

James Pankow stands with the 1998 Buick that he won for having perfect attendance at Sandusky High School.

Sophomore at Sandusky High School wins car from local dealer

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SANDUSKY—Perfect attendance has long been a goal for Sandusky High school Sophomore James Pankow.

Now getting to school will become even easier for Pankow, the proud new owner of a red 1998 Buick Regal LS.

Pankow's name was drawn yesterday from among 107 SHS students, out of 1,200 students, who logged perfect at-

tendance from Jan. 22 to Friday. The 107 names were entered into a drawing for a car donated by Phil Steinle Motorcars, 5215 Milan Road.

The Sandusky Education Association and the Steinle family worked on the giveaway as an incentive for students to come to school, said Brian Nitschke, president of the Sandusky Education Association and orchestra director for the high school. Students don't learn if they

are not in the classroom, he said.

"It's a nice way for us to give to the community," said Steinle's daughter, Jenny Steinle-Martin. "That's our goal, to do something for the kids. If that benefits them by increasing attendance, that's a bonus."

At first, the students were not enthused about their prospects, but they adapted quickly, Nitschke said.

"When we introduced the project to

the kids, a lot of what I heard was they felt it was unachievable to be here every day for a semester," Nitschke said.

The number of qualifying students was higher than the school officials expected.

"I was pleasantly surprised," said Phil Steinle.

"I expected it to be a lot lower than

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tachometer, tilt steering, cruise control and a tan leather interior. Its 3.8 liter V-6 engine gets an estimated 17 miles per gallon in city driving, 27 on the highway.

For Pankow, his next goal may well be perfect attendance in driver's education.

He sat in the driver's seat to pose for pictures of the event, but got into the passenger seat while Steinle started the engine. Pankow said he does not yet have his driver's license, but will hold onto the

car, as long as his parents, Deborah and Mark Pankow, agree.

They were out of town yesterday morning and he planned to tell them about the car after school.

"I'll keep it, but I'll do that this summer because I now have motivation to get one," Pankow said about his driver's license. "I was going to slack it."

Pankow said he has won a few classroom raffles for small prizes, but nothing like a car.

"I'd say this takes the cake for me," he said.

The sophomore said he has been to class every day since graduation. "I don't like to get behind," Pankow said.

Winning was "pretty good, better than having a job for one year to pay for one," he said.

Sandusky High School students who return next year may get their chance at new wheels. Steinle and Nitschke said they already planning another car raffle.

107," Nitschke said.

The car certainly helped. Buick loaded the Regal with creature comforts to be a competitor for higher-priced Lexus cars, Steinle said.

The four-door sedan features a power windows and locks, a power driver's seat, dual air bags,