



## UAIS Update April 3, 2017

Good Afternoon UAIS Parents,

I hope this finds you all well. With the arrival of April, we are finally seeing a change in the weather. The arrival of spring also brings on the beginning of the fourth card marking for all students. Please check PowerSchool for third card marking final grades, which should be available around April 15th. This last card marking brings a lot of important events and evenings that I will communicate to you either via the monthly newsletter or in grade-specific supplementary emails. The start of April also signifies our senior class review month for their IB examinations. While there should be no additional new instruction for our seniors before their May examinations, it is important for our senior parents to ensure that their senior student is taking full advantage of this time to study for these examinations and not resting solely on the class time we have in school.

### **Warm Welcome!**

Earlier this year, I announced that Mrs. Bihary, our office clerk, had accepted a full-time position elsewhere in the district. I am pleased to announce that we have a new office clerk that recently joined us. Jennifer Oleksiak is our new office clerk at UAIS. She is with us from 7:00am to 1pm and can be reached at the same number: 586-797-3187. We are very excited to have her aboard, and she has already been an incredible help to our program!

## UCS Career Expo

This is a reminder that the annual Career Expo will be held on Thursday, March 16 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Eisenhower High School. This free event is an opportunity for your child and you to meet with representatives of more than 100 careers. The business and industry leaders will provide information on their line of work, how they prepared for their jobs, the importance of post-secondary education and their overall responsibilities. For your convenience, shuttles will be running that evening from Henry Ford II, Stevenson and Wiley Elementary beginning at 6:45 p.m. For more information, please see our website at <http://uais.uticak12.org>.

## UAIS Freshman Honors Recognition Ceremony

Our freshman honors recognition ceremony will be held this year on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> in the UAIS cafeteria from 7:30-8:30am. If your child has earned a 3.67 GPA for first semester and/or is receiving a department award, they will be excused from class to attend our ceremony in the cafeteria. Parents who wish to attend may sign up in the main office and join us in the cafeteria.

## Testing Week and Altered Schedule for 4/11- 4/12

As a reminder to the earlier emails sent home, all testing for the PSAT 9/10 and SAT 11 will occur at the home schools, not UAIS. **On these days, no specialty programs, including UAIS, will run classes on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.** We will have regular school and classes on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. At the conclusion of testing, regular classes and the normal school day will resume on Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Parents, please remember to review the SAT 11, PSAT 10 or PSAT 9 mailing that I sent home earlier this week, which provides all the specific information you and your child need to know. I have also visited all 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade classes with a copy of the same mailing and provided an opportunity to clarify any questions students had about the testing process.

## M-STEP Testing for Juniors

This spring, all Michigan public school students in grade 11 will take the state summative assessment called M-STEP (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress). The M-STEP is designed to measure student growth and progress on the Michigan Academic Standards ([www.Michigan.gov/academicstandards](http://www.Michigan.gov/academicstandards)). The M-STEP for juniors is the last required component for the Michigan Merit

Examination, which is required for students to earn a Michigan high school diploma. Therefore, all juniors must take the assessment to be eligible to graduate.

Eleventh graders will be tested in sciences and social studies using a computer in two consecutive hour-long sessions. UAIS juniors will take these assessments on during the morning on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> during the online testing window. M-STEP will provide an accurate view of your child's achievement levels and learning needs to help us identify areas where we can improve instruction and teaching. Juniors will return to class for the afternoon. 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade classes will remain unaffected, and classes will run their normal schedule for those grades.

As parents/guardians, you play an important role in your child's academic success. We are asking for your help to ensure he/she is prepared for this new online assessment series. Here's what you can do: Encourage your child to approach the M-STEP with a positive attitude. Please make sure your child gets plenty of rest the night before, has a good breakfast and comes to school **on time**. I would also ask that you refrain from any early dismissals for juniors that morning, if at all possible. Your child's attendance is vital to his/her achievement.

To learn more about the M-STEP assessments, please visit the Michigan Department of Education Web site: <http://www.michigan.gov/mde>.

### **End-of-Year Cedar Point Trip**

Once again, our IB a Parent Boosters is trying to arrange an end-of-year field trip to Cedar Point on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. This is a non-school-sponsored trip for our students. The Boosters are in need of a parent chair or head organizer to help make this trip happen. If you are interested in this committee chair person, please contact the boosters at: [uaisboosters@gmail.com](mailto:uaisboosters@gmail.com) no later than April 7, 2017.

For the trip itself, a least 8 parent chaperones and 55 students need to sign up to make the trip economically feasible. A waiting list will build past the first 55 students to register to pay for a second bus to Cedar Point. Chaperoning parents would help check in on students throughout the day and make sure they are on the bus at departure time. Chaperoning parents do NOT have to pay for their child ticket at Cedar Point, and each parent receives two scholarship entries for volunteering.

If you are interested in registering your child for the trip, the cost is \$95/person and includes park admission, transportation, and a park wristband that allows you Pepsi products all day long. Participants will still need to bring money for food that day.

If interested, forms may be submitted in a sealed envelope and dropped off in the Boosters box in the counseling office. I have attached the registration paperwork in the body of the email containing the April newsletter for your convenience.

### **Parent Boosters Corner**

Dr. Wojtara would like to thank all the parents who came on March 21<sup>st</sup> Senior Parents Meeting and helped with collecting dues for the Senior Activities! We truly have amazing IB Parents!

Once again, the IB Parent Booster would like to thank all the parents who paid their Booster dues. We are still receiving donations!! However, for those who would *still* like to donate to the IB A Parent Boosters, please make your checks payable to IB A PARENT BOOSTER and have your student deliver the form and check to the office, or send in your donation(s) to:

IB A Parent Booster  
P.O. Box 1324  
Sterling Heights, MI 48311

The next meeting is in April in the Media Center. I would like to encourage you ALL to attend at least one Booster meeting. The Agenda, Booster Minutes and other important information are always posted on our Facebook (UAIS IB Parents (*Join us!*)). You can also contact the president at: [swojtara@yahoo.com](mailto:swojtara@yahoo.com), or [uaisboosters@gmail.com](mailto:uaisboosters@gmail.com).

Please join the IB a Parent Boosters Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=uais%20ib%20parents>. You can find the meeting minutes and agendas there.

Have a wonderful and safe spring break!

Sincerely,

Justin Spear

Program Director