



"A Tradition of Excellence"

Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools

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For more levy information, please go to our website at:
www.uppersandusky.k12.oh.us

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Superintendent's Message . . .

April 2009

Since we will have a levy issue on the ballot May 5th, my article this month will attempt to answer the most important facts to understand about the upcoming levy. For more detailed information, there is much more available on the school's website at "uppersandusky.k12.oh.us". (You can find this information by clicking on the bright orange letters entitled "Levy Information for May 5th" located on the upper left-hand side of the screen.) Please feel free to contact me at (419) 294-2306 if I can answer any questions for you or if you would like me to send you absentee ballot information.

The following questions will hopefully answer basic information about our May 5th 1.25% income tax levy, essentially a combination renewal of both of our already existing ½% and ¾% income taxes:

Question 1: What will be on the May 5th ballot?

Answer: The school district will be requesting the renewal of both of our existing income taxes for a total of 1.25%. This income tax will begin being collected January 1, 2010, and expire at the end of five years (December 31, 2014).

Question 2: Why is the school district doing it this way?

Answer: The school board and administration looked to the future and saw that if we did not attempt to combine the income tax issues, we would be on the ballot six (6) times within the next 10 years. Not only is it expensive to run levy campaigns, but such campaigns require a tremendous amount of time, energy, and resources that could otherwise be spent supporting children and their learning – learning more on the improvement end and not simply maintaining what is needed to maintain existing operations. A second major reason is that we fully intend to live within our means FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. In other words, it is most difficult, if not next to impossible, to live within our means if our budget is yet to be determined. Once we know for sure what our budget is, it is much easier to plan to live within it.

Question 3: What pledges come with the passage of the May 5th levy?

Answer: If the May 5th levy passes, the Board and administration pledge the following:

- (1) to continue to manage district resources conservatively and to promise to do our level best to live within our means **WITH NO NEW OR ADDITIONAL TAXES FOR OPERATIONS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS;**
- (2) to not have any building projects or pursue any new building project or construction project monies (Ohio School Facilities Commission or otherwise) **FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS ; AND**
- (3) to assure taxpayers there will be no "double collection" on the final year of the already- scheduled ¾ of 1% income tax; (the resolution to eliminate the already-scheduled tax has already been passed by the Board at the December of 2008 Board meeting (right before voting to proceed to place this issue on the May 5th ballot).

Question 4: Why are you proud of this school district?

Answer: I am proud of this school district because we have 4 district buildings rated excellent by the state. All of these are carefully managed and supported by a quality community. Last year, for example, on our Local School District Report Card, our district achieved 28 of 30 possible state-determined indicators for a quality school system, and last year we were only 2 students away from achieving 29 of 30 of these same state indicators! Within the last two years, Union Elementary School received state recognition, earning the Award of Distinction for their test results with handicapped students. At the start of this year, South Elementary School was also state-recognized as a School of Promise for its exemplary test results in 07-08; this award was given only to schools whose percentage of economically disadvantaged students was over 40% and whose school had achieved outstanding achievement test results. For five straight years, Upper Sandusky High School has achieved perfect test scores on the Ohio Graduation Test. Every year we have science and vocational students participating in and advancing to national and international competitions (as evidenced by other articles present in this month's newsletter). Our Drama Club is always working on some type of performance, sharing with the community their acting and musical talents. About 65% of our 7th and 8th graders complete at least 15 hours of community service, and many of our high school organizations have a community service component as a requirement for membership. Just within the last month, for example, we had 27 students earn a superior rating at District Solo and Ensemble Contest with the Symphonic Band and Chamber Choir also earning superior ratings and advancing to state competition

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.

in May. I am proud of this school district and its accomplishments because I believe that parents, teachers, students, and support staff work well together to produce results that few schools our size can match.

Question 5: Is there a way to determine our district's spending in comparison to other districts across this state?

Answer: Yes, there is. According to the state's most recent Cupp Report just released in March, Upper Sandusky's cost per pupil (all costs) is **\$7,851** versus an average statewide cost per pupil (all costs) of **\$9,991**. The difference between what the average school district in the state spends and what Upper Sandusky spends is **\$2,140 per pupil** times our student enrollment of 1,788 students = **\$3,826,320**. **This means that if our school district spent the same the number of dollars per child as the AVERAGE Ohio school district, Upper Sandusky would spend over \$3 and a half million dollars more (\$3.82 million more) than we actually spent last year. This figure reflects how much MORE per year the cost of operations at Upper Sandusky would be if we were to spend what the AVERAGE school district in this state would spend to educate the same number of pupils that Upper Sandusky currently educates,** this according to the most recent figures made available to us by the Ohio Dept. of Education (2007-2008 school year). Last year (06-07), we were among the top 14% of the best-managed, lowest cost per pupil school districts in the state of Ohio! This year's statistics (07-08) show us even better -- in the top 9% of the best-managed, lowest cost per pupil school districts in the state of Ohio!

Question 6: Why are you proud of this community?

Answer: I am proud of this community because there is a great teaming which takes place whenever help is asked. The Parking Lot Project at the high school (soon to be in its third straight year) and the Stadium Renovation Project are two prime examples of this. The numerous donations made to the school each month are yet other examples of why I am proud of this community. I've lived in four different school districts during my administrative career, and without question, Upper Sandusky is by far the best supported, most caring, and most generous community my wife and I have ever lived in. From our PTO's to our Booster Groups to our Veterans Groups, to our not-for-profit service groups and "animal groups" (the Elks, Moose, Eagles, and Lions), we live in a very generous and caring community! There are many bright and caring people who live here and who are typically willing to give back what they can to the community. To find this elsewhere to the extent that we have this at Upper Sandusky is certainly rare!

Question 7: We have heard that this new income was originally projected to generate about \$2.488 million dollars (about \$2.5 million dollars) each year. Aren't you fearful that with the local economy, your income tax collections will be down?

Answer: Yes.

Question 8: Will that discourage or prevent you from living within your budget for the next five years?

Answer: No. We will still attempt to do our level best to live within our means if this issue is passed in May. It has been and will be our commitment to live within our means for the next 5 years if the levy passes this May.

Question 9: What is the great danger a school district like Upper Sandusky runs in always managing operational costs as efficiently as we do?

Answer: The danger we run in always managing operations "close to the chest" is that if a levy should ever fail, all the "what-would-be-easier-cuts" will have already been made. This means any cuts that would have to be made would be twice as harsh and cut twice as deeply as cuts made in lesser efficiently operated school districts. It is accurate to state that some of our classes are

already overloaded. Some of our elementary classes have class sizes of 28 students or more when the most recent recommendations call for 15 students in grades kindergarten through three. We do what we can to operate as efficiently as we can, but we have our limits as to how large class sizes can become before the quality of education suffers. Frankly, we're not sure what we would do if our levy would fail. Our site and building project management approaches, our spending practices, our fortunate health insurance claims experience in recent years, and the fact that we have proactively made cuts in recent years whenever we could is what allows us to continue to operate in the black, but the revenue from both income taxes currently in effect is very much needed if we are to continue to do this. We definitely do not want a downward spiral to begin from which there typically seems to be no real return.

Question 10: We have heard school officials talk about the "downward spiral" that many Ohio schools who have built new buildings sometimes experience as well as the "downward spiral" that those who fail operating issues often find themselves. Could you further explain?

Answer: Yes. When a district votes down an operating issue, it often misses a year of collection, **which means it must then ask for more millage the next year to make up for the revenue lost the previous year**. This starts a vicious cycle downward where nothing is done to improve education, and cuts have to be made not actually to improve education significantly by adding programs or staff but simply to maintain what we had before. Class sizes can only become so big before the quality of education suffers. Missing a year of collection puts school districts behind the proverbial eight ball. Also, many people fail to realize that rarely do operating and building funds mix. After a new building program, some will claim that a district should not have built new buildings if a district could not operate them, once they are built. The error in such thinking is that if new monies are needed, they would be needed regardless of whether the new buildings were built as the two funds are typically used for entirely different purposes and kept totally separate for purposes of spending in about 98% of public school funding situations.

Question 11: Is there a tax that nearly all people consider fair?

Answer: No. But if there is a tax that most consider fair, it would be the income tax. In years where income is good, a person pays more; in years when income isn't as good, a person pays less. All people with income (earned or unearned) pay it. All persons with income pay the same percentage or proportional share of whatever their income is for that particular year. If you are a senior citizen, you receive a \$50 credit from taxes owed on your Ohio income taxes. No one like taxes, but for the reasons listed above, most agree that the income tax is the fairest tax that might be levied.

Question 12: Is there a connection between strong schools and a strong community?

Answer: You bet. Everything is interrelated. Strong schools attract and retain quality people. Quality people live in communities where school districts are strong and thus where property values are kept high. Businesses prefer spending less to educate and train their employees and, thus, are most likely to locate in areas where strong schools keep their training and operational costs low. The uneducated and the undereducated often become the unemployed with the unemployed failing to support the system which supports all of us, affecting the quality of life we aspire to have. The big picture is sometimes difficult to sort out, but it is, nevertheless, the accurate picture.

Question 13: Any closing comments?

Answer: I've always said I may not be able to do a whole lot for the kids in China, or Mohawk, or Columbus, or Carey, but the kids

South, Union & East Elementary News

in my community – they're my kids, and I can make a difference in their lives.

Some school districts are asking for new or ADDITIONAL monies. We are not. Some are looking to build new buildings. We are not. Some are asking for ADDITIONAL monies to operate. We are not. No other district in the state that I am aware of is attempting to pledge to its taxpayers that it will attempt to live within its means for ANY period of time, let alone FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. The issue is essentially a renewal. So unless your income has increased significantly beyond what it has in recent years, the same percentage of taxes you have paid in the past will be in effect if you vote in favor of the May 5th school district income tax issue.

As superintendent, I ask that you make a positive difference in the life of a child. Their educational futures, just like always, depend on each of us, one vote at a time. We can always do something to make life better in our little corner of the world. The choice is ours.

Yours for education,

Ken Doseck, Superintendent

DISTRICT NEWS

ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER PROGRAM

Sponsored by Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services

Karen Goshe, 419-294-4388

Wyandot County Parent Mentor Program

Paula Frey, 419-294-3445

Access to Better Care Program

Kathy Bruynis 419-294-6439

Many parents have questions about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), worry about symptoms, and ponder the differences between normal pre-school activity levels and attention seeking behaviors, and those that might be signs of ADHD.

This informal training is to help parents, teachers, and administrators on incoming kindergartners learn about the signs and symptoms of ADHD, as well as potential interventions.

Date: May 5, 2009

Time: 6:30-8:00 pm

Location: Angeline School & Industries
(11028 County Hwy. 44, Upper Sandusky, Ohio)

Presenter: Karen Y. Goshe, LISW-S,
Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services

Snacks will be provided. There is no cost to attend. No childcare will be provided.

Partially funded by the Mental Health and Recovery Service Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties.

- Paula Frey, Parent Mentor

EAST CELEBRATES 100 YEARS WITH MURAL

*Happy birthday to you
Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday dear East School,
Happy birthday to you!*

East Elementary School is looking forward to turning 100 years old in November 2009! To celebrate and honor our heritage, Jean Orians is painting a mural in our building. Students and staff have given her early photographs of our school and ideas of what life might have been like in 1909. We are all anticipating much excitement here at East and are looking forward to watching our birthday celebration mural grow step by step! A big thank you to Jean for her time and effort! Happy 100th Birthday, East Elementary!

- Darcy Washburn, East Kindergarten



SOUTH FAMILY FUN FEST

The students and families of South School were treated to an evening of fun on Saturday, February 28, 2009. Each classroom was transformed into a game room where students

and their siblings could try out their skills and win prizes. Bingo, football toss, beanbag toss, tattooing, ring toss and a fish pond were some of the exciting parts of the evening. There was a cakewalk in the gym where the students walked to the beat of "Who Let the Dogs Out" and "Let's Get This Party Started." The winners had their choice of over 100 beautifully decorated cakes that were donated by the families. Other attractions of the fest were a book fair in the music room, South School tee-shirt sales, and, of course, punch and popcorn for all! We would like to say thank you to the parent team and all of the parents, grandparents, and teachers that made this all possible.

- Cindy Constien, Grade 3



KINDERGARTNERS + SENIORS = TILE FUN

In the fall of 2008, a grant was written asking for ceramic tiles and supplies to decorate with the kindergarten classes at East and Union Elementary Schools. We received this grant funding and all the supplies. We will be working on the tiles in March. The students will be choosing from twenty pre-drawn designs that I have come up with. Due to the detail-oriented nature of painting glaze on ceramic pieces, I have enlisted the help of some of the high school senior ceramic students. Miss Harrell, the high school art teacher,

suggested the idea to me, so during the week of the OGT testing, those senior ceramic students who do not need to take the test will be assisting me in my kindergarten classes. The kindergarten students, along with the help of the experienced ceramic students, will apply the color glazes to their designs. I am looking forward to the interaction between the two classes. Many of the senior art students attended Union and East schools themselves, so they are also looking forward to the art experience.

- Reggie Cameron, Art Teacher

TITLE I HOSTS FAMILY NIGHT



“Encourage your children to dream, and to dream big” was the advice given by Sue Bender, Chad Bender and Larry Watts, who appeared before a gathering of parents and children at the annual Title I Family Night. The three are part of the authors and creators of the children's

book, Ribbit!. Following refreshments and a brief talk by principal Laurie Vent, parents and children were treated to a presentation by these authors who were dressed as characters from the book. During the presentation, they explained how the idea for the book came about, as well as how the illustrations were created.

Following the presentation, the children in the audience were directed to select a free book from a selection of children's books. Audience members were also invited to interact with the authors who autographed copies of their book. - Nancy Sauer, Title I

KINDERGARTNERS ARE READING!



Kindergartners at Union elementary are reading! They are excited and proud to achieve this very important milestone and want to show anybody willing to listen. This month Mrs. Calvin's 8th grade homebase class invited the kindergartners to read to them. Fun was had by all who participated, and we can't wait to see who the junior readers will read to next! - Paige Barth, Kindergarten Teacher

Middle School Happenings

HOMEWORK HOTLINE NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE THROUGH PROGRESS BOOK!

It is easy to access by following these steps:

1. Using your parent (or student) access account, log in to Progress Book.
2. Click on the School tab.
3. Click on the Forms tab.
4. Find the item Middle School Homework Hotline and click on it.

5. Find the grade level you are looking for and get your information!

It can also be accessed by using these following steps:

1. Log on to the Upper Sandusky Schools website at www.upsandusky.k12.oh.us/
2. Click on the Parent Resources tab and scroll to the Parent Access button
3. Click on the Forms tab at the top right.
4. Find the item Middle School Homework Hotline and click on it.
5. Find the grade level you are looking for and get your information!

The phone version of Homework Hotline is available also.

8206 - 6th grade 8207 - 7th grade 8208 - 8th grade

- Jim Wheeler, Principal

DUKES

DUKES (Dedicated Union Kids Exceeding Standards is an incentive program for our 4th and 5th Grade students. Students should show a good work ethic, help others out and demonstrate good behavior.

The DUKES for February were:

5th Grade

Mary O'Kane

Wyatt Slavey

Hannah Stansbery

4th Grade

Madison Vince

Tristan Davis

Anthony Chapman

- Jim Wheeler, Principal

MUDDY BUDDY

Ted Williams once said, “Baseball is one of the arts.” We at USMS could not agree more, so lets include baseball in the curriculum!

For those of you unfamiliar with Muddy Buddy Day, let me explain.

Each month, teachers in each grade level choose one boy and one girl as a student of the month. This award is based on service, scholarship and behavior. At the end of the year we ask those 48 students to chaperone the Union kindergarten classes to a day-time Toledo Mud Hens baseball game.

We believe that the students we select as a Muddy Buddy are exemplary role models, and we should find ways to get them more exposure to our younger children.

About one month before the big game, we partner our kids with the kindergarten classes to read baseball-themed books, participate in baseball-themed activities and other “get-to-know-you” activities. Students produce their very own baseball card to share with their buddies.

On the day of the game, USMS students are partnered with the kindergarten students and remain with them at the game. It is a heart-warming sight to watch middle school students help a student with a hot dog, get them a coke, or chase a foul ball. My personal favorite is when the kindergarten student falls asleep in the middle school student's lap. Priceless.

This year's Muddy Buddy Day is May 13 as our students will watch the Mud Hens take on the Pawtucket Red Sox.

Each student also receives their very own official Muddy Buddy t-shirt before the game. This shirt not only serves as a keepsake for the student, but also makes it much easier for the adults and chaperones to keep track of everyone in a sold-out stadium. Several businesses and individuals help sponsor these shirts. For their donation their name is placed on the back of the shirt. If you are interested in sponsoring our program, please contact me at the school.

We would like to extend a thank you to Wal Mart and Reid Insurance who recently donated money to the Muddy Buddy cause. Thank you for your generosity!

Students of the Month for December

- 6th grade - Charity Gottfried, Brian Bills
- 7th grade - Autumn Monk, Jeffrey Davis
- 8th grade - Megan Vanderpool, Joe Moore
- Jim Wheeler, Principal

OAT TEST DATES

It's test time for Union/USMS. Following are dates for the OAT:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Monday, April 20 | • Grade 4/5 Reading |
| Tuesday, April 21 | • Grade 8 Reading |
| Wednesday, April 22 | • Grade 5/8 Math |
| Thursday, April 23 | • Grade 4 Math |
| Friday, April 24 | • Grade 4- Writing |
| | • Grade 5/8- Science |
| Monday, April 27 | • Grade 6/7 Reading |
| Tuesday, April 28 | • Grade 5/8- Social Studies |
| | • Grade 7- Math |
| Wednesday, April 29 | • Grade 6- Math |
| Thursday, April 30 | • Grade 7 Writing |

HELPING US OUT AT HOME WITH THE OAT

Above you will find Union/USMS test dates for the Ohio Achievement Tests (OAT). We believe our students are as prepared as any in the area or in the state of Ohio, for that matter. What have we done?

- We have identified those students who we believe may struggle by utilizing NWEA MAPP testing. This test, which our students take online, mirrors the OAT in both reading and math. Students took the test last fall and will take it again this spring. We used the test to identify students we thought needed a little extra intervention to get over the hump and pass the OAT.
- Teachers also used the information to check where our students were struggling. What specific learning objectives do our students need help mastering?
- Wendy Searfoss in 6th Grade Reading has been utilizing Study Island every week this year to enhance 6th grade reading scores. Study Island also mirrors the reading OAT and allows us to check the growth of individual students and their grades.
- Teachers have been using test questions that are worded similar to those on the OAT.
- Teachers have also been, and will continue to use, OAT preparation materials in their classrooms and home bases.

So how can you help us at home over the next few weeks as we get into test season? A few ideas:

DIET

We will provide them with a small breakfast each day before a test, but we believe students need to not only eat a healthy breakfast but also pay consume a healthy diet around test time. What do we mean?

Try to avoid caffeine. Have your kids drink plenty of water instead. The caffeine can be harmful in that it can dehydrate a body. Also, be careful on the amount of sugar-laden juice your children might drink during this time.

I'm a father of three. I know how crazy it can be at times planning a nice, sit down, home-cooked meal. If it is possible at all during testing periods, try to plan nutritious meals at home with

your family. When you plan them, pay close attention to the types of food. The type of food your child eats will assist with his/her memory. According to Eric Jensen, author of The Great Memory Book, there are ten foods that will especially help memory. These foods include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Fish (especially cold water variety) | Soybeans |
| Eggs | Lean Beef |
| Chicken Livers | Whole Wheat |
| Chicken | Bananas |
| Low Fat Dairy | Avocados |

If you eat out during this time period, try to keep this list in mind. Avoid fried foods and try to eat more vegetables and fruits.

SLEEP

Make sure your kids are getting plenty of sleep the night before. I know this sounds easy, but again when times get crazy, it gets harder to do.

Also right before going to sleep, help your child use any of the review guides they have received at USMS. Doing it right before sleep helps maintain memory. If you go to sleep right after learning the information, there are no outside distractions to take your mind elsewhere after learning the material.

STAY POSITIVE

Be positive with your kids. They may be worried about the test and show test anxiety. Visualize with them looking at their positive results. If you show them you believe, their belief will follow.

LINKS

Take the next few weeks and look at some tests yourself. These sites cannot only give you an idea of what your child will be doing, but they can also assist your child with his/her study at home:

- www.internet4classrooms.com - Good review for Grades 4-8 for all subjects
- www.edhelper.com - Good site for practice tests.

- Jim Wheeler, Principal

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

The Ohio Music Education Association District 2 Junior High Music Festival was held at Tiffin Middle School. The guest conductors for the evening were George Schram for the Orchestra, Paula Norwine for the Chorus, and Upper Sandusky Retired Band Director James McDonald for the Band. Participants representing the USMS Band were Max Birtle-trumpet; Sierra Miller- baritone; and Danial Maltzbarger-trombone. The participants representing USMS for Choir included: sopranos, Amber Cox and Jayma Voorheis; second sopranos, Fiona Bather and Taylor Clark; tenors, Jacob Courtright and Seth Sprang; and bass, Gannon Ritter.



Front Row - Max Birtle, Jacob Courtright, Sierra Miller, Taylor Clark

Second Row- Jayma Voorheis, Gannon Ritter, Amber Cox

Fourth Row - Fiona Bather, Seth Sprang, Danial Maltzbarger

High School Events

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

The 3rd nine-weeks ended on March 27. Upper Sandusky High School students will be receiving grade reports during the first week in April. The following events are scheduled at USHS during the month of April:

- April 1 National Honor Society Banquet, Elks: 6:30 p.m.**
- April 5 Boys Basketball/Cheerleading Banquet: USHS Gym, 4:00 p.m.**
- April 10 NO SCHOOL-GOOD FRIDAY**
- April 11 Eden Alumni: 5:00-9:30 p.m.**
- April 13 SCHOOL IN SESSION: Make-up Day
Ram Boosters: 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Library**
- April 15 Graduation for Wyandot County Leadership:
8:00 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.**
- April 18 Family Fun Fair: 8:00-11:30 a.m.**
- April 20 Board of Education Meeting: USHS Library,
6:30 p.m.**
- April 22 Drama Club Rammy Awards: 6:30 p.m.**
- April 24 Interim Grades Due**
- April 25 Harpster Alumni: 12:00-10:00 p.m.**
- April 26 FFA Toy Show**
- May 2 PROM: 7:00-11:30 in Gym/Café**

NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

Congratulations to Joel Armstrong, Morgan Frey, Alicia Lehman, and Jessica Scurlock! These USHS students attend Sentinel Career Center and were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society Chapter in a ceremony at SCC on Monday, March 2, 2009. Great going, students!

- Jim Clifford, Principal

WHY DOES ATTENDANCE MATTER?

Your teachers and your school have rules on the number of days you can be absent. That's because they want you to attend class! Here's why:

- **You're likely to get better grades.** You can't learn if you aren't in school. There is a clear link: students who attend class do better in school.
- **You're likely to get a better job.** The habits you set now attending class every day and coming to school on time will carry over into the workplace.
- **You're more likely to stay out of trouble.** One study found that 78% of those who ended up in prison had a first arrest for school truancy.
- **You'll be much more likely to graduate.** Missing too many classes is often the first step toward dropping out. Students who drop out of high school have a much less chance for sustained employment.

- Jim Clifford, Principal

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 2009

Senior - Jessica Brown
Sophomore - David Zarazua

Junior - Sean Harford
Freshman - Nick Michalek

FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE INFORMATION/CAREER SPOT

One of the most important things for freshmen and sophomore students to do is to explore available information about jobs and careers. A user-friendly site to be used for this purpose is www.khake.com/page64.html-48k. The first screen has Middle and High School Career Resources. Then choose "Jobs for Kids Who Like." The next window takes students to a screen reflective of individual choices, from specific subjects like math or more general areas such as helping people or nature. When students make a selection, they are then taken to a page that breaks down a career into:

- * what the job is like;
- * how you get ready for the job;
- * how much the job pays;
- * how many jobs are available;
- * the future of the job; and
- * similar jobs.

- Barb Norman, Guidance Counselor

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; if you have sent a deposit, you should also request 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 and related data are:

ACT: June 13, 2009 – Registration deadline is May 8, 2009 (www.actstudent.org);

SAT: June 6, 2009 – Registration deadline is May 5, 2009 (www.collegeboard.com).

Juniors should also think about making visits to colleges that they may be interested in. They might wish to investigate 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". Happy Spring!
- Cara Stevens, 11th & 12th Grade Counselor

BREAKFAST FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The USHS Chapter of National Honor Society sponsored its annual Breakfast for Academic Excellence early on a Thursday morning in February. Students who earned a place on the Principal's List (4.0 GPA) or the Dean's List (3.75-3.90

GPA) for the second nine-week grading period were invited to attend the candlelight breakfast catered by Special Occasions. Eighty students attended. The morning included Speaker Pete Droll, an U.S.H.S. alumnus. Pete is currently in his third year at O.S.U. Columbus, is a member of the Buckeye marching band, and recently marched in the inaugural parade in Washington D.C. He challenged students to “step up” and join other successful U.S.H.S. graduates. He also offered some suggestions for surviving college. This activity is organized to encourage students in their academic work.

- Teresa Harris, NHS Advisor

FFA PENNIES FOR TIME

The Upper Sandusky FFA involved the entire Upper Sandusky High School student body in their Pennies for Time project aimed at assisting charities. This activity was part of Upper Sandusky FFA Week, which focused this year on helping others.

The students brought in pennies for the teachers to count before class could begin, and then the pennies were picked by the FFA. This year's project earned \$1,006.00, of which \$456.00 went to the Wyandot County Food Pantry, \$300.00 to the Ohio FFA Dr. Kanter Scholarship Fund, and \$250.00 to the Church World Service, CROP program.

The top 5 teachers raising money were, Mr. Sturgeon with \$543.00, Mr. Queen with \$119.00, Mrs. Harris with \$72.00, Mr. Thomas with \$52.00, and Mrs. Berger with \$46.00. A five-gallon-bucket of pennies equals a little over \$200.00.

- John Lawyer, Ag Instructor

SHS MARKETING STUDENTS CAPTURE TOP DECA AWARDS

Two Upper Sandusky High School seniors, Fernando Salinas and Jessica Brown, captured second place trophies at the recent Ohio DECA Career Development Conference in Columbus. Top qualifiers from 16 DECA districts across Ohio competed in a variety of events, including comprehensive tests, case study role-plays, research papers, sales demonstrations, and other marketing-related projects. DECA is an international association of marketing students.

Salinas' event was food marketing, which included a test about food marketing practices and principles and two marketing management case study problems, which he analyzed and then presented recommended solutions to judges. As a result of his outstanding achievement in the state competition, he won the right to advance to the international DECA competition in Anaheim, California April 28 to May 2. This event will mark Salinas' second advancement to international DECA competition. Last year he competed in Atlanta, Georgia.

Brown was recognized for her outstanding achievement on a comprehensive math/communications test. Unfortunately, however, top winners in the test-only events do not advance past the state competition.

Also representing USHS in the state DECA competition were an entrepreneurship (written event) team composed of seniors Brandy Adkins, Josie Brown and Corinne Stansbery; and juniors Chae Emerine (restaurant and food service management) and Sarah Larick (quick-serve restaurant management).

Twenty-eight juniors and seniors are enrolled in the USHS marketing education/DECA program this school year. In addition to their classroom studies, senior marketing students also receive graduation credit for working in marketing-related jobs throughout the community.

Wayne Thomas, marketing instructor and DECA advisor, said there are still a few openings for next year's junior and senior marketing classes. Interested students should contact Mr. Thomas or the high school guidance office for an application to the program. Admittance to the program is based upon a combination of a student's grade point average, attendance record and a career interest in business and marketing. Upper Sandusky High School's marketing education/DECA program is offered in cooperation with the Vanguard-Sentinel Career Centers.

-Wayne Thomas, DECA Instructor



Upper Sandusky High School senior marketing education students Fernando Salinas and Jessica Brown captured impressive trophies at the recent Ohio DECA Career Development Conference in Columbus. Top high school marketing students from across the state competed in a wide variety of marketing-related events.

VANGUARD-SENTINEL'S TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY

On Monday, March 2, four Upper Sandusky students (out of 26 total students from Upper Sandusky) were inducted into Vanguard-Sentinel's Technical Honor Society. Pictured left to right are: Joel Armstrong, Jessica Scurlock, Alicia Lehman, and Morgan Frey.



UPPER SANDUSKY HIGH SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

The USHS Boys Basketball Team finished the season with an outstanding 16-5 record. The Rams won their third NOL championship in the past five years by earning a 10-4 league record. Alex Falk was named All-NOL First Team, All-District 6 First Team and the Associated Press Northwest District Division II co-player of the year. Keith Diebler was named District 6 Coach of the Year.

The USHS Girls Basketball Team showed continual improvement throughout the season, finishing in fifth place in the NOL. The Lady Rams used an impressive performance in first round of the sectional tournament to knock off Willard before losing to undefeated Tiffin Columbian in the sectional finals.

The USHS Swim Team completed its most successful season in school history with the boys team finishing third in the NOL and the girls team finishing fourth. Forty-one boys school records were broken while 20 girls school records were smashed during the season. Jacob Beach highlighted individual performances winning both the 50- and 100-yard freestyle events at the NOL meet.

The Rams Wrestling Team displayed its best NOL finish in recent years finishing in fifth place in the always tough NOL tournament at Tiffin Columbian. Aaron Webster (189) and Chase Kenner (152) both claimed NOL championships. Aaron Webster battled back to earn a fifth place district finish and a state alternate position.

The USHS Cheerleading Squad completed another great season with an outstanding display of talent, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship. The athletic ability our cheerleaders show week after week is amazing. Our cheerleaders continue to set the standard for excellence in cheerleading in both the NOL and in Northwest Ohio.

The USHS Athletic Department is proud of the many accomplishments of all our winter sport athletes and coaches. They continue to represent our school and community with "class" both on and off the playing field. Our teams continue to carry on the fine "tradition of excellence" of Upper Sandusky High School Athletics! - Brad Ehrman, Athletic Director

LONGTIME USHS COACH BILL THORNTON RETIRES

Bill Thornton recently announced his retirement from the coaching ranks at Upper Sandusky High School. Coach Thornton has been a valuable member of the coaching staff at both USHS and USMS for over 25 years.

Coach Thornton has served our wrestling program as the middle school head coach for 12 years, a volunteer coach for 2 years and a varsity assistant coach for 1 year before taking over as the high school head wrestling coach for 8 years.

Bill also coached varsity girls tennis at USHS for 8 years, serving as a volunteer coach for 5 years before being named head coach the last 3 years.

Coach Thornton has made a positive impact in the lives of countless student-athletes. His upbeat personality, contagious smile, competitive nature and love of kids have made him a

favorite coach of many of our students.

Bill will now take a well-deserved break from coaching to spend more time with his family, including three grandchildren. I am sure that we will see him coaching his grandchildren; teaching them a wrestling move, a tennis stroke or how to kick a soccer ball.

Thanks, Bill for all your hard work, time and effort in coaching our kids for over 25 years. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and have not gone unnoticed. You will be missed as a coach and a role model for our student-athletes. Best wishes with all your future plans! - Brad Ehrman, Athletic Director

UPPER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FARE WELL IN DISTRICT SCIENCE FAIR

Upper Sandusky High School students participated in North Central District Science Fair at Marion-OSU on March 21, earning 19 special awards from the 158 projects they presented there. Three Upper Sandusky students, Alec Stansbery, Danny Brown, and Jacob Beach will advance to International Science and Engineering Fair competition in Reno, Nevada, May 10-15.

Alec Stansbery – Army Award for Environmental; Best 11th Grade Project (includes a \$500 OSUM scholarship); Best Biochemistry Project; Governor's Award for Excellence in Biotechnology Research; Governor's Award for Excellence in Energy Research; Governor's Award for Excellence in Environmental Research; Regional Ricoh Sustainable Development Award; Society for In Vitro Biology Award; Superior Rating advance to State Science Day; International Science and Engineering Fair participant;

Danny Brown & Jacob Beach – Army Award for Computer Science; Air Force Award for Team; Best Team Project (at any grade level); Best Computer Science Project (includes a \$300 Marion Technical College scholarship); Governor's Award for Excellence in Information Technology Research; Intel Excellence in Computer Science Award; Superior Rating advance to State Science Day; International Science and Engineering Fair participant.

Other award winners included:

Cale Sandridge - Naval Science Award; Army Award Best Overall; Air Force Award;

Tricia Stansbery – Army Award for Engineering; Air Force Award; and

Chelsey Frey – Superior Rating advance to State Science Day.

Also receiving a superior rating for Youth Scholars (YBSTEM/STEMcredibles) was Nicholas Reid, grade 6.

APRIL 2009

District Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 USHS National Honor Society Banquet, Elks - 6:30pm	2 SOUTH Spring Program K,1,2 USMS Track - Wynford/ Crestline @ Wynford 4:30pm USHS B BO Ten @ Bucyrus 4:15pm C V TR @ Tiffin Columbian - 4:30 pm	3 USHS B V BB Seneca East 4:30pm B JV BB @ Seneca East 4:30pm G V SB Seneca East 4:30 pm G JV SB @ Seneca East 4:30 pm	4 USMS Jr. Hi Solo & Ensemble at Seneca East USHS C V TR @ Bucyrus Elks Inv. - 9am B V BB DH-Hopewell Loudon - 11am B JV BB @ DH- Hopewell Loudon- 11am G V SB HD-Hopewell Loudon - 11am G JV SB @ DH- Hopewell Loudon- 11am
5 USHS Boys BB/Cheerleading Banquet, USHS Gym, 4:00 pm	6 USHS B BO Ten @ River Valley - 4:15pm	7 USHS B BO Ten Bucyrus 4:15pm B V BB @ Tiffin Columbian - 4:30pm B JV B Tiffin Columbian 4:30pm G V SB @ Tiffin Columbian 4:30pm G JV SB Tiffin Columbian - 4:30pm C V TR Norwalk-4:30pm	8	9 USHS B BO Ten Pleasant 4:15pm B V BB @ Norwalk 4:30pm B JV BB @ Norwalk 4:30pm G V SB @ Norwalk 4:30pm G JV SB @ Norwalk 4:30pm C V TR @ Kenton Relays 5pm	10 Good Friday NO SCHOOL	11 USHS G V SB @ DH - Riverdale 11am
12 Easter Sunday	13 School In Session Make-Up Day USHS G JV SB Fostoria 4:00pm B BO Ten Bellevue 4:15pm B V BB @ Fostoria 4:30pm G V SB @ Fostoria 4:30pm RAM Boosters 7-9pm Library	14 USHS B BO Ten @ Gallion 4:15pm G V SB Mohawk 4:30pm G JV SB @ Mohawk 4:30pm C V TR @ Gallion 4:30pm	15	16 USHS B BO Ten Tiffin Columbian - 4:15pm B V BB @ Willard 4:30pm B JV BB Willard - 4:30pm G V SB @ Willard 4:30pm G JV SB Willard -4:30pm	17 USHS B V BB Shelby - 4:30pm B JV BB @ Shelby 4:30pm G V SB Shelby - 4:30pm G JV SB @ Shelby 4:30pm	18 USHS C V TR @ Clyde Inv. 9:30am B V BB DH-Wynford 11am B JV BB @ DH-Wynford 11am G V SB DH-Wynford 11am G JV SB @ DH-Wynford 11am
19	20 Brd. of Ed. Mtg. USHS Library 6:30pm USMS Track-Fostoria/Bellevue @ Fostoria - 4:30pm USHS B BO Ten @ Norwalk 4:15pm B V BB @ Bellevue 4:30pm B JV BB Bellevue 4:30pm G V SB @ Bellevue 4:30pm G JV SB Bellevue 4:30pm	21 UNION Boosters Meeting at 7:00 pm in Library USHS C V TR @ Shelby 4:30pm	22 USHS Drama Club Rammy Awards 6:30 pm	23 USHS B BO Ten @ Fostoria 4:15pm B V BB Gallion - 4:30pm B JV BB @ Gallion 4:30pm G V SB Gallion - 4:30pm G JV SB @ Gallion 4:30pm	24 USMS Track - Ottoville Inv. @ Ottoville - 4:30pm USHS B BO Ten @ Willard 4:15pm	25 USHS C V TR Swankhouse Track Inv. - 9:30am G V SB @ DH - Carey 11am G JV SB DH - Carey 11am
26 FFA TOY SHOW	27 USMS Track - Kenton (home) 4:30pm USHS B BO Ten Shelby 4:15pm B V BB Tiffin Columbian 4:30pm B JV BB @ Tiffin Columbian - 4:30pm G V SB Tiffin Columbian 4:30pm G JV SB @ Tiffin Columbian - 4:30pm	28 USHS B V BB Fostoria 4:30pm G V SB Fostoria 4:30pm G JV SB @ Fostoria 4:30pm C V TR Fostoria 4:30pm	29	30 USHS B BO Ten @ Bellevue 4:15pm B V BB @ Norwalk 4:30pm B JV BB Norwalk 4:30pm G V SB @ Norwalk 4:30pm G JV SB Norwalk 4:30pm		

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USHS BAND AND CHOIR EARN HIGHEST RATINGS!

Congratulations to band and choir students for their performances at OMEA's District Contest on March 14. The Symphonic Choir, Women's Chorus, Chamber Choir, and Symphonic Band all represented our school and our community well. That being said, it is a honor to announce that the Upper Sandusky Music Department has again been recognized for delivering "superior" performances.

The Symphonic Band and the Chamber Choir both earned the top rating of "Superior" at this weekend's District Large Group Adjudicated Event and have qualified to advance to the state level competition in May. The band earned superior ratings from all four of their judges and was one of only two bands in our class to advance from Perkins High School to the state contest. The choir earned their overall superior rating as one of only three groups in their class to advance from Perkins High School.

Both groups performed three pieces (one from a "required" list of music) and then moved to sight reading, where they, after just a few minutes of individual study and a few more of group study, had one chance to perform a piece of music they had never seen. These groups stepped up to the

challenge, and both earned superior ratings for their sight reading ability.

A few of the comments on our students' performances include: nice, mature sound; great interpretation and style; a fine band under fine leadership; well prepared; much for which this group can be justifiably proud; outstanding, mature sound; this is a talented, hard working group; and keep listening to your director. You had excellent pre-performance instruction!

We do not have a specific performance time for our state contest appearance but can share that the band will perform at Findlay High School and the choir will perform at Van Buren High School on Friday night, May 1. Both groups look forward to traveling and performing again!

Thank you to the community members who came out to support our students (some of whom had no direct connection to any of the groups)! We hope to see many, many more representatives from Upper Sandusky for our performances at State Contest!

- Jason Morris, USHS Band Director