

# The *Sandusky City Schools* Compass



Volume Number 12

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Edition 3

## State of the Sandusky City School District

The *State of the School District* is positive. The teaching staff and administration have worked diligently to address our academic standing on the state report card and are to be commended for their dedication and hard work. The support staff (maintenance/custodial, food service, technical personnel, transportation, and clerical staff members) do a terrific job with all of the skills they bring to the school district. Our buildings are old, but very well maintained and extensively utilized by students and the community. The people of Sandusky can be very proud of their public school system. Over the years the socio-economic make-up of the community has changed dramatically. The student population has diminished in size, but the programming in the school district has remained strong and new programs have been added to meet the need of today's students.

The elementary buildings are completing the fourth year of a Reading First federal grant that addresses deficient reading in grades K-3 and great progress has resulted from this initiative. This year a school literacy grant was awarded to the school district due to the success of the Reading First program. With the additional money, we now are providing literacy coaches for grades 4-6. Additionally, a pre-kindergarten grant addresses the 3-4 year old population with two units serving 40 children. The Safe Schools/Healthy Students federal grant impacts the entire community in many positive and proactive ways (see page 3 for free Parenting Classes). Millions of dollars have been received through competitive grants making many opportunities available to children that otherwise would not have been possible. Over the past six years the school district has improved from Academic Emergency to Academic Watch and is now rated in Continuous Improvement on the Ohio Department of Education state report card. Mills, Ontario, and Venice Elementary Schools, and Jackson Junior High School are rated Effective by the state.

We are encouraged with recent testing results. Our scores keep improving and in many instances they are improving dramatically. The children are learning and the gaps are narrowing in Sandusky. Our community demands that their children attend safe schools that provide a caring and nurturing staff that will afford positive opportunities for their children to learn. As I travel throughout the school district I am very pleased with the education and learning that takes place daily in a very safe and orderly fashion in our buildings. With the institution of uniforms in grades K-12 we have a new found pride in the students and staff. *It has been a positive initiative.*



*Bill Pahl*

Bill Pahl, Superintendent

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Visit our website:  
[www.scs-k12.net](http://www.scs-k12.net)

### Sandusky Schools Offer Programs to Meet the Various Needs of our Diverse Students

The Sandusky City School District is a proud district, rich in tradition with the goal of reaching out and meeting the needs of all students. Sandusky voters have always supported the children in the community. We are a diverse city in transition. The percentage of rental units continues to increase in the city, as the number of single-family owner-occupied houses is decreasing. We are a very transient community with families moving within the city multiple times during the school year.

To meet the needs of our students, Sandusky High School is a comprehensive school *unlike any in the area*, where students can choose to follow a rigorous academic program, a vocational schedule, or elect to take both academic and career/technical classes together.

Many students are able to earn college credit while attending Sandusky High in classes offered cooperatively with Bowling Green State University (Firelands Campus in Huron) and Terra Community College in Fremont. These classes and Advanced Placement classes give students an advantage when entering college by placing them ahead of other students and saving money for courses they completed in high school.

Co-curricular offerings in the fine arts include: art, award winning vocal and instrumental music, theatre, and drama.

Additionally, Sandusky High offers 20 inter-scholastic sports teams for both boys and girls, along with club sports, and intramural activities. *It is proven that students involved in extra-curricular activities perform better in school.* Also, colleges and universities look for those students who are actively involved in co-curricular activities for entrance into their schools.

## Sandusky High School Student Council

Student Council has participated in numerous activities to help improve its school and community. For the past few months, students have been busy hosting canned food drives, Blood Drives in conjunction with The American Red Cross, and Angel Tree shopping for the Salvation Army, along with many other projects.

For the holidays, Student Council members shopped at Wal-Mart to acquire Christmas presents to be donated to the Salvation Army Angel Tree Project. Money spent was earned from various fundraisers that students had during the fall. Each class was to spend as close to \$100.00 per family as possible without going over the budgeted amount. With a total of \$99.97, the sophomore class won the challenge. Students bought gifts that ranged from diapers and coats, to games and books. These donations and gifts were of great help to families in need during the holiday season.

SHS Student Council also gives back to the community through monetary donations to local organizations such as The United Way. A Student Council sponsored homeroom challenge and a class coin war competition successfully raised over \$1000.00 for the United Way this past fall. This time the freshman class topped out as winners.

From January 12th through the 22nd, a canned food drive was held at the high school. To make it competitive, the teachers challenged the students to collecting the most cans. The students were victorious over the teachers. Over 800 canned goods were collected from this drive and donated to the Victory Kitchen.

Sandusky High School Student Council continues to strive to work cooperatively and plan with other area schools and organizations to help our community grow and prosper. The SHS Student Council members acknowledge the need to help others and give back to the community, especially during these hard financial times, and appreciate the support from all community members.



## Sandusky City Schools Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten Registration 2009-2010

**For returning students:** Current students in the pre-school and pre-kindergarten classes will be able to re-register for the coming school year starting at the end of February. These students will bring home letters asking parents if they want their child(ren) to attend pre-school and pre-kindergarten for another year. Packets will be mailed home to families who submit a request.

**For new students:** Parents may obtain registration packets beginning March 12th by calling the Student Services Office at 419-621-2715 or by stopping by the Board Office at 407 Decatur Street between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. M-F.

First priority is given to children who are returning to these programs and children who have an IEP.

Please remember-children must be 3 years old as of August 1, 2009 in order to enroll. All children (except those children with an IEP) must also be toilet-trained.

Kindergarten Registration for children who will be 5 years old as of August 1, 2009 will be held in May 2009. See page 3 for more information.

*Check out the Sandusky High School Foreign Language Students of the Month on the Compass Bonus Page on our website.*

## Did you know...

Sandusky City Schools rank as the 106<sup>th</sup> largest by total enrollment among the 896 public and community school districts in the state and is the largest in Erie County with the average daily membership of 3,836 students during the 2007-2008 school year. The District employs 534 full and part-time people. The certificated staff totals 359 employees with 30 administrators. There are 11 full-time adult education instructors and 175 full and part-time non-teaching employees. A comprehensive plan for cost reductions is in place to address the long-term needs of the school district. Every effort has been made to be proactive with the financial condition of the school district. Over the past four years two elementary school buildings have been closed and Barker Alternative School has been moved to the high school building, closing the Barker building. Also, 80 district-wide jobs have been reduced during that time period. Employee salaries make up over eighty percent of our general fund budget. As a result of the cost reduction actions taken, there has been virtually zero percentage increase in employee salaries over the past two years.

## Beware of College Scholarships and Financial Aid SCAMS

Though Sandusky High School Counselors provide warnings to students regarding scholarship and financial aid scams, we are aware that parents and guardians need to be informed of this danger. Students and parents are eager to find funding for college, therefore, become easy targets for financial aid con artists. Sandusky High School counselors provide career and college counseling, handouts, college planning night, and financial aid night to all students and parents. College searches, scholarship searches, and the financial aid application (FAFSA) are free services through the Sandusky High School guidance office and the federal government. As a rule, "never pay money to get money," financial aid and scholarships are free! Never release your credit card number to anyone. If in doubt, please contact your child's counselor at 419-625-2617.

**SCS Website: [www.scs-k12.net](http://www.scs-k12.net)**

*For more school news and information or to look for past issues of*

*The Compass go to: [www.scs-k12.net](http://www.scs-k12.net)*

*(Forms link to The Compass Newsletter) or*

*(Superintendent's Message link to The Compass)*

# Sandusky City Schools... Committed to our Community

## Safe Schools/Healthy Students Parenting Programs offered for the last time in Sandusky

*The Incredible Years* and *Strengthening Families* are two free programs that can help your family get along better and are proven to show good results for parents and children. Funded through the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative, both programs offer dinner and child care along with parenting support. *This is the last time we will be offering these programs – so sign up now!*

*The Incredible Years* is a 10-week program for families with children 3-9 years old.

*Strengthening Families* is for families with children 10-14 years old and is a 7-week program. Both programs are designed to help parents build on their strengths in showing love, setting limits, and helping families grow together. We've had rave reviews for our programs.

Both programs will begin Tuesday, March, 17th. To register, or get more information, call Safe Schools/Healthy Students - Mickie Garrick, LSW, at 419-624-3276 or Bill Myers, LISW, at 419-624-3274

### Be a part of Sandusky Schools

through membership in our support groups. Booster organizations and parent groups have been very generous in their efforts to assist students and the schools.

We are indebted to the hard work that so many adults contribute to the growth and development of our youth in Sandusky. You can have a hands-on approach to helping our community by joining a support group!

Call 419-626-6940 and ask for more information.



## 2009-2010 Kindergarten Registration

Sandusky City Schools will be registering incoming Kindergarten students for the 2009-2010 school year at Campbell School, 1215 Campbell Street, between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., May 20th and May 21st. **Children must be 5 on or before August 1st, 2009.**

**Registering your child as soon as possible is very important!!**

We want to place your child in the elementary building closest to his/her home. If your child has a sibling(s) currently attending one of our elementary buildings we want to place them in the same building. Registering them early helps us to accomplish this, so register your child soon.

**When you register your child please have the following documents with you\*:**

**Original Birth Certificate**

**Shot Records/Immunizations**

**Legal Documents: official copies of custody, name change, etc., if they apply to the child**

**Proof of Residency**

**Driver License or State I.D.**

\*If you do not have all the documentation needed to register your child, we encourage you to still complete the registration process. Missing documents can be brought to the Board of Education Building at a later date.

If you have any questions please contact Luanne Koelsch at 419-621-2866 or [LKoelsch@scs-k12.net](mailto:LKoelsch@scs-k12.net). You can also contact the Board of Education at 419-626-6940.

*We look forward your child becoming a Blue Streak!*



## The OGT Ohio Graduation Test March 16-27, 2009

*Is your SHS student ready?*


For test tips, check out the *The Compass* bonus page on our website.

<http://www.sandusky-city.k12.oh.us/linksDownloads.aspx>

Forms: *The Compass* Newsletter

## Jackson Students Excel in Character Issues

As our students move closer to the half-way point of the school year, 30% of the student body has never been in the office for a discipline contact of any type. This might seem like a low percentage, but when you factor in that includes not being tardy to school or class that is a pretty fine accomplishment.

 Cell phones continue to be an issue with our students at Jackson. Parents and guardians are reminded that they should not call or text students at school. If there is a problem that needs immediate attention, please call the school office at 419-621-2818 and we will have your child report to the office to use the school phone. Students who are found to be using cell phones in school are subject to Saturday School, as well as, the parent being required to pick the phone up from the office.

## Parent/Teacher All-Day Conferences Grades K-12 ❖ April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

You will be receiving an appointment sheet from your child's school with the date and time for your appointment. If you have not received an appointment notice by March 30th, please contact your child's building office to schedule a time. The district number is 419-626-6940. For direct dial numbers and email addresses, please check our website at [www.scs-k12.net/staffDirectory.aspx](http://www.scs-k12.net/staffDirectory.aspx) or [www.scs-k12.net](http://www.scs-k12.net).

**The next issue of *The Compass* will be out in May.**

## Sandusky City Schools Calendar

### March

- 12 Harriet Tubman Play, SHS, 10:00 AM
- 14 SHS Afro Ball, SHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM
- 15-27 Ohio Graduation Test (OGT), SHS
- 18 SHS Winter Sports Award Banquet, SHS 6:00 PM
- 19-21 Swan Club Show, SHS Natatorium, 7:00 PM
- 20 Spring Begins – Vernal Equinox
- 25 ABC 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Spelling Bee, Adams Aud., 6:30 PM
- 26-28 SHS Keynotes Musical, Crazy for You, 7:30 PM
- 27 End of the Third grading Period

### April

- 3 Parent/Teacher Conferences ALL DAY
- 4 ACT Testing, SHS Cafeteria, 8:00 AM
- 3-10 Spring Break – NO SCHOOL**
- 13 School Resumes K-12
- 16-17 SHS Health and Safety Fair, SHS
- 20-30 Grades 3-8 Achievement Testing
- 23 SHS National Honor Society Induction, 7:30 PM
- 25 SHS Prom, SHS Gymnasium, 8:00 PM

### May

- 1 Grades 3-8 Achievement Testing
- 1 Sandusky Schools Art Festival K-12, SHS, 6:30 PM
- 2 SAT Testing, SHS Cafeteria, 8:00 AM
- 2 SHS Hall of Fame Banquet, SHS, 5:00 PM
- 4 SHS Band Banquet, SHS Cafeteria, 6:00PM
- 6 SHS Prep Choir and Concert Band, SHS, 7:30 PM
- 7 SHS Red Cross Blood Drive, SHS, 7:30 AM
- 11 SHS Orchestra banquet, SHS Cafeteria, 6:00 PM
- 12 Symphonic Band/Symphony Orchestra/Jazz Band Concert, SHS Auditorium, 7:30 PM
- 13 Adams Band & Orchestra Spring Concert, 7:00 PM
- 14 SHS A Cappella Choir Robing Concert, 7:30 PM
- 16 Wightman-Wieber Community Safety Celebration/Kidfest, Sandusky Bay Pavilion, 12 PM
- 20 Jackson & Adams Honors Day, Adams Aud. 1:00 PM
- 21-22 Drama Club Production, SHS, 7:30 PM
- 25 Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL**
- 25 Memorial Day Services & Parade, OVH, 9:00 AM
- 26 Hancock Elementary Track & Field, 8:30 AM
- 26 Gospel Choir Spring Concert, SHS, 7:00 PM
- 26 Jackson Spring Concert, Jackson, 7:00 PM
- 27 SHS Spring Sports Awards Banquet, SHS, 6:00 PM
- 28 SHS Academic Awards Program, SHS, 7:00 PM

### June

- 2 Osborne Olympic Day, 8:00 AM
- 3-4 SHS Senior Exams
- 4 Last Day for Seniors
- 4 SHS Commencement Rehearsal, 1:30 PM
- 5 SHS Senior reception/All-Night Party, SHS, 8:00 PM
- 6 SAT Testing, SHS Cafeteria, 8:00 AM
- 7 SHS Commencement, Strobel Field or if inclement weather SHS Gymnasium by ticket
- 11 Last Student Day K-11
- 12 Last Certificated Staff Day – NO SCHOOL
- 13 ACT Testing, SHS Cafeteria, 8:00 AM

### July

- 3 Offices Closed in observance of July 4th
- June 12 – August 22: Administration Building  
Summer Hours 7:15 AM to 2:45 PM, Closed 12:00-1:00 PM

### NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Students, parents, employees, applicants for employment, and all unions holding collective bargaining agreements with the Sandusky City School District are hereby notified that this District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 protects the rights of individuals with physical or mental impairment by ensuring equal access to extra-curricular activities and programs that receive federal financial aid. For students, Section 504 regulations require a school district to provide a free, appropriate and public education (FAPE) to each qualified student with a disability who is in the school district's jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the student's disability. Students are eligible for Section 504 accommodations if their disability substantially limits one or more of a person's major life activities (such as learning, eating, walking, etc....) Special education students who have an IEP are already protected to access and participation in school activities and programs. Section 504 accommodations and supports are for students who do not meet the eligibility criteria for special education services and are therefore not currently on an individual education plan. The Sandusky City School District is committed to identifying, evaluating and providing supports and related services to students who may qualify for accommodations and services that will provide them access to and participation in their grade level curriculum.

If a parent of a student, a student, an adult in this community, or school district employee, feel that you have been denied access to or have not been able to participate in any Sandusky City School sponsored activity or event due to your impairment, please contact Mr. Tom Tucker, Assistant Superintendent at 407 Decatur Street, Sandusky, Ohio 44870-2483, 419-621-2713 or [ttucker@scs-k12.net](mailto:ttucker@scs-k12.net). Student-related matters may be referred by the Assistant Superintendent to Mrs. Karen Clemons, Director of Student Services at 407 Decatur Street, Sandusky, Ohio 44870-2483, 419-621-2701 or [kclemons@scs-k12.net](mailto:kclemons@scs-k12.net), who can also provide information concerning Section 504 accommodations to students.

### Board of Education Meeting Schedule

March 9, 2009	8:00 a.m.	Administration Building
April 13, 2009	7:00 p.m.	Administration Building
April 27, 2009	11:30 a.m.	Administration Building
May 11, 2009	8:00 a.m.	Administration Building
June 8, 2009	11:30 a.m.	Administration Building
June 30, 2009	8:00 a.m.	Administration Building
July 13, 2009	8:00 a.m.	Administration Building
August 10, 2009	8:00 a.m.	Administration Building
September 14, 2009	7:00 p.m.	Administration Building
October 12, 2009	11:30 a.m.	Administration Building
November 16, 2009	7:00 p.m.	Administration Building
December 14, 2009	11:30 a.m.	Administration Building

Citizens may address the Board by sending a signed, written request to Superintendent's Office, 407 Decatur Street, with topic(s) listed, at least one week prior to Board meeting.

Superintendent's Office 419-621-2718

Superintendent's Exec. Asst. email: [fpalmucci@scs-k12.net](mailto:fpalmucci@scs-k12.net)

### Sandusky City Schools

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# The Compass Bonus Page

## Sandusky High School Foreign Language Students of the Month

### November:

French: Allison Bankieris  
German: Heather Gruhlke  
Latin: Dominic Will  
Spanish: Trevor Rieger, Courtney Chaney, Hallie Sample

### December:

French: Raquel Muscioni  
German: Janique Pettis  
Latin: Dailyn Moore  
Spanish: Brandi Strachan, Joy-Tamar Moorer, Skylar Pitts

### January:

French: Cady Dankmyer  
German: Brittany Jones  
Latin: Chris Lilly  
Spanish: Marcus Cobbs, Jenna Hush, Jaron Green

### February:

French: Babe Finley  
German: Chris Graham  
Latin: Holly Lippus  
Spanish: Efren Gonzalez, Jay Plamer, James Fox

## Junior High Athletics Winter 2008-2009

The Winter sports teams at Adams and Jackson Junior Highs are up and running with Boys and Girls Basketball, Wrestling, and Swimming seeing action on the court and in the pool.

The Boys 8<sup>th</sup> grade Basketball team plays a 17 game schedule against the Great Lakes League. The Great Lakes League includes schools from Fremont, Findlay, and Oregon. They had a 7-4 record with tournaments at the end of January. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys were also 7-4 and looking forward to playing a 2<sup>nd</sup> round tournament game at home.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade wrestling team competed in 6 dual matches with home events at Adams Jr. High. The final home match was January 27<sup>th</sup>. The team is worked hard on the mat for the January 24<sup>th</sup> GLL finals.

The swim team is finished with their season. They competed against Sandusky Bay conference schools, and held their own against solid competition. The teams finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of 8 area schools. Taylor Vargo set two school records in the pool this winter. Congratulations Taylor!

The girls basketball team is played out their season through the first week in March. The teams are currently getting ready for the GLL tournament starting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Good luck Ladies!

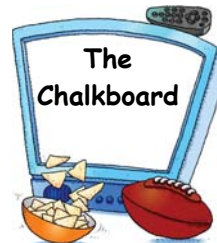
## Daylight Saving Time March 8th

Daylight Saving Time (DST) Begins at 2:00 a.m. on March 8th, so remember to set your clocks ahead before going to bed on March 7th. *Please check your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector, and replace the batteries.* A few dollars could make the difference in saving lives. Daylight Saving Time Ends at 2:00 a.m. November 1, 2009.

## Test Tips for Parents (The OGT is Coming)

The following tips will provide suggestions for parents on how to approach test taking with their kids.

- ✓ Ensure that your child eats a healthy breakfast and avoid heavy foods that may make him/her groggy and avoid high sugar foods that may make him/her hyper.
- ✓ Make sure that your child gets enough sleep on the night before a test.
- ✓ Make sure that your child gets up early enough so that he/she will be on time to school.
- ✓ Make sure that your child does all their homework and reading assignments which will help make sure your child is prepared.
- ✓ Encourage your child to space out their studying and homework assignments, so that they won't be forced to cram on the night before.
- ✓ If you are anxious about your child's test it's ok, but try to keep cool around your child. You don't want them to get anxious about their tests too.
- ✓ Encourage your child to do well, but don't pressure him/her. You may stress him/her out. It is important for your child to stay relaxed on the test.
- ✓ Keep a positive attitude about tests.
- ✓ Provide a quiet, well lighted area with little distractions to help your child study efficiently.
- ✓ Mark down test days on your calendar, so you and your child are both aware of testing dates.
- ✓ Let your child relax for a few hours before bedtime. It can be stressful for a child to study all night.
- ✓ Talking about the test with your child can relieve stress about test taking.
- ✓ If your child is struggling on their tests, talk to them about it, and meet with their teacher to find out the best way to help your child.
- ✓ Praise/reward your child when they do well on a test or for their hard work preparing for a test.



**Sandusky City Schools  
on Cable Channel 81  
or Sandusky Schools  
on the web at  
[www.scs-k12.net](http://www.scs-k12.net)**