



"A Tradition of Excellence"

# Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools

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April 2005

## OUR STUDENTS, OUR SCHOOLS, OUR FUTURE! ELECTION DAY MAY 3, 2005

Upper Sandusky is a great community. The Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools is an important contributor to the quality of life in the community. The residents of the school district have always strongly supported the students and activities of the schools.

Our school district is experiencing severe losses in funding due to unfunded mandates, state cutbacks, declining resident enrollment and rising property valuation. Simply put, funds are depleted.

To maintain the current level of educational programming in our school system, we need to eliminate the budget deficit now facing our district. This is why the district has placed a 5 year 0.75% school income tax levy on the May 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot. This is a 0.75% increase from the current 0.5% the district now collects. Passage of the levy will help to offset the immediate crisis, help ensure a stable financial future and provide a fair solution for all district residents.

An income tax is not new to Upper Sandusky. As stated before, the school district currently collects a 0.5% income tax, thus making the total income tax of 1.25% an increase of 0.75%. A large number of other Ohio school districts currently utilize an income tax of 1% or greater. It is a fair, equitable means to fund schools and is also beneficial to farmers who bear a large share of the property tax burden. Unlike property taxes, a tax on income is substantially less if farm profits fall. School income tax provides a \$50 senior citizen credit as well as a \$1,250 personal exemption for all taxpayers and dependents. Income that is NOT taxed includes social security benefits, disability and survivor's benefits, railroad retirement, welfare, child support, property received as a gift or inheritance and worker's compensation. School income tax is collected in the same manner as state income tax, through employer withholdings, individual estimated quarterly payments and annual returns.

The district has reached a critical point. **This issue must pass for the Upper Sandusky School District to remain solvent.** We are facing a deficit of \$187,000 in fiscal year 2006, which will continue to rise if we are forced to borrow on an annual basis. Projections indicate that we will be facing a deficit of \$1,585,000 by fiscal year 2007. This is **NOT** due to new or additional expenses.

None of us like additional taxes, but until the state funding system is changed, local taxpayers in Ohio must shoulder the responsibility of providing a quality education for our children.

Education is a sound investment for all of us. Property values rise in areas with good school systems. Upper Sandusky is no exception! As a highly respected school system, housing in this district is at a premium. Families want to reside in the Upper Sandusky community and attend school here. Education fosters well-rounded citizens capable of supporting themselves, making solid decisions and participating in a democratic society. Although you may not currently have children in the school district, please remember that someone paid for your education.

The school district belongs to all of us in the community, thus we must all share in the cost of educating children. **These are Our Students, Our Schools, Our Future!**

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

In service to our children,

Stephen W. Puchta  
Superintendent of Schools



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.



## COSI at Marseilles

"Hook any keepers?" was the fish question of the day when *COSI on Wheels* came to visit Marseilles School on January 28. Sponsored by the Marseilles School Boosters, the ODNR Wildlife Habitat theme decorated the gym with birds, bugs, plants, trees, fish and other wildlife in the forest, grassland, pond and wetland settings.

The students, kindergarten through 5th grade, worked through stations manned by parent and neighbor volunteers. They learned to identify fish, looked at bugs under the microscope, listened to bird calls and spotted birds in their habitat, and identified animals from their fur and scat.

The COSI wildlife theme was a warm-up for the Marseilles "Right to Read Week" *Habitat for Reading*. The reading celebration will take place April 18-22. Watch for more information in upcoming newsletters. - Sue Kitzler

South School students also enjoyed COSI on Wheels!



## What Is Your Favorite Book?

Second Graders at East Elementary wrote about their favorite books. They also invited a guest reader, Mr. Reid, to share his favorite book with the class. Nicholas's dad, Mr. Reid, can take care of your insurance needs,



but did you know that he is also "Black Hawk" President of The Viking Club during his lunch hour? Mr. Reid's favorite boyhood book is The Secret Hide-Out. This chapter book holds a lot of memories for him. It entertained him and his sister when he was young. As a father, he has been able to share this book with his children and their classmates. This year, Mr. Reid also read to the class, the sequel, Enemies of The Secret Hide-Out given to him from Mr. Courtad when his daughter, Hannah, was in second grade.

Along with learning new vocabulary words like "keen" the class did many activities to go along with the books. They had secret code names and a secret knock. Masks and shields were made according to the instructions in the book. Each had to pass four tests in an obstacle course to become Senior Members. One day, work was done in sleeping bags with flashlights shining through-out the room during a camp-in with hot chocolate and s'mores. The class learned that writing instructions on how to make s'mores was harder than making and eating them. All the students had to follow clues to find the secret hide-out, sign their name in the membership book, and return with a badge to prove their success. A membership book along with pictures and thank you letters was given to Mr. Reid. One very good lesson taught the children, that being part of a club and taking care of each other is a lot more fun than being a bully and making fun of someone else.

- Penny Case

## What's Happening at East School?

East celebrated Read Across America on Dr. Seuss's birthday along with the rest of the nation. Studies show the single most important thing a parent can do to increase success in school for their child is to read to them on a regular basis. So pick up a book, find a child, and enjoy the time together!

Students also had a great time celebrating the success of our Lady Rams winning the NOL and the boys' basketball team. We are so proud of the East alums on the boys' team, Brock England, Miles Weaver, and Ian Mason, ball boys Jordan Ebert and Sam Plott, and the managers Hannah Reid and Tiffany Boes. Orange and black have become our favorite colors!

These activities and much more, can be found on our school web pages. We invite you to visit <http://www.uppersandusky.k12.oh.us> either at home or at the library. You will find the district page leading you to all kinds of information about our district including forms, e-mail addresses, school delays, scheduled events, etc. Each building is linked to the page for you to see "what's happening" at the H.S., Middle School, Marseilles, South, or East.

If you click on East Elementary, you will be able to go to a variety of pages. Activities, will show you pictures of what we are doing by the month. Administration, tells about our principal and a cute story about our adopted mascot, Whiskers. Events, shows you a school calendar for East and also has a link to Dynacal, our district calendar of events. Classroom, shows you class pictures for K-5. Facilities, gives you general information about our building, what we offer, and pictures of East School. Lunch Menu, takes you to a link showing the menu for the month. Staff, gives you a list of those working in our building and links to pages for each teacher telling about their education and experience in their field. Academics, shows you the grading scale and suggestions for how parents can help at home. Community, tells what East contributes to our area and links to community web sites. The Fees page tells you the cost per grade for school fees, lunch, etc. Past, highlights the history of East Elementary. Present, is a page for current announcements. PTO, lets you know who the officers are, meeting dates and times, and some events they have sponsored. Supplies, lists by grade level, the school supplies your child needs. Testing, explains the Ohio Department of Education's testing schedule and rating system, as well as, East's scores. Gr. 2, is a link to the second grade's web pages for their activities, calendar, homework, extra help, and review. Gr. 5, is a link to the fifth grade's web pages for homework and news articles. Home Page, takes you back to the district's site. Legal, is a formality explaining the legalities of the site. The last link, Boosters, takes you to the Rams Booster web pages.

New for next year, elementary parents will be able to access Progress Book through our web page to check their

child's homework and grades any time they want.

Our web pages are there as a service to the parents and community; we hope you find them enjoyable and useful.

- Penny Case



## First Graders Publishers

First graders at East School are demonstrating great team work to create a class story. They chose their charismatic secretary Mrs. Lisa Beach as the main character.

As an extension from a phonics lesson on digraph "ea" they chose to create their story in rhyme. Cooperate learning groups were designed to illustrate and write each page. They learned to edit their work for the final draft before binding their story.

Next they will apply their knowledge to create their own story. Wendy Reid and fifth grade students will assist them in typing their final draft. When all illustrations are completed they will be laminated and bound into a book. What a great item to display at a high school graduation party.

- Diane Orians

## Kindergarten Graduation

Our little ones graduate! It such a cute program as our kindergarteners proudly walks across the stage in cap, gown and tassel.

This year, we will graduate on May 25 at 1:00 p.m. in the Union Auditorium. We have a nice program of cookies and punch for all who attend. Feel free to come out and watch!

## Booster Officers

The next Union booster meeting is May 12 in the Union Library at 7:00 p.m. This is an important meeting because it is the meeting where we elect officers and plan fund raisers for the next year.

Please attend if you can. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Wheeler at Union or Jaime Duress at (419) 294-4311.

## Union Carnival

This year's Union Carnival will be held on April 16 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. in the Union Gymnasium. It's always a great day with food, fun and prizes for the entire family.

There will be Bingo in the library, a plethora of children's games in the gym, and FOOD in the cafeteria. We also have a raffle, with various prizes donated from local businesses. Raffle tickets are on sale right now from any Union Elementary student.

Last year, the Union Boosters raised \$3,000 at the carnival. Funds this year were utilized toward the purchase of new playground equipment and various other items that supplement our educational program at Union.

C'mon out and have fun! And know that your money goes to a great cause. - Jim Wheeler

## ACES

As we near the end of the year, we would like to thank ethos parents who spent so much time and energy in preparing our ACES Breakfast and programs:

- Pam Baker and Jennifer Gier provided some two outstanding breakfasts in the fall and winter respectively.
- Jennifer Dubois assisted us in the preparation of our ACES Banner which hangs on our cafeteria wall.
- Suzanne Getz who also lent us a hand in several ways this year.
- USMS Student Council who developed and prepared an ACES program.
- Greg Micheli, Angela Micheli, Courtney Romich, Nate Bair, Justin Swartz and Keith Herring who served as role models and spoke to our elementary students about ACES related topics.

Thank you to all of you who have helped make this program a success. - Jim Wheeler

## Middle School Happenings

### Community Service

Community service is a basic tenet of the middle school movement in American middle schools. Middle school children are at an age in their development in which they are looking not only for an outlet, but for an outlet for morals and ethics. Believe it or not, they WANT to do nice things for people, they just need direction.

USMS is proud to have one of the few middle school service learning programs in the area. We are proud of our students for being active in the community and helping those who need it. We are specifically proud of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.

Our current group of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are very service minded. We should set an USMS record this year, with in excess of 70% of our students completing all fifteen hours.

We would also like everyone to remember that at our annual honors program, The Upper Sandusky Rotary Club co-sponsors our Community Service Student of the Year award. We also reward those who completed their hours with an end of the year luau.

If you have any ideas for service learning projects, please contact the school. - Jim Wheeler

### Elementary Visitations

During the upcoming months, USMS will host visitors from each elementary school in the district. Our goal is to familiarize each 5<sup>th</sup> grade student (and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from St. Peter's) with the middle school.

The building can seem large, daunting and overwhelming to new students. It is the aim of our faculty, staff and administration to make each entering student feel comfortable upon entering. To that end, we invite them for lunch, a building tour, a visit to several classrooms and if possible a visit with some teachers. We also give them a brief overview of various middle school philosophies.

If you have a 5<sup>th</sup> grade or 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, plan on them visiting the building in April or May.

### Advisory Program

The USMS advisory program is better than what we have had, but after year one we need to continue to develop it. Advisory needs to be beneficial to students from a social standpoint, giving them an adult to connect to in case there is a problem or if a crisis arises. It needs to continue to boost students' self esteem and also provide some exploratory issues. Following is an example of a potential revision:

#### MONDAY

**INTERVENTION/EXTRA-CURRICULAR DAY** - Stay the same. The only change is that if a student has work to do, that student CANNOT attend the extra-curricular. They must do the make up work. Those who are not in an activity can do more SSR for credit.

#### TUESDAY

**SSR** - We'll keep SSR, but add a twist. Teachers will observe who brings books that day and if they are on task at all times. Teachers will nominate all deserving kids and the winner's name will be pulled from a hat. At the end of the semester, we'll award the winner in each grade level with a certificate to a local bookstore or let them order \$10 worth of books from the library.

#### WEDNESDAY

**COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY** - It's a time to touch base with them for community service.

#### THURSDAY

**ISSUES DAY** - A structured day in which students view film clips and discuss various teamwork or ethical issues.

#### FRIDAY

**HOBBY DAY** - Each teacher, including the Encore Team would choose a personal hobby to teach in their class. Units would last 4½ weeks. Students would sign up for units on a first come first serve basis, according to their incentive standings or 8<sup>th</sup> graders first.

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## Incentive Programs At USMS

When I was in school, members of my family offered me money for making the honor roll, improving my grades or simply getting good grades. They didn't go broke and I didn't get rich, I can guarantee you that. But it was something to shoot for.

USMS teachers have incentive programs currently in progress. To qualify, students must meet criteria selected by each grade level team. While the criteria varies from team to team, academics, service, attendance and behavior are all hallmarks of a good incentive program. Recently, qualifying 8<sup>th</sup> graders won a well deserved trip to the Bucyrus YMCA, qualifying 7<sup>th</sup> graders received a bowling field trip and 6<sup>th</sup> graders went roller skating.

Please check with your middle school child to see what his/her grade level criteria is.

## Muddy Buddies

Once again, in 2005 USMS will have Muddy Buddies. Don't worry, we're not out getting dirty with our friends. It's a wonderful baseball themed activity in which middle school students of the month partner with a local elementary school and chaperone them to a Toledo Mud Hens game. Last May, the middle schoolers chaperoned the Marseilles first grade to watch the Hens beat up on the Ottawa Lynx. This year's game will be held on May 18 and they play those Canadian rascals again.

This year is extra special because it is the last trip Marseilles will make with us.

Please contact Jim Wheeler at the school if you would be willing to donate to this wonderful character raising activity this year.

We would like to thank the following sponsors for assisting with the purchase of t-shirts last year:

- Judge Kate & Bill Aubry
- First Citizens National Bank
- Kimmel Corporation
- BPOE Lodge #83
- Reid Insurance

The March Students of the Month that have been selected to attend are:

Joel Armstrong- 8<sup>th</sup>  
Jewel Wolfgang- 8<sup>th</sup>  
Amanda Scheck- 7<sup>th</sup>  
Todd Williams- 7<sup>th</sup>  
Steve Nye- 6<sup>th</sup>  
Theresa D'Ettore- 6<sup>th</sup>

## Hobby Day

As you know, USMS instituted Hobby Day this year, allowing students and teachers to meet every Friday during Home Base in a structured, non-academic setting. Students learned several things from teachers this year including card games, jump rope and euchre.

USMS would specifically like to thank two community members for loaning their time to Hobby Day. Former USMS Principal George Kreachbaum was kind enough to share his bridge playing skills with our kids, while Bill Aubry did his best to rewrite *A River Runs Through It* as he taught fishing.  
- Jim Wheeler

## Questions Or Concerns

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at Union. We would be more than happy to discuss the concerns with you. A few bits of advice:

- Our address is 390 W. Walker Street
- You can reach us via telephone (419) 294-5721
- You can reach me directly via email at [wheeler\\_j@treca.org](mailto:wheeler_j@treca.org)
- If you need to leave us a message or drop us a note, please remember to leave either a telephone number or an address. We want to help, but we need to be able to communicate with you to be able to help!

- Jim Wheeler

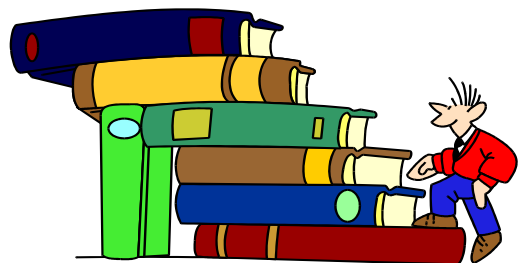
## Volunteers

Did you like recess when you were in school? Do you yearn for the days of smelling pizza in the hallway? Did you enjoy the rigors of crossing streets and battling traffic to get to school? Well your lucky day is upon you.

Union Elementary School and USMS is asking for your assistance for the following tasks:

- Monitoring the cafeteria during lunch time
- Serving as a crossing guard
- Assisting teachers while monitoring recess

If you can donate your time please contact Principal Jim Wheeler at (419) 294-5721.



## High School Events

### USHS Athletic Dept. Report

On Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> the Upper Sandusky High School Boys Basketball Team completed a “dream season” by defeating Wooster Triway 94-86 to win the OHSAA Division II State Basketball Championship. The Rams accomplished this feat in front of over 18,000 basketball fans at the Schottenstein Center on the campus of Ohio State University. The Rams finished the season with a perfect 27-0 record remaining the only undefeated boy's basketball team in the state of Ohio. They returned later that afternoon to a packed gym at Upper Sandusky High School to celebrate their championship.

Boy's basketball individual honors went to Jake Diebler who was named the OHSAA Division II co-player of the year. Jon Diebler was selected second team all-state and Greg Micheli received honorable mention all-state recognition. Head Coach, Keith Diebler was named the OHSAA Division II Basketball Coach of the Year.

The Lady Ram Basketball Team finished with an outstanding 23-1 record while winning the NOL, sectional and district championships. The Lady Rams completed a perfect 20-0 regular season while earning their second consecutive NOL Title. Kerri Kraus was named to the OHSAA Division II all-state first team.

Congratulations to both basketball teams for displaying first-class behavior and tremendous sportsmanship throughout the season. Their commitment to excellence in the classroom and on the basketball floor is to be commended. Both teams have represented our school and community with class both on and off the playing floor. We appreciate them continuing the outstanding “tradition of excellence” of Upper Sandusky High School Athletics!

A big thank you goes out to the fans of both the Rams and Lady Rams basketball teams. Throughout the year, both teams had tremendous support both at home and on the road. There were over 4,000 Upper Sandusky fans watching the USHS boys basketball team win its first state championship in school history. Thanks for being the best and most loyal fans in the State of Ohio!  
- Brad Ehrman

### Sentinel National Honor Society

Three USHS students who attend Sentinel were recognized on March 7, 2005 when they were inducted into the Sentinel National Honor Society. They are Nathan Boes, Jacob Rall, and Brandon Stapely. Congratulations to these students for their accomplishments.  
- James Clifford

### 16 USHS Marketing Students Win DECA Trophies

Sixteen of the twenty-five Upper Sandusky High School marketing education students who competed at the recent DECA District 3 Career Development Conference in the Lima Mall took home trophies for their efforts. More than 200 marketing students from fourteen DECA chapters in western Ohio competed in a variety of marketing-related events involving comprehensive tests, marketing case studies, written reports and oral presentations to judges from business, industry and government.

The local students who were awarded trophies at the conclusion of the competition included seniors Jordan Thiel, second place, travel and tourism marketing team; Reid Graham, third place, vehicles and petroleum marketing; Rachael Mitten, third place, math and communications test; Wesley Parsell and Jordan Vaughn, third place, e-commerce marketing team; Danica Ochier-Simonis and Victoria Olivas, fourth place, team advertising campaign; Rebecca Joseph, fourth place, food marketing; Sasha Collins and Sara Oates, fifth place, hospitality marketing team; Logan Lawrence, fifth place, apparel and accessories marketing; Trisha Gilmore, fourth place, retail merchandise marketing; and Anastasia Taylor, fifth place, quick-serve restaurant marketing.

Jordan Thiel, Beth Thiel, Sarah Schifer, Reid Graham, Rachael Mitten, Joanna Walton, Wesley Parsell and Jordan Vaughn won the right to advance to Ohio DECA state competition, March 18-19 in Columbus.

Senior marketing students Tim Hall, Tyler Rogers, Allysia Smalley and Aaron Smith and juniors Adeline Frey, Desirae Garza, Nicole Lo, Brittany Raisor and Holly Spicer also competed in Lima.

Wayne Thomas, marketing education instructor and USHS DECA advisor, praised the efforts of all the students who competed. “It’s great to be recognized with a trophy for your hard work in competitive events; but more important to me is the practical marketing knowledge gained and the added confidence earned through competing against other students. I am extremely proud of all the students in my program this year,” he said.

DECA is an international association of marketing students.



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## Student & Staff Recognition

Mrs. Chris Lininger's Senior Honors English classes wrote an essay with the theme "My Most Inspiring Teacher" as part of a series of writing assignments. This newsletter will feature two more essays to recognize/honor students and teachers. A total of 37 students submitted essays for recognition. Eight students were selected for recognition and rewarded with a pizza party from the principal, Mr. Jim Clifford.

The following essays are the final two selected for recognition. The first is written by Drew Lehman honoring his most inspiring teacher, Mr. David Headings. The second essay is written by Greg Micheli. He is honoring his most inspirational teacher, Mr. Scott Elchert.

### My Inspiration

By: Drew Lehman

Mr. David Headings has really been a huge inspiration on my life. I have enjoyed six wonderful years of singing in his choir and learning about music. He has helped me to mature musically, and become a better singer and musician. I have really learned a lot every year that I have had him as a teacher. Mr. Headings has not only taught me a lot about music and how to appreciate it, but he has also taught me to respect people.

I have learned how to sing correctly and learned about music including how to read it while taking Headings' class. Everything that he has taught me will be something I can and will use in life. His teaching skills have really helped me to not only learn, but also have fun with it in the process. I really enjoy the way that he takes things seriously, but still has a sense of humor. It also is really nice having a choir director that listens to some of the same music that I listen to, instead of someone who only listens to a certain genre. I also am very glad to say that I can talk to Mr. Headings like he is my teacher, as well as talking to him like he is a companion that really cares about me.

Mr. Headings has not only taught me about music, but he also has taught me about respect. A lot of people in high school don't have any respect for teachers, friends, or anyone. But, he has taught others and me in his classes that the most important thing we will get out of high school is that you will only get as much respect as you give. This thought has already helped a lot in my life and I believe it will help throughout my future. I'm not sure how many people actually give Mr. Headings the respect that he deserves, but I do wish they would.

David Headings has really inspired me to keep on singing and not to give up on anything that I want to do in life. He has showed me some of my flaws and helped me to correct them. I am very grateful for everything that Mr. Headings has taught me. Not only has he been a great teacher, but he has also been a great friend. I now know that to get anywhere in life you must persevere and show respect not only to life, but to the people who help you through life.

### Big "E"

By: Greg Micheli

"The roots of true achievement lie in the will to become the best that you can become" (Harold Taylor). These inspirational words are similar to the direction that I have been given by an important person in my life. This person has done more than just teach. This person has given me motivation outside of the classroom to be all that I can become whether it is on the football field, basketball court, or baseball diamond. However, he has done more for me, not as a student or an athlete, but as a person. This person, my teacher and coach, Mr. Scott Elchert, has helped me to better understand some of the important things in life.

I was first able to really get to know him the summer before my freshman year when I was playing on the basketball team. During this time, I was able to get to know him as a coach and a mentor. Although on the basketball court he was tough on me, I began to form a great deal of respect for him as a coach. During this time, he instilled discipline in me, although I was unable to understand how it would help me over the next several years. That discipline has helped me to overcome times that, if it wasn't for him, could have been more difficult to deal with. Aside from the game of basketball, however, he was able to teach an important lesson to us; that athletics were simply an extension of life.

These words are ones which I have heard many times over the years I have had him as a coach. He stressed to us as players and as people that we need to understand and cherish the important things in life whether it may be family, friend, religion, or whatever else it may be. He also stressed to us that we should be thankful for the ability to participate in athletics because it is something that other people may never have the opportunity to experience.

Over the course of my freshmen year, I gained more and more respect for him as a coach. It wasn't until my sophomore year that I was able to see him from a student's point of view. Though I've never been fond of history, he made that class interesting. He passed his knowledge onto us students and I was able to view him off of the basketball court, and seeing him from another dimension only made me have that much more respect for him. After experiencing him as a teacher and already having him as a coach, I began to get to know and understand him more as a person.

Throughout my junior year of high school and even to this day, I have realized the type of person that he is and why he stressed to us what he did. He is a family man that cares greatly for the people closest to him. He is a great person to know and a great friend to have. However, it wasn't until after the news of him leaving that I began to understand just how much respect I have for him as a coach, teacher, and more importantly as a person. The impact that he has made on me over the past four years through athletics, in the classroom, and about life will stick with me for years to come along with the memorable moments that will continue to be motivation as well as inspiration.

## District Highlights

### Proposed State Budget Cuts Library Funding 13% and Then Some

(News from our Local Community Library)

Since 1985 Ohio's libraries have been funded by a percentage (currently 5.7%) of the personal income tax that is then distributed to the state's 88 counties by population. This method of funding has resulted in a library system which is the envy of the nation and has been declared number one in the country for both 2003 and 2004 by the American Library Association's American Public Library Ratings report.

Now, the basis of funding for our libraries is in trouble. Governor Taft's proposed budget for 2006/07 includes a 5% reduction in funding for libraries. This reduction is over and above reductions in excess of 8% already endured since 2002. In addition, the Governor has proposed a 21% decrease in the state's personal income tax over the next five years. Because libraries are funded by 5.7% of the personal income tax, further cuts are expected, but the exact amounts depend on how well the economy performs: if Ohio's economy fully recovers from the 2001 recession, the effect may be minimal, if not, then it could be catastrophic for Ohio's libraries.

So, how does this affect me and my family? The Upper Sandusky Community Library provides many services available no where else: books, videos, magazines, newspapers, internet access, children and young adult reading programs, services to the elderly, programs in conjunction with local schools, public meeting rooms, to name just a few. Although the Library has been able to weather the cuts so far, additional reduction in funding can only mean cuts in the services provided. Any of the above mentioned services will be affected, including a reduction in hours of operation and staff.

The state's attempt to balance the budget is shifting the burden onto local governments by reductions in what are called Local Government Support Funds: libraries 5%, counties, cities and parks 20% and townships 10%. So it isn't just libraries. The only source of funding available to make-up the loose of these funds are property taxes, where too much of the tax burden already resides.

All of this is more complicated than space allows here. For more information about Local Government Funds, the overall effect of the governor's budget proposals, and specifics on how to **contact your legislators and the governor**, please visit the Upper Sandusky Community Library or go on-line at [www.upper-sandusky.lib.oh.us](http://www.upper-sandusky.lib.oh.us) and click [ACalltoAction](#).

## Governor and Legislator Contact Information

Governor Bob Taft  
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614-466-3555 or 614-644-4357

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12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
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614-644-6265  
[District82@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:District82@ohr.state.oh.us)

Senator Larry Mumper  
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Senate Building  
Columbus, OH 43215  
614-466-8049  
[SD26@mailr.sen.state.oh.us](mailto:SD26@mailr.sen.state.oh.us)

Representative Jon Husted - House Speaker  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
77 South High St.  
Columbus, OH 43215-6111  
614-644-6008  
[District37@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:District37@ohr.state.oh.us)

Senator Bill Harris - Senate President  
Statehouse  
Room 201, Second Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
614-466-8086

## New Art Equipment

Thanks in part to receiving a mini-grant in December, I was able to purchase some new equipment to be used in my art classes at East Elementary, South Elementary, Union Middle School and High School Art Club. I now have four Speedball printing presses, new bench hooks, four Black & Decker toaster ovens and some power strips.

The printing presses will be used by the first graders, fifth graders and seventh graders. The presses will help the students get positive, consistent results when printing their images on paper. The presses will also speed up the inking and printmaking process so students can produce more artwork.

The toaster ovens will be used for creating shrink plastic designs and with polymer clay. Grades three, four and five have used the shrink plastic to make some school spirit pins. The ovens will be used to bake some polymer clay erasers and polymer clay covered pens during and Art Club workshop.

I was thrilled to receive the grant money so that I could purchase the extra equipment to add to my classrooms and to help broaden the art experiences of my students.

- Regina Cameron

# ***UPPER SANDUSKY SCHOOLS***

## **2003-2004**

### ***ANNUAL REPORT***

#### ***BOARD of EDUCATION MESSAGE***

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

Financing of school districts is difficult at best, but prioritizing our needs, making conservative projections and carefully controlling our expenditures, we have ended this past year on a solid financial note. However, changes in state aid means we will be unable to extend our operating money past the year 2006, one year less than we had originally planned.

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

**John Loverich**  
Board President

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

<b>Chris Bruynis</b>	15242 Twp. Hwy. 108	(419) 294-3385
<b>Russell Lee</b>	375 W. Wyandot Ave.	(419) 294-1721
<b>Dr. Betty Lok</b>	8470 County Hwy. 47	(419) 294-0832
<b>John Loverich</b>	10193 State Hwy. 53W	(419) 294-4781
<b>Deb Rellinger</b>	8857 County Hwy. 38	(419) 294-5352

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

#### ***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.

## ***SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE***

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

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

In the technology realm, a district technology committee reviewed and updated the district technology plan that focuses on the achievement of children and is integrated into the curriculum. Technology skills are essential to compete in today's knowledge-based economy. The plan implements high standards of performance and provides support for each child, as well as staff members. Upper Sandusky High School classroom and lab computers were upgraded to “state of the art” hardware. New features were added to the district website, and parents of children in grades 6-12 were provided accounts to Progress Book to check their child's grades, homework and attendance. The power of technology will be used to extend learning and to be more efficient and productive in management.

A staff committee completed comprehensive revisions of the Mathematics, Science and Social Studies courses of study. New materials were purchased for students in the middle school and high school Language Arts departments, providing new books, software and workbooks. New text books and software were also purchased in the areas of 8<sup>th</sup> grade American History and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Ohio History, thus aligning the material with new content standards.

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

**Stephen W. Puchta**  
Superintendent of Schools

## UPPER SANDUSKY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Upper Sandusky High School offers over seventy courses to prepare students for employment or higher education after graduation. Junior and senior students may attend Sentinel Joint Vocational School or Tri-Rivers Vocational School. High School students have the opportunity to earn college level credits through post-secondary offerings taught at the high school by Marion Tech professors. Union Middle School provides a modified middle school program with offerings in the areas of unified arts and vocational home economics. Upper Sandusky elementary schools offer traditional self-contained classrooms at East, Union, South and Marseilles schools. Upper Sandusky Schools offer academic evaluations for all children with suspected disabilities, birth through age 21; and education for all children with disabilities ages three through 21 years. If you know a child who is suspected of having a disability, contact your local school.

\*\*\*\*\*

<u>School/Telephone</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Grade Levels</u>	<u>Number Students</u>	<u>Free-Reduced Lunch</u>
High School (419) 294-2308	800 N. Sandusky Ave.	9-12	620	64
Middle School (419) 294-5721	390 W. Walker St.	6 - 8	466	85
East (419) 294-2396	401 N. Third St.	K-5	144	25
Marseilles 877-294-6787 or (740) 499-2511	20151 Broadway St.	K-5	110	54
South (419) 294-2304	444 S. Eighth St.	K-5	119	33
Union (419) 294-5721	390 W. Walker St.	K-5	330	93

\*\*\*\*\*

### DROP-OUTS

A total of 2 high school students dropped out of school during the 2003-04 school year.

### GRADUATION

In the class of 2004 there were 159 graduates. A total of 24 of the class of 2004 have enrolled in a two year institution of higher learning, 68 of the class enrolled in a four year institution of higher learning, 4 have entered the military, 1 enrolled in the State Fire Academy, others have taken full time jobs following graduation.

## TESTING

### Ohio 3rd Grade Reading Achievement Test Results 2003-2004

East	84.2%
South	68.8%
Marseilles	84.6%
Union	71.6%
District	74.8%
State Requirement	75.0%

### Ohio 4th Grade Proficiency Test Results 2003-04

	<u>Writing % Passed</u>	<u>Reading % Passed</u>	<u>Math % Passed</u>	<u>Science % Passed</u>	<u>Citizenship % Passed</u>
East	79.2%	79.2%	79.2%	75.0%	75.0%
Marseilles	70.0%	75.0%	90.0%	60.0%	80.0%
South	91.7%	83.3%	91.7%	100%	66.7%
Union E.S.	75.0%	76.8%	78.6%	85.5%	58.2%
District	77.0%	77.0%	81.4%	80.4%	66.1%
State Requirement	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%

### Ohio 6th Grade Proficiency Test Results 2003-04

	<u>Writing % Passed</u>	<u>Reading % Passed</u>	<u>Math % Passed</u>	<u>Science % Passed</u>	<u>Citizenship % Passed</u>
Union M.S.	88.8%	67.2%	77.6%	67.2%	68.0%
State Requirement	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%

### Ohio 9th Grade Proficiency Test Results 2003-04

	<u>Writing % Passed</u>	<u>Reading % Passed</u>	<u>Math % Passed</u>	<u>Science % Passed</u>	<u>Citizenship % Passed</u>
1997-98	97%	97%	77%	90%	87%
1998-99	80%	80%	63%	78%	83%
1999-00	89%	96%	75%	86%	87%
2000-01	98%	99%	72%	89%	88%
2001-02	91.0%	93.6%	80.6%	85.2%	90.3%
2002-03	87.7%	89.1%	82.6%	81.2%	86.2%
2003-04	100%	100%	96.6%	96.6%	97.4%
State Requirement	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%

**American College Test - Upper Sandusky**

<u>Years</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Science Reasoning</u>	<u>Composite</u>
1998-99	20.1	20.1	20.6	21.4	20.7
1999-00	21.0	20.7	22.3	21.9	21.6
2000-01	23.6	22.8	23.6	24.0	23.6
2001-02	22.0	22.9	23.7	23.0	23.1
2002-03	22.2	22.6	22.5	23.1	22.7
2003-04	21.4	21.5	22.1	22.3	22.0

**American College Test - Ohio**

<u>Years</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Science Reasoning</u>	<u>Composite</u>
1998-99	20.8	21.1	21.9	21.4	21.4
1999-00	20.7	21.2	21.9	21.4	21.4
2000-01	21.8	22.3	22.8	22.4	22.5
2001-02	21.7	22.3	22.9	22.4	22.4
2002-03	21.7	22.2	22.7	22.3	22.4
2003-04	21.7	22.1	22.7	22.3	22.4

**American College Test - National**

<u>Years</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Science Reasoning</u>	<u>Composite</u>
1998-99	20.5	20.7	21.4	21.0	21.0
1999-00	20.5	20.7	21.4	21.0	21.0
2000-01	21.5	21.7	22.2	21.8	21.9
2001-02	21.4	21.6	22.2	21.7	21.8
2002-03	21.4	21.6	22.2	21.7	21.8
2003-04	21.5	21.7	22.3	21.7	21.9

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**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS**

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

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### **The district**

1. completed a District Technology Plan.
2. maintained State Report Card status at an Effective level, meeting 13 of 18 indicators.
3. provided summer intervention for students in grades K - 8.
4. reviewed the District Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) to keep the district on target and accountable.
5. revised and aligned the Math, Science and Social Studies Course of Study with state content standards.
6. upgraded Upper Sandusky High School classroom and lab computers.
7. successfully implemented Progress Book Parent Access for parents of students in grades 6-12.

## CHALLENGES

### **The district will:**

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## 2003-04 STAFF INFORMATION

Administrators	12
Management	5
Classified	72
Certificated	<u>114</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>203</b>

\* \* \* \* \*

## AREA LEGISLATORS

### **U.S. Senators**

Michael DeWine	Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
George Voinovich	Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

### **U.S. Representatives**

Michael Oxley	House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
Paul Gilmore	House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

### **State Senator**

Larry Mumper	Ohio Senate, Statehouse, Columbus, Ohio 43266-0604
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### **State Representative**

Steve Reinhard	Ohio House of Representatives, Statehouse, Columbus, OH 43215-0603
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## SCHOOL CLOSING / DELAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parents and students are urged to listen to the local radio station WYNT (95.9 FM) for announcements regarding school closings and/or 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 radio stations.

WYNT	Upper Sandusky	95.9 FM
WDIF/WMRN	Marion	94.3 FM/107 FM
WFIN/WKXA	Findlay	1330/100.5 FM
WXML	Upper Sandusky	90.1 FM
WBVI	Findlay	96.7 FM
WKTN	Kenton	95.3 FM
WTVG	Toledo	Channel 13
WTOL-TV	Toledo	Channel 11

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## FINANCIAL DATA 2003-2004

### EXPENDITURES

Personnel Services	\$6,817,983.
Benefits	2,770,447.
Purchased Services	1,184,101.
Supplies	709,332.
Capital Outlay	198,671.
Debt Payments	9,682.
Internal Expenses	57,959.
All Other Expenses	372,340.
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$12,120,515.</b>

### REVENUE

State Foundation	\$4,811,755.
Real Property Taxes	3,435,882.
Personal Property Taxes	1,798,746.
Other State (Rollback & Homestead)	400,806.
Internal Income	43,231.
All Other Revenue	415,599.
<b>Local Income Tax</b>	<b>867,258.</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$11,773,277.</b>

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

### April

- 16 MS Solo Ensemble
- 16 Family Fun Fair at USHS - 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- 22 HS Bloodmobile
- 23-24 FFA Toy Show at USHS
- 25 Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Academic Boosters Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Union Elementary Spring Program (Grades 3-5)
- 26 Marseilles Elementary Spring Program - 7:00 p.m.
- 28 South Elementary Spring Program - 7:00 p.m.
- 29 State Band & Choir Contest

### May

- 2 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Concert - 7:00 p.m.
- 2 Music Parents Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 3 ELECTION DAY - Please Vote!
- 3 NATIONAL TEACHER DAY
- 5 RAM Boosters Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 7 High School PROM
- 9 MS Spring Concert - 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Cabaret at USHS - 8:00 p.m.

- 14 East Recycling
- 14 Cabaret at USHS - 8:00 p.m.
- 15 HS Concert & Awards Program - 2:30 p.m.
- 16 Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- 16-20 Union Book Fair
- 17 MS Bloodmobile
- 17 Marseilles/South Mentor Dinner - 6:00 p.m.
- 18 MS Muddy Buddy Day
- 19 East/Union Mentor Dinner - 6:00 p.m.
- 23 HS Honors Program - 7:00 p.m.
- 24 MS Honors Program - 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Marseilles Recycling
- 30 **MEMORIAL DAY - NO SCHOOL**

### June

- 2 RAM Boosters Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 3 **SCHOOL CLOSURES**
- 5 Graduation - 2:30 p.m.
- 6 Teacher Workday

*Have a Fun & Safe Summer!*



For more information about school events and  
activities, please watch **WRAM TV 22**  
or visit our website at [www.upper sandusky.k12.oh.us](http://www.upper sandusky.k12.oh.us)



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## Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools

390 W. Walker St.  
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351