

Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools

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"A Tradition of Excellence"

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Superintendent's Message . . .

It is true that time moves swiftly as we reflect on the first nine weeks of the 2003-2004 school year. During this time students and staff have been immersed in the educational process and have reached many milestones. We will celebrate the accomplishments of the first grading period in this edition of the district newsletter by highlighting the interesting lessons occurring in our classrooms, championship athletic teams, award-winning music programs and our commitment to lifelong education and the community.

Yet, we will not rest on our laurels. Another year of testing for our students is just ahead, with preparations made daily in the classroom. The continued emphasis on the Upper Sandusky Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) provides an on-going opportunity for the faculty, staff, students and community to form a bond between our past and our future.

I ask that you, the community, be involved in your school system by the sharing of your time. Come and read to a child, share your expertise or help a student with math and/or reading skills. Recent statistics support the fact that the OhioReads Program has had a positive effect on test scores. We firmly believe this success is due to the large number of Ohio Reads volunteers, mentors and the dedication of our teachers!

Come and visit your school, volunteer some of your time in a classroom, attend an athletic contest, a drama production or a band and/or music concert. All of these programs are available to you through the Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools. The children will be glad you came . . . and so will you!

As always, thank you for your support. If I can assist you at any time, please contact me at (419) 294-2306 or at steve_p@treca.org.

In service to children,

Stephen W. Puchta
Superintendent

Mentoring

In cooperation with the OSU Extension Office, USEVS is sponsoring a mentoring program, in which at-risk students can get one-to-one attention on a consistent basis. If you are interested in being a mentor, please contact Liz Smith at the OSU Extension Office at (419) 294-4931.

SPECIAL EVENTS

October

- 6 South Fundraiser Begins
- Fire Prevention Week
- 7 MS Band Fundraiser
- 11 East Recycling
- 13 HS Band Greenery Sale
- National School Lunch Week
- East and Marseilles Book Fair Begins
- East Picture Day
- 14 South Picture Day
- Marseilles Picture Day
- 20 Drug Free Schools Week
- 23 Marching Band Concert 7:00 pm
- 24 End of 1st 9 weeks
- 25 Band Tag Day

November

- 6 **No School** - Parent/Teacher Conf. 8am-8pm
- 7 **No School** - Parent/Teacher Conf. 8-11:30am

- 7-8 Jr./Sr. Play 8:00 pm
- East Recycling
- 10 Poet Jack Prelutsky at Upper Sandusky Community Library, 6:00 pm
- 12 HS Winter Sports Pictures
- 22 Marseilles School Recycling, 8:30-10:30 am
- 26-28 **No School** - Happy Thanksgiving!

December

- 2 South Picture Retakes
- 4 South Christmas Program 7:00 pm with the HS, time TBA Grades 1, 2, 3
- 6 South Morning w/Santa
- 7 Christmas Parade, 4:30 pm
- 8 Union Christmas Prog, K, 1, 2, 7:00 pm
- 11 Marseilles Christmas Prog, K, 1, 2, 7:00 pm
- 13 East Recycling
- 14 HS Christmas Concert
- 15 MS Christmas Concert, 7 pm
- 22-Jan. 2, 2004 - **No School** - Merry Christmas!

Mission Statement: The mission of the Upper Sandusky Schools is to provide a safe, child-centered and developmentally appropriate environment where learning is a positive, exciting, and dynamic lifelong process.

High School Attendance

Students and parents are expected to follow the attendance policy to avoid attendance problems. Students are expected to be on time to school each day. Students will be allowed five (5) times tardy to school without penalty. A student who is tardy more than five times maybe assigned consequences.

Students are expected to be in attendance each day unless they have a valid reason to miss school. The following procedures must be followed should a student miss school.

1. Parents must phone the high school to report an absence.
2. A note must be turned into the office when the student returns.
3. A pre-planned absence form may be used to replace the phone call and note.

Students may be excused, with an excuse, from school up to nine days each semester. When a student misses ten (10) days, they will be denied credit. When a student has three or fewer absences, they may choose to be exempt from the semester exam.

To leave school, students must have parent's permission and sign out in the office before they leave school property.

Please review the attendance policy on pages 6-9 of the student handbook.



Students slide into the new school year with big smiles at the South building.

District Highlight

District Web Site -

<http://www.upp sandusky.k12.oh.us>

The district web site has been available to keep the community updated on the activities within the schools for seven years now. You can find it all here - lunch menus, board minutes, scores from last night's games and more. The web team of Penny Case, Cindy Constein, Nancy Sauer, Tom Ziegler and Tim Pohlman continue their efforts in providing the information you desire. If there is an item you wish to be added, please feel free to contact them. They are open to all suggestions and comments.

The secret of happiness is to make others believe they are the cause of it.
- Al Batt

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East, Marseilles, South & Union Elementary News



East School's new playground equipment.

South Says Thanks

South Elementary School thanks the Solid Waste Management and Recycling Center for the recycling grant they received. It will be used to add two spring seesaws and a bouncing ring to the playground. We also want to thank the Upper Sandusky Schools for paying for the installation of the new equipment and the South School Parent Team for

providing the stone for the safety surface. Our students will greatly enjoy the new equipment that is scheduled for installation (hopefully) by the end of October.

Marseilles Receives Dairy Grant

Marseilles Elementary School thanks the Marseilles School Boosters and the National Dairy Council for the dairy grant they received. It will be used for dairy-based treats (cheese, go-gurt, ice cream, etc.) for students achieving perfect attendance each nine weeks, proficiency week snacks, at open house and family nights, and the end of year ice cream party. In addition, updated nutrition posters and activities were purchased for teachers to use in their classrooms.

Our students think dairy treats are "moo-velous!"

East Welcomes Mrs. Lawrence

Greetings from East Elementary! My name is Mrs. Heather Lawrence and I am the new Kindergarten teacher at East Elementary School. I am a recent graduate of The Ohio State University and The University of Findlay. For the past two years I have been a substitute teacher for Upper Sandusky Schools. I have always lived in this community and I am very happy to have the opportunity to educate the children of my hometown.

The kindergarten students have been kicking the year off with several new and exciting activities. We are learning about apples and Johnny Appleseed. Some of our apple activities include: apple taste test to graph our favorite kinds of apples, making Johnny Appleseed puppets, a field trip to Lawrence Orchards and making our own applesauce.

East Promotes Children's Literature

East Elementary has been a Mazza School through The University of Findlay since 1995. We have supported the Maza Museum and brought authors and illustrators to our school. In 1995, we sponsored Eric Carle's "The Mixed-Up Chameleon." Author Michael J. Rosen came in 1996, Wendy Watson in 1998, Christopher Canyon in 2000, and Michael Dooling in 2002.

This year the renowned children's poet, Jack Prelutsky, will visit on Monday, November 10th. He has written poems for more than 40 books. He began his career in New York by

accident. He drew imaginary animals and added poems to the drawing as an afterthought. His editor liked the poems, but not his drawings!

Jack's advice for a young writer is "READ! READ! READ! and WRITE! WRITE! WRITE! Keep a notebook and write down things you see, hear and think about. Ideas disappear quickly unless you jot them down. When you have an idea for a poem or story, write down anything you can think of that has to do with that idea. Study your list and you'll start to see connections among certain items. If you are writing poetry, don't force rhymes. It's better to work on what you want to say and create a feeling for the poem than to try to make up things just to make the poem rhyme."

East has arranged for Prelutsky to stay and give a presentation at the Upper Sandusky Community Library at 6:00 p.m. on November 10th. The public is invited.

5th Graders Learning Keyboarding

The computer has become a powerful communication tool not only at school but in the home. Keyboarding is a 21st Century literacy skill that many believe needs to be taught at an early age. Students are being asked to write reports and publish stories in elementary school.

The 5th grade students in the Upper Sandusky School District are learning how to correctly use the computer keyboard. Emphasis is being placed on learning the correct posture, hand shape, and finger placement. The students are also learning the home row keys and the correct finger paths for each letter. East School students Matt Heidenreich and Emily Gillespie are pictured practicing their keyboarding lessons. The students at East are eager to learn and practice this skill. Each 5th grade classroom will have the mobile keyboarding lab for 5-6 weeks during the school year.



Practicing keyboarding.

Mrs. Hinesman's Third Grade at Union

The third graders and I are working very hard. We've been learning how to read maps in social studies and are studying plants in science. We like our new reading books, because the stories are fun and exciting. We've learned about antonyms, synonyms, statements, questions, and plural and singular nouns (just to name a few things) in language arts. Jan Cosner's writing wheel is helping us to become terrific writers.

Many parents and older student volunteers have started to come into our room for "Skills Rotation." Some of us work on the computer, some read a story and answer questions, another group plays language arts games, a few of us are being tutored, and Mrs. Hinesman has a reading conference with each of us individually. We would like to send a big THANK YOU to our helpers.

The third graders will be in charge of the "Bee Responsible" ACES assembly on October 3rd. These assemblies help all the students of Union Elementary become AWESOME CHILDREN, EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS.

We're looking forward to a fantastic year!

High School Events

High School News

We are off to another excellent start at the High School this year. Students have returned to school anxious to learn. Teachers are prepared and motivated. Our coaches and athletes are performing exceptionally well. The band is doing an excellent job. Our other student organizations such as FFA, FCCLA, Leo Club, Student Council, and others are active and working towards another successful year. Your support of all of our programs is greatly appreciated.

Conference Room: We have converted the old instrument storage room of the old music area into a conference room. This room will be used for IEP meetings, meetings with parents and teachers, meetings among teachers, and other special meetings. The room provides us with the ability to hold meetings in a quiet secluded environment without being cramped and crowded. The funds to furnish this room were donated from several of our recent graduate classes. Thanks alumni!

Fine Arts: In addition to performing at football games this fall, the band has performed at the Wyandot County Fair, and is participating in marching band contest on October 4th at Thomas Worthington High School.

Art students exhibited their projects at the fair. Art projects are often on display in the commons area at the High School. You are always welcome to visit the High School and view these projects. The Art Club and FEA are busy preparing crafts for the annual Music Boosters Craft Bazaar.

Concert: The Chamber Choir will present their annual Sacred Concert on November 16th at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The Upper Class will be performing on November 2nd with Tiffin University and will be inviting Old Fort High School and Mansfield's vocal jazz groups to join them for an evening performance in the High School auditorium.

News From The Athletic Department

The 2003 Upper Sandusky High School Fall Sports Season is well under way with all of our teams having fine seasons. They are now preparing for the last few weeks of the schedule and hoping to peak as they enter post-season play. We appreciate all the hard work of our athletes and coaches as they strive to continue the Upper Sandusky High School "Tradition of Excellence."

This year's Hall of Fame Night will be held Friday, October 17, prior to the Bellevue-Upper Sandusky Varsity Football Game. We are excited about adding Joelle Gottfried Clink, Janet Schilling Patton and Curt McMillan to this year's Hall of Fame Class. We are also proud to add the 1955 undefeated USHS Varsity Football Squad as the first "team" inducted into the Hall of Fame.

News from the High School Guidance Office

The PSAT (Pre SAT) test will be given to Juniors during the first four periods of the school day on October 21st. Sign up will begin the first week of October. The cost will be approximately \$11.00 per student. The PLAN (Pre ACT) test will be given to Sophomores on November 19th with the approximate cost being \$9.00 per student. Students should listen to announcements for details. The ACT will be given at the High School on Saturday, December 13th from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Proficiency tests will again be given starting October 27th. Students having to make up a test will be tested then.

A REMINDER TO PARENTS: Students who have not passed a portion of the proficiency test by the end of this school year will have to pass that portion of the OGT (sophomore test) starting next year. There are practice CD's available in the computer lab that students can take advantage of, as well as tutoring classes at the High School. Private tutoring has also helped students to pass. It is in the best interest of the student to do everything possible to pass the current proficiency test. Call the Guidance Office at (419) 294-2308 for information on tutors. Seniors will have two more chances to pass the test before graduation; one in March and one in May.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be November 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and November 7th from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. Beginning two weeks before conferences, parents can call the high school to schedule appointments with their child's teachers. Walk-ins are also welcome, but scheduled visits will have first priority. Have the teachers' names handy when calling to schedule your appointment time. Check the district web site at www.upsandusky.k12.oh.us for guidance on other dates.



Upper Sandusky High School has a new sign welcoming those to visit our building. Funding for the project was provided from the joint efforts of the 2002/2003 student councils. The project is intended to complement the proposed parking lot design.

Looking For Fast Forward Volunteers

Again this year, Union Elementary is utilizing a wonderful computer program in order to assist students who are having troubles in reading. The program, purchased with funds from an Ohio Reads grant, needs volunteers to help tutor students.

If you can help, please call Union at (419) 294-5721 and ask to speak with Jim Wheeler or Joyce King.

New Faces At Union

Union Elementary School lost several veteran teachers last year. There is always a concern when you lose good people. But rest assured, we found EXCELLENT replacements.

Angie Rossel is our new first grade teacher. Angie is a recent USHS graduate, coming to us from BGSU. She completed her student teaching at St. Michael's in Findlay, Ohio before serving as a substitute in our system last year. Angie is a loving, caring teacher who we are lucky to have on staff.

Nikki Phillips is one of our new fourth grade teachers. Nikki comes from Bluffton College, where she was active in numerous activities, including varsity tennis. She also comes highly recommended not only from Bluffton, but Lima Shawnee, where she completed her student teaching requirements.

Brad Kinnear is another new fourth grade teacher. Brad comes to us from Baldwin-Wallace College, where he was a member of the golf team. Brad completed his student teaching requirements in Cleveland City Schools and recently completed a long term sub assignment in the Clyde School system.



Marseilles Elementary's Open House

ACES

Once again Union Elementary students will be participating in ACES (Awesome Children Exceptional Students). Developed by teachers in 1999 and enhanced by 3rd grade teacher Amy Hinesman in 2002, ACES is a program that honors not only those students who achieve in the classroom, but also those who show a strong work ethic and exhibit strong character traits.

Four times during the year, students are selected to attend breakfast with the principal. They are selected based on the aforementioned traits. One time per month four students per class are honored by the principal and their teacher as they are "Caught Being Good."

Any time they are "caught" showing respect to someone, their name is placed in a drawing. Four names are chosen each month and prizes are awarded.

If you see a Union Elementary student, tell them to be on their best behavior and they could very well be an ace!

HarpBeat of America came and played Americana songs for East School students on Patriots' Day in remembrance of 9-11. Students and staff also wore red, white, and blue and enjoyed red, white, and blue popsicles.



Program sponsored by the EPA teaches the kids about electrical safety.

Middle School Happenings

Conferences

USMS will be conducting conferences, as well as the rest of the district, on November 6th and 7th. As was the case last year, teachers will be calling parents to schedule appointments. Teachers will make every attempt to see every parent who wants a conference on those two days.

Again this year, all middle school conferences will be held in teams, with parents again given the opportunity for "one stop shopping." Parents will see all teachers at one time.

Conferences will also be held in the same manner in 4th and 5th grade.

We will be making contact with parents within the next few weeks.

Union Middle School Homework Hotline Student & Parent Instructions

Beginning with the second semester, Union Middle School will be implementing a Homework Hotline. The Homework Hotline is a very valuable tool to students and parents to be used as a connection between school and home. The Hotline lists assignments due for the next day in each core subject listed by grade level. By following the instructions listed below, parents and students may check what assignments are due. This is very helpful when a student is absent or forgets to bring his assignment notebook home.

Here is all you need to do to access the homework hotline:

Call (419) 294-2307. When the auto attendant speaks, enter (from a touch tone phone) the four digit number for the grade you need as listed below.

Hang up when finished.

Grade 6 - 8206

Grade 7 - 8207

Grade 8 - 8208

Community Service Fair

On Friday, August 29th, USMS hosted a community service fair. Twenty-five community members visited the school and discussed the importance of service with our middle school students. It was a valuable experience for our children to see several dedicated adults, willing to serve their community. The faculty, administration and student body would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all those who assisted us.

Community Service Fair Participants

Keith Koehler	Robert Hiner
Lana Sakash	Terri Shinn
Jonathan Miller	Pat Althouse
Brenda Young	Jean Garner
Dan Reid	Jenni Miller
Leisha Elchert	Carolyn Frederick
Carol McPherson	Michelle Wingfield
Dana Schumaker	Chris Liningier
Wendy Reid	Tammy Clifford
Denny Krock	Jason Dezurik
Tom Bennett	Dan Miller
Chris Richman	Russell Lee

Again this year, all middle school students are asked to complete fifteen hours of community service. While service is not mandatory, students are eligible for various building incentives and a year end dance if they complete their hours.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Last Spring, USMS hosted a blood drive in conjunction with the Red Cross. It was so successful that the Red Cross has asked us to host another one.

This year's drive will be on Friday, April 16th from 2:00-7:00 p.m. in the USMS auditorium.

Middle School Spirit Bench

"Hey why are those kids on the sideline eating pizza?"

Of all the things you thought you'd hear at a middle school football game, did you think you'd ever hear that? This year you will. The *Spirit Bench* program is an idea several teachers and administrators picked up at the recent OMSA Conference from New Albany Middle School.

All middle school students are eligible and can participate by purchase tickets during lunch. Tickets cost one dime per ticket or an arm's length for \$1.00. A drawing is held on Friday before the game and the lucky winner gets to



This year USMS has the spirit bench.

We feel it is yet another program that helps us raise school spirit by enhancing attendance at middle school games. If the event is a success during football games, we will host more during the basketball season.

So those kids really **DO** have a reason for being there. C'mon out and support the USMS Rams!

Middle School Home Base Program

This year, USMS has implemented an advisory program called Home Base. The program is our unofficial ninth period, lasting from 2:17-2:45 p.m. Each middle school student is assigned to a teacher. There are between 20-25 students in each Home Base.

The idea behind Home Base is based on advisory programs that are commonplace in most middle schools. The USMS model was developed by the staff after visiting existing programs. Shelby and River Valley were very instrumental in our model.

Home Base makes the middle school feel smaller. Instead of being lost in a crowd of 450 students each day, students end their day with a familiar face in a non-traditional academic setting. It gives the student a friendly face to see without the academic pressure.

Each day is designed to ensure students are active in a structured activity, including:

Monday - Silent Sustained Reading

Everyone in the room (teachers included) must read from a non-textbook for the period.

Tuesday/Thursday - Intervention Day

These days are set aside so students can get one-on-one help in a subject. We will also utilize these periods for extra-curricular meetings such as Student Council and Rampages.

Wednesday - Community Service Day

A day set aside specifically to deal with community service. Students can get projects approved, find new ideas and turn projects in during this time. We will also be choosing class projects in which students can receive credit for participating in during the school day.

Friday - Issues Day

We feel students should have a forum to discuss what is happening in the world and ask questions. In a semi-structured environment, students will participate in the forum. Through September, we will be focusing on study skills and organizational skills.

New Faces At USMS

Due to some transfers, USMS has two new faces in the building.

Jason Zeller is our new 8th grade reading teacher. His teaching duties also include some elementary physical education. Jason is a recent graduate of BGSU and was a long term substitute in the Nordon City School System. Jason will assist us by coaching the 8th grade boys' basketball team.

Derek Kidwell is our new ED teacher, employed through the Seneca/Wyandot ESC. High school football fans in the district may remember Mr. Kidwell as Ohio's Mr. Football in 1991. Mr. Kidwell is currently the head football coach at Hopewell-Loudon High School.