Heard in “The Valley”

Did you hear the rumor? Is it true?

Rumor has it someone in the valley said, “Being suitably dressed, clean shaven, and appropriately shorn for school is an outward expression of his inward respect for what the school values and expects.” Was that said at the State of the School address to the USPA on September 6? Were you there? What does it mean?

- According to the rumor, it means the dress code will be tightly enforced. So, shirts have to be tucked, hair neat and trimmed, shoes appropriate and tied, and belts through those belt loops? Confirmed. That rumor is absolutely true.

- Did you hear that blue blazers and ties have to be worn all day long? No way?! Not to worry. No truth to that one.

- Speaking of “blue,” rumor has it the boys’ shirts may be any shade of blue. Really? True enough. Shirts from pastel blue to navy blue are acceptable.

Is it true the boys may no longer drive from the front of the school to the back fields for sports practices? Well, another true statement. The boys actually have to walk that quarter of a mile to the athletic fields while their cars remain parked in the student lot up front.

What’s with those electronic bulletin boards and this puzzle of the day thing? Is it true the new head of Hunting Valley uses this to spy on the boys? False. False. False. The puzzle-of-the-day is a great way to get face time with the new head. It helps him get to know our boys and helps them get to know him. Come up with the solution and you might walk away with gummy worms!

Rumor has it we’re going to say what we do and do what we say. Whether that be the dress code, sports, intellectual development...

Speak Your Voice!

The editors of the Valley Voice would like to remind you to speak your voice in connection with the strategic planning process currently being undertaken by the school. By now you should have received a letter from Steve Murray outlining the strategic planning process. The town hall-type meetings of which Mr. Murray spoke in his letter will take place on October 11 at 7 p.m. at Hunting Valley (upstairs in the Wean Library) and October 12 at 8:15 a.m. at Shaker (in the Barry Gallery in Conway Hall). These are superb opportunities to share your thoughts and have valuable input into the process. Please feel free to attend either meeting. Later in the fall, a survey will be sent to all US families to gather more information for the strategic planning process. You may also write or email Dale Naylor (drnay56@aol.com), parent and member of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, or Steve Murray, to share your thoughts. Share your dreams for the future of US! Share your beliefs as to what constitutes a great education! Share your ideas about what makes for a great educational setting for your son! The Strategic Planning Steering Committee needs your input to set the directives and formulate the specific goals for US for the coming years, so share your voice!
Senior Section

Saturday, October 7
SAT 1 and SAT 11 - 8:30 a.m. at Hunting Valley

Tuesday, October 10
Order class rings 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 11
Senior Service Day

Wednesday, October 18
Seniors work on college applications - no school

January 12, 2007
Mark your calendar - 12th grade coffee

24/7
Go to http://upper.us.edu and check the college guidance site for college admissions visits to the campus and for the college counseling calendar.

Bon Appetit and Break A Leg

Mark your calendar now for the International Dinner to be held Friday, November 10 at 6:15 p.m. in the Stouffer Dining Hall. More details and an RSVP form will be included with the next issue of the Valley Voice. The dinner will precede Friday’s 8 p.m. performance of the fall play, Magic Time, a very engaging backstage comedy about a troupe of actors as they prepare to give their last performance of Hamlet at a summer theatre in Chicago. There will also be a Saturday performance at 8 p.m.

Hear Ye Hear Ye

The 2005-06 edition of the Mabian is due to arrive the end of October. Dr. Jonathan Briggs is the faculty advisor, and this year’s co-editors in chief are Benny Pinkas and Eric Walk. Students will be informed when the Mabian has arrived. Those students who have preordered, and those who did not but would like a copy, may see Dr. Briggs. The cost is $80 per yearbook; checks should be made payable to University School.

Everyone should have received via mail your order forms for the 2006-2007 edition of the Mabian. Parents of seniors are encouraged to begin to sort through photos now, as they will need to be collected for the senior pages before winter break. Only digital photos for senior pages will be used beginning this year, but the yearbook staff will still work with print photos on advertisements from parents and guardians. As a reminder, the yearbook staff cannot guarantee that the photos will be returned so copies might be better, especially of photos of sentimental value.

Donations of digital photographs are welcome! Sports photos and action and candid shots are particularly good to have in extra supply. Dr. Briggs may be contacted at jbriggs@us.edu.

Celebrate US

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 28 when we will hold a celebration of the entire US community past, present, and future. Back by popular demand, the format will be based on the October 2004 benefit at the Hunting Valley campus. We’ll have a live auction with a few really great items and a restaurant row and taste around. We’ll also have a silent auction and entertainment, both featuring the talents of students, faculty and staff. Proceeds from the event will benefit the University School Professional Development Fund that provides our faculty and staff with grants to further their education and experience.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact co-chairs Clare Paquelet (cmpaquelet@aol.com) or Noelle Fazio (flognf@aol.com).

Class Rings for Juniors and Seniors

University School class rings will be made available to junior and senior classmates in time for the holidays. There will an opportunity on Tuesday, October 10 for your son to have the Josten’s rep measure for a class ring. A flyer will be placed in your son’s mailbox and announcement made at morning assembly as a reminder to your son. If you would like to order a ring for your son and have not seen the aforementioned flyer and not heard anything from your son, call Ms. Janice Kalman at 216-831-2200.

Junior Section

Sunday, October 1
Deadline to sign up for a second session of SAT preparation classes, which will meet between Oct. 15 and Nov. 29 on Wed. or Sun. Contact Noelle Whitehouse at 440-247-8300 or noellect@adelphia.net to register for the second session of SAT preparation classes or to schedule individual tutoring.

Wednesday, October 11
PSAT preparation day - practice tests will be taken, dismissal at approximately noon.

Tuesday, October 10
Order class rings 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 18
PSAT Testing Day – dismissal at noon

January 10, 2007
Mark your calendar - 11th grade coffee

24/7
Go to http://upper.us.edu and check the college guidance site for the college counseling calendar.

The International Dinner provides a unique opportunity to share an evening with other US families while sampling delectable dishes from America and around the world. All US families (grades 8-12) and faculty are invited. Each family is asked to bring a delicious homemade dish to share. If you would like to volunteer for set up and clean up or if you have any questions, contact co-chairs Clare Paquelet (cmpaquelet@aol.com) or Noelle Fazio (flognf@aol.com).

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Getting a Temporary License for Your 15 1/2 Year Old

Six months to the day before your son’s 16th birthday he may get a temporary license. Getting this license can be very frustrating if you do not know the ropes. The ropes are explained on these DMV website sites:

http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/driver_license/first_dl_exam.htm
http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/driver_license/first_license.htm
http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/driver_license/gdl.htm

The shorthand of this process is:

1) Go to the Deputy Registrar any time before your son turns 15 1/2 and pick up a booklet for your son to study the “Rules of the Road”.

2) When your son is 15 1/2 (to the day or later), take your son, his certified birth certificate, his social security card, and a check to the Deputy Registrar. You will also need two types of I.D. as guardian or parent. See the website for document specifics and locations. You will receive (after a few hours) a photo temporary license and a packet.

3) Go to the Examination Testing Station for him to take the written and vision tests. If he passes the tests, the fun begins!! You get to be the passenger in a car with someone who thinks they know everything about driving. Parenting has never been this much fun.

Within these six months your son needs to log 50 hours of driving with you and attend and pass an Ohio DMV-sanctioned driver’s education class (e.g., Overbeke Driving School). Keep the packet in a safe place; he will need to present it to obtain his permanent license. Also don’t forget to call your insurance company to add your son to the policy when he gets his permanent license.

Testing, Testing, 1, 2, 3 Note - Dates Have Changed

Another inevitable aspect of the beginning of school is the beginning of testing. Testing dates are Wednesday, October 11 and Wednesday, October 18. Please review which tests your son(s) will be taking and please note the early dismissal times.

Freshman will take the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test on Wednesday, October 18 (dismissal at noon). This test measures a student’s ability in school. Results will be available in early December. If you wish, contact Mrs. Margaret Mason (mmason@us.edu) to schedule a time to review your son’s results. Your sons will also take a practice Ohio Graduation Test which will not be formally administered until their sophomore year.

Sophomores will review in English and Math classes for the PSAT on Wednesday, October 11 and on Wednesday, October 18 they will take the actual PSAT. The boys will receive feedback on their performance. Boys may use calculators on the math section of the PSAT. Please note a noon dismissal on both Wednesday, October 11 and Wednesday, October 18.

Juniors will prep for the PSAT by taking a practice test on Wednesday, October 11. The PSAT serves as the National Merit Scholarship qualifying test for juniors only. Juniors will take the actual PSAT on Wednesday, October 18. Please note a noon dismissal for each of these test days.

Seniors have Wednesday, October 18 off to work on college essays and other aspects of the college application process. Saturday, October 7 SAT I & II will be administered at the Hunting Valley campus. Registration is required and can be made at www.collegeboard.com.

An SAT prep class is being offered at the Hunting Valley campus by Townsend Learning Center. Contact Noelle Whitehouse at 440-247-8300 or noellect@adelphia.net to register for the second session of SAT preparation classes or to schedule individual tutoring.

If you have any questions please call Mrs. Mason, Dean of Students at 216-831-2200 ext. 7355 or email mmason@us.edu.

Sophomore Section

Wednesday, October 11
PSAT test prep day – practice tests will be taken, dismissal at noon

Wednesday, October 18
Testing Day – dismissal at noon

Mark your calendars for:
Saturday, November 18 – conference day
Monday, January 8 at 8:30 a.m. for Sophomore Parent Coffee

Freshman Section

EARLY DISMISSALS ON:
Wednesday, October 11
PSAT Test Preparation Day for sophomores & juniors - Freshmen will participate in outdoor and class-building activities and will be dismissed at approximately noon.

Wednesday, October 18
OTIS-LENNON SCHOOL ABILITY TEST FOR FRESHMAN (See related article) Freshmen will be dismissed at approximately noon.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:
Saturday, September 30
Freshman Family Party - Noon to 2 p.m. at Smythe Pavilion The freshman party will be a family lunch prior to the varsity football game vs. Walsh Jesuit. The cost is $20 per family. RSVP to any of the grade parents.

Friday, October 27
End Interim I

Monday, October 30
No Classes - Faculty Work Day

Saturday, November 18
Parent/Sponsor Conferences 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. After the Interim, faculty have a work day to write a comment outlining the progress of each boy. A grade is included with the comment. You may choose to include your son in the conference but it is recommended you check with the sponsor first to determine his or her preference.
The After-Prom Committee

The objective of the US after-prom is to provide a sale, special and fun party for junior and senior boys and their dates. This year’s prom is Saturday, May 5, 2007. The prom dinner is held downtown and then the boys and their dates are transported by bus to the after-prom, which takes place from midnight to 3:30 a.m. The after-prom is traditionally organized by the junior parents, who plan the theme, the food and all of the entertainment. This year’s chair is Nancy McGinty, and she has assembled a fabulous committee of junior parents.

There are two main fund-raising events that support after-prom, the Lottery Ticket Sale (see flyer enclosed with the Valley Voice) and the Holiday Tree Sale. The Holiday Tree Sale is chaired by Ed France and Nancy McGinty, and she has assembled a fabulous committee of junior parents.

Your Gift to the Annual Fund Makes US a Better School

University School has a long-standing and well-respected philanthropic tradition. Each and every day, our sons are the beneficiaries of this support. From the classrooms to the art wing, from the theater to the athletic fields, our children’s lives are enhanced through the generosity of the entire US community.

Wouldn’t it be an exciting and impressive achievement for us to reach 100% parent participation? Please remember that no amount is too large or small and that every donation is appreciated and honored. Please join us and participate in this endeavor. We can’t think of a better way to show our appreciation for and affirm the job US does educating our sons.

Connie and Neil Waxman
Upper School Section Captains of the 2006-2007 US Annual Fund

The Prep Shop

The Prep Shop is the place to go for all things US!! Grade-level T-shirts with all of the boys’ names on the back!! Caps, hats, scarves, jackets, fleeces, sweats, gift items...

Also there is a whole line of girls’ and women’s clothing so everyone in your family and all of your friends can look awesome in their University School apparel. You can find the Prep Shop open weekdays from 11:30 a.m.–1:15 p.m. The shop is adjacent to the Stouffer Dining Hall. Stop by during your son’s lunch and do a little shopping; with luck you might even catch a glimpse of your son.

Any student who has lettered in a varsity sport can order the varsity letter jackets through the Prep Shop. Samples are available for sizing. Each jacket is a custom order and must be ordered now to be available for the holidays. If your son has not lettered in a sport, but expects to do so before he graduates, space is left for adding the sport when the time comes.

Please contact Kelly Biggar at 440-442-9866 or Olivia Demas at 330-659-3001 with your suggestions, orders or questions. You can view items in the Prep Shop collection online at http://upper.us.edu/prepshop.

Sunshine in Cleveland??

Yes, always in the US community!! There is a wonderful support system in place to help members of our Hunting Valley campus community. Tonya Heyman wants to hear about good news and bad. If you know of milestones in someone’s life, cards will be sent. If there is sadness, dinners will be made. Help is here for the asking and we just need to know where to direct our committee’s energy. Call Tonya Heyman at 440-338-6968 or email drheyman@iwch.com

Fall Sports Banquet

If your son is lettering in a fall sport you will be invited by the school to a celebratory award ceremony. Fabulous desserts are served, wonderful speeches are made by captains and coaches of each fall team, and a varsity letter will be bestowed upon your son. It is a proud moment for all. This year the ceremony will be held on Thursday, November 9 at 7 p.m. in the Stouffer Dining Hall. Do not miss this if you are invited - it is a memorable evening.

Colleen Goss. The dates for the sale are Saturday, December 2; Saturday, December 9 and Sunday, December 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is held at the Smythe Pavilion on the Hunting Valley campus. They need lots of moms, dads and boys to help with the set up and at the sale itself. The trees are a very high quality, so plan on buying all your holiday greens at US. If you are interested in volunteering at the Tree Sale contact Ed France at edwardafrance@aol.com or 216-308-0794 or Colleen Goss at cfgoss@laysharpe.com.

This year the after-prom committee is also sponsoring a “Ladies Night Out.” The junior and senior mothers are inviting the freshman and sophomore mothers to the Smythe Pavilion on September 28 from 6 to 9 p.m. Invitations have been sent home.

An open, dynamic and diverse community where a passion for learning thrives, US strives to prepare students to contribute and lead in an increasingly complex and constantly evolving world. Tuition alone does not cover the cost of educating a US student. Gifts to the Annual Fund go directly to the programs that ignite that passion, enabling US to attract and retain an exceptional faculty.

The Valley Voice

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