



"A Tradition of Excellence"

# Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools

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November 2006

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## Superintendent's Message . . .

After a 12 ½-day absence in September for cancer surgery and recuperation, I returned to work very pleased with the work done by our administrative team. Special thanks to East Principal/Food Service Director Michael Courtad for assuming the reins in my absence.

In the middle of October, my radiation therapy begins. My thanks to everyone and anyone for their thoughts, cards, and prayers of concern as we face the days ahead.

The day before I went into surgery, I wrote an article entitled, "Nine Things a Superintendent Should Do When Entering a New School District." By the middle of October, we are happy to report that at least 7 of these 9 items have been completed with two more left to examine.

So what have I discovered as a result of my studies my first few months on the job? The answer: Tons of important data useful for managing the school district proactively instead of reactively.

For example, with enrollment alone:

1. Were you aware that for 5 straight years prior to last year (99-00 to 05-06), Upper Sandusky Schools had a declining enrollment pattern which, cumulatively, over this time period, meant a loss of \$1,921,953 to the school district's operating budget (simply due to enrollment loss alone)?
2. Are you aware that from last year to this year, the school district experienced a loss of 58 students total with that loss being offset somewhat by 21 more open enrollment students (this year versus last)?
3. Are you aware that the enrollment study we conducted predicts, on the average, for the next five years a loss of about 20.4 students per year (district-wide)?

We've also looked at what has happened to Upper Sandusky's state funding over the last 5 years versus what has happened state-wide (for all of Ohio's schools):

### How Upper Sandusky State Share Percentages Have Changed Over the Years:

#### Actual Percentages/

FY02 = 49.06%  
FY03 = 46.95%  
FY04 = 41.85%  
FY05 = 40.33%  
FY06 = 40.74%  
FY07 = 40.32%

### How the State's Share of Funding Overall (all of Ohio's Schools) Has Increased/Decreased Over Last 5 Years

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>State Per Pupil Amt</u>	<u>Ave. State \$'s</u>	<u>Ave. Local \$'s</u>	<u>State %</u>	<u>Local % of State Amt</u>
2002-	\$4,818	\$2,561	\$2,307	47.40%	53.15%
2003-	\$4,949	\$2,653	\$2,332	46.80%	53.61%
2004-	\$5,058	\$2,780	\$2,274	45.00%	54.96%
2005-	\$5,169	\$2,910	\$2,252	43.60%	54.30%
2006-	\$5,283	\$3,061	\$2,238	42.20%	57.94%
2007-	\$5,403	\$3,190	\$2,228	41.10%	59.04%

For four years, the State of Ohio has agreed to pretty much hold Ohio school districts harmless on revenue loss for the phasing out of tangible property tax, but in 2010, tangible personal property tax will be all but eliminated as a source of revenue for Ohio's schools, and for Upper Sandusky, this means a loss of approximately \$1.5 million per year. (I rather doubt that the CAT tax, passed as a form of replacement revenue for the loss of tangible personal property, will completely make up for the loss of \$1.5 million a year, which is definitely cause for concern for us.)

*(Continued on page 2)*

**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.

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## *Superintendent's Message, continued . . .*

A superintendent plays a critical role in ensuring that every member of his administrative team and board sees the school district at least four to five years ahead of everyone else. The reason he or she must do this is simple: If a superintendent and his team doesn't do this, no one else will.

This is why the administrative team and I have wasted no time sharing with one another our challenges and visions as we face our future. Only those who are fully aware of the realities they will face have the opportunity to control their destinies. In two short months, we have come a long way in educating ourselves to the financial challenges we will be facing while at the same time putting into action a 14-point plan to improve test scores. Even though we met 22 of 25 state indicators on the Local Report Card, all of us believe we can do even better. We certainly will not stop trying to achieve perfection in academic excellence.

In November, we will invite experts in from The Ohio Dept. of Education to do a staffing analysis and an analysis of our 5-year forecast projections. Treasurer Nate Lynch and I want to know if the experts believe our projections are reasonable ones, soundly based with responsible assumptions underlying them.

The Upper Sandusky teachers and support staff are quality people, very much like the students and parents of the Upper Sandusky community. Outstanding booster and community support is evident in nearly every aspect of each school's programs! And as we all know, a school district is only as good as the people who comprise it.

Let's make Upper Sandusky the best it can be in every aspect of its programs because our children and youth deserve nothing less! Excellence is achieved only through patience, cooperation, and support of one another in our endeavors.

You will get leadership and direction from me - perhaps sometimes more than you will want, but please understand this: I've devoted my life to doing what is best for children and for school districts wherever I have been. I possess the strength of character to lead and to make unpopular decisions which I know are right for children or for the district.

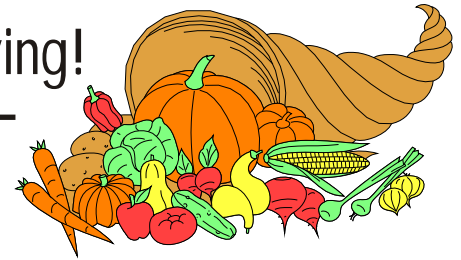
This Thanksgiving, I am thankful for many things, but I am especially grateful to be living in a community which cares so much about others, our schools, and our students! All of us need one another if we are to be the best we can be!

The data has already been gathered to manage our district proactively. The communication you will receive as to what we've discovered may not always be pleasant . . . but it will always be straightforward and honest!

Yours for education,

Ken Doseck, Superintendent

# Happy Thanksgiving!



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### OOPS! WE FORGOT!

In last month's Superintendent's Message, we alluded to our District Goals but failed to include them in last month's publication. Better late than never, here they are:

### UPPER SANDUSKY DISTRICT GOALS FOR 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR

1. To examine all areas of test scores, especially in the areas where the No Child Left Behind Act indicates that we have not met AYP (Annual Yearly Progress) and to take steps to meet AYP during the 2006-2007 school year; to achieve 100% proficiency on all Ohio Graduation Test standards
2. To hold a Board Retreat for long range planning and goal-setting sometime during the 2006-2007 school year
3. To investigate what is being done to involve the elderly in our schools and to work with the administrative staff to develop activities and programs which will make them feel actively a part of our schools
4. To proactively manage the district's finances, staffing, and budgeting in preparation for the phasing our and loss of tangible personal property, this source of revenue to be completely phased out by 2010
5. To examine the levy history of the school district, to gain a thorough understanding of where we are in the triennial update/sexennial reappraisal cycle; to examine all existing school district millage and what possibilities and options we might have in planning for our future
6. To perform an enrollment study of the school district for present and future planning purposes
7. To plan with the Board and other members of the administrative and Association teams on how to meet upcoming challenges we might anticipate, especially the loss of tangible personal property tax (about \$1.5 million per year) in 2010
8. To involve both Associations in the study of health care options so that we can prepare with eyes wide open what we might have to face in the future if health care costs continue to accelerate at about 12-15% per year
9. To begin development of job descriptions for all employees, so that there is a clear delineation of duties and job expectations for all people employed by the school district and to establish continuity of performance in the district whenever an attraction situation occurs
10. To survey administrative and teaching staff to find out what areas of professional development each believes would be most beneficial for the improvement of teaching and learning.

# East, South & Union Elementary News

## TITLE I FAMILY NIGHT

Union Elementary hosted the annual Title 1 Family Night on Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2006 with over 50 participants. The evening started with pizza and pop for everyone. Mrs. Vent then gave an overview of the Title 1 services provided at the Upper Sandusky Schools. We are very fortunate that all our elementary teachers, including our Title 1 teachers, are considered "highly qualified" by the State of Ohio.

Then the parents participated in a program called "All About Reading" presented by Sandy Brickner. Sandy helped parents understand the beginning skills needed for reading, how to pick the appropriate reading materials and toys that build reading skills, and techniques to help develop reading skills. Sandy was a dynamic and entertaining speaker that made the learning fun for the parents.

While the parents were with Sandy, the school-age children were with the Title 1 teachers enjoying stories and creating fall crafts. Each student also chose a book to take home for their personal library. USHS flagline provided babysitting for the youngest children. Overall, it was a very enjoyable and educational evening.

## NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

South School hosted National School Lunch Week during the week of Oct. 9-13, 2006. Parents, grandparents, siblings and other significant adults were invited to eat lunch with their students. Our cafeteria was full! Over 100 additional people ate lunch with our students this week. What a great way to show off the super job our cafeteria staff does everyday! Many parents also joined their child at recess afterwards. Everyone had a wonderful time.

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

Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are busy getting ready for the Christmas program that will be held on Dec. 7th at 7:00 pm at the High School.

- Laurie Vent, Principal



## RUNNIN' DOWN A DREAM

Paul Staso knows the importance of physical fitness. He is married to a P.E. teacher and helped her with a challenge she presented to her classes in Montana. He is now running across America to encourage children everywhere to be more conscious of their health and fitness.

Paul reached Upper Sandusky, Sunday evening, October 1<sup>st</sup>. He spent the night and continued his journey to Mansfield at 6:30a.m. Monday morning. Mr. Courtad, Comfort Inn, Bob Evans, and McDonalds made his stay comfortable.

You can learn more about this interesting story on the internet at PACErun.com. East Second Graders are willing to take on the challenge as well, and we can't wait to see how far we get across America!

- Penny Case

## SOUNDS FOR SAFETY

Students are learning the different signals used to alert them to a possible danger. East has held assemblies and practice drills to teach the sound a student hears for tornado, fire, and lockdown warnings. We want Kindergarten through Fifth Graders to be aware, not scared, when they hear the signal and to know what to do. Teachers are also learning what to do in emergency situations. They have attended several training sessions and have developed plans of action for different scenarios. Though every situation has its own unique characteristics, teachers now have a basic routine to follow.

This picture shows the "Emergency Corner" by the door in the Second Grade Room at East Elementary. Diagrams and instructions are posted. An Emergency bag hangs ready to grab when necessary. It contains a flip chart for quick reference to a plan for various emergencies, First Aid supplies, flashlight, Emergency Medical forms, and student information sheets. There is also a packed bag ready to be taken in case of evacuation to another area with more supplies, water, treats, games and activities to occupy students and keep them calm over an extended period of time. A key hangs ready to be used for a quick lockdown. A new phone system was installed over summer for communication with the school office and emergency personnel.



East and South Elementaries both received the new phones since they were the only buildings without a Public Address system, making it easier for the administrator to quickly contact classrooms. Our new system allows us to contact individual rooms or all classrooms at once to announce instructions.

We ask the community to support our efforts. We ask that you not be offended when directed to the office for an Identification Badge or upset if the doors are locked and access to the building is difficult. Please be patient with us as we try to update our facilities and continue training to keep our children as safe as possible.

- Penny Case

## TEST TROOPERS

You have read about the Achievement Tests taken in the intermediate grades, but did you know that the State of Ohio also requires testing in the primary grades? District-wide, Kindergarten through Second Grade has two sets of tests to be given each year. In the fall, tests called "Screeners" are administered. These are also given anytime during the year when a new student moves into the area. The second round of tests, called "Diagnostics," are given in the springtime. These tests assess strengths and weaknesses in math, reading, and writing.

The Achievement Tests are sent away to be scored, but the tests for our early learners are scored by the classroom teachers. This may take the teachers more time but gives them immediate feedback. They can then plan lessons to review material needed to prepare students for their next level of assessments.

- Penny Case

# Middle School Happenings

## SENIOR CITIZENS NIGHT

On Tuesday, November 14 from 3:30 until 5:30, Upper Sandusky Middle School would like to invite all senior citizens in Wyandot County to the school for an introduction to worldwide web basics and how to find a few safe websites to purchase Christmas presents. We will hold the class in our first floor computer lab and will have several middle school students on hand to assist you and help you navigate our building. After the big event, join us for a nice big pot of home cooked chicken noodle soup and other homemade goodies!

Join Upper Sandusky Schools Technology Coordinator Jim Frye and Upper Sandusky Middle School Principal Jim Wheeler (along with several USMS students...heck they know more about computers than us anyway). Hope you can make it! We ask if at all possible that you let us know in advance by one of three methods:

- Contact Jim Wheeler at (419) 294-5721
- Sign up at the Senior Center
- Contact the Senior Center at (419) 294-5733

## USMS STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Since 1999 USMS teachers have voted on students of the month in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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. This gives those students a chance to utilize their skills as role models in public.

*We congratulate the following students chosen in September:*

<u>Grade 6</u>	<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>
Ashley Cooper	Cayla Richey	Sara Smalley
Nick Koehler	Adam Bils	Nick Fagan

## GARAGE SALE

USMS Youthact is hosting a garage sale during Parent Teacher Conferences on Monday, November 20 and Tuesday, November 21 from 12:00-7:30. The sale will be held in the balcony of the gymnasium.

Youthact is a branch organization of Rotary International and involves 27 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in service type activities. Proceeds of this garage sale will benefit several charities and programs in the Upper Sandusky community, including purchasing gifts for the Angel Tree and purchasing small stuffed toys for the Wyandot Memorial Hospital's Maternity Ward.

We would appreciate any donations of clothes, toys, books or any other item you wish. Please keep in mind that we cannot guarantee the return of the items should they not sell. ALL items that do not sell will be sent to The Salvation Army.

If you wish to donate anything, please contact USMS Principal/Youthact Advisor Jim Wheeler at (419) 294-5721.

## WOMEN IN SCIENCE, MATH, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

On Fri., November 10, the girls in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade algebra classes will be traveling to Bowling Green State University for the "Women in Science, Math, Engineering and Technology" conference. It is a program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls to explore the many career options available to them in these areas through hands-on experiments in a variety of fields led by professional

women who have a passion for their work. The girls will be hearing a keynote speaker and then participating in two activities. There will also be a short activity or speaker during the lunch break. It is a great opportunity for the girls to learn to work together and relate all of these areas to each other while getting an idea of what career they might like to pursue in the future. The conference is sponsored by the Continuing and Extended Education and Environmental Programs at BGSU.  
- Sharon Calvin

## TOP DAWG PICNIC

The Top Dawg Picnic is an annual event filled with fun, food, clean parks and camaraderie. The fun is a natural result of so many of our students families turning out for what was undoubtedly one of the most beautiful evenings this fall. The beautifully cleaned parks were the work of eighth grade team teachers, Sharon Calvin, Carol Minehart, Amy Wood, Mark Niederkohr, Jason Zeller and their home base students. The food for the evening was the work of Mrs. Davis' first and second period classes as well as her home base, and they had a very good time providing a variety of salads and desserts for their hard working classmates, teachers and families.

The work for Mrs. Davis' students throughout the day was conducted as real team work. Students from 1st period boiled potatoes and hard cooked eggs to be used in salads later that day. Others cut up the individual ingredients for rabbit salad and brought them to a central location to be tossed in a dressing made by two other students. Still others were cleaning and cutting raw vegetables for munching with a dip. Second period students made batches of Rice Krispie Treats, cut them and stored them for evening treats.

The home base students started their work 4th period making brownie cupcakes garnished with mini reeses peanut butter cups. After lunch they cleaned, peeled and chopped vegetables for potato salad and 7 layer salad, storing them in the refrigerator for that evening. They took the time to clean the kitchen before tackling no bake cookies. Individual students measured different ingredients and brought them to the group chef who monitored what went in and when and how long ingredients needed to boil before adding oatmeal at the end. They gathered around their tables and scooped dough onto baking parchment, where the cookies stayed for about a half an hour. While the cookies became solid, they worked together on the final clean up and enjoyed a game of Duck, Duck, Goose! They ended the day by storing the cookies in airtight containers and organizing the dinnerware for the evening's festivities. They found that working together can be very efficient as well as a tasty reward.  
- Connie Davis

# High School Events

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

The first grading period has come to an end; it is difficult to believe how quickly this school year is going. This school year is no different than any other year. Each day is filled with excitement, challenges and opportunity. Our school community is a diverse population of teenagers. Many of you know what it is like having a few teenagers in your house; imagine what it is like having 619 teenagers in our school house.

In our last newsletter we shared with you five new staff at USHS. In this issue we will introduce additional staff. We have a total of 56 staff members at USHS, all of whom contribute in the education of community youth. This number includes teachers, aides, secretaries, custodians, counselors, tech coordinators, and administrators. Each of these individuals, in their own way, participates in the total educational program. Many of these individuals also work with our students in extracurricular activities. Currently, we have 73 supplemental positions to fill various coaching and advisorship positions. In addition, we have 14 volunteers. We are grateful for all the time and effort our staff puts into working with our youth during the year.

The five staff that I would like to recognize in this issue are: Mrs. Chris Lininger, Mrs. Jean Fox, Mrs. Rosalind Thacker, Mrs. Erin D'Ettorre and Mr. Rich Stotts. Mrs. Lininger, a graduate of USHS and former student of mine, is teaching Language Arts. She has been teaching at USHS for twelve years. She has worked with the National Honor Society and is currently a co-advisor for the student council. She is also the language arts department chairperson. Mrs. Fox has been teaching special education math at USHS for eight years. She is also co-advisor of the student council and assists the administration with Saturday school along with serving as department chairperson for special education. She also works as a home-instruction tutor. Mrs. Rosalind Thacker is in her third year as a music instructor for the district. She works in all the buildings and coordinates our marching band, concert band and jazz band teams. She also works with pep band and summer instrumental music activities. Mrs. D'Ettorre has served USHS the past two years as a French tutor teaching all levels of French. Currently, she is teaching French 3 and 4 students in our final year of French at USHS. She also volunteers to work with our students as a French club advisor and is always willing to work with students to accelerate their French language skills. Mr. Stotts is in his third year as the USHS Assistant Principal. He does a great job keeping up with the attendance, discipline, and progress for all our students. Attendance and discipline is vital to the success of our students. He coordinates our alternative school and Saturday school programs and recently started an after school program on Tuesdays and Thursdays to assist students who are failing courses. We appreciate all that these five and other staff members do for our students.

I would like to welcome all of our parents to Parent/Teacher Conferences on Monday and Tuesday November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Please stop and visit teachers regarding the progress of your student. Conference times will be 12:00-4:30 p.m. and 5:00-7:20 p.m. each day. Staff members will be out for lunch from 4:30-5:00 p.m. The partnership between the parents, students and the school is vital. The success of our students is our top priority.

- Jim Clifford Principal

### USHS - DESIGNATION: EXCELLENT

The Ohio Department of Education has designated Upper Sandusky High School an EXCELLENT building for the third consecutive year after meeting all 12 state indicators. The designations are: Excellent, Effective, Continuous Improvement, Academic Watch, and Academic Emergency. USHS earned the highest rating. Congratulations to the staff and students for their accomplishment!

- Jim Clifford, Principal

### USHS STUDENTS-OF-THE-MONTH

We have a new program in place this year at USHS. Mrs. Barb Norman, guidance counselor, is working with Mr. Dennis Krock, representing the Upper Sandusky Lions Club, to honor students each month. Students-of-the-month at USHS will be selected by a vote of the staff using the following criteria:

1. Positive Attitude
2. Ability to get along with others - willingness to cooperate
3. Dependability or reliability - willingness to accept responsibility
4. Initiative - willingness to think for himself/herself
5. Ability to learn - responsive, attentive, eager
6. Employability - willingness to work
7. Perseverance or thoroughness - persistent, purposefully applies himself/herself
8. Ability to accept criticism - adaptable, cheerful, agreeable

*Congratulations to students-of-the-month  
selected for September:*

**Senior** - Pete Droll

**Junior** - Lacy Daughenbaugh

**Sophomore** - Kasie Strausbaugh

**Freshman** - Megan Mooney

### FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES

On October 12, 2006 the freshmen class was given the presentation Making High School Count. This presentation is a means of helping students with their critical transition into high school, by showing students how to plan effectively, establish goals and strive toward a successful future. Advice was given on topics that are crucial to high school success, such as:

- The importance of grades and ways to improve them
- What colleges, the military or employers look for
- How to identify the many available options for the future
- Common freshmen mistakes and how to prevent them
- Ways to create a personal plan for success
- The importance of extracurricular activities and employment

On November 15<sup>th</sup> the PLAN test will be administered to sophomores. This is a comprehensive evaluation of student career interests, aptitudes, study skills and career needs. It is recommended that students planning to attend college take the PLAN test in preparation for the ACT. The PLAN is not a college entrance examination, but it does provide essentially the same data as the ACT test and can be used to estimate the student's future score on the ACT. The fee for the test is \$9.00, which is due on the sign up date. There are 21 available seats, and sign up will be on a first-come, first served basis. Payment can be made in the guidance office and will be available on Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup>.

### JUNIOR AND SENIOR NEWS

The last several weeks have been very busy in the guidance office. We have had a number of different colleges and university representatives visiting to meet with interested juniors and seniors. It is great to see how many students are taking advantage of these opportunities. There are still several more representatives coming in November, so please encourage your student to come meet with them!

We are working on implementing a new online resource for students and parents called PrepHQ. This program will work to connect students and parents with individualized information and resources from the guidance office. We are currently working to get our school and student information into the program. Please be patient while we get used to this...it is new to us all! Students and parents will receive login information as soon as it is available. We have also attached to the guidance website a new handbook that is a must-read for parents of college-bound students. The handbook is called "Get In 2 College" and has a wealth of important and helpful information.

Parent/Teacher conferences are coming up on November 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. Conferences will take place in an open house format unless you would like to make an appointment in advance. If you would like to schedule an appointment, you may do so by contacting Linda Barth in the guidance office at (419) 294-2308 or [barth\\_1@treca.org](mailto:barth_1@treca.org).

I have received many college applications in the last several weeks. That is great! Please be aware of application and scholarship deadlines for the colleges your students are interested in. Make visits to those colleges whenever possible! New scholarship information is coming in as well, so be sure that your student is checking the guidance office regularly. We are also in the process of planning Financial Aid and FAFSA Completion Nights. More information on these will be coming soon! As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at (419) 294-2308 or [cara\\_s@treca.org](mailto:cara_s@treca.org) and continue to check Channel 22 for updates.

- Cara Stevens

## 2006-07 WINTER SPORT SCHEDULES

2006-07 Upper Sandusky High School winter sport schedules can be obtained online by going to [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net) or [www.uppersandusky.k12.oh.us/](http://www.uppersandusky.k12.oh.us/). Once you have reached the sport of your choice please click on the following:

Boys Basketball	All Levels	Boys
Girls Basketball	All Levels	Girls
Swimming	All Levels	Coed
Wrestling	All Levels	Boys

You should now be able to download your 2006-07 USHS winter sport schedule.

## USHS ATHLETICS

The USHS Athletic Department would like to once again thank the Ram Boosters for the new weight training facility at the Upper Sandusky High School Athletic Complex. This outstanding facility is being used again this year to train both male and female student-athletes as they compete for championships in the NOL and on the state level. A "BIG" thanks also goes to the many individuals, businesses and organizations in Upper Sandusky that continually support our athletic teams through generous financial donations and various other methods. Our student-athletes and coaches appreciate everything that you do. You are an important part of the success of Upper Sandusky Athletics!

The USHS Athletic Department appreciates the tremendous support that we receive from our staff, parents and community. We encourage you to attend our athletic events and support our teams. The Athletic Department urges you to cheer for our teams and display good sportsmanship at all times. We need you to encourage and support our student-athletes and coaches as they represent our school across the state. Let us all continue to work together as we strive to maintain the Upper Sandusky High School Athletics "Tradition of Excellence."  
- Brad Ehrman, Athletic Dir.

## 2006 USHS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

This year's Upper Sandusky High School Athletic Hall of Fame Night was held on Friday, October 20th, prior to the Fostoria-Upper Sandusky Varsity Football Game. We are excited about Erin Falk Minter and Jim Morrison being inducted into the Upper Sandusky High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2006. We are pleased to have two such fine individuals as Erin and Jim representing our athletic department, school, and community.

- Brad Ehrman, Athletic Dir.

## HIGH SCHOOL VOCAL DEPARTMENT

Upper Class, the vocal jazz ensemble at the high school, will be performing on Saturday, November 11, 2006 at the Upper Sandusky High School Little Theater at 7 p.m. They will be hosting Tiffin University's contemporary a cappella groups, "Higher Ground" and "Up in the Air." "Higher Ground" is an all-women's ensemble and has two Upper alumni in its membership, Crystal Oliver and Kaila Pollock. "Up in the Air" is a mixed ensemble and includes Upper alum Lukas Frey as a member. Tickets are \$5 and available from any Upper Class member. This will be a very enjoyable evening of jazz and contemporary a cappella music. Come and join us!

- David Headings, Choir Director

## USHS HOSTS QUIZ BOWL-ROUND 1

Upper Sandusky High School was the host school for the first round of the Seneca/Wyandot County Quiz Bowl League on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Carey, Mohawk, New Riegel, Fostoria St. Wendelin as well as USHS were the schools participating. The Rams, who are two-time defending league champs, had a successful day finishing with a 2-1 record. After a heartbreaking loss to New Riegel the Rams defeated Mohawk and Carey to complete their day. Participating for USHS were: Liz Miller, Holly Taylor, Nick Waggy, Mitchel Grenwalt, Eric Perkins, Clay Richey, Jordan Patten, Korde Hinkle, Caroline Orians, Crystal Shasteen, Jacob Webb, Bailey Lohr, Ben Baaske, Jared Barth, Cameron Hoerig, Sara Bennett, Jenny Cheney, Sarah Adelsperger, Jenna Karg, Alec Stansbery and

Lauren Miller. The Rams' next competition will be November 9 at Fostoria High School where they will take on Old Fort, Bettsville, St. Wendelin and Fostoria.  
- Steve Sturgeon, Advisor

## FFA NEWS

The last month four individuals from the Upper Sandusky FFA chapter have been getting down and dirty. Seth Tschanen, Katie Hurley, Zach Frey, and Ryan Swinehart have just recently finished competing in the District and State Soil Judging contests. At the District contest held in New Riegel, they placed 4th out of 42 teams. From that contest the top 5 schools got to move on to the State contest. On the freezing morning of Saturday, October 14, 2006, these four students traveled to Columbus for the State contest.

They each were split into different groups and judged the slope, erosion, texture, depth, and drainage of 4 dug pits. They also had to take 2 exams testing their knowledge. The team placed 18th in the State of Ohio. Their overall score was 1,366.20 with the 1st place team having the score of 1,471.20.

One of the seniors, Ryan Swinehart, individually placed 115th out of 200 people. A sophomore, Seth Tschanen individually placed 110th. Senior Zach Frey individually placed 68th. Sophomore and only female on the team, Katie Hurley, placed 5th in the State of Ohio. Her placing was the best in Upper Sandusky in over 50 years. Congrats to these 4 students!!!  
- John Lawyer

## DECA COMPETITION

Congratulations to the Upper Sandusky High School junior and senior marketing education students who competed at the DECA District 4 Fall Conference at Bluffton University October 4! Students from ten DECA chapters in west central Ohio competed in a variety of marketing related contests. Six marketing students won trophies at Bluffton. Junior marketing winners were Marc Franks, first place - marketing test; and Maddie Frey and Brittany Packer, second place - marketing management team. Senior marketing winners were Darrel Bare, second place - marketing test; Cassie Cusick, second place - female public relations and Nick Boes, fifth place - male public relations. Cassie Cusick won the right to advance to state DECA competition in Columbus on November 8, where she will compete against students from across the state to become the Ohio DECA female public relations officer. Wayne Thomas, marketing education instructor and DECA advisor, is serving as chairman of DECA District 4 for the 2006-07 school year.  
- Wayne Thomas

# District Highlights

## SENECA-WYANDOT PARENT MENTOR

The Mentor Program is a support network for parents of children with disabilities. The Goal of the Parent Mentor:

- **GUIDE** families through the special education process, including rights and responsibilities.
- **LISTEN** and provide support to families and educators on an individual basis.
- **PROVIDE INFORMATION** and resources to families including education laws, district programs and services, and community resources.
- **ATTEND** Individual Education Program (IEP) meetings and other meetings on parent or staff request.

If you need additional information about the Parent Mentor Program, please call Paula Frey, Wyandot County Parent Mentor at (419) 294-3445.

## PARENT MEETING

**Tuesday, November 14, 2006**

*Holiday Make-It / Take-It - - ADULTS ONLY!*

Spend a relaxing evening making holiday crafts.

All supplies are furnished FREE!

# NOVEMBER 2006

## District Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>  East, South & Union Elementary Schools Grade Cards K-5	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  USMS Grade Cards 6, 7, 8	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Music Parents Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  East Elementary Recycling 8:30-10:30 am  USHS Upper Class Concert with Tiffin University's "Up in the Air" \$5.00 - 7:00 pm HS Auditorium
<b>12</b>  USHS Chamber Choir Sacred Concert 7:00 pm at Transfiguration Church	<b>13</b>  District Wide American Education Week  South Elementary "Right to Read Week"  USHS Picture Retakes  Ram Boosters Meeting 7:00 pm - HS Library	<b>14</b>  USMS Senior Citizens Night 3:30-5:30 pm	<b>15</b>  USHS Winter Sports Pictures  Sophomore PLAN test	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  USHS Fall Play 8:00 pm "Dastardly Deeds at the Yoursin Mine"	<b>18</b>  USHS Fall Play 8:00 pm "Dastardly Deeds at the Yoursin Mine"
<b>19</b>  USHS Fall Play 2:30 pm "Dastardly Deeds at the Yoursin Mine"	<b>20</b>  No School  District Wide Parent/Teacher Conferences 12:00 - 7:20 pm  USMS Youthact Garage Sale 12:00-7:30 pm Gym Balcony of MS	<b>21</b>  No School  District Wide Parent/Teacher Conferences 12:00 - 7:20 pm  USMS * Girls BBall - Wynford Scrimmage - H * Boys BBall - Wynford Scrimmage - H	<b>22</b>  No School  Thanksgiving Break	<b>23</b>  Happy Thanksgiving!  No School	<b>24</b>  No School  Thanksgiving Break  USHS Girls V/JV BBall at Wynford - 6:00 pm	<b>25</b>  USHS Music Parent's Craft Show at High School 9:00 - 3:00 pm  USHS Boys Fr BBall Rossford - 6:00 pm (Preview) Boys V/JV BBall Rossford - 6:00 pm (Preview)
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  USMS * Girls BBall Shelby - H	<b>28</b>  Union Elementary & USMS Picture Retake Day  USHS Coed V Swim Colonel Crawford 5:30 pm  Girls V/JV BBall Colonel Crawford HS 6:00 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Dec. 1</b>	* USMS Basketball Games: all begin at 4:30 pm  Admission: Adult \$2 Student/Sr Citizen \$1

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## WEATHER DELAY/CLOSING PROCEDURES

**ONE HOUR DELAY** means everything is set back one hour for all students. Students should be at their bus stop or pick-up center one hour later than usual. All classes will begin at 9:00 a.m.

**TWO HOUR DELAY** means report to bus stop or pick-up point two hours later than usual. Classes will begin at 10:00 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 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 radio stations.



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



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Upper Sandusky  
Exempted Village Schools

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