

The S-DCS Column

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE STAKEHOLDERS OF SUNMAN-DEARBORN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

THE ODYSSEY OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

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Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools will open its doors to students on August 7, 2013. As our students and staff begin another school year, it occurred to me that each individual who enters our schools begins a new journey in his or her life. It is an odyssey of sorts for each person. What that means is that we may not be able to control the circumstances that come our way, but we can control our response to those circumstances.

As a former English teacher, I recall the story based on one man's journey to return home. In the *Odyssey*, the main character, Odysseus has been separated for many years from his family. Through many trials and tribulations, he undertakes an arduous journey to find his way back home to his wife and his son. Upon finding his way back home after a very difficult adventure, he discovers his home has been taken over by would-be suitors who want to marry his wife because everyone believes that Odysseus is dead. It takes a valiant effort by Odysseus to overcome the suitors and reclaim his wife, his son and his home. Now attending school may not seem to be as dangerous or difficult for our students as Odysseus's journey, but for some students it may feel that way. How can we change those feelings for our students?

It is my belief that success can be achieved by making good choices. The journey through school can be easy or it can be difficult. It all begins with the effort that one makes in the classroom and the choices that can bring positive or negative results. As parents, we need to support our children in

their efforts to work hard, strive to be successful and enjoy the journey through school. We may remember our tough times and our dislikes in our own memories of school, but those should be put aside and not color the picture for our students in a negative or dark way. There are many good reasons and great experiences that schools can offer. We need to seek those out, support our children, and expect success. Our teachers, our guidance counselors and our administrators are available to help students in their journeys.

In conclusion, the journey for our students this year will depend on their goals, aspirations and attitudes. If we go into the year with the belief that it will be a great year, then we are half way there to making it happen. But remember it is a yearlong journey, and there may be times that our students get off the path of success, and that is when we need to remind them of their goals and help them remember their past successes. It is my hope that each and every student who attends Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools has a successful journey in our schools. I hope that that he or she finds a way to become involved in our classrooms, clubs or athletics. They can find a way to be successful if they keep their eyes open to the possibilities. Have a wonderful school year!

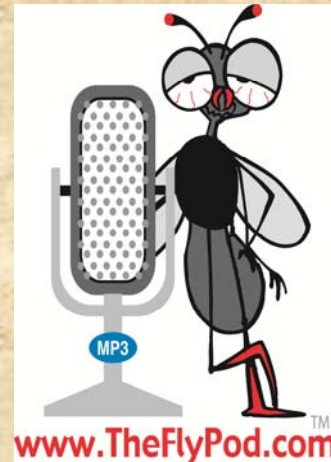
Dr. Jeff Hendrix
Superintendent

Please check out our new Sunman-Dearborn Community School blogsite at:

<http://jhendrixsite.wordpress.com/>

DON'T MISS THE BUZZ

Each month Sunman-Dearborn Schools is featured on The FlyPod, a local entertaining yet informative media source. Superintendent Dr. Hendrix joins host Gary Puckett monthly for his "SuperChat" podcast. Enter <http://tinyurl.com/SuperChat-SDSC-3> in your address line on a new web page to hear the latest SuperChat. This month's chat was recorded on August 5th and features Tom Harris, Director of Support Services, discussing summer building projects and Dr. Hendrix speaking about the beginning of new school year and how students are placed in classes. Next month will feature Karen Snyder from United Way of Dearborn County.



WELCOME BACK

Now that summer has come to an end, it is time to get back in gear for learning! Nothing helps students learn better than a nutritious breakfast and lunch. Sunman Dearborn Community Schools strive to serve healthy and delicious meals to its students. Although school is starting, it is still important to get active! Students sit often at school, so it is important for them to find time to exercise outside of school and eat healthy. Here are some tips. Regular physical activity not only helps you get healthier, but can also help you sleep better at night and be in better shape to learn and play all day!

Here are a few ways that we are trying to make school meals fun and healthy:

Lucky tray days: Once a month there is a lucky tray day in which students who eat the school lunch that day, have a chance to win a prize.

Fruit of the month: Once a month we have a new and fun fruit for the students to try.

Varying fruits and vegetable so that the student's trays are full of colorful, healthy foods.

Naming food choices fun, creative names to increase excitement for healthy foods.

We will continue to work hard to feed our students healthy foods so that they become healthy adults!

Reminder: Breakfast will continue to be offered every morning before school in all buildings!

Ms. Olivia Scardina
Director of Food and Nutrition Services



SUNMAN-DEARBORN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome SDMS students and parents! We are so excited to get the 2013-14 school year underway. We have many exciting events happening throughout the school year. We want to welcome our new staff as well: Pam Armbruster: Teaching Assistant, Jennifer Buesing: Teacher Assistant, Doug Dawley: Agriculture Science teacher, Julie Dudley, Teacher Assistant, Amanda Herbert: Language Arts Teacher, Chris Mattox: Language Arts Teacher, Dan Metz, RN: Substitute Nurse, Eulah Vest: Teaching Assistant, and Jill Wolfe: Teaching Assistant. Also, we have the following staff changes: B.J. Black will be teaching Spanish in addition to math. Stewart Durham will be teaching math all day. Robin Kichler will be here all day to counsel our students in conjunction with Carol Schiering. Maria Knueven is now teaching Science. Elijah Smith will be available all periods of the day to support structured study skills.

A big thank you goes out to all the parents and students who braved the downpour of rain to attend our Meet the Principals Night at SDMS. Mrs. Baudendistel and Mrs. Herbert enjoyed meeting and talking with all who attended. Congratulations to the parents and students who were our door prize winners. If you were notified as a winner and have not claimed your prize, you can still pick it up in main office.

Our annual Open House will be held August 5 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. We are combining open house with our community picnic. Students, parents, staff, community members, and family are invited to tour the middle school, enjoy hotdogs, chips, a cold drink, and cookies. This will be an informal time for parents and students to meet staff. Staff will be stationed in the cafeteria at tables with their department colleagues. Parents, students, and community members will have the chance to circulate the cafeteria and meet all staff. The remainder of the building will also be open for tour. Students may visit lockers to practice combinations and walk through their schedules if they choose. Door prizes will also be awarded throughout the evening.

You may also notice the middle school has undergone some renovations over the summer. Our front parking area has been paved and painted. Also, our custodians

added some beautiful mums to our front gardens. Some changes inside include, newly painted and tiled Science rooms, new Science laboratory desks and stools, new and expanded art classroom, a newly painted SDMS Parent/Student Resource Center, and an expansion and renovation of our room for students with moderate/severe disabilities. In addition, we have two new computer labs which were completed in late spring of 2013.

SDMS **Picture Day** is scheduled for **August 21**. We also have our first **Pack the House Night** scheduled in **August**. We invite students and parents to check out our website for current information about SDMS.

*Mrs. Baudendistel
Sunman-Dearborn
Middle School Principal*

NEW MAILING ADDRESS FOR S-DIS

Please take note of corrected address due to the County updating and correcting the road inventory list.

Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School
27650 Sawmill Road
West Harrison, IN 47060



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Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

1 Trojan Place, Suite B
St. Leon, IN 47012

Phone: 812-623-2291

Fax: 812-623-3341

The mission of S-DCS is to develop, for all students:

- Literacy skills (reading, writing, communicating confidently)
- Mastery of state and national standards
- Character, responsibility, teamwork, the importance of regular attendance, goal-directedness, and service to community
- High graduation rates and post-secondary success

We are on the web at
www.sunmandearborn.k12.in.us



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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North Dearborn Elementary School · 5687 North Dearborn Road · Guilford, IN 47022 ·
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