



UAIS Update March 2, 2018

Good Afternoon UAIS Parents,

Welcome to March! We experienced a sign of spring earlier this week, but that was short-lived! I guess March is coming in like a Lion. ☺ Thanks to all the parents who managed to navigate through the terrible snow storm to attend our parent-teacher conferences yesterday. It's hard to believe we are just four weeks away from Spring Break! I hope your conferences were productive and any questions were addressed. We are all looking forward to a successful remainder of the school year. As always, things have been very busy here at UAIS. We had a very successful Information Night Extravaganza last month with close to 400 people in attendance on February 1st. The application process for the 2018-2019 school year is 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

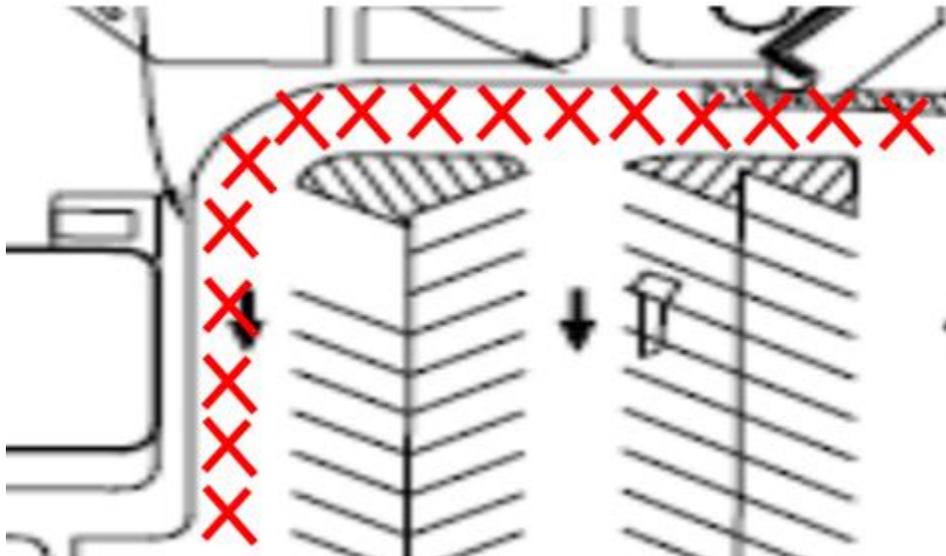
The class of 2018 has set a new bar for academic success at the Academy. This year's class has 73 students who will be recognized as valedictorians and 2 salutatorians. UCS will also recognize 91 seniors as UCS Academic Scholars for maintaining at least a 3.67 (A- average) cumulative GPA at the Monday, March 12th Board of Education Meeting. **WAY TO GO CLASS OF 2018!!** Senior families will be receiving letters of invitation shortly—if not already—and we would ask that your child RSVP to Ms. Herrmann in the main office no later than Friday, March 9th so we know who will be in attendance. UAIS students are preparing 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 2018 has acceptances to schools such The University of Michigan, University of Notre Dame, Dartmouth, Duke, the University of Chicago, Purdue University, Columbia and Yale. Regionally, the UAIS continues to get acceptances hand over fist at universities and colleges like Bowling Green State, Kalamazoo College,

Wayne State, University of Detroit Mercy, Michigan State University (as well as its prestigious residential colleges), Hope College, Michigan Technological University, and Oakland University just to name a few! 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 10th-11th. 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 9	UAIS Fashion Show in UAIS cafeteria at 7pm
March 12	UCS Academic Scholars Recognition at IRC 7pm
March 27	Commencement Speech Auditions 2:30-4:30pm MANDATORY Senior Graduation Meeting 6:30-7:45pm (arrive early!)
March 30	Good Friday—NO SCHOOL
April 2-6	Spring Break—NO SCHOOL
April 10-11	MME/SAT/PSAT Testing for all 9 th , 10 th , 11 th graders
April 14	UAIS Senior Prom at Concorde Inn 6:30-11pm
April 18	NHS Induction and Cord Ceremony 6:00-7:30pm
April 24	MSTEP Testing for All Juniors (AM only)
April 27	Freshman Honors Recognition Ceremony 7:30-9am in cafeteria Invites will be distributed in early April
May 15	Physics Day Cedar Point trip for all freshmen
May 22	College Application Training for All Juniors
May 22-23	Senior Final Exam days
May 24	Senior Honors Night
May 25	Senior Day/Senior breakfast/Last Day for Seniors
June 4	UAIS MANDATORY Commencement Practice 12-2pm @ HFII PAC Senior Picnic @ Farmstead Park 2-5pm
June 5	UAIS Commencement at HFII PAC 7-9pm
June 13-15	UAIS Final Exams

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 2 - May 18. 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. Like last year, 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 93 graduates and currently are on track to have 91 IB Full Diploma Candidates. During our March 27th Senior Parent meeting, 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 on Friday, March 30th. Please make sure these forms are submitted on-time.

UCS Career Expo

The UCS Career Expo 2018 will be held Thursday, March 22, 2018 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 you may pay by check. For online payment:

- Go to the UAIS website
- Click on How do I?
- Click on Access Payschools
- Click on Available Products
- Click on AP Exam registration 2018
- Select Exams you will be taking

*Please note, if paying online through our Payschools account, the total cost of the exam will be \$98 due to service fees/charges.

The AP exam schedule is as follows:

- AP US History -Friday, May 11th 8:00 am
- AP World History- Thursday, May 17th 8:00am

- AP Statistics-Thursdays, May 17th 12:00pm (Students must have transportation arrangements home; this exam will go beyond the normal school day)
- AP Biology-Monday, May 14th 8:00 am
- AP Studio Art (See Mrs. Fitzsimonds)
- Other (See Mrs. Fitzsimonds)

AP Registration opens on **Monday, March 5th** and concludes on **Friday, March 16th**. Students must sign up by March 16th ---No materials will be ordered if your registration is not complete by March 16th. **THERE WILL BE NO LATE REGISTRATION—NO EXCEPTIONS!!** The fee for free/reduced lunch students is **\$5**. This must be paid by check made out to Utica Community Schools or Utica Academy for International Studies.

It is very important to note that Mrs. Fitzsimonds will not be accepting payment for exams after Friday, March 16th. 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 16th before she will order an exam(s) for a student. Mrs. Fitzsimonds encourages all students to take the AP exam for which they are taking the corresponding class. 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 27th and March 1st. Both the students mandatory Group 4 project lunch, and the Teachers' Parent-teacher conference 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.

The next meeting is on March 15th in 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: jill082868@yahoo.com or uaisboosters@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Jill de Jesus, 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. Multhaupt—for a successful group 4 project for our juniors on

February 27th. The day-long project was a HUGE SUCCESS! It is always impressive to see the unique global issues our students are 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 hope for some sunshine soon!

Warm Regards,

Shaun Greene-Beebe
Principal