



## UAIS December Newsletter December 4, 2017

Dear UAIS Parents,

I hope that you and your family enjoyed a relaxing Thanksgiving weekend. With the longer holiday quickly approaching, our current seniors are turning in the final drafts of their Extended Essays and also anxiously awaiting a wave of college application decisions in the coming weeks (more on that below). Juniors have currently proposed their Extended Essay topics to the staff and will be proposing their required CAS extended projects before our next holiday break, if they have not already done so. Soon, all UAIS students will begin preparing for midterm exams in mid-January. I'll have more information about the adjusted schedule in next month's newsletter.

**College Acceptances:** We are pleased to announce that due to acceptances over the weekend, UAIS has now had students accepted to **ALL EIGHT** Ivy League schools in our first seven graduating classes (2012-2018). Congratulations to all UAIS students and may everyone find the college or university that is the best fit for their individual needs! Go Phoenix!

**College Application Decisions:** Senior parents, I want to make you aware that a significant portion of Early Action and Early Decision applications are made during the week prior to Christmas, including Christmas Eve. This involves a number of highly selective schools, including the University of Michigan. These responses typically come in an email to students. What we have typically discovered is that more often than not, we see a greater number of deferrals than acceptances in this initial process, as well as a few rejection letters. We have spoken to our seniors about keeping these initial decisions in perspective. If your son/daughter has been deferred, please ask him/her make an appointment to see Mrs. Fitzsimonds so that she can follow-up with the university.

Other important points to share with senior parents as well include the following:

- We emphasize to students that a deferral is NOT a rejection letter, nor does it foreshadow that a rejection is more likely. It simply indicates the college wants to gather more information. Encourage your child to focus on finishing strong with his/her first semester grades, which schools will request.
- We discourage students from comparing themselves to other classmates who may have an acceptance when they have not. GPA and ACT comparisons are typical examples we hear. We tell students that riding this train of thought is not helpful. Please remind them that their future success is independent of others' acceptances.
- We tell students that if they do receive a rejection letter, it does mean the process is over. There is no appeal to this decision. Please encourage your child to take this decision in stride and move forward. This may be the first time in their life they have not been accepted to something, and learning to overcome that loss is a good life skill as well.
- UAIS enjoys a significantly higher acceptance rate compared to most other schools because of its academic rigor, but this doesn't really show until April and May once all schools complete the process. Please be patient during this process!
- Some students may cling to the belief that "X" or "Y" school is required for their success. We believe that our students define themselves, not a school they attend. This is also consistent with our alumni feedback. If you also remind them of this, it will reduce their stress and reinforce that hard work, no matter where you do it, pays off in the long run!

**Coordinator's Corner:** UAIS seniors have officially been registered for IB May exams. We have 257 registrations in Higher Level (HL) subjects and 230 registrations in 15 Standard Level (SL) exams for a grand total of 487 exams for the entire senior class. Very impressive!

**Jostens Visitation:** Jostens was here this morning to distribute graduation information, including cap and gown packets to UAIS seniors. As in previous year, seniors are responsible for the ordering of their caps and gowns for graduation at UAIS. The Jostens representative will return December 12<sup>th</sup> to collect graduation orders. I will have more information regarding graduation/commencement and senior activities beginning in January. A separate mailing will be emailed to senior parents only so that I can keep in regular contact with senior parents regarding these important events and deadlines.

**UAIS Application Process for Class of 2022:** UCS recently released the application window and timeline for the specialty programs (CSI, MST, UAIS). The Secondary Specialty Programs application will be available on the UCS website Monday, January 15th, 2018 (<http://www.uticak12.org/>). Applications are due Sunday, February 25, 2018 at 3:00p.m. UAIS will host its information night at 6:30p.m. on February 1st at UAIS/Heritage (37400 Dodge Park Road, Sterling Heights 48312). This event is always well-attended and will start promptly at 6:30p.m. Please arrive early to ensure seating. The UCS Blitz that showcases the district's educational options is scheduled for 7pm on February 8th, at Ford II High School. Lastly, if you have an 8th grader that would like to participate in our student shadowing program, please click on the [Shadow Request Form](#) for more information and to submit a request for your student to visit UAIS for a day. This opportunity is only available from November 15th – March

15th. Stay tuned for other important information regarding prospective students and the enrollment process.

**Upcoming Events:** Don't forget...Band and Choir fundraiser- Tuesday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at the Chipotle located at 13975 Lakeside Circle. This fundraiser will support the Utica Academy for International Studies music department. **50%** of all proceeds will be donated to UAIS music department. Simply bring this flyer [Chipotle flyer.pdf](#) or show it on your smartphone between 4:00pm-8:00pm and you'll help our music department continue to make beautiful music.

Group 4 (Science) will have its next fundraiser Thursday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. It is also at the Chipotle on Lakeside Circle. A portion of your sale will be given to the Science department! Please join us from 4-8 p.m. Thank you!

In closing, I would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy, and relaxing upcoming holiday season. Enjoy your time with family and friends and I look forward to seeing you soon. I wish you all the very best in 2018!

Warm Regards,

Mrs. Beebe  
Principal, UAIS