

## SPECIAL EVENTS

<b>April 2004</b>		3	East Grandparents for Lunch Week - 10:30 a.m.
9-12	<b>NO SCHOOL - Spring Break</b>	3-7	East Book Fair
17	Marseilles Elementary 36 <sup>th</sup> Annual Chicken BBQ - 4:00-7:00 p.m.	4	High School Music Awards Program - 7:00 p.m.
19-23	Marseilles Right to Read Week	6	Athletic Boosters Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
23	Interim Reports	7-8	Upper Class Concert "Cabaret" - 8:00 p.m.
20	East Spring Program, 7:00 p.m.	8	East Recycling
27	Marseilles 3rd, 4th, & 5th Grade Spring Program - 7:00 p.m.	10	7th and 8th Grade Spring Concert - 7:00 p.m.
27	Union 3rd, 4th, & 5th Grade Spring Program - 7:00 p.m.	16	High School Spring Concert - 2:30 p.m.
29	South Spring Program - 7:00 p.m.	17	USHS Honors Program - 7:00 p.m.
30	State Band/Choir Contest	18	USMS Honors Program - 7:00 p.m.
<b>May 2004</b>		26	Last Day for Students
1	Jr./Sr. Prom - 8:00-11:00 p.m.	27	Teacher Work Day
3	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Musical & Band Concert - 7:00 p.m.	29	Marseilles Recycling
3	USS Kids Club Registration Begins	30	Graduation - 2:30 p.m.
		31	Memorial Day Parade - 10:00 a.m.

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**

### Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools

390 W. Walker St.  
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

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## Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools

390 W. Walker St.  
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

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[www.upper sandusky.k12.oh.us](http://www.upper sandusky.k12.oh.us)

*April 2004*

### Superintendent's Message . . .

Contained within this month's newsletter you will find the Annual Report, published each year to update the community on the academic and financial status of the school district. **Please note that the information contained in this year's report reflects data for the 2002-2003 school year.**

The focus of the Upper Sandusky Exempted Village School District is on the achievement of students. As our mission statement says, "We provide a safe, child-centered environment where learning is a positive, exciting and dynamic lifelong process." We are proud that our children continue to perform at high levels. For the second consecutive year, we received the state's second highest school district rating - "Effective." This reflects the hard work and accomplishments of our students, supported by well-qualified and committed staff, caring parents and community.


Our school district, as our community, is committed to continuous improvement. This commitment is reflected in the number of planning and improvement activities that occurred this past school year. The Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP), adopted by the Board of Education in 2000, is a working document that guides the district in every aspect of its performance. A planning team, which includes key staff and community members, reviewed the goals and performance indicators to keep the district on target and accountable. The updated CIP serves as a guide to educators, students and their families, and community members about the process of achieving and measuring improvements in the district's performance. It addresses changes in the district, educational events and state mandates since 1999, including the "No Child Left Behind" legislation signed by President Bush.

In the technology realm, a district committee designed a new technology plan that focuses on the achievement of children and is integrated into the curriculum. Technology skills are essential to compete in today's knowledge-based economy. The plan implements high standards of performance and provides support for each child, as well as staff members. The power of technology will be used to extend learning and to be more efficient and productive in management.

A staff committee completed comprehensive revisions of the reading/language arts course of study, which was adopted by the Board of Education for implementation in the 2003-2004 school year. New materials were purchased for students in grades K-6, providing new books, software and workbooks. Middle school and high school materials selection will continue into the 2003-2004 school year. New textbooks and software were also purchased in the areas of K-12 music and art. In addition, the math course of study was revised to bring it up-to-date with the new content standards.

Our commitment is to provide students a world-class education and to help each child achieve. Our goal as a district is to also be a good steward for the resources the community provides, and to use those resources in a responsible manner for the benefit of children. There is no limit to what can be accomplished when a community commits itself to the success of its young people. With your support of and participation in all the Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools, we will continue to strengthen our academic program, increase accountability and make real our mission.

As always, please feel free to share your thoughts with me by calling (419) 294-2306, writing me at 390 W. Walker Street or sending an e-mail to [steve\\_p@teca.org](mailto:steve_p@teca.org).

In service to our children,  
  
Stephen W. Puchta  
Superintendent of Schools

*Congratulations to the  
Graduating  
Class of 2004!*



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

# East, Marseilles, South & Union Elementary News

## Union Elementary Right To Read Week

The week of March 29, Union Elementary celebrated their annual Right to Read Week. This year's theme was *Books Have Super Powers*. The week began with a kick-off assembly and everyone was invited to dress as their favorite Super Hero. During the course of the week, we had several guests read classic children's literature over the PAsystem in the morning.

- Jim Wheeler

## Spring Musical "Lemonade"

Everybody has heard the phrase, "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade." The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes at East Elementary are learning this valuable lesson as it is the theme of their Spring musical, "Lemonade." It will be presented on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The students will be dressing as characters of some of our favorite nursery rhymes.

Speaking of nursery rhymes, the Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes will be "Gettin' Down with Mama Goose" as their part of the Spring program. They will be giving a new spin to "Wee Willie Winkie" and "Old King Cole" as well as several other nursery rhymes.

Whether it's going to football practice, shopping at the mall, watching cartoons or doing nothing at all, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will sing about great activities to do on a typical Saturday. Of course, "mom" has other ideas! This is all included in their portion of the Spring musical called "It's Saturday."

East School's 5<sup>th</sup> grade band students have been practicing very hard and will be making their debut performance. "Ode to Joy" and "Minuet in G" will be some of their selections. They are under the direction of Miss Miller.

To accommodate the many friends and relatives planning to watch the program, guests are invited to attend morning dress rehearsals on Monday, April 19 and Tuesday, April 20 at 9:00 a.m. This gives everyone an opportunity to watch these wonderful young people as they perform. Please come and enjoy!

-Robin Spoons

## What a Hoot!

Did you ever wonder what an owl pellet was? Maybe you know what they are, but have never ventured inside to see what was there. Do you know what kinds of owls there are in our world and their specific habitats? Might you be interested to know what an owl eats? How do owls see at night or how do they hunt?

These are just a few of the questions inquiring minds want to know at East. East 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have put on their rubber gloves to begin unraveling the mysteries. On Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, the students began a hands on adventure. Armed with forceps (tweezers), picks, and magnifying glasses, students meticulously began the process of taking apart an owl pellet.

This is painstaking work, but for junior scientists, the challenge was met with enthusiasm.

It was exciting to see students using their prior knowledge of the human skeleton to identify the bones that they found in their pellets. These wonderful discoveries brought about more questions about what kinds of prey were eaten by that particular owl. Was it a bird, vole, mole, shrew, or rat? We will be researching and gathering information from many resources to be able to answer all of our owl questions.

As information is gathered, we will be organizing this knowledge using charts, diagrams, and graphs, then writing reports of our findings. Along with these reports, students will be recreating owl habitats, using many different mediums to make likenesses of different types of owls. And, of course, what would a study be without the creation of an edible owl?

We have just begun but, oh, what fun learning can be! Please ask East 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to share with you the wonderful hoots and screeches of knowledge they have gained. Who knows? This might even get you to do some investigating.

- Marsha Barnes

## Oceans Away!

Mrs. Kitzler's language arts students have been adventuring through the oceans discovering rainbow-colored creatures. From yellow seahorses and blue polka-dotted octopuses to bright blue starfish, the animals have been the subject of reports, books, paintings and inspirational projects all designed to increase the reading and writing skills of the students. The students have spent nearly a month swimming through projects utilizing books, magazines and internet websites. Did you know that the father seahorse acts as the mother and carries the babies in his pouch? Did you know the blue whale's open mouth could swallow a bus? If you cut a starfish in half, each part will grow and you'll have two starfish. The coconut crab will climb a coconut tree and cut down the coconut to eat. Did you know that Jacques Cousteau invented the aqua-lung? Did you know that SCUBA stands for Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus?

These facts and many more appear on the walls of the second floor at Marseilles Elementary. Stop in to see us and view the creatures of the deep!

- Sue Kitzler



## DROP-OUTS

A total of 9 high school students dropped out of school during the 2002-03 school year.

## GRADUATION

In the class of 2003 there were 162 graduates. A total of 15% of the class of 2003 have enrolled in a two-year institution of higher learning. Forty-six percent of the class enrolled in a four-year institution of higher learning, while other graduates have entered the military or taken full-time jobs.

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## FINANCIAL DATA 2002-2003

### EXPENDITURES

Personal Services . . . . .	\$6,657,316.00
Benefits . . . . .	\$2, 321,833.00
Purchased Services . . . . .	\$1,055,568.00
Supplies. . . . .	\$495,912.00
Capital Outlay . . . . .	\$524,836.00
Debt Payments . . . . .	\$52,330.00
Internal Expenses. . . . .	\$343,231.00
All Other Expenses . . . . .	\$386,900.00

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES . . . . . \$11,837,926.00**

### REVENUE

State Foundation . . . . .	\$5,103,788.00
Real Property Taxes . . . . .	\$3,425,046.00
Personal Property Taxes . . . . .	\$1,302,750.00
Other State (Rollback & Homestead) . . . . .	\$402,872.00
Internal Income . . . . .	\$10,878.00
All Other Revenue . . . . .	\$513,361.00
Local Income Tax. . . . .	\$914,325.00

**TOTAL REVENUE . . . . . \$11,673,020.00**

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### **Mission Statement:**

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

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS**  
*(Students Residing in the School District)*

**Grade Levels**

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
2000-2001	127	119	113	133	118	133	116	136	152	199	214	184	159	1,903
2001-2002	117	124	118	112	132	119	149	137	136	166	218	206	185	1,919
2002-2003	109	114	123	117	111	133	133	176	137	149	182	210	207	1,901
2003-2004	106	107	113	122	116	112	149	157	176	150	164	175	211	1,858
2004-2005	103	104	106	112	121	117	125	176	157	192	165	158	175	1,811
2005-2006	101	101	103	105	111	122	131	148	176	172	211	159	158	1,798
2006-2007	98	99	100	102	104	112	137	155	148	192	189	203	159	1,798
2007-2008	96	96	98	99	101	104	125	162	155	162	211	182	204	1,795
2008-2009	93	94	96	97	98	101	116	148	162	169	178	203	182	1,737

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**2002-03 STAFF INFORMATION**

Teachers . . . . .	118
Guidance Counselors . . . . .	3
Librarians . . . . .	2
Aides . . . . .	15
Secretaries/Clerical . . . . .	8
Bus Drivers . . . . .	20
Food Service . . . . .	11
Custodians . . . . .	11
Maintenance/Mechanics . . . . .	2
Business Office . . . . .	5
Administrators/Officials . . . . .	13
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>208</b>

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**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

1. Completed a District Technology Plan.
2. Maintained State Report Card status at an Effective level, meeting 16 of 22 indicators.
3. Provided Summer Intervention Program for students in grades K-8.
4. Reviewed the District Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) to keep the district on target and accountable.
5. Revised and aligned the Reading/Language Arts Course of Study with state content standards.

**CHALLENGES**

1. Continuing to improve student proficiency and other test results.
2. Continuing to study and plan needed building renovations and improvements.
3. Continuing to expand and improve student intervention services.
4. Continuing to recruit and retain highly qualified staff.
5. Remaining current with legislative changes that impact the school district.
6. Continuing to study, plan and implement a Fiscal Management Plan for the school district.

**Online Activities!**

With summer just around the corner, how can you help your child to not suffer from the "summer slump"? The computer and games are very motivational for most students. These are wonderful and safe sites to keep your children learning and having fun all summer.

<http://www.starfall.com/> - This is a fabulous elementary reading website. There are fun interactive books to read right online - it will even read it to you!

<http://www.saxonpublishers.com/activities/index.jsp;sjsessionid=1F93F66F59B8F340D62463055BE30683> - This is the Saxon website. It has math and phonics activities by grade level for your child to do. It also has great parent information.

[http://www.scholastic.com/kids/home\\_flash.asp](http://www.scholastic.com/kids/home_flash.asp) - This is the Scholastic book website. It has all sorts of learning games and activities featuring Clifford the Big Red Dog, Dear America, Captain Underpants, Magic School Bus, I Spy, and more!

<http://www.edbydesign.com/kidsact.html> - This website has educational activities featuring numbers and puzzles, art, picture scrambles, writing and more.

[http://www.abcteach.com/directory/reading\\_comprehension/](http://www.abcteach.com/directory/reading_comprehension/) - This site has articles, set up by grade level, that can be printed for your child to practice reading. Many also come with simple comprehension questions.

<http://www.smic.be/smic5022/Onlineexercises.htm> - This site has online activities featuring vocabulary, grammar and comprehension.

<http://www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/elementary/palmasola/rcompindex1.htm> - This is a site full of parent information and online activities about rhyming, beginning and ending sounds, nouns, verbs, syllables, books and more.

<http://www.kidzone.ws/index.htm> - This site has lots of educational activities set up by category science, math, language arts, geography, animal facts, etc. It also includes printable worksheets and books.

<http://www.dositey.com/> - This site has math and language arts activities organized by grade level.

<http://www.cut-the-knot.org/games.shtml> - This site has all sorts of Java-based online math puzzles and games.

<http://www.mathplayground.com/> - This site has lots of fun math skills and logic games. It even includes geometry skills as well as word problems and more basic skills.

<http://www.gdbdp.com/multiflyer/> - Welcome to Multiflyer, a game for anyone who is trying to learn multiplication. As the pilot of a spaceship far in the future, you must save the solar system from gravitational anomalies while learning and memorizing the multiplication tables. You will need to have the free Flash 6 plugin to play this. - Laurie Vent

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Visits**

At USMS, we believe that the transition from 5<sup>th</sup> grade to the middle school is a mammoth undertaking. Students may feel a little anxiety about coming into a building this size.

The administration tries to do whatever is necessary to help with this transition. Once again, we will be hosting each 5<sup>th</sup> grade class (6<sup>th</sup> grade in St. Peter's case) throughout the district for lunch and a tour of the building. Administrators will also visit each 5<sup>th</sup> grade class to give a brief introductory speech about the building and the middle school concept.

Watch for information from your building principal.  
- Jim Wheeler

**Acrobatics!**

On Thursday, March 4th, students at Marseilles had the privilege of watching a performance by three acrobats from Peking, China. They are touring the country as they perform for school children around the United States. The students were amazed at the performers' dexterity and sense of balance. The performance was a good lead-in to the April Right to Read Week theme at Marseilles, which is "Reading Under the Big Top."

- Nancy Sauer



**Student Teachers at Marseilles**

Brooke Orians and Tyfanie Barth are completing their student teaching in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes at Marseilles. Brooke, who is working with Mrs. Ruhlen in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, is a 2000 graduate from Carey High School. She is the daughter of Mike and Sandy Orians. She is currently attending the University of Findlay, where she is a senior majoring in Early Childhood Education. After graduation in May, Brooke hopes to secure a teaching job at a nearby school.



Student teachers at Marseilles Elementary School - Tyfanie Barth & Brooke Orians

Tyfanie, who is working with Mr. Lortz in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, is a 2000 graduate of Upper Sandusky High School. She is the daughter of Rodger and Kay Barth. She is currently attending the University of Findlay where she is a senior majoring in Early Childhood Education. While at the university, she has played on the varsity tennis team. She is enjoying her experience at Marseilles and is looking forward to having her own class!  
- Nancy Sauer

**Economy Unit**

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes culminated their economy unit by creating their own businesses. Using their own investments, groups of students decided on a product to be produced. After buying supplies, production began and the room was full of jewelry, magnets, picture frames, bookmarks, musical instruments and brownies, to name a few. Next the groups had to advertise their goods through the use of two media. All groups made a television commercial, which we shared with the other classes at South School. Finally groups priced the goods to prepare for the big week of selling at the South School Mall. The younger students, using their math skills, purchased the goods. Through evaluations, the groups decided on how to improve profits for their businesses even though they were a big success. Their profit went towards a class pizza party. It was a great economic lesson for all the students at South!  
- Sandra Holly

## Middle School Happenings

### Pi Day!

Pi Day is celebrated on March 14 because pi ( $\pi$ ) is approximately equal to 3.14 and March 14 is 3/14. We celebrated in many ways at the Middle School. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders worked together to decorate the courtyard by hanging number and pi symbols in the trees. The two classes also worked together to make posters about pi. They chose something round to draw and then measured the circumference and diameter and divided. They found that they always got a number close to 3.14. All four grade level math teachers held competitions in their classrooms to see who could memorize the most digits of pi. From the classroom winners, we then held a competition between the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades on Friday March 12<sup>th</sup> during an assembly. It was exciting as the students cheered on their classmates to see who could recite the most digits! Each of the 19 contestants received McDonald's coupons. East of Chicago Pizza donated the prizes for the top three winners. Seventh grader, Nichole Simonis, was the third place winner, reciting 72 digits and receiving a \$5 coupon. Chad Kramer, also a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, was second place, reciting 81 digits and receiving a \$10 coupon. Eighth grader, Jonathan Curtis, was the first place winner reciting 122 digits! He received a \$15 coupon. If you are interested in looking at pi a little closer, divide 22 by 7 and see what you get! It will take awhile. Then see how many you can memorize!

- Sharon Calvin

### Blood Drive

Last year, USMS hosted its first Red Cross Blood Drive. It was so successful they asked us to have another. This year's drive is April 16<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00-7:00 p.m. in the Union Gymnasium. If you wish to help, please call the school at (419) 294-5721.

- Jim Wheeler

### Math Counts

Once again, our Math Counts team did us proud. Led by 8<sup>th</sup> grade algebra teacher, Sharon Calvin, they participated at Findlay Glenwood in March, placing second. Individual award winners included Jared Barth (1<sup>st</sup> place) and Ben Baaske (2<sup>nd</sup> place).

- Sharon Calvin

### Ohio Middle School Conference

Upper Sandusky Middle School has once again been honored by the Ohio Middle School Association by being asked to speak at the annual OMSA Conference in Columbus.

This year, USMS is responsible for three breakout sessions. On Thursday, April 29, Principal Jim Wheeler will be presenting on the topic of incentive programs to enhance the middle school concept. On the same day, Carol McPherson will be presenting on using the internet as a teaching tool.

On Friday, Wheeler and McPherson will be joined by teachers Buffy Reinhart and Carol Minehart to present Our Story: The Transition of Our Building from a Junior High to a Middle School.

- Jim Wheeler

### Relay For Life

Upper Sandusky Middle School is proud of its participation in Relay for Life. Over the past several years, USMS has raised in excess of \$15,000 toward the cause. This year, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students have undertaken Relay for Life as their community service project.

If you are interested in assisting or donating to the cause, please contact the school at (419) 294-5721.

- Carol McPherson

### Spelling Bee

The annual district Spelling Bee was held on February 11. Union's Kaylina Schnieder won the contest, while St. Peter's student Ira Kuenzli placed second.

Congratulations to all who participated. Kaylina won the honor of participating in the state competition, held Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at The Ohio State University.

- Deb Norris

### Annie!

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders will present "Annie" on Monday, May 3, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Auditorium. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade band will also perform at this time.

Following is the cast of characters for "Annie":

Annie - Lauren Miller  
 The Orphans - Kaylina Schneider, Jessica Hamm, Kyla Frey, Samantha Brunty  
 Molly - Taelor Bricely  
 Pepper - Jordan Karg  
 Duffy - Courtney Collins  
 Kate - Riley McQuown  
 Tessie - Hayley Searls  
 July - Morgan Kennedy  
 Miss Hannigan - Hannah Reile  
 Bundles McCloskey - Ben Bennett  
 Apple Seller - Corianne Schultz  
 Dogcatcher - Curtis Long  
 Lt. Ward - Nick Haubert  
 Grace Farrell - Lynzi Daughenbaugh  
 Drake - Tim Giles  
 Cecille - Emily England  
 Annette - Tosha Fox  
 Mrs. Greer - Shandi Johnson  
 Mrs. Pugh - Nicole Haubert  
 Oliver Warbucks - Jevon Cheney  
 Star-to-Be - Ashely Hines  
 Usherette - Kara Schilling  
 Radio Announcer - Tim Giles  
 Rooster Hannigan - Dylan Lohr  
 Lily St. Regis - Chae Emerine  
 Sound Effects Man - Curtis Long  
 Bert Healy - Nick Haubert  
 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt - Ben Bennett  
 Louis Howe - Tyler Clark  
 Policeman - Nick Haubert  
 Maids - Kayla Griffin, Jill Stanbery, Tia Sines, Samantha O'Neil, Morgan Myers, Chelsea McGuire, Adelee Ekleberry, Miranda Bailey  
 NYC residents - Tyler Clark, all maids, Ben Bennett, Curtis Long, Tim Giles, Corianne Schulz, and Nick Haubert

- Robin Spoons/Denise Stull

## TESTING

### STATE PROFICIENCY TEST RESULTS 2002-2003

#### Ohio 4th Grade Proficiency Test Results

	Writing % Passed	Reading % Passed	Math % Passed	Science % Passed	Citizenship % Passed
East	63.6%	86.4%	77.3%	86.4%	90.9%
Marseilles	70.6%	82.4%	82.4%	64.7%	88.2%
South	93.8%	62.5%	81.3%	62.5%	81.3%
Union Elem. School	66.1%	72.6%	85.5%	74.2%	74.2%
District	66.1%	72.6%	85.5%	74.2%	80.3%
State Requirement	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%

#### Ohio 6th Grade Proficiency Test Results

	Writing % Passed	Reading % Passed	Math % Passed	Science % Passed	Citizenship % Passed
Union M.S.	86.9%	66.9%	70.0%	75.4%	73.8%
State Requirement	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%

#### Ohio 9th Grade Proficiency Test Results

	Writing % Passed	Reading % Passed	Math % Passed	Science % Passed	Citizenship % Passed
1997-98	97%	97%	77%	90%	87%
1998-99	80%	80%	63%	78%	83%
1999-00	89%	96%	75%	86%	87%
2000-01	98%	99%	72%	89%	88%
2001-02	91.0%	93.6%	80.6%	85.2%	90.3%
2002-03	87.7%	89.1%	82.6%	81.2%	86.2%
State Requirement	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%

#### American College Test (ACT) - Upper Sandusky

Years	English	Math	Reading	Science Reasoning	Composite
1997-98	21.1	21.1	21.7	21.8	21.6
1998-99	20.1	20.1	20.6	21.4	20.7
1999-00	21.0	20.7	22.3	21.9	21.6
2000-01	23.6	22.8	23.6	24.0	23.6
2001-02	22.0	22.9	23.7	23.0	23.1
2002-03	22.2	22.6	22.5	23.1	22.7

#### American College Test (ACT) - Ohio

Years	English	Math	Reading	Science Reasoning	Composite
1997-98	20.7	21.2	21.8	21.5	21.4
1998-99	20.8	21.1	21.9	21.4	21.4
1999-00	20.7	21.2	21.9	21.4	21.4
2000-01	21.8	22.3	22.8	22.4	22.5
2001-02	21.7	22.3	22.9	22.4	22.4
2002-03	21.7	22.2	22.7	22.3	22.4

#### American College Test (ACT) - National

Years	English	Math	Reading	Science Reasoning	Composite
1997-98	20.4	20.8	21.4	21.1	21.0
1998-99	20.5	20.7	21.4	21.0	21.0
1999-00	20.5	20.7	21.4	21.0	21.0
2000-01	21.5	21.7	22.2	21.8	21.9
2001-02	21.4	21.6	22.2	21.7	21.8
2002-03	21.4	21.6	22.2	21.7	21.8

# 2002-2003 ANNUAL REPORT

## BOARD of EDUCATION MESSAGE

"Academic Excellence" and "Fiscal Responsibility" are both a tradition and a reputation we are proud to continue in the Upper Sandusky Exempted Village School District. Once again, our students have performed at the second highest level in the state, continuing to make us one of the better school districts in Ohio. This is an achievement that is the direct result of the strong parental involvement in our schools, our excellent professional and support staff and the Upper Sandusky taxpayers' willingness to support our mission of high academic success for all students.

Financing of school districts is difficult at best, but by prioritizing our needs, making conservative projections and carefully controlling our expenditures, we have ended this past year on a solid financial note. However, changes in state aid means we will be unable to extend our operating money past the year 2005, two years less than we had originally planned.

We, as a Board, are committed to excellence in education and protecting the taxpayers' dollars. We thank the Upper Sandusky community for the trust and support they continue to give us.

**John Loverich**  
Board President

### BOARD of EDUCATION

Chris Bruynis . . . . . 15242 TR 108 . . . . . (419) 294-3385  
 Russell Lee . . . . . 375 W. Wyandot Ave. . . . . (419) 294-1721  
 Dr. Betty Lok (V. President) . . . . . 8470 County Rd. 47. . . . . (419) 294-0832  
 John Loverich (President) . . . . . 10193 State Rt. 53W . . . . . (419) 294-4781  
 Deb Rellinger. . . . . 8857 County Rd. 38. . . . . (419) 294-5352

**The Board meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.  
in the Upper Sandusky High School Library.**

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## UPPER SANDUSKY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Upper Sandusky High School offers over seventy courses to prepare students for employment or to attend a two - four year institution of higher learning after graduation. Junior and senior students may attend Sentinel Joint Vocational or Tri-Rivers Vocational School. Senior students enrolled in the Tech Prep program can take business/computer, engineering and health tech courses at Marion Technical College. In addition, high school students have the opportunity to earn college level credits through post secondary offerings taught at the high school by Ohio State University professors. Union Middle School provides a modified middle school program with offerings in the areas of unified arts and vocational home economics. Upper Sandusky elementary schools offer traditional self-contained classrooms at Union, East and Marseilles, with a multi-age program at South. Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools offer evaluation for all children with suspected disabilities, birth through age 21, and education for all children with disabilities ages three through 21 years. If you know a child who is suspected of having a disability, contact your local school.

<u>School/Telephone</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Grade Levels</u>	<u>Number Students</u>	<u>Free-Reduced Lunch</u>
<b>High School</b> (419) 294-2308	800 N. Sandusky Ave.	9-12	640	47
<b>Middle School</b> (419) 294-5721	390 W. Walker St.	6 - 8	455	83
<b>East</b> (419) 294-2396	401 N. Third St.	K-5	136	20
<b>Marseilles</b> (419) 294-6787 or (740) 499-2511	20151 Broadway St.	K-5	116	54
<b>South</b> (419) 294-2304	444 S. Eighth St.	K-5	107	33
<b>Union</b> (419) 294-5721	390 W. Walker St.	K-5	341	84

## Highs School Events

### USHS Athletic Department Report

The 2003-2004 school year at Upper Sandusky High School has proved to be extremely successful for our Athletic Department. After the fall and winter sports seasons, USHS has produced three NOL Championship Teams. With varsity football and varsity girls' tennis winning NOL titles this fall, our Lady Ram varsity basketball team is the latest USHS squad to capture a NOL crown. Coach Andra Bell's team won this year's NOL title outright with a fine 12-2 record in league play and an excellent 20-3 overall mark. The Lady Rams advanced all the way to the district finals before losing to a talented Lexington team.

The Spring sports season is currently under way with all of our teams looking forward to fine seasons. Baseball, softball, boys' tennis, and boys' and girls' track take center stage as they strive to compete for NOL titles. Our coaches and athletes have been working hard to represent USHS on the playing field this spring. Please come out and support all our teams!

The 2004 Swankhouse Invitational highlights the track season with eight teams competing on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at the USHS Athletic Complex. This invitational will feature Celina, Maumee, Oak Harbor, River Valley, Kenton, Mohawk, Carey and the host, Upper Sandusky High School.

The USHS Athletic Department is proud of the accomplishments of all our athletes and coaches. They continue to represent our school with "class" on and off the playing field. They strive daily to carry on the fine "tradition of excellence" of Upper Sandusky High School Athletics.

- Brad Ehrman

### Local Science Fair Held

Spring is just around the corner and one of the sure signs is the Science Fair season. The Upper Sandusky Local Science Fair was held on March 11<sup>th</sup> and included 48 high school and middle school students presenting 44 projects. These projects represented the culmination of the months of work with dedication paying off when 26 projects earned superior ratings and then the opportunity to progress to the District Science Day on March 27<sup>th</sup> at OSU-Marion. Our high school students competed in the Marion Area Science and Engineering Fair to vie for two spots to the International Science and Engineering Fair to be held in Portland, Oregon.

A successful project must include both library and experimental research, a written report of both a visual display, and an oral presentation. They are evaluated on a 40 point rubric in the following areas: knowledge achieved, use of scientific method, originality and creativity, and clarity of expression. The students are asked to use many interdisciplinary skills such as library research, writing, graphing and math, art, and oral communication.

Beyond the competition, this process is important to all of our students because it gives them the opportunity to experience the scientific method firsthand. To ask questions about the world around them, do library research in an area related to those questions, and then formulate and test a hypothesis with an original experiment is what happens in the scientific community on a daily basis and is what leads to technology and discovery. In addition, the new state science standards require that students be able to "develop scientific habits of mind as they use the processes of scientific inquiry to ask valid questions and to gather and analyze information. They

understand how to develop hypotheses and make predictions. They are able to reflect on scientific practices as they develop plans of action to create and evaluate a variety of conclusions. Students are also able to demonstrate the ability to communicate their findings to others."

As with most endeavors in the educational process, the local Science Fair requires the support of many community entities. We appreciate our judges who give their time to evaluate our projects based on their own background and experiences. You will recognize many of this year's judges as they live and work locally: Heidi Vent, Scott Gier, Tammie Blum, Bill Clark, John Constien, Erin Falk, Laura Bacon, Kip Newell, Lisa Hawk, Isaac Orians, Diane Ritterspach, Marc Quinter, Janine McMillan, Rob McClure, Amy Hinesman, Bud Helge, Vic Koehler, Mark Dillon, Mark Johnson, David Fadley, Jeff Eier, Matt Newell, Corrina Waggy, Jason DeZurik, Lee Constien, Katy Wenger, Helen Rall, and Pete Gottfried. In addition, special award funds were provided by First Citizens National Bank, U.S. Kiwanis, Wyandot Soil and Water District, Wyandot County Solid Waste District, U.S. Rotary Club, Wyandot Memorial Hospital Health Foundation, Blackhawk Industries, and U.S. Lions Club. We appreciate your encouragement of our students' endeavors. Please stay tuned as we celebrate our students' successes at the district level.

- Teresa Harris

### High School Guidance

Testing is now completed at the high school. The first week of March, students having to pass any portion of the current 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Proficiency Test were assessed. During the second week of March, all freshmen were given an Off-Year Proficiency Test to give them practice in testing situations for next year. The freshmen were bussed to John Stewart United Methodist Church to be tested. We appreciate the church allowing us to use their facilities. Finally, during the third week of March, all sophomores were given the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) as part of a field test for the state. We appreciated the high school staffs' patience during testing.

Most seniors have now been accepted at various colleges and are getting scholarships and other financial affairs in order. On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, a presentation was given for those seniors who are going to college by "Making College Count," an extensive and practical way to build "winning characteristics" for success in college and beyond.

Sophomores should have applications submitted in to Mrs. Norman if they are signing up for programs at Sentinel. Schedule requests for next year should now be turned in at the high school. Post Secondary Options applications are coming in daily, and those students wishing to take college classes while in high school need to see Mrs. Hutton if you haven't already done so.

As always, parents may call the guidance counselors at the high school with any questions regarding their child and his/her education. The year will continue to move at a fast pace now, and graduation is near!

- Lisa Hutton

### Exploring Careers!

In April freshmen and sophomore classes will be exploring careers. Sophomores will receive and discuss the results of the Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery Test and the application to future careers. Freshmen will be given the Harrington-O-Shea Career Decision Making System. Both classes will be able to use the information they obtain to further understand the role of interests and abilities in career decision-making.

- Barb Norman

## High School Science Classes Learn Important of Weight Distribution

Students in Mr. Pohlman and Mrs. Will's science classes learned the value of construction design when considering weight distribution. Students were given 3 days to construct a bridge, made only of pasta and hot glue, which could balance the most weight without crumbling. Bridges had to span a 12" space between two concrete blocks and could not be longer than 24" or wider than 6".

- Cara Will



The bridge seen in this photo was made by sophomore Angela Smith and it held 347 pounds without breaking!

## Health Tech Prep Wins First Place at Regional Competition

The level two Health Tech Prep class recently participated in a showcase to determine who will proceed to the state competition. The four seniors, Jessica Chatfield, Lauren Fox, Shari Moses and Heather Newman, chose the topic of rape and dating awareness. They researched the topic as a group and wrote a 20 page research paper with references from various sources, including pre-reviewed journals, internet sites, and the U.S. Department of Justice statistics. Community involvement was incorporated into the project through guest speakers from First Step in Fostoria, Wyandot Memorial and a self-defense class. First Step, Wyandot County's referral for rape and domestic violence victims, presented information regarding healthy dating, warning signs of an unhealthy relationship and steps to avoid being in a threatening situation. The rape kit was donated by the Wyandot Memorial Hospital and explanations were given from the medical aspect of the situation. Students learned the procedures performed by the Emergency Department staff and the legalities involved with this type of situation. Lastly, the students participated in a basic self-defense class presented by Roger Peterson.

Approximately twenty groups of students from Mt. Gilead and Marion Harding's Health Tech Prep programs presented to two different sets of judges. Each member of the group was to talk for a total of five minutes, and the group as a whole, was to demonstrate a skill. Heather discussed statistics, Shari discussed drugs involved in date rape, Lauren explained the after effects and focused on post-traumatic stress disorder, while Jessica explained different types of therapy for victims. For their demonstration, the emergency department course of action was reviewed and self-defense was demonstrated. A poster presentation board and pamphlet were also expected of each group. The four students from USHS received 99 points

of a total of 100, allowing them to clench first place. Categories of judging included: knowledge of the subject matter, presentation, including uniform and appearance, and cooperation with business and industry to name a few. The students worked hard and as a group presented the information in a professional manner, using correct medical terminology and answering all questions appropriately. Great job!

- Jennifer Newman

## Kiddy Barnyard

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, members of the Upper Sandusky FFA, along with the Wyandot County Soil and Water Office, visited the district's 1<sup>st</sup> graders. To celebrate National Ag Week, which was the third week in March, the members of the FFA and Soil and Water office continued their annual Kiddy Barnyard. The 1<sup>st</sup> graders got the chance to see baby barnyard animals provided by the Upper FFA members. The 1<sup>st</sup> graders learned the importance of soil and where it comes from, how to milk a cow, and what seeds are in their everyday foods. This was presented by Bill Clinger, Tammy Hastings, and Angie Ford. This provided a great opportunity for the young students to relate their everyday lives to agriculture. "This provides a great learning experience for first graders, the FFA students, and adults. We all appreciate agriculture a little more now," said FFA student Melissa Maltsbarger.

A special thank you to FFA members Jason Zimmerman, Melissa Maltsbarger, Emma Ekleberry and Kaci Clinger for providing the animals for the program. We would also like to thank Dominos for donating pizza to the classes. - John Lawyer



First graders petting the barnyard animals!



Photo courtesy of Daily Chief Union

## How 'Bout Those Lady Rams?

The above picture was taken moments after the Lady Rams basketball team defeated Tiffin Columbian on February 17<sup>th</sup> by a score of 53-40 to secure a share of the NOL title. On that same night, Bellevue defeated Fostoria in overtime to give the Lady Rams the title outright.

The ladies went on to the District Championship game, losing to Lexington, but finished their season with a 20-3 record. CONGRATS Lady Rams!

- Andra Bell

## DECA News

Four senior marketing education students represented Upper Sandusky High School at the 2004 Ohio DECA Career Development Conference in Columbus, March 12-13. Those students, and the events in which they competed in were: Halli Bostic, apparel and accessories marketing; Mitch Crawford, quick-serve restaurant marketing; Zach DeLany, general marketing test; and Becki Herr, marketing services. These students won the right to compete in the state DECA events through high achievement at the DECA District 3 competition, held this past February at the Lima Mall.

- Wayne Thomas

## District Highlights

### FundingFactory® Recycling Program

School districts and nonprofit organizations across the country have been dealing with huge budget cuts, but we've found a way to supplement our finances to assist in acquiring the new technology equipment we need.

The Upper Sandusky School District is participating in the FundingFactory® Recycling Program! This fundraiser is FREE and simple because there's nothing to sell, no paperwork to fill out and no deadline. The program runs year-round, accumulating constant income for our efforts. But we won't get very far without your support. Please donate your empty printer cartridges and used cell phones to your child's building FundingFactory® container and we'll take it from there! We will recycle the cartridges and cell phones through FundingFactory to earn new technology equipment.

Last year alone, more than 300 million cartridges were thrown away, while 30,000,000 cell phones were tossed or replaced. We're alleviating the volume of waste that goes into

## State FFA Awards

Thirteen members of the Upper Sandusky FFA have qualified to receive state FFA awards and degrees at this year's 76<sup>th</sup> Annual State FFA Convention.

Six members, Leslie Caudill, Heather Bruynis, Kodie Weaver, Courtney Lang, Liz Lewis-House, and Jason Hoopes will receive their State FFA degrees. The state FFA degree is the highest degree an FFA member will receive from their state association. These students must excel and meet state minimums in scholarship, FFA leadership activities, school, and community activities, SAE projects, community service, and school attendance.

Two members have qualified to be in the top three in the state in their prospective supervised agricultural experience program. Jason Zimmerman, a senior, qualified in vegetable production for his sweet corn project. The past three years, Kodie Weaver, a junior, qualified in forage production for the hay and straw project he has in partnership with his brother.

For the first time in the history of the Upper Sandusky FFA, all officers have received gold ratings on their officer books, with the respective officers to be honored on stage at the state convention. They are: secretary, Meredith Logsdon, treasurer, Tiffany Kirby, and reporter, Kayla Weaver.

Two students applied for and were accepted to this year's Ohio FFABand. They are: Heather Searls and Sarah Rogers.

The Upper Sandusky FFA Chapter is proud to have two of its leaders apply for a state office in the Ohio FFA. These members are Meredith Logsdon and Courtney Lang.

This last year the Upper Sandusky FFA has been represented very well on the State FFA officer team by Jeremiah Logsdon, serving as State FFA Sentinel. Jeremiah, a recent graduate of the Upper Sandusky FFA, will be helping to conduct the 76<sup>th</sup> State FFA Convention this year in Columbus, Ohio.

Melissa Maltsbarger and Jason Zimmerman will serve as the chapter's office delegates, voting on several items of state business and state FFA officers.

- John Lawyer

landfills, while collecting technology items we need to keep our district running smoothly. Your help is vital to our fundraising success. Cell phones and cartridges can be dropped off at your child's building. 173 types of cell phones can be recycled and over 100+ cartridges from all major companies.

FundingFactory® also sponsors a businesses support program, where your employer can help out our district without spending a cent. Prepaid shipping boxes can be sent, free of charge, directly to any business, organization or other facility within the continental United States. Business supporters simply need to load the boxes and leave them for the next UPS pickup. If you work for a company that may be interested in supporting us, please call FundingFactory® toll-free at 1.888.883.8237. Give the customer service representative our school identification number, 28009, and they'll set you up to support our account.

If you have any questions about this great opportunity, please feel free to contact Jim Frye, District Technology Coordinator, at (419) 294-2308 or e-mail him at [jim\\_f@treca.org](mailto:jim_f@treca.org). Thank you for your support.

-Jim Frye