



"A Tradition of Excellence"

Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools

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Superintendent's Message . . .

March 2008

It is difficult for me to let a month go by without recognizing all our students who have already earned the honor of competing at the district level:

Wrestling: Arin Neely, Aaron Webster, Cory Shaw, Zach Thiel, and Kyle Burbaugh; congratulations as well to Coaches Rodriguez, Mengerink, Neely, Troiano, Hooper, May, and Young.

Swimming: Jacob Beach, Samuel Molnar, Alex Parks, and Vince D'Ettorre; congratulations as well to Coaches Beach and Parks.

Girls Basketball (varsity only): Ashleigh Kline, Holly Jones, Alex Plott, Katie Wetherell, Rebecca Gamby, Clare Aubry, and Kalee Frey; congratulations as well to Coaches Bell, Kraus, and Treadway.

As of the time of this writing, the boys basketball team will be playing in the sectional finals this Friday. I hope to recognize them in my message next month.

Last but definitely not least, I wish to recognize two seventh grade students who competed against 71 of the best middle school spellers in Wyandot and Seneca Counties February 3rd at Tiffin Middle School, both of whom will advance to the Northwest Ohio Spelling Bee at Owens College in Toledo March 13, at 6:30 p.m., Hannah Cole and Allie Smith. Congratulations as well to their teacher, Allene North, who prepared them and others from Union Middle School so very well. It is my understanding that Union Middle School had 7 of the final 15 spellers!

Congratulations to all of the above students and their parents on their personal achievements and for the recognition brought to the school district by their hard work and efforts! Students, thank you for making use of your talents and abilities! Parents, thank you for giving your children the support they need to achieve with excellence.

UNDERSTANDING THE CHARGE-OFF:

A CRITICAL ELEMENT TO UNDERSTANDING THE SCHOOL FUNDING PICTURE

I have read several articles lately about the Governor's "two-for-one" proposal and how our legislators continue to make careers out of telling only half the story about school funding much to my disappointment and frustration, so this month I hope to share with you some of the lesser known facts about Ohio's school funding system so that at least the basic aid funding portion for Ohio's public schools is better understood by all.

Contrary to what is far from telling the entire truth, many legislators claim that they fund education for the regular student in Ohio at the rate of \$5,565 per student. What they often fail to tell you is that before they cut the check to the school district for this per pupil amount, they subtract what is called the charge-off (the equivalent in dollars of what 23 mills will generate LOCALLY for every school district in Ohio) as a way for the state to say that educational funding in Ohio should be a shared responsibility with a district's local share somewhat commensurate with the taxable wealth of each particular Ohio school district. The key here is that the state considers school funding in Ohio to be a shared responsibility. In other words, the state considers the charge-off a LOCAL district's share relative to each district's taxable wealth and/or commensurate with each individual district's ability to pay. In Upper Sandusky, for example, the average net dollars that we garner from the state toward our basic aid is only \$2,551 of the \$5,565 that we often hear legislators espousing that they pay per student. Put another way, \$3,014 per student is, on the average, subtracted as the LOCAL share, and \$2,551 (only 45.84% of the full amount) is WHAT WE ACTUALLY RECEIVE on the basic foundation portion of this formula. (I would bet that not many local taxpayers are even aware that this charge-off exists.)

Next, it is not uncommon for the state to claim that when a school district loses students through choice options that only state dollars follow the pupil to wherever that pupil is educated. Ah, but wait, we just learned in the previous paragraph that whatever 23 mills will generate in every Ohio school district, it is this LOCAL share amount which gets subtracted from a school district's state aid and that this amount (never paid by the state at any time for any reason) is what gets subtracted from our foundation aid. Rest assured, however, that in classic double standard style, the state deducts the FULL \$5,565 per pupil amount once a year for: (a) all resident charter and community school students, (b) all resident e-school students, (c) all resident post-secondary enrollment option students (if tuition costs for courses paid to colleges are equal to or exceed the \$5,565 amount), and (d) all resident open enrollment students who choose to be educated elsewhere. So I ask the question: do only STATE dollars follow the students who fit these categories or do state AND local dollars follow the students to whatever school, college, or district these students choose to be educated? Maybe an even more relevant question is why local public dollars need to be spent to fund what is often a private choice.

In our SF-3 Report, a state report which explains finances received by any and all school districts in the state, it is shown on line 5A that if the state paid us the full \$5,565 per student, we would receive from the state

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.

\$9,316,143 but with our local charge-off share of \$5,350,816 (line 4E), our net amount for the foundation portion is \$3,965,327 with \$82,736 added for Building Blocks professional development/ staff training activities to give us \$4,048,063 (line 6). We then get additional dollars added for just barely being within the 80th percentile of the lowest wealth districts in the state (called Parity Aid), our number and type of special education students, transportation, and other line item costs, but the major portion of most school districts' funding is determined by the basic formula aid where the charge-off plays a very significant role in most Ohio school districts' revenue.

What few realize is that when we keep a resident student in our district, we gain only \$2,551 from the state for that student. However, when a resident student leaves our district or chooses to be educated elsewhere, we lose not only the \$2,551 (state portion) but the \$3,014 (local charge-off portion never paid by the state at any time any where but required to be paid by us) totaling the full \$5,565 to be paid to the educating district. (What is worse to me is that that this is usually a private decision funded with public dollars.)

So why do so many of our legislators declare that only state dollars follow the student? I guess we'll need to give some of them the benefit of the doubt and assume they do not really understand the formula and the double standard of the formula rules they have created for us to follow. Sadly, however, in far too many cases, they fully understand.

Related to this topic, I've heard some of our legislators promote an even bigger lie: When schools have fewer students to educate because of choice options, they somehow conclude that this represents considerable savings to the school district. When they take away our pupils (our customers), they reason, it gives school districts fewer pupils/customers to serve, thus calculating the "savings" to schools at the FULL amount of money they claim to give us (but obviously an amount they never give us, an amount which includes the local share and/or the charge-off). I would like to see our legislators convince a group of businessmen that every customer they do not get under the state's subsidy program under the same rules that school funding is under is somehow "good for them," saving them money. Please, give us a break!!!

By now, some of you have read of the Governor's "two-for-one" proposal where every high school senior is automatically declared competent and capable of earning high school credit and college credit simultaneously their senior year. I hope not everyone buys into this without really considering who will really be funding this proposal. Yes, you are right. This is just

another way for the state to add to their already existing laundry list of ways to shift the responsibility for paying for this education away from the state and onto the local level, all in the name of making college affordable – never mind about quality!

"Two-for-one," what does that mean? Does it mean that you and I don't need to go to work this year because there is nothing to be gained by going to work since we did it all last year? Who really believes that every senior in high school is ready for college level work? Who will answer the call when our colleges scream that even more students are entering college unprepared and deficient in entry level math and reading courses? What genius suddenly decided that four years of high school are not beneficial any more and that three years are "just as good"? If only three years are "just as good," why not have three-year high schools and fund them accordingly? Are all seniors mature enough to handle the demands and rigors of college level work? Are all socially and psychologically mature enough for college work at ages 17 and 18? I don't think that most educators would answer "yes" to most of these questions.

Folks, I hope we are smart enough to see through this cockamamie logic. More importantly, I hope we're smart enough to see that this move is not about improving the quality of education. Far from it, this move is simply another way for the state to shift the cost of funding primary and secondary education away from the state to the local level. It's another way for you and me to use public dollars to fund what should be another private decision, and I hope you know by now, both state and local dollars will pay for this whole new category where more of the costs for what should be a private choice will be shifted away from the state to be borne locally. I certainly hope we're smarter than this because an idea of deceit is a bad idea regardless of what political party originates it.

The state has an ulterior motive in mind, and this motive will do nothing to improve the quality of education that our students currently receive.

Yours for education,

Ken Doseck, Supt.

An actual copy of the first 25 lines of our school district's SF-3 will be published on the school district's website this month. The district's website is www.upsersandusky.k12.oh.us/. Next month Mr. Doseck will cover the second half of the SF-3 Report so that the full picture of our district's funding is understood in comparison to other districts in the state. Being aware of the "charge-off" is the primary focus of this month's message.



Mr. Doseck receives a check for US Community Outreach from Mrs. Hazel Franks, one of the initial donors to this program.



Bob Beach, president of Commercial Savings Bank, gives to Supt. Doseck an envelope enclosed with two checks, one for US Community Outreach and one for the Upper Sandusky High School's Bleacher Renovation Project.



Photo compliment of Daily Chief-Union/Brandon Drake

First Citizens National Bank recently made donations to the Stadium Bleacher Project and to US Community Outreach. Pictured are (from left) USHS Athletic Director Brad Ehrman; Rob McClure, Pam Baker, and Mark Johnson of FCNB; and Supt. Ken Doseck.

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.

PARENT EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS

Sponsored by the Seneca-Wyandot Parent Mentor Program of The North Central Ohio Educational Service Center and The Seneca Co. Help Me Grow Family Support Specialist

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

"Mental Health Issues in Children & the Schools"

By: Dennis Wolf, Executive Director NAMI Seneca, Sandusky & Wyandot Counties

(The National Alliance on Mental Illness)

This parent meeting will be held at The Family Learning Center at Sentinel, 797 E. Twp. Rd. 201, Tiffin, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Questions, call Paula Frey, Parent Mentor (419) 294-3445

South, Union & East 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 Aug. 1, 2008 are required by law to register and be screened. Parents should call Brenda Haubert at South Elementary @419-294-2304 between 8:30 am and 3:00 pm, 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 20, 2008.

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.

The Wyandot Co. Health Dept. will be giving immunizations the day of the screening if you are interested.

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



SETH CLUB NEWS

At South School, SETH is not the name of a fifth grade student, but a fifth grade technology club. The

club is open to all students in that grade and provides hands-on experience with technology. Digital still and video cameras and a variety of computer programs such as Word, iPhoto, iMovie, and Inspiration are offered in mini-sessions.

Aaron Korte, editor and photographer from the Daily Chief Union, demonstrated techniques for good photographic composition using examples from the newspaper. The students eagerly attempted the various techniques and voted photography their favorite activity.

New this year is instruction in safe and appropriate use of Internet websites. Students reviewed using instant messaging, joining chat rooms, website evaluation, narrowing searches and appropriate citation of web materials.

SETH Club meets one day each week after school. Teachers Nancy Sauer and Sue Kitzler have been the club coaches for three years.

- Nancy Sauer & Sue Kitzler, South teachers

EAST "ENERGY SAVER" WINNERS

Wal-Mart of Upper Sandusky recently sponsored a contest in which local schools were encouraged to save "energy saver UPC" labels from products such as light bulbs and laundry products.

We are pleased to announce that our East School staff and students were declared the WINNERS! Store representatives presented the school with a \$200 Wal-Mart gift card!

In addition to the gift card Wal-Mart provided a pizza party for the classroom collecting the most UPC labels for the contest months of October, November, and December. Miss Case/Gr. 2, Mrs. Herring/Gr.5 and Mrs. Niederkoehr/Gr.4 all enjoyed pizza, punch, and recycling lessons each month!

We thank Wal-Mart for its generous prizes and also applaud their commitment to recycling. Also, a hearty "thanks and congratulations" to the parents, students and staff of East School for your participation and efforts in this contest.



REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE - REINVEST

- Michael Courtad, Principal

LEGO ENGINEERS

The fourth and fifth graders at **East** and **South** got a chance to try out their engineering skills when the "Lego Lady," Karen Bogoski from All About Learning, made a visit. All About Learning brought their on-site field trip to Upper Sandusky Schools to give students a chance to build a battery-operated car made of Legos.

Each pair of students had a kit with over 250 Lego pieces, a motor and a battery pack. Students followed printed directions to build their car. Modifications were allowed later to adjust the weight and aerodynamics; then they could see who really had the fastest car!

Many thanks to the Academic Boosters, East PTO and South Parent Team for making it possible for the Enrichment Program to have this fun learning experience. Students who wish to purchase their own kit may go online to www.legoeducation.com.

- Jill Eyestone, TAG Instructor

Middle School Happenings

IN MEMORY OF A GOOD MAN

Many of you are familiar with our Veterans Day Program when we invite veterans across the county to lunch and speak to our kids. Unfortunately, we lost one of our frequent guests in P.K. Courtad last month. P.K.'s journey in WW II has been well documented throughout time, so I won't use space here to go into it again. I will instead use space to let the district know that USMS teachers donated money to purchase two books for our library in his honor: Eyewitness to WWII and V is for Victory.

We are saddened not only for his family but for our loss in not hosting him on Veteran's Day. His memory, however, will live on in these two books at USMS.

- Jim Wheeler, Principal

WASTE A LITTLE TIME ON ME

We recently completed our winter sports season and also had a few students do very well at the local spelling bee. At each event I attended, I was, as always, struck by how hard the kids worked. I am, however, equally impressed by the way our parents support the our kids. I have been in schools where some of our athletes could not guarantee that even one parent would be in attendance for games. So for all you parents who have been there for your kids, simply by being there you have made an impact on their lives. Kudos to you! We couldn't do it without you!

- Jim Wheeler

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the following students for being selected USMS Students of the Month. Each month one boy and one girl from each grade level are selected based on excellence and persistence. In May all students chosen attend a Toledo Mud Hens baseball game with kindergarten students from Union Elementary. It is our way of not only saying thanks to those students for being role models, but also any way of showing our younger children what fine role models they are.

This month our students are:

Grade 6 - Abby Musgrave and Alex Hampton

Grade 7 - Jackie Stone and Trent Howard

Grade 8 - Breanna Vogel and Adam Durress

This year's trip will be partially funded by the following local businesses:

Pfiefer Hardware • Wilson Tire • Guardian Industries
Bill & Kate Aubry • First Citizens National Bank
Kimmel Corporation

GRANT RECEIVED

USMS eighth graders in reading class will benefit from a grant received from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation in the amount of \$2,406.00. This money was awarded by the foundation after a proposal was written and was then accepted by them. The money will be used to buy two class sets of hardback books. One hundred copies of Johnny Tremain, a historical fiction novel about the Revolutionary War, and The Outsiders, a S.E. Hinton novel about a gang of social misfits trying to overcome life's obstacles, will be purchased with the funds. Students will begin to benefit from these funds during the 2008-2009 school year.

- Jason Zeller, 8th grade reading

RAM YOUNG BUCKEYE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS, AND MEDICINE

The Ram version of the Young Buckeye STEM (YBSTEM) program has begun. This program is taking place in seven school districts in Ohio and is funded by the Ohio Department of Education via the Ohio Academy of Science. There is a national movement to encourage young people to enter careers related to

science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine. These are the careers that will be in high demand as our economy moves from an industrial base to a service base. Now Upper Sandusky has joined this effort. Teachers, Jill Eyestone and Teresa Harris, are excited to be working with the 27 scholars enrolled in the after school YBSTEM class. The students are currently exploring construction technologies by



researching bridge history, forces, and types. They will use online software to build a virtual bridge and then finally a prototype made from toothpicks to test the information they will gather. Other technologies will follow.

In addition the students will soon be organizing their own 4-H club. Each will complete a science-related project that will allow them to explore topics that interest them. From these they will later use the science process to collect data and build a inquiry-based science fair project. "The central concept of Young Buckeye STEM is that 4-H provides students with communication, teamwork and leadership skills that help students succeed in STEM careers and as effective citizens," says Lynn Elfner, chief executive officer of the Ohio Academy of Science.

The fifth and sixth grade scholars enrolled in our local program include Izaha Akins, Adam Benner, Brian Bils, Jamie Calvin, Tayler Cazares, Cody Clifford, Kayla Counts, Charity Gottfried, Chelsey Hecht, Nazzy Heid, Kalie Hughes, Walker Karg, Nexus Klingler, Hunter Luikart, Colin Marshall, Kory May, Kaylee McGraw, John Ownes, Nate Payne, Nick Reid, Damien Shoemaker, Bradley Sipe, Bailey Spitler, Phillip Stanley, Shane Stansbery, and Luke Summit.

- Teresa Harris

OAT (OHIO ACHIEVEMENT TEST) SESSIONS

Each day I witness teachers providing students with the necessary skills to not only succeed academically, but to excel on the upcoming OAT tests.

Again this year, we will be contacting students and inviting them to after-school sessions to give them that extra boost to pass the test. We will be holding our sessions right after Spring Break.

We will be doing something a little different this year in planning. We will invite students who struggle on individual strands of the test as opposed to inviting everyone who is struggling in a subject.

Using data provided by the State of Ohio and a program we utilize at USMS (NWEA), we can tell if a student is having problems in the algebra section of the math test or the comprehension section of the reading test. We believe we can invite smaller groups of students to sessions and give them the assistance they need as opposed to saying, "Come to the math session, and while you aren't struggling on geometry, sit through it until we get to the data analysis part, which you need help on."

Be on the lookout for notices inviting your child to these very useful after-school sessions!
- Jim Wheeler, Principal

COMMUNITY SERVICE UPDATE

Looks like another good year for our community service program. Last year 67% of our students completed their fifteen hours. We appear to be on pace to at least equal that total this year.

The deadline for completing hours this year is May 1.

This year, in lieu of a school dance, students who complete their hours will be invited to free pizza and Putt Putt golf at our local Putt Putt establishment. Date for that event is TBA.

- Jim Wheeler, Principal

SPELLING BEE

On Sunday, February 3rd, we went to Tiffin Middle School to compete in the Toledo Blade Spelling Bee. We came in and were surprised to find that even all of the alternates from USMS were allowed to compete. As we quizzed each other on the words, we had high hopes for everyone.

We walked onto the huge stage and the practice round began. It seemed as if the tension just kept building until finally at the end of the first round, only fifteen students out of the original seventy-three remained (and seven of them were Union/USMS students). By the end of the second round, there were even fewer people left, but we only needed four spellers to move on.

For the next few rounds, everyone missed the words and were brought back for the next round. Hannah Cole was the first to get a word right and move on to the final round, successfully spelling **dechlorinate**.

Allie Smith was the third speller to get a word correct, successfully spelling **dubiety**. It took awhile to get to the final four, these finalists guaranteeing themselves a trip to Toledo for the Northwest Ohio Spelling Bee held at Owens Community College on Thursday, March 13!

Every Union/USMS student worked very hard with Mrs. North and at home. As a result, Upper Sandusky as a whole was well represented. With the success that all our students had, we believe that all attending the spelling bee will not forget Union/USMS.

Participants were: Alexis Cameron, Nick Koehler, Hannah Cole, Allie Smith, Alexis Schwilk, Logan Pearson, Megan Pasco, and Krista Caudill.
- Allene North, 7th grade language arts
Hannah Cole and Allie Smith

USMS SCHOOL VISITS

Each year, Alison Cheney and I find it important to interact with entering 5th grade students a few months before they come to USMS. This year, we will visit the following schools on the following dates:

- USMS visits East 5th Grade May 5 8:30 AM
- USMS visits South 5th Grade May 6 8:30 AM
- USMS visits St. Peter's 5th Grade May 7 9:30 AM

We also invite each section of 5th grade students to visit USMS to get a feel for what goes on at USMS. Those visits are as follows:

- East visits May 12 10:15
- South visits May 13 10:15
- St. Peter's visits May 14 10:15

- Jim Wheeler, Principal

HOMEWORK HOTLINE

Homework Hotline is available to all 6-8 grade students/parents who need to check on either missed assignments or nightly homework assignments. Please call (419) 294-5721 after 4:00 PM. Enter the following codes:

6th Grade - 8206 • 7th Grade - 8207 • 8th Grade - 8208

JUNIOR ROTARY

USMS Jr. Rotarians will be a very busy for the next few months.

First up, the group attended an OSU Hockey game on Saturday, February 16. Before the game they ate together at the Buckeye Sports Café and the Hall of Fame.

On Friday, March 14, the club will be hosting a St. Patrick's Day Dance at USMS Gymnasium. The cost will be \$4, and all proceeds will go toward our tree project. As many of you know, USMS 7th grade student, Hunter Troxel, passed away in November of last year. Each time a member of the USMS family passes, we plant a tree in their honor on our north lawn.

On Saturday, March 15, the club will host a Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament for USMS students. Cost is \$12 for a team of four. The event will run from 9:00 AM until we have a winner. The club would appreciate any volunteers to serve as line judges and officials for the event. If you can help out, please call Jim Wheeler at (419) 294-5721.
- Jim Wheeler, Principal

WILLY WONKA - CAST AND CHARACTERS

This year, Mrs. Spoons, Mrs. Stull and the 6th grade class will present the musical *Willy Wonka*. Congratulations to the cast and crew!

Willy Wonka/Candy Man - Gannon Ritter

Charlie Bucket - Cohl Gagnon

Grandpa Joe - Seth Sprang

Mr. Bucket - Heath Miller

Mrs. Bucket - Beth Ogden

Phineous Trout - Troy Jordan

Oompa Loompas - Korie Slavey, Ally Dubois, Christina Lane, Kaitlin Rowe, Kiersten McGlaughlin, Justin Bucher, Dakota McClellan

Augustus Gloop - Danial Maltsbarger

Mrs. Gloop - Fiona Bather

Mike Teavee - Jenna Mundy

Violet Beauregarde - Amanda DeJonge

Mrs. Beauregarde - Justeen Searfoss

Veruca Salt - Allison Kessler

Mr. Salt - Dillon Barto

Grandma Josephina - Hope Laforest-Koehler

Grandma Georgina - Maranda Stansberry

Grandpa George - Tanner Gottfried

James - Tylor Pritchard

Matilda - Kilee Saylor

Sophie - Ivy Shoemaker

Billie - Taylor Dilley

Dani - Jamie Brown

Alfie - Johnny Lebay

Candy Kids - Gloria Adkins, Hanna Adkins, Morgan Baker, Hannah Lab, Jonelle Meyer, Rachel Phillips

Each year, Mrs. Spoons and Mrs. Stull organize this program and volunteer their time. They do not get paid to do this. They do it for the kids and the betterment of the music program. All of us can show our appreciation by attending this performance!

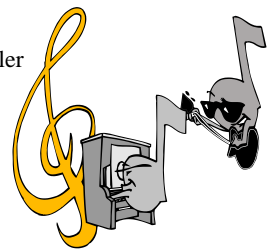
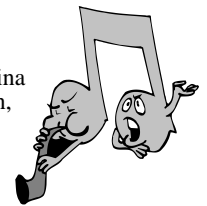
- Jim Wheeler, Principal

USMS PEP BAND

Every year, middle school band members have the option of being in USMS Pep Band. Those who choose to be in pep band have a blast! In the beginning it seems like all we do is work. Mrs. Coakley is always determined to make sure we stay "up on our pedestals."

The pep band plays at USMS boys' and girls' basketball games and at Upper Sandusky High School Lady Rams' games. We usually play at about twenty games per year. People have said that they enjoy listening to us. Mr. Doseck says we're as good as most high school pep bands. We enjoy entertaining the crowd and appreciate the support the crowd gives us!

-Janelle Terry, Pep Band



CHEERLEADING

As a member of the 8th grade cheerleading team, I must say that we had a tremendous year. The squad consisted of Kelsey Armstrong, Tiffany Towns, Kalyn Thornton, Brittany Lemaster and I. All of us got along extremely well, and we were all dedicated to our challenging and exciting sport.

Vicki Washburn and Courtney Romich were our coaches for both years of our middle school careers, and they did an excellent job of keeping our squad intact. One of the reasons we stayed together was because they kept the enjoyment of the sport alive.

You can say that persistence was the key word to our season. When the season began, we had only two tumbles, but through hard work, we ended with four. We learned new dances and continued to push each other. In fact, one dance, "Blades," is usually a dance cheerleaders learn in high school.

The highlight of our season was when all middle school cheerleaders were asked to join the high school cheerleaders for a performance at a varsity event. The performance is always wonderful because the high school cheerleaders bring such wonderful ideas to the table. It is also a good chance for the middle schoolers to see how high school cheerleaders function. We also get to go to one away game a year to perform. This year we accompanied the 8th grade boys' basketball team to one tournament game against Norwalk. Sadly, we lost, but they played hard, and we cheered hard, making it the perfect season for us.

- by Taylor Daughenbaugh, 8th grade

7TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL

We began basketball with tryouts during the last week of October and our season ended on January 31. Playing a 17-game season, we had a record of 9-8. We beat everyone on our schedule at least one time except Norwalk and Shelby. It was Shelby that ended our season in tournament play.

We scored 427 points over the year, with the each player scoring. Our top four scorers were:

- Lexa Cheney 115 points
- Alexis Cameron 107 points
- Alison Snyder 93 points
- Savvanah Piecha 58 points

During the tournament we played 3 games. We beat Willard in the opening game. With that we earned the right to move on to play Shelby who beat us. Shelby knocked us out of the NOL Tournament. Our last game was against Bellevue in a consolation game. We hung in against Bellevue. In fact, at half time our coaches told us we worked too hard to lose, but we still did.

Over the season we had poor games and good games, but in the end it was all worth it. I think that next year when we go out for basketball, we will continue to work hard and win even more. Everyone should go out again next year, and we will continue to improve. 7th grade Lady Ram basketball was a lot of fun!

- Rowan Ritchey, 7th grade

7TH GRADE BOYS' BASKETBALL SEASON IN REVIEW

The 7th grade boys' basketball team was an astonishing group of kids. The roster included: Stuart Young, Joe Reile, Trent Howard, Brennan Miller, Garrett Fox, Daniel Newell, Josh Lear, Alec Oney, Cammeron Crawford, Dorian Matthews, Cory Frey, Codie Ray and Coach Eric Brenner.

Our biggest win was against Willard on our home floor after we lost to them the first time we played at Willard. We were all very proud and happy to beat our rival.

Our record was 5-9. We lost the first game of the NOL Tournament to Fostoria. Basketball is still in our hearts, though. We worked very hard all year and did very well in spite of all our problems. That's what we call perseverance.

- Cody Ray, 7th grade

8TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL SEASON REVIEW

The 8th grade girls' basketball team had a great year this year. Coach Sarah Richards, in her second year, was a very good coach.

Our season began with tryouts in October. After tryouts we practiced every day, working on skills like ball handling, plays, conditioning, and much more. Then our games began.

We improved a lot from last year when we only won 4 games. This year our record was 8-7. We went into tournament play at Norwalk, knowing we had to work our hardest. We had to play Shelby, and in the end we lost 32-30. We were upset that we lost and sad that our season was over, but we knew that we played a very good game. Overall, we had a good season.

The girls on our team were: Sydney Courtad, Marissa Linhart, Danielle Gatchell, Brittany Fletcher, Jennifer Easton, Corinne Shaull, Breeanna Vogel, Alinda Rosvanis, Kelsey Niederkohr, Kristina Thiel, Keera Saylor, and Aubrey Wentling.

- Sydney Courtad, 8th grade

8TH GRADE BOYS' BASKETBALL

Our season came to an end a few weeks ago with a loss to a tough Norwalk team at the NOL Tournament. We had a winning season, with a record of 8-7. The year ended sooner than what we planned. The 8th grade roster was Trevor Barth, Justin Mattix, Evan Logsdon, Jay Clinger, AJ Jacoby, Garrett Huston, Brice Arnold, Justin Ely, Adam Durress, Zenan Wample and Mark Walton.

Our Coach, Mr. Kinnear, prepared us for each game like it was our last. We would also like to give our coach a special thanks for doing so and preparing us for high school basketball.

- Mark Walton, 8th grade

USMS WRESTLING SEASON IN REVIEW

Wrestling season started out slow. We didn't know each other well. We had several new wrestlers with only four returning from last year. Physically, we weren't perfect, but emotionally, we were number one!

One thing that may have slowed us down may have been the loss of a very special teammate, Hunter Troxel. Many of us used Hunter as motivation to win. We showed a lot of heart, and it was a challenging experience for all of us.

The highlight may have been at our first meet, the USMS East of Chicago Wrestling Classic. We placed 2nd. We were determined and ready to wrestle.

Our roster this year included Brian Miller, Aaron Johnson, Tyler Burks, Derrick Gault, Trey Washburn, Greg Thiel, Kurt Zeigler, Neil Thomas, Steven Mullins, Derek Hartschuh, Ty Thamarat, Dustin Daneil, Jesse Shane and Josh Mundy. Our team captains were Kohl Johnson and David Grove.

Our wrestlerettes were Kaylee Hoy, Alex Newell, Kelsey Slabaugh, Tayler Flowers, Elizabeth Cousino. We were coached by Mark Neiderkahr and Eric Morris. - Kohl Johnson, 8th grade

USMS WINTER WORKERS

Upper Sandusky Middle School has completed yet another successful winter sports season. A big thank you and a job well done goes out to all the athletes, coaches, and parents for putting in many hours, making long trips, and giving 110%.

We would like to thank all of our event workers, as they put in a great deal of time and help us run a smooth operation. The workers that make the events successful are: Steve Washburn, Holly Shoenberger, Sandy Holly, Jane Bricely, Vicki Washburn, Russel Hall, Julia Massara, Jim Wheeler, and Mike Walton.

We would also like to thank the USMS pep band under the direction of Cheryl Coakley. They do a tremendous job at the games and make Upper the best atmosphere for a middle school sporting event in the NOL.

- Jason Zeller & Brad Kinnear, USMS AD's

High School Events

USHS STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

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

January 2008

Senior: Jordon Steinhour Junior: Alex Plott
Sophomore: Wyatt Garber Freshman: Jordan Coakley

FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE NEWS

The eighth grade class was given tours of the high school the afternoon of February 22. The selected areas included the guidance and high school offices, the Computer Applications classroom, the vocational agriculture classroom, the work and family life classroom, the computer lab, and the library. Tours were conducted by National Honor Society member volunteers Joe Sebenoler, Clare Aubry, Kelly Brocklesby, Brittany Molnar, Lauren Bruynis, Danielle Bachtell, Chelsea Massie, Jared Barth and Emily Holycross. Following the tours students met in the high school auditorium for a question and answer period with Mr. Jim Clifford, the high school principal. The students were also given an explanation of high school graduation requirements, college admission requirements, electives, quality points, and classes available to them as incoming freshmen, from the 9th and 10th grade guidance counselor Mrs. Barbara Norman. At a later date 8th grade students will be receiving the 2008/2009 Course Selection Guide. It is important for students and parents to read this document because it lists information on diplomas, adding and dropping classes, grades, educational options, course descriptions, etc.

The cut-off date for Sentinel application is March 21st. Students who wish to have priority consideration should obtain a registration form from the guidance office and return it in order to have the application mailed and received by Sentinel on March 21st. Students applying to Sentinel past the priority deadline may be put on a waiting list. Students wishing information concerning Sentinel programs may get information from the guidance department or call Sentinel at 419-448-1212.

Freshmen students interested in a career in cosmetology may want to consider the Sentinel Career program; students completing this program would attend Sentinel in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

Sophomores and juniors considering a career in education may be interested in the Careers in Education program offered at Sentinel for 2008/2009. The program is a one-year tech program open to high school juniors and seniors who wish to explore the basics of teaching. - Barb Norman, Guidance Counselor

JUNIOR AND SENIOR GUIDANCE NEWS

March is here and there is much to prepare for here in the high school guidance office. Probably the biggest event this month is the Ohio Graduation Test that will be given to 10th grade students for the first time and to any 11th and 12th graders who have yet to pass any section. The test will be given from March 3rd-7th with make-ups being the following week. There are many good preparation materials out there, with one of the best being the Ohio Department of Education website. There are practice tests for every subject on this site, and students will find it very helpful. The web address is www.ode.state.oh.us. You will click on Testing and Assessments and then Ohio Graduation Test, and this will lead you

to all kinds of helpful information on this very important test. Students are also encouraged to use Study Island. This is another OGT-prep tool that USHS has adopted and used extensively so far this year. The data on this tool has shown that it has a huge impact on score-improvement.

This is the time of year that college-bound juniors need to be signing up for the ACT and/or SAT. The next test date for the ACT is April 12th with the registration deadline being March 7th. Students should be sure to sign up for the writing portion when registering. The next SAT date is May 3rd with the registration deadline on April 1st. Preparation materials can be found for each of these tests on their websites: www.act.org & www.collegeboard.com.

Seniors will likely begin to receive financial aid packages from the colleges that they have applied to. Be sure to review these carefully to make sure that you are making a true comparison of costs, including scholarship and grants (free money) and loans (which need to be repaid) and that you are paying close attention to the different student loan options and interest rates. You may be surprised at how much the rates vary between federal student loans to private lender student loans, so make sure that you are getting the best deal possible! I am more than willing to sit down and review financial aid awards with you if you still have questions. If you still have not filed the FAFSA or have other financial aid questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience at cara_s@treca.org or 419-294-2308. Happy Spring!!

- Cara Stevens, Guidance Counselor

NINETEEN MARKETING STUDENTS WIN DECA TROPHIES

February 15, 2008 Thirty-two Upper Sandusky High School junior and senior marketing education students recently competed at the DECA District 16 marketing competition, held at Bluffton University. Nineteen of those students captured DECA trophies in their respective events.

Trophy winners included Marc Franks, first place marketing test; Shaina Victor, second place marketing test; Fernando Salinas, second place food marketing; Carrie Cusick, third place automotive services; Dateasha Sherman, fourth place apparel and accessories; Scott Mount and Jordan Fagan, fourth place business law and ethics team; Josie Brown and Brad Miller, fourth place hospitality services team; Rikki Washburn and Heather Cox, fourth place internet marketing team; LeAnna Kear and Rosanne Miller, fourth place travel and tourism team; Chelsea Garza, fourth place quick serve restaurant; Jessica Brown, fifth place accounting applications; Amber Burka, fifth place hotel and lodging; Natalie Pinion, fifth place marketing management; Josselyn Nye, fifth place sports and entertainment; and Logan Gillen, fifth place marketing test.

Marc Franks, Fernando Salinas, Shaina Victor and Carrie Cusick won the right to advance to Ohio DECA state competition, March 7-8 in Columbus.

Also representing USHS in the DECA District 16 competition were juniors Brian Butte, Brandon King, Maria Luikart, Cody Raisor and Luke Shoemaker; and seniors Kelly Billeg, Tiffany Boes, Megan Ferguson, Cory Kramer, Shyla Lundy, Veronica Martin, Nathan Woodruff, and Loraina Young.

"I am very proud of all of my marketing students who competed at Bluffton, whether they won a trophy or not," said Wayne Thomas, marketing instructor and DECA advisor. "The experience of meeting marketing students from schools across west-central Ohio and participating in the various competitive events helps forge strong social and business-related job skills."

The district competitive events categories included various combinations of marketing-related tests, case study presentations, research projects, and sales demonstrations. Representatives of business, education, government, and retail organizations served as judges for the competitive events.

DECA is an international association of marketing students. Ohio DECA District 16 is comprised of 11 high school DECA chapters, including students from Upper Sandusky, Carey and Bucyrus High Schools.



Upper Sandusky High School junior and senior marketing students recently competed at the Ohio DECA District 16 competition at Bluffton University. Nineteen students won trophies in their respective events



Advancing to Ohio DECA state competition in March are USHS marketing students (left to right) Fernando Salinas, Carrie Cusick, Shaina Victor and Marc Franks.

THE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL: LI'L ABNER
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. DAVID HEADINGS

Li'l Abner is being performed this year at USHS. It is a comedy in which the character Daisy Mae hopes to marry the character Li'l Abner by catching him in the traditional Sadie Hawkins Day race. Daisy begins to think all hope of winning Abner's heart is lost when a senator tells the small town of Dogpatch that their town is going to be used to test atom bombs unless the government can find something "worthwhile" about the town. Will Dogpatch get blown up? Will Daisy Mae catch Abner? Come to the show and find out. Show times are March 7th, 8th, 14th, and 15th at 8:00 p.m. and March 16th at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 (reserved seating only). Call 419-209-2468 or 419-294-2038 (after 4pm use option 3 to leave a detailed message). Hope to see you at the show!

- Maggie Wood, student director

JENNY HEILMAN –
USHS CHEERLEADING
COACH



Jenny Heilman has been the head cheerleading coach at Upper Sandusky High School since 1997. In her 11 years as cheerleading coach, she has shown outstanding dedication and a commitment to excellence in building a strong cheerleading program at USHS. Her cheerleaders have always performed at the highest level with outstanding athletic ability while continually displaying excellent sportsmanship. During her tenure, Coach Heilman has led her competition cheerleading squad to numerous championships and finished 7th at the National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, Florida in 2004.

Coach Heilman has decided to step away from cheerleading after this year to spend more time with her family, which will include a new addition who will arrive in June. Thanks, Jenny, for the great job you have done with our cheerleading program at USHS. You will be greatly missed by all of your cheerleaders and Upper Sandusky fans alike. We appreciate you building an outstanding cheerleading program that is respected throughout the NOL and in Northwest Ohio.
- Brad Ehrman, AD

SPRING IS AROUND THE CORNER!

Upper Sandusky High School spring sport practices will officially begin on Monday, March 10th with the first games beginning the week of March 31st. Baseball, softball, boys tennis, boys and girls track will take center stage with all our teams looking forward to successful seasons.

The 2008 "Swankhouse Invitational" highlights the track season with eight varsity teams competing on Saturday, April 26th, 9:30 a.m. at the USHS Athletic Complex. This invitational will feature Celina, Maumee, Oak Harbor, River Valley, Kenton, Mohawk, Carey, and host, Upper Sandusky High School.

All our coaches and athletes will be working hard to represent USHS on the playing field this spring. Please come out and support all our spring sport teams!
- Brad Ehrman, AD

ANDRA BELL – USHS GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH



Andra Bell is Lady Ram Basketball. Since 1973 Coach Bell has served Upper Sandusky High School as the head coach of our Lady Ram basketball program. During her tenure at USHS (entering this year's sectional tournament), the Lady Rams have captured 9 NOL titles, 19 sectional crowns, 9 district championships, 3 regional titles and made 3 OHSAA state final four appearances. In 1996 the Lady Rams finished as the OHSAA state tournament runner-up, finishing with a 27-1 record. In 2006, Coach Bell joined an elite group of high school basketball coaches across the country by earning her 500th career varsity coaching victory. She had 537 wins as a head girls basketball coach as her team entered the sectional tournament in February.

Coach Bell will retire at the end of this school year after 34 years as head basketball coach of our Lady Ram basketball program and 35 years as a teacher. Congratulations, Coach Bell, on your outstanding career at USHS and for your commitment to excellence. We hope you enjoy your retirement, and thank you for all you have done for Lady Ram Basketball.
- Brad Ehrman, AD

MARCH 2008

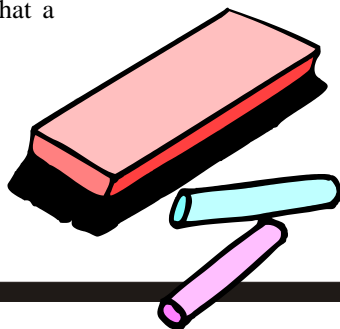
District Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<u>USHS</u> High School Band & Choir Winter Concert 2:30 pm HS Gymnasium					<u>USHS</u> Musical - Lil Abner 8:00 pm HS Little Theater	<u>USHS</u> Musical - Lil Abner 8:00 pm HS Little Theater
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		<u>USMS</u> Middle School Band & Choir Concert 7:00 pm Gymnasium			<u>USHS</u> Musical - Lil Abner 8:00 pm HS Little Theater	<u>USHS</u> Musical - Lil Abner 8:00 pm HS Little Theater HS Band & Choir Contest at Lima Bath Time -- TBA
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<u>USHS</u> Musical - Lil Abner 2:30 pm HS Little Theater				<u>USMS</u> 6th Grade Incentive Deadline	NO SCHOOL Spring Break	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	NO SCHOOL Spring Break					
30	31	NO SCHOOL Spring Break <u>USHS</u> Choir Trip to New York March 25 to 29	NO SCHOOL Spring Break	NO SCHOOL Spring Break	NO SCHOOL Spring Break	
	Back to School <u>USHS</u> Boys V Bball - 4:30p - Kenton - A Boys JV Bball - 4:30p Kenton - H Girls V Softball - 4:30p Kenton - A Girls JV Softball - 4:30p Kenton - H Boys JV/V Tennis 4:30p - Kenton - H					

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.uppersandusky.k12.oh.us



Upper Sandusky
Exempted Village Schools

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