

May 2009

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Since I arrived in January, our discussions in the monthly faculty meetings that all teachers attend have focused on the topic of “relationships.” We’ve read articles on “turnaround teachers,” reflected on our own connection/relationships with students, and discussed the positive impact that strong teacher-student-parent relationships has on student achievement. These discussions are the initial step toward an in-depth study of three areas of school improvement that research shows can have an incredibly important impact on school achievement; those three areas are the “three Rs -- rigor, relevance, and relationships.”

The UHS staff has also discussed student at-risk behaviors. Mrs. Brodner-Cangi, school social worker, has shared an excellent website resource with us, and I want to pass this information along to you. The Partnership for a Drug-Free America has developed a new resource called “Time to Act,” which offers information about where to turn or what to do if you suspect that your child is using drugs/alcohol. The website address is <http://www.timetoact.drugfree.org/>. Of course, our guidance counselors, social workers, and administrators are also available to offer help to families that suspect a student may be using drugs or alcohol.

We recently learned that the PTO was able to honor several student/parent requests for the following projects: improving the lights/sound in the auditorium, augmenting the number of computers available for student use in the Library, and purchasing an ipod cart for use in world language classrooms. The entire staff is thankful and appreciative of the wonderful work of the PTO on behalf of students, and I want to publicly thank all of you for your generous contributions to our school.

Looking ahead, May holds many exciting opportunities for our students – prom, the after-prom celebration, student awards ceremony, NHS Induction and AP testing. Also, National Teacher Appreciation is May 5 and National School Nurse Day is May 6. If you have been thinking of writing a kind email to a teacher and/or nurse thanking him/her for the wonderful work he/she did this year, this would be a terrific time to write that note.

Please feel free to contact us if you have a question/concern/suggestion. All of the high school administrators are open to your feedback on how we might make UHS a more fantastic place for all students. We wish you a beautiful month of May – being a native Chicagoan, where blooming cherry trees were not part of the springtime experience, I still get excited about our lovely East coast spring times!

Sincerely,

Paula Massanari, Principal

