

December 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The opening months of the 2009-10 school year have gone very well. Overall, discipline referrals at the high school are down 42% when compared to the opening months of last school year. This is directly related to the majority of our student body living up to our “Think Critically – Act Responsibly” motto! Also, we have a number of programs in place to support student growth in leadership roles. Two recent events along these lines are: 1) the fall LINK trip, where 40 first-time “linkers” and ten LINK student staffers spent a weekend learning about themselves as leaders, and 2) nine UHS students attended a one-day SADD (Students Against Drunk Drivers) conference. Everywhere there are signs of students excelling – academically and athletically. Another example of this involves our fall sports teams having excellent seasons where many were able to enter post-season competitions.

At our last Parents and Principals Together breakfast meeting, a concern related to drug and alcohol (d/a) use at the high school was raised. We had a conversation about this topic at that meeting, and I wanted to share some resources and reflections with all of you. First, if you have a concern regarding d/a use, feel free to contact your child’s guidance counselor or a high school administrator. We will work with you to provide you with information and/or resources to support your family, or to address the concern that you share with us. Also, two websites that contain helpful information are: “Time to Act” (<http://timetoact.drugfree.org>) and “A Parent’s Guide to the Teen Brain” (www.drugfree.org/TeenBrain). Our goal is to partner with you to address concerns in a proactive way.

In addition to the thirteen National Merit Semi-finalists that I wrote about earlier, we received word that the following fourteen students have been recognized as National Merit Commended students:

James Allen	Sarah Christofides	Kirsten Gausch
Mahjub Hammond	Brian Kamelhar	Jessica Long
David McClaskey	Elizabeth Miller	Alison Riley
Andrew Roche	Perry Xu	Catherine Yuh
Olivia Zderic	Sarah Butz	

Additionally, Oluwaseyi Ajayi was recognized as a 2010 National Achievement Program “Outstanding Participant” and Raul Larsen was named a 2008-09 National Hispanic Recognition Program Finalist. We are incredibly proud of these outstanding students!

As we approach the holiday season, all of us at UHS wish you a relaxing winter break filled with meaningful time with family and friends. Take care,

Paula Massanari, UHS Principal