



HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

END-OF-YEAR REPORT 2026

Learning and Growing Together



Way to Go!

We reduced Chronic Absenteeism by 17% and increase our Average Daily Attendance to 92%

Strategy 1: Healthy Habits

Assessed Need

Last year **only 63%** of students reported they felt awake and ready to learn at school. **43%** of students reported struggling to come to school because they felt tired and the Average Daily Attendance was **below 90%** for the past three years.



We Heard You

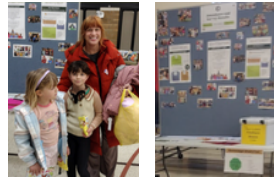
At our Resource Fair, Families requested resources on **Nighttime and Morning Routines** to help their child start the school day feeling refreshed and ready to learn.

Collaboration

Thank you to our School Counselor and Family Engagement Coach for developing the schedules!



Thank you to the 12 volunteers from Viterbo University who laminated, cut, and adhered velcro to the routine schedules!



And a **HUGE Thank You** to the Families & Students who used the schedules!



Takeaway

Over 75 children received Nighttime and Morning Routines.

Strategy 2: Mindfulness

Assessed Need

Four years ago, the most common reason Hamilton students missed school was **No Call/No Show or No Reason Given**. Last year, those types of absences had **decreased by 56%**.



We Heard You

Families shared that life's challenges such as illness, transportation, housing, etc. can get in the way of attending school. Families also shared that there was some **confusion about reporting absences**.

Collaboration

The first week of school, every student received an **Attendance Tracker**, practiced using it at school and took it home to use.

The trackers provide clarity on how and when to report absences and is an easy way for students to track their own attendance.

Good Attendance is smart!

Did You Know?
The better your child's attendance is, the more likely they are to:

- develop healthy friendships
- have positive self-esteem
- develop more skills for life
- earn good grades
- graduate high school
- enjoy their adult career

IF your child will be absent:

- Please call the school office at **608-789-7695** before 8am.
- Turn in doctor's notes to the office if seen for illness. (Medical Excuses from providers do not count towards the "10" absences.)

Planned Absence

- Request a Pre-Approval Form from the Principal and return completed form to the office before the planned absence.

School Year Absences

- 1st Absence
- 2nd Absence
- 3rd Absence
- 4th Absence
- 5th Absence
- 6th Absence
- 7th Absence
- 8th Absence
- 9th Absence
- 10th Absence

For Attendance Policy and Information:
WWW.LACROSSESCHOOLS.ORG

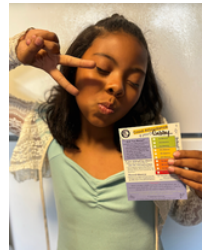
****Reminder****
When a student misses more than 10% of the school year or has 10 or more absences, we'll reach out to schedule a meeting to discuss how we can support regular attendance.

Families are encouraged to reach out sooner if they need support or anticipate challenges with attendance.

If absences continue, a truancy referral may be submitted to the court.

Takeaway

When we know why students are missing school, our School Social Worker and Pupil Services Team partner with families to identify obstacles to attendance and **we can work together to solve those challenges**.



One parent reported that she was unsure whether or not her child was truly sick many mornings, but couldn't be sure. The family was provided a **digital thermometer, along with supports and encouragement** for the times when it was difficult to get going in the morning. This family's attendance continued to strengthen over the year.

Strategy 3: Care and Connection



We Heard You

Families praised our intentions regarding student wellbeing and requested even **more or clearer communication**.

Collaboration

Regular personal contact and support throughout the school year with families was a huge focus of Teachers and Staff this year. Ranging from Parent Square messages, phone calls, notes home to conversations at pick-up or drop off as well as home visits.



Takeaways

The first day of school our Social Worker did three home visits to check on students who hadn't made it to school yet. Each student had a barrier to attending school that day and with the help of our Social Worker the families were able to overcome the barriers.

All students our Social Worker visited made it to school that day!

52% of attendance outreach calls resulted in students arriving at school later that same day. Typically arriving within **34 minutes** of contact.

School & Family Engagement

91%

91% of Hamilton Family Members engaged with school through one of the following events: PTO, Family Night, Donut Miss Morning Meeting, Conferences, Graduation, and Snack & Storytime.

100%

100% of Families surveyed said they would attend another **Snack & Storytime** and **Donut Miss Morning Meeting** events in their child's classroom!

We Heard You

At Hamilton, families consistently highlight **Family Nights, School Events,** and **Communication** as school strengths. **Families also share that they are ready for even more involvement** in school activities and **more updates** on their child's well-being. Staff identified Family Engagement as a top area of growth. Staff also requested coaching on ways to embrace families in welcoming and respectful ways.



Our Strategy: Family Engagement Coach

In response to feedback from Families and Staff, Hamilton created a new role focused on **strengthening connections, communication, and collaboration among Teachers, Staff, Students, and Families.** Jenn Speckeen shined in this role by helping to build understanding and solutions together, supporting families with at-home academic resources, and leading a variety of Teacher-Family communication and engagement opportunities.



New School & Family Collaboration Efforts this Year

School and Family Communication



Event Flyers in Spanish



Video Invites to Events

Student Wellness Updates & Encouragement

Willow: "Mrs. Fread tells me that when I say, "I can't do it," that I should say "I can't do it YET. And that the magical YET will help me."

Dad: "Wow. Wow, WOW! Thank you for inspiring Willow, we are blessed with your presence in our Lives." -James

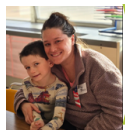
Families invited to join MORE School Day Assemblies & Events



Grade-Level Engagement

Donut Miss Morning Meeting

Families of similar grade levels enjoyed breakfast together, connected with one another, and then join their child's classroom for Morning Meeting.



Snack & Storytime was a special time for Family Members to join their child in the classroom for a learning experience.

- "Seeing my kids face light up when he saw me there!"
- "I loved being apart of her morning meeting. Seeing her interact and do school things at school is comforting to me and also a joy!:"
- "Seeing where my kids friends come from and the coffee, not going to lie. :)"



- "It was so neat to see all of the kids learn so much together."
- "I loved how everyone was involved and got to participate."
- "Seeing my child in a school setting, was like a peak into her life when I am not around."
- "I liked the classroom setting and watching the kids read."
- "Connecting with other parents."



Home Libraries ~ "Literacy is the great equalizer and unifier." ~ Scholastic Books



"How to Eat a Mango" for Hispanic Heritage Month

Trunk or Treat Booth with assorted levels of books for all students



Elephant and Piggie books from Delta Kappa Gamma



"What if Everybody Did That?" (4th&5th)

Elephant and Piggie "I Will Take a Nap" (K)



"The Pigeon Needs a Bath" (1st)

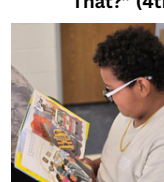


"The Day You Begin" (2nd)

"Meet the Mini Mammals" (3rd)



Meg Flemming Books from Author Day



- Other Books Sent Home:**
- Books recieved at Open House
 - School Leadership book delivery in conjunction with Chick-fil-A (K/1)
 - End of Year Book for all grades

Family Nights

Based on family feedback from last year, we rotated **Family Nights** between Tuesdays and Thursdays. This year our average monthly attendance was **261** family members —an increase of **40** participants per month.

Next Year

- New students will be offered an Attendance Tracker as well as Nighttime and Morning Routine Schedules
- We will continue to expand our family engagement efforts while incorporating the feedback from the survey into next years events.
- We will continue to seek your input and increase communication efforts.

Your Voice Matters

We want to hear from you! If you would like to learn more, ask questions, share your insights, or volunteer please contact Jon Zinniel, Hamilton Community Schools Coordinator at 608-789-5092 or zinniel@lacrossesd.org.