



Hamilton STEM Academy
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Mission: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.

“We are reminded that, in the fleeting time we have on this Earth, what matters is not wealth, or status, or power, or fame, but rather how well we have loved and what small part we have played in making the lives of other people better.”

-Barack Obama

August 7, 2024

Dear Hamilton Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year!

We are happy to welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year! This school year brings more excitement with our **new playground** to go along with last year’s **complete renovation** of Hamilton STEM Academy! We hope these changes will foster an even greater climate of success for our students and engage our families and community partners to further our District’s mission. Please join us for our ice cream social on **August 20, 2024, from 4:00-5:00pm**. Families will have an opportunity to tour the building and **meet the teaching staff**.

We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that to be successful in school, our children need support from the home and school. On behalf of the staff at Hamilton, we will be working with you and your child/children on the following goals:

- **Improving our academics in the areas of Reading and Math for all students**
- **Working to increase our daily attendance rate for every grade**
- **Building a positive climate and culture surrounding our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports).**

We invite you all to take on an active role in your student’s educational experience as we strive for continuous improvement. Hamilton has a **Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)**, and we welcome your participation! This year, we are looking forward to engaging our families

within our Hamilton School community so that we can **develop collaborative, successful partnerships** which will support our students in and out of school! We expect all our staff, students, and families to create an effective **two-way communication** system between school and home so that we can maximize the resources and support available to our Hamilton families!

Hamilton STEM Academy is a **Title One school which strongly encourages *Parent Involvement***. We will discuss the requirements and services at upcoming PTO meetings. We are excited about working with you on improving Hamilton, and better preparing our children for the 21st Century. We are always looking for ways to improve and build so that **Together Everyone Achieves More!**

The district mission statement, "**Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community**" is the driving force behind our work.

The Hamilton Hawk family will have some fresh faces within the building that you will see often! Teachers joining our staff this year include Noelle Klein-Art, Alecia Dennis- 5th Grade, Sarah Wadsworth- 6th Grade, Chelsea Moore- OSU Family Coordinator, and Rachel Ostrander-Instrumental Music.

School begins for students in grades 1-6 on Wednesday, August 21, 2024. These students will follow a regular schedule from **8:45-3:30**. For the **kindergarten students**, orientation information and schedules will be mailed separately. It is especially important for students to arrive at school ***ON TIME daily***, so that our children will develop **lifelong skills of punctuality and promptness**. Our students' attendance is crucial to our ability to educate and help establish our school environment to support academic excellence.

Your student's bus schedule is on the parent portal. If you need to change or add emergency contact information, you can change the information on the parent portal. The Lunch Program will begin on the first day of school, **Wednesday, August 21, 2024**.

Breakfast and Lunch is FREE for all students this year. Milk is \$.50 each per day if purchased separately. The **breakfast program** starts at **8:45 on Wednesday, August 21, 2024**. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day!

PRE-K/KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION Schedule: Information will be in a separate mailing

UNIFORM POLICY: Hamilton is a uniform school (see attachment with specific details). The **uniform policy will be enforced up to and including being sent home**.

It is particularly important for students to **arrive at school ON TIME daily**, so that our children will develop lifelong skills of punctuality and promptness. Attendance is crucial for our ability to educate and help establish our school environment to support academic excellence.

The Columbus City School District does not discriminate based upon sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, ancestry, familial status or military status with regard to admission, access, treatment or employment. This policy is applicable in all district programs and activities.

Ohio schools are expected to notify the court about students who have multiple unexcused absences and all students' attendance will be monitored very closely. Early dismissals also count against student absences as now absences are calculated by hours, as opposed to days! Research shows a strong correlation between consistent attendance and academic success.

The instructional school day is 9:00-3:30. It is essential that every child is at school on time (8:45 for breakfast) and stays until the end of the day (3:30) so that crucial teaching and learning time is not missed. If students are not in their classrooms at 9:00, they will be marked tardy! If you need to pick up your child early, please call the office prior to 2:30 so that preparations can be made for dismissal. Pick up/transportation requests may not be honored after 3:00, and students will need to remain in school until 3:30 dismissal.

On the first day of school each child will receive a **STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK**. Parents are asked to read the **HANDBOOK** along with their child, discuss it, and keep it available for use throughout the year. The School Calendar is listed on the back of the **HANDBOOK**.

On **Tuesday, August 20, 2024**, we will have a **Parent Information** meeting at **3:00 P.M.** on Zoom-<https://ccsoh-us.zoom.us/j/2183225509>: (Title I information and academic updates) followed by an **ice-cream social from 4:00-5:00pm** to welcome our families. We genuinely want to encourage each of you to continue to be involved in your child's education!

Throughout the school year, if you have questions, please contact the main office. It is our goal to maximize the instructional school day, and we would prefer to meet prior to the start of the school day or after dismissal. **If you would like to attend a conference with the administrative team or teachers, please call in advance so that arrangements can be made for a time that is conducive for all.** We value your concerns and feedback and want to be able to dedicate time to **work in collaboration for success.** Our school secretaries, **Dr. Wright**, our Assistant Principal, and I will be happy to assist you!

It is my hope that we can work together to nurture our children so they may reach their highest potential. Enjoy the rest of your summer. Please do not hesitate to contact me. My door is always open. Feel free to reach me at CBrady537@columbus.k12.oh.us or **(614) 365-5568**.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher E. Brady

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Principal



**HAMILTON
STEM ACADEMY**