

# The S-DCS Column

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

## The Right Choice

In our increasingly competitive society, businesses are working very hard to attract new customers and increase their revenue bases. It is really no different in the field of education. School districts across the state of Indiana are facing critical funding cuts because of the loss of revenues from declining populations and cuts from state funding. That is why schools need to attract more customers (parents and students) into their districts because that increases the amount of monies received from local tax dollars and state tax dollars. With the opportunities for students to now attend schools outside of their home districts, many schools are trying to find ways to keep their current population in place, but also attract more students. For students and parents, this is what the real estate industry calls “a buyer’s market.”

As a potential “buyer” into a school district, parents and students need to investigate what a school corporation can offer them in terms of educational programs, the quality of the teaching staff and the various curricular/extracurricular activities. Parents and students can use the internet to find out information on Indiana public schools. The Indiana Department of Education provides corporation statistics on school demographics, student testing, assessed values, revenues/expenditures, school subjects, and teacher qualifications to name just a few.

As the “seller” of a school corporation, I want to share several attractive reasons why Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools is the right choice for you. Schools are in the business of preparing students to begin a journey for success in life. Our job is to expand the possibilities for students to find career and interest paths that will help them succeed. Our school corporation does an excellent job in this area. We offer over 117 class choices, 14 Advanced Placement (AP) Classes and 10 dual credit courses. We offer classes in agriculture, business, English, engineering, foreign language, mathematics, physical education, science, and social studies. We also offer opportunities for students to attend the Southeastern Career Center in Versailles, Indiana.

We provide curricular and extracurricular activities that students can choose to participate in at every level. Our FCCLA, FFA, Academic Bowl teams, band programs and Student Councils not only provide leadership and competition opportunities at the local school level, but our students provide leadership and excel in competitions at the state and national levels.

Our highly qualified teaching staff and support staff work closely with our students to provide learning opportunities to help students grow and be successful inside and outside of the classroom. Our dedicated teachers are role models for our students. They have set the bar in learning high for our students

Continued on pg. 5



*Dr. Jeff Hendrix  
Superintendent*

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## Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year

Another honor has been bestowed on a Sunman-Dearborn educator, Brenda Osman, Family and Consumer Science teacher at East Central High School. Mrs. Osman has been named as the Indiana Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Outstanding Teacher of the Year. As a role model for EC students and a dedicated teacher, Mrs. Osman was recognized for her work not only in the classroom, but as the sponsor of the Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). She provides leadership in the school district and in state organizations such as FCCLA. Mrs. Osman serves on numerous district committees. She has built the East Central High School FCCLA organization from the ground floor to what it is today, the largest FCCLA student organization in the state of Indiana. Mrs. Osman has inspired many of her students to take leadership roles in the organization. Last year, Jenny Abplanalp, a senior at ECHS, was the state president of the Indiana FCCLA. Mrs. Osman is an outstanding educator and Sunman-Dearborn Schools is proud of her accomplishments.

The award ceremony will take place at the Wyndham Indianapolis West on Saturday, September 25th, 2010 at 12:00 PM. Upon receiving her award, Mrs. Osman will become the representative for the state of Indiana at the national level for the ACTE.



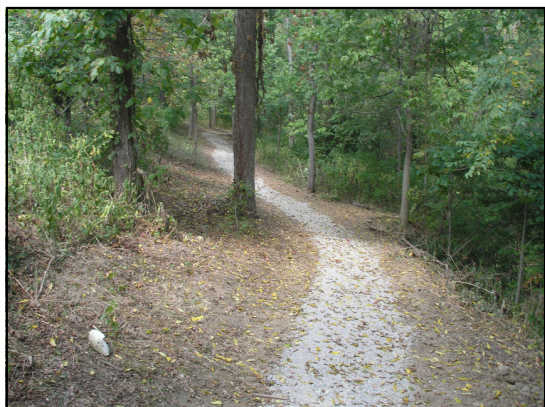
**Mrs. Brenda Osman**  
**Family and Consumer Science Teacher**

*S-DCSC*





## Getting Back into the Swing at Bright Elementary



Bright Elementary School  
Nature Trail

School is well under way and the educational process is in full swing. Everybody is very busy with getting our school up and running at full steam. Our teachers are creating wonderful lessons to teach their students and creating engaging activities that will inspire student learning. Students are enjoying the hands on learning activities and the individual attention they receive from our teachers. Our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is in full swing providing support to our students, teachers and the school. We have students from other schools in our district volunteering to make our school better. Nick Hubert, freshman at East Central High School, is earning his eagle scout badge by completing a project that will revitalize the BES Nature Trail. This trail is used by our classroom teachers and students



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for science projects and exploration activities.

Our community organizations are also stepping up and assisting our school. The Bright Lion's Club is helping us by making kids lives better by sponsoring vision screening for all K-3 students. The BES playground has been improved and students are playing outside on our new equipment and newly mulched playgrounds. The opportunity for students to go outside to exercise and play has a great impact on student learning. Students return to the classroom more focused and ready to learn. We are very excited about the wonderful things going on in our school this year. We invite our parents and the community to visit or even volunteer for a day. We think that it will be a very rewarding experience. If you are interested in visiting or volunteering, please contact Bright Elementary School main office at 812-637-4600.



Bright Elementary School  
Playground

## Bringing the Community into Our Schools at Sunman Elementary

Students in Mrs. Cline's first grade class at Sunman Elementary School recently studied about their community. The children created replicas of their homes to place in the classroom diorama. These were displayed in the front lobby at the culmination of this social studies unit.



Kachina Slayback

Michael Schwebach

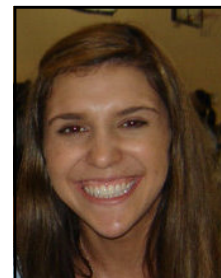


Valerie Good

# Eating the Rainbow

Families today are busier than ever before. It is easy to forget about nutrition and healthy habits when you feel like you are running from one end of the earth to the other. However, the food choices children make today will affect them for the rest of their lives. Here are some helpful tips as well as steps the Food Service department is taking to ensure the brightest and healthiest future possible for each and every student:

- **Try a new food:** As a family, try a new food each week, with no pressure to eat it all. You can choose an exotic fruit or vegetable no one has ever tried before. The Food Service Department will be offering taste tests of new foods for students to try throughout the school year. We are working hard to incorporate a wider variety of healthy foods in our menus.
- **Go meatless:** At least one night each week, serve a meatless meal. The Meatless Monday movement is sweeping the globe with a goal of improving personal health and the health of our planet. We will be trying to offer more meatless meals in the menu cycle. For more information visit [www.meatlessmonday.com](http://www.meatlessmonday.com).
- **Eat the rainbow:** Help children keep track of how they are doing with a goal of eating a fruit or vegetable from every major color group each week (red, orange-yellow, green, blue-purple, and white). Fruits and vegetables are full of filling fiber and disease fighting antioxidants. We will be increasing the variety of fruits and vegetables offered in all school cafeterias throughout the school year.
- **Appreciate treats:** If every day were a holiday, these days would not seem as special anymore. If you had a piece of cake everyday, then you may get sick of this food and not enjoy it as much. Remind your children that a dessert or other treat is something we have occasionally and not every day. Nothing is wrong with the occasional treat as long as their overall diet is nutritious. All school cafeterias will offer occasional portion controlled desserts throughout the year for students to enjoy.



*Mandy  
Grassi*

Remember, these simple steps can make a huge difference when it comes to your family's health. We will continue on our mission towards healthier students at Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please email me at [mgrassi@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us](mailto:mgrassi@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us) or call my office at 812-576-1900 x 13809.

# East Central Dance Team

The EC Dancers are off to an exciting season! We have a total of 128 dance members from the intermediate school, the middle school and the high school! These will be our biggest teams ever! The "Dance Fever" is growing! The middle school and high school teams have already performed at two parades and several performances, including the Sunman Wine Festival and a varsity football game. The girls will be competing in four competitions this year, and nationals in April at Northern Kentucky University. The high school team will also be highlighted at the Indiana Pacers Half Time show this season. We will be hosting two competitions at East Central High School on February 6, 2011 and also March 6, 2011 which will be an Indiana State Competition. We would like to invite the whole community to come out and cheer for our dance teams. There are awards for the "Best Cheering Groups"!! Dress up and come support our girls!

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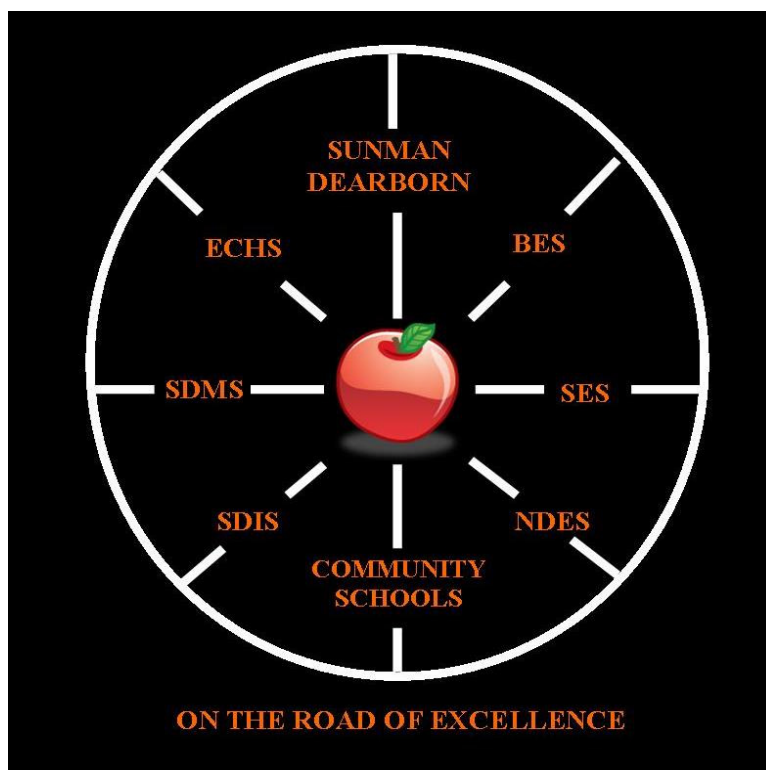
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**To Create a Culture of Educational  
Excellence for Each Student!**



## The Right Choice

Continued from page 1

but also for themselves. We have on staff 23 teachers with Bachelor's degrees, 35 teachers with Bachelor's degrees and 15 additional credit hours, 76 teachers with Master's degrees, 50 teachers with Master's degrees and 15 additional credit hours, 54 teachers with Master's degrees and 30 additional credit hours, and 2 teachers with Doctorate degrees.

The facilities that support student learning are second to none in southeastern Indiana and southwestern Ohio. All of our schools have been maintained and upgraded over the last ten years. We have an excellent Performing Arts Center (PAC) that our students can perform plays and concerts to over 1500 attendees. Our PAC is open to the public for performance. Our classrooms have state-of-the-art computer stations, computer labs and white board technology. Our teachers utilize technology on a daily basis. Students have access to Moodle, Wikis and other internet and computer software. They also have the capability to use our computerized aided drafting (CAD) programs and robotics technology in the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) classes. East Central High School has two gymnasiums, field house, softball diamond, baseball diamond, tennis courts and soccer fields. The Band program also has its own practice field for marching.

There are many opportunities for our students and their families to participate in our school system. The Sunman-Dearborn School Corporation's relationships with each community that it serves is very strong. We have made a commitment to serve our communities. Our bonds with our communities are what have made our school system one of the best in the state of Indiana.

Finally, when it is time for a family to make a choice as to where to live, where to work and where to attend school, there is no question as to making the right choice. The right choice is Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools. Please contact us, and find out more. Call any of our schools, or give me a call at 812-623-2291.

*Dr. Jeff Hendrix*

