



UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

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Mrs. Tara B. Bennett
Principal

Mr. Erik Arnold
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Operational Report – October 2009

Tara Bennett, Principal

Community of Caring

Respect ~ Caring ~ Responsibility ~ Trust ~ Family

UHS Activities/Recognition

- We had 57 seniors attend the Sutton College Fair on September 18th. Information for post high school opportunities was available from over 80 vendors. The students enjoyed the opportunity to gather necessary and interesting information.
- Congratulations to our Class of 2013 officers who were elected by their classmates on September 22, 2009:
 - President - Andrew Reardon
 - Vice President – Nicole Venditti
 - Secretary – Wade O’Neil
 - Treasurer – Abigail White
- Congratulations to Kymberly Kerr and Dennis Flores on being recognized as the October Senior of the Month

Subject Overview:

We have had a productive start to the school year:

- Foreign Language: Two new courses have been implemented: *Exploring Cultural Icons through Film* – the use of films, readings, music and on-line research students learn about the lives and works of several Latino historical figures. This course is conducted primarily in Spanish. *AP Spanish* – conducted in Spanish, the objective is to integrate students’ language skills so that they can proficiently communicate with native Spanish-speakers, read and listen to materials. This course is equivalent to a third-year college level Spanish course. Several classes are beginning cultural exchanges via email and blogging using the educational site www.epals.com. Connections with students in Peru, Mexico and Spain have been made. Connections to native Spanish-speakers attending UHS is being incorporated into classes. Five students are currently pursuing their love of learning *French* through an on-line course. This has been an adjustment for these students as this is their first exposure to on-line learning and the challenges of not working in the traditional classroom setting.
- Science: Dr. Craig has been working throughout the summer producing video segments used in his environmental classes. A large majority of his work has already been posted

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to his website and has been viewed by many in the science community. A new course, *AP chemistry*, has had a strong start with students enjoying the new course.

- **Technology:** The video communications studio is nearing completion. Completion of the studio should occur around Oct. 9, 2009. The computer lab adjacent to the studio is up and running for our photography and video editing courses.
- **English:** Two senior English classes (Ms. Desilets and Ms. Pond) are developing video projects pertaining to the epic poem Beowulf, while students in another senior class (Mrs. Guilmette) have written their own epic adventures. Some classes have begun writing their college essays. Ms. Desilets freshman honors class is working on a 3D wall mural of the house described in Poe's short story "The Mask of the Red Death," incorporating the seven colors with the motif of the seven sins. Sophomores and freshmen classes are working through their Shakespeare curriculum. Mrs. Bernard's AP English students are, of course, challenged by the rigorous demands of the course.
- **Math:** The math department is very excited to offer an SAT prep course this trimester. Juniors and seniors are taking practice exams as well as reinforcing previous skills to improve students SAT math scores. In our geometry courses, we are utilizing geometry software called Geometer Sketchpad. It allows students to discover geometry on their own. The program has been loaded on all computers in both labs.
- **Fine Arts:** **Art:** Art 1 students are completing various activities that will enable them to draw from direct observation (own hands and footwear). They have also used basic lines and geometric shapes to draw a fish and are about to embark on a series of six realistic drawings of one art room tool. Students in ceramics have learned two basic hand-building methods, pinching and coil building. They have produced two bowls using the pinching method one of which will be donated to the 2010 Empty Bowls fundraiser event. **Music:** New and exciting growth is happening in the music department! Chorus and Band are "in school" options; numbers in the Concert Choir have almost doubled; student-elected officers represent band and choir and with their leadership, new members are joining. *Fundamentals of Guitar* has been a popular elective with over 60 students scheduled for the various sections, *Music Theory* has tripled in numbers, and the newest course, *Music Appreciation* is at full capacity. Expansion into participating in parades and attending festivals will be coming in 2009 – 2010.
- **Media Center:** the latest buzz in libraries is that of the Learning Commons – a new and vibrant learning environment for students. For more information check out the wiki created by librarian William Sweeney for more information: <https://uhs-library.wikispaces.com>. Feedback is encouraged.

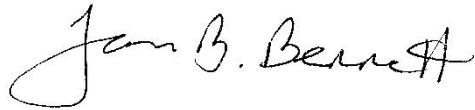
Interscholastic Sports:

- Total participation for fall sports is 178 student-athletes:
 - Cheerleading -10
 - Cross Country - 9 (G), 8 (B)
 - Field Hockey -16 (V), 14 (JV)
 - Football - 59
 - Golf - 11
 - Soccer – 20 (GV)/ 14 (GJV), 17 (B)

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Upcoming Events

- Half-curriculum day on October 2
- Monthly faculty meeting on October 5
- MIAA Character Through Sport Workshop on October 6
- Professional Day on October 13
- Student Council Fall Officer Shop on October 16
- Homecoming Week – October 14 – 16
- History Field Trip to Boston Freedom Trail on October 20
- UHS Teacher Conferences on October 22
- SADD Red Ribbon Week – October 26 - 30



Tara B. Bennett, UHS Principal