



# OUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL REFLECTION

# APRIL

## Introduction to the Reflection

In February 2023 we created our first monthly Community School Reflection for Hamilton to:

- Celebrate the successes and activities of the past month
- Provide updates on future events and
- Share what the Community Schools Leadership Team has learned

We posted the reflection around the building and on the Hamilton website. Starting with April we plan to also send the reflection to families and community partners.



## Bal-A-Vis-X (BAVX)

Bal-A-Vis-X is a set of exercises that incorporates balance, as well as auditory and visual input. They progress from simple to complex and are beneficial to coordination and attention skills. The basis of the exercises is rhythm.

Collaborated with Barb Oettel to secure grants (Project Aware) to pay for BAVX training for Hamilton staff next September.

Barb O. has been at Hamilton introducing BAVX to students with Jenn Specken and Barb Wettstein.



# La Crosse Public Education Foundation Grants Awarded

Gold Star Grants are selected for funding based on creativity, the ability to engage students, and the total impact or reach of the project throughout the district.

## Period Project

\$950 for the purchase of reusable period underwear and wet bags for female students in grades 3-5 at Hamilton/SOTA I. Gundersen is providing a Human Growth & Development lesson to 4th and 5th graders on May 16th & 22nd.

## S.M.A.R.T. Training

\$9,065 Provides S.M.A.R.T. training and tool kits for regular and Special Ed teachers across the district in Early Childhood through 1st grade. Recipients: Lindsey Shay, Michelle Powell, Barbara Oettel, Nicole Kuecker, Hannah DeYoung.

## Small Business Career Paths

\$1,000 for students and teachers at Hamilton/SOTA I to learn cookie and cake decorating, connected to small business career paths, advertising and art history.

## Interactive Reflection Projects

\$603 Based on the reading of the book, Brown Girl Dreaming, 5th grade students district-wide will create individual interactive reflection projects that explore identity.

## Phonemic Awareness

\$580 To create a library of activities to promote phonemic awareness for all grades at Hamilton/SOTA I. Recipient: Jenn Speckeen.



# Our Community Schools Leadership Team met on April 11th

## We reviewed what separates a community school from other schools.

Many schools aim to meet the day-to-day needs of students. At Hamilton, we intentionally engage with staff, students, families, community members, and partners to understand needs and strengths. Together, through shared leadership, we develop strategic interventions to meet immediate needs and cultivate transformational change.

## We did a review of Behavior Data from Hamilton and here are some of our key follow-up questions:

### Key Questions:

- Do we see any correlations between attendance, incidents, and academics?
- How are multi-family/high-density households represented in this data and what supports and services will help?
- Can we compare this data to previous years to see trends?
- How many students are out of the walking range of Hamilton?
- What can we do for 3rd graders and their families?
- Is student attendance affected by how they arrive to Hamilton?

### Next Steps:

Refine our focus statement, dive more into the data and continue to look into root causes.



NEA - What is a Community School? [link](#):



Bridges Church donated many snacks, school supplies, and games from the staff's wish list. They plan to continue to do this throughout the year.

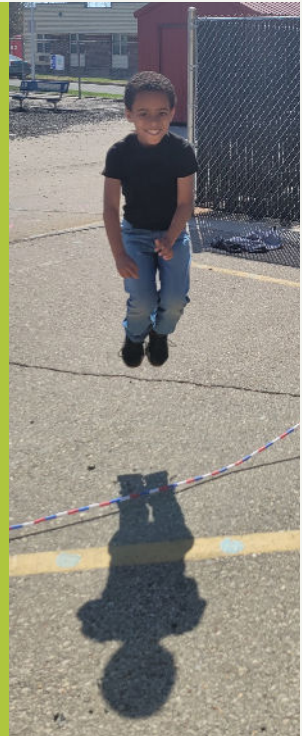


## Adopt-A-Classroom

Gundersen will continue giving money for Hamilton classroom use next year.

## Hamilton was awarded the 2023-24 "Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant"

- The grant will fund "Sail to Success", a new, targeted, after-school program for kindergarten-second graders in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club (BGC).
- Key enhancements include hiring additional after school staff to work with Teachers to provide targeted, after-school instruction and educational activities that align with weekly lessons at the BGC.
- The learning plans will include academics, social-emotional learning and physical activity for students attending BGC at Hamilton.



## Upcoming Events

Looking ahead, Gundersen Mentors/Mentee Special Breakfast will be on Tue, May 23rd.

We are excited to announce 5th Grade Graduation will be Thursday, June 1st from 11:55am - 2pm. Special lunch with ceremony at 1pm.



Our kindergarten through second-grade students were fantastic cheerleaders for their older peers during Forward Testing. They made encouraging notes and delivered fueling snacks to the testing students' classrooms.

# OTHER APRIL EVENTS & PROJECTS

## Food Pantries and Bags

- Gundersen continues to deliver food from food drives.
- Julie Berg with Citizens State Bank has started collecting and delivering food for our pantries as well.



## Cubs Scouts

Collaborated with GateWay Area Scouts and BGC to bring Cub Scouts back to Hamilton. Pack 111 started on April 18th and meets on Tuesdays at 4:30pm in the library enriching the lives of 25 students in grades kindergarten-second.



April Family Night - Rock N' Recess with Music in Motion.

170 attended in total



## Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration Grants Approved

All three (Student, Staff and Family) grants have been approved for the 2023/2024 school year.



## Soccer Camp

Viterbo Women's Soccer Team held a Soccer Camp for Hamilton/SOTA I (2nd - 5th grade) on April 27 & 28. 32 students attended and had fun.



Attention:  
May Family Night - Bike Rodeo  
- May 18th

Special Event Application has been approved (Closing down the 700 block of Adams St.) and working out the final details now.



## The Hawk's Nest has opened at Hamilton

A space for co-regulation, teaching of social emotional learning skills, executive functioning skills and psycho-teaching around school success including sleep hygiene, rhythm and educational success.

We utilize Evidenced Based supports based on the work of Ross Greene, Bruce Perry and other pioneers to provide structure to students and staff.

When students arrive for support, either by asking for a moment or by a teacher request, they use the Zones Tap in and Tap out to increase emotional vocabulary and then increase their coping skill tool set.

We provide 1:1 co-regulation, group work, specific small group instruction and practice.

Using Collaborative Problem solving we help remove barriers and increase student learning skills.

In our Hawk's nest you will find sensory tools, yoga mats, breathing cues, Bal-A-Vis-X tools, SEL stories, social stories and a caring adult who will come alongside our students.



Our Success Coach works collaboratively with classroom teachers and parents to create success plans for students.



## "Your Voice Matters"

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