



The Valley Voice

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

Heard in the Valley... by Mr. Obel-Omia

Transitions can be challenging and can cause anxiety. In order to serve better all boys new to the Hunting Valley campus, we have devised an early student assessment letter that will be mailed late in September. The letter will be mailed to parents of new students and will summarize how their son is doing in each of his classes and, in some cases, in his extracurricular activities. This letter is not meant to be a report card; rather, it will be a collection of observations that describe how a boy is transitioning to US. In addition, the parents of boys who are initially struggling, earning grades below 75 percent, will also receive a letter from the sponsor. The purpose of the letter will be to alert parents to their son's early performance. Please know that not every parent will receive a letter – actually fewer than 30 percent of the student body will receive this early student assessment letter written by the boy's sponsor. Not receiving the letter simply indicates that your son is adjusting well to the raised expectations of his new year. As one colleague noted, "No news is good news!" Of course, if you have questions about your son, please contact his sponsor or the classroom teacher of a particular subject.

True or False?

Every school year there is a lot of buzz about new things going on around US.

- 1) True, the turf field is finished - it was a gracious gift from several generous donors.
- 2) True, there are two boys, Beneah Kombe and Wahinya Njoya, attending US for their post-graduate year. They are from the Starehe Boys Centre and School in Nairobi, Kenya. Beneah is staying with the Miller-Littles and Wahinya is staying with the White Family (Alex). If you have extra tickets for a sporting or cultural event, please call and let the families know that they are available for the boys.
- 3) True, Dave Turben (US alumnus and dad) is fundraising for the USPA by taking photos at the US sporting events and posting them on www.shutterfly.com/pro/pbt/us for you to order.
- 4) False, the huge unfinished mansion at the entrance to US was not purchased by US and, no, the headmaster does not live there.
- 5) True, the *Valley Voice* is online: <http://upper.us.edu/uspa/uspa.htm>
- 6) True, phone extensions are listed in the directory for all faculty and administrators.
- 7) True, there will be a change in pre-season training requirements for lacrosse players during spring break – don't make those spring break plans until you see the information from Coach Jack Fisher – coming soon.
- 8) True, all boys will have a school email. The format is: first initial, last name, and graduation year. e.g. jdoe08@us.edu

Winning Tickets

Buy a ticket for the raffle that everyone wins! An important After-Prom fundraiser, the raffle ticket sale has begun. Raffle tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25 and can be purchased by check (made out to US After-Prom) or cash. The raffle mirrors the Ohio Lottery Nightly Pick Three drawings throughout December 2007. If your raffle number matches a winning number in the Pick Three during December, you win \$100. Please call Kathleen Visconsi at 440-338-6147 or Margy Hopkins at (440) 338-3007 or use the order form included in the *Valley Voice* to purchase your raffle tickets.

Future Dates

Thursday, September 20

- Grade 10 Parent Gathering 5:30 p.m. (Callow Room)
- Parent Curriculum Night 6:45 p.m. ~ Grades 9 – 12

Friday, September 21

- Founders' Day - Grades 6 - 12

Saturday, October 6

- SAT I & II - 8:30 a.m. (HV)
- A Salute to US Coaches 1 p.m. (HV Athletic Fields)

Monday, October 8

- Columbus Day – No Classes

Tuesday, October 9

- Test Preparation Day – Dismissal at Noon; No Classes for Seniors

Wednesday, October 10

- Jostens – Class Ring Ordering 11:30 a.m. (Staircase)

Thursday, October 11

- USPA General Meeting 8:05 a.m. (Assembly followed by meeting in Callow Room)

Monday, October 15

- Distinguished lecture series – 7:30 p.m. Conway Hall (Shaker campus)

Wednesday, October 17

- Testing Day for Grades 9 – 11. Dismissal at noon.
- Senior Service Day

Friday, October 19

- Jostens – Class Ring Ordering 11:30 a.m. (Staircase)

Wednesday, October 24

- All Winter Sports/OHSAA Mandatory Parent meeting, 7 p.m.

Friday, October 26

- End Interim I

Monday, October 29

- Faculty Work Day – No Classes

Saturday, November 3

- SAT I & II – 8:30 a.m. (other sites)

Senior Section

Tuesday, September 25

- Seniors attend college meetings during their break

Thursday, October 4

- Seniors college meeting during their break

Tuesday, October 9

- No Classes for Seniors

Wednesday, October 17

- Senior Service Day

Visits of college representatives will be posted on <http://upper.us.edu>

Junior Section

Saturday, September 15

- Deadline to sign up for SAT Prep classes at US beginning Sundays 9/30 – 11/18 from 1-4 p.m. Contact Noelle Whitehouse, Academy Customized Test Prep 440-247-4808

Saturday, October 13

- Class party (parents only); Invitation to follow

Tuesday, October 9

- PSAT Prep Day – classes dismissed at noon

Wednesday, October 17

- PSAT Test Day – classes dismissed at noon

Check <http://upper.us.edu> for anything new to the calendar after press time.

After-Prom Plans

Labor Day weekend has barely ended and the After-Prom Committee is already in gear with a full menu of fundraising events and volunteer opportunities, all of which are designed to ensure that junior and senior boys and their dates have a memorable, special, and safe After-Prom.

This year's prom is Saturday, May 3, 2008. After dining downtown, the boys and their dates will be transported to the Upper School for After-Prom, which runs from midnight to 3:30 a.m. Traditionally organized by the junior parents, this year's committee is chaired by Amy Becker, Marianne Crosley, and Sharon Dean. Their slate of fundraisers include the following:

- Second Annual Mom's Night Out: A special invitation is extended by the junior and senior mothers to their freshman and sophomore counterparts to join them at Mom's Night Out, Thursday, October 18, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Smythe Pavilion. Food and drink will be provided. Please bring a \$20 "gift card" from a retailer like Bed, Bath, and Beyond, Chipotle, Best Buy, Target, etc., to be used as prizes at After Prom -- or donate \$20 and the Committee will buy one for you.

- Participate in the Apples for the Students program by registering your Giant Eagle Advantage Card at www.gianteagle.com: Click on "Educational Support" in the box at the bottom of the page. Click on "register now" and enter code 5216 when prompted.

- The Annual Tree Sale, chaired by Meg Norchi and Ellen Rothfus. Please plan to buy seasonal wreaths and trees during this traditional event, scheduled for Saturday, December 1 and Saturday and Sunday, December 8 and 9.

- Lottery Ticket Sale: see flyer enclosed with this issue of the *Valley Voice* and separate article.

Parents, please pick up T-shirts, hoodies, flip-flops, etc. from any colleges you visit. These will be prizes used at After-Prom.

Volunteers are always warmly welcomed and very much needed. The only skill required is a desire to contribute to a terrific evening. The next meeting for After-Prom is Tuesday, October 2, 8:15 – 9:30 a.m. in the Callow Room. If you can't attend but can volunteer, please contact Betsy Stovsky at stovskb@ccf.org.

Inaugural US Distinguished Speaker Series

The US Center for Excellence will host the 2007-2008 Distinguished Speaker Series focused on the lives of boys and how they can become better men. The lectures are free and open to the public and will feature Joe Ehrmann, award-winning coach, educator and former NFL football player speaking about "Turning Boys into Good Men"; John Badalament, Harvard-trained educator and leading expert in the field of fatherhood speaking about "Today's Modern Dad: Exploring the Relationship Between Fathers and Sons"; Patrick Bassett, president of the National Association of Independent Schools speaking about "The Right-Brained Future"; and Dr. Stephen Post, Professor of Bioethics at Case Western Reserve University speaking about "Why Good Things Happen to Good People".

The first of the series will take place on Monday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m. during which Joe Ehrmann will offer an inspirational and heartfelt message on how boys can become better men. The subject of the *New York Times* bestseller, "Seasons of Life," and the HBO Sports special "Code of Conduct", Mr. Ehrmann will discuss how true masculinity should be defined in terms of a man's ability to love and be loved, to accept responsibility, and to serve others. Named "the most important coach in America" by *Parade* magazine in 2004, Mr. Ehrmann's passionate delivery will inspire introspection and action.

Look for a brochure in the mail soon detailing the speakers and their topics. All lectures will be held in the Conway Hall auditorium on the Shaker campus. To reserve a space at any lecture call 216-831-1984, extension 7392.

Welcome to All of the New Faces at US

Ben Boka - Spanish, Head Baseball Coach, Assistant Football Coach

Ana McDougal - Spanish

Jean Pierre Jacquet - College Counseling, Study Center, Assistant Wrestling Coach, Assistant Lacrosse Coach

Mitch Strachan - Mathematics and Engineering, Assistant Soccer Coach, Housemaster for McKinley House

Jenny Rifken - Director of College Guidance

Lee Fallon - English, Basketball, Baseball

Greg Aten - Head Tennis Coach

Trish Brandt - Director of Marketing

Jon Bridge - Director of Development

Your 15 1/2-Year-Old Son as Chauffeur

How to get a Temporary License

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 invaluable 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

But the shorthand of this process is:

- 1) Go to the deputy registrar 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's certified birth certificate and Social Security card, your two IDs (e.g., SS card, drivers license, passport), and approximately \$24 (cash or check) to the deputy registrar. (See website for document specifics and locations.)
- 3) You will receive a temporary license and a packet. If your son has studied for the test., go directly to the Examination Testing Station for him to take the written and vision tests (be sure to keep track of packet).

If he passes the tests, his six months as a student driver begin.

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. Also don't forget to call your insurance company, to determine if your son needs to be added to the policy when he gets his temporary license.

The permanent license can be obtained (by appointment) the day of your son's 16th birthday, if all of the above have been accomplished. Please note: most of these offices are *closed* on Mondays.

Life Lessons

There are many reasons that University School is a wonderful place for boys to learn and grow, including two beautiful campuses with facilities and academic programs designed to bring out the best in boys. But nothing is more important to the life of the school than the US faculty, the dedicated men and women who make the school's mission a reality day in and day out. They "develop promising and motivated boys into accomplished and independent young men... in a diverse community...where every boy is known and loved." They take to heart the school's core values of Responsibility, Loyalty, Consideration and pass them on to US students in myriad ways every day, both inside the classroom and out.

Every day at US, dedicated teachers enter classrooms filled with boys and young men who are eager to learn. Today's faculty members continue a 118-year tradition of excellence as they prepare, instruct, challenge and encourage in their roles as teachers, coaches and mentors.

Teachers at US through the years have made a huge difference in the lives of generations of boys who grew to be leaders in a variety of ways and walks of life. Many lessons were taught about English, science and Western Civilization, certainly, but important life lessons were taught as well. Many faculty members have walked the halls and made academics come alive in US classrooms over the years. In fact, some of today's instructors are teaching academic and life lessons to the sons and grandsons of students they first taught years ago! These men and women form the core of today's dedicated and supportive University School faculty.

Please show your appreciation for the job done every day by University School and its exceptional faculty by supporting this year's Annual Fund. Our goal is to raise \$2,000,000 in support of US, its programs, its mission and the faculty. Every gift counts! Please make your donation today. Thank you.

Welcome to the Monkey House

No, that's not a reference to the Hunting Valley campus! It's the name of the fall play by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. and is the story of an amateur theater company in rehearsal for three one-act plays they are performing. The play will be held on Friday and Saturday nights, November 9 and 10.

The Friday performance will be preceded by the International Dinner to be held at 6:15 p.m. in Stouffer Dining Hall. All US families are welcome and are asked to bring an international or American dish to share. Please see the enclosed flyer for more details. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Toni Pollock (toni@pollockhome.com) or Karen Hogan (Karen.hogan@uhschools.org).

Sophomore Section

Thursday, September 20

- Sophomore Parent Get-Together/Light Supper catered by Trifles of Chagrin Falls 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. (Callow Room)
- Parent Curriculum Night 6:45 p.m.

Tuesday, October 9

- PSAT Test Preparation Day in English and math classes; dismissal at noon

Wednesday, October 17

- PSAT Test Day; dismissal at noon. See accompanying article on testing for details.

Freshman Section

Tuesday, October 9

- Outdoor orientation day; dismissal at noon.

Wednesday, October 17

- Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT); dismissal at noon. See accompanying article on testing for details.

Friday, October 26

- Fall Parents Get-Together/Cleveland Racquet Club, 29825 Chagrin Boulevard, Pepper Pike 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. - \$20.00 per person. Watch for your invitation!

Monday, October 29

- Faculty Work Day – No Classes

Wednesday, October 31

- Halloween Snack 'n Cider – place TBA

Sharpen Your No. 2 Pencils

Once school begins, testing is never far behind. Primary testing dates are Tuesday, October 9 and Wednesday, October 17. Please check with your son to be sure you (and he) understand what test(s) he will be taking and what days will feature early dismissal.

All freshmen will have an outdoor orientation day on Tuesday, October 9. Thus refreshed, they will take the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test, which measures a student's ability in school, on Wednesday morning, October 17. They will also take a practice version of the Ohio Graduation Test. Seniors will have the day off altogether and all other students will be dismissed at noon.

OLSAT scores will be available in November but will not be mailed. Parents are invited to contact Mrs. Mason at mmason@us.edu to review their freshman son's score.

On Tuesday, October 9, sophomores and juniors will participate in English and mathematics reviews in anticipation of their taking the PSAT on Wednesday, October 17, after which there will be a noon dismissal. PSAT scores will be mailed home to parents. US is exploring additional ways to assist each boy in identifying relative strengths and appropriate strategies in preparation for retaking the test as juniors.

Juniors will prepare for the PSAT by taking a practice test on Tuesday, October 9 and will take the PSAT on Wednesday, October 17. Unlike sophomores, for whom the PSAT on October 17 will be a "practice" test, scores earned by juniors will count for a variety of purposes, including National Merit Scholarship qualification.

Both the SAT I & II will be administered at the Hunting Valley campus on Saturday, October 6. Registration is required and can be completed online at www.collegeboard.com. If your son does not register on time and wishes to take the test as a "walk-on," US always arranges to have a few extra "places" available, so contact Mrs. Mason as soon as possible.

One SAT prep class is being offered at the Hunting Valley campus. Contact Noelle Whitehouse at 440-247-8300 or noellect@adelphia.net for more information.

Questions about testing can be directed to Mrs. Mason (mmason@us.edu) or by calling the College Counseling Office at 216-831-2200.

PACT Restructuring

The Cleveland Council of Independent School's PACT organization is in the process of restructuring. They suggest the following websites as resources for parents navigating through teenage years

<http://www.ccis-ohio.org/pact/Roadmap-Frameset.htm>

<http://www.ccis-ohio.org/pact/PublicationsFrameset.htm>

You will also find the all-school calendar.

CCIS no longer offers the four-school directories for sale. Please contact the individual schools to request a directory.

Apparel for Moms and Pom Poms

If you want it, the Prep Shop has it! The Prep Shop has new items such as Under Armour®, ladies' and girls' apparel, as well as all the usual favorites.

The Prep Shop is located near Stouffer Dining Hall. Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday 3 - 4:15 p.m.

A big round of applause for all the volunteers who helped staff the Prep Shop area in the Smythe Pavilion for Homecoming--thanks from the USPA!

Let The Sunshine In

US boasts a wonderful network of parent volunteers who, through the Sunshine Committee, support the boys and their families in good times and bad. Whether you have exciting news to share – such as an important birthday, a family honor, a new arrival – or need a consoling word or other assistance in the face of illness or loss, help is only an email away. Please contact Barbara Rosman, at barbaraandpaul@ameritech.net or 440-646-0234.

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 8, 2007 at 7 p.m. in the Stouffer Dining Hall. Do not miss this if you are invited – it is a memorable evening.

Class Rings

Nothing says "upperclassman" like a class ring. The University School class ring sale, open to juniors and seniors, will be held on Wednesday, October 10 and Friday, October 19 at 11:30 a.m. near the staircase, where your son will have an opportunity to meet with the Jostens representative and be measured for his ring. It is expected that rings will be delivered in time for the winter holiday. A flyer will be placed in junior and senior mailboxes and announcement made at the morning assembly. If, however, you wish to order your son's ring directly or need more information, please call Ms. Kalman at 216-831-2200.

The Valley Voice

University School

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