

September 2024



HAMILTON CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Hamilton Central School • A Professional Learning Community

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Special Points of Interest:

- Principal's Messages
- Director of PPS Message
- Annual Notifications
- School Lunch Information
- Direct Phone Numbers
- Tax Information

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear HCS,

As the summer days wind down and a new academic year approaches, it is my pleasure to welcome each and every one of you back to our school community. Whether you are a returning student excited to reconnect with friends, a new family joining our district, or a dedicated member of our faculty and staff, your presence is vital to our learning community.

To our devoted faculty and staff, I extend my sincere gratitude. Your dedication to our students' education and well-being is the cornerstone of our success. This year, we are emphasizing the importance of fostering a strong school culture where every student feels welcomed and connected. Each of you, regardless of your role, is essential to achieving our mission of educating every student, every day.

To our awesome students, welcome back! Your enthusiasm and willingness to learn invigorate our halls and classrooms. Remember, your journey here is not just about academic achievements but also about growing as individuals, building friendships, and preparing for the future. Take advantage of every opportunity, ask questions, explore new interests, and know that we are here to support you every step of the way.

To our supportive parents and guardians, thank you for being integral members of our learning community. Your involvement and encouragement are vital to your children's success. We look forward to working closely with you to create an environment where your children can thrive. Your feedback, participation, and collaboration are always welcome as we strive to meet the needs of our students.

As we embark on this new academic year, let us remember that we are all in this together. Our collective efforts, shared vision, and mutual respect will guide us towards a successful and fulfilling year. Let's embrace the challenges, celebrate the achievements, and continue to build a community where everyone feels valued and empowered.

Here's to a fantastic school year ahead!

Together, we are #HCSstrong!

William Dowland
Superintendent of School



FROM THE SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Dear HCS Families,

Welcome back! Like many of you, I recently watched our athletes compete in Paris. I found their individual stories to be very inspiring. Just like the Olympians that many of us cheered on this summer, our students will embark on a journey filled with challenges, growth, and triumphs. This school year, as we work together to help our students reach their goals and realize their full potential, I would like students to focus on some of the traits our Olympians displayed this summer.

Perseverance: Olympians are known for their determination and relentless pursuit of excellence. As we kick off this school year, I encourage our students to embrace this same spirit of perseverance. There will be days when they face obstacles or setbacks, but it is through these challenges that they will learn, grow, and ultimately achieve their goals. Encourage your child to approach challenges with a mindset of resilience and determination.

Self-Discipline: The path to success is paved with disciplined effort and focused practice. Olympians dedicate countless hours to honing their skills. Similarly, our students will need to cultivate strong study habits, stay organized, and manage their time effectively. By fostering a disciplined approach, students will be better equipped to achieve their goals.

Passion: The passion that drives Olympians to push their limits and strive for greatness is truly inspiring. We hope to ignite passion in our students as they delve into their studies and extracurricular activities. When students are passionate about their learning, they engage more deeply and find joy in their accomplishments. Encourage your child to explore their interests and pursue their passions with enthusiasm and commitment.

Teamwork: While many Olympians compete individually, they recognize the importance of teamwork. They have coaches, trainers, and supporters who play a crucial role in their success. In our school community, we are all part of a team working toward the common goal of helping students achieve their goals. Let's continue to work together—teachers, support staff, parents, and students—to create a supportive environment where everyone can excel.

Goal-Setting: Setting clear, achievable goals is a fundamental part of an Olympian's journey. This year, we encourage students to set their own academic and personal goals. These goals will serve as a roadmap for their efforts and achievements.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead, full of growth, learning, and achievement! Thank you for your continued support and partnership. To foster that partnership, I would like to provide some important information for our families.

Contact Information

Please make sure your contact information on file at the school is correct. We may send information to families through email, text, automated phone call, or paper mail.

Google Classroom and Daily/Weekly Guardian Summaries

I've found that the best way of keeping up to date with Google Classroom for my own children is downloading the app on my phone and having them sign in with their usernames and passwords. The passwords are saved, so you only need to enter them once. After that, you can open the app any time and toggle between your children's accounts. Each child's account will display a number of different classes. By clicking on each class, you can check upcoming assignments, missing work, grades, etc. Google Classroom also offers an email update called the daily or weekly summary. This allows you to receive an email every afternoon - or once per week - containing upcoming assignments and missing work. If you have any concerns about your child falling behind, I recommend the daily summary. (To change the frequency, scroll to the bottom of any summary email and click Settings.) Please note that summary emails do not contain grades. To check grades, you can use the app as described above.



School-Wide Announcements

HCS uses ParentSquare for school-wide announcements. If you have an account, you will receive the morning announcements (Daily Bulletin) and other information.

Please check your notification settings and make sure they are set to your preference. Log into parentsquare.com and choose “My Account” followed by “Notification Settings”. You may see up to three groups: ES (Elem. School), JSHS (Jr-Sr High School) and District. For each group, you can choose to receive messages instantly or in an evening digest.

SchoolTool

SchoolTool is the place to find schedules, progress reports, report cards, etc. Parents/guardians should all have an account, and students have their own accounts. If you have trouble logging in, please reach out to our technology director, Mr. Rogers, at crogers@hamiltoncentral.org. Here is a link to *SchoolTool*: <https://st4.schooltool.com/Hamilton>

Curriculum Resource

Please take some time to look at this link, which answers many questions about our middle school and high school: <https://tinyurl.com/HCSSecondaryCurriculumPage>. Here you will find a school supply list, course overviews, graduation requirements, our bell schedule, etc. To find this in the future, click “Curriculum” at the top of the HCS website.

Extracurricular Activities

I encourage all of our students to join one or more clubs or sports. Our students make HCS a great place to learn, and their involvement in activities is one of the contributing factors. By engaging in extracurriculars, students build better connections with their peers, adults, and the school as a whole. Parents and guardians, please encourage your children to get involved. A list of activities can be found here: <https://mshs.hamiltoncentral.org/extra-curricular-activities>

As always, please reach out if you have any questions or concerns as the year progresses. I look forward to a great year for everyone in our HCS community!

Sincerely,

Mark Arquiatt

MS/HS Principal
 marquiatt@hamiltoncentral.org
 (315) 824-6320

SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 LABOR DAY	3 Superintendent's Conference Day No School MTSS/Assessment Parent Meeting 5:30pm-6:00pm 6 th Grade Orientation 6:00pm Library Information Meeting 6:00pm PK-12 Open House 6:30pm	4 Superintendent's Conference Day No School Fall Play Auditions 3:15pm-5:15pm	5 WELCOME BACK STUDENTS! Fall Play Auditions 3:15pm-5:15pm	6	7
8 Grandparents' Day	9	10	11 Patriots Day	12 Board of Education Meeting 6:00pm	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 School Picture Day 8:00am- 3:00pm	20 ACT Registration Deadline SAT Registration Deadline	21 Mathletics @ Canastota 8:05am-Noon
22 First Day of Autumn	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	2024-2025 School Tax Bill Collection In-person Collection Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00am-12:00 Noon Thursday - 1:00pm-6:00pm NO IN-PERSON COLLECTION HOURS ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 5TH	Special In-Person Collection Hours: Monday, September 30th (Last day to pay without penalty) 9:00am-3:00pm	AUGUST 2024 S M T W T F S 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		OCTOBER 2024 S M T W T F S 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



FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Dear Hamilton Families and Friends,

It is with great excitement that I welcome everyone back for the start of a new school year! Whether you are returning or joining us for the first time, we are thrilled to have you as part of our HCS family. This year promises to be filled with growth, learning, and new opportunities for our students.

I am delighted to introduce some wonderful additions to our teaching team:

Rebecca Hamilton will be joining us as a first-grade teacher. She comes to us with nine years of experience teaching at Newark Central School District, including eight years dedicated to first grade. Her passion for early childhood education is sure to make a positive impact on our young learners.

Brian Latella, who many of you will remember from his 12 years of teaching 5th and 6th grades at HCS. His return to our school brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to our students' success. We are excited to welcome back Brian.

Ashley Sirtoli, who has been an integral part of our special education team, will be taking on a new role this year as a 3rd-grade classroom teacher. Her experience and dedication to student growth will be a tremendous asset in her new position.

As we look ahead, I want to highlight some exciting curriculum updates. This year, we will be introducing new Writing Units of Study in grades 3-5. These units are designed to foster a love of writing while building essential skills in narrative, informational, and opinion writing. Students will engage in workshops that emphasize the writing process, from brainstorming ideas to publishing their final pieces.

We are also entering our second year of using the Eureka Math Squared curriculum in grades Pre-K through 5th. This program has been instrumental in deepening our students' understanding of mathematical concepts and building strong problem-solving skills.

In addition to our academic focus, we are committed to integrating special areas into our content areas, with a particular emphasis this year on social studies. By taking a more interdisciplinary approach, we hope to enrich our students' learning experiences and help them make meaningful connections across subject areas.

Finally, we will continue our work with restorative practices in the classroom, alongside consistent social-emotional lessons throughout the elementary school. These practices are vital in creating a positive and supportive learning environment where every student feels valued and respected.

As we embark on this new school year together, I look forward to working with our dedicated staff, supportive families, and our amazing students. Let's make this a year filled with curiosity, kindness, and achievement!

All the best,

Heather Thomas
Elementary Principal



HAMILTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tuesday, September 3, 2024
at 6:30 PM

(With Special Events Beforehand)

Join us for an evening of informative and engaging activities, all made possible by our dedicated Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). Here's the schedule:

- Family Get-Together on the Front Lawn (Sponsored by PTO) from 4:30 - 6:30 PM
- AIS/RtI and Testing Meeting in the Auditorium at 5:30 PM
- Library Meeting in the Auditorium at 6:00 PM
- Open House from 6:30-7:30 PM





FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

Welcome Back! As the Director of Pupil Personnel Services, I am responsible for overseeing and supporting all educational services that extend beyond the general education setting. My role involves ensuring that students who require adapted or modified education receive the necessary support to thrive. This includes, but is not limited to, managing services such as Special Education, Response to Intervention (RtI)-this is now called Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), English as a New Language (ENL) and English Language Learners (ELL) programs, 504 plans, support for Homeless Students (under the McKinney-Vento Act), All Related Services (OT, PT, Speech, Counseling, Vision and Hearing needs), and Behavior Intervention Plans.

Members of Our Support Services Team

Elementary Special Education Teachers: Jennifer Briggs, Corilynn Coye, Bridget Alexander.

Secondary Special Education Teachers: Kim Cunningham, Sara Zogby, Vicky Smith, Ryan Houck and Monica Chamberlain.

RtI (Now called “MTSS”) Support: Elementary: Capri Potter, Jessica Ames, Jennifer Briggs. Middle/High School: Kathy Roy (Reading), Celia Marhefka(Math), Sue Lehman (Math), Zac Darrow (Math)

Speech Language Pathologists: Robin Dunadee, Caitlin Hertzendorf

Occupational Therapist: Jordan Mercer

Physical Therapist: Dr. Tim Winchell

School Counselors: Sheri Houck (Elem.), Gina Torre (MS), and Victoria Pustay (HS)

Teacher of Social and Emotional Learning and Family

Engagement: Renee Merkt

School Psychologist: Jared Dart

Madison County Mental Health Provider: Alaina Maine

English as a New Language (ENL) Provider: Mark Maina

Administrative Assistant: Lynda O’Keeffe

If you believe your child needs more to help access his/her education, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me or any member of our team listed above. I can be reached at 315-824-6350 or kellis@hamiltoncentral.org.

2024-25 Plans for Growth

This year, our team is committed to expanding our focus on social and emotional learning. We will concentrate on the key areas outlined below, with professional development opportunities available for all teachers and paraprofessionals who work with students.

Reframing Perceptions of Student Misbehavior: Explore the connections between neuroscience, learning, behavior, and mental health.

Reframing Awareness: Engage in simple, interactive experiences to practice emotional regulation.

Reframing Actions: Recognize that behavior is influenced by more than just choice.

Reframing Relationships: Develop and apply effective relationship-building skills to address common behaviors and situations.

Our goal is to strengthen our staff’s ability to support students who experience emotional dysregulation through targeted professional development, including training from the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) and Reframing Behaviors.

As I begin my 18th year as an administrator at Hamilton Central School, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the entire Hamilton community. It has been an honor to serve the students, teachers, and families of this incredible district. Wishing everyone a successful 2024-25 school year.

Warm regards,

Kevin Ellis

Director of Pupil Personnel Services





CAFETERIA INFORMATION

Cafeteria Manager/Cook: Andrea Cass • 315-824-6382 or acass@hamiltoncentral.org

Breakfast and Lunch: Hamilton CSD qualifies for the Community Eligibility Program for the 2024-2025 school year. This means that ALL students can eat both breakfast and lunch for free. Every student enrolled in elementary or middle/high school at Hamilton Central School is eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at no charge each day of the 2024-2025 school year.

Students may still purchase a double meal or an à la carte item, but must have funds available. Students without sufficient funds will not be allowed to make à la carte purchases.

Student Lunch Account: The HCS Food Service Program offers families the option to establish a debit account for students. Parents can prepay any amount they choose and specify how the funds should be allocated for breakfast, lunch, or an open account. Money in an open account can be used for any items sold in the cafeteria. If prepayments are not specified, they will be placed in an open account. When sending prepayments for multiple students, please indicate how the funds should be distributed.

MySchoolBucks.com: This service is easy to use, convenient, private, and secure. To get started, visit www.MySchoolBucks.com or download the mobile app to create a free account and enroll your children using their student ID numbers. You can then deposit funds into your child's account using a credit card, debit card, or electronic check (a \$2.75 program fee will be charged per transaction). Through the account, you can set up automatic payments, check balances, add money, view cafeteria purchases, and receive low balance alerts. The MySchoolBucks.com site has helpful videos, FAQs, and a live chat to assist families in using the service.

Household Income Eligibility Application: Students can participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit an application. However, we highly encourage you to fill out the Household Income Eligibility Form, as this helps our school with data and funding opportunities. It might also have other benefits for your family based on the application submitted. Application forms were mailed in the August newsletter and are available at the elementary and high school offices. Please return completed forms to Ms. Andrea Cass as soon as possible.

Public Announcement for School Meals:

Special Provision Options (Provision 2 Non-Base Year & Community Eligibility Provision)

The Hamilton Central School District today announced an amendment to its policy for serving meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 2024-2025 school year, which would allow for all children at all schools/sites to be served meals at no charge.

For additional information please contact the following person:

Hamilton Central School District
Attention: Andrea Cass, Head of Food Service
47 West Kendrick Avenue, Hamilton NY 13346
315-824-6382 or acass@hamiltoncentral.org

First Annual HCS Youth Sports Camp

During the week of August 12, the Varsity Leaders Club hosted the first annual HCS Youth Sports Camp. The camp ran from Monday through Thursday from 9am to 12:30pm and was open to students entering grades 4 through 7. Each day of the camp was a different sport, starting with soccer, then basketball, volleyball and finishing with softball/baseball. The varsity coaches volunteered their time to provide hours of drills, games and overall fun for 40 plus students per day. Along with the coaches, the respective sports varsity players also volunteered their time to help coach and mentor the younger athletes.



This camp was largely possible due to the innovation and organization of incoming senior and varsity leaders club member, Adriana Catania. Adriana developed this idea late last spring, reached out to all of the coaches and administrators, developed a flyer and promoted the camp and then organized all the forms with the help of Mrs. Reynolds.

This camp was largely possible due to the innovation and organization of incoming senior and varsity leaders club member, Adriana Catania. Adriana developed this idea late last spring, reached out to all of the coaches and administrators, developed a flyer and promoted the camp and then organized all the forms with the help of Mrs. Reynolds.

Thank you to all of our volunteer student coaches who helped mentor our younger athletes. We want to thank the following coaches for volunteering their time to make this amazing event happen: Coach Latella, Coach Nevison, Coach Blackford, Coach LePage, Coach Brooks, Coach Darrow and Coach Reilly.

HOUSEHOLD ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)/Provision 2 non-base year Household Income Eligibility Form

The Hamilton Central School District is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2 in a non-base year. All children in the school will receive meals/milk at no charge regardless of household income or completion of this form. This form is to determine eligibility for additional State and federal program benefits that your child(ren) may qualify for. Read the instructions on the back, complete only one form for your household, sign your name and return it to the school named above. Call Andrea Cass at 315-824-6382, if you need help.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)/Provision 2 non-base year Household Income Eligibility Form

_____ (name/school) is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2 in a non-base year. All children in the school will receive meals/milk at no charge regardless of household income or completion of this form. This form is to determine eligibility for additional State and federal program benefits that your child(ren) may qualify for. Read the instructions on the back, complete **only one** form for your household, sign your name and return it to the school named above. Call _____ (school phone number), if you need help.

1. List all children in your household who attend school:

Student Name	School	Grade/Teacher	Foster Child	No Income
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Benefits: If anyone in your household receives either SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits, list their name and CASE # here. Skip to Part 5, and sign the application.

Name: _____ CASE # _____

3. Household Gross Income: List all people living in your household, how much and how often they are paid (weekly, every other week, twice per month, monthly). Do not leave income blank. If no income, check box. If you have listed a foster child above, you must report their personal income.

Name of household member	Earnings from work before deductions Amount / How Often	Child Support, Alimony	Pensions, Retirement Payments Amount / How Often	Other Income, Social Security Amount / How Often	No Income
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Signature: An adult household member must sign this application.

I certify (promise) that all the information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given so the school may receive federal funds. The school officials may verify the information and if I purposely give false information, I may be prosecuted under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____
Home Phone _____
Work Phone _____
Home Address _____

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE – FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

**Annual Income Conversion (Only convert when multiple income frequencies are reported on application)
Weekly X 52; Every Two Weeks (bi-weekly) X 26; Twice Per Month X 24; Monthly X 12**

SNAP/TANF/Foster Income _____ Total Household Income/How Often: _____ Household Size: _____
Free Eligibility Signature of Reviewing Official _____ Reduced Eligibility _____ Denied Eligibility _____

HOUSEHOLD ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM

CEP/Provision 2 Non-Base Year Household Income Form INSTRUCTIONS

PART 1 ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE FORM FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

- (1) Print the names of the children, including foster children, for whom you are applying on one form.
- (2) List their grade and school.
- (3) Check the box to indicate a foster child living in your household, and check the box for each child with no income.

PART 2 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING SNAP, TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE PART 2 AND SIGN PART 4.

- (1) List a current SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number of anyone living in your household. Do not use the 16-digit number on your benefit card. The case number is provided on your benefit letter.
- (2) An adult household member must sign the form in PART 4. SKIP PART 3 - Do not list names of household members or income if you list a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR number.

PARTS 3 & 4 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE ALL OF PARTS 3 AND 4.

- (1) Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are completing the form for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people living in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- (2) Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, every other week (bi-weekly), 2 x per month, monthly. If no income, check the box. The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should not be considered as income for this program.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

PROTECTION OF STUDENT, TEACHER, AND PRINCIPAL PERSONAL INFORMATION (DATA SECURITY AND PRIVACY)

I. Statement of Policy

In order to conduct a successful education program, the District receives, creates, stores, and transfers information about students, teachers, and principals that is protected by state and federal law. The District takes active steps to protect the confidentiality of protected information in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws. The District expects all District officers, employees, and partners to maintain the confidentiality of protected information in accordance with state and federal law and all applicable Board Policies.

This Policy shall be published on the District website, and can be accessed at the link below or by scanning the QR code.

<https://web2.moboces.org/policies/hamilton/5460%20Protection%20of%20Student%20Teacher%20and%20Principal%20Personal%20Information%20%28Data%20Security%20and%20Privacy%29.pdf>





TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Head Bus Driver: Lorna Simchik • 315-824-6392 or lsimchik@hamiltoncentral.org

**Bus Drivers: Holly Haugh, Donald Johnson, Diane Law, Frank Marzella,
Kenneth Pisiak, Jacqueline Rose**

Transportation Safety

The district recognizes its responsibility to ensure the safety and welfare of students and staff on school buses. The district will continue to use video cameras to monitor student behavior on the buses, allowing drivers to focus on the road.

If you have questions regarding the procedures involved, please call the Transportation Department at 315-824-6392.

Drop-off Procedures

The cut-out area in front of the playground is designated as a drop-off zone for all students. It should not be used as a parking area during arrival and dismissal times. Students will be dropped off on the side of the building.

Note: Please allow buses to enter and exit the circle freely.

During morning arrival, afternoon dismissal, and after-school athletic events, the driveway and parking areas can become congested. Exercise extreme caution when entering and leaving these areas.

Students should plan to arrive at school between 7:45 and 7:50 a.m. We advise avoiding drop-offs between 7:55 and 8:00 a.m. due to increased bus activity. Thank you for your cooperation with these procedures.

Late Bus

The late bus runs Monday through Thursday at 3:45 p.m. Students must sign up by 12:30 p.m. to ride the late bus.

Student Transportation Forms

These forms help maintain accountability for students traveling to locations other than their home. The form is printed in triplicate, with copies for the student, teacher, and office to improve communication and reduce confusion.

Consent must be given to drop off students without an adult present. A parent/guardian must fill out a transportation form for grades 3-5. Parents of elementary students will receive copies of the form in September. Additional copies may be obtained, if needed. Parents are requested to complete a copy of the form each time there is a change in their child's normal transportation plans. Students should present the completed form to their teacher upon entering the classroom.

For PreK - 2nd grade: An adult or an older sibling (6th grade and up) must be visibly present.

For grades 3-5: Students must have access to their home.

If changes in transportation plans need to be made, please call the attendance office at 315-824-6300 or 6301 no later than 12:00 Noon.

PLEASE NOTE: As per New York State Law, parents who wish to request alternate transportation routes, for the purposes of child care, MUST do so before April 1st of the preceding year.



HEALTH INFORMATION

School Nurse: Meg Parfitt • 315-824-6340 or mparfitt@hamiltoncentral.org

Medication in School

All medications, including over-the-counter drugs, must be submitted to the school nurse by a parent or guardian. Medications will be administered only with written authorization from both a physician and the parent. New medication permission forms are required for each school year.

Health Records

Please inform us of any changes in your child's health status that might impact their school performance. Submit proof of any new immunizations to the school. Ensure that emergency contact information, including names, numbers, and places of employment, is up-to-date in your child's records.

Physical Exams

Physical exams are required for students in PreK, kindergarten, first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth, and eleventh grades. These exams will be conducted in early fall by our school physician. If you prefer that your family physician conduct the exam, please obtain the necessary forms from the school nurse.



Notification of Teacher Qualifications

In accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act, parents are entitled to information regarding the professional qualification of their child's classroom teacher. You may receive information by contacting the district office. The information will include:

- whether the teacher has met NYS certification requirements for the grade levels and subject areas in which he/she provides instruction;
- whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional conditions by which NYS certification requirements have been waived;
- the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree; and
- whether the child is provided services by teacher assistants and, if so, their qualifications.

Dignity for All Students Act

The Dignity for All Students act, or DASA, was enacted by the New York State Assembly and went into effect in 2012. It protects students in New York public schools from harassment, discrimination and bullying by other students or school employees. It provided that no student shall be subjected to discrimination based on his or her actual or perceived race, color, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, weight, sexual orientation, sexual identity, or sex. DASA was amended in July 2013 to include Cyberbullying, which is defined as harassment or bullying by any form of electronic communication, and includes incidents occurring off school property that create, or would foreseeably create, a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment. DASA explicitly states that bullying, taunting, and intimidation on these protected grounds are all forms of harassment.

Dignity Act Coordinators: Mr. Christopher Rogers as the District-wide, Mr. Mark Arquiett and Ms. Heather Thomas as the Building-wide DASA Coordinators

FERPA: Access to Student Records

Release of Student Directory Information: This notice is to inform parents or eligible students of their right to refuse the release of student directory information and indicates a time period for their response. Following such public notice and a reasonable response period, the District may release such information to an outside group without individual consent. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) defines student directory information as the following: name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height (if members of athletic teams), degrees and awards received, and the name of the educational agency or institution previously attended by the student. If any parent would like to request such directory information NOT be released for the child, such request shall be filed, in writing, with the principal of the school having the record with a copy sent to the Superintendent

Consent for Use of Photographs/Videos

Throughout the school year, photographs or videos of students may be taken for use in district-produced publications, videos, websites, social media, or by news media. If you do not wish for your child to be photographed or recorded, please provide written notification to the school principal and send a copy to the Superintendent.

District Policies

All district policies can be found on the district website but these are required policies that are to be noted in a mailing. Please take a minute to view them on the website.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| #6401 – Drug Free Workplace | #5400 – Internet Safety |
| #1014 – Code of Conduct | #5430 – Data Security Breach |
| #4330 – Investments | #5662 – School Food Service
Program & Meal Charge |
| #4510 – Purchasing | |

Accommodation Of Hearing-Impaired Parents

The District provides parents of, and persons in parental relation, District-enrolled students many opportunities to participate in their child's educational program. If the parent, or person in parental relation, is hearing impaired, the District provides interpreter services (American Sign Language) to facilitate that person's participation in school-initiated meetings or activities specific to the academic or disciplinary aspects of the student's educational program. This service is provided at no cost to the parent, or person in parental relation. If an interpreter is not available, the District will make other reasonable accommodation of the hearing impairment, such as written communication, transcripts, decoder, or Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD), also at no cost to the parent or person in parental relation.



Pesticide Notification:

New York State law requires schools and BOCES to 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 would like to be included on the School District Notification List, please contact the Business Office at 315-824-6372. You will then receive advance notification of any pesticide applications covered by these requirements, except in the case of emergency applications made in response to a public health threat.

Fire Inspection Report Policy

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for 2024 of structures within the Hamilton Central School District for fire hazards which might endanger the lives of students, teachers, and employees therein has been completed.

Structures inspected include all buildings owned by the district. The report is available for review by all interested persons at the District Office.

Use of School Facilities

Organizations wishing to use school district facilities must obtain a Building Use Form from the main office. Depending on the activity, a certificate of insurance may be required. A cleaner must be on duty during the use of the facilities. Groups may incur a fee based on the date, time, and nature of the event. Please plan and submit your application well in advance of the desired date.

Note that the building is not available for use on holidays, snow days, Sundays, or other special days.

Code of Conduct:

The Hamilton Central School District is committed to providing a safe and orderly learning environment in which students may receive quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

The Board of Education has adopted a district Code of Conduct. The code applies to all students, school personnel, parents and other visitors when on Hamilton Central School District property or attending a school's function. The Code of Conduct policy can be found on our website at www.hamiltoncentral.org as well as all other required annual policies.

Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters:

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.

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 submit their request, in writing, to the secondary principal's office.

Emergency Dismissal, Delay, or Closure:

If it should be necessary to close school before the usual time, it is important for your child to know what to do. This is especially important if both parents work and there is no one to look after your child if there is an early dismissal. Please discuss this possibility with your child. All after-school activities are canceled when school is dismissed early.

In the event of inclement weather, mechanical breakdown, or other unexpected situations, school may be closed or delayed. Notifications of such changes will be announced via television and our Global Connect phone call system. Please ensure your contact information is current with the District.

Asbestos Public Notification

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986, all buildings of the Hamilton Central School District have been inspected for asbestos containing building materials (ACBM). The original inspection and the 2021 triennial reinspection report that identify the location of ACBM, the management plan detailing how the district is managing the asbestos materials and the semi annual surveillance reports are available in the business office at the middle/ high school. If you have any questions, please contact our Head of Buildings and Grounds at 315-824-6342.



Hamilton Central School

West Kendrick Avenue
Hamilton, NY 13346

"A Professional Learning Community"

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Hamilton, NY
13346

School opens
for students
on Thursday,
September 5th

*****ECRWSEDDM*****
Postal Customer OR PO Box Holder
Hamilton, NY 13346



TAX LEVY

At the July Board of Education meeting, the tax levy in the amount of \$8,704,579 was approved for 2024-2025. This amount was the same as projected last spring in the proposed budget, and subsequently approved by the voters. It represents a 4.0% increase over last year's levy. The tax rates for individual district residents will vary depending upon any changes in assessments or equalization rates, within a particular township. School tax bills will be mailed at the end of August. If you do not receive your tax bill by the second week of September, please call (315) 824-6315 or access the website noted below.

TAX BILL INFORMATION

Tax information is available to the public through Info-Tax Look Up. To access past and current tax information, visit www.infotaxonline.com, scroll down to Hamilton Central, and enter your last name to retrieve your bill. Alternatively, you can visit our website at www.hamiltoncentral.org, click on the "District" tab, select "Tax Info", and then click on "Access Your Tax Info" on the left-hand side. From there, you can view and print your tax bill, check when your payment has been posted, and print out a receipt.

PLEASE NOTE...

2024-2025 SCHOOL TAX BILL COLLECTION

Please note that the phone number, location and in-person collection hours are as follows:

Phone Number: 315-824-6315

Email Address: dkirley@hamiltoncentral.org

Location: HCS Entrance Lobby

In-person Collection Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon and Thursday 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

NO IN-PERSON COLLECTION HOURS ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH

Special hours for in-person collection will be held on Monday, September 30th (last day to pay without penalty) from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The above information will also be noted on your tax bill.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATES 2024-2025

Thursday, September 12, 2024 • Wednesday, October 9, 2024 • Thursday, November 14, 2024
Thursday, December 12, 2024 • Thursday, January 9, 2025 • Thursday, February 13, 2025
Thursday, March 13, 2025 • Wednesday, April 16, 2025 • Tuesday, May 13, 2025
Tuesday, May 20, 2025 (Vote and Meeting) • Thursday, June 12, 2025

The meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) in the Dave McKay Board of Education Room/Large Group Instruction Room. The LGI is located at the south side of the high school on the 1st floor. Meetings will be in-person and will continue to be held virtually, as well.

DIRECT PHONE NUMBERS

Superintendent/District Office.....	824-6310	Athletic Director	824-6320
Secondary Principal/Main Office/Purchasing	824-6320	Transportation Department	824-6392
Elementary Office	824-6330	Maintenance Department	824-6342
Business Manager	824-6372	Special Education Department	824-6350
District Treasurer	824-6370	Cafeteria	824-6382
Technology Department	824-6388	Receptionist/Attendance/Main Entrance	824-6300
HS/MS Counseling Office	824-6327	Tax Collector	824-6315
School Nurse	824-6340		