

The S-DCS Column

A Newsletter for the Stakeholders of Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

Strategic Planning

This year, Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools will be embarking on a strategic planning journey that will bring together our district in a cohesive and effective way that will impact our students. Strategic planning is a commonly used in organizations, but few people really know what it is. So what is strategic planning? Strategic planning determines where an organization is going over the next year or more, how it is going to get there and how it knows if it has reached its destination. The focus of a strategic plan is usually on the entire organization. The questions, "Who are we?" and "Where are we going?" help us better address the kinds of opportunities that we provide our students whether they are purely academic courses, vocational tracks or even a STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) track. Currently, we provide classes and some programs that can fulfill some of these requirements, but it is important that we have a clear focus. Ultimately, we should prepare our students to be high performers who have been prepared to be successful once they graduate from our school system.



Dr. Jeff Hendrix
Superintendent

If we are going to continue to be a highly competitive school district that will attract students, parents and businesses to our area, then we must create a clear and measurable vision of what that looks like for our school community. We must develop a mission and goals that are based on our communities' core beliefs, but more importantly, they must be measurable. For without accountability, no organization can possibly move forward.

What are some of the benefits to an organization that has a strategic plan?

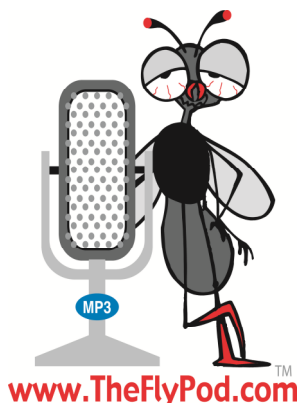
1. It clearly defines the purpose of the organization and establishes realistic goals and objectives consistent with that mission in a defined time frame within the organization's capacity for implementation.
2. It communicates those goals and objectives to the organization's constituents.
3. It develops a sense of ownership of the plan.
4. It ensures the most effective use is made of the organization's resources by focusing the resources on the key priorities.
5. It provides a base from which progress can be measured and establishes a mechanism for informed change when needed.
6. It provides a clearer focus for the organization, thereby producing more efficiency and effectiveness.

It is our purpose to create a strong strategic plan that will provide measurable results throughout the organization. But, the most important reason for doing it is to increase student achievement. We want our students to leave our schools with an education that not only competes with the best schools in the state of Indiana, but in the United States. It is a lofty goal, but I believe that we are up for the challenge. As the ancient Chinese philosopher once said, "The journey of 1000 miles begins with the first step". Please join us on this journey, together, as we begin to take our first steps.

Dr. Jeff Hendrix

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The FlyPod...are you catching the buzz?

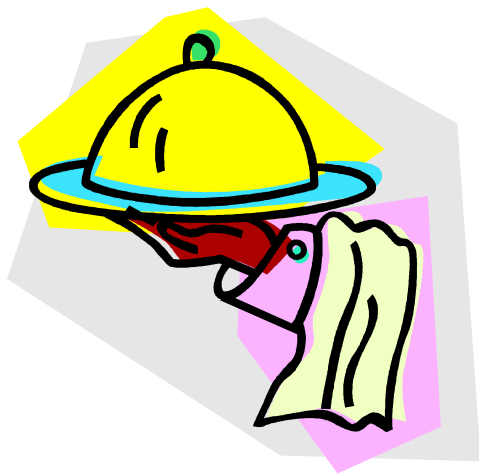


Each month Sunman-Dearborn Schools is featured on The FlyPod, a local entertaining yet informative media source. Superintendent Dr. Hendrix joins host Gary Puckett monthly for his "SuperChat" podcast. Past chats have included faculty and even students from our schools and have covered topics including 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.

ServeSafe® Certification Program in *ProStart 1 & 2*

By: Ashley McConnell - FACS teacher at ECHS



Culinary Arts Careers 1 & 2 (*ProStart 1 & 2*) will be completing The ServeSafe® Training and Certification Program from the National Restaurant Association throughout the week of October 3rd -7th.

The ProStart Course is an advanced level culinary class for students interested in going into the foodservice industry. The ServeSafe® Training and Certification Program provides students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities they need to serve safe food. Food handlers in many states, including Indiana, are required by law to have a ServeSafe® Certification. The ServeSafe® Exam is given to each student at the end of the ServeSafe® training. Those students who pass the exam will be among other food handlers who hold the highest standard in food safety training and certification.

Picture re-takes at ECHS

Underclassmen picture re-take day is Tuesday, October 25th. If you need a picture re-take, plan to look your best on this day.



S-DESC

North Dearborn focuses on Fire Prevention



Jeff Bond
Principal
N. Dearborn Elem.

October is National Fire Prevention month. During this month your students will be hearing a lot about ways that they can prevent damaging and often deadly house fires. The classroom teachers will be doing activities all week with the students to raise awareness. Stories will be read, pictures will be colored, puzzles will be completed and there will even be some role playing. This helps students learn skills that can be used to identify possible fire dangers and steps they can take to respond in the event of a fire emergency. We will kick off our events with a visit from the Bright Volunteer Fire Department on October 4th and 5th. This visit includes an informative presentation from the firefighters and hands-on demonstrations in which our students will participate. Fire hose demonstrations, fire gear to try on and everyone's favorite, smoke simulation, will all spark the students' interest in identifying fire hazards and preventing these often avoidable accidents.

Please take this opportunity to discuss with your child what they have learned after these fun and informative days.

Spanish happenings at ECHS

By: Amy Roth - Spanish teacher at ECHS

September was an exciting month in Spanish IV and Spanish Club! On Sept. 15, the Spanish IV students received salsa dance lessons from a local dance instructor during class in EC's Fieldhouse. After reading a short story in class, students quickly realized they did not know how to salsa. Students learned to cha-cha and then compared this style of dancing to the waltz. It was a great time for all.

To celebrate Mexico's Independence Day on Sept. 16, the Spanish Club took a trip to Great American Ballpark for Hispanic Heritage Day. Some of the game was announced in Spanish. The players were introduced in Spanish with their country's flag flying and the anthem played. Students were able to purchase authentic foods like tamales and churros. What an exciting night!

Spanish Club meets the last Tuesday of every month. At our last meeting, club members met in the foyer of the high school and practiced their best salsa moves. Club board member Melissa Tslueff showed the club the salsa dancing she had learned in Mexico during her 7 week stay for the IU Foreign Language Honors Program. The next meeting will focus on the Dia de los Muertos celebration from Mexico. Any student interested in joining the club may attend the meetings at any time. Dues are \$5 for the year. Students need to be taking a Spanish class in order to participate in the club.

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More ECHS News



Robert Shipley
Principal
East Central HS

Academic Bowl:

For those of you wanting to witness an academic bowl, please be sure to mark your calendar for Monday, October 31, 2011 at 6 PM. East Central High School will compete with the other EIAC schools on a variety of subjects in a timed, highly competitive atmosphere. This is always fun to watch and the students would love to have the support. Of course the academic team travels to other venues for competitions as well on other dates, but come on out to the Performing Arts Center on the 31st for an evening of academic fever!

End of 1st grading period:

Our first grading period ends Friday, October 14th, 2011. Due to the very short week for our staff the next week, grade cards will not go out until the week of October 24th. Please note that grades can always be viewed via Parent Connect on-line. I encourage all of you to utilize the on-line resources that we are using at East Central. The website grows more important each week (events dates, college information, tutoring, news, etc.) and Parent Connect continues to be a real-time way for parents to see grades. We are striving to make this a reliable and accurate resource for you.

Curriculum:

As a note on continued improvement at East Central, teachers will be working this month on improving curriculum and posting it to Curriculum Mapper. All staff are working to bring the elements together (pieces of the puzzle) and will work October 19th on finishing this project. Note that this day is a staff only day and no students will be at school that day (October 19) fall break is the next two days as well (October 20 & 21).

Hotel Rwanda:

On October 15th, Rwandan 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 needs to contact me 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.

Homecoming a success:

We had a very successful Homecoming this year. Students dressed the part, competed in the various class competitions, and had an all-sports pep session to end the week. We also had a successful football game against South Dearborn and a Homecoming dance after the game. I would like to comment about the dances at East Central. It has been my concern for a few years that the dances were borderline vulgar in the way students danced. After speaking with the student council in an effort to address this issue before the homecoming dance, I am happy to note that the students have responded and we had a much more appropriate dance. Parents, please speak with your children about dancing appropriately so that we can *continue* to improve the dances. I stress that boys and girls need to respect their bodies through appropriate dancing. I am not against dances as long as we follow the mantra of "respect for each other."

Commended Student in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program:

I am proud to announce that Mackenzie Reed has been named a commended student in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) will be presented to this scholastically talented senior.

About 34,000 commended students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2012 competition for National Merit Scholarships, commended students are placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2012 competition by taking the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

"The young men and women being named commended students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence and encourages them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

S-DeSe

Learning in Action



Cindy Morton
Principal
Sunman Elem.

"Field trip!" is an excellent phrase to engage students in their own learning. While we have all been on or supervised field trips, in the environment of high stakes assessment with a move to National Common Core Standards and tight fiscal situations, one might question the value of the 'field trip' in schools.

Recently, Sunman Elementary third graders proved that the value of real life experiences gained through field trips impacts the level of engagement in the core academics that are so rigorously monitored.

One third grade teacher was unable to attend the third grade field trip to the Tractor Show at the Franklin County Fairgrounds, so her students wrote letters to her to tell her what she missed. Here are a few excerpts:

"We got to grind corn and make soap."

"We seen a lot of weird stuff today like a blacksmith."

"The radio people were there and I got to be on the radio!"

"We learned a lot! We learned how you washed clothes, grinded corn, and how kids played in the old days."

"You missed a bunch of cool tractors."

By having this type of experience, students can relate to the history they study, improve communication about ideas and experiences, and learn through a variety of methods. Field trips are a valuable way for students to learn in the 'real world' environment. If you don't believe it, just ask a third grader! Below are a few pictures taken from the recent field trip to the Tractor Show.



Groovy news at S-D Middle School



Lisa Baudendistel

Asst. Principal
S-D Mid. School

Groovy News That You Can Use, the first student-produced news show at S-DMS, has made its premier. Students in Ms. Wiles' language arts class have been participating in a cooperative project-based learning curriculum that includes the required language arts and guidance directed state standards while learning the trade of TV production. Students are responsible for designing, writing and filming news worthy stories for broadcast to the entire middle school. It is important to find a way to engage students in their learning and to address various guidance related topics in a manner that is relevant to them. Students are creating stories using a multitude of writing styles, editing techniques, as well as utilizing speaking and listening skills to address issues that are "hot topics" within the school. "Students are excited about reading and writing....the level of engagement and pride that they are showing is incredible," states Ms. Wiles. With the assistance of Kevin Leech, AV/Technology guru at the high school, students are receiving a first rate introduction to TV production as well. Students have covered topics such as bullying, student tips, fashion, sports and a segment titled "This is Your Life" which highlights a student or teacher in the school. *Groovy News That You Can Use* is currently scheduled to air daily, Monday through Friday during 4th period.

Technology News

So, you would like for your child to be able to use your home computer to work on school assignments, but you don't want to spend a large sum of money on a brand name office suite? Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools understands, and wants to let you know about a few options to accomplish this.

Sunman-Dearborn is increasingly utilizing Open-Source software wherever feasible. It is free to use for both schools and for personal and business use. Sunman-Dearborn is beginning to implement office suites based on the OpenOffice.org project, which is becoming widely used around the world. Versions are available for Windows, Mac, and Linux, all of which are compatible with Microsoft Office. Several "flavors" of this office suite are available, the newest mainstream version currently being used is LibreOffice 3.4. More about this software and a link to download is available at <http://www.libreoffice.org>.



Nathan Loudon
Technology
Director

Another option that may be available to you if you have purchased a new PC with Windows 7 recently is the Microsoft Office 2010 Starter Edition. If your PC came loaded with Microsoft Office 2010, many now have the option of using the Starter version for free. This version has limited forms of both Word and Excel that may be enough to serve your personal needs. PowerPoint, however, is not included and this is not available for download – it is only available with a new PC.

Army Ranger visits Bright Elementary



Norb Goessling
Principal
Bright Elem.

Ms. Beck's class had a special guest visitor September 19th. Army Ranger Joey Cummins, a friend of Mrs. Schebler (Ms. Beck's Asst.), came to introduce himself to the class. He will soon begin corresponding with through letters. He ate lunch with the students, played at recess, and answered questions that the class had for him about being an Army Ranger. He was an amazing speaker. He talked to the class about building character qualities including honesty, respect, manners, discipline, team work, and dedication. He stressed the importance of trying hard in school and in life and shared how he struggled with dyslexia all through his education, yet graduated from college with a BA in Criminal Justice. He also spoke about what it took to become an Army Ranger. He gave mini lessons on military airborne training, military vehicles, weapon safety, and survival skills. It was an awesome day for the kids, they learned many new things and enjoyed the Army Strong bracelets and cupcakes Joey brought them. The class is very excited to begin writing to Joey while he is away, and can't wait for his safe return in the Spring. Below is a picture taken during his visit.



S-DESE

S-DIS also has a special visitor



Chris Vennemeier
Principal
S-D Int. School

Cincinnati native, Rocky Boiman, visited the 6th grade classes at Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School on Monday, August 29, 2011.

Rocky grew up on the west side of Cincinnati and attended St. Xavier High School where he excelled in football. He went on to become team captain at Notre Dame, where he was a linebacker. Rocky was drafted out of Notre Dame and played seven seasons in the NFL. His most memorable season was with the Super Bowl Champions, Indianapolis Colts. Since his retirement, Rocky has been involved in the Rocky Boiman Football Academy, along with other business adventures.

Rocky shared with the students his thoughts about being around good coaches, such as Mike Tomlin, Tony Dungy, and Jeff Fisher. He discussed character with the sixth graders. He told them it's a "24/7 deal" that one has to continually build upon. He told them to never give up when things go bad in their lives. He shared a story about being released. Rocky was hurt and dejected, but he never gave up. A couple of days after his release, the Colts organization gave him a call. That led to two great seasons and a Super Bowl Championship.

SDIS thanks Rocky Boiman for sharing his thoughts and signing autographs. If you would like more information about Rocky or his football academy, long on to:

www.rockyboimanfootballacademy.com

Here is a photo of Rocky signing autographs during his visit.



S-DESE

Fall into a Healthy Autumn



Mandy Grassi
Food Service
Director

With the kids getting back into a school routine and the holidays quickly approaching, autumn is a busy time of year for everyone. However, autumn is a great time to get outside and be active with your family. Here are some easy tips for falling into fitness:

- Go apple or pumpkin picking instead of just buying them at the store.
- Find a local hiking trail and enjoy the beautiful colors of the changing leaves. A walk a day can help keep the doctor away!
- Raking leaves keeps your yard looking nice and gives you a great work out at the same time!
- Have your child invite friends over for a backyard game of tag or capture the flag.
- Enjoy a family bike ride around the neighborhood on a cool fall evening.

Regular physical activity not only help's you get healthier, but can also help you sleep better at night and be in better shape to learn and play all day!

Transfer Tuition for Out of State Students



Charles Blake
Director of
Finance

As the Sunman Dearborn School Corporation boundaries touch the State of Ohio, we often receive inquiries from Ohio residents concerning the cost of transfer tuition for their children if the were to attend here. Until recently, the Indiana Department of Education had not issued any specific ruling on how these students should be handled or how the transfer tuition should be figured. In September, the Indiana Department of Education reviewed and clarified the state statue that covers transfer tuition for out of state students to read:

School corporations may accept students who do not have legal settlement in Indiana under their local policy. However, the following notes must be met:

- Students cannot be counted for ADM;
- Students must be charged full unsupported tuition;
- Students must be charged tuition, and may not attend without paying tuition.

Please let any of your friends, family or co-workers who live in Ohio and express interest in sending their children to Sunman Dearborn Schools that they must pay the full tuition, or, have them call the central office at 812-623-2291 with further questions.

S-DESE

Athletic Department News



Don Stonefield
Athletic Director

Several of our fall sports teams are having successful seasons. The girls golf team led by Coach Sam Melton finished 4th in the EIAC. The boys tennis team led by Coach Scott Kluener finished 3rd in the EIAC and won the Connersville Tennis Invitational. The boys soccer team were the champions of the Hoosier Cup. The Athletic Department would also like to thank the girls volleyball team on their successful "Dig Pink" match/fundraiser against Batesville.

East Central will host the boys IHSAA Soccer Sectional on Wednesday, Oct. 5th and championship game on Saturday, October 8th at 6:00 p.m. Teams participating include East Central, South Dearborn, Madison, and Jennings County.

In other news, we are currently in the process of creating "The 3.0 A.D. Club". This club will recognize student athletes who have excelled in the classroom. We will have three levels of distinction: the 3.0 level, 3.5 level, and the 4.0 level. Student athletes who achieve these accomplishments will have their name displayed in our Athletic Ad Book as well as a special display in the athletic wing.

College Recruiting Information Sessions

When: Wed., October 5, 2011
Seniors/Juniors 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Sophomores/Freshman 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Where: ECHS Performing Arts Center

Who: College Prospects of America
Tom Elias

What: Discuss the steps required to play at a post –secondary institution.

Why: To provide the opportunity for East Central student athletes to make reasonable decisions about athletic possibilities.

Opportunities ABOUND-Men's Athletics

Number of Intercollegiate Programs Offered:

Baseball 1510+	Golf 1180+
Basketball 1720+	Tennis 940+
Football 790+	Swimming 430+
Cross Country 1230+	Soccer 1210+
Track/Field 920+	Wrestling 300+

Opportunities ABOUND-Women's Athletics

Number of Intercollegiate Programs Offered:

Cross Country 1320+	Basketball 1710+
Golf 770+	Soccer 1350+
Swimming 550+	Tennis 1110+
Volleyball 1550+	Softball 1520+
Outdoor Track 990+	Indoor Track 840+

A tip from IHSAA

"Promoting Education-based Athletics in Indiana"

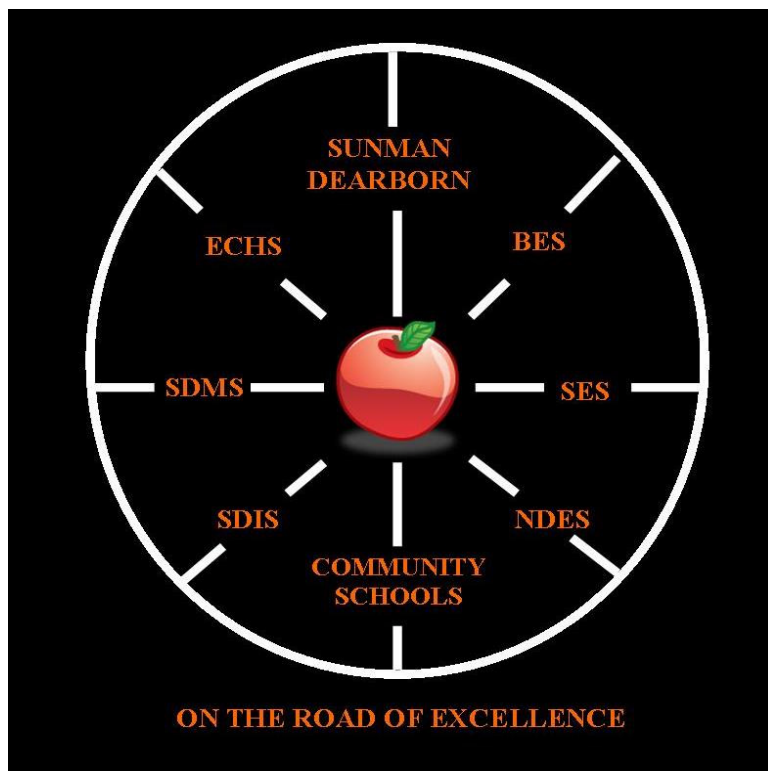
The fall sports season is in full bloom as well as the first grading period. How are you doing so far? Is it difficult keeping up with your work in the classroom and your sport? Being a student-athlete is a big commitment. The time involved with homework, practices, games, and other school and family obligations can pull you in a lot of different directions. Stay in tune with your grades and know where you stand. Don't wait until the last week of the grading period to do your best work because it might be too late.

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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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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

