

A Message From the Principal, Mrs. Paula Massanari
February 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been my privilege to serve this community for the past month. In that time, I have visited several stimulating classrooms and met a number of terrific students. I am learning about the traditions that the UHS community treasures, as well as some issues that deserve some additional attention from the high school administration.

As a part of this February Bridge you will find a survey regarding homeroom at the high school. As you know, homeroom was discontinued in the 2007-08 school year. A number of members of this school community have indicated to me that they would like to revisit this decision. So, I am soliciting input from students, parents and teachers about the possible return of homeroom. I invite you to take a few minutes to answer the questions on the "Homeroom Survey for Parents" and send your completed survey into the high school either by mail or by asking your child to drop off the form in the Main Office (there will be a bin marked "Homeroom Survey" on the front counter). We would appreciate receiving your input no later than Tuesday, February 17, 2009. Students will be completing a similar survey during their lunch period, with the Student Council tallying the results; teachers will complete an online version of this survey. When all of the results have been received and analyzed, we will advise you of the results and our proposed next steps.

On February 10, 11 and 12, all 11th grade students will take the writing portion of the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). Students who are absent will have the opportunity to make-up any/all parts of the test on February 13 and/or February 17. You should have already received information from the high school regarding this important upcoming testing event. Please feel free to contact us at 610-347-1600 if you have any questions regarding this state assessment.

One last item relates to parent drop-off of students in the morning. I have been rotating between meeting the buses in the front of the building in the morning and meeting students who are being dropped off near the gymnasium in the rear of the building. Perhaps some of you have seen me standing outside looking cold as students are dropped off! Many of you are obviously aware of the need to stay in a single file line waiting for your opportunity to pull up and allow your child(ren) to exit the car, and I thank you for your cooperation. For those of you who have never seen written guidelines regarding drop-off procedures, please remember the following:

- Stay in a single file line; pulling out of line creates a safety hazard for students crossing in the marked pedestrian area.
- When you pull up, please proceed past the doorway (if possible) – this allows several cars to allow students to exit their vehicle at the same time and cuts down on the wait time in line.
- Do not stop in the designated crosswalk and let students get out of your car; this space should be free of cars to allow students to cross from the parking lot and enter the building.

Thanks so much to all of you for the warm welcome that I have received. I look forward to an exciting and rewarding school year.