

Hamilton PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Hamilton School District #3 • 217 Daly Avenue • Hamilton, Montana 59840-2827

To our Hamilton Community:

As September 8th fast approaches, and we all- school board members, administration, teachers, secretaries, counselors, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria workers, coaches, advisors, and parents- approach this school year with trepidation and more unknowns than in any other time in our lives. It's difficult. It's stressful. For all of us. There is no pandemic blueprint for any of us to lean on when making decisions. We, as a board, all have children in the school. We love this community. We care deeply about it. We all volunteer within the school and the community. We love our children, just as every parent loves their own child. Our decisions regarding the upcoming school year did not come easily and involve difficult logistics unlike any other school year. We anchored our decisions in three goals: provide students, teachers and staff with the safest possible environment, get students back to school with their peers and their teachers so they can thrive, and provide a quality education in these unprecedented times.

So now that difficult decisions have been made in states and communities across the country, each decision supported by many and opposed by many, we are all asking the same question. What is the best way forward for our children?

As a board we are thrilled and overwhelmed by the energy and flexibility of our teachers. They, like all parents in the district, are nervous- but they are eager. They are eager to welcome your kids back into their lives with open arms, eager to help your kids navigate the difficult waters of the new school year midst the pandemic, eager to help your kids navigate the curriculum, and eager to help you students navigate the difficult waters of life.

Back to the driving question: what is the best way forward for our children? One clear answer is to support your child's teacher. We are all stressed out. We are all frustrated. We are all hurting. We are all worried. Our teachers simply want to help to the best of their ability. Whether you believe we, as a board, made the right decision or the wrong decision, it will be our teachers who are on the frontline, with our children. Our children will be looking to them for guidance. They will do everything within their power to show your child love, compassion, and creativity while facing the unknown. Support them. Encourage them. Embrace them.

Beyond the teaching staff, support each and every employee at the school. The administration, counselors, the paraprofessionals, the secretaries, the bus drivers, the cafeteria workers, custodians, coaches did not set forth the guidelines and the requirements for the year. Please don't take out your stress and frustration on them. Allow them to do what they do, open their hearts to your children with a smile, and with hope, in the face of fear.

We are a community, a group of diverse people with different opinions, and different beliefs. Yet we all share the same goal with regards to our children: love them, protect them, do whatever we can to help them flourish. In the face of the unknown of this school year, let's surround our children and our school with positive energy, with hope, with perseverance. Let's teach our children that with a positive attitude and courage, we can weather any storm. Let's come together, as a community, and embrace and support those who will be working with our children in these strangest of times.

Sincerely,

Patrick Hanley, Drew Blankenbaker, Tim Campbell, Jeni Seifert, Rebekah Stamp, Heidi Apedaile and Seth Gale Wyrick – Hamilton School District #3 School Board




OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
217 DALY AVENUE
P: 406.363.2280
F: 406.363.1843



HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL
327 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
P: 406.375.6060
F: 406.375.6076



HAMILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
209 SOUTH 5TH STREET
P: 406.363.2121
F: 406.363.7032



DALY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
208 DALY AVENUE
P: 406.363.2122
F: 406.363.6494

WASHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
225 NORTH 5TH STREET
P: 406.363.2144
F: 406.363.7420

