

The S-DCS Column

A Newsletter for the Stakeholders of Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

Great Start to the School Year!

It has been a great start to the school year. Our students, teachers and administrators have not missed a step in returning to school. There is a real excitement in the air as our students begin this school year. There are several reasons for this excitement:

1. East Central High School is partnering with Indiana University to offer Advanced College Placement courses.
2. Last year, East Central High School graduated 89.7 percent of its seniors with one student qualifying as a National Merit Scholarship Finalist and two students who were Eli Lilly Scholars.
3. 91% of graduates pursue further education in either a two-year or four-year college or university.
4. 85% of East Central High School graduates obtain a Core-40 or higher diploma.
5. East Central High School Student Council, FFA and FCCLA organizations have the largest numbers and most active numbers of students in the state. Each organization has had numerous students become state officers.
6. East Central High School offers 24 clubs and organizations, 19 highly competitive boys' and girls' athletic programs, and highly competitive band and choir programs.
7. Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School and Sunman-Dearborn Middle School have Destination Imagination Teams that stimulate creative problem-solving of current issues.
8. Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School and Sunman-Dearborn Middle School offer dance programs and strings programs for student participation.
9. Our elementary schools have excelled in Mathematics and English over the last several years. Two of our three elementary schools have scored in the 90% or above in ISTEP+ testing.
10. Bright Stars program at Bright Elementary School offers students the opportunity to grow through performing service projects in their school and the community.
11. Several teachers have been recognized for their outstanding service and teaching in our district by Indiana University and the Dearborn County Retired Teachers Association.
12. As a school district, we have been given an "A" rating by the Indiana Department of Education for Public Law 221 (PL 221). Since 2007, the district has passed the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) under No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
13. East Central High School was recognized by the Washington Post newspaper for its ability to prepare students for college. East Central ranked 1734 nationally out of 2049 high schools. This is the first year for East Central to appear on the list.

The above list only spotlights a few of the great opportunities for our students from the last school year. Needless to say, there are many more great "happenings" in our schools each and every day for our students now and in the future. It is important for our community to realize that our students are successful because they have highly qualified teachers who work hard to provide rigor in the classroom; teachers who make the learning relevant; and staff members who really care about their students. We believe that the ultimate success of our students is a result of the community stepping forward to support the endeavors of our teachers and administrators to provide the best educational opportunities in the State of Indiana for our students. This commitment to our students is what makes Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools "lead the way for a quality education" for every student in our district.

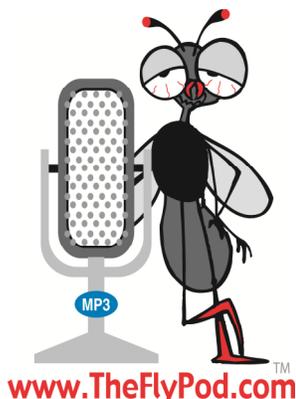


Dr. Jeff Hendrix
Superintendent

Volume 2, Issue 2
September 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. Superintendent Dr. Hendrix joins host Gary Puckett monthly 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 featuring Dr. Hendrix and Mr. Kris Wilson, Director of Support Services.

New names at Sunman-Dearborn Middle School

Mr. Watkins would like to welcome back all former students and those students new to our school this year. He would also like to welcome back our staff and introduce some of the new names you will see at S-DMS:

BJ Black — Math Teacher
 Thomas Meyer — Language Teacher
 Jessica Hoffman — Agriculture and Science
 Brandon Loveless — Teachers Assistant
 Sarina Daugherty — Teachers Assistant

S-DMS has many wonderful plans for academic, athletic, and social success for this school year. If you have any questions about school events or processes, please feel free to contact Mr. Watkins or any of the staff to help you become an informed student or parent of Sunman-Dearborn schools.

A reminder that Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on October 18, 2011 from 3:30-7:00 p.m. and October 19, 2011 from 7:30-11:40 a.m. If you have not scheduled your conferences, please contact Jill Wilson at 812-576-3500, extension 12903.

S-DMS

Lending a Helping Hand

Field trips, supplies, technology and teacher materials are all things that the North Dearborn Elementary PTO helps provide to our students. The support the PTO gives the school is invaluable. The PTO helps fund some of the great programs offered at North Dearborn. "Think Smart, Stay Safe", "Kids on the Block" and "Kid Escape" are just a few of the many programs made possible through the help of the PTO. Each student is given an award of \$3.00 to be used for field trip expenses. This assistance allows classes to attend field trips with less money out of the parents' pockets.

New to this year's proposed PTO budget are teacher grants. Each grade level will have the opportunity to apply for grants from the PTO at certain agreed upon times of the year. This grant should be used for something to benefit the whole grade. The grant process will be one more way NDES teachers can do things that would otherwise be impossible.

The NDES PTO has agreed to partner with the school in its mission to improve technology. This year, money raised from the sale of Kroger cards will be set aside for technology improvements.

What does the NDES PTO ask in return for this support to our students? Your support of them. Attend meetings, volunteer for carnival duties, play an important role in your child's education by becoming active in the NDES PTO.

Communication: The Next Step

We live in a time where information is instantaneous, yet we as a society seem busier than we've ever been! Making the time to know the happenings in your child's classroom is important for both parents and teachers so that children get the best experience possible. Most teachers at Sunman Elementary School communicate frequently with class newsletters, daily behavior charts, e-mail, or 'agenda' notes for older students.

Our schools now have an additional method of communication. Through our school's web site, many teachers have opted to post a classroom web page. The classroom's web page is designed by the individual classroom teacher. Teacher web pages for Sunman Elementary can be found under the classroom tab on Sunman Elementary school website.

The important difference in this web page is that parents can subscribe to the teacher's page. This is completed by clicking on the 'profile' tab when on the classroom page. Once parents subscribe, they will receive an e-mail each time the web page is updated. Thus, parents can gain information directly from the teacher without taking the chance of that information being lost between school and home.

Feel free to check out these pages by going to the Sunman Elementary home page at:

<http://ses.sunmandearborn.k12.in.us>

S-DESE

Bright Elementary's PTO off to a busy start



Bright Elementary School's PTO is off to a busy start for the 2011-2012 school year. PTO representatives, led by Mrs. Stroud, have secured enough funding from local merchants so that each child and staff gets a red tee-shirt with the BES logo at no charge to the students. Over 500 shirts were purchased to help spread the Panther Pride. This PTO effort was in addition to the recent funding of new TVs, DVD/VCRs and cameras that will be ordered through the PTO this month.

Pictured to the left is Mrs. Loo's third grade class showing off their new tee-shirts.

Many thanks to the Bright Elementary PTO for their continued support!

PSAT to be given

On Wednesday, October 12, 2011, the PSAT exam will be given at ECHS. The PSAT is a comprehensive assessment program that measures college readiness and provides students with the tools they need to start planning for the future. In addition, it is used by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as an initial screening of entrants in its annual competitions for recognition and college scholarships (typically, entrants are in their third year of high school). The PSAT measures skills in three academic areas: critical reading, mathematics and writing skills. The PSAT **prepares students for the SAT**. On average, students who take the PSAT/NMSQT® score 146 points higher on the SAT than those who do not take the PSAT test.

The test fee is \$15 per student. However, 10th grade students may take the test for free; the State of Indiana pays for the exam. If there are questions, please contact your child's guidance counselor. Sign-ups will be in mid-September.

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Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School



Jack Carpenter Memorial Butterfly Garden Completed for the First Day of School



A butterfly garden was planted at S-DIS in the memory of Jack Carpenter, the three year old brother of Sydney, a student at S-DIS. The garden was the idea of Mrs. Wilson, student teacher, and Mrs. Lillie, fifth-grade teacher. They contacted Casey's Outdoor Solutions to help design the garden space, and upon approval from Mrs. Vennemeier, Principal, students from Ms. Sopcisak's and Mrs. Lillie's homeroom were presented with the idea. Letters were sent home and families were asked to donate plants, money for specific plants, or money toward any plants. Responses were received from the following students' families: Anita Alig, Jon Bedinghaus, Brandon Clary, Keegan Gindling, Steven Hiltz, Lauren McComas, Marley and Zach Muhlada, Cameron Poindexter, Jacob Proctor, and Kaitlyn Zillick.

Planting the garden would be a big task as the area outside the library windows, once landscaped, had become overgrown with weeds. Meredith Struewing contacted Mrs. Lillie to see if there was a project that her Girl Scout Troop 40059 could do in conjunction with the Outdoor Lab. Perfect timing! We could move ahead with the project. Members of the troop helped to pull weeds, and Mr. and Mrs. Tony Bischoff and Mr. and Mrs. Lillie brought their tillers and worked the land. Casey's employee, Jody, arranged the plants on the area that was tilled. The Girl Scouts, their leaders, teachers, and friends spent another evening planting the flowers. When the planting was finished, the butterfly garden had really taken shape. Mrs. Becker, Scout leader, suggested that mulch would give it the finishing touch, and Casey's was contacted for estimated costs. Mulch would be an expensive addition, but once again Troop 40059 came through. The troop volunteered to cover the cost of the mulch including the delivery fee, and they agreed to spread it. That task took place on one of the hottest days of the summer, but the Girl Scouts did it. Mrs. Michelle Paquette donated landscaping cloth to put down, and the scouts carefully cut and placed the cloth around the flowers. Once this was completed, they began hauling mulch by wheelbarrow across the parking lot and field to the garden. It took several hours of hot, exhausting work, but the mulch was moved and placed.

The garden is beautiful. Special thanks go out to the following Girl Scouts: Lindsay Bischoff, Shelby Flynn, Bailey Hartman, Felicity Hendren, Kalea Huber, Shelby Lake, Meredith Struewing, Kara Busemeyer (another troop), and their Leaders, Julie Becker and Andrea Hartman. Also assisting were Mrs. Wilson and her daughter, Miranda, Mrs. Jeanie Bischoff, Haley Snook, and Mrs. Lillie.

Mrs. Lillie wanted to have a place for people to rest and enjoy the garden, so she purchased a bench from the ECHS Landscaping class to place in the garden. Mrs. Batta, Art teacher, agreed to have Sydney Carpenter's class start to paint the bench and other classes complete it. Mrs. Batta and the students decorated the bench and wrote Jack's name on it. Mr. Roy Johnson and his students at ECHS donated six stepping-stones that lead to and around the bench which is set among the flowers and trees.

It is completed. It is through caring classmates and the dedicated work of many students and adults that we have a beautiful reminder of a special child. The Carpenter family is a loving family who misses their son and brother, and we hope that this garden, dedicated to Jack, gives them a sense of the love and respect that we have for them.

S-DESE

RESPECT at East Central High School

The 2011-2012 school year began with RESPECT at East Central High School. The day began with home room sessions and led to an orientation program for all students. Freshman students were taken to the Performing Arts Center to be introduced to a variety of school activities, individuals, and orientation procedures. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors participated in values, inventory assessments and personality identification activities. The morning was well spent getting acquainted and back “in the groove” of school. All class sessions met for a brief summary of classroom rules, assignments, and expectations for the school year. At the conclusion of the day, students returned to home room assignments for a summary of the day’s events. In addition, the final activity of the day was provided by a guest presenter. The student body was escorted to the Performing Arts Center where motivational speaker Ben Glenn spoke to the students about “RESPECT – for self and others.” Ben captivated the audience with his artwork, words of wisdom, and belief about one’s self. Ben drew the picture below while talking with the students in a matter of 12 minutes, and each portion of the print held special meaning.



For more information about Ben Glenn, check the website www.simpleadhd.com.

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East Central High School News

From Mr. Shipley, Principal

Senior Announcements, Cap & Gown orders:

On the afternoon of September 6th, all seniors will receive information from the Herff-Jones company about senior graduation announcements and cap & gown orders. There will also be a company representative at ECHS on Wednesday night, September 14th (3 PM – 8PM) to speak with parents and take orders. NEW this year will be the fact that the cap & gowns will have a major make-over. The gown portion will be rented; caps & tassels will be for seniors to keep. The gown will be a higher quality and have the EC school crest on it. I am confident that everyone will like the higher quality look and feel of the gowns.

Freshmen class rings:

During school on September 6th all freshmen will receive information from the Herff-Jones company about class rings. Rings can be ordered from this company and they will be available for you here at school to meet and answer questions on September 14th from 3 PM – 8 PM.

Hotel Rwanda:

On October 15th, Rwanda Genocide survivor Immaculee Ilibagiza will be speaking at East Central High School in our Performing Arts Center. As a precursor to that event and a way to begin discussions, we will view as a school the film Hotel Rwanda on Wednesday, October 12th. Our goal is to help the students become more aware that genocide is still a problem in the world community, and to highlight those people who make a stand against it. The film is rated PG-13. Any parents that have concerns or questions about this film need to contact me via email at:

rshipley@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us

This will be a great event and a once in a lifetime chance for our students and parents to know the events surrounding the genocide that occurred in Africa.

Activities:

This will be a busy month with football, cross country, tennis, golf, soccer, and band. Of particular note is our trip to Lucas Oil Stadium on September 16th at 8:30 PM for the football game with Batesville. Check with the athletic department for details on tickets, shirts, etc. for that game. The band will host a marching contest on September 17th. Bands from around the area will be here to compete. Be sure to check it out. See Mr. Alfrey for details on tickets and times (or check the band's website). Girls' golf has the EAC meet on September 10th. Volleyball is in full swing all month, be sure to check out some of their games (Freshmen EAC is on 9/24 at Batesville). Girls' and boys' soccer also is in full swing all month (Hoosier Cup at Bloomington North (9/2 & 9/3) be sure and catch some of their games. Boys' tennis heads into the end of their season with the EAC (9/24) at Greensburg and sectional on 9/28. Boys' & girls' cross country has several events on the road and heads into the EAC meet and sectionals the first of October.

(Continued on page 8)

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ECHS News (continued)

Drugs and Alcohol:

Picture this, Friday night's big game and dance that follows is just hours away. One teenager brings some lemonade with vodka in it, another one some marijuana. They meet at the usual place and talk, laugh, and have a GOOD time completed by the drugs and alcohol they consume. They've done this before and their friends at the game think it's cool. When it's time for the dance they will all have a nice "buzz."

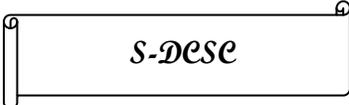
This scenario happens all too often at schools across the country and we are not immune to this problem. I am appealing to all of you to help me put a stop to this practice. If you monitor where your children are after school, and check up on those stories they tell you, that would help more than you know. Too many times we take for granted that our children would not lie to us, and in most cases they do not. But, if you want to be on top of this and be a responsible parent, check up on your kids. I pledge to you that we will do all we can at school to bring a halt to drug and alcohol abuse. All I ask is that you help too. The phone call you do NOT want to get is when it is too late and something has gone terribly wrong. Help us help our kids stay away from alcohol and drug abuse.

EC Academics Strive for Excellence

East Central High School is proud to announce the implementation of Indiana University courses into the high school curriculum. During the summer months, four teachers from the high school staff participated in the Advance College Project workshops. These workshops prepared these educators to teach college courses to high school students. Participating were Jessica Wiedeman, Jenny Tucker, Shelly Anderson, and Marcie Trossman. Plans to implement English / Language Arts classes are scheduled for the 2012-2013 school year while the Chemistry classes are being implemented this year.

For the 2011-2012 school year, students registered for the IU ACP / AP Chemistry class are being challenged to a new level. Not only are the students able to take the Advance Placement exam in May, but they are also able to receive dual college credit for a minimal fee. Students desiring to have the college credit will pay \$25 per credit hour awarded for the course. Students will be able to achieve 5 credits hours for the IU ACP Chemistry course for 2011-2012 and a total of 10 credit hours for 2012-2013. Upon successful completion of the course, students will have college credit on an official transcript.

Others programs are currently being evaluated to determine eligibility for additional dual credit opportunities for students.



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Learning Links: FYI

Provided by Mrs. Ester, ECHS Guidance Director

<http://www.learnmoreindiana.org>

Learn More Indiana provides information for students and parents in terms of academic plans, career plans, and the framework of time for which things should be done. Be sure to browse the website for more information.

<http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/k12academics/Requirements/Pages/GradPlan.aspx>

Discover the suggestions as to what needs to be done at each grade level in order to assist students throughout high school. Career plans and goals, academic courses, and more are all considered through this process!

<http://collegegoweekindiana.org/>

Plan for college; explore colleges, and apply to colleges all on one website! Be sure to check out Indiana's colleges and universities through one website!

<http://www.act.org/aap/>

Information regarding the ACT exam, test dates, registration procedures, cost, etc., is available on this website. In addition, ACT provides a "Question of the Day" and test prep!

<http://sat.collegeboard.org/home>

Test practice, on-line registration, test dates, and more are available on the web site. Check it out!

http://eligibilitycenter.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.html

NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Clearing House is for athletes desiring to play college sports and is designed to provide information for athletes in terms of registration, grades, etc.

<http://www.playnaia.org/index.php>

NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) Eligibility Center is designed to provide athletes with information pertaining to college athletics, grades, eligibility, and more. A complete listing of the NAIA schools is provided to assist students and parents.

www.AskRose.org

Rose Hulman provides a homework hotline for students in math science courses. Students are able to log onto the system and seek assistance with questions and problems in these types of classes. Be sure to check it out!



S-DESE

MyPlate!: The New and Improved Guide to Healthy Eating

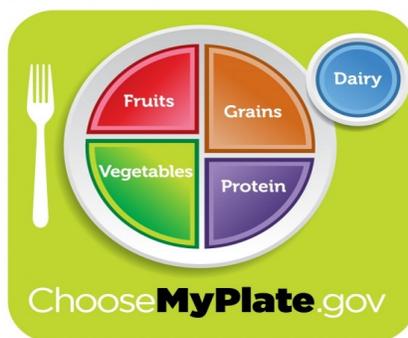


Mandy Grassi
Food Service
Director

MyPlate is based on the 2010 Dietary Guideline's for Americans and has been designed as a model for improving the eating habits of all Americans. With over 1/3 of U.S. adults obese according to the CDC, *MyPlate* is hoping to be a practical way to improve everyone's eating patterns. *MyPlate* focuses on some of the following key messages:

- Enjoy your food, but eat less.
- Avoid oversized portions.
- Make half your plate fruits and vegetables.
- Switch to fat free or low fat (1%) milk.
- Make at least half your grains whole grains.
- Compare sodium in foods like soup, bread and frozen meals and choose foods with lower numbers.
- Drink water instead of sugary drinks.

Try to model each meal after the *MyPlate* diagram below and keep the above tips in mind to improve the health of you and your family. To learn more about *MyPlate* visit www.choosemyplate.gov.



Attention Parents:

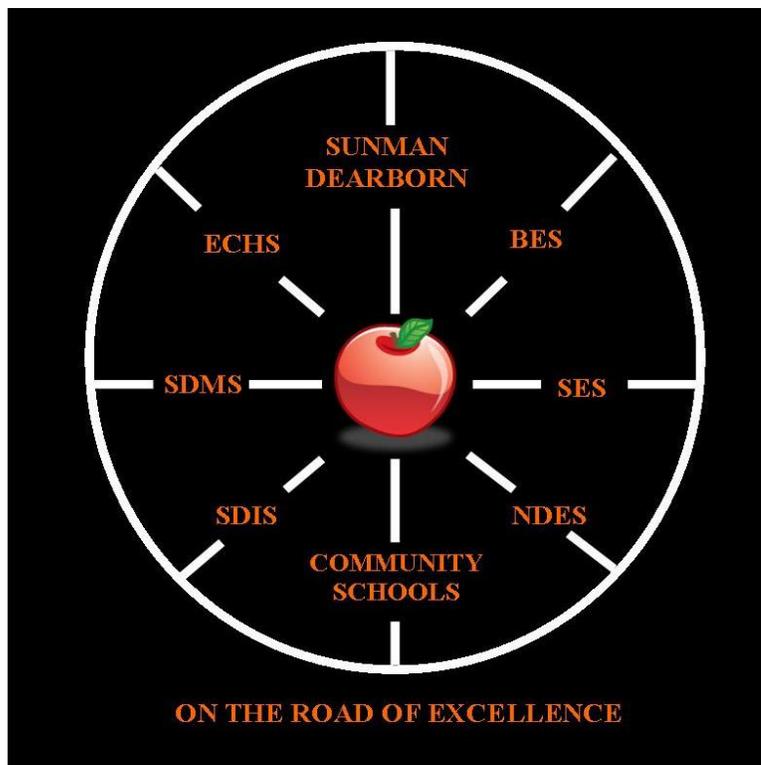
You now have the option of depositing money into your child's lunch account online via credit card. There is a small fee of \$2.50 per transaction. Visit the corporation food service website or go to www.EZschoolPay.com to get started! If you have any questions, contact Mandy Grassi at 812-623-2291, extension 13809.

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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!**



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