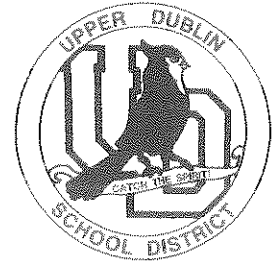


SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
UPPER DUBLIN



1580 FORT WASHINGTON AVENUE • MAPLE GLEN, PA 19002 • (215) 643-8800

Summer 2010

MICHAEL J. PLADUS, Ed.D
SUPERINTENDENT

Letter from the Superintendent of Schools

Dear Community Members,

The most difficult part of the job of Superintendent of Schools in the School District of Upper Dublin is the constant pressure that exists in trying to maintain (*and even enhance*) the quality of education within our schools and doing so in a manner that is fair and reasonable to taxpayers, many of whom may be on fixed or limited incomes.

The School District of Upper Dublin over the years has been recognized as a District that offers an outstanding quality of education in an extremely cost effective manner, being cited by sources as diverse as *Standard and Poors* and *Philadelphia Magazine* as a *best bang for your buck school district*.

This year's much higher than average tax increase of 11.63% is driven largely by one factor, the costs directly associated with the construction of the new high school. Last year's tax increase of 4.1% contained no additional funding for the high school construction project, thus this year's increase represents two years of payments, leaving only one final small tax increase for next year. While it does not make this year's tax bill any more affordable it is important to note that only 2.9% of this year's increase is for the day to day operations of the District (salaries, utilities, books, etc.).

In terms of overall student performance, Upper Dublin generally ranks among the top three school districts in Montgomery County (this past year, Upper Dublin High School recorded the 7th highest SAT scores of all public high schools in the state), while at the same time, spending less per pupil than most other districts (16th lowest out of 21 according to the most recent, audited financial records available). In terms of comparative tax burdens, Upper Dublin's new millage rate of 26.4 ranks 12th out of the 21 school districts in Montgomery County.

With all this said, the Board of School Directors and I recognize the difficulties resulting from a double digit tax increase in an economic climate that is still far less than positive. In moving forward, we are committed to remaining even more sensitive to the economic realities faced by taxpayers while at the same time continuing to recognize the importance of a high quality educational system that not only promotes opportunities for young people, but also serves to boost property values as well. I truly appreciate your understanding and support.

Respectfully,

Michael Pladus
Superintendent of Schools