



The Valley Voice

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

A Letter from the Headmaster

Dear University School Parents,

We are all well aware of the security threats some schools have faced in recent years. Sadly, some of these threats have resulted in heartbreaking tragedy.

University School, like many schools across the nation, has procedures in place to ensure the health and safety of its students, faculty and staff in case of emergency. These emergencies can range from severe weather and medical incidents to a threat of violence. Although the likelihood of any of these events happening is rare, we must be sufficiently prepared to deal with such a situation if one should occur.

Since September, we have been busy updating our crisis management and communication plans. We have formed a team, headed by me and comprised of division directors and staff from both campuses, who will manage all aspects of an emergency with the support of local and, if necessary, state and federal authorities.

We are working closely with Brian Zawada, a safety consultant, to assist us in our emergency preparation and management. Brian has conducted a full security and safety risk assessment at each campus and has reviewed our day-to-day practices. While the implementation may be slightly different at each campus based on a variety of factors, the essential security measures include:

- o Locking exterior doors and front entrances after arrival and dismissal
- o Installing a buzzer system to "buzz" individuals into main entrances
- o Formalizing a sign-in/sign-out process for visitors with name badges
- o Improving the accountability of students and staff who leave the building

We are also developing with Brian an awareness and training program for faculty and staff to ensure they are up to date on safety practices and familiar with the procedures to follow in the event of an emergency.

In compliance with state regulations, just last week we conducted at both campuses tornado and lock-down drills. The tornado drill, of course, is designed to move all students to certain areas of the building that provide a greater measure of safety during severe weather. In the lock-down drill, we practiced putting all students behind a locked door and out of sight from windows in the unlikely event of a dangerous intruder. We also put into place a means for two-way communication with all lockdown areas of the two buildings.

I have to say that after participating in both sets of drills at both campuses, I was amazed at the orderly, disciplined fashion with which the boys moved to designated areas. Police and fire personnel were present during the drills, and while we found some details needing attention, we received high marks for our organization and our state of preparedness.

There will be much more to report to you as we finalize our plans. My goal is to make sure that all parents are fully informed of our emergency procedures and understand the protocols that are necessary to follow to ensure a safe school environment.

Sincerely,

Stephen S. Murray
Headmaster

Note: This article was submitted to the editors prior to the Virginia Tech tragedy on April 16th. Mr. Murray's letter mailed home to the US community following the incident addressed some of his thoughts in this article.

Future Dates

Tuesday, May 1

- Service Day (no classes)

Friday, May 4

- Last Day of Classes for Seniors

Saturday, May 5

- Junior/Senior Prom and After-Prom

Monday, May 7

- Senior Experience & AP Exams Begin

Thursday, May 10

- Spring Musical "Shenandoah" 7:30 p.m. (Gund Auditorium)

Friday, May 11 & Saturday, May 12

- Spring Musical "Shenandoah" 8:00 p.m. (Gund Auditorium)

Friday, May 18

- Musical Festival with Yale & CCIS Schools 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. (Conway Hall, Shaker Campus)

Tuesday, May 22

- Glee Club & Orchestra Senior Concert 7:30 p.m. (Gund Auditorium)

Monday, May 28

- Memorial Day ~ No Classes

Tuesday, May 29

- Strnad Presentations 8:05 a.m.

Wednesday, May 30

- Spring Sports Dessert 7:00 p.m. (Stouffer Dining Hall)

Friday, June 1

- Honors Assembly; Last Day of Classes

Saturday, June 2

- SAT I & II - 8:30 a.m. (HV)

Monday, June 4

- Fall Sports Parent Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Monday, June 4 - Friday June 8

- Final Exams

Friday, June 8

- 117th Commencement 10:30 a.m. (Weatherhead Gymnasium)

**A mighty round of applause for Terry Stoller, outgoing USPA president!
Terry, thank you for your tremendous leadership this year!**

Senior Section

Friday, April 27

Junior/Senior Prom permission slip due

Tuesday, May 1

Service Day - No Classes

Thursday, May 3

Senior Class Dinner 6:00 p.m. in the Stouffer Dining Hall

Friday, May 4

Senior Moms Luncheon at Moxie

Friday, May 4

Last day of classes for seniors

Saturday, May 5

Junior/Senior Prom and After-Prom

Monday, May 7

Senior Experience & AP Exams begin

Wednesday, May 23

Senior Breakfast, 8:30 a.m. in the Stouffer Dining Hall

Tuesday, May 29

Strnad Presentations, 8:05 a.m.

Wednesday, May 30 and Thursday, May 31

Senior Oral Reports to Houses

Tuesday, June 5

Senior/Parent Barbeque, 5:30 p.m. at the Smythe Pavilion

Friday, June 8

117th Commencement, 10:30 a.m. in the Weatherhead Gymnasium

Due to limited seating, attendance is reserved for ticketed senior family members and their guests, current juniors, and the US Glee Club.

Seniors must be dressed in a dark blue blazer, white shirt, white pants, dark shoes and socks, and a striped US tie. Ties are available from the Prep Shop for boys who need a new one.

Congratulations and good luck to the Class of 2007!

Hot Time in the Summer Time

by Michael Obel-Omia

In spite of the vicissitudes of the weather, summer (and spring, we hope) is right around the corner. Boys are working hard finishing their last classes, games and performances, preparing for examinations, and dreaming about summer.

I write to ask you to help your son fashion a plan for the summer. There are many wonderful opportunities for your son, and I hope that you will speak with his sponsor, Mrs. Mason, or me about what he can do.

A rising sophomore is young enough to return to camp and rekindle friendships, but also old enough to consider a job. Working is a wonderful way to teach responsibility, and give a sense of independence and instant gratification: work for two weeks, receive a paycheck.

Your rising junior may work, but may also wish to spend the time exploring or deepening a passion. College is on the horizon, so I would encourage you to help your son find camps (athletic, academic or artistic), courses (college level or ones offered here) or seminars (National Leadership Institute, for instance) that will challenge your son. Connect with your synagogue or church to learn of exciting international traveling experiences that will enable your son to work in another country improving the lives of people.

A rising senior can continue to work or attend camps, take courses or seminars, or perform community service. He should carve out time to visit colleges. Even though students are not generally on campus, your son will see a school and gain an impression, which may be valuable to him come November.

Of course, I also want boys to renew and refresh themselves. One treasure of life that we constantly give away with our increasingly fast paced life is quiet reflection. I hope that your son will find time to read or to think quietly because it is in those moments, ironically enough, that we produce some of our best and most productive work. Last, of course, we hope that your son completes his summer reading!

Performing Arts Events

It is spring in Cleveland and the US Drama and Music Departments have wonderful performances planned:

- Thursday, April 26 (1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.) - The Glee Club will perform at Laurel School.
- Wednesday – Saturday, May 9 – 12, The Drama Department will present the musical “Shenandoah.” Wednesday’s dress rehearsal performance time: TBA, Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. (Gund Auditorium)
- Friday, May 18 - Musical Festival with Yale & CCIS Schools 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. (Conway Hall, Shaker Campus)
- Tuesday May 22 - Glee Club and Orchestra Senior Concert 7:30 p.m. (Gund Auditorium)

Plan to attend these events, you will be glad you did.

Congratulations to the 2007-08 Prefects

Each house has a prefect who acts as the student head of the house. Prefects meet regularly with Mr. Obel-Omia and Mrs. Mason to facilitate good communication and cordial relations within the school community.

In spring of his junior year, any boy interested in being a prefect applies, writes an essay, and answers questions about his previous leadership experience and what he could bring to his house in the way of fresh ideas. He then makes a presentation to the members of his house and they indicate whom they would select. He is also interviewed by the faculty in his house and the current prefect. Housemasters and current prefects have their own individual meetings to discuss each candidate for each house, and make a recommendation to the Head of the Upper School. At the end of the process all members of the house, all current prefects, and housemasters have had a chance to get to know the candidate and help with the decision. Congratulations to the following boys who were named prefects for the next school year:

2007-2008 Prefects

Anderson House	Ben Finell
Cruikshank House	Jake Stoller
Goodwillie House	Harry Hartnett
Hawley House	Andrew Swank
McCarraher House	TJ France
McKinley House	Brandon Pichanick
Peters House	Michael Perloff
Pettee House	Nakul Singh
Pickands House	Mac McGinty
Sanders House	Alex Thompson

Cum Laude Society

What Phi Beta Kappa is to college, Cum Laude Society is to the independent school. The purpose of the Society is to recognize and honor high moral character and exceptional scholarship. Membership in the US chapter of Cum Laude is limited to seniors who have been in residence at least two consecutive years and who have carried a particularly challenging academic program with honor and distinction. The number of boys elected to membership varies from year to year (this year 19 boys were inducted), but under no circumstances may it exceed 20 percent of the senior class. New members are elected in the spring based on grades in the junior and senior year.

The determination, dedication and sacrifice that these young men committed to their studies are to be commended. To earn this honor speaks volumes about their willingness to delay instant and present gratification for a longer and more sustained goal. They have exhibited scholarship, integrity and an intellectual curiosity that often have driven their classes and ignited their peers' imagination.

More important, they have been model citizens and seem poised to contribute richly and deeply at the next level and beyond. Congratulations to the following students: Charles Brockett, Avinash Chak, Samuel Chen, Julian Domo, Travis Erdman, John Evans, Jeremy Herrmann, Matthew Hornstein, Marc Howland, Grigoriy Kerzhner, Victor Kondray, Benjamin Kurland, Michael MacCombie, Ricky Morgan, Benjamin Pinkas, Aaron Potash, Brandon Sharp, Brett Siegal, and Eric Walk. Michael MacCombie was also honored as Phi Beta Kappa.

Spare Change Weighing you Down?

Send it to school with your son to throw into his House Distillata bottle in the cafeteria.
All change supports After-Prom.
When the House bottle is filled, every boy in that House will win a Chipotle Gift Certificate.
Deadline is Friday, May 4.
Thank you for supporting a safe After-Prom.

Junior Section

Tuesday, April 24

Parent College Evening, 7:00 p.m. in Gund Auditorium

Friday, April 27

Junior/Senior Prom permission slip due

Tuesday, May 1

Service Day - No Classes

Saturday, May 5

Junior Senior Prom and After Prom
SAT I and SAT II, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 9

Junior Class Lunch with Headmaster in the Callow Room

Saturday, June 2

SAT I and II, 8:30 a.m.

Friday, June 8

117th Commencement, 10:30 a.m.

Juniors are required to attend commencement. Attire: navy blue blazer, white shirts, US school tie, and khaki pants.

Saturday, June 9

ACT test, 8:30 a.m.



Freshman & Sophomore Section

Tuesday, May 1

Service Day - No classes

Important info for Juniors and Glee Club Members

The University School's 117th Commencement is Friday, June 8, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. in the Weatherhead Gymnasium. All juniors and all Glee Club members are required to attend graduation. Navy blue blazers, white shirts, US school ties, and khaki pants are required attire of the day. Dress shoes, dark socks, and a belt should complete the ensemble. The ceremonies should conclude shortly after noon.

USPA Thank You

On behalf of all the boys at the Hunting Valley Campus and their parents, I want to extend a public "Thank You" to the following parents who have chaired USPA activities this second half of the school year. More than one hundred other parent volunteers have worked with each of these chairpersons dedicating many hours to help organize and staff events. The generous donation of your time and talents keeps us all more informed and connected with one another and with our sons' school. Again, thank you.

- Deborah Perkins-Boyd.....VP/President-Elect
- Chris FrazierTreasurer
- Noha Ryder.....Treasurer-Elect
- Janis McCormickSecretary
- Dale Naylor.....US Strategic Planning Committee
- Nancy McGinty.....Junior/Senior After-Prom
- Kelly Biggar & Olivia Demas.....Prep Shop
- Linda Chittock & Myra HughesSchool Decorating
- Betsy Stueber, Deborah Little,
Nancy Kramer, Deborah Perkins- Boyd,
Lynn Danzig & Joan Finnell.....*Valley Voice*
- Michele DemetriouRotunda Cafe
- Tonya HeymanSunshine Committee
- Ann Sords & Karen HessPACT
- Barbara Arison.....9th Grade Point Parent
- Amy Becker & Jane Biggar10th Grade Point Parent
- Lisa Lurie.....11th Grade Point Parent
- Paula Polakof.....12th Grade Point Parent
- Lisa Lurie & Jane BiggarFaculty & Staff Appreciation
- Anne O'Shaughnessy & Jayne Herak....Commencement Coordinators

Terry Stoller
USPA President

ANNUAL "FUND" FACTS

Did You Know?

Parent gifts are coming in at record levels!

We only need \$5,000 more to achieve our parent Annual Fund goal of \$288,000.

We'd love for your gift to be the one that puts us over the top!

We are so very grateful if you've already made your gift to the Annual Fund. Thank You!

If you have not already done so, please make a gift or pledge today.
You can give online (www.us.edu),
by phone (call 216-831-1984 x7316)
or by using the buff-colored envelope provided in this mailing.

The Annual Fund campaign deadline for gifts is May 31, 2007
Thanks so much. We're counting on YOU!

Prep Shop

Please keep the Prep Shop in mind while doing your spring and graduation shopping. US towels, fleece blankets, sweat-shirts, clocks, and mugs will make terrific gifts for the senior heading off to college and dorm life. Show your US spirit at the spring games with clothing, caps, stadium seats or cushions, umbrellas, and more.

The Prep Shop will be opened throughout May, with the last day to purchase items being Friday, May 25. As of May 1, account charges are suspended and payments only by cash or checks will be accepted. Limited online shopping during the summer may be available at <http://upper.us.edu/prepshop/>.

The Prep Shop's co-chairs, Kelly Biggar and Olivia Demas, would like to thank all the volunteers who supported the Prep Shop by working during lunch hours and at the many extracurricular activities at the school. Marilyn Anderson, Heidi Cregar and Julia Neff are the chairs for the 2007-08 school year. Information about volunteering next year will be mailed soon.

Cameras, Locked Doors, and More

As you read in the letter from the Headmaster, when you next visit the Hunting Valley campus, you will notice security changes have been incorporated to make the campus a more safe and secure environment. Two security cameras have been installed, one in the front entrance and one at the loading dock door. The front door to the school will be the only door open during the school day. All visitors are being asked to check in with Ms. Kalman at the reception desk and get a visitor's pass. All other doors into the building will be locked throughout the school day. A public address system has been installed throughout the school and an intercom/buzzer system is now in all classrooms. Before the break, the Parent Broadcast Emergency Telephone system was introduced. This system will call all US families in an emergency or to announce school closings. Within the next few months a video will be released online to explain all of these new security procedures. The school's overriding objective in making these changes is to provide the safest learning environment for our students, faculty and staff.

The Valley Voice

University School

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