

TRANSCRIPT

HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

#GreatThingsHappenHere

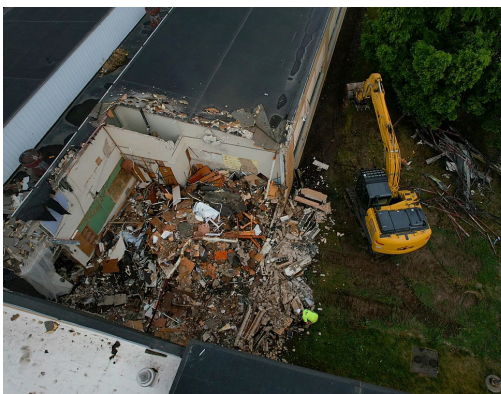


For the third consecutive year, the Hamilton Transcript Newsletter has received national recognition from the National School Public Relations Association!

**GEARING UP
FOR 2025-26!**



**TRANSPORTATION
INSTRUCTIONS &
SUPPLY LISTS**



**WORK
CONTINUES ON
THE 2023 BOND**



**INTRODUCING
OUR NEW STAFF
MEMBERS!**

Back To School 2025-26

TRANSPORTATION INSTRUCTIONS & INFORMATION: 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Deadline for Bus Requests: August 1, 2025

All transportation requests must be submitted by this date. If your child(ren) rode the bus last year, it is assumed they will be riding again in 2025-26, unless you communicate otherwise with the Hamilton Transportation department.

Final Route Changes: August 7, 2025

No changes will be made to routes after this date. If any adjustments are needed, re-routing will begin the week of September 15.

No Longer Riding the Bus?

If your student will not be using district transportation this year, please call us at 269-751-5191 so we can update our records.

Bus Schedules in PowerSchool

We anticipate that parents will be able to log into PowerSchool around August 13 to view their student's bus schedule.

Calls for Young 5s & Kindergarten Families

Bus drivers will personally call families of Young 5s and new Kindergarten students to share pick-up and drop-off times.

Kindergarten Packets

Our goal is to include all bus information and rules in the Kindergarten packets distributed during open house events.



Download the My Ride K-12 Bus App

Hamilton Community Schools utilizes the 'My Ride K-12' mobile app for real-time bus pickup and drop-off updates as well as important communication. Instructions on how to download the app can be found by scanning the QR code or visiting the Transportation web page on our district website under the 'For Parents' tab.



**My Ride K-12
Install
Instructions**

TRANSPORTATION QUESTIONS? CALL THE HAMILTON TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT: 269-751-5191.

GEARING UP FOR THE NEW YEAR!

We have everything you need to know for the 2025-26 school year all in one place on our district website! Supply lists, open house dates, transportation instructions, a link to our food service web page, bond updates, and more! Scan the QR code below to be directed to that page, or visit www.HamiltonSchools.us and click on the 'Things to Know' tab on the left side of the screen!



Administration Office: 269-751-5148
Hamilton Transportation: 269-751-5191
Bentheim Elementary: 269-751-5335
Blue Star Elementary: 269-751-5630
Hamilton Elementary: 269-751-5413
Hamilton Middle School: 269-751-4436
Hamilton High School: 269-751-5185
Hamilton Virtual School: 269-751-5372
Hawkeye Preschool: 269-751-5372



REGISTER TO BECOME A W.I.S.H. VOLUNTEER TO HELP IN THE DISTRICT

Hamilton Community School policy states that all adults participating in school activities, on and off school grounds, are required to complete the online profile and be approved. Volunteer Guidelines are available for review by clicking here.

FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

Please note: Profiles are processed only during school days and may take 5 to 7 days for approval. Volunteers will receive an email when approval is completed.

Complete an online profile

- Complete your personal information
- Include the school(s) you would like to be involved in
- Include your child's name, grade and teacher (teacher for elementary only)
- Check activities you are interested in helping with

All volunteer opportunities are posted online, you must be an approved volunteer to sign up. This includes helping in the classrooms, recess helpers, field trip chaperones, etc. Emails are sent out to approved volunteers announcing new opportunities! Once approved, you may also log in to the HelpCounter system (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) and see where you can help.

****Please note: If you have already filled out an application in previous years, you do NOT need to fill another one out.**

Questions? Contact Tara Weber: tweber@hamiltonschools.us



Complete your
online profile
by scanning the
QR Code above!



Find the
Volunteer
Guidelines by
scanning the
QR Code above!



NOW HIRING: VAN DRIVERS & BUS DRIVERS

Hamilton Community Schools is looking for dedicated individuals to join our transportation team for the upcoming school year!

- ✓ Van Drivers – No CDL required!
- ✓ Bus Drivers – Bonuses available for new drivers AND already-certified CDL drivers!

Whether you're looking for a rewarding part-time role or a way to make a difference in your community, we'd love to have you on our team!

☎ Call 269-751-5191 to learn more or apply online:
<https://hamiltonschools.schoolspring.com/>

Join a supportive team, work around the school schedule, and help safely transport our amazing Hawkeyes!



APPLY NOW



Scan the QR Code to
view job openings &
apply!

DID YOU KNOW?

Hamilton Community Schools vehicles travel more than 436,450 miles annually for educational purposes!



SEVERAL NOTICEABLE CHANGES ONGOING THROUGH 2023 SCHOOL BOND



Scan for the
2023 School
Bond Updates
(Updated
consistently!)



Hamilton Elementary Wing Replacement

The 1953 and original wing of Hamilton Elementary has been torn down. The new wing, located on the southwest corner of the building, will house our 2nd grade, Special Education, and STEM classrooms beginning this fall!

Hamilton High School Physical Education Redesign

Hamilton High School will see a new look this school year with a weight room nearly triple the size the previous. The new weight room will be held in the old Stoel Wrestling Room. The wrestling room will now cross the hallway and provide a longer and more efficient space for our wrestling team and other activities that use it. The school store will now be on rollaway carts and three individual restrooms have been created in that space.



New Playgrounds & Generators!

All Hamilton Community Schools elementary buildings will see entirely new playgrounds and generators in the 2025-26 school year!



Hamilton Elementary Safety Drive

Hamilton Community Schools, in partnership with Heath Township, will be opening a new safety drive in the 2025-26 school year behind Hamilton Elementary which will help ease safety concerns and traffic congestion on M-40. This one way safety drive, which is build on district-owned land, will be open for pick-up at the end of the school days to provide an alternate exit for families.

Hamilton High School Media Center Remodel

The Hamilton High School Media Center will see new flooring, ceilings, and an entirely new space as it gets walled off to create for additional learning environments.



Bentheim Elementary Parking Additions

Bentheim Elementary will have 30 parking spots added to the north side of the building to help alleviate traffic off of 38th street, particularly during drop-off and pick-up times. The building will also see plumbing, lighting, ceiling, and cosmetic upgrades along with the new playground & generator.



NEW FACES (AND ROLES) IN 2025-26!

Introducing our New Staff Members



BRENDAN RITCHIE

HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL
MATH TEACHER



JOSH GREENE

HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL
MATH TEACHER



CHRISTINE WARREN

HAMILTON MIDDLE
SCHOOL INTERVENTIONIST



JEFF FRICK

FACILITIES &
MAINTENANCE
SUPERVISOR



LUCAS WIERSEMA

HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION
TEACHER



ASHLEY KOOIKER

HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION
TEACHER



STACEY HENEVELD

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY
SECRETARY



GINA SLOOTHAAK

BENTHEIM ELEMENTARY
SECRETARY



SCOTT SCHIFF

BLUE STAR ELEMENTARY
YOUNG 5'S TEACHER



AUBREE FOLKERT

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY
4TH GRADE TEACHER



LILIANNA GUERRA

SANDYVIEW LEARNING CENTER
PSYCHOLOGIST



MATT JACOBUS

MAINTENANCE
TECHNICIAN



MARGOT TALBERT

HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION
PARAPROFESSIONAL



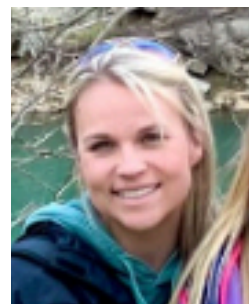
JORDYN WOODWYCK

HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION
PARAPROFESSIONAL



ZACH HARBISON

HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL
PE & HEALTH TEACHER



JESSICA GROSSMAN

BENTHEIM EL. & BLUE STAR EL.
STEM TEACHER



AMITY POTHOFF

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY
STEM TEACHER



DAN VANHEKKEN

MIDDLE SCHOOL
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



MARISA HALFORD

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY
1ST GRADE LONG-TERM SUB



JEREMY VANCE

COMMUNITY RECREATION
DIRECTOR

Follow along with additional hires on our
Hamilton Community Schools Facebook page!



IT'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

Dear Hamilton Families,

As we concluded another incredible school year and near the middle of summer, I want to take a moment to say thank you. From the excitement and energy that filled our buildings on the very first day, to a graduation ceremony capped off by a speech we won't soon forget, this year has truly been one for the record books. With the July 4th holiday behind us, I hope the summer has treated you and your family well so far. With the second half of summer on the horizon, please be sure to take some time to relax, reflect, and recharge for another great school year in the fall.

Our students have accomplished so much, and that wouldn't be possible without your continued support. Whether it was attending school events, volunteering, or simply encouraging your child each day, you've made a difference, and we are so grateful. The support our parents and stakeholders have for our district is unrivaled and makes our district unique and special for students and staff.

While summer memories are being formed, planning and progress continues to be made in and around our buildings. As I write this email, we're excited to share that the district has new student and staff furniture (desks and chairs) being installed in buildings. The furniture will be installed this summer, with the elementary buildings being installed in August. This update is part of our ongoing commitment to creating safe, modern, and engaging learning environments for all students. These improvements are possible because of the responsible fiscal management and generous bids from local businesses; stemming from the 2023 bond.

Please also take a little time to explore our Bond Page, which has consistent updates on construction progress. You can also take a drive around to see the new elementary playgrounds being installed, work on the high school, additional parking spots at Bentheim Elementary, along with safety measures being taken with the new drive at Hamilton Elementary. HCS strives to take input from the community to address concerns/issues to ensure that the educational experience at our buildings is the best possible for our students and staff.

Thank you once again for being such an essential part of our school community. We wish you and your family a restful, fun, and safe summer, and we look forward to seeing everyone back in the fall!



Dr. Bradford Lusk | Proud Superintendent, Hamilton Community Schools



Upcoming 'Scoop with the Supt.' Dates:

'Scoop with the Supt.' community forums will not be held during the summer. However, find a list of the first dates of the 2025-26 school year below! These are all held at Hawk's Nest Restaurant:

Thurs., August 21 | 9:00-10:00 AM

Thurs., September 4 | 9:00-10:00 AM

Thurs., September 25 | 9:00-10:00 AM



Save the Date for the Fifth Annual Hawkeye Hometown Tailgate on Friday, September 19, 2025!

**HAWKEYE
HOMETOWN
TAILGATE**



Hamilton Community Schools and Cultivate Community Church are excited to host the Fifth Annual Hawkeye Hometown Tailgate on Friday, September 19, 2025 at Hamilton Middle School and Cultivate Church! The Hawkeye varsity football team will take on West Catholic at 7:00 PM!

Thanks to our fantastic community sponsors, the Fifth Annual Hawkeye Hometown Tailgate is going to be BIGGER and better than ever! We will have free food courtesy of Miller Creek Tavern, mini golf, rock climbing walls, a petting zoo, the Allegan County Sheriff's Office SWAT Vehicle, Knot Spot Pretzel (while supplies last), ice cream, games for all ages, face painting, street performers, performances by our vocal music and band programs, and that's only the beginning! NEW in 2025: a LIVE BAND! We are excited to welcome Boys Gone Mild to the Tailgate, playing your 'dad rock favorites' throughout the event. Also NEW in 2025: LASER TAG!

**Volunteer at
the Tailgate!**



2025-26 OPEN HOUSES



BENTHEIM ELEMENTARY

Monday, August 18
5:30 - 6:30 PM

BLUE STAR ELEMENTARY

Thursday, August 14
5:30 - 6:30 PM

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY

Monday, August 18
5:30 - 6:30 PM
Community Open House to Visit New Spaces: 6:30-7:30 PM

HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

5th & 6th Grade: Monday, August 11
3:00 - 6:00 PM
7th & 8th Grade: Tuesday, August 12
3:00 - 6:00 PM

MS Parent Athletic Meeting: Tuesday, August 12 6:00-7:00 PM

HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, August 11
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM or 2:00 - 6:00 PM
Tuesday, August 12
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

HAMILTON VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Orientation: Friday, August 15
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
at Sandyview Learning Center

*Dates subject to change

NEW STUDENT & STAFF FURNITURE IN CLASSROOMS!

Thanks to the responsible stewardship of the Hamilton Community Schools general fund and strategic savings from the 2023 bond project, we are excited to announce a significant investment for the 2025-26 school year: new desks and chairs in the majority of classrooms throughout all district buildings.



Many of the classroom furnishings, particularly at Hamilton High School, date back to the school's opening in 2001—while much of the elementary furniture is even older. Recognizing the importance of creating learning environments that are both comfortable and functional, the district has worked diligently to address this long-standing need.

More than 1,200 new student desks and chairs have now been delivered, assembled, and installed to support our students and staff as they head into a new year of learning. This improvement reflects our ongoing commitment to enhancing the educational experience while making thoughtful, future-focused financial decisions.

2025-26 PARENT CALENDAR



August '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September '25						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October '25						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

November '25						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December '25						
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28	29	30	31			

January '26						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

HCS Parent Calendar
High School Full Day 7:35 am - 2:35 pm
High School Half Day 7:35 am - 10:35 am
Middle School Full Day 7:45 am - 2:45 pm
Middle School Half Day 7:45 am - 10:45 am
Elementary Full Day 8:45 am - 3:45 pm
Elementary Half Day 8:45 am - 11:45 am

No School	
Half Day	
August 20 First Day of School	
Aug 29 - Sept 1	No School
Sept 19	No School
October 10	Half Day
October 23-24	No School
November 26-28	Thanksgiving Break
December 22-January 2	Holiday Break
January 23	No School
February 9	Mid Winter Break
March 6	No School
March 20	Half Day
April 3 - April 10	Spring Break
May 7	1/2 Day
May 25	Memorial Day
June 5	1/2 Day-Last Day

February '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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March '26						
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29	30	31				

April '26						
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May '26						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June '26						
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28	29	30				

July '26						
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HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Published by:

HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

4815 136th Avenue Hamilton, MI 49419

HAMILTONSCHOOLS.US



HAWKEYE Kids



2025-26 INFORMATION

SCAN THIS QR
CODE TO
REGISTER FOR
2025-26
HAWKEYE KIDS
REGISTRATION!



Hamilton Community Schools is excited to continue the before/after school childcare program for the 2025-2026 school year!

Who: Young Fives through Fourth Grade

When: 6:30-8:30am & 3:45-6:00pm Monday-Friday

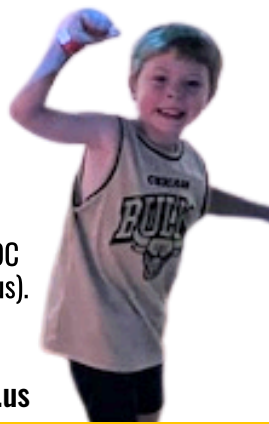
Where: Bentheim Elementary, Blue Star Elementary & Hamilton Elementary

Tuition: \$11.50 per session/ per child

A non-refundable \$50.00 registration fee, per family, is due at the time of registration, as well as the completed registration packet.

We accept Child Development and Care (CDC) payments! If your child(ren) receives CDC benefits please submit your paperwork to Whitney Hobbs (whobbs@hamiltonschools.us). All forms must be turned in prior to your child starting & you will be responsible for payments until we have a confirmation letter from your child's caseworker.

Hawkeye Kids questions? Email Whitney Hobbs: whobbs@hamiltonschools.us



205 student-athletes from grades 6-12 took part in the summer HEAT (Hamilton Elite Athletic Training) program! These Hawkeyes worked on strength, speed, agility, endurance, and injury prevention and showed a lot of dedication and growth in all areas.

2015 Hamilton High School graduate and Baltimore Orioles pitcher Grant Wolfram returned home to Hamilton on July 15 during the Major League All-Star Break! Wolfram threw with head baseball coach Brian Grabinski and spent time catching up with his former head coach, Ken DeGood.

