



"A Tradition of Excellence"

# Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools

390 W. Walker St.  
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

Phone: (419) 294-2306

Fax: (419) 294-6891

www.uppersandusky.k12.oh.us

October 2005

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## Superintendent's Message . . .

### EDUCATION MATTERS TO UPPER SANDUSKY SCHOOLS EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ARE VITAL TO OUR YOUTH!

Keeping needed educational services and quality staff at current levels of operation is first and foremost in the drive for the passage of the November 8<sup>th</sup> .075 Income Tax Issue. However, participation in Extracurricular Activities is a privilege that many of our young people enjoy. It is unique in what it does for our young people, our schools and our communities. Because all Extracurricular Programs are in jeopardy: sports, music, drama, band, Upper Class, clubs, journalism, etc., we must take time to examine why Extracurricular Programs are so vital to our youth in Upper Sandusky.

Did you know that the cost of Extracurricular Programs is only 1 to 3 percent of a school's overall budget? In many cases that percentage is even less. We believe young people learn lifelong lessons while participating in Extracurricular Programs that are as important as those taught in the classroom.

Unfortunately, the public appears to be more and more indifferent toward supporting these Extracurricular Programs. This neglect undermines the educational mission of our schools and the potential prosperity of our communities. There is no better time than today to discuss why school Extracurricular Programs are vital to our youth.

Participation in Extracurricular Programs enriches a student's school experience, and these programs must be kept alive. Extracurricular Programs promote citizenship and sportsmanship. They instill a sense of pride in community; they teach lifelong lessons of teamwork and self-discipline, and they facilitate the physical and emotional development of our youth.

Extracurricular Programs exist to prepare our sons and daughters for the next level of life. Did you know that only a small percentage of all high school participants will even go on to participate in these types of activities after high school?

### What Is The Mission of Extracurricular Programs?

**They support the academic mission of the schools.** Extracurricular Programs are an extension of the classroom. Students who participate in these programs tend to have higher grade-point averages, better attendance records, lower dropout rates and fewer discipline problems than the general student population.

**They are inherently educational.** Extracurricular Programs provide valuable lessons for practical situations: teamwork, sportsmanship, winning and losing, and hard work. Through participation, students learn self-discipline, personal sacrifice and leadership, build self-confidence, learn to respect others, develop strategic thinking, and develop skills to handle competitive situations. These are qualities the public expects schools to produce in students so that they become responsible adults and productive citizens.

**They foster success in later life.** Participation in Extracurricular Programs is often a predictor of later success in college, in a career and as a productive citizen in society. Extracurricular Programs teach lifetime values.

### What Else Do Extracurricular Programs Provide?

- **Experiences of a lifetime.** Participation in Extracurricular Programs is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It's the chance for students to compete against others their age, to set personal and team goals and to create lifelong memories.
- **A sense of community.** Participation in Extracurricular Programs fosters a sense of community. A community of pep rallies and bonfires; of caravans following the school bus to games; of classroom continued . . .

Mission Statement: The mission of the Upper Sandusky Schools is to provide a safe, child-centered and developmentally appropriate environment where learning is a positive, exciting, and dynamic lifelong process.

## Superintendent's Message . . . continued

teachers coaching their students after school; of plays, musicals, Cabaret and marching band performances; of community newspapers and broadcasters reporting on games; and of cross-town and cross-country rivalries, where league and city championships are a big deal. That doesn't happen at non-school youth sporting events.

- **A voluntary, after-school activity.** Extracurricular Programs are available to those enrolled and attending the school and those who meet eligibility standards. This is a privilege, not a right.
- **Tools to reach and motivate students,** aiding classroom performance and rallying community support for school programs in general.
- **A sense of loyalty** to school, community and team over self.
- **A lifetime appreciation for activities and healthy lifestyles.**
- **Meaningful opportunities and decisions that are in the best interests of all participants,** not the narrow interests of individual parents and non-school groups.

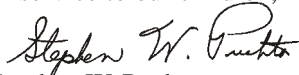
- **An emphasis on local competition,** not regional and national events.

In these financially challenging times, where activity fees threaten opportunities for our young people to participate and are limiting participation for only those who have the ability to pay, let's remember who our children are and why they participate in Extracurricular Activities!

**Please Remember Our Students on  
November 8th.  
We're All in This Together!**

Please share your thoughts with me by calling (419) 294-2306, writing me at 800 N. Sandusky Ave., Suite A, Upper Sandusky, OH 43351, or sending an email to [steve\\_p@treca.org](mailto:steve_p@treca.org).

In service to our children,

  
Stephen W. Puchta  
Superintendent of Schools

## East, South & Union Elementary News

### Fourth Grade at East!

The fourth grade class at East School has been very busy



adjusting to the new school year. We have been using our new math books, applying our skills with success! We are all working very hard reviewing basic facts so that we do well on the timed facts test!

Our class has been making our "About Us" time capsules. We have all included information about ourselves. We completed a writing assignment and pictures of the first week of school even putting in a measure of how tall we are right now! It will be quite interesting to compare how writing abilities and faces have matured over the year. Our time capsules sure will be fun to open at a later date! Plus, we will know if we grew taller!

East fourth grade is planning on a fantastic growing year!

- Patty Niederkohr

### South and East Phys. Ed.

Physical Education at South and East elementary is off to a fun and educational start. The weather has been wonderful, allowing us to be outside most of the time. We have been learning lifelong activities such as Bocce, Frisbee golf, and paddle and racquet

games. We have talked about the Frisbee golf course at the reservoir hoping more families will utilize what it has to offer. It is a wonderful activity for the whole family.

Volleyball and beeper ball will soon be starting as the weather starts to get cooler. This is a great game for the development of other senses. Get your kids off the couch and send them outside while the weather is still nice. Go for a hike or ride your bike. Just stay moving.

- Pam Karg

### Exciting Projects Ahead for Elementary Art Class



I am looking forward to an exciting year of art classes at East and Union Elementary Schools. Not only will we be covering the basic elements of art (line, value, shape, form, color, space and texture) we will be adding some exciting projects. The Kindergartners will experiment colors and shapes by doing some fish printing and sponge painting. First grade will do some color mixing with cake frosting and some plaster casting. Students in second grade will create Autumn leaf scratchings and a 3-D sculpture. Third grade students will create an Indian stick drum and a rain stick. Students in fourth grade will experiment with chalk on various projects. Fifth grade will create sculptures out of salt / flour dough and a Wet Set clay product.

I have listed just a few of the upcoming exciting art projects that I am looking forward to implementing this school year.

- Reggie Cameron



## Second Grade at East School



Second Grade at East School is off to a great start. Students are experts at graphing in math; finding that dogs and cats are still the most

popular pets, the summer months have the most birthdays, and there are 20 boys and 6 girls in the class. To jumpstart our writing skills, each student picked out a stuffed animal to take home for a month. While the pet is visiting, the second grader will help it keep a journal of things it does with the family. These will be read and shared in class to help us learn more about one another.

Parents, family, and friends got to visit, eat, shop, enjoy a video of class activities, and a slide show at East's Open House.

Students enjoyed a "TV" show of their family pictures and seeing themselves on camera. Each class had a drawing for Ram T-shirts.



Our class is studying the Constitution of the United States. We have discussed why we have it, the meaning of the Preamble, and are concentrating on Article II about the Presidency. Help us celebrate Constitution Day on September 17<sup>th</sup> (14<sup>th</sup> at school).

We will welcome author Sandra J. Philipson and illustrator Jenny Campbell on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. They published the Max and Annie series about the adventures of three English Springer Spaniels. Max and Tak, the dogs, will also come to help us learn about writing stories and how books are made. You can learn more about them by visiting <http://www.maxandannie.com>.

To keep up with our activities throughout the year, at East School and Second Grade, please visit our web pages at [www.uppersandusky.k12.oh.us](http://www.uppersandusky.k12.oh.us) and click on East School and Gr 2 Home.

- Penny Case

## East Elementary Kindergarten

Fall in kindergarten is full of excitement! We all have our first taste of being at school all day, every day. Learning routines and rules is our first priority during this very busy first few weeks. We also make new friends, learn where to eat lunch, and how to pack up at the end of the day.

I often wonder what each student thinks after the first few weeks. So, I asked every student the following question...

### *What is your favorite part of Kindergarten?*

Audrey - playing games

Jenna - recess

Megan B. - lunch time

Clay - centers

Katie - painting

Samantha - playing outside

Brendan - playing on the playground

Stephen - recess

Nathan - recess

Megan H. - recess

Dillian - recess

Konnor - playing the computer

Ashton - recess

Connor - playing on the computer and rest time

Keyanna - markers

Andrew - the merry-go-round

Grace - dot art stampers and the bus

Cameren - the computers

Jacob - going outside to play

Desiree - doing calendar

Dakota - playing

Arik - I would say...outside

Sydney - playing outside on the equipment

Jaelynn - playing out at recess

Ethan - when we go out for recess

Tiffani - playing the computer

- Darcy Washburn



## ACES at Union Elementary School

Union School is full of Awesome Children Exceptional Students. We kicked off the year with an assembly at the beginning of September. The third graders introduced the program to the student body. They did a character rap, explained the ACES raffle, told the students the 6 character traits of an ACE, and ACE himself lead the ACES chant. The first character trait that the students focused on was Caring for others. There was a coloring contest of Kara the Kangaroo. Two winners from each class were chosen. Mrs. Vent will be bringing treats to 5 lucky students in each class on September 30. These students were caught being ACES and put a slip in the ACES bucket. The teachers drew out 5 slips out to receive a reward. October 7th is our next ACES Awareness Day. The students of Union Elementary will be sporting their tie-dyed ACES shirts. They will be mixing up with the other grades for a character trait lesson. The students will be watching a video called "The Empty Pot" and then participate in a lesson on trustworthiness.

- Amy Hinesman

## A Note From Mrs. Hinesman's Third Grade

Third grade is cool! You learn a lot. Here are some things we have learned so far. We have learned about fractions, commutative property of addition, and rounding numbers to the nearest ten. Did you know flowers have pollen grains inside of them?

We can eat up in the classroom when we get a full homework chart. Mrs. Hinesman lets us watch TV while we eat lunch. It is fun. The third grade classes were the stars of the first ACES assembly. We told the other kids how to be Awesome Children Exceptional Students.

We like third grade. - Linsey Elkins, Austin Hackworth, Bailey Spitler, and Josh Barlow

## Community Service at the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Level

Many of you are aware of the community service at USMS. We are happy to announce that our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students are getting into the act also.

Those students are not going to be on their own doing service, but instead each class will adopt a service project. Students will discuss service and learn of the importance of serving the community at a Community Service Roundtable on Friday, September 30 at 1:30. Speakers are listed below.

In the days succeeding the roundtable, students will vote on a class project, thereby giving them ownership in the choice of service.

### Speakers

- George Sakash (Rotary)
- Pam Baker (Rotary)
- Bud Helge (Lions, Red Cross)
- Jim Gatchell (Lions, Volunteer Fire Dept.)
- George Kreachbaum (Lions)

Students will rotate to breakout sessions to listen to a service/volunteer discuss their service to the community and the importance of serving.  
- Jim Wheeler

## D.U.K.E.S. of Union

### (Devoted Upper Kids Exceeding Standards)

A new program for Union 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students that we are really excited about is our D.U.K.E.S. program.

One student will be chosen per month from each classroom (6 in all, maybe 8 with SBH and MH involved at their discretion).

Criteria to be a D.U.K.E. will be as follows:

- Work Ethic/Improvement
- Grades
- Citizenship
- Teacher Discretion

Once a student has won the award, he/she is ineligible until 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Pictures of each student will be placed on the Good News Bulletin Board. On the last Friday of each month, the students, accompanied by Mr. Wheeler and one of the classroom teachers will eat lunch at East of Chicago Pizza.  
- Jim Wheeler

## Middle School Happenings

### Incentive Programs at USMS

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

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

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

### Spreading the Good Word

We feel we have "upped the ante" in terms of communication with parents. We feel that working together with parents is a vital part of student success. In that regard we remind you of some very important communication devices that will assist the school and the parent-in communicating with home.

- **Parent Contacts** - Each team is required to make ninety contacts per nine weeks. We ask teachers to inform parents when something good has happened in class, along with potential bad news.
- **Team Newsletters** - Each team sends out a monthly newsletter, usually around the end of the month. Be checking with your child as the year begins.
- **Website** - Our Web Master Tom Ziegler has created a wonderful, insightful web page about our building. It is updated quite frequently and is a professional piece of technology. Just don't pay attention to the pictures of the principal.
- **Cable Station** - For those of you with Cablevision, please check Channel 22, a district station that advertises upcoming events.
- **Homework Hotline** - Beginning in September, Homework Hotline will be available to all students. Simply call (419) 294-5721 and a voice mail message will walk you through daily assignments.
- **Progress Book** - You will be able to track your student's academic progress on-line. Please call the school for instructions on how to do so.
- **Student Planners** - Each student has a planner with them to record assignments and other items deemed important. We encourage you to check your child's planner occasionally to check up on his/her class work.

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## Teams

Upper Sandusky Middle School has been in teaming mode for three years now. Teams meet one time per day to discuss student needs and plan various academic and incentive programs. They are also required to make ninety parent contacts per grading period.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade team meets during 4<sup>th</sup> period and consists of Connie Davis (Work and Family Life), Amy Wood (Language Arts), Jason Zeller (Reading and Phys. Ed.), Mark Niederkohr (Science), Buffy Reinhart (Special Ed.), Carol Minehart (Social Studies) and Sharon Calvin (Math and Algebra).

Our 7<sup>th</sup> Grade team meets during 8<sup>th</sup> period and consists of Allene North (Language Arts), Mary Brocklesby (Reading), Pat Conrad (Science), Lou Ann Murphy (Special Ed.), Carol McPherson (Social Studies) and Sandy Holly (Math). Russell Hall will be a student teacher from Hiedelberg in Mrs. McPherson's class.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade team meets during 7<sup>th</sup> period and consists of Beth Richman (Language Arts), Wendy Searfoss (Reading), Mary Rossell (Social Studies), Tom Ziegler (Science), Brent Fahle (Special Ed.) and Becky Vaughn (Math).

Finally, our encore team meets during Home Base and consists of David Headings (Choir), Denise Stull (Choir), Cheryl Coakley (Band), Robin Spoor (Music), Jan Bair (Health & PE), Jeff Fett (Art), Reggie Cameron (Art) and Bonnie Castanien (Special Ed.)

We encourage you to set up a meeting to meet your child's teachers.

## Advisory Program

As we continue with the middle school concept, we are always looking for methods to make our building better and give our students more opportunities to succeed. We have revamped our advisory program in an effort to better serve our students. Advisory is every day from 2:17 until 2:45 p.m.

### **MONDAY - COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY/TUTORING**

It's a time to touch base with them for community service. Students can also get help with any classes they may be struggling with.

### **TUESDAY - BUCKLE DOWN MATH DAY**

The same as Thursday, except students will be concentrating on math skills.

### **WEDNESDAY - SSR**

Reading skills are a must for any student. We are giving students one day to read for fun. Prizes and awards will be given to those students who show a strong reading tendency.

### **THURSDAY - BUCKLE DOWN READING DAY**

Students will be utilizing the Buckle Down Reading series to prepare for the upcoming test.

### **FRIDAY - EXTRA-CURRICULAR DAYS**

Organizations like Student Council, Rampages, etc. will be able to meet during this time period so they do not have to stay after school or come in before school.

## Volunteers

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

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

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

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



## Community Service

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

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

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

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

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

## USMS Community Service

Please remember that we ask all USMS students to complete fifteen hours of community service during the course of the academic year. Last year, 69% of our students completed the hours.

If you have a project you feel would qualify for community service, please contact Principal Jim Wheeler at (419) 294-5721.

We honor those students who go above and beyond in terms of service by presenting them with the Rotary Community Service Award at our annual awards night in the spring. Honorees for 2004-2005 were:

- Josh Hook 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Megan Mooney 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Megan Rhodes 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Student Teacher



**Russell Hall**

I have lived in Tiffin for my entire life. I am the second oldest of four boys and was raised on a small farm right outside of Tiffin. I attended elementary school at St. Joseph, high school at Calvert and college at Heidelberg. While at St. Joe's I participated in track, football, basketball wrestling along with qualifying and running in the State Hershey Track meet two years consecutively, and one year in the Jr. Olympics.

While attending St. Joe's I held the lead in several musical presentations. During the high school years I was active in many varsity sports: wrestling, football, track, freshman and sophomore basketball, while also active in the Sentinel FFA where I was actively involved in a variety of events. I was also in the Calvert Spring Musical one year.

I have completed 10 years of 4-H, taking a variety of projects from sewing to showing dairy stock and market cattle. I will graduate in December of 2005 with a degree in AYA Social Sciences.

During my time at Heidelberg I played football for 4 years. I found this to be hard at times, but to be very rewarding in building my time management skills as well as my self-discipline.

I decided to major in education after having several influential teachers throughout my schooling. I was fortunate to experience teachers who were not only excited about their content, but could also teach it in different learning styles.

During my third semester of education classes, I was sent to Attica Seneca East High School to observe three periods of Social Studies. At the end of the semester I was allowed to teach to the classes for the entire period. This experience taught me that teaching was going to be harder than I had anticipated, but that teaching is more than worth putting in the extra time needed to be successful.

I had the opportunity to do my Jr. block as well as being placed with Mrs. McPherson for my student teaching at Upper Union Middle School. While in the classroom the students have taught me patience and creativity with their many questions and different learning styles. This experience was also challenging because this classroom does not use text books, but instead mainly use the 25 classroom computers for a type of hands on learning. With this approach I have learned that there is a lot of extra work in making and researching the internet worksheets. The extra work may take more time in creating the lesson plans, but the extra time is worth it in the end when you know that the students have learned what you had intended prior to the lesson.

- Russell Hall



## Spirit Bench

Over the course of the past two years, the U S M S Spirit Bench has been popular among the student population.

During each home middle school football games, students are eligible to be seated along the sidelines while they eat pizza and watch our Rams fight to victory. Students may purchase raffle tickets at lunch for .25 cents or \$1 for an arm length.



## Questions Or Concerns

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

A few bits of advice:

- Our address is 390 W. Walker
- You can reach us via telephone at (419) 294-5721
- You can reach me directly via email at [wheeler\\_j@treca.org](mailto:wheeler_j@treca.org)

If you need to leave us a message or drop us a note, please remember to leave either a telephone number or an address. We want to help, but we need to be able to communicate with you to be able to help!

- Jim Wheeler, Principal

# High School Events

## USHS Athletic Department Report

The 2005 Upper Sandusky High School Fall Sports Season is well under way with all of our teams working hard toward successful seasons. Each team is now preparing for the last few weeks of their schedule and hoping to peak as they enter post-season play. We appreciate all the hard work of all our athletes and coaches as they strive to continue the Upper Sandusky High School "Tradition of Excellence."

This year's Hall of Fame Night was held on Friday, September 23, prior to the Tiffin Columbian-Upper Sandusky Varsity Football Game. We are excited about adding Nancy Ross and Robbie Lee into the Upper Sandusky High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2005. We are pleased to have two such fine individuals as Nancy and Robbie representing our athletic department, school and community.

The USHS Athletic Department would like to thank the Ram Boosters for the new weight training facility at the Upper Sandusky High School Athletic Complex. This outstanding facility is being used 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. We urge 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 continue the Upper Sandusky High School "Tradition of Excellence."

Brad Ehrman, Athletic Director

## Freshman & Sophomore Guidance News

The freshmen year in high school is one of great adjustment for many students, whether it is to the high school atmosphere, new school building and teachers or increased responsibilities, and social situations. We are available here in the guidance office to accommodate students and parents with working through these adjustments. Freshmen are offered some career exploration with the Harrington-O'Shea Career Decision-Making System. This is a paper and pencil questionnaire, which takes two classroom visits in order to complete. The survey will be done this fall and will be worked around the availability of time in the classrooms. The Career Survey uses school subjects, work values, abilities, future plans, and interests to offer possible career choices.

The sophomore year in high school is generally one in which students are more adjusted and familiar with requirements; more career exploration is offered in the sophomore year. The PLAN test is available to sophomores, college-bound and workforce bound. This test is a "pre-ACT" test, and is a predictor of success on the ACT Assessment. This test is also helpful to focus attention on career preparation and improving academic achievement. The test will be given November 14th, the cost is \$9.00.

Career exploration will be continued for sophomores on November 30th when Sentinel Career Center's guidance

counselor, Bev Willman, visits classrooms to discuss vocational programs at Sentinel. The follow-up to the classroom presentation will be a Sentinel tour on January 19 from 9:00 to 10:35 a.m.

A program new to Upper Sandusky High School this year is our Freshman Mentoring program. We are just getting this program off the ground, so we are still working out the kinks. When fully implemented we will have a working list of students 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades to welcome and assist incoming freshmen.

In order to present information about vocations we have a visit from the Sentinel Career Center guidance counselor. This year our sophomore visits will occur on November 11th.

- Barb Norman

## Junior & Senior Guidance News

The High School Guidance Counselors have been very busy since returning to work the beginning of August. Between August 8<sup>th</sup> and September 7<sup>th</sup> there have been 33 new students enrolled at the high school, including four exchange students. As counselors we are still working on getting the new computer system to do what we want! We are learning a new meaning to the word "patience!"

Schedule changes are complete at this time. Seniors have been given a copy of their transcript to use as a reference when filling out college applications. They are to check over their individual transcripts to double check credits and grades. Seniors have also been given information on college applications and scholarships. This information is on a purple sheet of paper. Remind them to put it in a handy place for future reference!

We are working on getting students' ACT scores on the transcripts as well, but for the time being we will be sending copies of their scores along with transcripts to the colleges.

The PSAT will be given on October 12 to interested Juniors. This test measures critical reading, math problem-solving, and writing skills developed over many years, both in and out of school. Students won't have to recall facts, as this test measures their reasoning and critical thinking skills. This is the test from which National Merit Scholars are determined. The cost is \$13.00 per student, and limited seating is available. Sign-up will be a first-come, first-serve basis in late September/early October. Students should listen to announcements for sign-up.

College representatives will be visiting USHS this fall. Encourage your Junior or Senior to talk with these representatives from the colleges in which they might be interested. There are usually over 30 colleges represented. This is a good time to find out what various colleges offer, or to help narrow college decisions.

An ACT test prep is being investigated again through Petersons. This is an online tutorial for the ACT test. Students should plan on taking the ACT by the end of their Junior year of high school. It is beneficial to take the test more than once, but students in the advanced math classes should take the ACT after they've had Trigonometry. The test is offered here at USHS in December and June, and December of the Junior year is a good time to take the ACT for the first time. Deadlines for registration are in the Guidance Office, and also on Channel 22.

For the college-bound students: a list of helpful websites.

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
[www.brokescholar.com](http://www.brokescholar.com)  
[www.scholarship.com](http://www.scholarship.com)  
[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)  
[www.absolutelyscholarships.com](http://www.absolutelyscholarships.com)  
[www.ed.gov/studentaid](http://www.ed.gov/studentaid)

As always, students and parents can access the Guidance page on the school website at [www.upsandusky.k12.oh.us](http://www.upsandusky.k12.oh.us). Go to high school and click on guidance department. - Lisa Hutton

## High School Open House

You are cordially invited to attend an "Open House" for Upper Sandusky High School parents on Wednesday, November 2, 2005. This is a different format as it will take place during the normal school day. A parent is invited to attend school in place of their child.

The purpose of this format is to give you a feel for what it is like to attend high school today. You will experience the normal school day and have interaction with both students and teachers. The goals of this "Open House" are as follows:

1. To develop a much needed partnership between the school and parents.
2. To help parents feel welcome in our school building.
3. To learn more about what students are required to do in school.
4. To give parents an opportunity to interact with teachers.
5. To give the student a "day off" from school if a parent attends in their place.

As a parent it is your responsibility to learn the schedule for the day. Please discuss with your child the classes and times they attend. You are welcome to choose one of three options. We encourage you to spend the full day with us, but you may attend a half-day scenario if your schedule does not allow a full day.

Option 1	7:50 a.m. - 10:54 a.m.	AM ½ Day
Option 2	10:57 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.	PM ½ Day
Option 3	7:50 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.	Full Day

If an AM or PM option is chosen, the student must attend the other half of the day. Remember, you or the student must attend to receive credit for attendance. You are expected to be on time to school and follow all school rules. We want this to be an interesting and enjoyable experience for you. - Jim Clifford, Principal

## Target Fundraising for Upper Sandusky High School

The Target Take Charge of Education Program is an excellent way for you to help our school earn money. Target donates up to 1% of purchases made using the REDcard to eligible schools designated by guests. We encourage you to get involved in this easy way to support your school. It doesn't cost cardholders anything to sign up for the program. You can designate your school in one of three ways:

- \*Visit [Target.com/tcoe](http://Target.com/tcoe)
- \*Stop by the kiosk in your favorite Target Store
- \*Call 1-800-316-6142

We encourage you to help us earn money for Upper Sandusky High School.  
- Jim Clifford, Principal

## Project Tanzania

One of the first writing assignments given young students in a new school year is often "What I Did on My Summer Vacation." If this assignment were given to this teacher, she could write a book!

On June 18, a party of thirteen boarded a plane headed for Tanzania. Our group was led by Dr. Bruce Edwards of Bowling Green State University who had been awarded the Fulbright-Hayes Grant from the United States Department of Education that funded the trip, and included eight teachers/administrators from northwest Ohio. Our goal was, in part, to experience the culture

of this East Africa country and to share it with our American students.

In applying for the grant, Dr. Edwards's premise was that our population knows very little about the African continent since news of the region is not often picked up by our media and its history/geography is not part of our school curriculum. His belief that our students could be enriched with such a teacher experience has played out in our own district. Initially, last spring, students at all levels became involved with the preparation for the trip as they learned that Tanzanian students are often crowded into small classrooms (60-100 students), sometimes sharing 6-10 pencils.

Teachers organized the collection of pencils to be distributed to schools visited in Tanzania. As school began this August, my students enjoyed being met with Swahili greetings such as Jambo, Karibu, and Habari as they entered my classroom. Other students in our system will have artifacts of musical instruments, art, and pottery, as well as historical connections that have been shared with their teachers. Lessons written by the Project Tanzania team will be online and available to everyone later this year.

In biology, supporting the O.D.E. benchmarks and indicators, students will be studying the many habitats of Tanzania including the savannah biome. In that study, the goal will be to see how the plants and animals affect the lives, literature, and music of the people there. They will see that having a pesky raccoon invading an Ohio garden of sweet corn is much different than dealing with an elephant in a field of maize! In addition, Tanzania is home to the oldest human fossils and artifacts, and so can be a focus as students study human development over time. And, geologically, East Africa's Great Rift Valley, where 20,000,000 years ago, the continent's tectonic plates separated, is often studied from the Tanzania side. As you can see, the country holds many science applications to our curriculum.

So the five week summer experience of one teacher can open the eyes and minds of many students to the less known African continent. Hopefully the exposure will teach them that it is a continent of interest and possibilities and is home to real people with needs not unlike our own. Like the G-8 conference held this summer and the visit of First Lady, Laura Bush, to Tanzania in July, an emphasis on Africa can make a world of difference to us all and a difference in our world. - Teresa Harris, Science Dept.



## Upper Sandusky High School Designation: EXCELLENT

The Ohio Department of Education has designated Upper Sandusky High School an EXCELLENT Building after meeting all 7 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

## How to Get the Most Out of High School

As we begin a new school year it is important for both parents and the school to develop a positive partnership. The schools are doing all they can to help our students succeed. Parents and students need to communicate with each other and the school to help our students be successful. Here are 10 simple steps to get the most out of high school.

1. **Understand Your Academic Record** - Know academic information such as credits for graduation, GPA, class rank, attendance, and transcripts.
2. **Know Your School** - Know your school calendar, attendance/tardy procedures, school rules, athletic eligibility.
3. **Be in School Every Day** - The importance of regular attendance cannot be overemphasized.
4. **Know How to Get Good Grades** - Be organized, manage your time well, be successful in the classroom, take good notes, know how to read a book, study smart, and use test-taking strategies.
5. **Set Goals** - Setting goals is important. Get in the habit of setting both short-term and long-term goals.
6. **Get Involved** - High school is like anything else the more you put into it, the more you get out of it.
7. **Make Good Choices and Decisions** - When you make good choices and decisions, you reap the rewards. When you make poor choices and decisions, you suffer the consequences.
8. **Know How to Handle Stress** - A little stress helps us stay alert and focused. Too much stress can keep us from doing and feeling our best.
9. **Use Available Services** - Work together with the school. Teachers, counselors, administrators, secretaries, and other staff are there to help you have the best high school experience possible.
10. **Plan and Prepare for Your Future** - Choose your high school courses carefully and begin to prepare for your future. Learn what courses you need to take in each of your 4-years of high school.

High school students are old enough to make many of their own decisions; however, they still need their parents to provide guidelines and to set limits. All high school students, of course, need their parent's support, guidance, and encouragement throughout their high school years. Make school a top priority. Nothing is more important to your child's future than education.

- Jim Clifford, USHS Principal

## National FFA Organization

Congratulations to Mr. John Lawyer, FFA Teacher at Upper Sandusky High School for being awarded with the Honorary American FFA Degree-Teacher Award.

Each year the National FFA Board of Directors and National FFA Officers recognize selected teachers and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to agricultural science education and FFA.

The Honorary American FFA Degrees will be presented on Friday morning, October 28th, in Freedom Hall of the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. - Jim Clifford, USHS Principal

## Upper Sandusky FFA Members Achieve National Honors

Several Upper Sandusky FFA members have excelled at the national level this year. Kodie Weaver, son of Jeff and Darlene Weaver, has been announced as a national finalist for the National FFA Proficiency Award in Forage Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement. Weaver is one of only four people chosen to compete for this award at the national finals to be held this October during the National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY.

The proficiency awards recognize outstanding student achievement in agribusiness gained through establishment of a new business, working for an existing company or otherwise gaining hands-on career experience. The Forage Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement Award is one of 50 proficiency program areas FFA members can participate in to develop valuable experience and leadership skills at the local, state, and national levels.

Weaver became eligible for the national award after winning the Ohio State FFA competition earlier this year. This award is sponsored by Gehl Company; Unity Seeds; and the National FFA Foundation, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. In recognition of being a finalist, each of the four finalists will receive a plaque and \$250. The national winner of the Forage Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement Award will receive an additional \$250 during a special ceremony at the National FFA Convention.

Four Upper Sandusky FFA members will be receiving their American FFA Degrees at this year's convention. Tiffany Kirby, daughter of Gene and Judi Kirby; Meredith Logsdon, daughter of Gary and Teresa Logsdon; Melissa Maltsbarger, daughter of Doug and Sharon Maltsbarger; and Jason Zimmerman, son of Jon and Missy Zimmerman are part of a select group of individuals to be recognized for years of academic and professional excellence. The honor will be presented on October 29, 2005 at the 78th National FFA Convention, held in Louisville, KY.

The American FFA Degree recognizes demonstrated leadership ability and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing or service programs. To be eligible, members must have earned and productively invested \$7,500 through a supervised agricultural experience program in which they start, own, or hold a professional position in an existing agriculture enterprise. Recipients must also make it their mission to demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement.

Each award recipient receives a gold American FFA Degree Key, certificate and a wallet ID card. Of 476,732 FFA members nationwide, these are four of over 2,900 to be recognized in 2005. The degree recognition program is sponsored by BASF, CaseIH, The Farm Credit System and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

- John Lawyer, FFA

# District Highlights

## Technology Update

1. Progress Book Parent Access will be made available to all parents with children in grades K-12. Letters are being sent home with website information, user names, and passwords for login. All accounts from last year were deleted and all new accounts have been created. You should receive your letter around October 1, 2005. Please contact Jim Frye, District Technology Coordinator, if you did not receive a letter. You can email him at [jim\\_f@treca.org](mailto:jim_f@treca.org), or call him at 419-310-2709.
2. All students must have on file in their respective building a signed **Student Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)** to be able to use school computers. If there is not an AUP filed, there will be no computer access for these individuals.
3. Get delay/cancellation news via the district web site ([www.uppersandusky.k12.oh.us](http://www.uppersandusky.k12.oh.us)) by clicking on the Delays/Cancellations link on the home page. You can also sign-up through Cancellations.com and have these delays/cancellation auto-emailed to you when they are posted.
4. All district events, classroom and athletic, can be found online at the **Events Calendar** on the district website home page, or by going to [www.dynacal.com/uppersandusky](http://www.dynacal.com/uppersandusky) and bookmarking this site.  
- Jim Frye

## 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.

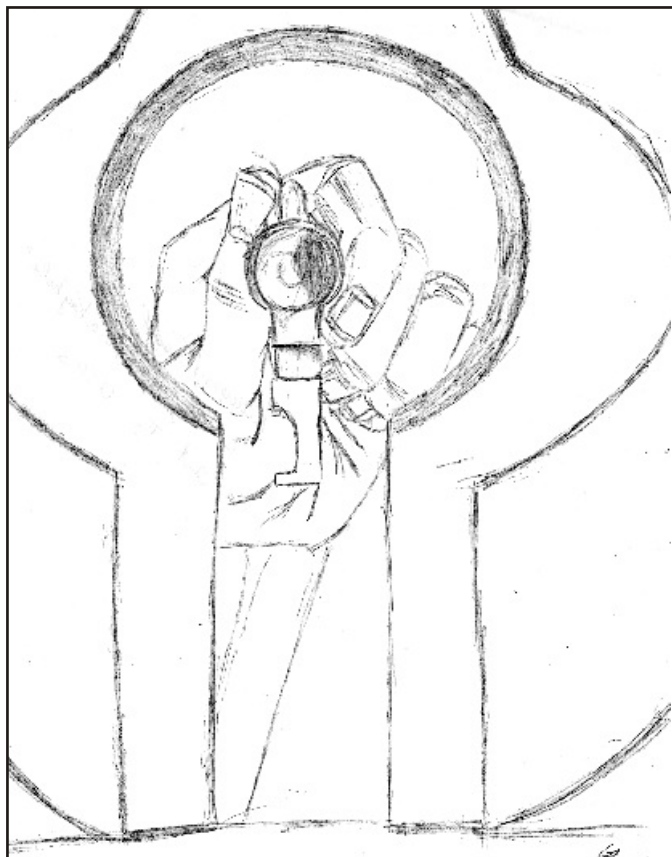
**PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL TO CHECK ON SCHOOL DELAYS.** Open phone lines are needed to receive input from bus drivers and law enforcement agencies so a wise and informed decision can be made. When a decision is made to delay or cancel school, the radio and television stations are the first to be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

The following stations will make the announcements:

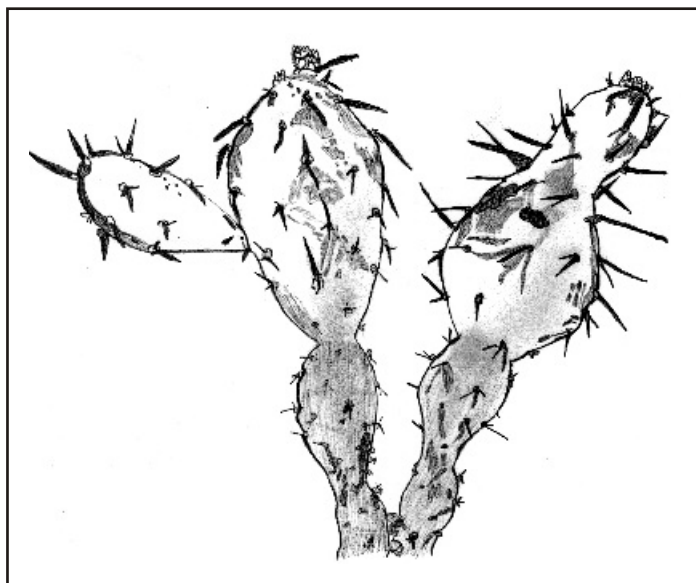
WTOL TV 11  
WTVG TV 13  
WYNT (Upper Sandusky) 95.9  
WDIF-WMRN (Marion) 94.3/107  
WFIN-WKXA (Findlay) 1330/100.5  
WBVI (Findlay) 96.7  
WXML (Upper Sandusky) 90.1  
WKTN (Kenton) 95.3

## 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.



Lauren Parsell  
"Looking Through a Keyhole"  
Art II • USHS



Dezarae Howard  
"Cactus"  
Art I • USHS



**United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**  
**Effective July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006**

Households with total incomes less than or equal to the values below are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	FREE				REDUCED					
	Year	Month	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly	Year	Month	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	12,441	1,037	519	479	240	17,705	1,476	738	681	341
2	16,679	1,390	695	642	321	23,736	1,978	989	913	457
3	20,917	1,744	872	805	403	29,767	2,481	1,241	1,145	573
4	25,155	2,097	1,049	968	484	35,798	2,984	1,492	1,377	689
5	29,393	2,450	1,225	1,131	566	41,829	3,486	1,743	1,609	805
6	33,631	2,803	1,402	1,294	647	47,860	3,989	1,995	1,841	921
7	37,869	3,156	1,578	1,457	729	53,891	4,491	2,246	2,073	1,037
8	42,107	3,509	1,755	1,620	810	59,922	4,994	2,497	2,305	1,153
Each Additional Member Add	4,238	354	177	163	82	6,031	503	252	232	116

**INCOME CONVERSION:**

Weekly Income x 52 = Yearly income  
 Every 2 Weeks Income x 26 = Yearly income  
 Twice a Month Income x 24 = Yearly income

THIS CHART IS TO BE USED BY INSTITUTIONS, SCHOOLS, CENTERS AND SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS TO APPROVE AND CATEGORIZE COMPLETE APPLICATIONS FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICED MEALS.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

2005-2006 Income Eligibility Guidelines

OSHN 5/25/2005

## Guidelines for Free & Reduced Rate Lunches

Below are the Income Guidelines which determine Free and Reduced Lunches for students. If you have questions, concerns, or need further information, please contact me at (419) 294-2396. We encourage all parents to take advantage of this benefit if possible.

- Mike Courtad

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### October

- 15 Band Tag Day, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- 17 East Picture Day
- 17-21 9th Grade Proficiency Tests (Gr. 12)
- 17 HS Band Greenery Sale
- 17 School Board Mtg - 6:30 p.m.
- 24-28 OGT Retake (Gr. 11)
- 24 Drug Free School Week
- 24 South Picture Day
- 28 End of Nine Weeks
- 29 National FFA Convention

### November

- 3 Ram Boosters Meeting - 7 p.m.
- 7 Music Parent Mtg. - 7 p.m.
- 12 East Recycle- 8:30 a.m.
- 15 School Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m.
- 18-19 Jr./Sr. Class Play
- 21 School Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m.
- 21-22 **Parent/Teacher Conf - NO SCHOOL**
- 23-25 **Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL**
- 28 Academic Boosters Mtg. - 6:30 p.m.

### December

- 1 Ram Boosters - 7 p.m.
- 4 Christmas Parade - 4 p.m.
- 4 Tree Lighting - 6 p.m.
- 5 Music Parent Mtg. - 7 p.m.
- 5 FFA Green Hand Banquet
- 6 Interim Reports
- 6 Union K-1-2-3 Program - 7 p.m.
- 10 East Recycling - 8:30 a.m.
- 18 High School Concert - 2:30 p.m.
- 23 Christmas Break Begins

### January

- 2 Music Parent Mtg. - 7 p.m.
- 5 Ram Boosters - 7 p.m.
- 13 End of Nine Weeks
- 14 East Recycling - 8:30 a.m.
- 16 **M.L. King Day - NO SCHOOL**
- 16 School Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m.

### February

- 2 Ram Booster Mtg. - 7 p.m.
- 6 Music Parent Mtg. - 7 p.m.
- 11 East Recycling - 8:30 a.m.

- 11 HS Solo Ensemble Contest
- 14 Interim Reports
- 20 **Presidents' Day - NO SCHOOL**
- 20 School Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Union Spring Pictures
- 27 Academic Boosters - 6:30 p.m.
- 27 NOL Winter Banquet

### March

- 2 Ram Booster Mtg. - 7 p.m.
- 5 HS Winter Concert - 2:30 p.m.
- 6 Music Parent Mtg. - 7 p.m.
- 6-10 9th Grade Proficiency test (Gr.12)
- 10-11 Band/Coir Contest
- 11 East Recycling - 8:30 a.m.
- 13-17 OGT Test (Grades 10-11)
- 13 Kindergarten Registration Begins
- 14 MS Winter Concert - 7 p.m.
- 17-18 HS Musical - 8 p.m.
- 20 School Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m.
- 24 End of Nine Weeks
- 24-25 HS Musical - 8 p.m.
- 25 MS Solo/Ensemble Contest
- 26 HS Musical - 2:30 p.m.
- 28 FFA Banquet



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](http://www.upper sandusky.k12.oh.us)



## Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools

390 W. Walker St.  
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351