holland, MI

Have an expert help you  
fill out the FAFSA - free!!

**FAFSA deadline  
March 1st**

Free Application for Federal Student Aid  
Reminder to all seniors and their parents who are filing  
a FAFSA form, **the deadline to submit is March 1st**

Check out the daily announcements for updated scholarships.  
Here are 10 of the 17 listed:

- Allegan County Tag Team
- Haworth Skilled Trades Scholarship
- Mary Jane Dockery Scholarship
- Michigan Education Association
- Michigan Oil & Gas Producers Education
- Michigan Retailers Association Engineers
- Michigan Society of Professional Medical Field
- Tom & Juanita Bos Family Scholarship
- Vietnam Veterans of America Holland Chapter
- Zeeland Community Hospital

**College-bound  
Seniors**

If you still need help applying to college  
or have questions about colleges, see  
your Counselor.

If you have already applied and been  
accepted, make sure you submit your  
housing forms and make your ap-  
pointment to register for classes.

Please read all material thoroughly that  
you receive from colleges.

## Dual Enrollment

Dear Student:

Effective April 1, 1996, Public Act 160 created the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act, commonly referred to as dual enrollment. This law directs school districts to assist students in paying tuition and fees for courses at Michigan public or private colleges or universities, if all of the following conditions are met:

1. Students are in grade 11 or grade 12.
2. Students can qualify for dual enrollment by taking one of the following assessments: PSAT, ACTPLAN, ACT, or MME. (The counseling department has a table that shows the complete list of scores that qualify students for dual enrollment.) Additionally, according to P.A. 160, eligible students may take courses for which there are no endorsements, such as computer science, foreign language, history, political science, or psychology, as long as they have taken all sections of the MME, ACTPLAN, ACT or College Board PSAT. State endorsement is not required in any specific area for this participation.
3. Students must be enrolled in both the school district and postsecondary institution during the local school district's regular academic year and must be enrolled in at least one high school class.
4. The district must not offer the college courses. An exception to this could occur if the local board of education determines that a scheduling conflict exists, which is beyond the student's control.
5. The college courses cannot be a hobby, craft, or recreation course, or in the subject areas of physical education, theology, divinity, or religious education.
6. School districts are required to pay the lesser of:
  - a. The actual charge for tuition, mandatory course fees, materials fees and registration fees; or
  - b. That state portion of the students' foundation allowance, adjusted to the proportion of the school year they attend the postsecondary institution.

Please review the contents of this letter with your parents. If you believe you are eligible for dual enrollment, qualify for tuition and fee support, and wish to participate, contact your counselor.

Sincerely,

Douglas Braschler  
Principal