



# The Valley Voice

A publication of the USPA developed by parents and staff to provide information of interest and import to US families

## Welcome to new Head of School Steve Murray!

### Future Dates to Note

#### Monday, August 29

- Fall Parents Reception, 7:00 p.m., Conway Hall, Shaker Campus, Author Ned Hallowell, Keynote Speaker

#### Wednesday, August 31

- New Student Orientation
- 9th Grade/New Parents Orientation & Welcome Coffee, Callow Room, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
- Blue Blazer Sale, Lower Commons, 9:00 a.m. – Noon
- Prep Shop Open from 9:00 a.m. – Noon

#### Thursday, September 1

- First Day of Classes
- 10th Grade Parents Welcome Back Coffee, Smythe Pavilion, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

#### Friday, September 2

- 11th & 12th Grade Parents Welcome Back Coffee, Smythe Pavilion, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

#### Monday, September 5

- Labor Day – No Classes

#### Wednesday, September 7

- School Picture Day – White Shirt, School Tie, Blue Blazer
- USPA General Meeting, 7:15 p.m., “State of the School,” Doug Lagarde & Steve Murray, Stouffer Dining Hall

#### Saturday, September 10

- New! 9th & 10th Grade Mixer, 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, September 14

- School Photo Makeups

#### Thursday, September 22

- Parent Open House for Grades 9 – 12, 6:45 p.m.

#### Friday, September 23

- Founders’ Day - Boys dismissed at 2:00 p.m.

#### Saturday, September 24

- 116th Homecoming/Fall Festival, Noon, Smythe Pavilion & Athletic Fields
- Homecoming Dance, 8:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Check [www.us.edu](http://www.us.edu) for a complete calendar

### The “New and Improved” Valley Voice

Welcome to the new and improved *Valley Voice*, the Upper School newsletter of the University School Parents’ Association (USPA). Look for the newsletter in your mail every month through February, and every other month thereafter.

This year we are trying to format *The Valley Voice* so that you can easily find the information that you most need. The left column of the front page will always have the important dates for the entire Hunting Valley campus that month. Inside you will see individual class boxes with information of interest only to that class. We

strongly encourage you to visit the intranet website <http://upper.us.edu> for daily information.

We will be limiting the amount of flyers sent with *The Valley Voice* mailings, along with discontinuing printing of the calendar. All the information and more is always available on the website at <http://upper.us.edu>. You will also note that we will be writing primarily about upcoming events or items of interest, rather than reporting on school activities after the fact.

We welcome your questions and comments; the editors are listed on the back of each issue.

### The USPA

The USPA offers a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents, stay informed about issues and events at US, and support students and the school. General USPA meetings take place throughout the year, alternating morning and evening times, and are open to all parents. Meetings feature guest speakers, often students, addressing a topic of interest to Upper School parents, a brief business review, and an informative update from Doug Lagarde, the Assistant Headmaster and

Head of the Hunting Valley campus, and Margaret Mason, the Dean of Students. Dates of all USPA-sponsored events, activities and meetings are listed on the USPA calendar in the US Directory as well as on the US intranet web site, <http://upper.us.edu>. A list of all chairpersons is included in the US Directory as well. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the USPA events or have questions about an activity, simply call or e-mail the chairperson of that event or Dale R. Naylor, President of the USPA.

## Senior Section

*This box will appear in every issue of the Valley Voice to keep senior parents up to date.*

### Meetings:

**Friday, September 2:** 11th & 12th Grade Parents' Welcome Back Coffee, Smythe Pavilion, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, September 13:** Senior Parent Night, 7:00 p.m., Wean Library. General information and question-and-answer session with college counselors focusing on the senior-year college application process. (Evening is for parents only.)

### College Visits:

Due to the complexity of scheduling visits, the College Guidance Office recommends checking the website, <http://upper.us.edu>, for a comprehensive, up-to-date schedule.

### USPA-Sponsored Events:

Picnic, date to be announced.

### FYI:

Seniors do **not** have Tuesday, October 11 off.

Senior Service Day - Wednesday, October 12

## Parents Aware Communicating Together

**P**ACT is a volunteer committee of parents from the CCIS schools that focuses on fostering a safe, healthy and chemical-free environment for students. PACT publishes the Common Sense Courier two to three times a year, providing parents with articles and resources to guide them. PACT also is developing a website for resource sharing that will give parents access to "The Road Map for Parents and Teens."

The US Upper School has two PACT representatives: Ann Sords, who can be reached at 440.247.2026 or [annsords@aol.com](mailto:annsords@aol.com), and Michael Sreshta, who can be reached at 440.498.7171 or [michaelsreshta@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelsreshta@hotmail.com). Please contact them if you have any questions, if you would like to receive e-mail updates regarding programming, or if you would like to become involved with PACT.

## Information Resources at US

**U**niversity School provides a number of information resources for parents. The US Directory, which is provided to every family and lists administrators, faculty, USPA officers, chairpersons and calendar for the year, student and family names, phone numbers and addresses, will be mailed to parents before school starts. Toward the back of the directory is the Upper School Handbook. This section delineates useful information such as whom to call for information, the academic program, interscholastic teams and related athletic information, dress codes, driving and parking procedures and much more. Students are also given a copy of the Upper School Handbook, without directory, in their mailboxes the first week of school.

The Upper School Handbook can answer almost any question regarding procedure and policy, however, parents may find that becoming familiar with the US website affords them the opportunity to become apprised of what is actu-

ally going on in the Upper School. Remember that there is the [www.us.edu](http://www.us.edu), US's public website that contains general information as well as athletic schedules and directions to games. Colleges that will be visiting the school are also updated and announced through this site. The site that contains specific information for parents is <http://upper.us.edu>. Visit this site for a wealth of information including school events and daily announcements.

Upper School Receptionist Janice Kalman manages the Upper School information desk and can also be relied upon as a source of information for parents and students alike. She can be reached at 216.831.2200. Please note that when the switchboard is closed, should you need to contact your son on an urgent matter and are unable to reach him by pager or cell phone, the best way to get a message to him is to call 216.831.1984 extension 334 or 332. This bypasses the switchboard and rings in the Athletic Office.

## Junior Section

*This box will appear in every issue of the Valley Voice to keep junior parents up to date.*

### Friday September 2

11th & 12th Grade Parents Welcome Back Coffee, Smythe Pavilion, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

## Founders' Day

**F**ounders' Day will be Friday, September 23. US students gather for a day of fun, camaraderie and friendly competition between Houses. Middle School boys join their Upper School housemates at the Hunting Valley campus for games such as battle ball, tug-of-war, capture the flag, earth ball relay, and soccer, and a picnic lunch together. The day culminates with an awards presentation.

Founders' Day, an annual event since 1995, takes place during normal school hours. The boys will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m., but normal bus schedules will be observed. Boys should wear their house t-shirt and comfortable pants or shorts. Extra house shirts are available and can be charged to your account. Contact Debbie Linich if you need a new house shirt.

## School Photographs

**S**chool photo day is Wednesday, September 7. All students are required to be photographed; however, parents are not obligated to purchase a photo package. Photos are used by the school for student IDs, composites for each class, etc. Parents will receive Life Touch Studios information and a payment envelope in the school's summer mailing. Payment must be made on September 7 when the boys are photographed. Students should wear white shirts with their school tie (not their house tie) and their usual khaki slacks and blue blazer. The make-up photo session will be Wednesday, September 14 and retakes will be scheduled after receiving the photo packets.

## Freshman Section

*This box will appear in every issue of the Valley Voice to keep freshman parents up to date.*

### Wednesday, August 31

9th Grade/New Parents Orientation & Welcome Coffee, Callow Room, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

### Saturday, September 10

New Event! 9th & 10th Grader Mixer 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. at U.S., tickets \$5.00

## Your Contributions to US Increase Opportunity for Our Sons

**U**S works hard to assure that the quality of education continues to be the best. Maintaining a gifted faculty and programs to apply skills in advanced learning environments are remarkable gains the School has made for excellence and distinction. Tuition and fees cover only 75 percent of the cost of educating a student at US. Making a gift to US through the Annual Fund is one of the primary means to bridge the gap between tuition and the actual cost of educating a student.

Upon receiving your Annual Fund brochure this fall, please return the reply envelope as soon as possible and tell us your gift intentions. Please inform us of gifts pledged to be paid at a later date, gifts of stock to be made in a particular month, and if there will be a matching gift from your

company or board affiliation. You may also designate your gift to support a particular program. A gift can be made online at [www.us.edu](http://www.us.edu) or by filling out the credit card area on your reply envelope.

The School's goals will not be achieved without the Annual Fund campaign and the dedication exhibited by our hardworking volunteers. University School has always promoted that every family make a gift, regardless of the amount, affirming the good work the School does for our sons. So when your class parent volunteer contacts you during this campaign, please continue to be involved and support US.

*Annual Fund Parent Committee*

## Sophomore Section

*This box will appear in every issue of the Valley Voice to keep sophomore parents up to date.*

### Thursday, September 1

10th Grade Parents Welcome Back Coffee, Smythe Pavilion, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

### Saturday, September 10

New Event! 9th & 10th Grader Mixer – 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. at U.S., tickets \$5.00

## CCIS Driver's Education Classes

Ohio law requires driver license applicants under the age of 18 to have completed driver education consisting of 24 hours of classroom instruction and eight hours of driving. The Overbeke School of Driving is offering these required classes to CCIS students preparing to take their Ohio Driver License Test. Fall classes have tentatively been scheduled for Saturday, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and No-

vember 5 at Hathaway Brown School. All classes will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 1:00 p.m. In addition to classroom training, the course includes eight hours of behind-the-wheel instruction, which can be individually scheduled.

Students must be 15 years and 5 months old by October 1 to be eligible to take this course. Freshman and sophomores will be receiving information

from Overbeke in early fall. To register, contact the Overbeke School of Driving at 216.765.0600. The fee for the course is \$325.

Other driving schools in the area also offer teen driving classes. These include Beachwood Driving School, Heights Driving School, Master Drive of Ohio, Drive Team, and Country Driving School.

## Blazer Bargains

As summer ends, another school year begins and those blazer sleeves are suddenly too short. To help us get in sync for the required school look at a more affordable price, there will be a collection and sale of gently used blazers, shirts and ties. The sale will be held at the Hunting Valley campus in the Lower Commons from 9 a.m. until noon on Wednesday, August 31.

Clean blazers, shirts and U.S. ties can be dropped off with Jeff Starrett in the Alumni Office at the rear of the cafeteria, Mondays through Thursdays, during the month of August, and up through the morning of Wednesday, August 31. These gently used items will be available for purchase for a nominal, tax-deductible charge of \$30 (blazers). Please also consider donating eighth grade white slacks at the

same time for inclusion in the spring sale at the Shaker Campus.

All proceeds from the Blazer Bargain sales benefit the USPA. If you have any questions or would be interested in helping the day of the sale, please contact Elizabeth Stover Starrett at home 440.893.0288, or work 216.831.9310 or [elizabethstarrett@howardhanna.com](mailto:elizabethstarrett@howardhanna.com).

## Homecoming

Join us at the 116th University School Homecoming on Saturday, September 24, at the Hunting Valley campus. Festivities kick off at noon with the Family Fall Festival and Homecoming Picnic. Inflatable rock walls, magicians, jugglers, the Euclid Beach Rocket Car, the USPA Prep Shop, the US Jazz Band and a buffet of hot-dogs, fruit, pasta, apple cider and the ubiquitous

"Prepper Chili" are just a few of the things happening at Homecoming. If you can volunteer at any time, please contact Donna Vadnais, Homecoming Coordinator at 440.543.0447 or [donna.vadnais@adelphia.net](mailto:donna.vadnais@adelphia.net).

Later in the evening, the Homecoming Dance will be held at the Upper School from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. Please note that this is a date only dance.

## The Prep Shop

The Prep Shop is restocked with several new items and ready to welcome US fans back for another exciting year. Besides carrying the boys' favorite US items such as mesh shorts, Under-Armour, individual sports hats, t-shirts and hooded sweatshirts, the Prep Shop has several varieties of jackets for both moms and dads to wear in Cleveland's variable weather. Girls' shorts, fitted t-shirts and ribbon belts are currently available. Don't forget the US sticker for the exterior of your car!

The Prep Shop will be open every day during both lunch periods. We will also set up smaller displays during New Student Orientation on August 31, Homecoming on September 24, Parents Night on September 22 and during several home athletic events. The Prep Shop is also online at the US website: [www.us.edu](http://www.us.edu). We are always willing to take special orders. If you don't see a specific size or want something unique, please let us know.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kelly Biggar at 440.442.9866 or [biggarrmb@adelphia.net](mailto:biggarrmb@adelphia.net), or Olivia Demas at 330.659.3001 or [oliviapd@aol.com](mailto:oliviapd@aol.com). It is a great way to get involved with the school during school hours!

### The Valley Voice

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