



**UAIS November Newsletter**  
**Wednesday, November 2, 2016**

I cannot believe that the end of this week marks the end of the first card marking! With already one-quarter of the school year complete, the vast majority of seniors have completed their college applications. As of last Friday, our senior class has submitted over 816 applications to at least 101 colleges and universities worldwide. A big thank you to our new counselor, Mrs. Fitzsimonds, who has met with all of our seniors and helped process each of these applications—most of which have required a school letter of recommendation that she has written.

Our junior students have begun their CAS experiences and projects and are currently constructing their Extended Essay proposals with the help of Mrs. Yeokum. Our sophomores are successfully preparing for the rigors of their upcoming junior year. During our last Student Development Day and in the spirit of our focus on internationalism, our sophomores constructed posters and presented information about how other countries around the world provide public education to their students. These posters are now hanging in our main IB hallway. Finally, our freshmen have enthusiastically joined extracurricular clubs and activities here at UAIS during their first ten weeks, and it's been a fabulous show of commitment from our youngest students so far in their short time at the Academy.

**Secondary Speciality Programs (UAIS, MST, CSI) Application**

The timeline for applications and testing for all UCS Secondary Specialty Programs for the 2017-18 school year has been released. Additionally, the UAIS Shadowing Registration Form is now available. For more information, please copy the following

link into your browser to access the Prospective Students page on the UAIS website: [http://uais.uticak12.org/about\\_us/prospective\\_students](http://uais.uticak12.org/about_us/prospective_students) or click on the “Prospective Students” tab under the “About Us” tab on the UAIS home page (<http://www.uais.uticak12.org>) for specific information.

## **IB 5-Year Review Process and Evaluation Report**

The UAIS staff—under the direction and hard work of our Diploma Programme Coordinator, Mr. Layson—has successfully completed our very first IBO Five-Year Review, a process for reauthorization that spanned a total of fourteen months over the last two school years. It also required feedback from teachers, administrators, parents and students. The comprehensive report, which includes information about our curriculum, program philosophy, assessment practices and program policies, was incredibly well-received by the International Baccalaureate Organization. Of the 99 total standards on which UAIS is assessed, only two were noted as “Matters to be Addressed” as we move forward. The review committee noted that it was “very rare” for an IBO World School to receive only two Matters to be Addressed, with the average number for IBO World Schools falling between 10-12 Matters to be Addressed.

The two Matters to Be Addressed seek clarification and further specifics from our Assessment Policy and verification that we make time to incorporate staff training and collaboration between the CAS coordinator, the DP coordinator and TOK teachers. We also received three commendations from the report itself:

- “Interactions with stakeholders are frequent and include a student senate and student voice committee where the school academic/educational climate is discussed.”
- “Teachers have formally established time to discuss how to enhance the development of the IB learner profile attributes and follow up on peer recommendations.”
- “The school has made a clear effort to include many stakeholders in the development of a positive learning environment.”

We are incredibly proud of the recognition from the International Baccalaureate Organization for the hard work and commitment of our community of students, parents, and staff members. We look forward to implementing strategies and

addressing recommendations from the IBO to improve the academic environment and culture of our school.

## **UAIS Graduate and Alumni Banquet**

On Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, we will host the UAIS Graduate and Alumni Banquet at Cherry Creek in Shelby Township to award our most recent graduates with their official IB Diplomas. Information in a separate email was sent to parents who have alumni from the class of 2016. Additionally, an announcement has been made on the UAIS Facebook page and UAIS Alumni Facebook page. Registration and payment are due no later than November 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions, please email Mr. Spear at: [justin.spear@uticak12.org](mailto:justin.spear@uticak12.org).

## **UAIS Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Fall conferences this year will take place on the following dates:

Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> between 4:30-7:30pm

Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> between 12-3pm

Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> between 4:30-7:30pm

Please note that classes on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> will be dismissed at 10:24am. Transportation routes will run normally that day. As for conferences, our staff will be located in various classrooms and the media center. The IB a Parent Booster group will have a table set up for those parents who wish to pay dues and have not had the opportunity so far this year. Please mark your calendars. We hope to see you there!

## **Community Meeting: “What is the Cost of Educating a Child?”**

The second community meeting on school funding is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16 at 7 p.m. at the Eisenhower Performing Arts Center, 6500 25 Mile Road in Shelby Township. The presentation will provide information on how the current school funding formula is impacting Utica Community Schools. More information on this important issue is available at: [funding.uticak12.org](http://funding.uticak12.org) or #CostToEducateMyChild.

## **Parent Boosters Update**

This past month, the Parent Boosters organization approved purchases for the following for our school:

*Managebac:* This critical software program is used by all juniors, seniors and all UAIS teachers to log and store a host of documents and assessment pieces related to our IB classes, the Extended Essay and CAS. Total cost is almost \$2,000.

*Quiz Bowl:* The Boosters generously agreed to fund a portion of the team's registration fees for local and state tournaments. Last year's team finished in the top 60 in the nation.

*IB Schools of Michigan Conference (IBSOM):* The Boosters paid for 3 of the 7 registration fees for our teachers to attend a conference with other IB teachers across the state. This year's conference will focus on effective assessment strategies for our students, and the UAIS teachers who attend will train the remaining staff so that we can more effectively evaluate student work and help our students meet learning standards.

A huge thank you to all families who have contributed to the Boosters! Unfortunately, to date, the Boosters organization has seen relatively low participation compared to previous years. In order for the Boosters to continue to support our students in the way we have all come to expect, they do need to have support from all of the families. If you have yet to contribute monetarily and wish to do so, please visit: [www.ibaparent.weebly.com](http://www.ibaparent.weebly.com) for more information on how you can help our students! Or please contact the Boosters president, Dr. Shery Wojtara at [uaisbooster@gmail.com](mailto:uaisbooster@gmail.com) or [swojtara@yahoo.com](mailto:swojtara@yahoo.com).

Meetings are held the Second Tuesday of each month at school at 7:00pm. The next meeting, however, is November 15th in the Media Center due to the Election on November 8<sup>th</sup>. I would like to encourage you ALL to attend at least one Booster meeting and to be an active part of your daughter's /son's education. We are always searching for volunteers for a variety of tasks throughout the year.

## **SAT Student Workshops**

The MISD is hosting four additional SAT Student Prep Workshops this winter starting after the New Year. To register, please visit <http://www.solutionwhere.com/misdtraining/cw/showcourse.asp?5198>. SAT practice is also available to all students in their Naviance/Family Connection accounts. Incoming UAIS freshmen will receive Naviance training from our counselor, Mrs. Fitzsimonds. If you have questions about the SAT, please feel free to contact her at: [susan.fitzsimonds@uticak12.org](mailto:susan.fitzsimonds@uticak12.org).

I hope that you have a wonderful week!

Warm Regards,

Justin Spear, Program Director