

Hamilton Wings
giving our children the wings to soar

February 2022
Monthly Newsletter

A Message from our Executive Director

Hamilton Wings is proud to celebrate and amplify the diverse, creative voices that make up our community!

Take a look and listen to two segments with the Hamilton Wings' Executive Director in celebration of Black History & Heritage Month.



From 2022: [Open Book: Black Excellence - Gail Borden Public Library District - Elgin, Illinois](#)

From 2021: <https://youtu.be/Zr8JPzsDMdU>

Thank you for giving our children the wings to soar!



Risé D. Jones, Ph.D.,
Executive Director,
Hamilton Wings

"[Hamilton Wings] I'm Just Sayin' means a lot to me.

Like for example, it taught me to be more perseverant. It helped me be more confident.

When I started this program, I was being motivated a lot to be more confident.

In this program, we showed a lot of teamwork. We had to work with each other a lot and support each other. I'm Just Sayin' involved a lot of hard working skills - you always have to work hard.

It taught me to believe in myself and be myself.



I became more brave[r] to what I choose to do or have to do.

Sometimes I had hard times, but they worked out to a good outcome."

~ A Quote from One of Hamilton Wings' School-Based Program Participants

Featured Board Member, Murna Hansemann

Murna Hansemann is a Certified Home Economist and taught in School District U-46 for over 30 years. She was supervisor for Streamwood High School's "Silver Spoon," the exemplary student-run lunch restaurant. Murna was President of Family and Consumer Sciences for Northern Illinois. She was awarded the State of Illinois Home Economics Teacher of the Year Award in 1987 and was a national finalist for the Teacher of the Year. She was named Member of the Year by the Restaurant Women's Club of Chicago in 1988-89. In 1992, she was runner-up in the Home Baking Association's Search for America's Most Outstanding Home Economics Teacher. For many years she was a national judge for the Home Economics Teacher of the Year Award which receives entries from all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Mrs. Hansemann was a nutritional consultant for the Nutrition for the Elderly of Kane County and was featured on CNN's "On the Menu." She was a state officer for the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and has been a delegate and presenter to its national conventions. In addition to being an adviser to the award-winning culinary arts program at Elgin Community College, she was active on Elgin YWCA's Board of Directors and serves in leadership roles on several YWCA committees. She has been active with the Elgin Symphony League, Friends of Judson, Illinois Vocational Association and the Chicago Accordion Club. She was named 1996 Woman of the Year by Altrusa International Club of Elgin.



Murna received local, regional, and national recognition not only in the field of Family and Consumer Sciences, but also in the field of music. For her years of musical service, Mrs. Hansemann is an honorary member of the Salvation Army. She plays six instruments and has traveled across North America to play piano for inspirational, religious concerts. Murna started playing the piano and accordion at an early age. The accordion was played for street services and local radio broadcasts. She played the Soprano Saxophone in school and then switched to Bassoon in 8th grade. She played the violin throughout high school in the high school orchestra. At the University of Minnesota she played Bassoon in the Concert Band Ensemble and also played with the Gilunbarido Orchestra. She spent two summers in college years playing piano and organ with the Lutheran Highway Ambassadors for Christ Evangelistic Association. Now she is an accompanist for several local artists.

Murna Hansemann is a VIRAL SENSATION!

Check out the viral video of her playing at the Mayo Clinic (MN): https://youtu.be/g_ovRmQPZdM





Hamilton Wings promotes leadership and learning through the arts. We believe that the arts are transformative. Hamilton Wings offers an array of innovative and impactful, developmentally appropriate programs for youth ages 5-18 and their families.



Our motto is ***“giving children the wings to soar”!***

Young people and their families are engaged in effective, hands-on arts-based curricula. Through art and creative expression, Hamilton Wings’ youth:

- find their voice,
- develop important school and life skills,
- take responsibility for their learning and leadership, and
- contribute to the world around them!



Feature Program: Art SPACE

Art SPACE is a fun and engaging program for students in grades 3-6 at Highland School. The “SPACE” of Art SPACE stands for Space, Purpose, Agency, Creativity, and Energy, and the program is designed to support young people’s healthy development of identity, sense of belonging and perceptions of efficacy through creative exploration of the arts.

Prior to their participation, students receive their very own, jam-packed ART SUPPLY TOTE containing all the materials they will need to complete the creative activities.

Diverse artists and authors, such as Favianna Rodriguez, Bisa Butler, Sandra Cisneros, Kehinde Wiley, Rafael López, and Jacqueline Woodson, provide the inspiration for our young artist/leaders to take off in original mask making, painting, puppetry, and so much more!



Principal Steve Johnson along with Mrs. Figueroa and Mr. Trujillo receive the Art SPACE packets for distribution.



“My favorite moments of ArtSPACE at Highland Elementary have been when students share their reflections after learning more about a new artist and their story.

We have had insightful conversations about immigration, representation, and perseverance. Our students are wise beyond their years. And of course, they are also fun and talented artists!”

Ms. Aida Palma is the co-Facilitator for Art SPACE and an alumna of Hamilton Wings’ programs including the 2004-2005 SCORE!, Students Creating Opera to Reinforce Education.





Don't PEEK!

On the day of the Art SPACE Student Showcase, families receive take-home CELEBRATION PACKS that they are instructed not to open until party time. Oh, the anticipation!!! (Shh-shh-shh...these packs are filled will all kinds of goodies including certificates of participation, silly string, streamers and much more!

Hamilton Wings is always so grateful for the partnership of the Highland School Family in giving our children the wings to soar!

Sometimes...don't we all just need a little SPACE!?!



I just need some space...

Space...

Space...

Space...

Space...

Space...

Space...

Space...

S

P

A

C

E

To roam wild and free

A place just to be

To create and conceive

In hope to believe

To connect

To reflect and respect

Bigger than I know

Always room to grow

Self

Purpose

Agency

Create (Creative Expression)

Energy

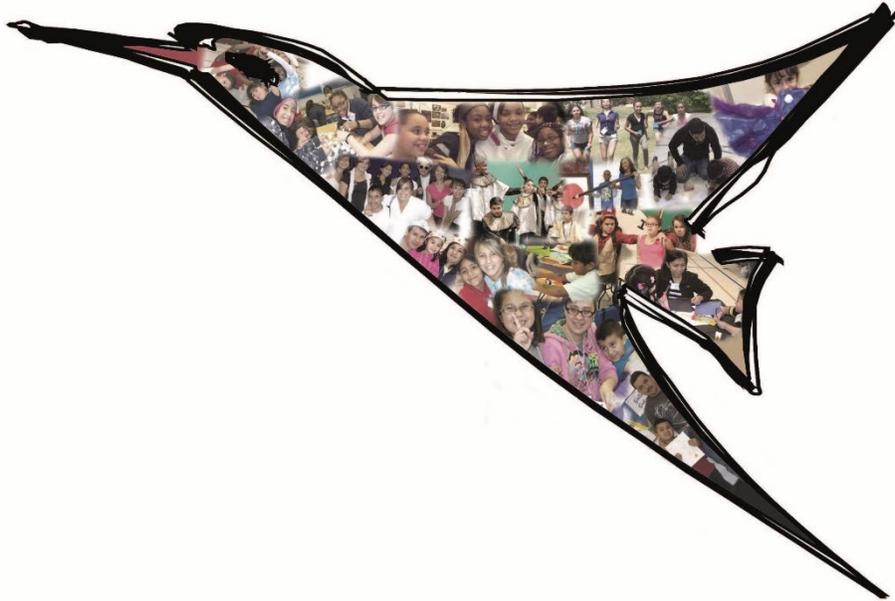
I just need some SPACE, Art SPACE!

Hamilton Wings is a nonprofit organization that promotes leadership, development, and academic readiness of socially and/or economically challenged children and families through the use of and access to the arts.

Click Here to Donate [Hamilton Wings: 25 Years of Hamilton Wings](#)

You, too, can give children the wings to soar. We are always appreciative of your generosity.

Celebrating 25 years of giving our children the wings to soar!



To learn more about Hamilton Wings or for more information

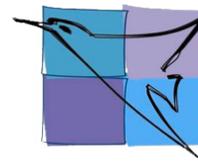
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