

April 2009

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We completed the 11th grade PSSA assessments in reading and math last month, and you should know how diligently our students worked. Several teachers commented on how cooperative and engaged the students were throughout the testing times. The teachers deeply appreciate the solid work ethic that students displayed during this assessment period. We only have one more PSSA assessment coming up this month when we administer the science assessment; more information will be shared with parents on that topic soon.

Thankfully spring has arrived and we're looking forward to a relaxing spring break (April 6-10). Along with warmer weather, though, comes the perennial concern regarding the dress code. Please partner with us in asking your children to follow the dress code as it is outlined in the Student Handbook (pp. 29-30). You may access the Student Handbook from the high school website by clicking on "Downloads" and then selecting "Student Handbook." The issues that most often arise regarding dress code violations for males are: hats, sunglasses, and pants worn so low that undergarments are not covered. For females, common issues include: tops that allow the midriff, cleavage, undergarment, or bare back to be exposed, and excessively short skirts. Please take a few minutes to have a conversation with your child regarding school and family expectations related to appropriate dress.

Another ongoing concern relates to cell phones. Recently, teachers have reported an increase in cell phone violations. Even more concerning, when teachers have told some students to turn over their cell phone to be picked up at the end of the day in the main office, a few students have blatantly refused to follow the teacher's direction. If your child refuses to turn over a cell phone (or a hat), in addition to a school consequence, we will contact a parent to discuss student disrespect and hope that you will support our expectation that students treat staff members respectfully.

On a more positive note, we hope you were able to join us for *Hello Dolly* in the end of March. The students and staff worked incredibly hard to share their talents with the larger community. Spring sports have started, and we invite you to join us along the sidelines to cheer for UHS teams. We held our second Pizza with the Principals recently and heard from 24 students about their concerns and suggestions to improve the overall climate at the high school. Also, the adjustments made to our traffic patterns are working well; we appreciate your cooperation regarding these traffic adjustments.

On behalf of the high school staff, we wish you a wonderfully relaxing spring break!