



UAIS February Newsletter February 1, 2017

Dear UAIS Parents,

We have a number of big changes, announcements, and important dates to share with you in our February newsletter. Without further ado, let's begin!

Good Luck, Mrs. Bihary!

Mrs. Bihary, who has been our office clerk at UAIS since its inception in 2008, has accepted a full-time position at Jeannette in their counseling department. Mrs. Bihary has been an integral part of the UAIS family, and while we are sad to see her go, we are happy that she has taken this wonderful opportunity. For the time being, we have Debbie Krenzel, a retired UCS secretary who brings a wealth of knowledge, filling in for the position until a permanent replacement can be found. I will make that announcement when the time comes.

Senior Supplemental Mailing for Graduation

All senior parents should have received an email yesterday (January 31st) containing announcements, dates and deadlines for senior end-of-the-year events, activities and honors night and commencement ceremonies. It is imperative that you read those attachments carefully, and I would suggest you print them and keep them handy as we march toward graduation. Once again, if you have not already marked your calendars, **the mandatory graduation meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 21st in the UAIS cafeteria. Each senior and at least one parent should arrive no later than 6:15pm to get your materials. The presentation will last from 6:30-7:30pm.**

Dress Code and Student IDs

Mrs. Beebe and Mr. Voakes have ordered ID badges and lanyards for all Heritage and UAIS students to wear while in the building. This will help them identify and distinguish Heritage students from UAIS students. Additionally, it will identify students not associated with UAIS or Heritage, who must sign in as visitors in the main office. Finally, please remember that all students need to follow the dress code. Mrs. Beebe and Mr. Voakes have been addressing some of these issues with

students on both sides of the building and asked that I send a gentle reminder out. Dress code policy can be found in the student handbook located on the district website.

Student Scheduling for 2016-17 School Year

Mrs. Fitzsimonds and I will be visiting classrooms this week to discuss scheduling and pass out scheduling packets to all sophomores for IB classes that will cover the remaining two years of curriculum at UAIS. Mrs. Fitzsimonds will conduct schedule presentations to all current freshmen and juniors. I will handle all questions for current sophomores as they plan their IB diploma choices. Additional forms will be available for pickup in the counseling office. Parents of sophomores are required to approve and sign their student's scheduling sheets. This is a reminder that **all sophomore scheduling sheets must be signed by both the student and at least one parent before turning them in on or before Tuesday, February 28th**. Current juniors who do not turn in their selection for elective classes on time will relinquish equal priority with those who turn in selections on time. Please note that elective classes are not guaranteed. We will do our best to place students in an elective of their choice, but we will not be able to accommodate all students.

UCS Academic Blitz

All UCS families can create a successful game plan for their children's educational future at the tenth annual Academic Blitz on Thursday, February 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Henry Ford II High School, 11911 Clinton River Road in Sterling Heights. The event is open to all area families interested in specific options available for UCS students.

The evening will begin with guest speaker Dr. Keith E. Whitfield, provost of Wayne State University. Following the presentation, families will be able to choose from 15 breakout sessions. Breakout sessions include topics such as: the Naviance career and college readiness tool, getting ready for high school and junior high school, dual enrollment, advanced placement programs, the UCS high school specialty programs and a special workshop on leadership held by high school students.

Informational booths will also be available with representatives from a variety of district programs, post-secondary programs and agencies that support area educational opportunities will also be available. Booths will open at 6 p.m. For more information on the Academic Blitz, please visit <http://www.uticak12.org/academicblitz>.

UAIS Open House/Informational Night Extravaganza

UAIS will host one Open House for prospective families on Tuesday, February 14th from 6:30-8:30pm at Heritage/UAIS. The evening consists of one 45-minute presentation in the cafeteria followed by an opportunity to visit classrooms with simulated activities and lessons, the IB college advantage presentation in the media center, and curriculum tables where families can meet with teachers and current students to discuss specific curriculum in the subject areas we offer. Overflow parking will be available both on site and next door at Oakbrook Elementary School, which is located at 12060 Greenway Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48312. As we expect a full house, **please plan to arrive no later than 6:15pm to ensure you do not miss the beginning of our presentation.**

SAT, PSAT, and M-STEP Testing

All 11th graders are required to take the Michigan Merit Examination (SAT, ACT work keys, and the M-STEP assessment) to graduate with a Michigan-endorsed high school diploma. The Michigan Merit Exam (MME) will take place on April 11th-12th. The M-STEP will take place on April 26th. This year's MSTEP only involves two 50-minute assessments for juniors only. On April 19th, all UCS freshmen and sophomores will also take the practice SAT (PSAT) those days as well. I will send a more detailed email as soon as I receive more specific information. However, please mark these dates in your calendar.

Superintendent's Scholarship

UCS graduating seniors are invited to apply for the 2017 Superintendent's Scholarship awards program. The scholarships are funded with proceeds from the Utica Community Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence's annual Evening of Excellence and other sources. Applications must be submitted electronically. Students are required to receive one recommendation from a teacher, school counselor, administrator or non-family member. The individual making the recommendation will need to submit an appraisal form and recommendation electronically. New for 2017 – Two \$5,000 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Scholarships from Altair. Students with an interest in pursuing a STEM-related education or career should apply. The application deadline for all the scholarship options is 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, February 8, 2017. Please encourage students to complete the online application available at: www.UticaK12.org/SuperintendentScholarship. Applications are located on the UCS home page under "Students" in the mid-menu on the center of the home page.

Junior Group 4 Project Reminder

On Tuesday, February 28 2017, all UAIS juniors will participate in the Group 4 (experimental sciences) project. This collaborative project is a requirement for all juniors to complete to remain IB Full Diploma Candidates. Group work and presentations will run all day and there will be presentations for other students and any interested parents from 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. that day. If you have not done so already, please mark this very important date in your calendars. If you have specific questions about that day, please feel free to contact your child's science teacher for more specifics. Finally, a huge thank you to the IB a Parent Boosters who have graciously offered to order dinner for all UAIS juniors participating that day!

IB a Parent Boosters Corner

Dr. Wojtara would like to thank all the parents who came out to lifetime and chaperoned the lock-in! It couldn't have went as smoothly as it did if it weren't for the help of our amazing IB Parents! The next meeting is on February 7th in the Media Center. She 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 A parent Booster (*Join us!*)). You can also contact the president at: swojtara@yahoo.com, or uaisboosters@gmail.com

Heritage/UAIS Blood Drive

Each year, our building hosts at least one blood drive for the American Red Cross. Our next blood drive will take place on Thursday, March 2nd from 12-6pm. Mr. Zacharias (kenneth.zacharias@uticak12.org) is the contact information for anyone who is willing to donate.

That's it for this addition of the UAIS Monthly Newsletter. Senior parents, please look for my Senior Newsletter Supplemental either the week before or after winter break. This will include a whole host of information about graduation and the end of the year.

Warm Regards,

Justin Spear
Program Director