



"A Tradition of Excellence"

Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools

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Superintendent's Message . . .

We Love Our Students At Upper Sandusky!

I typically leave it to the principals to showcase the accomplishments of our students, but this month, there have been so many outstanding accomplishments by our high school students that a brief mention of these honors is certainly in order.

"It's up, and it's good." This saying has to be referring to either Jon Diebler or Clare Aubry. As most of you know by now, Jon set the all-time career scoring record in the state of Ohio in boys basketball, and Clare holds the all-time school scoring record in girls basketball with 44 points scored in a single game!

"The referee is counting 'em down, and it's another pin." This statement refers to Arin Neely and Aaron Webster, both whom qualified this year for district wrestling competition.

"And receiving the highest rating, a gold rating on her 'Focus on Children Project' is FCCLA student Brittany Stutz." This announcement was made at the FCCLA Regional Rally on March 3, a feat which will qualify her to advance to state competition in April.

"Receiving trophies in District DECA competition are 18 individuals from Upper Sandusky High School." This announcement was joy to the ears of the following Upper Sandusky DECA students: Darrel Bare, Cassie Cusick, Marc Franks, Brittany Miller, Rosanne Miller, Travis Bachtell, Nicholas Boes, Amber Burka, Kendra Christy, Justin Evans, Jordan Fagan, Leanna Kear, Kendra Sammet, Rebecca Smalley, Samuel Simmons, Rikki Washburn, Loraina Young, Blank Zink. The first five students mentioned above will advance to state DECA competition this month (April).

"And being inducted into the Sentinel Chapter of the Technical Honor Society on March 5th are three Upper Sandusky students: Jacob Fagan, Chelsea Forman, and Kody Stickel." These students represent "the best of the best" in their particular programs of study at Sentinel.

"And winning the NOL League Scholastic Bowl Title for the third year in a row is the Upper Sandusky Quiz Bowl Team: Sarah Adelsperger, Ben Baaske, Jared Barth, Sara Bennett, Jenny Cheney, Vince D'Ettore, Pete Droll, Mitchel Grenwalt, Korde Hinkle, Cameron Hoerig, Jenna Karg, Bailey Lohr, John Lok, Lauren Miller, Liz Miller, Caroline Orians, Jordan Patton, Eric Perkins, Clay Richey, Clint Richey, Crystal Shasteen, Alec Stansberry, Holly Taylor, Nick Waggy, and Jacob Webb." Since winning the league championship for the third straight year, this team also entered into another scholastic bowl competition and won it, thus taking another step toward advancement to state and/or national scholastic competition.

Special recognition to over 50 members of the cast and crew of the Upper Sandusky Drama Club which has provided us with truly entertaining and enjoyable performances of "Once Upon a Mattress." Who would think that a little pea would cause all that commotion? We certainly salute this talented group of students for their sacrifices and efforts in making this musical a success!

Earning superior ratings at the March 17th musical contests were the Upper Sandusky Symphonic Band and the Chamber Choir." Both of these groups will advance to state competition the end of April! Symphonic Choir also received an excellent rating, the second highest attainable rating.

"Upper Sandusky students participated in our District Science Fair last Saturday, March 17, where they earned the following awards: US Army Award: Environmental--Collyn Weaver; US Army Award: Life Science--Nick Waggy; US Army Award: Honorable Mention--Mariah Wilson; Best 11th Grade Project--Cameron Hoerig; Best Medicine and Health Project--Katie Hurley; International Science and Engineering Fair Team: Holly Barth and Hanna Reid; International Science and Engineering Fair Individual: Nick Waggy." To have two projects from USHS at the International Science and Engineering Fair representing the state of Ohio is most unusual and very prestigious!

I wish space would allow me to recognize all students for all their accomplishments because we are so very proud of all students, regardless of their age and grade level, but as one can see, we would quickly run out of room. The above accomplishments are simply the highlights of some of our upperclassmen, and they are honors which were achieved within the last month. Undoubtedly, many more honors will be achieved within the next month as students advance to higher levels of competition. Our local awards for band, FFA, National Honor Society and numerous other organizations are certainly forthcoming in April and May.

Thank you, parents, for the guidance and support that you give to our students. Thank you, volunteers and teachers, for your dedication and many hours of caring instruction. Most of all, thank you, students, for representing your school district so well!

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.

“Hey, Mom or Dad, I made the front page of the Newsletter.” This is what I hope a lot of our high school students will tell their parents.

ALL OF US HERE AT UPPER SANDUSKY ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU! KEEP UP THE OUTSTANDING EFFORT AND WORK!

Yours for education,

Ken Doseck, Superintendent

East, South & Union Elementary News

OHIO ACHIEVEMENT TEST TIME

It's that time of year, March madness and we aren't even talking basketball! It is nearing Ohio Achievement test time! This year the time for elementary testing has been moved from March to April 30 through May 4th. In preparation the elementary has been hosting intervention sessions. Prior to achievement tests selected students have been able to attend a series of 6 intervention sessions hosted by their home school. These sessions focus on reading and math skills.

Students who have attended these sessions have responded with enthusiasm and positive comments. Good luck to our students during testing week.
- Patty Niederkoehr

FAMILY FUN AT SOUTH SCHOOL!

On February 24, South School Parent Team sponsored its first annual Family Fest. This was a free evening of fun for the families of South School. Parents and staff had games and activities in every room for families to enjoy. Children could win prizes at a fish pond, ring toss, hoop shoot, bingo, cake walk and more! Popcorn and punch were available to snack on, and the Book Fair was open for browsing and purchasing. Families could enter a raffle to win a “movie night basket” by bringing in a new or gently used toy or stuffed animal. Over 100 items were collected and donated to Jobs and Family Services. Kenzie Ritter, a first grade student, won the raffle for her family. Over 200 people enjoyed the Family Fest. A great big THANK YOU to all the parents and staff who helped create such a fun and enjoyable time for all.

- Laurie Vent, Principal



ELECTRICITY LESSON

Playing it safe around electricity was the lesson being learned recently by the students at South Elementary School. The National Children's Theatre Production Company along with AEP brought South “Louie, Louie! Play it Safe Around Electricity.” In this entertaining production, Louie

the Lightning Bug was shrunk in size because people were not being safe around electricity. Nicki Neutron, one of the characters in the play, led the students in learning valuable lessons about staying safe. The students had to help Louie the Lightning Bug get back to his normal size by learning safety lessons. The students learned how electricity is used, where it begins, and how to stay safe around it. The students enjoyed the program and learned how to play it safe around electricity, so Louie was returned to normal size.
- Alan Lortz

STATE EXPLORATION

The South 4th graders in Mr. Lortz's class recently completed a state research report. The students each chose a state to research and learn about. Each student learned how to write letters asking for information. They wrote to at least three places of interest in their state. The students looked forward to receiving mail at school and were amazed by what they received. Reading books, using the internet, and reading their mail were some of the ways that they collected their information. The students wrote amazing reports that were well organized and even included a bibliography. A three dimensional display was the next step. The students brought in displays of the Hoover Dam, St. Louis Arch, cliff dwellings, maps, and even Devil's Tower. Currently, the students are completing oral presentations to the class about their state. An abundance of new information was learned by the students about many different states. Learning more about the other states whether it is Alaska, Hawaii, or New York will hopefully show them the diversity within the United States.

- Alan Lortz



THE BIG 5-0 !

Do you know what famous book character just celebrated the big 50? If you guessed a black cat, you're right. The Cat in the Hat was written by Dr. Seuss in 1957. East School celebrated the cat's birthday with many activities. The fifth graders read Dr. Seuss books to the first graders and watched a video of one of his stories. The 2nd graders dressed up like the cat in the hat, and the kindergarten class made red and white hats to wear. Thing 1 and Thing 2 even showed up and caused lots of mischief as they visited each classroom. What a grand birthday celebration it was!

- Dillon Barto and Mrs. Herring



THE STOCK MARKET GAME

Mrs. Eyestone is having the 4th and 5th graders at East School compete in a stock market game. The classes have been divided up into teams, and each team starts with \$100,000 to invest. Our team has to work together to research companies we think we might want to buy. We go on the computer and look at a graph to see how the company is doing. If the graph shows that the company is on the way up, we know this would be a good one to buy. We then buy 100 shares or more of the company's stock on the computer. After we buy the stock, we keep checking it to make sure it is doing well. If it isn't, we have the option to sell it. At the end of the game, the team that has earned the most money wins. Good luck!

- Cohl Gagnon and Mrs. Herring

Middle School Happenings

8th GRADE TEAM

OMSA TEAM OF THE YEAR

Our 8th Grade team was recently honored at February's Ohio Middle School Association Conference in Cleveland as the Team of the Year.

This is a very prestigious and competitive award given to one team of middle school teachers in the state each year. An OMSA judge came to USMS to assess a wide variety of factors before a final decision was made.

As their principal, I can tell you that I've never been more proud of a group of individuals in my career. All of my teachers work tremendously hard and to see them be rewarded for it is very rewarding for me as an administrator.

The team received the award on Friday, February 23, at the Renaissance Ball Room in Cleveland, Ohio in front of their peers from across the state of Ohio. During the presentation, OMSA Officer Donna Gardner-Webb spoke very highly of them and ended her speech on a personal note by saying that she was impressed with the team, but more than anything, impressed by how humble they are.

You see, that's what education is all about from a teacher's standpoint. We know we're not going to be wealthy. We know that rarely does anyone say thank you. In fact, the media lets us all know how poorly we do. But we know what we do. We know how hard we work and the good ones don't seek publicity. The good ones plug along in relative anonymity, always thinking of new ways to reach children.

Our 8th Grade team consists of good ones: Sharon Calvin, Connie Davis, Carol Minehart, Mark Niederkhor, Buffy Reinhart, Amy Wood, and Jason Zeller. - Jim Wheeler, Principal

COLUMBUS CLIPPERS SALUTE HIGH ACHIEVERS

I'm a die hard Cleveland Indians fan. Anyone who knows me knows that. That's why it's hard for me to salute anything New York Yankee related. But now that the Clippers are no longer a Yankee farm team, it's a little easier.

This year the Clippers have invited all 6-8 grade students who received all A's during the second and third terms. The games are April 13 and 14 in Columbus. The April 13 game features post game fireworks, while the April 14 game features a baseball giveaway.

Oh, and they play the Buffalo Bisons, an AAA affiliate of the Cleveland Indians!

If your son or daughter qualified, ticket order forms will be sent home. Please contact the office for further information.

Oh ... Go Tribe! - Jim Wheeler, Principal

USMS STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Since 1999 USMS teachers have voted on students of the month in the 6th-8th grades. Teachers vote on one boy and one girl at each level. Reasons for selection include:

- measurable improvement in academics;
- willingness to help other students and teachers;
- showing a genuine concern towards school;
- showing signs of personal improvement;
- involvement in school and community activities.

Each May all rewarded students chaperone pre-schoolers from New Discoveries to a Toledo Mud Hens baseball game on May 23. This gives those students a chance to utilize their skills as role models in public.

We congratulate the following students chosen in February:

Grade 6

Krista Caudill
Eric Radford

Grade 7

Marissa Linhart
Steven Mullins

Grade 8

Sarah Lewis
Dylan Waggy

Each year, this trip is made possible via the generosity of several local businesses and individuals. Each donation of \$100 gets the business or individual two game tickets and their name on the back of our official Muddy Buddy T-Shirt. To date, the following have made donations to the Muddy Buddy cause:

- Kimmel Corporation;
- Wal-Mart;
- Judge Kate and Bill Aubry;
- East of Chicago;
- Russell Lee;
- Wilson Tire;
- First Citizens National Bank;
- Upper Sandusky Academic Boosters.

DUKES OF UNION

Dedicated Union Kids Exceeding Standards is a program designed to reward 4th and 5th grade students at Union. Students are rewarded not only for good grades, but also exemplary behavior and service to the classroom or community.

One student is chosen from each class each month and is treated to an all you can eat pizza buffet at East of Chicago on the last Friday of each month with the principal and a teacher. They are also rewarded with a DUKE'S CHAMPIONSHIP MONTH T-shirt! The shirt is orange and black and perfect for cheering on our Rams!

D.U.K.E.S. for March include:

4th Grade

Makaela Taylor
Sierra Browning
Taylor Phillips

5th Grade

Kyle Farnwalt
Logan Nye
Michelle Oliver

TRANSITION VISITS

It may not seem like it, but the transition from 5th to 6th Grade can be huge. We are asking students to go from a building that may hold 120 students to a building where there will be more students than that in their 6th grade Class.

We know USMS can be daunting for our students, so each year we ask 5th grade students to develop questions about the building or about what is in store for them as they enter 6th grade. Guidance Counselor Alison Cheney and I then visit each 5th grade section to answer any questions. We then invite each 5th grade section to visit USMS during lunch.

If you have a 5th grade student at East or South or a 6th grade student at St. Peter's, the schedule is as follows:

May 9	Wheeler and Cheney visit East	8:45 am
May 10	Wheeler and Cheney visit South	8:45 am
May 11	Wheeler and Cheney visit St. Peter's	8:15 am
May 14	St. Peter's visits USMS	10:30 am
May 15	South visits USMS	10:30 am
May 16	East visits USMS	10:30 am

CONFERENCES

A reminder to all that as we approach the end of the year, you may wish to schedule a conference with your child's teachers. Our middle school teams meet each day at the same time:

6th Grade	12:49 - 1:29 p.m.
7th Grade	1:33 - 2:13 p.m.
8th Grade	10:07 - 10:47 a.m.
Encore	2:17 - 2:45 p.m.

USMS 6th Grade Musical

Under the direction of Robin Spoons and Denise Stull, the 6th Grade Musical has reached almost legendary status. This year's production is "The Music Man" and will be held in the USMS Auditorium on Tuesday, May 8. The following have been chosen as the cast:

Charlie Cowell - Kolby Holloway
Conductor - Josh Mundy
Harold Hill - Jacob Courtright
Mayor Shinn - Tyler Toland
Ewart Dunlop - Scott Warfield
Jacey Squires - CJ Smith
Mrs. Squires - Megan Vanderpool
Olin Britt - Christopher Swartz
Marcellus Washburn - Nick Koehler
Constable Locke - Josh Mundy
Tommy Djiilas - Ian Baker
Marian Paroo - Jayma Voorheis
Mrs. Paroo - Michaela Wolfe
Amaryllis - Jenna Brockleby
Winthrop Paroo - Jesse Shane
Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn - Courtney Bricely
Zanetta Shinn - Taylor Martin
Gracie Shinn - Miranda Lee
Ethel Toffelmier - Krista Caudill
Alma Hix - Michaela Barth
Maude Dunlop - Hannah Cole
Pick-a-Little Ladies - Logan Pierson, Hannah Cole, Taylor Clark
Farmer - Kolby Holloway
Farmer's Wife - Lexa Cheney
River City Townspeople and Kids - Candice Dickerson,
Darrion Pina, Megan Pasco, Jackie Stone, Tiffany
Mckee, Lexa Cheney
Wa Tan Ye Girls - Ellie Greulich, Paige Perry, Rowan
Ritchey, Shelby Alspach

DISTRICT 2 NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN OHIO

Four students from USMS 8th grade will be competing at History Day on Saturday, March 31st at the Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, Ohio. This year's theme is "Triumph and Tragedy in History."

Our students competing are Chelsea Frey, Sarah Lewis, Tori Mundy and Lindsay Riedlinger.

The purpose of this district, state, and national event is to give students the opportunity to bring history to life through research, writing, design, and presentation. Students in Grades 6-12 may choose to do a historical paper, an exhibit, a website, a documentary or a performance. Our USMS group has chosen to do a performance. They will have the chance, if scoring high enough, to advance to state level competition in May.

History Day has been an academic event for many years. This is the first time Upper Sandusky students have participated.

Please join us in wishing them well! -Carol Minehart

TALENTED AND GIFTED

I was first introduced to Lego Mindstorm Robots when I took a workshop that was part of the JASON Science Curriculum. It was an optional, extra one day workshop held at River Valley Middle School. TRECA had purchased six robot kits, and we could borrow them whenever we wanted.

My students and I were both hooked on the Lego Robots. I applied for several grants and acquired some donations for purchasing more kits. At this time we have ten Lego Mindstorm Robotics kits.

I decided to start an after school club for students. The Robotics Club has 27 students who meet on Tuesdays/Thursdays. The club designs, builds, and programs robots. This year we formed 8 teams and participated in the National Robotics Challenge in Marion, Ohio on March 9 and 10.

Our teams dominated the Mission to Mars event, winning all places. The team of Justin Miller, Brian Miller, and Adam Bils won first place. Seth Sprang, Gannon Ritter, and Walker Karg brought home second place while Jenny Ohler, Alexis Schwilk, and Amber McGlaughlin came in third.

Other teams participating included: Tylor Pritchard, Bradley Sipe, Brad Roeder, Jacob Klavinger, Merrill Wilson, Daniel Maltsbarger, Jenna Mundy, Kayla Counts, Amanda DeJonge, Shaina Thompson, Kolin Johnson, Tyler Alm, Tyler Swartz, Brian Bils, Colin Marshall, Nate Payne, Nick Reid, and Sarah Campbell.

Adam Bills, Brian Miller, and Justin Miller participated in Top of the Hill event, an event which requires your robot to snag 4 ping pong balls on different heights of stands and then return them to the center collection stand. The team did not come home with a trophy but learned valuable information for future competitions.

- Jill Eyestone

TRAFFIC AND PARKING AT UNION

Once again we would like to ask all of our school community to please abide by all traffic rules and regulations of the building. While we do cordially invite all of you to visit our building often, please keep in mind the safety of the children at all times.

Also, please abide by all handicapped parking notations in the parking lot. During the winter months, as with all year long, we need to ensure those folks with handicapped parking passes get easy access to our building.

MESSAGES TO STUDENTS

We aim to please at USMS and will deliver emergency messages to students if parents call. However, if you must have a message delivered to your child about alternate plans for transportation home, please try to make that phone call before 1:30 p.m.

High School Events

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

The staff and students at USHS have had a busy month in March. Students have been scheduling classes for the 2007-2008 school year, and our 9th and 10th grade students completed the series of Ohio Graduation Tests. Our 9th grade students took the practice tests, and our 10th graders took the actual OGT required for graduation. Our winter sports teams had great success and brought much excitement to our community. You can see from reading the Superintendent's Message just how successful our students are at USHS.

The month of April begins with Spring Break. There will be no school during the week of April 2-6. When we return from break, the spring sports teams will be in high gear. Our special education teachers will be busy writing the 2007-2008 IEP's (Individual Education Program) for our 86 students who are on an IEP. Teachers will be busy grading the 9th grade practice OGT's. We grade our own tests so our teachers, parents, and students can see first hand how well students are prepared. We evaluate our 9th grade students to determine what intervention strategies, if any, are needed to prepare our students for the actual OGT required for graduation.

In this newsletter, I would like to introduce five more staff who each contributes to the education of our students. The five staff I would like to recognize in this issue are: Mr. Ed Arnold, Mrs. Patricia Kilbride, Mrs. Julia Massara, Mr. Steve Sturgeon and Mr. Scott Will.

Mr. Ed Arnold is a science teacher in his 13th year at USHS. He teaches physics, chemistry, and physical science. Mr. Arnold coached cross country and boys track for many years at USHS. He currently coaches for Bluffton College.

Mrs. Patricia Kilbride is in her 7th year at USHS. She teaches accounting, general business, economics, and computer applications. She also advises the yearbook class that currently meets each day during our 5th period.

Mrs. Julia Massara is in her 6th year as the high school secretary. She is the office manager and performs many tasks. She works for the administration and the athletic director. Mrs. Massara also assists with the day-to-day operations such as customer service for visitors and phone calls.

Mr. Steve Sturgeon is a math teacher in his 17th year at USHS. He teaches Math 2, Math 3, and geometry. Mr. Sturgeon has been involved with many activities while at USHS. He has coached varsity football and boys track. He was the head football coach for three years in the mid 90's. Mr. Sturgeon is currently the advisor of our Quiz Bowl team that has excelled in the past few years.

Mr. Scott Will is in his 3rd year at USHS. He teaches American history, honors world history, and current events. Mr. Will has been an assistant football and head boys track coach for USHS. He is currently the head football coach and weight room coordinator for the high school.

We appreciate everything these individuals do for the youth of our community, and we thank each of them this month for the outstanding contributions they make for our students!

“EDUCATION is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”

MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN,
American Lawyer and Social Activist
- Jim Clifford, Principal

JUNIOR AND SENIOR GUIDANCE NEWS

As we head into the end of the school year, many seniors are probably asking themselves tons of questions. What college will I go to? What job should I take? How much is my top choice college going to cost me? Will my job pay me enough to live on my own? While this can be a very exciting time for most students, it can also be a scary one. One of the biggest decisions students are struggling to make right now is deciding which college to commit to. As you receive your financial aid packages from various colleges, be sure that you are comparing “apples to apples.” Look not only at how much scholarship and grant money your student is receiving but also how much money you and/or your student will have to borrow over the next four years to attend each school. Financial aid packages don't always spell out this information for you, so review them carefully. Most colleges have a May 1st commitment deadline. This means that if you have decided to attend a particular school, you should let them know your intentions and reserve your spot by sending them your housing deposit. If you have decided against a particular school(s), then you should also call or send a letter stating that you would like to withdraw your application, and if you have sent a deposit, that you would like it returned. If you are not ready to make a decision, don't panic. Just call the schools you are still considering and ask for an extension. They will most likely be more than willing to work with you if they know you are still considering their school.

If your student is a college-bound junior and has not yet taken the ACT or SAT, this is the time to do so. The upcoming dates are:

ACT: June 9, 2007 - Registration deadline is May 4, 2007
(www.act.org)

SAT: June 2, 2007 - Registration deadline is April 27, 2007
(www.collegeboard.com)

Juniors should also think about making visits to colleges that they may be interested in and setting up summer shadowing or internship possibilities. Let me know if you would like help with this!

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns at 419-294-2308 or cara_s@treca.org. Have a great spring break!
- Cara Stevens, 11th & 12th Grade Counselor

USHS STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Our congratulations go out to the students who have been selected by the high school staff as students of the month. These students are chosen for outstanding qualities, such as positive attitude, improved academics, academic achievement, and community and school involvement. Each student receives a certificate from the Lions Club and coupons from area businesses.

February

Senior: Brittany Howard

Sophomore: Katie Hurley

Junior: Hannah Bowman

Freshman: Luke Boes

7 TIPS FOR MAINTAINING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

1. Learn healthy ways to manage your stress.
2. Think of challenges as opportunities to shine.
3. Look for the best in others -- and yourself.
4. Eat right and get plenty of rest.
5. Focus on the joys in life, and remember to laugh.
6. Keep things in perspective. Do what you can do, and let go of the rest.
7. Take pride in your work and your achievements.

AUDITORIUM SOUND SYSTEM

Upper Sandusky High School has recently installed a new sound system in the Auditorium. The idea started with a recommendation from Mr. Keith Koehler who has been donating his equipment to the school for many years. Mr. Koehler and the school administration discussed the idea of installing permanent equipment. The administration and Mr. Koehler worked together to make this a reality. Donations were made in the amount of \$5,700 to purchase the equipment. Mr. Koehler selected the best equipment our money could buy and then supervised the installation. Thank you, Mr. Koehler, for many years of service to our school!

USHS now has all new sound equipment. The student council recently donated money for the school to purchase a mobile sound system, and the Athletic Booster Club, just a few years ago, purchased new sound equipment for the gymnasium and stadium.

FFA's AG WEEK

This past week, many FFA and other students participated in the annual Ag Week. On Monday, students in Ag class assembled goody bags for the community Ag Week Luncheon. Students also tie-dyed t-shirts to wear later in the week. On Tuesday, students wore a lot of plaid for plaid day. Wednesday was Teacher Appreciation Ag Lunch Day. The faculty of USHS was served. Also, on Wednesday, students wore their favorite truck or tractor emblem. Thursday was Kiddie Barnyard Day. A few students traveled to the four elementary schools and Angeline School. Chad Gottfried brought pigs, Travis Snyder brought puppies, Adelee Ekleberry brought lambs, and Angie Ford brought goats. Kiddie Barnyard gives younger kids a chance to see animals and learn about them. Also, on the same day, students wore their tie-dyed t-shirts they made. Finally, on Friday, students wore their Carharts to school. They also drove their trucks and tractors to school. - John Lawyer

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS

held at The Ohio State University, Marion Branch
on Saturday, March 17, 2007

The following USHS students were presented with awards:

Superior Ratings: Holly Barth, Cameron Hoerig, Katie Hurley,
Hannah Reid, and Nick Waggy

3 US Army Awards: Life Science - Nick Waggy
Environmental - Collyn Weaver
Honorable Mention - Miriah Wilson

Best Project in Medicine & Health: Katie Hurley

Best Project at Grade 11: Cameron Hoerig

International Science and Engineering Fair Participants

Team: Holly Barth & Hannah Reid

Individual: Nick Waggy

The ISEF award includes an all expense-paid trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico for a week long competition with students from around the world. - Teresa Harris

MEMBER COMPETES AT REGIONAL RALLY

On Saturday March 3, 2007, Brittani Stutz competed at the Region 4 FCCLA (Family, Career, Community Leaders of America) Regional Rally at Vantage Career Center in VanWert, Ohio. Brittani competed in the Focus on Children event. For this event she had to plan and implement age-appropriate lessons to a group of children. Brittani chose to plan lessons that would help preschoolers develop their fine motor skills. Brittani did this by going to Angeline Preschool in October and November and Head Start in January and February. While at each of the schools, Brittani planned crafts themed around the months. She then put together a display of her work and developed a speech to present to a panel of three judges for competition. Brittani received a gold rating and was the top Focus on Children Project, qualifying her to compete at the state competition in April. Congratulations, and good luck, Brittani!

- Jessica Pohlman

USHS LADY RAM BASKETBALL

The Upper Sandusky High School varsity girls basketball team completed another successful season under the leadership of Coach Andra Bell. The Lady Rams finished 2nd in the NOL with a fine 12-2 record. They also captured a sectional championship, were district runners-up, and finished the season with an excellent 17-6 record. Standout Clare Aubry was named All-NOL first team, All-District first team and All-Ohio third team! Congratulations to the Lady Rams on another outstanding season! - Brad Ehrman

USHS WRESTLING

Upper Sandusky High School wrestlers Arin Neely and Aaron Webster both completed excellent seasons for the Rams. Arin Neely won all four of his sectional matches as the third seed, to finish in first place and qualify for the district. Aaron Webster, also a third seed, fought his way out of the consolation bracket to finish in third place in the sectional, also earning a trip to the district. Earlier in the season, both wrestlers displayed fine performances in the NOL tournament, advancing all the way to the finals before losing in hard-fought championship matches. Congratulations to both Arin and Aaron on all of their accomplishments during this past wrestling season! - Brad Ehrman

JON DIEBLER - STATE BASKETBALL SCORING RECORD HOLDER

On Friday, February 23rd, 2007, in front of a jam-packed gym with media from all over the state, Jon Diebler made history. An estimated crowd of 1850 fans, with over 40 reporters, radio and TV personnel present, watched Jon Diebler break Jay Burson's 22-year-old state career basketball scoring record of 2,958 points. Burson, a former Ohio State basketball standout, was on hand to present Jon with the game ball and "passed the torch" to Jon as the leading Ohio basketball career scorer of all time. OHSAA Commissioner Dr. Dan Ross and OHSAA Board of Control President Jerry Snodgrass presented Jon with a plaque to honor his accomplishment. Jon added to this record by breaking the 3000-point mark in the sectional tournament against Galion on March 2nd.

As athletic director at Upper Sandusky High School and a former high school varsity basketball coach of 20 years, I admire the many basketball accomplishments of Jon Diebler. His scoring, rebounding, ball handling, passing and variety of dunks never cease to amaze me! Jon is truly an outstanding player, and I believe he has a fine future on the basketball court at Ohio State University!

However, as great a basketball player as Jon Diebler is, I believe he is an even finer person. As I have watched Jon from a distance these past three years, I have seen a young man that I greatly admire and respect. I believe he is the model student-athlete for all our students at USHS. Jon is humble, unselfish, caring, passionate, patient (as you can see by the many autographs he signs), a role model, an excellent student, a team player, a hard worker, a "class act", a person of character, a competitor, and a winner. These are just a few of Jon's many positive qualities.

I would like to thank you, Jon, for the joy and excitement you have brought to our school and community on the basketball court during your three years at Upper Sandusky High School! I will always remember the great times and memories you have provided for us. I wish you the best as you pursue your dreams at Ohio State University next year, both in the classroom and on the basketball court. You would still be one of my favorite basketball players, even if you had only scored two points in your basketball career.

- Brad Ehrman

APRIL 2007

District Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 SPRING BREAK USHS JV/V BT - River Valley - A 4:15 pm	3 SPRING BREAK USHS JV/V BT - Bucyrus - H 4:15 pm VBBB - Fostoria - A 4:30 pm JVBBB - Fostoria - H 4:30 pm VGSB - Fostoria - A 4:30 pm JVGSB - Fostoria - H 4:30 pm Coed V Track - Bellevue - A - 4:30 pm	4 SPRING BREAK	5 SPRING BREAK USHS VBBB - Willard - A 4:30 pm JVBBB - Willard - H 4:30 pm VGSB - Willard - A 4:30 pm JVGSB - Willard - H 4:30 pm	6 SPRING BREAK	7 USHS Coed V Track - Kenton Relays - A - 9:00 am
8	9 USHS JV/V BT - Tiffin Columbian - A - 4:15 pm VBBB - Shelby - H 4:30 pm JVBBB - Shelby - A 4:30 pm VGSB - Shelby - H 4:30 pm JVGSB - Shelby - A 4:30 pm	10 USHS JV/V BT - Norwalk - H 4:15 pm VBBB - Mohawk - A 4:30 pm JVBBB - Mohawk - H 4:30 pm VGSB - Mohawk - A 4:30 pm JVGSB - Mohawk - H 4:30 pm Coed V Track - Tiffin Columbian - A - 4:30 pm	11	12 USMS Track - H - 4:30 p.m. USHS JV/V BT - Fostoria - H 4:15 pm VBBB - Bellevue - A 4:30 pm JVBBB - Bellevue - H 4:30 pm VGSB - Bellevue - A 4:30 pm JVGSB - Bellevue - H 4:30 pm	13 USHS VBBB - Galion - H 4:30 pm JVBBB - Galion - A 4:30 pm VGSB - Galion - H 4:30 pm JVGSB - Galion - A 4:30 pm	14 East Elementary Recycling 8:30-10:30 am USHS Coed V Track - Clyde Invitational - A - 9:30 am
15	16 USMS Track - Bellevue - 4:30p USHS JV/V BT - Willard - H 4:15 pm VBBB - Tiffin Col. - A 4:30 pm JVBBB - Tiffin Col. - H 4:30 pm VGSB - Tiffin Col. - A 4:30 pm JVGSB - Tiffin Col. - H 4:30 pm	17 USHS Coed V Track Norwalk - H - 4:30 pm	18	19 USHS JV/V BT - Shelby - A 4:15 pm VBBB - Norwalk - H 4:30 pm JVBBB - Norwalk - A 4:30 pm VGSB - Norwalk - H 4:30 pm JVGSB - Norwalk - A 4:30 pm	20 USMS Track - Ottoville - 4:30p USHS JV/V BT - Bellevue - H 4:15 pm VBBB - Shelby - A 4:30 pm JVBBB - Shelby - H 4:30 pm VGSB - Shelby - A 4:30 pm JVGSB - Shelby - H 4:30 pm	21 USHS Coed V Track - Swankhouse Track Inv. H - 9:30 am VBBB - DH-Wynford - H 11:00 am JVBBB - DH-Wynford - A - 11:00 am VGSB - DH-Wynford - H 11:00 am
22	23 Union Elementary 4th & 5th Grade Music Program - 7:00 pm USMS Track - Home - 4:30 pm USHS JV/V BT - Galion - A 4:15 pm VBBB - Fostoria - H 4:30 pm JVBBB - Fostoria - A 4:30 pm VGSB - Fostoria - H 4:30 pm JVGSB - Fostoria - A 4:30 pm	24 Union Elementary 4th Grade Band Recruitment Assembly at 9:30 pm USHS Coed V Track - Galion - H - 4:30 pm	25	26 USHS JV/V BT - Tiffin Col. - H 4:15 pm VBBB - Willard - H 4:30 pm JVBBB - Willard - A 4:30 pm VGSB - Willard - H 4:30 pm JVGSB - Willard - A 4:30 pm	27 USMS Track - Wynford - 4:30p	28 USHS Coed V Track - Bellevue Inv. - A - 8:50 am JV/V BT - Bellevue - H 9:00 am
29	30 USMS Track - Bucyrus - 4:30p USHS JV/V BT - Norwalk - A 4:15 pm VBBB - Bellevue - H 4:30 pm JVBBB - Bellevue - A 4:30 pm VGSB - Bellevue - H 4:30 pm JVGSB - Bellevue - A 4:30 pm	1 <u>MAY</u> USHS Coed V Track - Shelby - A - 4:30 pm	2 <u>MAY</u>	3 <u>MAY</u> USHS JV/V BT - Fostoria - A 4:15 pm VBBB - Galion - A 4:30 pm JVBBB - Galion - H 4:30 pm VGSB - Galion - A 4:30 pm JVGSB - Galion - H 4:30 pm	4 <u>MAY</u> USHS JV/V BT - Willard - A 4:15 pm	5 <u>MAY</u> USHS JV/V BT - NOL Rain Date - A - TBA Coed V Track - Shelby Relays - A - 9:00 am

WEATHER DELAY/CLOSING PROCEDURES

TWO HOUR DELAY means report to bus stop or pick-up point two hours later than usual. High School classes will begin at 9:50 a.m. Middle School and all Elementary Schools start at 9:55 a.m.

The following stations will make the announcements:

WTOL TV 11
WTVG TV 13
WYNT (Upper Sandusky) 95.9
WDIF-WMRN (Marion) 94.3/107
WFAN-WKXA (Findlay) 1330/100.5
WBVI (Findlay) 96.7
WXML (Upper Sandusky) 90.1
WKTN (Kenton) 95.3

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL TO CHECK ON SCHOOL DELAYS. Open phone lines are needed to receive input from bus drivers and law enforcement agencies so that a wise and informed decision can be made. When a decision is made to delay or cancel school, the radio and television stations are the first to be notified.

SPRING

ATHLETIC DELAYS

When school is closed due to weather, evening sports contests are sometimes held if the weather conditions subside during the day. Therefore, decisions about evening events are usually made sometime after 1:00 p.m., and announcements are broadcast over the local television station. (See note below).



For more information about school events and activities, please watch WRAM TV 22 or visit our web site at www.upper sandusky.k12.oh.us



Upper Sandusky
Exempted Village Schools

800 North Sandusky Ave., Suite A
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351



Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools

800 North Sandusky Ave., Suite A
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

Phone: (419) 294-2306

Fax: (419) 294-6891

"A Tradition of Excellence"

www.uppersandusky.k12.oh.us

Have You Heard About the New Constitutional Amendment Which Attempts To Fix School Funding in Ohio?

If you have not yet heard about the new constitutional amendment proposal, it is an amendment which could be placed on the November 2007 ballot, an amendment which would establish a high quality education as a fundamental right for all public school pupils in Ohio.

Four times within the last decade Ohio's system for funding its schools has been declared unconstitutional by the Ohio Supreme Court, yet little has been done to correct the deficiencies of Ohio's school funding system.

Little has been done, for example, to correct the deficiency which does NOT allow appreciation increases due to reappraisal to be added to tax duplicates for school support purposes every 3 years (or whenever there is a reappraisal year). However, whenever we are "charged-off," whenever the amount of our valuation is subtracted from the state aid we receive for our district, the current or most recent valuation/reappraisal figure is used to subtract from our state aid (and not the millage rate in effect at the time when we passed our last property tax millage, however long ago that may have been). There are numerous other deficiencies in the current funding system, and other means of "phantom revenue" incorporated into the state's formula, but this deficiency is the major one, passed in 1976, which has kept many Ohio school districts on the ballot at least once every three years, asking for additional operating funds.

Another example of how state legislature has adversely affected the amount of revenue available for local schools, the legislature in 1995 used to "charge-off" (or subtract from our state aide before we received it) 20 mills. In 1996, the "charge-off" increased to 20.5 mills. In 1997, the charge-off went to 21 mills. In 1998, the charge-off increased again to 22 mills, and finally in 1999, to 23 mills, where it has remained ever since. My question is, "Were any of us as local taxpayers allowed to vote on this issue?" If we would have been, how many of us would have said we would have preferred that the equivalent of three of our local mills be kept in Columbus rather than be returned to our local school districts? (Not very many of us, I would venture to guess.) Would we have needed to be on the ballot for as much or as often if we would have been allowed to collect the equivalent of at least 3 mills per year since 1999? My purpose is to emphasize how our state legislature has severely eroded state revenue sources which support schools, the most recent piece of legislation being HB66, which will eliminate tangible personal property tax after 2011, a significant source of revenue for Upper Sandusky Schools which currently produces about \$1.5 million per year in revenue to support our schools.

So what about the new constitutional amendment? Will it help or hurt Upper Sandusky Schools?

The first and most important point which needs to be made is that if we ever fail to renew either one of our income tax issues, we would cease to operate for very long. That much being said, assuming that we continue to renew our income taxes, it is my belief that our school system could benefit more than most from the new constitutional amendment, but this statement is made based on the amendment doing what it claims it will do without the state legislature manipulating the formula to its customary self-serving purposes. Specifically, the new constitutional amendment proposal embodies the following concepts:

- Establishes a fundamental right to a high quality education for all public school pupils in Ohio.
- Creates an Education Accountability Commission, appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House and President of the Senate, to monitor and annually report to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the State Board of Education regarding the extent to which high quality educational opportunities and new state investments are delivered in a cost efficient and effective manner as well as their impact on student performance.
- Specifies that the Board's recommendations shall constitute a "thorough and efficient system" and that sufficient funds to underwrite these costs shall be deposited by the State Treasurer into the School Trust Fund to be distributed to districts. Authorizes the General Assembly to override the State Board's recommendation with a three-fifths vote of both Houses, as long as the General Assembly's plan provides essentially the same components, programs, and services.

- Establishes the first year of implementation to be the third fiscal year (2011) following adoption. During two intervening years (2009 and 2010), base cost funding is to increase by 5% each year, plus appropriate inflationary increases.
- Establishes permanent local contribution for school districts (interpret as “charge-off”) to be the revenue from 20 mills of property taxation or their equivalent in school district income tax revenues or revenues from other forms of authorized taxation. This will occur at the end of a six-year phase-in period beginning in FY2012. In districts with effective operating millage of more than 20 (up to a maximum of 34), the required local contribution in 2011 shall consist of their actual millage (up to 34). Beginning in FY 2012, the required local contribution will be lowered each year by 1/6 of the difference between the FY 2011 level and 20 mills until all districts reach 20 mills of required contribution in FY 2017. All of the mills above 20 continue in place subject to the rate reduction factors of the Constitution (H.B. 920). Beginning in FY2011, 20 mills will be exempt from the rate reduction factors. Meanwhile, no district will receive less state aid during the phase-in period than it did in FY 2008 or FY 2010, whichever is greater.
- Directs State to continue its current facilities program through its planned completion and develop and maintain an ongoing facilities program and funding schedule thereafter.
- Provides for a permanent Local Government Fund, adjusted annually for inflation.
- Maintains higher education funding at a minimum of 2007 levels, adjusted annually for inflation.
- Creates direct access to Ohio Supreme Court for purposes of enforcing these funding provisions.
- Provides targeted property tax relief for seniors and the permanently disabled. The first \$40,000 of the market value of their real estate is not taxable.

Based on the fact that Upper Sandusky already has a significantly lower cost per pupil than the average Ohio school district; and based on the fact that the new amendment proposes to fund education at a much higher cost per pupil than which education for pupils in Ohio is currently funded; and based on the fact that Upper Sandusky is already at the 20-mill floor in terms of its effective property tax millage rate; and based on the fact that there are mandatory increases estimated to be around 7% or more in Fiscal Year 2009, and another increase of at least 7% in Fiscal Year 2010; it is my belief that Upper Sandusky Schools will benefit more than most Ohio School Districts from this new constitutional amendment. Assuming that both of our income tax levies get renewed in 2009 and in 2010, the new amendment should mean it will either be less frequently that we would need to be on the ballot asking for local operating funds or that if we are required to ask for additional dollars for operating, that significantly less local dollars will be needed than otherwise would be needed to support our local school system.

Any petition you might sign between now and August concerning this amendment would simply be the first step in placing this amendment on the November 2007 ballot. It would not mean that you are voting “for” or “against” the merits of the proposal.

If you would like a better explanation of everything the amendment will do, please go to www.RightforOhio.org or call BASA at (614) 846-4080.

Twelve well-known state educational organizations have put together this proposal, and I have been impressed with the foresight and thought which has gone into it. The current system of funding Ohio’s public schools based on property taxes is designed to have a school district on the ballot asking for additional operating monies at least once every three years. In 2011, we will undoubtedly face a significant loss in tangible personal property tax with the new CAT tax revenue being used to compensate for a portion of this loss. Just how much of this loss the new CAT tax will compensate for is simply not known, but for the reasons I have already indicated, I believe passage of the new amendment will either prolong the time we would need to be on the ballot or greatly reduce the amount of local dollars needed for any additional operating issues. Upper Sandusky would benefit more from the new constitutional amendment than the average Ohio school district because the new amendment will propose a higher cost per pupil funding and Upper Sandusky is already significantly lower in this regard than the typical Ohio school district.

The choice to put this issue on the November ballot is yours. If you would like more information about it or would like to sign the petition to place it on the ballot, please feel free to contact me at (419) 294-2306. I have literature I can send to you or give to you.

Yours for education,

Ken Doseck
Superintendent