

## **From the Desk of Mrs. McGraw**



Superintendent's Quarterly Report

December, 2021

The midpoint of the 2021-2022 school year is approaching quickly and time seems to be flying by. The student body at Hamilton R-2 continues to remain extremely busy as things are winding down for the first semester. Thank you, families and community members, for your awesome support ensuring the school year is off to a great start. Providing transportation to practices, attending events, helping with homework, and providing moral support are all key ingredients to the success of your child.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize our fall sports/activity participants and sponsors/coaches for their outstanding achievements. Congratulations to the Penney High School marching band for placing 1st in Class 2 at the NWMSU Marching Band Competition and for placing 1st at the Chillicothe Holiday Parade Marching Band Competition. Congratulations to the Penney High School Cheer Squad for placing 5th at the regional competition to secure a spot for state competition on December 11th; good luck at the state competition! Congratulations to the following members of the Penney High School Cross Country team for advancing to the state cross country meet: Ryan McIntosh, Kortney Whitherow, and Hayden Krentz. Congratulations to the Middle School Football team for going 6 & 0 for their second consecutive year. Congratulations to the Penney High School Varsity Football team for winning the district title, Class 1 District 7 Champs, and for a great season with a record of 9-4. Many of our fall sports teams were pretty young this year and I am excited to see these teams grow together in future years.

A new edition to the district website, [www.hamilton.k12.mo.us](http://www.hamilton.k12.mo.us), includes our district and building report cards. These report cards can be found under the Central Office link by clicking on "Important Forms & Information." While MAP and EOC test scores were not used as an indicator on these report cards due to the pandemic, the information from the report cards is useful in determining the strengths and areas of improvement for our district. If you get a chance, please take a look at the report cards to learn more about Hamilton R-2. Our district continues to maintain full accreditation. Last year we served 617 students with a Free/Reduced Lunch percentage of 46.9% district wide. Our overall proportional attendance rate last year was 85.8%; the pandemic has had a significant impact on attendance and we appreciate all that parents are doing to get healthy students to school each day. Our students' average ACT composite score is 22.20 compared to the state average of 20.90. Our four year

graduation rate is 95.12% which is fantastic in comparison to Missouri's rate of 89.20%. Finally, 59.5% of our staff members hold advanced degrees.

As cases of COVID 19 have seen an increase in our area over the last few weeks, please be reminded of the practices that are included in our Safe Return to School Plan (SRCSP). The SRCSP can be found in its entirety on the district website, [www.hamilton.k12.mo.us](http://www.hamilton.k12.mo.us). On 11/17/21 the FACE COVERINGS portion of the plan was updated to reflect the following: *Face coverings are mandatory at Hamilton Middle School and Penney High School for all staff and students when social distancing of at least 6 feet for periods over 15 minutes cannot be maintained. Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own face coverings from home. Face coverings will be provided when necessary.* To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our schools, please keep students at home if they exhibit two or more symptoms related to COVID-19. Please keep students at home when anyone in the household is being tested for COVID-19 due to exhibiting symptoms. Thank you for encouraging your children to follow safe respiratory practices.

Winter weather is approaching; please review handbooks for information concerning weather cancellation procedures for the district. One of the best ways to stay informed of weather related changes is to sign up for Text Caster by visiting the district website; Text Caster can be found about halfway down the homepage on the right side. As always, we hope to avoid missing school due to weather, but the safety of our students and staff is our top priority and we will take appropriate action if we feel like conditions are too dangerous to attend school. The following could be scenarios in which the school day is changed due to weather; 1) A two-hour delayed start may be called if the weather conditions could improve by mid-morning. 2) An early out could be called if conditions may deteriorate by later in the school day. 3) A traditional weather day may be called if conditions could not improve during the day. 4) Virtual learning days may be used if the forecast calls for multiple weather days that would prevent us from attending school. For weather related changes, please watch your Text Caster, visit the district website, tune in to channels 4, 5, 9, or 41 or listen to local radio stations. You can also remain updated by following the Hamilton R-2 School District Facebook page.

School will be dismissed for Christmas Break at 1:00 pm on December 22nd and will resume on January 5, 2022. On behalf of the school district, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you again for your continuous support of the school district. If I can be of assistance in any way, please feel free to call me at 816-583-2134.

Sincerely,

Billie McGraw  
Superintendent of Schools  
Hamilton R-2 School District