

## 3rd Quarter Interim & Parent Conferences

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have reached the midpoint of the 3rd quarter. Along with this newsletter, you will find your child's third quarter interim report. Since we lost several days of instruction this quarter due to inclement weather and holidays, the teachers have fewer grades recorded than normal. Therefore, please be aware that your child's interim grades may be inflated either high or low at this time. Parents can continue to monitor their child's grades by utilizing ProgressBook. If you need help in logging onto ProgressBook, please call the school for directions. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the teachers immediately by phone.

Our final **parent conference** date for the year is scheduled for Thursday, March 11th from 4:00-7:00 P.M. Conferences are a great time to work with the teachers and help identify reasons why your child is not performing satisfactorily. A plan can be made for improvement of grades and to accumulate the credits needed to move onto Hamilton High School. Please call the school to schedule an apportionment at 896-3400.

Sincerely,

Greg Rulon

Principal

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HAMILTON FRESHMAN SCHOOL  
**Freshman Forecast**

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### Be on the Lookout!



It is almost time to start scheduling for the 10th grade. We will be handing out course description booklets to students in the next few weeks. Hamilton High School has created a four year course planner that helps students to map out the courses they need to take from 9th grade through 12th grade. There are 4 options to look at when figuring out your child's courses. The options are: The Honors Academy, The Collegiate Academy, The Community/Technical College Academy and the Career Academy. This model will help students to plan courses that will help them achieve future career goals. It is very important that you spend time going over course options with your child before scheduling in March. Students will take a course selection sheet around to core and foreign language teachers in March, to get recommendations for placement level in those courses. Soon after, all students will meet with their counselor to go over elective options. Specific classes that your child should consider taking to satisfy graduation requirements are physical education, health, and computer. Please note that students must take two (2) physical education classes to graduate between grades 9-12. Students are also required to have 4 years of English and math including Algebra II. If you have any questions or concerns about placement level for next year, please schedule a conference with the appropriate teacher(s) on Thursday, March 11th.

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### Referrals for Gifted Assessment and Identification

Ohio law gives parents and guardians the right to refer their child of grades K - 12 for evaluation for possible giftedness twice a year. Standardized tests are used for that identification to serve as initial measures. The second opportunity for testing of Hamilton City School students will be during the month of March. Parents or guardians may refer their child to be tested for possible giftedness. Referral forms are available from each school, from the Office of Gifted Education or on the District Website under Gifted in the Departments section. **These forms must be submitted to the Gifted Education offices by March 5, 2010.** Parents will be contacted with testing dates once all referral forms have been collected

To qualify as gifted, students must score in the superior academic percentiles on a recognized nationally normed achievement or ability test. All tests must be on the list of instruments approved by the state of Ohio. Students may be identified in one or more of the following categories: Superior Cognitive, Reading, Math, Science, or Social Studies.

Contacts can be made to the Gifted Service office at 887-5033 or fax at 887-5034.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

March 1	Booster Meeting 7:00 P.M. HHS Media Center	March 30	City Wide Strings Concert 7:00 P.M. HHS Gym
March 11	Parent Conferences 4-7 p.m.	April 1	Mail 3rd Quarter Report Cards
March 11	Vocal Concert 7:00 p.m. HHS Auditorium	April 2 - 11	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL
March 29	Begin 4th Quarter	April 12	School Resumes
March 29	City Wide Band Concert 7:00 p.m. HHS	April 19 - 23	Pro-Ohio testing - All students

### Spring Fever

Spring is just around the corner. As it arrives, students begin to study less due to outside activities and other events. We encourage all parents to stay on top of your child's academic work during the end of third and all of fourth quarter. Fourth quarter grades only determine athletic eligibility for fall sports. Also, parents should monitor your child's dress each morning as their clothing changes as the weather gets warmer.



Parents can help with homework completion by emphasizing its importance. The use of Progress Book is a great way for parents to know what your child's grades are in each subject. If you need help getting online, please call the school. Your role is to be a facilitator and support his/her needs. After viewing 1st semester grades and failures, homework incompleteness was the greatest factor in students not passing their subjects. Some homework tips are:

- Allow for relaxation time that includes exercising after school as it revitalizes the brain.
- Designate a quiet place and time.
- Do not sit with your children but show interest by offering guidance.
- As you check over the homework, don't correct them as a teacher. If the work is messy, talk about family pride in work. Mistakes should be pointed out or explained.
- Have a positive attitude toward homework and be an energetic role model.

### Awards Night



We will be recognizing the achievements and successes of our students at the sixth annual Freshman Awards Program to be held on Thursday, May 27 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. We are notifying you early, so you can **mark your calendar**. A variety of awards will be given:

Departmental awards, special awards, perfect attendance, honor roll, as well as other worthy accomplishments. **Students who will be receiving awards will be sent an invitation in the mail.**

### Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is online bullying when teens use devices like the computer or cell phone to send text or images that hurt or embarrass another person. Students can send out various messages from websites such as my Space, Facebook, Formspring, Me, etc. Parents should monitor all websites that your child utilizes. There is an excellent website for parents on cyberbullying by the National Crime Prevention Council at [www.ncpc.org/topics/cyberbullying](http://www.ncpc.org/topics/cyberbullying). They give you suggestions on how to keep your child safe on the internet. School administration can only become involved in cyberbullying incidents if the harassment is carried into the school environment or the threats specifically mention school.