

The S-DCS Column

A Newsletter for the Stakeholders of Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

Preparing Our Students for a Bright Future

Almost all K-12 public schools in the state of Indiana provide students with adequate opportunities to grow and learn so that students can be prepared for the next stage(s) of life upon graduation. There are many school corporations, however, that lack the resources or funding necessary to provide opportunities for students to explore career fields or even interests in different subjects. What sets the Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools apart from other schools are the many opportunities and diverse programs that can prepare our students to go directly into the workforce, to go into the military, and/or to attend two-year or four-year colleges and universities.

Sunman-Dearborn students are fortunate because our school community has stepped up to the challenge of creating a school system that looks out for the best interests of students academically. Currently, Sunman-Dearborn schools offer three different diploma tracts in Core 40, Technical Honors, and Academic Honors. Our students have opportunities for vocational education, Advanced Placement classes, and dual credit classes with Ivy Tech College. For the next school year, East Central High School will be offering classes for students who can earn college credits from Indiana University at an extremely economical savings to students and parents.

Another area that keeps Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools ahead of the pack for educational opportunities for our students in Indiana and surrounding states is our commitment to provide leadership opportunities for all students. Our students can participate in numerous clubs, academic teams, and organizations. Our FCCLA, FFA, BPA and Student Council have reputations in Indiana for providing students with top-notch leadership skills. Many of our students represent our schools and their organizations as state officers and contestants in state and national events.

Our students also have opportunities to participate in many different extracurricular activities. Our athletic program allows students to compete with other schools in numerous sports, but more importantly, our students learn valuable leadership and social skills that can prepare them for future challenges. Our clubs provide learning and leadership opportunities at many different levels in our school system. Students can explore career fields and learn about different countries, languages and cultures.

In closing, Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools provides an excellent educational system that prepares our students to be successful in our schools, in the workplace, and in life. It is a system that believes in teaching our students to not only be active participants in issues that impact them locally or at a state level, but also, to expand their views about national and global issues that impact our world.

I would like to extend an open invitation to you to visit our buildings and learn more about our schools and the programs that we offer. Please contact any of our schools or the central office. We would be happy to help you prepare your student for a bright future.

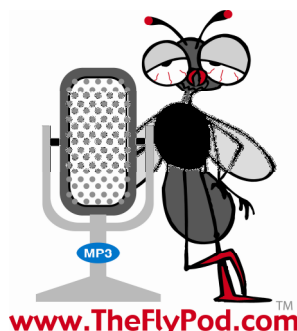
Dr. Jeff Hendrix



*Dr. Jeff Hendrix
Superintendent*

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Don't miss the buzz, tune into The FlyPod



Each month Sunman-Dearborn Schools is featured on The FlyPod, a local entertaining yet informative media source. Hosted by Gary Puckett, we have participated in his "SuperChat" podcast and also have had our three elementary schools featured on the "Your School" podcast.

Enter www.TinyURL.com/SDSC-Schools in your address line on a new web page to hear the latest SuperChat with Dr. Jeff Hendrix as he discusses some current educational issues impacting Sunman-Dearborn Schools.

Ready for Blast Off ????

Mrs. Ravenna's third grade at class at North Dearborn Elementary sure was!



*3rd Grade Space Cadets at
North Dearborn Elementary*

With a video presentation prepared by classroom instructional assistant, Mrs. Dietz, the classroom was transformed into a shuttle bound for space. The rocket ship made a stop at each planet where the young astronauts were treated to a presentation on the most interesting facts about the planet. The students enjoyed both preparing and hearing about the planets from the other students. Each student was invited to create his or her own space suit. Many took this task and ran with it! There were milk jug air tanks, motorcycle space helmets, crazy home made boots fit for the lightest of gravity, and more hoses than the garden shop at the local hardware store. It was a great way for the students to have a good time while learning about the planets of our solar system.

Thank you to Mrs. Ravenna, Mrs. Dietz and Mrs. Ludwig (student teacher) for creating these fun, engaging learning opportunities for our students!

S-DCSC

Boys Basketball Sectional

The first round of the boys basketball sectional will be held Tuesday, March 1 at Bloomington South. East Central will play Columbus East at 7:00 pm. If EC wins, they will play in the second game of the night at 7:30 pm on Friday, March 4 versus Columbus North. The championship game will be held Saturday, March 5 at 7:30 pm.

Since the first game on Friday night is expected to be a sell-out with Bloomington North playing Bloomington South at 6:00 pm, people are encouraged to buy season tickets for the sectional tournament. Tickets, if sold at the door, are \$6 per session. Season tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased in the Athletic Office at ECHS up until NOON, Tuesday, March 1.

Come out and cheer the Trojans to victory!!!!!!!



EC Dancers Win at Dance Competition

The EC Mini's, made up of 5th and 6th graders, came in high point winners and high excellent scores in pom and jazz at the recent Dance Competition that was held in February at ECHS. S-DMS Dancers received high point and superior and high excellent scores in pom and jazz. ECHS Dancers received superior and high excellent scores in pom and jazz. Jessi Mann, ECHS Captain, received high superior in her captain salutes!

Congrats to all three teams and to Jessi on these wonderful awards!!!!

All three dance teams will be competing for Indiana state champs on March 6th, at ECHS. Come out and support your dance teams! We expect great things! Also, a new group will be performing right before awards that you will not want to miss! They are called "ECMD" and they will be one of the highlights of the day. Not only that...you just might recognize one member of this brand new group...Dr. Hendrix will be featured as the "warden" in the song "Jailhouse Rock"!! You won't want to miss it! Times are 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

SDIS DESTINATION IMAGINATION ROCKS!!



Destination Imagination is a very active organization in the Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools. If you are not sure what it is all about, the following is some insight on the focus of the club. It involves “creative” problem-solving at many levels.



Destination Imagination is a group of kids who solve problems creatively and then make a play around it. At the Intermediate School level, there are 6 different challenges to choose from: improvise, technical, scientific, fine arts, structural, and Project OUTREACH. The themes of the challenges change every year. As a team, you cannot receive help from adults in the building (unless it's dangerous), including brainstorming ideas. The adults are responsible for buying the materials that are needed to build props and supervise meetings.

For the past months, the D.I. team at S-DIS has:

- 1) Picked the challenge: Project OUTREACH
- 2) Walked door to door to businesses searching for ideas
- 3) Found our community project
- 4) Mapped a section of Greendale Cemetery

And now they are working to finish the project. Project OUTREACH is the challenge to find and carry out plans to help a need in our community. The definition for community is a group of people with at least one common need, for example, your neighbors or families in China.

The project is mapping cemeteries. Mapping cemeteries was by far the most creative, so that's why it was picked. Mapping the cemetery in Greendale will be helpful to the people who love genealogy. They can look at their ancestors' tombstones to gather information for their research. Also, GIS Services, a local geographical mapping company located in the Dearborn County Administration Building, collects data just like the information the team collected. It took the DI team about a day to map approximately five hundred graves. It was hard work, but they got it done. Now they need to finish small parts of the project, and finish the play portion of the challenge.



The point is, D.I. rocks !



S-DCSC

ISTEP+ at our Elementary Schools

This spring, the third and fourth grade students of our three elementary schools will take the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress Plus, also known as ISTEP+. This statewide, standardized test, which is required by law, will be given in two parts. The first part is called the Applied Skills Test, and it will take place the first week of March. The second component of the test will take place the last week in April. For our fourth graders, this portion will be taken online in our computer labs. Both portions of the test will cover English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

The purpose of the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress Plus (ISTEP+) program is to measure student achievement in the subject areas of English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. In particular, ISTEP+ reports student achievement levels according to the Indiana Academic Standards that were adopted in November 2000 by the Indiana State Board of Education. An Applied Skills Assessment and a Multiple-Choice Assessment are used to measure these standards; they are required components of the ISTEP+ program.

Please explore the resources below to find out more about ISTEP+ and how our students have been performing.

<http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/purpose.html#ISTEP>

To locate a school within our corporation:

<http://compass.doe.in.gov/SearchResults.aspx?searchVal=2&searchText=1560&searchLabel=1560>

Bright Elementary School ISTEP results:

<http://compass.doe.in.gov/Dashboard.aspx?view=SCHOOL&val=1193&desc=Bright+Elementary+Sch>

North Dearborn Elementary School ISTEP results:

<http://compass.doe.in.gov/Dashboard.aspx?view=SCHOOL&val=1189&desc=North+Dearborn+Elementary+School>

Sunman Elementary School ISTEP results:

<http://compass.doe.in.gov/Dashboard.aspx?view=SCHOOL&val=7211&desc=Sunman+Elementary+School>



Be a part of the S-D Bands !

Be a part of a real musical team where learning and fun go hand in hand...join the Sunman-Dearborn Bands!!! Want to know more about it? Here is some helpful information to tell you more about the Band Program and answer frequently asked questions.

Program Facts

- * 320 seventh through twelfth grade band students in six different band classes.
- * Program includes an educationally sound diverse approach to musical styles including; Jazz, Classical, Rock, Marches, Latin, Overtures & 20th Century techniques. Theory & music history are also taught, *(our students will learn how to read music proficiently).*
- * Award winning band program in Indiana, Ohio & Kentucky. (Indiana State Music Festivals, Kings Island Music Fest, Kentucky Kingdom Music Fest, IMEA Convention Band, NKU Jazz Festival). 2003 & 2009 ISSMA Band With Distinction!
- * S-D.M.S. bands have performed with nationally known artists and ensembles including: Rich Illman (trumpet), Marc Colby (saxophone), Frank Ell (clarinet), Tim Northcutt (tuba), Rob James (percussion), Rob Parton (trumpet), Jazztech Big Band, Barry Campbell's Big Band, Terry Frenz (conductor), Martin Weir (composer/percussion), Joe Allison (conductor), Carol Dunavent (conductor), Jason Koontz (percussion), Jonathan Martin (trumpet), Vincent DiMartino (trumpet), Brian Hogg (saxophone), Bob Lindahl (trombone).

Why Band? Can it really help my test scores?

Time and time again it has been proven that participating in a band program can help students do better on achievement tests. Band students scored higher than their non-band classmates by an average of 11 pts. in MATH, and 18 pts. in VERBAL skills. The study also shows that longer participation, (4 yrs.), can raise MATH scores to 32 pts. and VERBAL scores to 46 pts. Higher than non-band classmates!!

What can I play?

There are no HARD or EASY instruments in band. We try to match students to the instrument that best suits their physical abilities. This ensures a better "fit" with each student which in turn increases their chances of success. The choices for the seventh grade band students are; FLUTE, OBOE, BASSOON, CLARINET, ALTO & TENOR SAX, TRUMPET, FRENCH HORN, TROMBONE, BARITONE HORN, TUBA, AND PERCUSSION.

How much does an instrument cost?

Buying an instrument is very much like buying a computer or a car. Make, model, year, new or used, and extras can increase or decrease the cost. We recommend calling around to get the best price for the quality of instrument. Even with a student model instrument you get what you pay for. Go with companies that have a good product to cost ratio. We have sample rental literature from area companies that we utilize. We work directly with these vendors to varying degrees.

I have never played an instrument before! How do I learn?

Very few students in the middle school band program play an instrument before the seventh grade. We teach you as if you have never played before. Our goal is to keep every student "caught-up" all of the time. We also have voluntary extra-help sessions several times a week to advance your playing.



Check us out on the web:

http://www.eastcentralband.org/MSWebsite_files/MSWebsite.htm

For more information, contact Mr. Ralenkotter at 812-576-3500 ext. 12131 or pralenkotter@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us

S-DCSC

World Renowned Master Chef Hilmar Jonsson Visits ECHS

On Friday, February 11, the East Central High School kitchen was more chaotic than usual. Master Chef Hilmar Jonsson set up shop and went to work preparing a delicious meal for students and staff while also offering cooking tips and samples for the food service staff. Chef Hilmar is the Corporate Chef for Icelandic USA Inc. and has prepared meals for the President of Iceland. In addition, Chef Hilmar received the Honorary Service Order from the President of Finland, the King of Spain and the Queen of England.

Students and staff enjoyed fresh baked Icelandic Brand fish nuggets, savory macaroni and cheese, zucchini vegetable medley and milk along with our usual assortment of fresh fruits and vegetables. Dressed in his chef uniform, Chef Hilmar served students and staff throughout all 3 lunch periods. Chef Hilmar's presence was felt by students and staff alike as some students even asked if they could get his autograph, while others snapped pictures of him.

The Food Service Department won the visit from Chef Hilmar at a food show from our main food vendor, Gordon Food Service. We would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this event a success, especially Gordon Food Service, Chef Hilmar, Icelandic USA Inc., Key Impact Sales and the entire ECHS cafeteria staff.



*Mandy Grassi
Food Service
Director*



Chef Hilmar Jonsson serving lunch and mingling with the students at ECHS

Playing It Safe

Are you prepared?



A meeting to equip parents & coaches with knowledge of proper treatment for athletes

March 15, 2011 from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

At East Central High School in the Performing Arts Center

Featured Speakers: Former Cincinnati Bengal, **Ickey Woods**, ECHS' Team Physician, **David Argo, MD** and **Malissa Martin**, Ed.D., ATCL, CSCS, & other health related professionals

Featured Topics: Heat Illness and Hydration, Emergency Preparedness, Nutrition, Concussions

Please register for this **FREE** event at
www.doctorargo.com

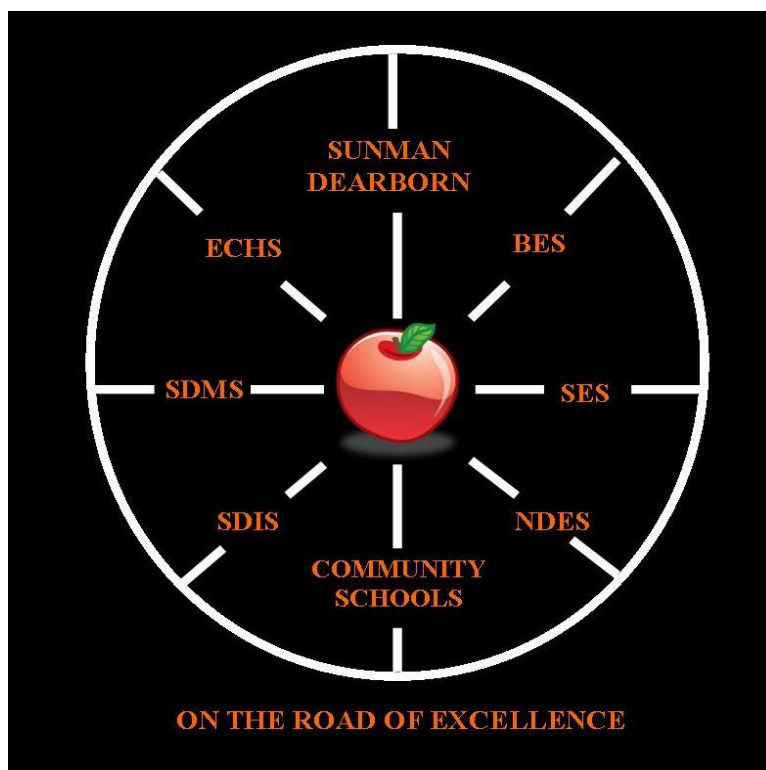


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*A Newsletter for the Stakeholders of
Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools*

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



School Contact Information

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Sunman-Dearborn Middle School · 8356 Schuman Road · St. Leon, IN 47012 ·
Ph: 812-576-3500 · Fax: 812-576-3506

Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School · 27650 Old State Road 1 · West Harrison, IN 47060 ·
Ph: 812-576-1900 · Fax: 812-576-1901

Bright Elementary School · 22593 Stateline Road · Lawrenceburg, IN 47025 ·
Ph: 812-637-4600 · Fax: 812-637-4606

North Dearborn Elementary School · 5687 North Dearborn Road · Guilford, IN 47022 ·
Ph: 812-656-8383 · Fax: 812-656-8321

Sunman Elementary School · 925 North Meridian Street, Suite 200 · Sunman, IN 47041 ·
Ph: 812-623-2235 · Fax: 812-623-4330

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