

The S-DCS Column

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE STAKEHOLDERS OF SUNMAN-DEARBORN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

VOTE FOR SUNMAN-DEARBORN SCHOOLS!

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Every four years our country elects the President of the United States. The candidates who are running for this esteemed office spend millions of dollars on campaign ads and slogans emphasizing their vision for the future. The catchphrases of "Forward" and "Believe in America" are posted behind the candidates during speeches, on websites, on television, and on mailers. Each of these candidates is focused on trying to convince the American voter that they should be the candidate of choice for the position of President of the United States. In comparison to a presidential race, public education today is also in a competition.

As we all know, the Presidential race comes down to making a choice. The public selects who they think will be the best candidate to serve our nation for the next four years. In many ways, public schools are also trying to convince the public that there is a clear choice in "who" should be educating our children. From a local perspective, I want to make a case as to why Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools is the best place to send your student to get a great education. It begins with our vision and mission for our school corporation.

Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools has a clear vision for our school corporation:

We will become the highest

performing school corporation in southeast Indiana by June 2015, and one of the 10 highest performing districts in the state of Indiana by June 2017.

Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools' mission focuses on helping students develop in the areas of:

Literacy skills (reading, writing, communicating confidently)

Mastery of state and national standards

Character, responsibility, teamwork, the importance of regular attendance, goal-directedness, and service to community

High graduation rates and post-secondary success

With our vision and mission focused on student learning, any campaign would need to share the results of the work being accomplished. Here is just a sampling of some of the accomplishments from our schools:

1. Sunman-Dearborn Community School's students had the highest gains on the Indiana Statewide Test for Educational Progress (ISTEP+) during the 2011-2012 school year. Overall, our students received a passing score of 85.8% on the English/Language Arts proficiency, a passing score of 89.0% on the Math proficiency and 81.8% on passing both the

English/Language Arts and Math proficiencies.

2. East Central High School offers students the choice of four graduation diplomas that include the General Diploma (opt out), the Core 40 Diploma, the Core 40 Technical Honors Diploma, and the Core 40 Academic Honors Diploma. East Central High School also provides students opportunities to earn college credits with the Advanced Placement (AP) program and Dual Credit Courses. East Central currently provides students with 14 AP courses and 14 Dual Credit courses. The success of our educational program at ECHS is reflected in our 2012 results: 92.4% of our students graduated from East Central High School with 77.2% of those students earning a Core 40 or higher diploma. We also have 83.5% of those graduating seniors who will further their education at a vocational/technical school, college, or university.

(Continued on page 2 "Vote")

VOTE *(Continued from page 1)*

3. Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools has established a strong extracurricular program for our students. Over 50% of our East Central High School students participate in more than 35 different academic teams and extracurricular clubs. Nearly one-third of the student body participates in one or more of the ten different sports offered throughout the school

year. Furthermore, our focus is on developing student-athletes first. Our students who participate in our athletic programs have a grade point average of 3.14 on a 4.0 scale. Team GPAs range from 2.83 to 3.65.

Like any candidate running for office, the claim that's always made is that there is a clear choice. I would state the same point when it is time to select a

school that best fits the needs of students, but more importantly, helps students reach high levels of academic success. It should be obvious that the best choice for a student to get a great education is Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools.

In closing, I would ask that you research our schools, come for a visit, and then you will also make the same choice that nearly 4000 families have

made this year, and that is for your children to attend Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools.

Dr. Jeff Hendrix
Superintendent

BES CONTRIBUTES TO SCHOOL CULTURE

BES full day kindergarten staff really contributed to school culture last month when they celebrated Johnny Appleseed's birthday.

They were highly effective in collaborating the activities of the day to share knowledge and took a risk as they dressed up like Johnny.

The lesson never disengaged their students and led to a higher level of understanding. That higher level was evident when the kindergarten

students dissected their apples at lunch the next day and told me how they were taking the seeds home to grow more apple trees.

Full day Kindergarten has been a wonderful addition to our school.

Mr. Goessling
Bright Elementary
Principal



NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

October 15-19 is National School Lunch Week. Did you know that the National School Lunch Program (NLSP) serves over 31 million children across the country everyday? Our district alone serves over 3,000 lunches each day.

School meals have gotten a bad rap over the years, but school meals are healthier than you might remember as a child. Here are a few facts you might not know:

- Fresh fruits and veggies are offered daily in all schools
- At least half of all grains served are whole grain rich
- Our lunches have 0g of trans fat and less than 10% saturated fat
- Low fat and fat free dairy is offered daily
- All foods are baked and never fried

Recent research has shown that students who eat school meals perform their best

academically. Additionally, healthy eating correlates to fewer trips to the school nurse and less absenteeism.

Finally, the American Journal of Public Health found that children who eat lunch at school are more likely to consume milk, fruit and veggies and less likely to consume daily desserts and snacks compared to children who bring lunch from home. Encourage your child to help us celebrate National School Lunch Week on October 15

and 16 by purchasing lunch at school those days.

Mrs. Copenhaver
Director of Food and
Nutrition Services

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

S-DMS students kicked off October with our first pep session where we celebrated the talents of our many students. Recognition and celebration was highlighted for academic team, art contestant winners, and athletics. The pep session on October 2 was filled with fun and competition between students and staff. We followed up our pep session with a Pack the House night where students will enjoy more games and fun. Pack the House events are free of charge, but students may bring extra money to buy hotdogs, chips, or drinks. Cost for the game after our October

Pack the House was \$3.00. We are also having a Pack the House night in November where students will enjoy music with a live disc jockey and the game following.

SDMS picture re-takes will occur on October 24 for parents who would like a second shot at that perfect school picture. We will also be hosting our first parent advisory meeting in October. It is not too late to be involved. I appreciate the many parents and teachers who have expressed an interest in working with this group.

Teachers are busy learning the

new Teacher Web 4 grade system. Good news to parents! With this new system you will be able to view grades as soon as they are entered by teachers. We encourage SDMS parents to visit parent connect or our teachers' websites. These are tools that can inform you about your child's day-to-day activities at school. Your support and strong communication are critical to your child's success.

We will be launching our SDMS news show during the month of October. We had hoped to have our annual debut sooner, but technical issues did

arise. Ask your journalism student or SDMS student about our new program. Also, look for your monthly parent newsletter. We send them home with students the 1st week of the month. Our newsletter is written by our journalism class. Parents and community members may also view the SDMS newsletter on our website.

Mrs. Baudendistel
Middle School Principal

WE'RE A LIL' BIT COUNTRY

Fifth and sixth grade students at Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School just finished square dancing in Ms. Elise Smith's physical education class. Sixth grade students danced to "God Bless America" while fifth grade danced to "I Wrote a Song". Students were able to put over 15 calls (directions) to music.

The students and staff were allowed to dress "western" the last week of square dancing. Students demonstrate their competency in motor skills and movement patterns to their teachers who came down to dance with them. Western week was also highlighted in the library with a book display. In art class, the students were

creating sunset, western paintings.

The cafeteria got in on the action with lunches that had a western flare. Fun was had by all.

Two sixth grade classes will be performing the square dance God Bless America at the Veteran's Day Program on Thurs-

day, November 8th at SDIS.

Here is Mrs. Daugherty and Mrs. Hameye with their classes.

Mrs. Vennemeier
Intermediate School Principal



CAPTAIN ANGLIN RETURNS TO NORTH DEARBORN

Last year Mrs. Heller's class was visited by Air Force Reserve Captain Tim Anglin. Captain Anglin brought his Air Force Hummer to school and allowed the students to tour the vehicle and even sit in the convoy area where soldiers and equipment are transported. Captain Anglin was deployed to Qatar, where he served our country as the chief of maintenance at the Pyramid Battlespace Command and Control Center. Throughout the year the students in the class wrote letters to their overseas pen pal, Captain Anglin, and he wrote back telling the class stories of his experiences. On December 18th, 2011, the day the planes departed Iraq, a flag was flown for North Dearborn Elementary School by the men and women of the 71st Expeditionary Air Control Squadron. This past month Captain Anglin returned to North Dearborn to present the school with the flag that was flown for us. He spent the morning talking with his pen pals and presented the flag to Mrs. Heller. The flag will be displayed in Mrs. Heller's room for the remainder of this year.



Mr. Bond
North Dearborn Elem. Principal

"SCHOOL FOR LIFE"



The general public holds an expectation for schools to teach children to read, write, calculate, understand their citizenship and history, and most importantly, be able to solve problems with the skills they gain in schools. The challenge for teachers can be to motivate children and create a desire for learning.

At Sunman Elementary, we strive to fulfill our mission which follows: "Sunman Elementary School, in partnership with its stakeholders, seeks to instill in its students high standards for academic scholarship, integrity, leadership, and responsible citizenship." This means we go beyond the surface of public education to share a desire for life-long learning in all content areas as well as fine arts.

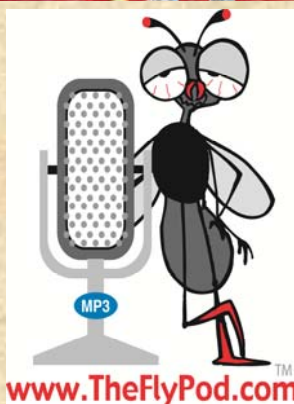
This month, we feature our physical education class taught by Miss Lisa Tyler. Miss Tyler uses student interests to motivate our children to live an active lifestyle. The physical education classes are participating in roller skating during the month of October. In addition to the cardiovascular exercise created in this activity, Miss Tyler ensures we focus on safety as well. Students wear protective equipment and are taught the safe ways to fall as well as 'rules of the road'.

We are thankful for parent volunteers that assist Miss Tyler in this roller skating adventure. Parents assist with preparing equipment and helping students in and out of the equipment so that they can maximize their physical education time with high energy fun!

Mrs. Morton
Sunman Elementary Principal

“ T H A N K Y O U ” F R O M T H E E C D A N C E R S

A huge thanks to all that came out and supported our EC Dancers at the Harlem Wizards game!! We are so excited about the turn out!! The principals/ assistant principals and teachers and community leaders were all so totally awesome. We all saw them in a whole completely different light!! Especially with the pigtails, afros, hugging the ball and canes!! It was so much fun, and we appreciate your support!!



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

Topics discussed on the last several SuperChats include the Corporations new Strategic Plan, a discussion with other area Superintendents, and the most recent SuperChat featuring school budget, the role of a school board member, and 1:1 computing.

L O S T B U T N O T F O R G O T T E N

COME SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!!

Jacob Amberger Benefit

Where: Willie's Sports Bar/Restaurant

Hidden Valley Lake

19325 Schmarr Dr., L'burg, IN

812-537-0512

When: Friday, November 16, 2012

7 PM - 11 PM

Donation: \$5/student, \$10/adult

Door Prizes and Split the Pot

Food and drink available for purchase

You can also make a donation at any United Community Bank branch for the Amberger family.

From all of Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools, thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of Jacob Amberger during this unfortunate time. Jacob, you will be missed.

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Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools

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The mission of S-DCS is to develop, for all students:

- Literacy skills (reading, writing, communicating confidently)
- Mastery of state and national standards
- Character, responsibility, teamwork, the importance of regular attendance, goal-directedness, and service to community
- High graduation rates and post-secondary success

We are on the web at
www.sunmandearborn.k12.in.us



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