



UAIS January Newsletter January 4, 2018

Happy New Year UAIS Parents!

Without question, we've had a frigid start to the new year! Despite the chill in the air, I hope that you and your family enjoyed a restful, relaxing and fulfilling holiday season. Just prior to the holiday break, our seniors turned in their final drafts of their Extended Essays, and our juniors conducted their second of five CAS interviews, the majority of them proposing their CAS projects. Soon, we'll start the important scheduling process for our current sophomores as they choose their IB classes for the next two years, and our freshmen were all introduced to our incredible *House Olympics* experience on the last day before winter break. Our Student Advisory Board did a phenomenal job putting together such an exciting day of fun for our students! Several UAIS alumni joined us for the Winter Olympics and they were also impressed! Kudos to our SAB!

Midterm Exams: With the return to school in January, the first thing on the minds of most UAIS students is midterm exams. Please note that unlike the traditional senior high schools that have only six exams, UAIS must build in an extra set of exams starting on Tuesday, January 23rd. UAIS will, however, continue to follow the district exam schedule beginning January 24th. The schedule below includes three half days from Wednesday, January 24th to Friday, January 26th. Please plan accordingly. Second semester begins on Monday, January 29th on a B day. The midterm exam schedule is as follows:

UAIS Midterm Exam Schedule

Monday, Jan. 22	Tuesday, Jan. 23 A.M.	Tuesday, Jan. 23 P.M.	Wednesday, Jan. 24 Half-Day	Thursday, Jan. 25 Half-Day	Friday, Jan. 26 Half-Day
Regular A Day Schedule	1B Exam: 7:20-8:50 2B Exam: 8:56-10:57 Regular lunches	3B: Regular class 4B: Regular class	1A Exam: 7:20-8:50 2A Exam: 8:56-10:29 No PM classes	3B Exam: 7:20-8:50 4B Exam: 8:56-10:29 No PM classes	3A Exam: 7:20-8:50 4A Exam: 8:56-10:29 No PM classes

Please make sure that students get plenty of rest and evenly space out their studying for their exams. In general, most students fare better when they begin preparing the week before exams start or—at the latest—the weekend prior to exam week.

Senior IOCs: Today, our seniors are beginning their Group 1 Internal Assessments known as the Individual Oral Commentary (IOC). This required element will constitute 15% of their IB score in English. This assessment is based on poetry and reading extracts from the course with guiding questions plus subsequent questioning; and is followed immediately by a discussion based on one of the other part 2 works. This 3-week process must be conducted by Mr. Hume and Mr. Layson under strict examination conditions. Each 10-20 minute conversation is recorded, scored internally, and submitted to the International Baccalaureate Organization for moderation. Good luck, seniors!

Secondary Specialty Programs Applications: Beginning January 15th at 4:00 pm., applications will be available for the UCS secondary specialty programs. The UCS secondary programs include the Utica Academy for International Studies (UAIS), the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology (UCMST), and the Utica Center for Science and Industry (UCSI).

These programs are part of our district's "Portfolio of Choices" that support the unique needs, talents and interests of our students. Students also have the opportunity to work with students from diverse backgrounds and experiences. The specialty programs are offered hand in hand with the nationally-recognized programs and services available through our district's four comprehensive high schools.

The programs are open for consideration for *all* eighth-grade families. Students begin attending the programs as ninth-graders.

The applications can be completed between Thursday, January 15 and Monday, February 26, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. Accept/Decline/Waitlist notifications will be sent via email on March 29, 2018. For more information on the programs, scheduled parent meetings and the application, visit: <http://uticak12.org/academics/specialtyprograms>.

We will also have materials in our guidance office at school. Translated materials will be available in Arabic, Spanish, Albanian and Urdu.

UCS Academic Blitz: The annual UCS Academic Blitz will take place on Thursday, February 8th, 2018 at Henry Ford II High School. Informational booths for parents interested in meeting with counselors, local college officials, academic summer school options, UCS secondary specialty programs and college savings plans open at 6pm. The Blitz runs from 6-9pm. All UCS students and parents are invited. UAIS will host informational sessions about the IB program that evening, including members of our Student Advisory Board. Stay tuned for more information about the Academic Blitz.

UAIS Open House/Informational Night Extravaganza: UAIS will host one Open House for prospective families on Thursday, February 1st from 6:30-8:30 pm 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.**

Texting Through SchoolMessenger: This January, an option is being added to the automated SchoolMessenger system that will allow buildings and the district to send text messages to UCS parents. To activate, parents will need to accept a message request from the district. The request will be sent to all parents with cell phone numbers listed in PowerSchool on Wednesday, January 17, 2018. Please see the attached flyer for more details <H:\Texting Service Announcement.pdf>.

Electronic Report Card Reminder: Our school will no longer automatically print and mail report cards home to parents. Printed report cards will be available by requesting one from our school office. More information on how to register for secure accounts is available through the “My UAIS” tab under the quick links tab for parents or by going directly to <http://uticak12.org/studentinfocenter>

Student Scheduling for 2018-19 School Year: Mrs. Fitzsimonds and the administration will be visiting classrooms in the coming weeks to discuss scheduling for next school year. Scheduling forms will be available for pickup in our respective offices. All current sophomore parents are required to approve and sign their student’s scheduling sheets. **The due date for course selections for sophomores will be announced in late January-early February.** Failure to turn in schedule selections on time may result of a loss of choices for elective classes, so please take the time to review. Here’s a bit more on scheduling by grade:

9th Graders: As sophomores, our current freshmen must take both chemistry and biology as well as Production Teams 10, a class that prepares them for writing the Extended Essay. All current freshmen will take Honors English 10th and AP World History. Their remaining classes for next year will follow the appropriate math, arts, and foreign language tracks. Students may not jump from one art to another (i.e. Visual Arts to Theatre) or one foreign language to another (i.e. Spanish to French).

10th Graders: Current sophomores have a number of important decisions to make for class selections as they enter the Diploma Years Programme. I encourage you read over the material that we will send home during the first week of February and work with your child to determine the best course selection options possible. ***Parents, please do not wait until the night before to do this or sign off on your student’s course selections without reviewing it carefully with your child.*** Since all IB courses are two-year courses, students are choosing most of their classes for the remainder of their UAIS career, so please give this the time and consideration it deserves.

11th Graders: Because IB courses are two years long, all juniors must continue taking the same courses during senior year that they currently do. The only selection they will make is for elective preferences. Students may request the same general elective choice they currently have and still earn credit on their transcripts for that selection, if applicable.

Group 4 Junior Science Project: On Tuesday, February 27th, all UAIS juniors will participate in the Group 4 (sciences) project. This collaborative project is a requirement for all junior students as failure to complete the Group 4 Project will render a student ineligible to earn their IB Diploma. 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. Because this experience runs over into the evening, dinner will be provided for our juniors that day. Students must be in school the entire day. Please mark this very important date in your calendars now!! If you have specific questions about that day, please contact your child's science teacher for more details.

On behalf of everyone here at UAIS, I wish you and your family a happy and healthy start to 2018!

Warm Regards,

Mrs. Shaun Greene-Beebe
Principal, UAIS