

The S-DCS Column

A Newsletter for the Stakeholders of Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

Planning for the New Year

Continuous quality improvement will be a key initiative to continuing to move the Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools down the road of greatness. To help our district move forward, a committee of teachers and administrators are working together to develop a district-wide strategic plan for 2012 and beyond. In our efforts to become more transparent and accountable, this committee will be identifying target areas for growth and improvement, as well as develop action steps that will be implemented district-wide to meet those areas. The focus of this group will be to analyze components such as core beliefs, mission, vision, SMART goals, evidence-based strategies, and action plan monitoring. The group will utilize system-to-system talks and continuous improvement cycles as tools to move the strategic initiatives forward.

It is imperative for Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools to focus on accountability and results from the implementation of the plan. Too often, strategic planning becomes a process that develops written plans that become "shelf" documents. The focus becomes more on strategizing and philosophizing and not enough on implementing. As Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools move forward, it will be our intentions to develop our strategic plan that continues to use SMART goals, action plan monitoring, system-to-system talks, and continuous improvement (Plan, Do, Check and Improve--PDCI) cycles. We believe that this process will provide the map that will help us reach the next level of achievement.

In conclusion, the school board and administration truly appreciate the dedication, professionalism, and support of our staff, faculty, building administrators, parents, community and students as we embark on this journey that will challenge all of us to reach a vision to be the highest performing school district in the state of Indiana.

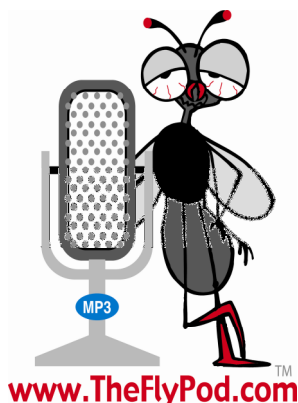
Dr. Jeff Hendrix



Dr. Jeff Hendrix
Superintendent

Volume 2, Issue 6
January 2012

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 Middle School Principal, Lisa Baudendistel.

Welcome Back from NDES

The first semester is over and it is time to start the second half of the school year. We are fresh off winter break, students and teachers return to school rejuvenated and excited to begin the second semester. It is hard to change old habits, but returning from breaks from school is the perfect time to develop new habits and leave behind those that are getting in the way of your goals. Create a study plan, develop a better system of organization, change behaviors that may have been getting in the way of doing your best or make efforts to get more sleep. Whatever it is that has been keeping you from your best, work to change it. Many people make New Year's resolutions and quickly forget or abandon them altogether. Make a commitment to yourself to make a New Year's resolution for school and keep it.

Best wishes for a successful second semester.



Jeff Bond
Principal
N. Dearborn Elem.

FCCLA Project Linus

By: Brenda Osman, ECHS FACS Teacher and FCCLA Sponsor

All staff members and their families are invited to help with Project Linus on Tuesday, January 17th from 3:30 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria at ECHS. All blankets and pillowcases made will stay in our immediate area so please donate your time and sewing talents either by cutting or tying blankets! Please RSVP to bosman@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us by Friday, January 13th, so that we have enough food available for the volunteers!

S-DESE

Healthy Habits Improve Student Learning



Cindy Morton
Principal
Sunman Elem.

As we begin a new calendar year, we generally take time to reflect on our past practices and our new goals or resolutions for the upcoming new year. Our school and staff work not only to implement quality academic learning opportunities, but we also wish to help students become life-long learners who optimize their health by making good choices. Several choices that can impact our efforts include immunizations, food choices, exercise, and sleep.

Immunizations - Immunization requirements for school age children change rather frequently. Each of our school nurses are well versed in the required immunizations. With parent permission, the immunization history of your child is also maintained by the state through CHIRPS. Health officials can access this database to ensure students are properly immunized and prepared for school. Parents still maintain the right to object to immunizations on religious or medical grounds, but this objection must be updated in

student records yearly. If you have questions regarding your child's immunization history, feel free to contact Nurse Mary Ann or Nurse Liane at extension 15910.

Food Choices - Our school corporation employs a registered dietician to ensure that the meals served at school contain the right amounts and components to maintain proper health. Serving and consuming a wide variety of fruits and vegetables is critical for optimal health. Sunman Elementary also provides exposure to new and different food products through our monthly 'Try It Tuesdays' and 'Fruit of the Month' in which students have sampled foods like baked sweet potato fries, turnips, star fruit and kiwi. Expanding the items in a child's diet help them gain the needed nutrients through their food. If you have questions about our school menu, feel free to contact Mandy Copenhaver, our registered dietician, at extension 13809.

Exercise - With childhood obesity at an all time high, getting children to move is very important. So many students now find their entertainment through a video gaming system instead of through creating outdoor games and activities. Even our sports are regimented through organized teams and practices. At Sunman Elementary, we battle the choice to be sedentary by offering physical education classes that capitalize on student interests. We do a yearly unit on roller-skating and have used 'Dance, Dance Revolution' to show students that being active in their daily lives is important and fun. If you have questions about our physical education activities, feel free to contact Miss Tyler, our physical education teacher at extension 15971.

Sleep - According to many studies, students need more sleep than many of them get each night. A lack of appropriate rest is one of the largest factors that negatively impacts student engagement that we face as educators. A lack of sleep can result in behavior problems, symptoms that mimic ADHD, and lack of concentration in school. While your pediatrician is the best source for determining the amount of sleep your child needs, there are many reputable websites that can advise you based on your child's age and some general needs.

This new year, let's all resolve to slow down a bit and pay attention to helping our children develop healthy habits that impact their learning. Reducing our own stress is one of the best examples we can set for our children. Best wishes to you in this new calendar year!

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A note from S-DMS:



Lisa Baudendistel
Principal
S-D Mid. School

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school board, administration, and community for the opportunity to serve as the new principal at Sunman-Dearborn Middle School. I am so excited about this leadership opportunity. S-DMS is a wonderful learning community for our students. I am greatly blessed to have the chance to lead our staff and students and to work with our community to create optimum educational opportunities at S-DMS. It is my goal to serve our students, families, and community by participating in events and activities which extend beyond the daily management of the building.

It is important for parents and the school to have a strong venue of communication. The transition from intermediate school to middle school is a significant time for students and their families. Therefore, communication with parents is a critical component for student success. During the next few months, I will be establishing a parent group at S-DMS. The purpose of the group is to be a communication bridge between the school and all parents. I am very excited to enhance parent involvement and communication at S-DMS. Please join me in this venture for our students.

Anyone interested in becoming active with our S-DMS Parent Group, please contact Mrs. Baudendistel at 812-576-3500, Extension 12902.

Traveling Art Exhibit at S-DIS



The art work we are displaying at the Intermediate School is from Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519), the Italian Renaissance Man. Da Vinci was considered a genius in art, science, and engineering. His painting of **THE LAST SUPPER** is the most copied painting in the world, and the world has forever accepted his image of Jesus Christ as the way Jesus looked. The Mona Lisa will be a mystery to all until the end of time. He took on so many projects in his areas of study that most were never completed. Because of his diversity he is known as the original Renaissance man.

Students are being exposed to these famous artists in the hope that some will continue their interest and further their studies with famous artists. After our Monet study, many students followed up with online exploration and did the virtual tour of the Monet Gardens. We shall see how they follow Da Vinci.

The Frog Prince comes to Bright Elementary

The Bright PTO sponsored the Cincinnati Children's Theater in showing the production of The Frog Prince to all grades. Below is a picture of the fourth grade class with the cast and also a picture of a scene from the play.



East Central Cafeteria gets a facelift



Mandy Copenhaver
Food Service
Director

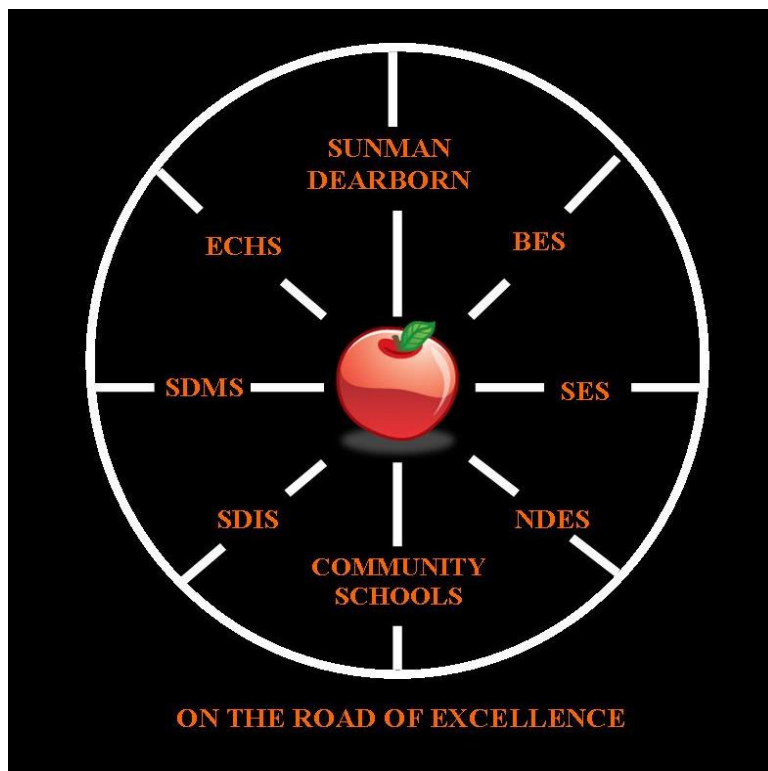
In the next few weeks, ECHS students and staff will notice that the cafeteria is a bit brighter and more welcoming than normal. The Food Service Department worked with ECHS junior, AJ Waltz, to design new signs for the lines in the cafeteria. Originally, we researched the possibility of using an outside design company as well as other architect companies, but soon realized that collaborating with AJ and Waltz Photography was the way to go. We also used a local company to print the signs to help save cost. AJ is a very talented photographer and designer who photographed various foods and designed 6 signs to dictate what each serving line in the cafeteria is, such as the International Line or the Home-style Line. The goal of the Food Service Department is to create an environment in the ECHS cafeteria that is less institutional, get the students excited about eating there, educate the students about healthy eating habits and provide clear communication to the students. These new signs will help us move closer to reaching this goal. If you are at ECHS over the next few weeks, take a minute to look around and admire the work of this talented, young designer!

S-DESE

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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

