

HS PTSO Meeting 1/10/24

Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

Staff Delegate Reports

Brooke Tarcson/ Jack Yurcich- Student Council/Student Activities

Finals week next week.

A couple of groups are supporting Mental Health next week with

Friday Jan 19th, seniors should come and pick up official senior T-shirts from Café 321.

Sadie's tickets are available for sale during lunchtime. A link has also been emailed to students. Tickets are not available on the night and should be purchased in advance.

Dr Jennifer Kirk- Counseling Dept

Seniors are in the process of receiving decisions from college applications.

9th and 11th grade are involved in planning meetings with counselors, students and parents regarding the upcoming school year.

-We are in the process of college seminar planning an event to take place on February 6 at 6:30 PM. Confirmed so far are University of Tennessee, Villanova and Kent. The Universities will discuss the admissions and application process

- Next year's course selections begin shortly. Current 9th graders begin on January 9, 10th graders begin on January 31st, 11th graders will begin on February 1 and current 8th graders begin February 2.
- National school counseling week is February 5 -9. It highlights standards and practices in both the State of Pennsylvania and also nationally. Topics discussed will include mindset and behaviors as well as adhered ethics and discussions surrounding the ability to advocate for both students and professionals.

Janine Despines- Teacher Representative

Global Education Week was a huge success. The verve throughout the week was fabulous. I hope your children enjoyed it.

You may have seen this on the website, but it's worth repeating. The Upper St. Clair High School has been named to the [2022-23 AP School Honor Roll](#) and is one of 85 public high schools in Pennsylvania and 16 in Allegheny County to earn this recognition.

Also, for the eighth consecutive year, Upper St. Clair School District has been named among the nation's Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation. Upper St. Clair is one of only 15 school districts in Allegheny County and 123 in Pennsylvania to earn the distinction in 2023.

Some of you may have enjoyed the seasonal Band & Orchestra concert that was held on December 14th.

On Dec 6th The Cure for Hate In-School Field Trip was attended by some students from Social Studies classes.

There is a Lunch and Learn opportunity today during the lunches: Bridging the Gap: How Mechanical Engineering and Robotics Impact Our World by Jake Seal from Seegrid

2 other Lunch and Learn events this month are:

On January 24th: A Case-Based Introduction to Veterinary Medicine by Dr. Thierry Clermont
and

January 31st: Finding Lost Cities: Archaeology and Social Sciences by USC alum Josh Cannon, who is the Executive Director of the Center for Governance and Markets at the University of Pittsburgh

On November 29th the DECA Competition at Duquesne University was a big success.

Winter sports are in full swing. Check out the athletic department's website for schedules, highlights, and other information.

The 2024 Musical was announced – Newsies – a story inspired by the real-life Newsboys Strike of 1899 in New York City. Practices start this week. Performances will be March 14, 15 and 16th. Good luck to all of your children who are participating on or behind the stage!

Students have two Monday's off in January – the 15th and 22nd for teacher in-service days.

Monday, February 19th is also a teacher in-service day dedicated to teacher wellness. This is a day that we look forward to as a way to refresh and renew. There is usually a health-related keynote speaker, workshops to attend throughout the day, and a health fair.

Finals will be held next week. And January 23 is the Third Quarter and the Second Semester Begins. Some of your children may have new semester long classes.

Dr Daniel Beck- Assistant Principal

-For the first time, USC took part in a girls wrestling event!

-Bocce has 2 home games this year and it's great to see our students partner with our life skills students.

January Dean's list was announced on Monday, this highlights achievements within our school. Student nominees and teachers meet for breakfast.

- Here are the students nominated for Deans' List this month:

Daniel Bosley 2025 nominated By Ms. Buccilli

Summer Delaney 2025 nominated by Mr. Erbrecht

Alyssa Paolicelli 2027 nominated by Mr. Cramer

Reed Krugh 2027 nominated by Mr. Langley

Anthony Rozzo 2027 nominated by Ms. Hess

Lauren Welch 2024 nominated by Mr. Hoburg

Johnny McNally 2024 nominated by Ms. Zirngibl

Logan Stafford 2025 nominated by Mr. Peskorski

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

2nd vice president – Dr Tim Wagner

1) A new elective in communications will be offered next year. The yearlong course will be divided into three 12 week segments that review video media production, presentation techniques/speech, and mass & modern media. The English department is excited about this offering and the hands-on & relevant skills that students will learn.

2) Monday, February 26 will be financial literacy day for Juniors. This year's event will allow students to learn about budgeting and managing their money as they go through a simulation in which they get to pick their future career and life goals. Parent volunteers are needed - for more information and to sign up to volunteer, please see the email from Mr. Nicholson sent on Friday, January 12.

Leria Miles- President

-Looking ahead, the proposed budget for next year will be available in April/May

- Mini grant program goes live today, three groups will be awarded \$250 each. An email will be sent out to all students via Brooke Talken with the Google form to apply. Deadline for applications is January 31 and the winners will be judged for approval by the executive board and winners will be announced the second week of February

- Arts of USC contest is ongoing and Mrs Valentine has confirmed 5 pieces from the high school have been submitted so far. Applications will be judged and on display within the next few months.
- Communications: we currently use Facebook sporadically. Our secretary, Sian Howell will endeavor to improve communications moving forward, including setting up an Instagram account so that we can reach a wider group of parents.

1st VP/ Secretary- Bharath Bangalore/ Siân Howell

Nothing to report at this time

Treasurer- John Biedrzycki

The budget for 2023/24 has all been finalized and has been available for the last 30 days. EMAIL will go out today for voting to approve the budget by January 17th.

Moving forward, we now have a template to use for the future. Please reach out to John if you have any questions.

- Val Franks- Membership
- An email will be sent out with as part of a Membership drive. An option to pay via credit card will be available.
- Voting on the budget will require membership with the PTSO. You have to be a member in order to vote. If you are unsure if you have paid, please reach out to Val directly and she can let you know vfranks@mindworks.net

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Daphna Gans- School Board Representative

This week, the school board was presented with the fast track curriculum recommendations. As you may know, our district has a unique process for curriculum development. Twice a year, curriculum recommendations, in any and all study areas are presented to the board for approval. The recommendations this time include some very exciting and interesting high school courses, and the board will vote on the recommendations at the next meeting.

Additionally, the board was presented with the first reading of the proposed school calendar for 2024-2025. In the last few years, the calendar has been presented early to allow families to plan their vacation plans ahead. The proposed calendar is now available online along with a survey allowing parents and students the opportunity to send the district any comments (until 2/1). USC is the only district that provides this opportunity. Much work has gone into developing this calendar and there are a multitude of factors that affect it. This coming year, because of the Holidays timing, Winter break is longer than usual. As a result, and in order to allow for 183 instruction days, the end date of the school year is a Monday. The first day for students is Wednesday, 8/21/2024. Of note, and as a result of many parents requests annually, there will

not be school on 11/1/2025 after Halloween. This has been an ongoing request by parents, and the district has been responding to it for the past several years.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year, and to thank the incredible administration, faculty and staff, students and parents at the high school!

As always, you may reach me with any questions or comments.

Staff appreciation Committee

Nothing to report at this time

Partners in Education, Katherine Zesch- PIE Co-Chair

We would like to invite anyone who has a child who receives Special Education to attend our informal Coffee Connection on February 7 from 9-11 am at The Pie Place.

We would also like to share our new email for all correspondence:
partnersineducationusc@gmail.com

NEXT MEETING March 6th

MEETING ADJOURNED 10:14am