



UAIS Update March 1, 2017

Good Afternoon UAIS Parents,

I hope this finds you all well. I hope everyone was able to get out and enjoy the warm weather last week. We'll look for other places for a glimpse at sunshine too, and we have many! The UAIS has been busy. We had a very successful Information Night Extravaganza before mid-winter break, with over 400 people in standing-room attendance on February 14th. With the application process now officially closed, Mr. Layson and members of the staff will be conducting the entrance testing process over the next two weekends.

UAIS Academic and College Acceptance Update

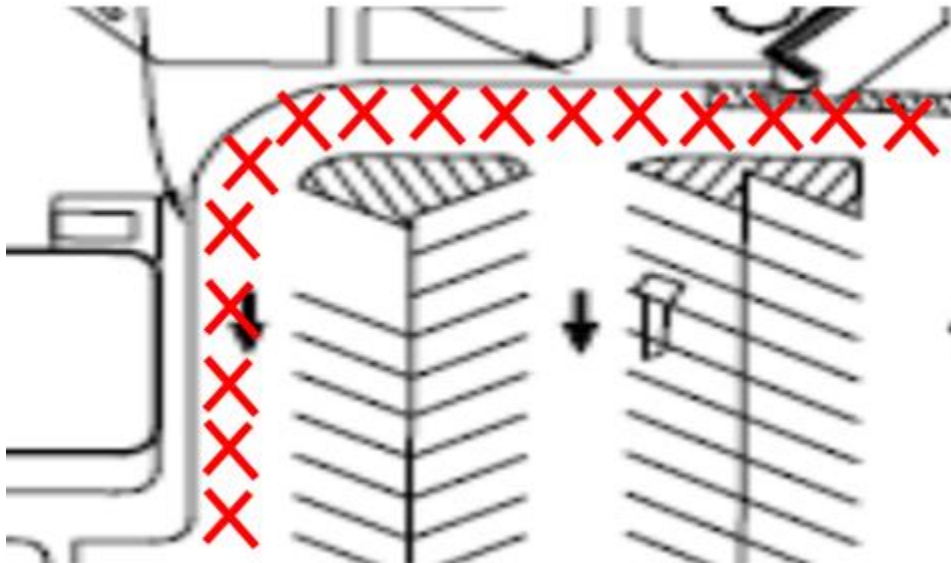
The class of 2017 has set a new bar for academic success at the Academy. This year's class has 48 students who will be recognized as valedictorians and salutatorians. UCS will also recognize 78 seniors as UCS Academic Scholars for maintaining at least a 3.67 (A- average) cumulative GPA at the Monday, March 13th Board of Education Meeting. Senior families will be receiving letters of invitation shortly—if not already—and we would ask that your child RSVP to Mrs. Russell in the main office no later than Friday, March 10th so we know who will be in attendance. UAIS students are readying for AP Tests. From freshmen and sophomores registering for AP US History, AP Statistics and AP World History to juniors and seniors registering for exams in a variety of subjects, the UAIS continues to find new ways to challenge itself to do better!

In addition, UAIS students continue to be accepted to some of the finest colleges and universities in the world. The class of 2017 has acceptances to schools such as The University of Michigan, University of Notre Dame, University of Maryland, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, the University of Chicago, Purdue University, the American University of Paris, Carthage College, Wesleyan University, and Princeton University. Regionally, the UAIS continues to get acceptances hand over fist at universities and colleges like Bowling Green State, Kalamazoo College, Wayne State, U of D Mercy, Michigan State (as well as its prestigious residential colleges), Hope College, Michigan Technological University, and Oakland University to name just a few! And, there are still a few very big

named universities on the east and west coasts that we are anxiously waiting on. In short, we continue to be impressed and humbled by the work your students do. There is a science to results like this, and that credit belongs with our students, but also with our incredible staff who work harder than any other staff I am aware of to make sure students have the best opportunities possible.

UAIS Parking Lot Etiquette

Attention all parents: please refrain from parking along the curb at the student drop-off zone for after-school pick-up (see picture below). This area is a designated fire lane and can ONLY be used to drop-off in the morning and continue moving out of the parking lot. Parking along the curb and waiting for your child is creating an issue with the traffic flow exiting the parking lot and moving through the lanes.



If this continues to be an issue, Sterling Heights Police will be contacted to monitor the lot at dismissal time, and tickets may be issued. There is adequate parking spots to park as you wait for your child. Simply notify your child where you are parked, and they can come to you. Additionally, you may circle around repeatedly until your child is ready to be picked up rather than hold up the line for everyone. We appreciate your understanding as we continue to make the parking lot safe for everyone.

SAT Preparation

I wanted to remind junior parents about the upcoming SAT and ACT Work Keys, which are two of three required assessments for the Michigan Merit Examination required by the state of Michigan that will take place on April 11th-12th. In the coming weeks, I will have a much more detailed email about the particulars going home to parents in a separate mailing, so please look for that mailing soon. At this point, I wanted to echo our recommendations to junior students that spring break would be an excellent opportunity to complete some of the readily available test prep software for the SAT. Students can login to Naviance and select

“Naviance Test Prep” under the Quick Links subtitle. Naviance Test Prep provides thousands of SAT test questions, quizzes and review for students. Additionally, it provides students with explanations for incorrect answers. Khan Academy (<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>) is also an excellent free resource that our student use as well.

Mobile App for SAT Practice

To all underclassmen parents: For those students who wish to utilize SAT prep in smaller portions on a daily basis, I’ve shared with students the College Board’s official app they can download on their phone: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice/daily-practice-app>. This app will provide students with a question of the day and allow them to take actual practice tests right from their phone. Follow the link above (searching the app is a bit tricky and brings up thousands of apps). This one is free and directly from the people who created the new SAT!

UAIS Calendar

Date	Event
March 10	UAIS Fashion Show in UAIS cafeteria at 7pm
March 13	UCS Academic Scholars Recognition at IRC 7pm
March 15	Spring Parent Teacher Conferences at UAIS 4-7pm
March 21	Commencement Speech Auditions 2:30-4:30pm MANDATORY Senior Graduation Meeting 6:30-7:45pm (arrive early!)
March 30	UAIS Choir/Band concert at Henry Ford II @ 7pm
April 11-12	MME/SAT/PSAT Testing for all 9 th , 10 th , 11 th graders
April 14	Good Friday: No school
April 19	MSTEP Testing for All Juniors (AM only) NHS Induction Night 6:00-7:30pm
April 22	UAIS Senior Prom at Greystone Golf and Banquet Center 6:30-11pm
April 27	Freshman Honors Recognition Ceremony 7:30-9am in cafeteria Invites will be distributed in early April
May 16	Cedar Point trip for all freshmen
May 22	College Application Training for All Juniors
May 22-23	Senior Final Exam days
May 25	Last Day for Seniors & Senior Honors Night
May 26-May 29	Memorial Day Weekend (No school)
June 5	UAIS Commencement Practice 12-2pm
June 6	UAIS Commencement at HFII PAC 7-9pm
June 12-15	UAIS Final Exams: Full Day on 6-12/Half Days on June 13-15

IB Exams and Attendance/Transportation Waivers

The culminating academic event for the UAIS is undoubtedly the testing that occurs in May that leads to the bulk of points earned toward the acquisition of the coveted IB

Diploma. This year, that process occurs between May 1 - May 19. Though this only affects seniors, it's important for all parents to digest the IB Schedule, its process and global nature of these exams. UAIS students, along with students from around the world, will take May exams at the same times on the same days. In a departure from previous years, UAIS students will test at the Rose Kidd Elementary site and will not report to school during the testing period except to test. These exams, under the watchful eye of Mr. Layson, will be executed and then sent around the world to evaluators who will assess our students towards their IB Diplomas that are awarded in July. This year, the UAIS will have 87 graduates and currently are on track to have 85 IB Full Diploma Candidates. In the next week or so, all seniors will receive two important release forms for IB testing: an attendance waiver form and a transportation waiver form. These forms require parent signatures and will be due before the March 21st senior graduation meeting. Please be on the lookout for these forms coming home soon.

UCS Career Expo

The UCS Career Expo 2017 will be held Thursday, March 16, 2017 from 7pm – 9pm at Eisenhower High School. Students in seventh through twelfth grades along with parents and staff are invited to this free event. Career Expo will feature information on more than 100 different careers and serves as an opportunity for students to begin exploring career possibilities. Students will also have a chance to meet with CTE teachers to learn how high school classes can bring them closer to their career objectives.

Counseling Corner: AP Test Registration

Greetings Parents! It is that time of year again: AP Test registration! By now, Mrs. Fitzsimonds has spoken to all students in person to explain the process for registering for AP exams. Please be aware that each **AP exam costs \$94**. Payment can be made online with a credit card or by check. Students will be signing up online at:

<https://goo.gl/forms/HWi9OS8UBsGZVJYr1>

Registration opened on **Monday, February 13th and concludes on Friday, March 10**. Students must sign up by March 10 in order to avoid paying a late fee for their exam(s). If your student receives free/reduced lunch, they should still sign up online so Mrs. Fitzsimonds know to order them an exam. The fee for free/reduced lunch students is \$54. This must be paid by check made out to Utica Academy of International Studies.

It is very important to note that Mrs. Fitzsimonds will not be accepting payment for exams after Friday, March 17. This is due to the strict test ordering deadlines imposed by CollegeBoard, the company responsible for overseeing the AP exams. Therefore, she must have the check payment in her possession by March 17 before she will order an exam(s) for a student. Unfortunately, no exceptions can be made. Mrs. Fitzsimonds encourages all students to take the AP exam that they are taking the corresponding class for. There is potential for students to receive college credit and for them to strengthen their college

applications if they perform well on the exam. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Fitzsimonds (susan.fitzsimonds@uticak12.org) if you have any questions.

Parent Boosters Corner

I would like to thank all the parents who participated and donated on February 28th! Both the students mandatory Group 4 project lunch, and the Teachers Luncheon were a success! We truly have amazing IB Parents!

Once again, the IB Parent Booster would like to thank all the parents who paid their Booster dues. However, for those who still would 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 on March 14th in Room 361. 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, or uaisboosters@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Dr. Wojtara
President
IB A Parent Booster

Other UAIS News

A great big thank you to our Diploma Programme science teachers—Mrs. Pfannes, Mr. Battaglia, Mr. Traub, and Mr. Mulhaupt—for a successful group 4 project for our juniors, whose day-long project. As I visited student groups throughout the building, I was incredibly impressed at the unique global issues students were addressing. A very special thank you to our IB Parent Boosters group for providing dinner to our juniors during that busy day!

Have a great March, everyone. Let's all hope for continued nice weather ahead!

Warm Regards,

Justin Spear
Program Director