

His attendance is **AUTO**matic

Sophomore wins car for perfect attendance.

By **LAURA COLLINS**

lauracollins@sanduskyregister.com

SANDUSKY

"Finally, something wonderful has happened to us."

That's what Deborah Pankow said Wednesday afternoon, close to tears because her son, James, had won a car at school that day.

The used car, a red Buick Regal, was donated by Phil Steinle Auto Sales to be a part of a perfect attendance initiative at Sandusky High School.

Students who had perfect attendance for the second semester of the school year were eligible for the drawing to win the car.

There were 107 students with perfect attendance, but Phil Steinle drew James' name.

"I was in shock so I wasn't really thinking too much," said 16-year-old James. "It's not every day that would happen to me. I'm still kinda in shock. I can't really grasp it."

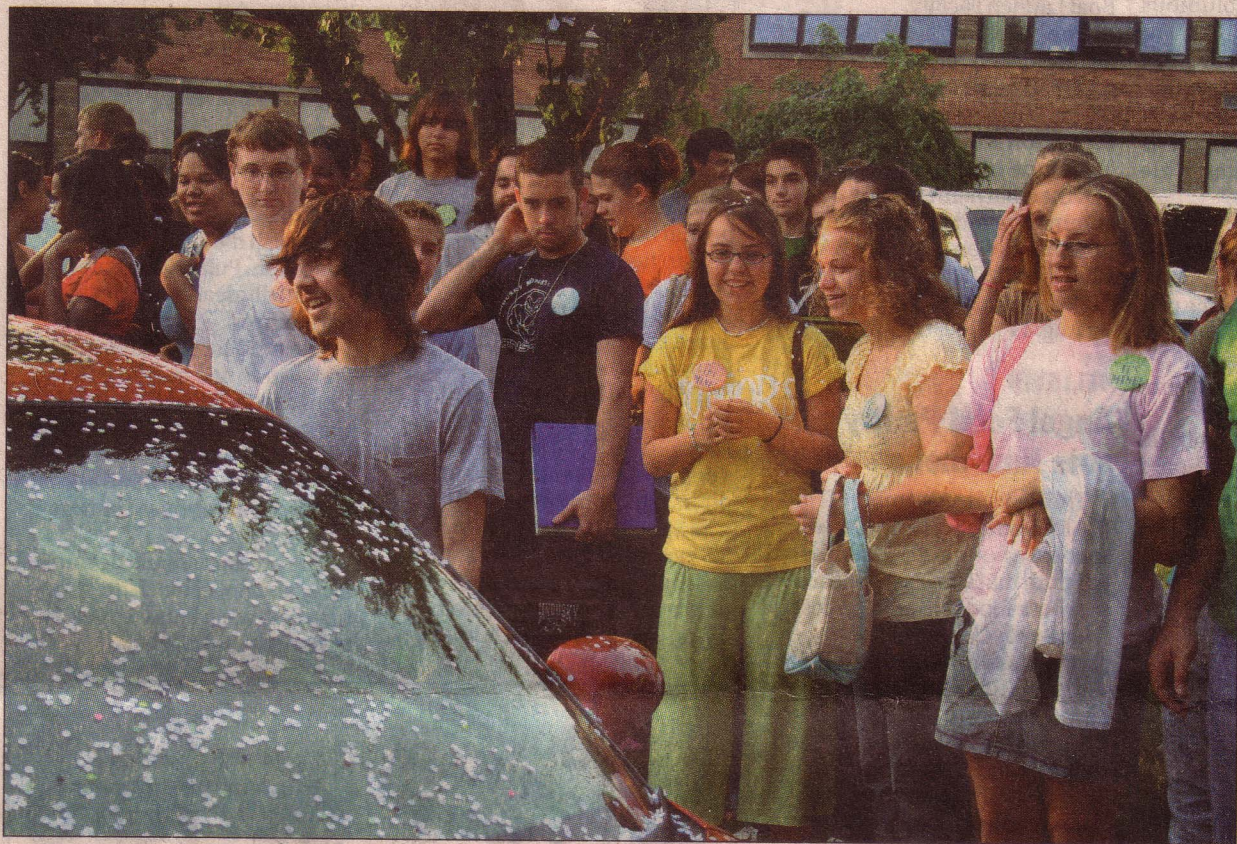
Deborah is glad her son is being recognized for his accomplishment. He has gone over and above the semester-long requirement.

"I'd said all along he deserved it. He's gone four years without missing a day of school," she said. "I'm a very proud mother."

Before James won, the family was planning on sharing a car until he could save up to buy one.

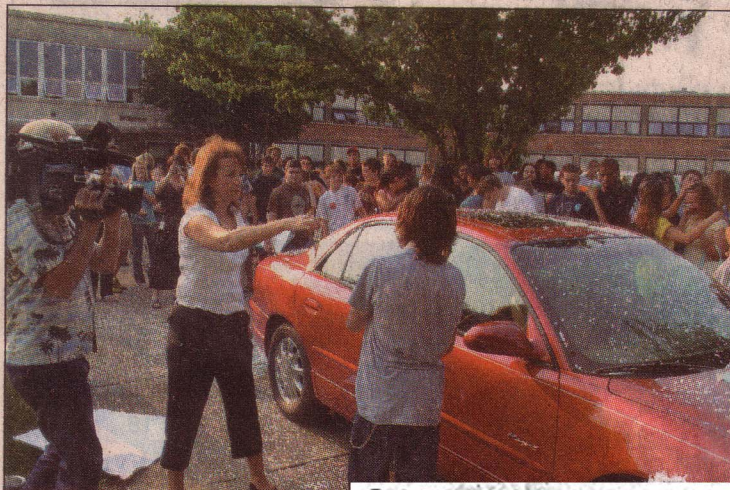
It will be awhile, though, before James takes the car for a spin. He is still working on getting his license.

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Sandusky High School Photos/TIM FLECK

ABOVE: Sandusky High School sophomore James Pankow, gray shirt, smiles as he gets into his "new" used car outside the school Wednesday morning.



LEFT: Mary Dahlmann, Sandusky High School Library media specialist, presents the car to Pankow.

CAR

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Meanwhile, he is not letting anyone else drive it.

"I have seven months. I'm just going to keep it in the garage so no one dings it up before I get to drive it," James said.

High School Principal Dan Poggiali said it was a great promo-

tion by the Sandusky Education Association to encourage perfect attendance.

"We are pleased that we had 107 students qualifying for the drawing," Poggiali said. "We're very happy that Mr. Steinle agreed to give us this vehicle."

Steinle is planning on donating another car for next school year, this time upping the challenge to a full year of perfect attendance.