



"A Tradition of Excellence"

Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools

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February 2007

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Superintendent's Message . . .

A Good Teacher Teachers You, Sometimes Despite Your Very Self

With my twin sons coming home from college for their first time this December, I had almost forgotten what it was like to know so much but to know so little. It even paused me to reflect what I was like when I was their age. I recall my first college philosophy class in which I swore to others I did not learn a single thing. I mean, who could learn anything from a professor who forced you to think about such questions as: "If there is a God, could you tell me why you believe there is? Why is there air?" and "What is the meaning of life?" I even recall talking about Plato and Socrates, and while images of laurel leaves and sandals drift into these recollections, I can also remember telling others how much of a waste the class was because, because – well, frankly, because I thought I knew everything when I was that age.

Today, I have to admit that it was in this class that I learned the rules for syllogistic thinking, and one of them was: A statement which begins with an underlying false assumption will always remain a patently false statement. For "not learning anything in that class," it's amazing to me how many times in my life I have always remembered the verity of this very rule.

Let's apply this rule, for example, to the No Child Left Behind Act. I believe this Act implies that by applying the same standards to all pupils, regardless of their abilities, we (society) will "leave no child behind." Ah, but contrary to what I often told others, I did learn something in my philosophy class as a young man at the Ohio State University. I learned to think. I learned that a statement whose truth depends on an underlying false assumption will always remain a patently false premise or assertion. I also learned in my education classes there that we must respect individual differences, that if we wanted to pursue a career in education, we had to begin with where a child was before we could take them forward to higher levels of learning. I learned, in essence, that the surest way to leave the majority behind was to teach as if every student were equal in ability, in socioeconomic status, and in values – all of which, by the way, did and always will impact student learning.

I'm certainly glad no one told me that I wasn't unique. I'm certainly glad no one told me I wasn't rich enough to make it like most kids were. I'm certainly glad my parents taught me that I could achieve anything I set my mind and heart to do. I'm glad I learned to respect differences in others, attempting to find value in one of the greatest challenges in life – respecting others for their uniqueness, their "differentness," if you will. I believe it is this characteristic that gives me tremendous value as an educator, as an administrator, and as a person.

Standards and accountability have their places in our schools, but it seems to me that education today has been adulterated by non-educators who have taken such standards to extremes. Worse yet, they have taken such standards and exploited them for personal political gain. As Albert Einstein was reported to have said, "not everything that is counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted." One of my favorite authors, Paul Houston, Executive Director of the American Association of School Administrators, has the following to say about the accountability movement:

"Most importantly we need to examine to whom the schools are being held accountable. Current models were constructed by high-level federal officials and members of Congress. State systems were created by state bureaucracies and statewide elected officials. The models and reporting systems were sculpted to yield scores that could fit bureaucratic scoring sheets. **They were not explained to the public. Perhaps that is because when they are explained, they make little sense.** The NCLB model that compares the scores of one group with scores of another group and then purports to measure "progress" makes little sense to educators and **even less to parents.**"

The concept of adequate yearly progress sounds good, but the various categories of reporting make little rational sense. Children who cannot speak enough English to understand the test are tested in **English anyway and expected to make progress.** Children who have individual education plans because of a learning disability have to be measured against other children without those same conditions.

IDEA has been in place for more than 30 years and is based on the correct notion that children with learning disabilities must be addressed with those disabilities in mind. **NCLB says it does not matter.** The bottom line is that accountability is only a concept that works if people understand it and agree with its fairness."

Houston continues by saying that people see education in a broad way. Yes, they want to see kids do well on basic skills, but students also need to do well in areas basic to living – being good citizens, productive

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.

members in the community, and able to hold down a job that allows them to live in America. Strange as it may sound to bureaucrats and “coercocrats” who want to control the system from their exalted perches, parents, above all else, want to see their children happy. The pursuit of happiness was a basic trust of our founding fathers, and happiness should be the foundation of authentic accountability today.

I personally believe the cruelest act that we, as educators, can perform against children is to treat them as if they were all the same. Is not the assumption that all must be treated the same the false assumption which underlies the No Child Left Behind Act and its thinking? And though I once thought I didn’t learn anything in my Philosophy 101 class, doesn’t this false assumption make the entire idea patently untrue? Somebody help me lest I forget what it was like to know so much when I actually knew so little!

Most Say Expenditure Per Pupil is the Best Indicator of How Well One’s School District is Managed

Among Ohio school districts, there is one statistic which I call the great equalizer because, in my opinion, it is the best indicator of how well a school district manages its staff and its money, and this statistic puts all school districts state-wide on a level playing field. This revealing statistic is called expenditure per pupil. No matter how many pupils a district has, total operational costs are divided by the number of pupils being served – this statistic being the best indicator for comparing Ohio school districts one to another while at the same time signifying how well a district manages its resources as it tries to provide a quality education for its students.

On December 13, the Ohio Department of Education, as a free service to our school district, performed a staffing analysis which not only showed that our district was excellently managed but revealed the following statistics concerning costs per pupil. Not only was Upper Sandusky compared to all school districts statewide, but we were compared to 20 “Similar” Districts, the

20 school districts in the state most like us in terms of district size, poverty level, socioeconomic status, factors related to urban or rural location, overall property wealth, etc. What follows are the actual per pupil expenditures for Upper Sandusky over the past 5 years and how we compared to similar and all other school districts in the state over the last 5 years:

Year	District’s Average	Similar District Average	State Average
FY02	\$6983	\$6948	\$8079
FY03	\$6847*	\$7427	\$8438
FY04	\$7258	\$7770	\$8758
FY05	\$8015	\$8059	\$9048
Fy06	\$7472*	\$8099	\$9358

*With inflation, it is rare indeed to see a lower cost per pupil from one school year to the next.

The Fiscal Year 2006 average expenditure per pupil for the district was **\$7,472**. This figure was below the similar district average by **\$627.00** per pupil and below the statewide average for Ohio by **\$1,884.00** per pupil. Put another way, if similar districts and all Ohio school districts served the same number of pupils that Upper Sandusky served with 1,746 pupils, Upper Sandusky operated for **\$1,094,961** less than the 20 school districts most similar to us in Fiscal Year 2006 and **\$3,290,123** less than the **average Ohio school district in 2006**, had these school districts served the same number of pupils that Upper Sandusky served in Fiscal Year 2006.

Needless to say, we are proud of this report and are happy to share these findings with you. We are, undoubtedly, a fiscally well-managed school district.

Yours for education,
Ken Doseck, Superintendent

East, South & Union Elementary News

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR UPPER SANDUSKY EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS

Kindergarten registration is now open to all residents of Upper Sandusky Schools. Children who will be 5 years old on or before August 1, 2007 are required by law to register and be screened. Parents should call Brenda Haubert at South Elementary 419-294-2304 between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. to set up an appointment for the screening. After requesting an appointment, parents/guardians will receive a letter notifying them of their appointment time. The last day to register is March 23, 2007.

When you call please have the following information:

- Child’s Name, Address and Phone Number
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number

Bring the following information about your child to the screening:

- Birth Certificate or other legal proof of age
- Social Security card
- Immunization (shot) records: DPT - 5 doses, Polio - 4 doses, MMR- 2 doses given after the age of 1, Hepatitis B - 3 doses, Varicella (chickenpox) - 1 dose after the first birthday
- Custody papers (if applicable)

During the screening your child will have an opportunity to meet the kindergarten teachers as well as participate in a screening for vision, hearing, general readiness levels and speech and language.

This is the only screening that will be held. You must register for this screening if you want your child to attend kindergarten.

SOUTH KINDERGARTEN & FIRST GRADE CELEBRATE 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

The school calendar is fast approaching the 100th day of school. Both the kindergarten and first grade classes at South Elementary are getting ready to celebrate this momentous occasion. On February 2nd, we will fill our day with counting activities and take some time to look back on all we have learned in the last 100 days of school. Students will be bringing in collections of 100 things to count and share with their classmates. Mrs. Lawrence and Mrs. Heilman have many special activities planned for this special day.

- Heather Lawrence, South Kindergarten Teacher

AMAZING THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE 5TH GRADE!

The fifth grade students at Union Elementary worked together to adopt several children off of the Angel Tree. Initially, we started with two children, but students were so generous with their donations that we ended up adopting five! Over ten children went on an after school shopping spree with the fifth grade teachers, Angela Miller, Kelly Gelinias, and Dawn Roberts.

In yet another demonstration of giving, Mrs. Miller’s class read over 100 books, which means that Scholastic Book Clubs will now donate 100 books to schools in New Orleans affected by Hurricane Katrina. We are so proud of our kids!

PLEASE REMEMBER!!

At South School we collect Boxtops for Education and Campbell Soup labels all year long. Please continue to save these and send them in throughout the year.

INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY INTO THE CLASSROOM

- "It is big. I like writing cursive on it." Noah McClain
"I like it. You can write on it." Trudy Daughenbaugh
"I think it is cool because you can write on it." Paige Shriver
"I like the calculator and you can write on it." Isaiah Fisher
"I think it is cool. I like doing cursive on it." Nicholas Thomas
"I like it because it is fun!" Andy Baker
"I like everything about it." Jacob Baxter
"I liked writing in cursive. It's really cool. I liked when we drew on the board when we did contractions."
"Our new SMARTboard is a kid magnet! In just one week of using it, I have noticed increased enthusiasm, motivation, attention, and participation! I absolutely love it!" Mrs. Newell

What is a SMARTboard? It is an interactive whiteboard that is connected to a computer and a data projector. Once the computer image is projected on the board, the SMARTboard can be used as a computer. By just using your finger you can control the computer.

Month of January SMARTboard activities:

- * Students researched the web for information on the Revolutionary War.
- * Students watched video segments on the Revolutionary War at



www.unitedstreaming.com.

- * Students used www.randomhouse.com and www.mce.k12tn.net for interactive activities for the chapter book Revolutionary War on Wednesday by Mary Pope Osborne.

- * Students visited www.uppertsandusky.k12.oh.us/union/room/mindy/newell.html to check out classroom pictures.
- * Students used an interactive ruler to measure line segments to the nearest 1/2-inch.
- * Students used an interactive calculator to check answers to three 2-digit addition problems.
- * Students created a menu. They ordered food and then used interactive money to make change from \$1.00.
- * Charlie Frye, LeBron James, Tiger Woods, Natalie Gulbis, Carson Palmer, and Peyton Manning were a few of the athletes that were used in story problems that were practiced on the SMARTboard to get ready for the Third Grade Achievement Test.
- * Students used the SMARTboard to learn and to practice writing cursive letters.
- * Students wrote winter poetry and illustrated them using drawing tools on the SMARTboard.

Thank you Mrs. Vent and Mr. Frye!

- Mrs. Newell, Second Grade Union

JUMP, JUMP, JUMP

Did you know: Heart disease and stroke are America's No. 1 and No. 3 killers?

- About 16 percent of children and adolescents are overweight.
- Obesity in our nation's youth has tripled in the past 15 years.

- Overweight children have a 70 percent chance of being overweight adults.
- Our children's life spans are predicted to be less than their parents' because of inactivity and obesity-related illnesses.
- Nearly 200 studies on the effect of exercise on cognitive functioning suggest that physical activity supports learning.

The American Heart Association has been offering a program through the schools to help get the kids moving through jump roping. The children learn about heart disease and the importance of exercise. South Elementary then holds a jump rope marathon during physical education class. The children are given the option to raise money for the AHA through pledges and donations. The more money they raise, the more prizes they can earn. East Elementary even has breakfast and donates the profits to the American Heart Association.

Next time your child asks you for a new video game, buy them a jump rope, too, and make them split the time. JUMP! JUMP! JUMP!!!

- Pam Karg, Physical Ed.

STAY WELL...BE FIT

Part of the series of new mandates from the Ohio Department of Education for schools in 06-07 was the requirement for us to have a Wellness Policy on file with accompanying guidelines for implementation.

Our school district met this requirement largely due to the efforts of Mrs. Janet Strausbaugh our Human Resource Director. She did a great job in compiling, organizing, and formatting all sorts of information into a "nice, complete, user friendly document." In a recent onsite visit and review of our Food Service Program, the consultant from the Ohio Department of Education was very complimentary of our policy. We thank Mrs. Strausbaugh for all her efforts to make us "look good."

Simply put, the Wellness Policy is to define some goals and objectives to improve things such as school meals, physical education programs, and health education courses. Obviously, the purpose is for staff and students to make better choices in regards to nutrition, physical activity, and their general health and fitness.

A committee of staff, community persons, and students has been formed to start this process. Most recently, several staff have volunteered to participate in the Winter Fitness Challenge sponsored by the Wyandot Memorial Hospital. We thank them for their commitment to stay healthy and fit.

If any of you wish to join the committee or have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact me at East School at 419-294-2396.

Thank you and stay well and fit for '07!

- Michael Courtad, East School Principal,
Dir. of Food Service and Dir. of Transportation

DUKES OF UNION

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

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

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

4th Grade

Taylor Cazares (Rose)
Jarrod Gilliland (Kinnear)
Linda Jackson (Smith)

5th Grade

Amanda DeJonge (Gelinias)
Michael Brentgartner (Miller)
Ivy Shumaker (Roberts)

PEN PALS AT UNION

All of us 5th graders are writing to third graders from Gibsonburg, Ohio. Having a pen-pal is fun because we can get to know someone through letters and pictures. Sometimes our pen-pals will send us pictures so we know what they look like. Sometimes they send us pictures of them playing sports or in activities.

I've learned many things from being a pen-pal. One of the biggest is patience. We have to wait for a while before our pen-pals write back. I think having a pen pal has helped us learn more about writing letters properly. I know it helped me.

Talking to our pen pals through letters is almost the same as talking to our best friends! It is a little different though. It is different because our pen-pals are 3rd Graders. We can talk to them in many ways. Most people talk to their pen-pals through letters, but we can also talk by computer with others too. I like to create letters because I love to write. I think I might be an author some day. We can tell our pen-pals about anything we want - even what we want to be when we grow up. I think it is fun getting to know someone through letters because things can get very interesting. Together we can turn one sentence into a whole conversation.

So if you don't have a pen-pal, get one, and join in on the fun!
- Amanda DeJonge, 5th Grader - Mrs. Gelinas' class

SUMMER CAMPS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Recreation Unlimited: This is a summer residential camp for youth and adults with developmental and physical disabilities. The camp is located at 7700 Piper Rd., Ashley, OH 43002.

Phone: 740-548-7006 - Website: www.recreationunlimited.org

Camp Nuhop: Camp Nuhop is an Ohio-based summer residential camp for children ages 6-18 with Attention Deficit Disorders, Learning Disabilities, and Behavior Disorders. Camp Nuhop strives to help children become all they can be. The camp is located at 404 Hillcrest Drive, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Phone: 419-289-2227 - Website: www.campnuhop.org

For more information or possible funding options, contact: Paula Frey, Wyandot Co. Parent Mentor at 419-294-3445.

Middle School Happenings

EVEN JIM TRESSEL AGREES

As we reach the mid-point of our academic year, I'm impressed with many things we have going on here at USMS. My teachers continue to find new ways to not only present information, but they do it as they prepare our students for upcoming achievement testing. Several of them write grants, coach, take on extra duties and head back to college for advanced degrees. In this newsletter you will see an article from one of our 5th Grade teachers about a service project they took on in December. You'll also find an article from a 5th Grade student in Mrs. Gelinas' class. Those students have adopted pen-pals, finding a fun way to utilize their writing skills AND hone those skills for the upcoming state mandated tests.

And my students. What a great group of young people. I've heard some cantankerous individuals weep and moan for the future if these are the kids that will some day be in charge. Those people need to come in here for a few days, because I'll show them kids who will make them grateful and happy for their future.

It looks as though we are on our way to record setting numbers of students completing community service hours. Last year, approximately 70% of our student body completed all fifteen hours of service. Those numbers this year should exceed last year's. Not only are they better in terms of quantity, but our kids are putting in some high quality hours. Over Christmas break, we had students:

- helping at school wrestling tournaments
- donning costumes for the local Fantasy of Lights
- wrapping Christmas presents at Wal-Mart for donations to United Way
- manning various Salvation Army Kettle Drive pots

I'm sure I'm missing a few things. You know what I did over break? Watched football, ate and played games with my kids. USMS kids may have done that, but they also accomplished a lot.

I have research and I've shared the research in this newsletter and with other middle schools across the state that shows a community service program works and can enhance academic achievement. Building character also builds that academic achievement.

Interestingly, Jim Tressel was quoted as saying pretty much the same thing as he prepped the Buckeyes for their BCS National Championship game on January 8. In the Columbus Dispatch on January 5, 2007, he said, "Character development and what young people become by having experienced the collegiate athletic scene, that's what's most important. Are wins and losses irrelevant? No we all know that, but what is more important? Character development. But the harder I work on the whole person, interestingly enough, the more games we win."

I couldn't have put it any better myself. Obviously grades and achievement are important here. We want students to leave with high test scores and we want them to take knowledge into our world and change the world one step at a time.

But just like Jim Tressel, the more we work on the whole person, the higher academic achievement we attain. - Jim Wheeler

CONFERENCES

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

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

TRAFFIC AND PARKING AT UNION

Once again we would like to ask all of our school community to please abide by all traffic rules and regulations of the building. While we do cordially invite all of you to visit our building often, please keep in mind the safety of the children at all times. Also, please abide by all handicapped parking notations in the parking lot. During the winter months, as with all year long, we need to ensure those folks with handicapped parking passes get easy access to our building.
- Jim Wheeler

8TH GRADE GETTYSBURG TRIP

Several important dates to remember for our upcoming 8th Grade trip to Gettysburg:

- 2nd payment due February 1: \$66 for students; \$69 for adults.
- 3rd and final payment due by March 30.
- Trip is May 30, 31 and June 1.

8TH GRADE SCIENCE FAIR

The 8th Grade Science Fair is winding to the end. Presentations will begin around the middle of February and last for about three days. At that time Science Fair presentations will be graded. Grades will be based on the poster board, speech, and the completion/corrections of their report. Good luck to all of those participating.

A few tips for success:

- Check to see if you have any appointments for that week so there are no scheduling problems.
- Try not to be sick on your presentation day.
- Work hard
- Follow directions
- Pay attention to Scientific Method

Good luck to all!

- Mark Niederkohr

MESSAGES TO STUDENTS

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

UNION MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER "RAMPAGES"

"Rampages" is the title of the Union Middle School newspaper. The staff is composed of 6th through 8th graders who meet weekly to compose articles for the paper that are of concern to the student body, write poetry, take photos, and conduct interviews. The content of the paper is predominantly student designed, including the artwork. Mr. Wheeler contributes an article for each issue that focuses on student social issues in the middle school. Rampages writers make use of the Union School computer lab to type their articles for the newspaper and insert clip art and photos. Rampages issues are published four times yearly: October, December, February and April. The newspaper advisor is 8th grade Language Arts teacher, Mrs. Wood.

The 2006-2007 Rampages Staff includes:

Grade 6: Hannah Cole, Logan Pierson, Courtney Bricely, Jenna Brocklesby and Sierra Miller

Grade 7: Katie Grafmiller, Evan Logsdon, Marissa Linhart, Alex Newell, Lauren Racheter, Kayla Romanko, Brittany Gottfried and Aubry Wentling

Grade 8: Amanda Watkins, Olivia Frey, Chelsea Frey, Rachel Mattix, Theresa D'Ettore, Rachel Runion, Kassi Tracy, Nick Miller and Kane Johnson

USMS STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

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

- Measurable improvement in academics
- Willingness to help other students and teachers
- Showing a genuine concern towards school
- Showing signs of personal improvement
- Involvement in school and community activities

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

We congratulate the following students chosen in November:

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Lexa Cheney	Lauren Racheter	Michelle Webster
Brad Sammet	Tyler Burks	Nick Patterson

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

- Kimmel Corporation
- Wal-Mart
- Judge Kate and Bill Aubry
- East of Chicago
- Russell Lee
- Wilson Tire
- First Citizens National Bank

HOME BASE AT USMS

In 2003, we began our Home Base program at USMS. Home Base is one of the pillars of the middle school philosophy, because it gives a student the ability to connect to an adult at the end of each day in a small setting. Each day from 2:17-2:45 is devoted to different concepts including academic assistance, proficiency intervention and extra curricular meetings.

Each Friday is devoted to certain issues that affect not only teenagers' lives, but also the lives of those around them. We try to spark interest and conversation about these issues by viewing stimulating clips from recent films and reading high impact articles and books.

During second semester, we will be tackling a few issues with our students that we hope will not only kick start their minds about these issues, but will also enhance our academic culture.

In January, to honor Martin Luther King Jr., students read his famous "I Have a Dream" speech and teachers lead a discussion about students' dreams for USMS. Each Home Base produced a

poster with their dreams listed and the poster is now proudly hanging in each classroom.

The Super Bowl is February 4 and we also celebrate Black History Month. To kick it off, all students will watch Disney's "Remember the Titans" during the week leading up to the Super Bowl. On Friday, teachers will lead a discussion about the impact of racism in this movie and the world in which they live.

Also in February, we will be asking for student input on our handbook. Each Home Base will choose a representative to be included in discussions with building administration about what can and cannot be in the handbook. First, students will read articles about the need for school rules. Building administration will also discuss the building philosophy and why certain rules are in existence.

In March its basketball season, so we watch two videos. Our students will watch a clip from the movie Coach Carter, in which a high school basketball coach proves to his team that grades really are more important than sports. We also watch the movie Hoosiers during the week preceding the NCAA Basketball Tournament - great movie about honor, teamwork and perseverance. Teachers will lead various discussions about each topic. For some fun, each HB draws a name from a hat and decorates their door in that team's colors. Those with the best looking door will receive a small party. Those with the door of the winning team will receive a pizza party. It's a fun thing to do as we gear up for Achievement testing in April.

In May we wind down the year by watching clips of the movie "Stand and Deliver" about Jamie Escalante, a math teacher in inner city Los Angeles. We get students thinking about those teachers who have made an impact in their lives and ask them to write letters to those teachers.

We invite your ideas for anything we can add to our program!

SPELLING BEE AT USMS

People find this hard to believe, but years ago, when I was a middle school student, I was a Spelling Bee participant, fighting my way through a tough field at South School, I qualified. I hung tough both years and got knocked out in the 6th round each year.

Now I get to host a spelling bee for all Upper Sandusky and St. Peter's students who qualify in 4th-8th Grade. This year's bee will be held on February 8th in Upper Sandusky Middle School's Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. Qualifying will be held in individual buildings beginning in mid-January.

Hope to see you all there as our students once again prove their academic mettle.

High School Events

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

This is a busy time of the year at USHS. We are already into second semester. It is this time of the year when we complete our curriculum guides and begin scheduling students for the 2007-2008 school year. When students submit their schedule requests, we then input this information into our computer and begin to plan our master schedule and staffing needs for next year. In addition, our staff is preparing for the Ohio Graduation Test to be given in March. The OGT will be March 12-16. Our 9th grade students will be taking a practice OGT and our 10th grade students will be taking the 2007 OGT. Students in grades 11 and 12 who have passed the test will be on a 2-hour delay schedule for the week. Sentinel students will be on a 1-hour delay. A detailed letter will be going home to students this month outlining our plan for the OGT Spring Administration.

This is our fifth newsletter this year. I would like to introduce five more staff who each contributes to the education of our students. The five staff I would like to recognize in this issue are: Mrs. Jane Bricely, Mr. Cliff Davis, Mr. Gary Mason, Mr. Keith Miller, and Mrs. Shirley Spittler.

Mrs. Jane Bricely is a Special Education teacher in her 7th year at USHS. She teaches five science courses and two resource rooms where she works with students who are on an IEP (Individual

Education Program). She writes IEP plans for as many as 20 different students and attends many meetings with a team of educators who determine the best education for our special needs students. Mrs. Bricely also helps out with extracurricular events. She works as a scorebook keeper for the Lady Rams Basketball Team.

Mr. Cliff Davis started teaching at USHS in 1974. He has been teaching for 34 years. Currently, Mr. Davis teaches technology education classes to our freshman students. Students learn about biotechnology, computer applications/machining/drafting, electricity/electronics, fluid power, robotics, statistical process control and transportation. They also explore careers related to these areas. Mr. Davis also supervises the alternative class and lunch room during the lunch period, as well as study hall. He has been very helpful over the years working on many projects to improve our school facilities while working summer maintenance.

Mr. Gary Mason is our alternative class supervisor. He is a retired police officer and helped start the alternative school in Fremont. He has worked at USHS for the past eight years and was instrumental in starting the program at USHS in 1999. The alternative school program is a step in discipline before Out-of-School Suspension. Mr. Mason also serves as a parking lot attendant and lunch room monitor during the school day.

Mr. Keith Miller is in his 9th year as an Algebra I and Algebra II teacher at USHS. Mr. Miller is very involved with extracurricular duties. He is our Boy's Head Soccer Coach, Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach, and he builds sets for the spring musical. Mr. Miller is always willing to help his students before and after school with math tutoring. He also supervises his athletes in the winter with soccer open gym activities.

Mrs. Shirley Spitler started teaching at USHS in 1970. She has been teaching Language Arts classes for 37 years. Mrs. Spitler teaches Advanced English 9, English 10, and English 11 courses. Mrs. Spitler is a veteran teacher and most experienced teacher on the high school staff.

We appreciate everything these individuals do for the youth of our community, and we thank this month these five outstanding staff members.
- Jim Clifford, Principal

JUNIOR AND SENIOR GUIDANCE NEWS

It is hard to believe that we are already in the second semester! There are lots of things that both Juniors and Seniors need to be thinking about this time of year. Financial aid time is certainly here, and we know it can be stressful and confusing at times. Please contact the guidance office if you need assistance with the FAFSA and scholarships. Most colleges will begin sending financial aid packages to families in March, so try to get the FAFSA completed online (www.fafsa.ed.gov) as soon as you can, even if it means estimating your income now and making changes later. Juniors should definitely be considering signing up for the April 14th ACT. The registration deadline is March 9th. It is a good idea for juniors to take the ACT or SAT in the spring to see how they score; that way they still have time to retake as a senior if they need to improve. Juniors should also be making their list of colleges that they may be interested in. Many colleges have visit opportunities and open houses in the winter and spring for Juniors beginning the college search. Please see the list of colleges offering special visit programs in February. Notice that many colleges have visit days on Monday, February 19th, President's Day, so that students do not have to miss a day of school.

We will begin scheduling students for next year very soon. Please encourage your student to take the most challenging course load they can handle. GPA isn't everything! Of course, colleges want to see that a student has gotten good grades but they also want to see if the student has challenged himself/herself. A good GPA doesn't really mean much to a college if the student has not taken a college-prep course load. A college bound student should have at the minimum:

- * four years of college-prep or advanced English
- * three years of college-prep math, beginning with Algebra I
- * three years of college-prep science, with lab experience
- * three years of college-prep social studies, including American History & American Government
- * AT LEAST two years of the same foreign language
- * one year of a fine art such as choir, band, or visual art.

These are the minimum requirements for four-year colleges. Students are strongly encouraged to take a fourth year of math and science as well. If you have questions or are concerned about your student's schedule choices, please contact us. Many students also have the option of taking college classes while in high school by participating in Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO). Information about this program was distributed to students and parents last month. If your student will be a Junior or Senior next year and would like to participate, please have them contact the guidance office as soon as possible so that they can complete the proper paperwork. To be eligible to take college classes at USHS a student must have a 3.5 GPA and a college-prep curriculum. To take classes at other college campuses they must meet the requirements that the college has set forth, often not lower than a 2.5 GPA and a college-prep curriculum.

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY VISITATIONS

PRIVATE COLLEGES: February Dates

Ashland University: 19th
 Baldwin-Wallace College: 8th, 9th & 19th
 Bluffton University: 19th
 Case Western Reserve: 3rd, 11th, 19th & 24th
 Cedarville University: 17th (Engineering & Computer Science majors) & 24th (Business majors)
 Defiance College: 19th
 Denison University: 19th (Juniors only)
 Marietta College: 2nd, 16th & 23rd
 Mercy College of NW Ohio: 3rd
 Mt. Carmel College of Nursing: 7th, 21st & 19th
 Mount Union College: 7th-8th & 21st-22nd (Senior Overnights)
 Mt. Vernon Nazarene University: 19th
 Ohio Dominican University: 19th
 University of Rio Grande: 24th
 Tiffin University: 2nd (Business majors) & 16th (Criminal Justice)
 Urbana University: 24th
 Wilmington College: 19th

PUBLIC COLLEGES: February Dates

University of Akron: 19th (Srs only) Bowling Green State Univ: 19th
 University of Cincinnati: 19th Shawnee State University: 19th
 University of Toledo: 3rd, 10th, 17th Wright State University: 24th
 Youngstown State University: 19th

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the National Honor Society is usually associated with academic strengths but the current thirty-three students in the Honor Society of USHS have shown that they are also concerned about their community. They undertook two service projects for the



holiday season and each had very successful results. One week in December, the NHS Santas collected loose change from the student body during lunch and were able to use the funds to support children from the Salvation Army's Angel Tree. Holly Barth, Kelsey Stief and Caroline Orians enjoyed shopping for gifts for 8 of these "little angels." In addition, another committee chaired by Brittany Calmes, collected small toys from the community for Wyandot Memorial Hospital's Teddy Bear Project. The NHS would like to thank the area businesses that allowed us to set out boxes for collection. This project netted over 150 stuffed toys, games, and coloring materials. Very soon invitations will be extended to the current Jrs. and Srs. that may be eligible for NHS. To be accepted for membership, these students must provide evidence of community service, leadership, and positive character. The induction ceremony for new members will take place on March 21. - Teresa Harris, Adv.

FEBRUARY 2007

District Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Early Release Day for Students Wednesday, March 21, 2007 <i>for Teacher Training</i> High School Releases at 1:30 p.m. Middle School & Elementary Releases at 1:35 p.m. Be sure to make arrangements for your children. Busses will run on this early schedule - please plan accordingly.		* USMS Basketball Games: all begin at 4:30 pm Admission: Adult \$2 Student/Sr Citizen \$1		1 Kindergarten Registration Feb 1 - Mar 23 Call South School 419-294-2304 USMS BBB - Shelby - A USHS Fr BBB - Bellevue-H-5p JV/V Wrestling at Bellefont. w/Sp. Shawnee - 6 pm	2 USHS JV/V BBB - Shelby - H 6 pm	3 USMS GBB Tourn Begin 7th GBB - Tiffin 8th GBB - Norwalk - A Wrestling NOL Meet - Shelby - A USHS JV/V GBB-Galion-H-1 pm Coed V Swim - NOL @ Malabar MS - A - 10 am
4	5 USMS BBB - Galion - H USHS FrBBB - Galion - H 5 pm	6 USHS JV/V BBB - Bellevue - A 6 pm	7	8 SOUTH Character Counts Program - 9:30 am UNION District Spelling Bee 6 pm	9 USHS JV/V GBB - Tiffin Columbian - A - 6pm	10 EAST Recycling 8:30-10:30 am USMS BBB Tournaments Begin 7th Gr Boys-Fostoria - A 8th Gr Boys - Willard - A USHS Coed V Swim Sectional - A JV/V Wrestling NOL Tourn 11 am - H JV/V BBB - Galion - A-6pm FrBBB-Willard Tourn - A
11	12	13 USHS JV/V GBB - Norwalk - H 6 pm	14	15 USHS FrBBB - Willard Tournament - A	16 USHS JV/V Wrestling Sectional - A Coed V Swim District-A JV/V BBB - Tiffin Columbian - A - 6 pm	17 USHS FrBBB - Willard Tourn-A JV/V Boys Wrestling Sectional - A Coed V Swim - District JV/V BBB - Mohawk - H 6 pm
18	19 President's Day NO SCHOOL	20 UNION ELEM Spring Pictures SOUTH ELEM 5th Grade goes to Symphony in Tiffin	21	22	23 USHS JV/V Wrestling - District TBA JV/V BBB - Norwalk - H 6 pm	24 SOUTH ELEM Winter Family Fest 6-8 pm USHS JV/V Wrestling -District - TBA
25	26 SOUTH ELEM Scholastic Book Fair ALL WEEK	27	28			

USHS WINTER SPORTS BRIEFS

The 2006-2007 Winter Sports Season at Upper Sandusky High School is proving to be extremely successful for our Athletic Department. All our teams are working hard as they enter the last few weeks of the season and prepare for OHSAA tournament play.

Our perennially strong Lady Ram Basketball Team, led by Coach Andra Bell, is once again in the hunt for an NOL title. The Lady Rams are having an excellent season and showing continual improvement as they enter the last few games of the regular season.

The Varsity Boys Basketball Team, coached by Keith Diebler, continues to be ranked in the top six among OHSAA Division II schools across the state, playing before "sold-out" crowds. Senior basketball standout, Jon Diebler is closing in on the OHSAA career scoring record of 2,958 points set by Jay Burson.

The USHS Cheerleading Squad, led by Coach Jenny Heilman, continues to be the "Class of the NOL." Our cheerleaders' athleticism, enthusiasm, leadership and sportsmanship set the

standard for cheerleading in the NOL.

The Varsity Swim Team has a record of 31 dedicated swimmers making the trip to the Bucyrus YMCA three days a week for practice. Coach Doug Beach has brought new life to the USHS swim program with his team setting nine new school records.

The USHS Wrestling Program continues to improve under first-year head coach, Chuck May. The season has been highlighted by a 2nd place finish in the Bucyrus Invitational. The Ram wrestlers are looking forward to hosting the NOL tournament on Saturday, February 10th.

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

GREG MICHELI-NCAA FOOTBALL CHAMPION

The Upper Sandusky High School Athletic Department would like to congratulate 2005 USHS graduate Greg Micheli for his outstanding accomplishments on the football field this past year at Mount Union College. As a sophomore at Mt. Union, he led the Purple Raiders to a 35-16 victory over Wisconsin-Whitewater to win the NCAA Division III National Football Championship. As quarterback, Greg set a Division III championship game record by completing 18 of 22 passes for an 81.8 percentage. He also threw for 202 yards and three touchdowns while adding 42 yards and a touchdown on the ground. For Greg's accomplishments he was named the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl's Most Outstanding Player. This was the second straight national championship for Greg and the Purple Raiders who have won a record nine titles, all of them since 1993.

During the season, Greg ran for 445 yards and nine touchdowns, but was also impressive with his passing ability. On the year, he completed 74.2 percent of his passes for 1,156 yards and 11 touchdowns with only one interception. He also served as the team's punter averaging 37 yards per kick. Greg has a double major in physics and mathematics and wants to go to graduate school for engineering. Congratulations to Greg on a great year at Mt. Union! Upper Sandusky High School is proud of you! - Brad Ehrman, Athletic Dir.

WEATHER DELAY/CLOSING PROCEDURES

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

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



The following stations will make the announcements:

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

ATHLETIC DELAYS

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



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



Upper Sandusky
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