

The S-DCS Column

A Newsletter for the Stakeholders of Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

The School Bells Ring Again!

The start of the school year is upon us. Parents and students have been busy shopping for back to school clothes, buying school supplies or even getting to the hairstylist or barber for the last minute haircut. It just seems like summer vacation started and now it is over. This is the time of year when our students begin to feel some anxiety about going back to school. New friends, new classes, new teachers and new schools all can add to the uneasiness for a student. For parents, it is a time to help their students begin thinking about setting goals for success and alleviating some of the fears about returning to school. To assist our parents and students, each of our Sunman-Dearborn Schools has a counselor ready to help.

We are very fortunate to have an outstanding group of counselors who are willing to meet with students and parents to not only discuss academic and career goals, but also, they are available to assist in transitioning from one school to another, or even, one grade to another grade. If a student is having academic troubles, or just struggling to fit in, please contact one of our building counselors for support.

With school beginning soon, it is also time for students to begin thinking about how they can get involved in their schools. There are many clubs, sports and organizations that offer opportunities to build leadership skills, develop friendships and compete in individual or team settings. Each school has a student handbook that outlines those opportunities. We encourage our students to be active and involved in these extracurricular activities. There are many research studies that have proven that students who are involved in extracurricular activities are more likely to not only be successful academically, but also in life after school is over.

It is important to remember that our job as educators is to help our students reach higher levels of academic achievement. We encourage our parents and students to contact their teachers. It is so important for our parents, students and teachers to have a positive relationship built on the ideas of trust and caring. Our teachers are excited to have your students back in school ready to learn and grow.

It is my hope that our parents, and most importantly, our students, have a great school year. Enjoy the opportunities to participate, to learn and grow as a student in the Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools. So I hope that you will have a great school year and "let the school bells ring!"



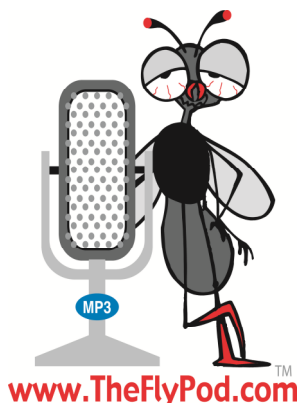
Dr. Jeff Hendrix
Superintendent

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August 2011

Dr. Jeff Hendrix

The FlyPod...are you catching the buzz?



Each month Sunman-Dearborn Schools is featured on The FlyPod, a local entertaining yet informative media source. Dr. Hendrix joins host Gary Puckett for his "SuperChat" podcast. Past chats have included faculty and even students from our schools and have covered topics including budget, athletics, student council, and much more. Gary also has featured our elementary schools in his segment titled "Your School".

Enter www.TinyURL.com/SDSC-Schools in your address line on a new web page to hear the latest SuperChat.

2011-2012 School Calendar

SUNMAN-DEARBORN COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION 2011-2012 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 8-9, 2011	Teacher Workdays	January 2, 2012	Teacher Record Day/ In-Service Day
August 10	First Student Day		
September 5	Labor Day	January 3	Classes Resume After Christmas Vacation
	No School		
October 14	End of First Grading Period (47 student days)	March 2	End of Third Grading Period (44 student days)
October 19	No School	March 19-23	Spring Vacation - No School
	Parent-Teacher Conferences	April 6	Good Friday - No School (Possible make-up day)
October 20-21	Fall Vacation	May 22	Last Student Day
	No School		End of Fourth Grading Period (46 student days)
November 24-25	Thanksgiving Vacation		End of Second Semester (90 student days)
	No School		Teacher Record Day/In-Service Day
December 21	Last Student Day Prior to Christmas Vacation	May 23	Memorial Day - No School
	End of Second Grading Period (43 student days)	May 28	East Central High School Graduation
	End of First Semester (90 student days)	June 3	

Total Students Days = 180

Total Teacher Days = 185

The calendar may be shortened or lengthened to reflect a total of 180 student days as required by I.C. 20-30-2-3 and the teacher record day will follow the last student day.

Adopted: March 10, 2011



Welcome Back !!!

East Central High School



Robert Shipley

This is going to be a great school year! I am excited about some of the initiatives that we will be exploring and refining (anti-bullying, respecting others, curriculum, instruction, etc). Please use the school website to gain valuable East Central information such as; school-wide goals, athletic information, calendar items, and personnel contact information. We are making a concerted effort to make the website a valuable and vital communication tool. Let us know how we are doing. Be sure to get involved and help East Central become the best school in the State! We want to make high school a positive and rewarding experience for you and your children.

Find below some news regarding upcoming events at East Central.

ORIENTATION DAY: New this school year too, is a new format for the first day of school. In the past, we have held a freshmen orientation before school started, typically on one of the book days and then held a regular scheduled day of classes on the first day. This year, however, we are thinking on a larger scale. We will start the day with homeroom for all students to receive vital information about the school (rules, health forms, picture information, etc.). We will then have the freshmen orientation to help the freshmen connect and learn about EC with the help of upper classmen mentors (our TOP Mentors), faculty, and staff. At the same time, sophomores, juniors and seniors will be in their own homeroom settings to discuss school issues, learn more about what to expect this school year, and learn how to become productive members of the school. We will end the day with a motivational speaker that will set the stage for a great school year! All-in-all, this day should provide a solid beginning for all the students and teachers.

PICTURE DAY: All-school picture day will be Wednesday, August 17th. Picture packet information will be distributed during the first day of school in homerooms. Picture day is very important because the school also uses the pictures to make all of the student ID tags that students will use for the cafeteria, school dances, and library purposes. Picture retake day will be advertised as soon as we know that information.

CPR TRAINING: As a step to help provide a safer school environment, the entire teaching staff at East Central High School took part in CPR training on August 9. Each member will receive certification in CPR as a result of their successful participation in the training. East Central High School has a current, active, viable School Safety Plan in place. Each year the plan is reviewed and updated. To add to the safety of the school, we conducted this CPR training to add even more depth to that plan. Know that your child's safety is our number one concern.

Welcome Back !!!

Sunman-Dearborn Middle School



Mark Watkins

SDMS Reaffirms Mission

The Sunman-Dearborn Middle School staff is happy to start the 2011-2012 school year. The staff met together to discuss our vision, mission, values, and goal for the upcoming school year. We would like to share with the entire community the commitment we have to ensure we are successfully helping every student secure the academic background necessary to be ready for high school.

Mission

The Staff at SDMS strives to provide a safe and caring school that enables and encourages high academic achievement for all students through the effective use of resources. Our teachers provide effective lesson planning and engaging instruction through the use of best practice methods. Interventions and accommodations are made for those students not meeting expected levels.

Vision of the school we want to create

One that...examines the standards, identifies learning targets, and shares these with the students.

One that...has effective lesson planning for maximum student retention.

One that...uses best practice instructional strategies to meet student needs.

One that...intentionally develops relationships with the students.

One that...honors and respects student voices.

One that...provides a safe environment for students.

One that...has positive, collaborative, and happy staff members creating the climate.

One that...is a professional learning community, active in professional development.

Values

We will unpack the standards to identify and clearly articulate learning targets that are robust concepts, generalizations or procedures in our curriculum.

We will use the Teaching Schema for Master Learners in our planning for student learning.

We will use the most effective instructional strategies in our classroom instruction.

We understand the social, emotional, and metacognitive growth of our students and their need for relationships.

We will create a positive, safe environment by examining our physical structure and creating positive intervention programs for student behavior.

We will work collaboratively in developing instructional strategies, designing methods of assessment, studying research and data to advance the vision of our school.

SDMS Goal

SDMS students will increase their ISTEP language arts and math total percentage passing by 2% from spring 2011 to spring 2012.

S-DESE

Welcome Back !!!

Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School



Chris Vennemeier

The staff at S-DIS would like to welcome everyone to the Intermediate School. We look forward to a great school year. Communication is important. We encourage you to call the school at 812-576-1900 if you have any questions or concerns.

We have a new 5th grade science program called the Indiana State Initiative (ISI) and it is a kit based program that is rooted in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). The program involves over 19 universities and businesses in conjunction with the DOE that have committed to the support of STEM based learning. Instead of a textbook, we will be using the Inquiry-based method of study which is heavily based upon literacy and trade books. Throughout the process, we will create our own text. Inquiry starts with a Focus Question about the topic we are studying, and then through discussions and observations, students ask questions that

can be developed and tested through experiments. Data is collected and conclusions are drawn. This process is recorded by each student in a composition notebook, and this notebook becomes our textbook. Just like when using a text, we will have vocabulary words to study and questions to answer at the end of each unit.

We are excited about this new inquiry-based program as research has shown this to be an exceptional study. It was found that students that study using an inquiry method use higher level thinking skills and apply what they learn. If you wish to learn more about ISI, please go to the website at www.indianascience.org.

Good luck to all of our students!

Sunman Elementary



Cindy Morton

Sunman Elementary staff members are eagerly anticipating the return of students. Tanned, refreshed, and somewhat older faces, the squeaking of new tennis shoes on freshly waxed hallways, and the smells of pencil shavings and new crayons will all return to our building very shortly.

Sunman Elementary welcomes some new teachers this fall. The following is this year's classroom teacher roster:

Kindergarten:	Mrs. Stoops and Mrs. Schomber
1 st Grade:	Mrs. Cline, Mrs. Hountz, Mrs. Milton, and Mrs. Sandman
2 nd Grade:	Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Honchell, and Miss Kopp
3 rd Grade:	Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Werner/Mrs. Kile, and Mrs. Nicholson
4 th Grade:	Mrs. Klei, Mr. Wheat, Ms. Williamson

We eagerly await the start of school and all the excitement for learning that follows!

S-DESE

Welcome Back !!!

North Dearborn Elementary



Jeff Bond

Brakes slightly squealing, lights flashing back and forth, the smell of the morning breakfast trailing behind as the children run out the door..... It's time for school again!

North Dearborn Elementary School is ready for students. Much work and preparation went into getting to this day, but now it all pays off as the students flood the hallways, eager to learn!

North Dearborn welcomes back some familiar faces this year. Classroom teachers include:

Kindergarten:	Mrs. Lobenstein, Mrs. Sizemore and Mrs. Stange
1st Grade:	Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Dennis, Mrs. Hammons, Mrs. McAdams and Mrs. Messmore
2nd Grade:	Mrs. Dole/Ms. Wuestefeld, Mrs. Eckstein, Mrs. Katenkamp, Mrs. May and Mrs. Weaver
3rd Grade:	Mrs. Bauman, Mrs. Hornbach, Mrs. Scudder, Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Ravenna
4th Grade:	Mrs. Beetz, Mrs. Harper, Mrs. Moder, Mrs. Prifogle and Mrs. Wuestefeld

We are all very excited to begin the year and we hope the students are as excited as we are!

Bright Elementary



Norb Goessling

The Staff at Bright Elementary would like to welcome all the students back to school, as we are very excited to see everyone. There has been much work going on as teachers prepare for Indiana's transition to the common core standards. Information on the standards can be found at:

<http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards>

Much work has also been done on the campus as well. See the pictures on the following page.



Welcome Back !!!

Bright Elementary (continued)



Above: New shade shelter in the kindergarten play area



Above: New teeter-totter in the kindergarten play area

Below: New central air conditioner and microwave tower



Below: Blacktop resurfacing on our bus lot

S-DESE

Welcome Back !!!

Food Service Department



*Mandy Grassi
Food Service
Director*

Welcome back! I hope you all had a fun and relaxing summer. The Food Service Department is ready to once again offer your children delicious and nutritious meals. We have a variety of new recipes and other new menu items at all schools for the students to try so keep your eyes peeled and encourage your student to try new foods. Remember, it takes children at least 10 to 12 times of trying a new food to decide if they truly like it or not.

I would like to remind everyone of our Corporation Wellness Policy. The wellness policy outlines corporation nutrition education goals, physical activity goals, classroom celebration guidelines and more. The federal government requires that every district have a wellness policy to provide guidance on how to make our students be their very best. I will be highlighting parts of the wellness policy in my articles throughout the school year. Best of luck in the new school year!

Mark your calendars!



CASA, the Yes Home, and One Community One Family will be hosting the 2011 Youth Wellness Fair on August 27 from 10 a.m -1 p.m. at Sunman-Dearborn Middle School. They are looking forward to hosting 5th-8th graders again this year. There WILL NOT be a pre-registration this year.

The focus is wellness. Prevention topics such as bullying, suicide, substance abuse, piercing and tattoo safety, along with topics on nutrition, fitness, and activities in the community will all be addressed. The day will be filled with FUN and EDUCATION for 5th to 8th graders.

Athletics



Don Stonefield

A WARM WELCOME DON STONEFIELD!!!!
EAST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

All Sport passes good for 2011-12 East Central and Sunman-Dearborn Middle School athletic events are on sale now in the East Central Athletic Office.

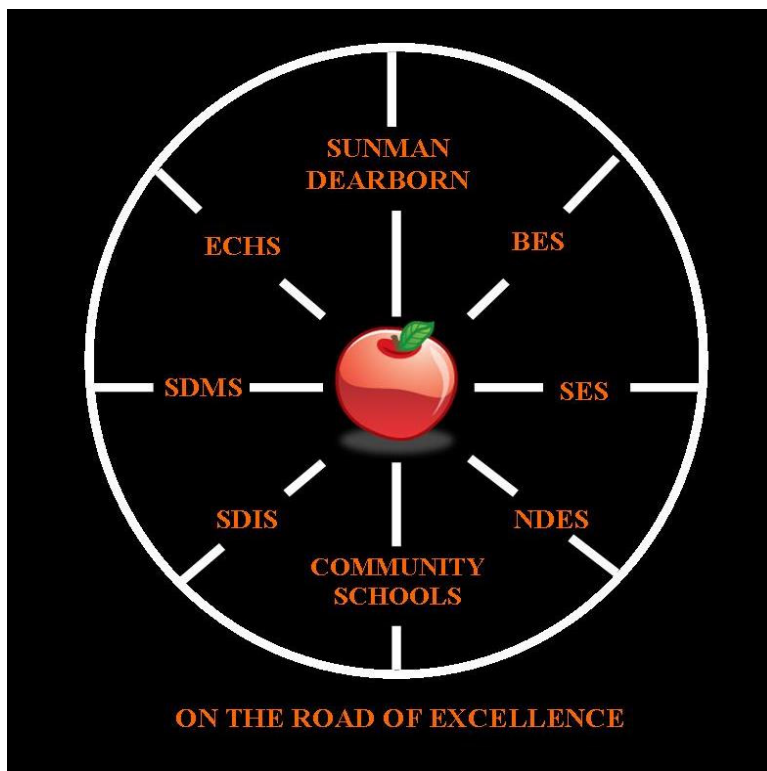
Adults	\$50.00	Students	\$40.00
Family	\$200.00	Senior Citizens	FREE

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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
E-mail: jhendrix@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us

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



School Contact Information

Sunman-Dearborn Administration Offices · 1 Trojan Place, Suite B · St. Leon, IN 47012 ·
Ph: 812-623-2291 · Fax: 812-623-3341

East Central High School · 1 Trojan Place, Suite A · St. Leon, IN 47012 ·
Ph: 812-576-4811 · Fax: 812-576-2047

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