

The S-DCS Column

A Newsletter for the Stakeholders of Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

Charting a Course for Raising Our Students' Achievement Levels

Have you ever thought about taking a vacation to a new destination by car without using a map? Did you try to go to college without having any idea where you would get the money to pay for housing, tuition and books? When was the last time you contacted a bank about giving you a loan to purchase a new home even though you did not have a job, any income or savings to repay the loan? To be successful in any of those scenarios, it is very important to have a plan of action. School systems are no different when it comes to planning for the future of students. In fact, Sunman-Dearborn Community School's teachers, administrators and school board members understand the importance of planning, and we are beginning to develop a strategic plan of action that will focus on raising student achievement levels using the necessary tools that will assess our progress, but more importantly, hold us accountable.

Over the last several years, the Sunman-Dearborn Community School Board began working on developing a mission, vision, and goals that will lead the corporation toward fiscal security, and toward helping all of its students become higher achievers. These statements and goals provide the foundation and direction for the corporation. The professional educators who are the backbone of Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools have accepted the challenge to do "Whatever It Takes" to help every student reach his or her highest level of academic achievement. To do "Whatever It Takes," the school corporation has begun this journey by focusing on our curriculum so that it meets the national core standards. This is one of the major areas that will impact student achievement. We also realize that there are four other areas that have a definite impact on student learning. They are: Instruction, Assessment, Professional Development and Culture. Our teachers and administrators are currently working together to identify and use best practices in instruction, and they are working to develop strong formative and summative assessments. The connection between a rigorous curriculum, best teaching practices and authentic assessments will lead to student academic growth and higher achievement for all students.

Teachers and administrators are also participating in professional training in scientifically researched best practice theories. This training is focused specifically on developing strong teaching units, differentiated instruction techniques, assessment tools and the mapping of a standards-based curriculum. Our research tells us that over a period of time, student achievement will begin to rise to a higher level, but more importantly; this training will provide teachers with the tools that will sustain student achievement at those higher levels. This all leads to creating a culture of excellence!

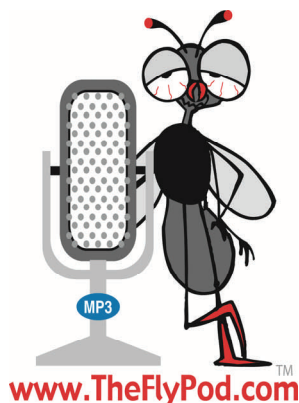


Dr. Jeff Hendrix
Superintendent

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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.

ECHS Cafeteria Info

By: Christina Weigel, Food Service Manager at ECHS

What a great year so far! We have served over 52,000 meals through the month of October at the high school. We have at least five different entrees every day. We have boxed salads, sub sandwiches, homemade soup, and the hot entrees. Parents have the option of depositing money into their child's lunch account online via credit card. There is a small fee of \$2.50 per transaction. Visit www.EZschoolPay.com to get started!

The cost of a meal is as follows:

Student Breakfast: \$1.25 (Reduced Student Breakfast: \$.30)

Student Lunch: \$1.95 (Reduced Student Lunch: \$.40)

Staff Breakfast: \$1.50

Staff Lunch: \$2.75

The food service department uses a computerized meal payment program. Students are issued a personal meal account corresponding with their student ID number and ID card. Staff is encouraged to have a meal account which can be established with the cafeteria manager in each school. Students or staff may make prepayment for meals by the week, month, or longer through the cafeteria manager in each school. Payment for meals is accepted by check or cash. Prepayment is encouraged as this expedites the service to the student through the serving line, allowing more time to eat, and reduces the need for daily cash handling. Please make checks payable to SDCS Cafeteria. You may view your student's account balance at www.EZschoolPay.com.

If you have any questions, please call or email me.

Christina Weigel

Food Service Manager

East Central High School

cweigel@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us

(812) 576-4811 Ext. 11981



S-DESE

Special visitors at North Dearborn



Jeff Bond
Principal
N. Dearborn Elem.

North Dearborn Elementary School has had many visitors over the past few months.

Author, David Sargent Jr. visited North Dearborn with his four legged friends in September to speak with the staff and students about the importance of reading and writing. The students were treated to a presentation of various tricks performed by his dogs. After the performance, David stayed around to personally autograph books and bookmarks the students could purchase.

Mrs. Katenkamp's class was treated to a special visit from Captain Tim Anglin from the Ohio Air Force Reserves. Capt. Anglin went on active duty beginning Oct. 2nd and has been deployed to the Middle East. He will be in charge of the radar units used to guide the airplanes. Capt. Anglin brought his Air Force Hummer with him to meet the class before his deployment. The class will be pen pals with him while he is "in country." He hopes to visit us again when they get back sometime in May. When Captain Anglin is not serving his country, he is serving the city of Cincinnati as a fire fighter.

We are thankful that we have these opportunities to meet these special people!

ECHS Straight-A Students to earn Reds Tickets

Once again, East Central High School students who hit a home run academically can earn free Reds tickets as the Cincinnati Reds kickoff the 2012 Straight-A Program.



The Straight-A program is designed to reward academic achievement among students in grades 7-12. Students obtaining an A+, A or A- grade average in academic subjects during the second quarter are eligible for the free tickets. Names of students qualifying for the Straight-A program will be submitted after the second quarter is completed, and the Reds will return Straight-A packets for each qualified student. Packets will include an order form redeemable for tickets. Each Straight-A student will be able to select two free View Level tickets for one of the designated dates on the Straight-A order form. Half-price tickets are available for additional family and friends.

East Central High School will be one of hundreds participating in this year's Straight-A Program. "Rewarding good students with free tickets to a Reds game is a tradition started 46 years ago, and we're enormously proud that over 2,000,000 students to date have participated in our Straight-A Program," said Phil Castellini, Chief Operating Officer. "Its longevity and success is testimony to the importance the Reds place on supporting schools throughout Reds country."

SAT / ACT Prep Software



Robert Shipley
Principal
East Central HS

ECHS students are now able to prepare for standardized tests (SAT, ACT, PSAT) by utilizing a software package provided by the school. The software is available on the ECHS website, and is free for all EC high school students. Students log on to the website with a student ID number for the username and the password. Questions similar to those on the tests are provided to the student to answer. This is a great way for students to study and prepare for the standardized tests and to potentially increase scores. Increased scores can result in additional scholarship monies as well as enrollment status.

To access the software, follow these easy steps:

1. Access the internet
2. Go to the ECHS web page (<http://echs.sunmandearborn.k12.in.us>)
3. Hover the cursor over academics to allow for drop-down menu
4. Scroll down to "Testing Resources"
5. Click on SAT-ACT Study Coach
6. A separate web page will be accessed
7. For username and password, student is to type ID number



If you have any questions regarding the software or problems with the program, please contact Mrs. Schnecker at pschnecker@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us or at 812-576-4811 x. 11401.

College Recruiting Information Session

What: Recruiting Seminar II
Who: Tom Elias
College Prospects of America, Inc.
When: Wed., Nov. 16 at 6:00 p.m.
For: All students grades 9-12
Where: Study Hall Room

- Topics:
- How to reach out to colleges and be recruited.
 - How to talk to college coaches and what questions to ask.
 - How to fill out financial aid forms.

This is a service provided by the EC Athletic Dept. to help student athletes with the opportunity of playing athletics at the post-secondary level. Parents and student athletes are encouraged to attend and ask questions.

Course (Continued from page 1)

Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools' strategic plan will be a long-term commitment by our teachers, administrators and school board members to make our schools exemplary. We believe that the best colleges, universities and employers will be recruiting our students to participate in their programs because our students will have outstanding preparation, scholarship and a work ethic that will rival no other students in the world. We are setting the bar higher because Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools believes that every student can be successful. We will do "Whatever It Takes" to meet our mission as educators to provide a "Culture of Educational Excellence" to all of our students.

Dr. Jeff Hendrix

S-DESE

Title I Services at Sunman Elementary

Title I, a Federal grant program based on economic needs, provides funds to supplement classroom instruction at Sunman Elementary. Sunman students benefit from three programs through Title I; Reading Clubhouse, Math Clubhouse, and Extended Day Kindergarten.

Mrs. Walters is the Reading Clubhouse teacher. Mrs. Walters works with students in first through third grades. She reinforces the classroom instruction in a pull-out small group setting. Students qualify for her small group instruction based on their reading needs as determined by multiple measures of achievement. The focus on this program is to provide additional support to beginning readers who are struggling. Our goal is to have all students reading on grade level by the end of third grade.



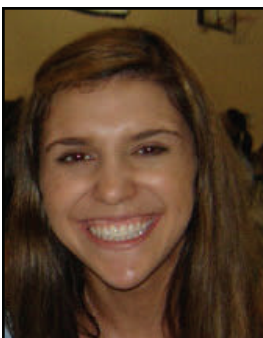
Cindy Morton
Principal
Sunman Elem.

Mrs. Caudill is the Math Clubhouse teacher. Mrs. Caudill works with students in second through fourth grades. Similar to Reading Clubhouse, students qualify for small group instruction based on their needs determined by multiple measures of achievement. Mrs. Caudill concentrates on reinforcing mathematics calculations, mathematical concepts and has an additional focus on mathematical word problems. The goal for Math Clubhouse is to have all students achieving at grade level by the end of fourth grade.

Mrs. Stoops is the Extended Day Kindergarten teacher in the afternoons at Sunman Elementary. Mrs. Stoops has numerous years of experience in kindergarten instruction, and this is a new position for her this year. Students qualify for Extended Day Kindergarten through a variety of assessments and teacher recommendation. This classroom is limited to twelve students, and these students complete a full day of kindergarten. The goal of Extended Day Kindergarten is to have all kindergarteners well-prepared for success with the rigorous curriculum at our first grade.

Sunman Elementary is fortunate to have Title I funding for these programs that focus on enhancing student success.

Food Rewards Now May Actually Be a Punishment in the Long Run



Mandy Grassi
Food Service
Director

Do you give your child a cookie for getting a good grade on a test or take them to ice cream for being well behaved at an event? These might seem like great incentives now, but research shows this could be detrimental to your child's future.

Research has demonstrated again and again that healthy kids learn better. To provide the best possible environment for children, it is essential that they receive consistent and reliable information about health as well as see examples of good health at home and school. Marlene Schwartz, PhD, Co-Director, Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity, Yale University uses the following analogy:

"Rewarding children with unhealthy foods in school undermines our efforts to
(continued—see *Punishment* page 6)

S-DESE

PC Security Tip

Having an antivirus program installed and regularly updated is one of the most important things you can do to keep your home computer secure. Due to the cost of some popular programs, many people do not do this. If the cost of the popular retail antivirus applications scares you, here are several free alternatives you should investigate. Some of the more popular free solutions include:

Microsoft Security Essentials

- Free from Microsoft for home usage or small businesses with up to 10 PC's
- Available for genuine copies of Windows XP SP3, Vista, or 7
- Download or learn more at: http://www.microsoft.com/security_essentials/

AVG Free

- Free from AVG for home use
- Available for Windows XP, Vista, and 7 or Linux
- Download or learn more at: <http://free.avg.com>

Avast Free

- Free from Avast for home use
- Available for Windows 200 Pro, XP SP2 or higher, Vista (excluding Starter), and 7 or Linux
- Download or learn more at: <http://www.avast.com>

Sophos Anti-Virus for Mac Home Edition

- Free from Sophos for home use
- Available for OS 10.4, 10.5, 10.6, and 10.7
- Download or learn more at: <http://www.sophos.com/en-us/products/free-tools/sophos-antivirus-for-mac-home-edition.aspx>



Nathan Loudon
Technology
Director

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Punishment (continued from page 5)

teach them about good nutrition. It's like teaching children a lesson on the importance of not smoking, and then handing out ashtrays and lighters to the kids who did the best job listening." The US Department of Agriculture discusses additional consequences of using food as a reward on a regular basis as contributing to poor health, over consumption of unhealthy foods, poor eating habits overall, increased preference for sweets, poor health and ultimately decreased academic performance.

Next time your child does a good job try giving them a non-food reward that won't harm their health. Some ideas might include stickers, key chains, a special trip to the library, coloring books, extra play time, having a friend sleep over or a special adventure trip to the zoo to name a few.

S-DESE

The Great Chalk Draw!



Norb Goessling
Principal
Bright Elem.

The night before Parent/Teacher Conferences at Bright Elementary, many of the students came to show their appreciation for the teachers and staff. From 4-6pm the Bright Stars of Bright Elementary were encouraged to bring chalk and decorate the sidewalk outside the doors of the school. Each child used their imagination to show appreciation for their teachers. The next morning when the teachers arrived for a long day of conferences, they were welcomed with a wonderful and colorful canvas of how much they are appreciated!! Unfortunately, rain washed away the students' hard work, but lots of photographs captured the art! The effort by these kids was greatly appreciated and many of the teachers said seeing this made their day!

Bright Stars is a parent run, after school activity for students in the first through fourth grades. The idea is to increase positive activity in the school, encourage the kids to think of others, and get them involved in community service.

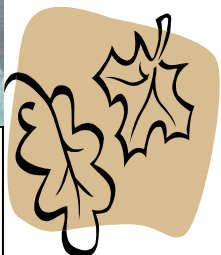


S-DIS News



Chris Vennemeier
Principal
S-D Int. School

Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School will hold its annual Veterans Day Program on Wednesday, November 9, 2011. There will be a breakfast from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. The program, honoring our local veterans, will begin at approximately 8:45. Everyone is welcome. If you wish to attend breakfast, please call by Friday, November 4th to make reservations. If you are a veteran, please be sure to check in when you arrive so you can be recognized for your service. We love our veterans!!!!



Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School would like to thank the many volunteers from Bright Christian Church that came out and volunteered their time to spruce up the campus. Several volunteers showed up on Saturday, October 29th to do landscaping. They cut down trees and overgrowing brush, worked on our nature trail, and cleaned up on the property. This is the second year for their service and it is greatly appreciated.

S-DESE

New Remediation Program at S-DMS



Lisa Baudendistel
Asst. Principal
S-D Mid. School

We are excited to inform you about a new remediation program at Sunman-Dearborn Middle School. The remediation program will target areas of concern for your child as determined by ISTEP testing and other information we have collected. As most of you are aware, the ISTEP test is a critical part of the middle school program. This test is used to measure the progress your child is making toward academic standards as determined by the state of Indiana.

In addition to ISTEP this year, all students will be taking Acuity assessments in Language Arts and Math four times this year. We will use this information, in conjunction with daily performance in the classroom, to gauge student progress and determine needs for additional assistance. Your child will participate in remediation for at least 6 weeks, but may be included in remediation for as long as a semester, depending on his or her individual needs.

Our remediation program will begin on Monday, October 31, 2011. Please be aware that participation in this program is critical to your child's success at Sunman-Dearborn Middle School. Your child may be required to make a schedule change in order to participate in remediation. If this is the case, you will be notified regarding any changes.

Our remediation program is two-fold. We have implemented a structured study hall for which we have hired a study hall monitor, Ms. Wagner. She will be working with teachers and students to ensure students make better use of their study hall time. In addition, she will implement technology in the study hall to assist students in remediation efforts. Only students in need of remediation will be required to participate. The second portion of our remediation program involves direct instruction in conjunction with technology to address achievement gaps for a smaller group of students. Mrs. Beck and Mrs. Bower will be implementing this program since they now have an extra period to work with students due to the hiring of a study hall monitor.

We want to thank our school board and Dr. Hendrix for making it possible for us to implement this wonderful opportunity for our students at Sunman-Dearborn Middle School.

More Middle School News

We welcome S-DMS Nurse, Jennifer Stutts and S-DMS Study Hall Monitor, Rebecca Wagner to our staff!!

S-DMS All-Star Band Concert will be held Saturday, November 19, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

S.M.I.L.E. (Students Making Individual Lives Extraordinary) is our anti-bullying program started at S-DMS. Students met on October 17, 2011. We reviewed positive messages that we could share with our student body. These were written up by students and displayed throughout the hallways at S-DMS. We will meet again on Monday, November 7 until 4:30 p.m. Any interested student is welcome to attend.

S-DESE

Athletic Department News



Don Stonefield
Athletic Director

All-Sport passes are still on sale in the Athletic Office.

Reminder to all winter athletes...sports physicals, athletic codes, and drug consents need to be turned in before you can participate.

We would like to send out Congratulations to the Boys Soccer Team for their 9th straight IHSAA Sectional Championship. Way to go!!!

Team EC did outstanding in the fall EIAC All Sports Trophy contest. If you are unfamiliar with what this is, the EIAC awards points to each sport in each school in the conference based upon their standings. It is broken down by boys sports, girls sports, and all sports.

1st place is awarded 12 points, 2nd place 10 points, 3rd place 8 points, 4th place 4 points, and 5th place 2 points.

Here are the results:

Boys Results:

East Central	42 pts.
(1 st Place: Football and Soccer, 2 nd Place: Cross Country, 3 rd Place: Tennis)	
Greensburg	32 pts.
Batesville	26 pts.
South Dearborn	26 pts.
Franklin County	24 pts.
Lawrenceburg	16 pts.

Girls Results:

Batesville	40 pts.
East Central	34 pts.
(1 st Place: Volleyball, 2 nd Place: Cross Country, 3 rd Place: Soccer, 4 th Place – Golf)	
Lawrenceburg	32 pts.
South Dearborn	22 pts.
Franklin County	20 pts.
Greensburg	20 pts.

All-Sports Results:

East Central	76 pts.
Batesville	66 pts.
Greensburg	52 pts.
South Dearborn	48 pts.
Lawrenceburg	48 pts.
Franklin County	44 pts.

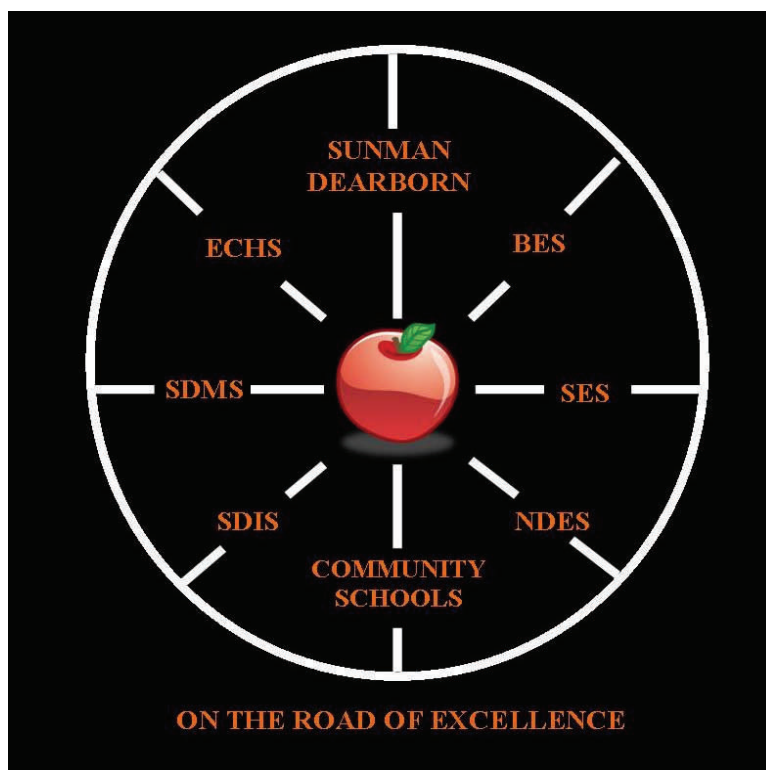
EIAC Team Champions: Football, Boys Soccer, and Volleyball

S-DeSe

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Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools*

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



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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 ·
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