

June 2009 -- Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This is an exciting time of the year for our students! Last month, our 350 seniors experienced prom, the after prom party, and the senior awards ceremony. This month they will celebrate their upcoming graduation at the Senior Dinner Dance and will joyfully join their classmates, family, friends, and teachers at the graduation ceremony on June 8. Our underclassmen are preparing for final exams and looking forward to digging into their summer reading assignments! There is much for this school community to celebrate as the 2008-09 school year comes to an end.

One valued activity that took place last month for 50 students (40 new “linkers” and ten returning “staffers”) was the spring LINK (Leadership in Networking Kids) trip. This leadership program is designed to help students understand what we all have in common as citizens of the high school community, particularly our responsibility to act responsibly as school leaders. One change that we made in the LINK nomination process for this spring trip was the ability for students to self-nominate. Teachers and former LINK attendees were still asked to submit names to nominate students to attend the LINK weekend; however, the entire underclass community had the opportunity to nominate themselves to attend LINK. For the first time, self-nominated students attended our LINK weekend. This change was initiated following a conversation with the PTO where parents expressed an interest in making the selection process for LINK open to more students.

While one purpose of LINK relates to encouraging students to act as responsible citizens of our school, that is actually our expectation for all UHS students (not just those who have attended a LINK weekend). One aspect of good citizenship that I would encourage you to discuss with your child(ren) relates to sharing information with a teacher and/or administrator if they are concerned about the behavior of another student. For example, if your child is aware of a student who is being bullied at the high school, I would hope that your son/daughter would share that concern with an adult here. Or, if he/she had information regarding a drug or alcohol concern, they have an obligation to share that information. I would appreciate your discussing this issue at home and helping your child see that being part of a community has many benefits, but it also brings responsibility. I often tell students that when confronted with making the “right” decision vs. the “easy” decision, they should always pick the “right” option. Robert F. Kennedy wrote, “Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.” Please partner with us in ensuring the health and safety of all our students.

Have a lovely, relaxing, restful summer. We are already looking forward to next school year!

Sincerely,

Paula Massanari, Principal

