

March 5, 2018

Greetings Hamilton Families,

I hope this finds you and your family having a productive and meaningful third trimester of our school year. I have enjoyed seeing many of you recently at the Chromebook distribution events. I am specifically writing to ask for your partnership as we ramp up our studies this Spring as a Hamilton community. We must all work together so our scholars can reach their college goals.

**I have met with each grade-level and issued our scholars a “Huskies Get Ready for College Challenge.”** In my assemblies, I asked our scholars to choose a college, a career, and even a high school. My goal was for our scholars to connect their future goals with their current studies at Hamilton. It was exciting to see that nearly 25 percent of our scholars chose Harvard, with a huge majority in Colorado universities! We then discussed the academic rigor of advanced high school and college classes, practiced several SAT questions, and then looked at scholarship options that are determined in their junior year of high school. Finally, we reviewed where our scholars are in their tested achievement, specifically in preparing for CMAS.

As of the most recent practice test for CMAS, less than 50 percent of our scholars are “test-ready” for CMAS literacy, while less than 35 percent in Math. This is an urgent call to action to prepare for the CMAS! The final practice test for CMAS is this week, March 5-9. As such at the end of January, I issued our scholars a “Get Ready for College” challenge. For the past month, I have been counting:

*The # of positive office referrals + # students who master the weekly math and literacy standards + # Hamily Reads points = Grade Level College Readiness Points*

The top-scoring grade-level at the end of the challenge will earn a field trip to a college (most probably CU Boulder) to tour the campus and observe classes and also eat at the food court, like a college student. Additionally, the top-scoring grade-level will earn their choice of a faculty vs. student soccer match, talent show, or additional social. But the biggest prize will be getting ready for their incredible college and career futures!

Every night, each scholar should be reading on Myon or DPS Overdrive (linked on our website) for at least 30 minutes and studying on Khan Academy (math). Moreover, scholars should be improving their typing by practicing on [typingclub.com](http://typingclub.com). Much of their standardized test performance can be linked to their typing speed!

Additionally, it is imperative that scholars are on-time to school and to each class. Please speak with your scholar about the importance of being on-time and in attendance. On a school accountability level, we were meeting our goal but have now fallen below the DPS attendance goal, in large part because of morning tardies. Please do your part and help Hamilton catch back up!

I look forward to seeing our scholars jump to great academic heights! Let’s do this as a community! Get Ready for College, Huskies!

Christian Sawyer, Ed.D.

Principal