

The SDCS Column

A Newsletter for the Stakeholders of Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

Welcome Back

Another exciting school year is upon us, and I want to welcome students, parents, teachers, staff members and administrators back to school. This will be a great year. Many changes are taking place in our corporation. We are working very diligently to increase our communication with our stakeholders. The SDCS Column is our online newsletter that spotlights our school corporation. We will also be debuting a new promotional video and a new website this fall. We hope that all of these communication tools will provide information that supports our students, parents, teachers and the community.

In our buildings this year, our custodial staff has worked very hard over the summer cleaning, painting, repairing, mowing and landscaping. Our teachers have devoted their time reviewing curriculum, creating exciting lesson plans and taking college classes. Our administration and school board have been holding public meetings and developing plans to meet the needs of our students in the Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools.

I hope that all of our Sunman-Dearborn students have taken time this summer to read books, visit libraries and museums, or have taken a vacation to a memorable place. Summer can be a great time for students to enjoy new experiences with family and friends. It is also a time for them to work summer jobs.

Over the summer, many parents do not always see the changes in their children, but our teachers do when they return to school. It is always great to see those changes in our students especially when they grow so much physically that we don't always recognize them right away. We also notice how much our students have grown intellectually. It is surprising to find out what they have learned. Teachers know that their students will have had lots of educational experiences over the summer, and that they will want to share those experiences with them and their classmates.

I know that many of our parents and our students are looking forward to this school year. Parents and students are anticipating new opportunities for academic growth and learning. There will be many new adventures in learning that students can explore just by participating in class. We encourage all of students to participate.

There will also be opportunities for our parents and community to participate in our schools. Please consider taking some time to volunteer in one of our buildings. Our students, staff and administrators appreciate your help.

Best regards to all of our students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators this year, and have a successful 2010-2011 school year.

Dr. Jeff Hendrix



*Dr. Jeff Hendrix
Superintendent*

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Special Point of Interest:

- The name for the new corporation newsletter was created as a result of the new Corporation Model of Excellence. The columns in the model support the educational program for our students, parents, teachers and the larger community. These columns represent the key supports that will help "all students achieve their highest level of personal and academic success."



Corporation Model of Excellence

What is the Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools “Model of Excellence”? Why was it created? Who was involved? What does it represent? These are all very good questions to begin the discussion on this topic. The corporation model is a picture that represents the programs, qualities, beliefs and values of Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools. The model was created to provide our schools with a template or a filter to use when we examine our programs and practices that we use to help our students.

It unifies our schools in the district. Most importantly, it sets forth a clear understanding of our purpose as a school corporation. The model focuses on the belief statement that: “All students achieve their highest level of personal and academic success.” It is our duty as educators to be diligent in our efforts to help our students reach those levels of success.

The development of the model took place over several months of the 2009-2010 school year. Each teacher was given the opportunity to respond to a set of questions that were used to describe the school corporation in terms of programs, practices, values and beliefs. A committee of teachers and administrators was formed to review the comments from the staff members. From those comments, the committee identified common themes and ideas. Those common themes were then placed into a picture. The Greek-style building was selected to represent our school system.

The foundation of the building represents our devoted and dedicated stakeholders. Without the support of our students, parents, teachers, administrators, school board members, and community, our schools and our school district would not be where they are today. The strong-focused leadership from our students, parents, teachers, administrators, board members and community has created a clear direction for our school district. This direction supports our excellent facilities, quality programs, and highly qualified teachers and administrators. The columns represent the key supports of our district. Quality curriculum, best practices in instruction, and informed assessments allow our teachers to provide the necessary strategies to encourage student learning through engaging practices. The emphasis on providing our teachers with information and training through professional development opportunities ensures that our district will continue to move in the right direction. With our focus on being effective communicators, our district is continuing to find ways to inform our community about our programs and the issues that impact our schools. The last column supports the idea that our schools must constantly evaluate our practices and programs in ways that guarantee that they meet the needs of our students.



*A man should look for what is, and
not for what he thinks should be.*

Albert Einstein

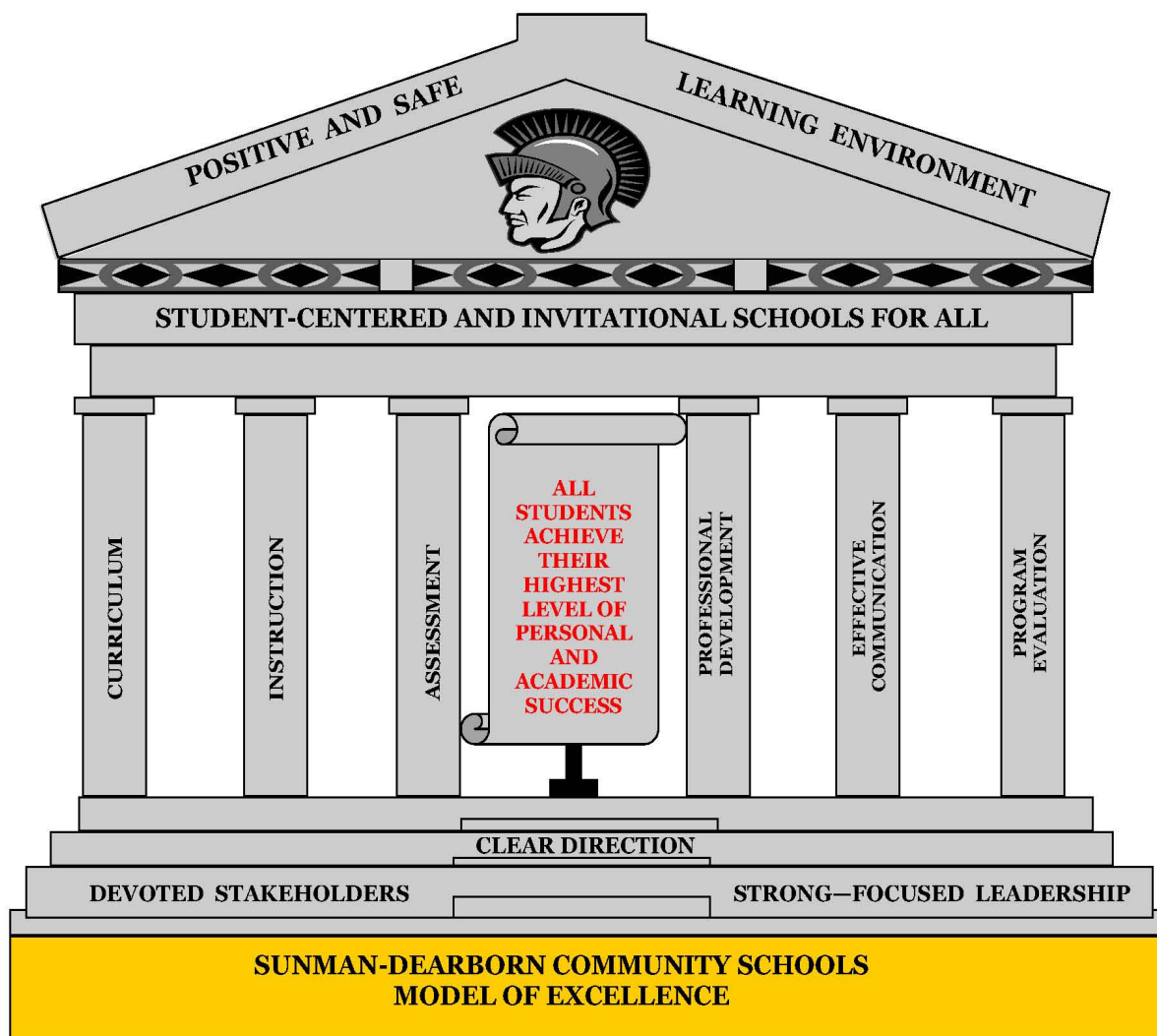
The center of the model pulls together our strong belief that we are a student-centered district. We are a district that invites our stakeholders to actively participate in our schools. We appreciate our stakeholders and our community members volunteering to help our students, athletes and teachers.

The crown or roof of the model provides protection for our schools. It focuses on the need to have a positive and safe learning environment for our students and teachers.

As it was stated at the beginning, this model represents a picture of the programs, qualities, beliefs and values of the Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools. The model is a living representation of our school district. The effectiveness of this model depends heavily on the students, parents, teachers, administrators, board members and community. It is our joint efforts working together that will lead our school corporation to greatness. It is evident to see from the elements in our “Model of Excellence” that we are very close to reaching that level of greatness.



Corporation Model of Excellence



S-DCSC

From the Director of Financial Operations

2011 BUDGET

The business department has completed the preparation of the 2011 Budget. The Budget was presented to the school board on August 12, 2010. The state of Indiana's reduction in funding has forced Sunman-Dearborn and most other schools around the state to trim their budgets for 2011. The budget, as well as all other state required

published reports, will be published in the *Herald Tribune* and the *Register*.

A public hearing on the 2011 budget will be a part of the September 9th regular board meeting, and a special board meeting will be held on Monday, September 20th to adopt this budget. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend any and all of these meetings.



*Charles
Blake*

From the Director of Human Resources

PROTECTING OUR STUDENTS

Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools has just revised the Criminal History Information policy. To help ensure a safe environment for our students, and as required by state law (I.C. 20-26-5-10), we have required all employees hired after 7/1/2009 to obtain an Expanded Criminal History Background check. Volunteers who have direct or unsupervised contact with children will also be required to obtain an Expanded Criminal History Background check. Volunteers who are directly

supervised by a Sunman-Dearborn employee will have a Limited Background check (no charge, and can be done at each school). These background checks are good for five (5) years.

If you wish to volunteer and have questions regarding your background check or how to complete a background check, please contact the front office at your child's school.



*Mary Ann
Baines*

From the Director of Support Services

TRANSPORTATION TIPS

Welcome back to all our returning families and a special welcome to the families who are new to our district. Bus route assignments remain unchanged for the 2010-2011 school year. Here are some tips for the beginning of the year.

- Students should be ready 5 minutes before the scheduled bus arrival time.
- Remind all students to obey all directions and signals given by the bus driver.
- Students should know their bus numbers both

for the bus which picked them up, and for students in grades 5 -12, they should remember their transfer bus number.

- For future reference, parents should know the driver's name and phone number.

All drivers in the community should be on the lookout for students waiting at the bus stop and crossing local roads. The Transportation Department looks forward to providing safe and efficient bus service throughout the coming year.



*Kris
Wilson*

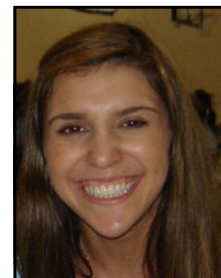


Director of Food Services

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you all had a nice and fun filled summer! My name is Mandy Grassi and I am thrilled to be the new Food Service Director here at Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools. With the start of this new school year it is important to start the year off healthy with a few easy tips:

- Start the day off right with a balanced breakfast. Studies show a healthy breakfast improves endurance and concentration in kids and adults.
- Nutritious after school snacks keep kids fueled for activities such as soccer practice or dance class.

Eat dinner as a family as much as possible to build relationships and improve eating habits. I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email me at mgrassi@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us or call me at 812-576-1900 ext. 13809.



*Mandy
Grassi*

Director Of Technology

The technology department is ready to serve our students, teachers and parents. Our department provides the support for Parent Connect, websites, and the data warehouse. We also provide the technical assistance for all computer labs, teacher workstations, and administrator workstations. Periodically, we will offer technology tips to our students, staff and parents. For example, Did you know that Microsoft now offers a slim, web-based version of four of its popular Office applications – Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote – for free? Check it out at <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/web-apps/>. We look forward to working with you this year. Have a great school year!



*Nathan
Louden*

Athletic Director

The football team will play Harrison this year at Nippert Stadium in the Crosstown Showdown on Saturday, August 28th at 5:30 p.m. Tickets for the event can be purchased at the ECHS Athletic Office for \$10.00. The tickets on game day will be \$13.00 at the gate. This ticket is good for the four games on Saturday, August 28th.

Lakota West vs. LaSalle - Noon
Middletown vs. Simon Kenton - 2:45 p.m.
East Central vs. Harrison - 5:30 p.m.
Clayton Northmont vs. Colerain - 8:15 p.m.

All Sport Passes are also on sale in the Athletic Office.

Adults - \$50.00

Students - \$40.00

Family Pass - \$200.00 (two adults/3 or more students)

Senior Citizens - Free (sixty and over)

If you have any questions, contact the Athletic Office at 812-576-4811 #11931.



*Dave
Jarvis*

East Central High School

The staff of East Central High School (ECHS) is poised to start a new school year. As the new Principal of ECHS, I am filled with excitement. ECHS has been an institution of profound opportunities for many years providing one of the best educations in the state. Our staff is second-to-none in experience, dedication, and knowledge. Even with the budget crisis we face, I still feel that we are offering a rich, quality curriculum and extra-curricular activity schedule. Our staff is ready and eager to start.

You will find the high school administrative offices have moved across the hall to the guidance area. The superintendent's office is in the old administrative wing. We trust we will be able to serve your needs in this new arrangement. We also will be looking to bring communication to your doorstep. Improvements here will include a newly renovated website for the school. It will be launched very soon. This website will provide valuable information about school-related news, a new and current school calendar, school forms of interest to parents, newsletters, and staff websites. Don't forget to get your password for the Parent Connect to keep track of your student's grades each week.

As part of the high school experience, it is highly recommended that each student get involved in some form of extra-curricular activity. This can be accomplished through any of the sport teams, band, choir, or clubs offered. This may not seem to be an important addition, but it is highly recommended that each student should try to become involved in one of our many activities. This will enrich their high school experience and expand relationships.

As featured in newspapers and school related articles, our FFA, FCCLA, sports teams, and music departments achieve at state and national levels of excellence. Imagine the reward of being a part of one of these organizations as they compete in state and national competitions. Don't let school pass you by, get active now!

Should you need any assistance or help, don't hesitate to contact the high school through e-mail, phone, or a personal contact. We look forward to providing a safe, quality education for each student that walks through our doors.



*Robert
Shipley*

Sunman-Dearborn Middle School

The staff at Sunman-Dearborn Middle School would like to welcome the students and parents back for the 2010-2011 school year. We are excited about the prospects each new school year brings. Our teachers are qualified and dedicated to building relationships with your students as they work together to master standards. We care about our students and their success in learning. We appreciate your support and believe we can help each other through effective communications. Please contact any staff and they will be happy to answer questions about schedules, homework, lunch, or any other information. We invite you to visit our school, get involved, and see how we can work together to help our students grow!



*Mark
Watkins*

Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year. The entire staff at Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School is looking forward to having your children in class this year. A new school year presents opportunities for various beginnings – new classes, new faces, new materials. In the upcoming days, there will be many items of information coming home for parents to view. Be sure to read the S-DIS Handbook. It will provide much information that can be very helpful throughout the school year. I often tell the students that there are three keys to success at S-DIS: great attendance, work completion, and a great attitude! We have our P.R.I.D.E program that recognizes students for their efforts in all three of these categories. We encourage great characteristics in our students to help them become awesome members of our community. We look forward to a wonderful school year. Please do not hesitate to call the staff at S-DIS if you have any questions or concerns. Good luck to all students!



*Chris
Vennemeier*



Bright Elementary School

Bright Elementary is consistently ranked Exemplary by the Indiana Department of Education because we strive to do so much more than simply prepare students for the “next step” of education. We believe deeply and adhere firmly to the idea that we are not just responsible for each and every student’s preparation, but that we also have the moral obligation and proud privilege as educators to prepare our students for life. To succeed in their future endeavors and become happy, productive members of our society. Our vision is one that offers an excellent standards-based curriculum to all students and we challenge every student to reach his or her fullest potential within a clean and safe environment. Our hard working and dedicated PTO supports our school in everything that we accomplish. Bright Elementary is thankful and proud of the opportunity we’ve been given in educating the children. We gladly dedicate our lives to help children grow into successful members of society.



*Norb
Goessling*

North Dearborn Elementary School

The hallways are gleaming, the classroom doors are open wide and the teachers and staff are eager to begin another new year! This is sure to be an exciting year at North Dearborn Elementary! New faces, new friends and new learning opportunities are in store for each and every student who enters the doors. Some will come with feelings of fear and nervousness; others will enter with an enthusiastic impatience. Whatever emotion you carry into the building, one thing is undeniable. This is the start of something great! We at North Dearborn are glad you are here with us and look forward to all the opportunity and success the future holds.



*Jeff
Bond*

Sunman Elementary School

Welcome to Sunman Elementary where our dedicated and passionate faculty and staff work diligently to provide each student with what they need to find academic challenges that lead to success.

The mission of Sunman Elementary is to provide an enriched, educational environment that empowers students to develop academically, technologically, physically, and socially to their fullest potential. We happily accept the responsibility to foster the development of positive self-esteem, to inspire a lifelong love of learning, and to encourage students to become productive members of society.

Sunman Elementary boasts of superb facilities and resources. The school has undergone three major renovations since its conversion from a high school to an elementary school in 1973. These renovations added classrooms, expanded the media center, and improved and augmented the kitchen and cafeteria. The school, which is fitted for all the best and modern technology including two thirty-station computer labs as well as computer stations in each classroom. The school also provides for state of the art experiences in visual arts, physical education, and music that are all led by appropriately certified educators.

All the staff members, facilities, and resources combine to make the educational experience at Sunman Elementary one to be emulated.



*Cindy
Morton*



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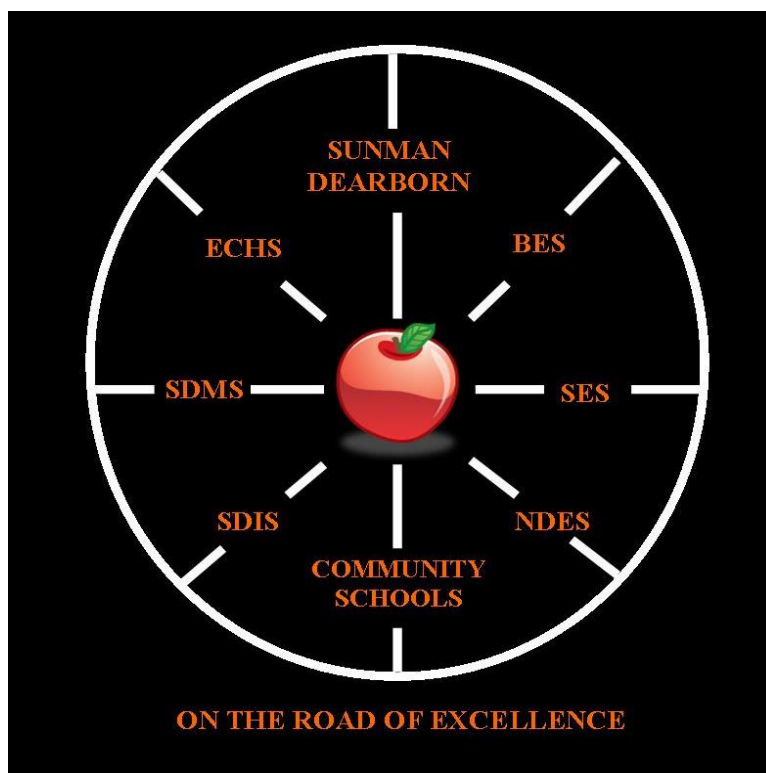
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**To Create a Culture of Educational
Excellence for Each Student!**



On the Road Of Excellence

Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools is a corporation that has been on a journey to greatness for many years. It is a corporation that has world class facilities, strong educational programs and highly qualified, dedicated staff members. In the late summer of 2009, the SDCS held a retreat for its administrative team to begin to prepare for the 2009-2010 school year under the direction of their new superintendent, Dr. Jeff Hendrix. At that retreat, the administrators were asked to develop in small groups a new logo that would represent the school corporation in a unifying way. There were three designs developed, presented and discussed. The design that was agreed upon was a picture of a wheel with each school representing a spoke of that wheel. The wheel represents movement, progress and a desire to reach a destination. The center of the wheel is an apple. The apple is universal because it represents knowledge. Knowledge is the core of education. It is what educators try to impart to students to better their lives. Our motto is "On the Road of Excellence." This is important because we believed that we not trying to get on the road of excellence, but that we are already there. More importantly, we want to stay on that road of excellence. As SDCS mission states, we are "to create a culture of educational excellence for each student."

