

June 2021



HAMILTON CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Hamilton Central School • A Professional Learning Community

CLASS OF 2021 - CONGRATULATIONS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Michelle Jacobsen,
President

Ellen Larson,
Vice President

G. Cory Duclos

Jennifer Jones

Travis Ames

www.hamiltoncentral.org

Special Points of Interest:

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Dora Ammerman

Emma Basher

Zachary Bernard

Leanna Boss

Logan Campbell

James Cardelus-Watkins

Benjamin Coddington

Henry Crespi

Emily Delaney

Dylan Dionne

Virginia Dionne

John Dudrick

William Egerer

Aiden Gibbons

Aidan Helfant

Skye Helfant

Emily Holm

Blaine Hughes

Devon Jones

James Jones

Kerrigan Kelly

Ahmir Kennedy

Ella Kenyon

Ryan Kirk

Emily Koniewicz

Jonathon Lough

Casondra Marks

Logan Niles

Ahlysa Perry

Benjamin Pollock

Ava Robertson

Lauren Rodriguez

Madison Rodriguez

Jenna Rogers

Ryan Rutledge

Brice Sharp-Ballinger

Hannah Stever

Kirin Tehan

Timothy Terry

Ashlee VanCourt

Seth Walden

Maxwell Wallace

Benjamin Wilcox

Mason Wright

Hamilton Central School will celebrate its 123rd commencement exercises this year. The graduation ceremony will be held in-person on our stadium field on Friday, June 25th at 7:00 p.m. (rain date Saturday, June 26th at 10:30 a.m.) while following guidelines pertaining to social distancing. For those who would like to view the ceremony but cannot attend in-person, we will be live streaming the event.

The members of the class, 44 in number, have distinguished themselves in academics, athletics, and extra-curricular activities throughout their high school experience.

Special congratulations to our Class of 2021 Valedictorian Aidan Helfant and our Salutatorian Seth Walden.



Aidan



Seth





FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear HCS Families & Community Members

As we approach the end of the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, flexibility and understanding as we have navigated this unprecedented pandemic and the challenges associated with it.

This year has been another true test of our resilience, and I could not be more proud of how our community has responded to this challenge. Community members have supported each other in countless ways, faculty/staff have gone above and beyond to provide instruction and services to our students, parents have managed a hybrid and now in-person learning model while juggling their everyday responsibilities, and students have persevered on a day-to-day basis. A sincere thank you to everyone!

I would also like to thank the residents of the community for their tremendous level of support in passing the budget for the 2021-22 school year. The budget received an 85% “yes” vote. This is a phenomenal level of support for the spending plan and the work of the District. We will continue to be thoughtful stewards of taxpayer resources while doing our best to efficiently provide the best possible program for the children of our community. In these most unpredictable and uncertain of times, we deeply appreciate your confidence and support. We recognize the trust you place in us and our obligation to “educate every student, every day.”

Please join me in taking this opportunity to recognize the following employees who are leaving us to enter into retirement; **Sharon Follett**, elementary teacher (32.5 years), **Hope Hanson**, elementary teacher (30.6 years), **Caprice Kilts**, office assistant in the Special Education Department (20.4 years), **Ed Mucinsky**, bus driver (7 years), **Christy Jones Maxwell**, food service (17.5 years), **Barbara Orth**, MS/HS science teacher (10.5 years), **Rob Poznar**, elementary teacher (29 years), **Patricia Rowland**, elementary teacher (17 years), and **Bridget Smith**, elementary teacher (28 years). Thank you for your combined 192.5 years of serving the students of HCS! We are forever grateful for all they have done for the children of HCS and will miss them dearly.

As of late, there have been many reassurances from the Governor that NYS is reopening with the hope that a full re-opening occurs in early July. As we look forward to a life more pre-COVID-like, we are working on summer programming for students, summer orientation for new faculty/staff and planning for a full return in September. We are also in the final planning phases of in-person year-end events across the district.

As we near the end of the school year, our seniors, families and students from every grade level have so much to be proud of. Together we have persevered through the uncharted waters of a modern day pandemic and together we can look forward to a brighter future with the knowledge and strength that comes from overcoming such adversity.

May the final weeks of this school year bring you all good health, happiness and a sense of pride and accomplishment. I am so grateful to you, as parents and community members, for the support you provide to our district.

Enjoy your summer with family and friends. Together we are #HCSstrong.

William Dowsland

William Dowsland • Superintendent of Schools





MATTER OF PRINCIPAL

During this pandemic our students have done a wonderful job both in and out of the classroom. In this year's yearbook, I wrote about the skills students were able to develop out of necessity, and how these skills will help them in the future. All of our students took on a lot more responsibility, and they showed us that our future will be in good hands. This year's Valedictorian and Salutatorian are two great examples of our students' ability to take on different challenges and to achieve academically at a high level.

We are pleased to announce that *Aidan Helfant* has been named Valedictorian for the Hamilton Central School Class of 2021. Aidan is the son of Astrid and Ian Helfant, and the brother of Skye Helfant.

In addition to being among the top five for highest averages throughout his high school career, Aidan is also a recipient of the George Eastman Young Leader Award.

He was elected as a representative for the Student Council and is a member of the National Honor Society. Aidan attended a Colgate seminar during his freshman, sophomore, and junior years. He has participated in Masquers, Athletics, Ski Club, Tech Club, and Amnesty International. He is also a four-year member of our soccer and tennis teams. Aidan won sectionals in tennis as a freshman and sophomore. Additionally, he has worked for the Hamilton Recreation Program for three years and as a caddy at the Seven Oaks Golf Club.

Aidan would like to thank his family for all their support and for building his love of both STEM and the Humanities. He would also like to thank his friends for teaching him to relax and unwind sometimes.

Aidan's advice for HCS underclass students is to "Take responsibility for what you do with your time. It is really unfortunate, but a lot of people believe school is the only place where they need to learn. It is through a combination of both self-learning and formal education that true personal growth occurs."

Aidan lists math and science as areas of interest and plans to pursue those subjects in college. He will be attending the College of Human Ecology at Cornell University under the Health, Biology, and Society major. Aidan plans to continue studying science and possibly enter into a medical field.

We are also pleased to announce that *Seth Walden* has been named Salutatorian for the Hamilton Central School Class of 2021. Seth is the son of Mark and Shana Walden and the brother of Noah Walden.

In addition to being among the top five for highest averages throughout his high school career, Seth was the recipient of the Clarkson University Leadership Award and the Rensselaer Medal Award.

Seth has participated in various clubs and sports during his time at Hamilton Central. He was a member of Amnesty International, the National Honor Society, Tech Club, and Athletics. He played varsity soccer and tennis. He was also a member of the Invictus FC and Soccer Central soccer teams. He has worked with our younger students at the Hamilton Summer Recreation program, and he currently works at the Seven Oaks Golf Club.

Seth's favorite subjects at Hamilton were geometry, biology, and art. He would like to thank his mom and dad for always supporting and encouraging him in both academics and sports.

His advice for younger HCS students is to plan a schedule that allows you to take a Colgate class. Seth's best memories were playing Smash in the high school library.

Seth plans to continue his education in the town of Hamilton next fall. He will be attending Colgate University with an undeclared major.

Mark Arquiatt

Mark Arquiatt • Secondary Principal

The Bee Conundrum

by Aidan and Skye Helfant

We received the Best Documentary Award and the Adirondack Action Project Award at the "Beyond The Peaks Film Competition" as announced during the online awards ceremony held on Friday, June 4th. Inspired by their father, Ian Helfant, a decade-long beekeeper, Skye and Aidan Helfant, brothers and helpers in the family honey business, created this short five-minute documentary. The boys hope their film will captivate this year's virtual

audience. In their documentary, the twins highlight the great importance of bees in the modern world. They discuss bees' role in the preservation and prosperity of crops in our deeply agriculturally based society. They talk about how vital bees are to nations across the planet and the detrimental effects of pesticides, climate change, and other factors on bee populations. For links to the videos, go to the Bee Conundrum Documentary and Trailer. The awards

included a trophy and a \$250 cash prize for the Helfant twins.

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Dear Hamilton Community,

As the 2020-21 school year comes to a close, I would like to take this moment to thank all of our teachers, support staff, parents, and students for all of the work that they have done this year. Their hard work has ensured that we achieved our mission to provide our students with the best experiences that will prepare them for the future. It certainly has been a year like no other with having to adapt to the ongoing changes in our world and practicing resilience and flexibility daily. I feel honored to have had the opportunity to work alongside such a dedicated learning community this past year.

Next week, we will send out the most heartfelt retirement congratulations to the following outstanding elementary teachers who have in total devoted over 136 years to HCS: Hope Hanson, Bridget Smith,

Robert Poznar, Sharon Follett, and Patricia Rowland. Although it may be possible to count the years, the positive influence that these teachers have had on the lives of children is impossible to measure. Not only have they dedicated their professional lives to teaching our students, but they are trusted colleagues, mentors, and friends. With great appreciation for the difference that you have made, we wish you a Happy Retirement!

Working with numerous COVID restrictions, the elementary community still found a way to join together to provide a variety of both traditional and new experiences for students this year.

- Elementary students partnered with Colgate students led by Capri Trivisonno to engage in virtual tutoring experiences with our Brain Buddies and Liberty Kids programs.
- Thanks to the dedication of Allison Farrar, our weekly announcements started our Monday mornings off on a good note which featured student birthdays, Positivity Project character strengths, and even guest Colgate athletes who shared their motivational messages.

- Elementary students in grades 3-5 showcased their theatrical skills in two virtual Zoom performances under the direction of Allison Farrar and Sara Zogby.
- Our counseling department under the guidance of Sheri Houck assisted the classrooms in celebrating World Kindness Day in November.
- Fifth grade students, in conjunction with Liz Merrill and Rob Poznar, sponsored a wildly successful food drive that benefited the Hamilton Food Cupboard.
- Our PTO sponsored the HCS Reads program with every family in the elementary receiving a copy of *The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester* by Barbara O'Connor to read and discuss at home together.
- Jessica Hoople and Dawn Giddings connected students with two virtual performances, Tri-Cities Opera presented *Monkey & Francine* as well as a concert from The Philadelphia Orchestra.
- Carrie Stoddard inspired us to increase our movement as we participated in a Race Across America program, hopscotch, winter sledding, and Rock 'n Bowl complete with lights and music.
- Our 2021 District Art Show was displayed in the building for students by Victoria Kowalski and Ryan Bane and also digitally documented by the photojournalism class.

Our elementary team has already started brainstorming new ideas for the 2021-22 school year. We can't wait to unroll them as the new school year begins in September! In the meantime, I wish you a safe and relaxing summer with your families!

All the best,

Heather Thomas

Heather Thomas • Interim Elementary Principal

Sixth Grade

Ms. Chamberlain

The 6th grade students were posed with creating a solution to a problem. After completing Argument

writing they needed to choose a problem that people face everyday and then develop a solution to the problem. Then they presented to a panel of "sharks" teachers, administrators and retired teachers to see if

they would invest in their invention. They had to build a prototype, create a pitch, an advertisement of some sort and have a verbal presentation.



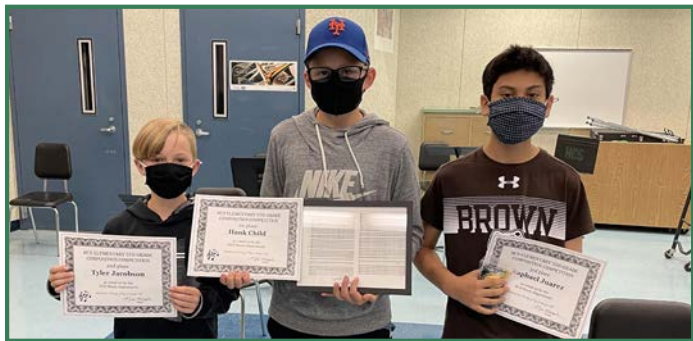


Home School Instruction

If you have provided home school instruction to your child(ren) this year and will be re-enrolling them at HCS, please be sure to fill out the registration form on our website. The enrollment form can be found by clicking the “Parents” tab and then “Forms” on the pull-down menu. The completed registration packet can be submitted to either the elementary or middle/high school office. Should you have any questions, please call 824-6330 to contact the elementary office or 824-6320 to reach the middle/high school office.

Music Department

Every year, the HCS Music Department holds a Music Composition Competition for our 5th grade students. Students work on creating a short melody with Mrs. Hoople during their Music Classes, and then Mr. Coldren, Ms. Giddings and Mrs. Hoople meet to select the composition that would make the best arrangement for Band and Orchestra. The first place composition this year was arranged for High School Band and Orchestra by Mr. Coldren and will be played as a pre-recorded performance during the 5th grade moving up ceremony. All three winners received a certificate and candy from Maxwell’s Chocolates. The first place winner also received a framed copy of the sheet music for the completed composition signed by Mr. Coldren.



Congratulations to our winners!

- 1st place - Hank Child
- 2nd place - Tyler Jacobsen
- 3rd place - Raphael Juarez

Girls on the Run

At the end of May the Hamilton Girls on the Run and Heart and Sole program ran their big 5k at school. The girls started their season during Spring Break and met on Tuesdays and Thursdays for about 7 weeks after school. Coach Rose, Broadway, Daoust and Moats taught the girls the Girls on the Run/Heart and Sole curriculum that focuses on Girl Power, positivity and leadership that relate to the girls everyday lives. Within the

curriculum there was a focus on exercise and building endurance that helped the girls prepare for the 5k.

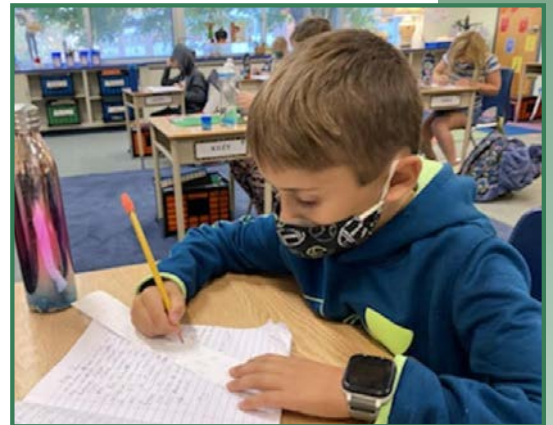
The girls ran their course in the back fields behind the elementary gym. The girls had a balloon arch to run under, hair coloring, ribbons for their hair, a photo wall, and snacks to enjoy after the race. As the girls finished they did a great job encouraging each other. If any girl is interested in participating in the program there will be paperwork passed out in the Spring for interest.



The Hamilton Girls on the Run/ Heart and Sole program would like to give a BIG thank you to Mr. Bane for taking pictures at the 5k.

Third Grade

Even though this school year looked a little different, third graders jumped right in! We cultivated class communities, encouraged each other and worked hard to be our best as students. We learned about the rainforest, discovered how to find the area and perimeter of shapes, memorized the multiplication tables, studied mystery books and wrote fairy tale adaptations to name a few of our impressive accomplishments! Most of all, we showed our resiliency and learned to have a growth mindset - making the most out of any situation put before us.



When asked about the 2020-2021 school year, one third grader reports, “This year was a lot different! We got to eat lunch in our classrooms, and that was cool! It was also different because we had to wear masks, but we got used to it. We still got to play kickball in the field and we got to do some new things in art, music and PE because we are older. It was actually a lot of fun because I got to be with my friends!”



Fourth Grade

Along with our study of plants and animals, the 4th graders, in conjunction with the PTO and Mrs. Bossard made terrariums! It was such a fun adventure! The students learned about plant growth, life cycles, the water cycle and many other things within the unit. The PTO helped provide tiny plants and also little fairy items to decorate with.



Our remote students even joined us in this outdoor activity. Thank you Mrs. Bossard and PTO!



Senior Representatives

On Thursday, May 20th, HCS students Dora Ammerman, Aidan Helfant, and Ben Pollock spoke to the Hamilton Rotary Club about their experiences navigating their senior year during the COVID-19 pandemic. During the online presentation, the students described challenges in the college application process, changes to the sports program, and adaptations in the arts. Hamilton Rotary donated a book to the Hamilton Public Library in honor of the presenters. A huge thank you to Dora, Aidan, and Ben for representing HCS!

From the Hamilton Central School Libraries

Take part in the SORA Sweet Reads Program this summer by reading books or listening to books on your SORA app. We have been diligent in getting your students signed in to SORA to access the school and public library ebooks. The collection seen by our students should be appropriate for their age group.

From Overdrive:

“Join us this summer with OverDrive’s annual reading program. Sora Sweet Reads is designed for

schools in the United States and Canada o encourage students to keep reading all year long. We’re offering a collection of free and simultaneous use juvenile and young adult ebooks (and select audiobooks). These titles will be available to participating schools and prominently displayed in Sora so it’s easy for students to find their next sweet read.”

If you need help accessing these resources from home, please send an email to ajerome@hamilton-central.org or visit your local library, as they are also participating in this program. Happy Reading!

Dignity For All Students Act (DASA)

The Dignity Act impacts the following SAVE requirements:

- Code of Conduct
- Harassment
- Discrimination
- Civility
- Citizenship
- Character Education
- Reporting

Mr. Matthew Crumb, Mr. Kevin Ellis and Mr. Mark Arquiett are the DASA Coordinators. Please feel free to contact them with concerns that you may have.

Notification of policies that are available via our website for your review

A new requirement of the District is to provide parents with the following policies. At your convenience, please visit our website (www.hamiltoncentral.org) to view the policies listed below, as well as all school policies.

#0031 Tobacco, Nicotine and E-Cigarette Use Prohibited

- #1014 Code of Conduct
- #1040 Parent and Family Engagement in Title I Programs’
- #5320 Short-Term Work Asbestos Notification
- #5662 School Food Service Program & Meal Charge
- #7365, #7365.2, #7365.3, #7365.4 - Education Records/FERPA

If you are unable to access and would like a copy, call the District Office at 315-824-6310 and request a copy.

Title IX

Hamilton Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education programs or activities which it operates and it is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 not to discriminate in such a manner. This policy of non-discrimination includes the following areas: recruitment and appointment of employees, employment pay and benefits, counseling services for students, access by students to educational programs, course offerings and student activities.



Hamilton Central School 2021-2022 Student Program Calendar

Recess/Vacation Days ★
Superintendent's Conference Days ☆
Regents/Testing Days ★

18 Student Days

SEPTEMBER 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 Supt. Conf. Day	2 Supt. Conf. Day	3
6 Labor Day	7 Classes Begin	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

15 Student Days

FEBRUARY 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9 PK-12 Half Day	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21 Presidents' Day	22 Mid-Winter Recess	23	24	25
28				

19 Student Days

OCTOBER 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11 Columbus Day	12	13	14	15
18	19	20 PK-12 Half Day	21	22 Supt. Conf. Day
25	26	27	28	29

22 Student Days

MARCH 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18 Supt. Conf. Day
21	22	23 PK-12 Half Day	24	25
28	29	30	31	

18 Student Days

NOVEMBER 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11 Veterans' Day	12
15	16	17	18	19 PK-6 Half Day
22 PK-6 Half Day	23 PK-12 Half Day	24 Thanksgiving Recess	25 Thanksgiving Day	26 Thanksgiving Recess
29	30			

15 Student Days

APRIL 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11 Spring Recess	12	13	14	15
18 Spring Recess	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

16 Student Days

DECEMBER 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23 Winter Recess	24
27 Winter Recess	28	29	30	31

21 Student Days

MAY 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30 Memorial Day	31			

20 Student Days

JANUARY 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Classes Resume	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17 ML King Jr. Day	18	19	20	21
24	25 Regents Exams	26	27	28
31				

17 Student Days

JUNE 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15 Regents Exams	16	17
20 Juneteenth	21 Regents Exams	22	23 PK-6 Half Day	24 PK-6 Half Day
27	28	29	30	

Superintendent's Conference Days
9/1, 9/2 • 10/22 • 3/18

Recess/Vacation Days

September 6..... Labor Day
October 11..... Columbus Day
November 11..... Veterans' Day
November 24-26..... Thanksgiving Recess
December 23-31..... Winter Recess
January 17..... Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 21-25..... Mid-Winter Recess
April 11-18..... Spring Recess
May 30..... Memorial Day
June 20..... Juneteenth

STUDENT ATTENDANCE DAYS • 181

September 18 days
October 19 days
November 18 days
December 16 days
January 20 days
February 15 days
March 22 days
April 15 days
May 21 days
June 17 days

Regents/Testing Days
1/25-28 • 6/15-24

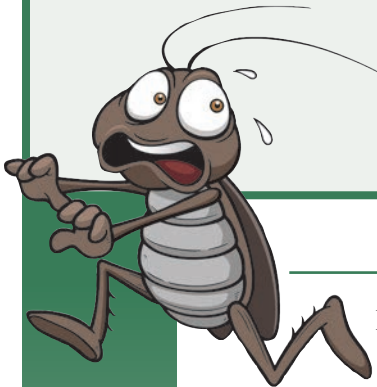
Hamilton Central School

47 West Kendrick Avenue
Hamilton, NY 13346

"A Professional Learning Community"

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PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION

New York State law requires that schools and BOCES maintain a list of staff and parents who wish to receive written notice 48 hours prior to a pesticide application at our facility. If you wish to be included on the School District Notification List, please contact the District Office at **824-6310**. You will then receive advance notification of an application of a pesticide product covered by notification requirements, except in the event of an emergency application in response to a threat to public health.

PLEASE NOTE

All Class Reunion & Hall of Honor will not be held at Hamilton Central School this year.

Board of Education News

Congratulations to Dr. Cory Duclos for being re-elected as a board member for a three-year term starting July 1, 2021.



Notification to Parents

Pursuant to the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*, the school district must disclose to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, upon request, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of our high school students. However, the district must also notify parents of their rights and the rights of their children to request, in writing, that the district NOT release such information if it is requested.

For the 2021-22 school year, parents, or students who are at least 18 years old, wishing to exercise their option to withhold their consent to the release of the above information to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, must sign and return the form attached below to the High School office. Please return by July 1, 2021.

NOTIFICATION TO SCHOOL DISTRICT

To: Hamilton Central School Main Office

Re: Reservation of Consent for the Release of Certain Student Information under the No Child Left Behind Act

Please DO NOT release the name, address or telephone number of _____
to military recruiters or institutions of higher learning.

Date

Parent Signature