

HAMILTON HEIGHTS *School Corporation*

Administration Office, P.O. Box 469 Arcadia, IN 46030 • Telephone: (317) 984-3538 • Fax: (317) 984-3042

Dear Parents,

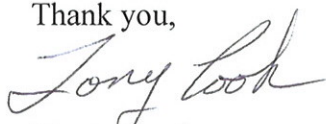
To provide needed staff development time for teachers to learn instructional techniques and to enhance lessons and assessment practices, a new bi-weekly professional staff development program will be initiated in the 2011-12 school calendar. The School Board and principals support our plan that calls for students to be dismissed and bused home approximately one hour early every other Wednesday. The plan calls for dismissing the secondary students at 2:01 p.m. and the elementary schools at 2:50. The afternoon dismissal was chosen so that parents would not have to adjust and arrange morning child sitting services and also to allow the high school/middle school students to be available to supervise younger students.

Teachers will be introduced to scientifically researched “best teaching practices” and learning strategies. They will gather student data and analyze student assessments as well as plan and make adjustments to lessons in order to enhance and be more successful with whole group and individualized instruction for your child. Several surrounding schools have been successfully implementing a similar professional development plan for several years, and they have all indicated that, once experienced by community, staff, and students, it has gone very well, and has definitely improved school effectiveness and performance.

Other reasons for this plan include: teachers will not be taken out of classrooms as often for training and workshops off-site, needed training and collaboration will be conducted at the school sites with special trainers arranged as needed, thereby reducing the frequency need for substitute teachers.

The past few years the state completely cut out our in-service support monies at the same time our staff has been asked to do more instructional skills training, student data analysis, and joint assessments (formative throughout the year). We believe that providing more frequent, timely feedback to students and parents will result in improved student learning and achievement. The success of these efforts will be measurable in numerous ways, including improved achievement on high-stakes state tests. This program change will allow our staff to be more effective and efficient while “working on the work during the day.” Teachers are learning to be more scientific in their approach to finding out what students know, and how students learn best. We will post a calendar on our website that will designate these days, and each building will send out bi-weekly reminders to parents and students. Please support us in this endeavor; we promise you it will be used wisely to improve instructional delivery and student success.

Thank you,



Tony Cook

Superintendent

Hamilton Heights School Corporation

Anthony J. Cook – Superintendent
Peggy D. Jackson – Associate Superintendent
Kimberly Luckey – Special Education Coordinator
Heather Elliott - District Literacy & Curriculum Coordinator
Kathy Alexander – Registrar/Student Services

Kristin McCarty – Treasurer
Cathy Pickett – Deputy Treasurer
Kathy Godby – Purchasing/Acct. Pay.
Camille Bill – Food Service Dir. & LHLC Dir.
Patty Brockett - Secretary