



UAIS October Newsletter
October 4, 2016

Dear UAIS Parents,

Thank you for taking the time to read our monthly newsletter. This one is very full but has a lot of important information for you, as always.

PSAT 11 Registration

Mrs. Fitzsimonds sent letters home with current juniors interested in registering for an optional Saturday PSAT to take place at all home high schools (Henry Ford II, Stevenson, Eisenhower, and Utica) on October 15th, 2016. UAIS is not a test site for this PSAT. The PSAT has many benefits for juniors, including the opportunity to compete for scholarships and prepare for the upcoming SAT that is scheduled for April. Eligible juniors will automatically be entered into scholarship and recognition competitions by taking the test as a junior. These competitions include the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships not only help you pay for college, but they can also help you stand apart from other students in the college admissions process. Any junior interested in taking this test may sign up for the test on **their home high school's** PaySchools site. The cost of the test is \$15.00. Students must register online for this test no later than Monday, October 10th, 2016.

UAIS Parent-Teacher Conferences

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

Wednesday, November 16th between 4:30-7:30pm

Thursday, November 17th between 12-3pm

Thursday, November 17th between 4:30-7:30pm

Please mark your calendars. We hope to see you there!

IB Exam Registration

A reminder to senior parents: all invoices for the May 2017 senior IB exams have been sent home with students. **The due date is Friday, October 21st.** Checks and money orders are payable to UAIS. If parents wish to pay online with a credit card, the signed invoice form still needs to be returned to verify exams are correct. The PaySchool site for online credit card payment can be found by following the steps below:

1. Go to uais.cticak12.org
2. Click to expand the “Parents” tab.
3. Click on “My UAIS.”
4. On the left-hand side under the District App announcement, click on the PaySchool tab.
5. Find the link for IB Exam registration, and you’re done!

Please direct all exam and invoice questions to Mr. Layson at 586-797-3192.

Student Development Day: October 12th

Wednesday, October 14th will be an important day for all students at UAIS as we complete a variety of important activities at various grade levels without running traditional classes. Please see the relevant descriptions below.

Freshmen: After participating in some early morning team building activities, teachers and students will walk to Dodge Park and participate in a service project to introduce them to the CAS component of the IB diploma. Students will have a picnic lunch there and work with teachers in groups to discuss their transition to UAIS. Mr. Layson has sent home a permission slip with freshman students to participate. Students should dress appropriately per the weather forecast that day.

Sophomores: Sophomores will take part in a morning AP World History plenary. After lunch and in the spirit of internationalism, sophomores will watch the documentary entitled *On the Way to School*, which provides a unique look at a series of children from across the globe who risk their lives for the opportunity to receive an education.

Juniors: All juniors will be working with Mrs. Fitzsimonds and Mr. Spear in various classes to learn more about our Naviance/Family Connection software and begin their college brag sheet. The afternoon will entail an introduction training session on the Extended Essay, the largest mandatory assessment piece for IB diploma eligibility. It is extremely important that juniors are in school for the entire day. Please direct any questions about the Extended Essay to Mrs. Yeokum (amyjo.yeokum@uticak12.org). Any absent junior student should also make an appointment to meet with Mrs. Fitzsimonds to discuss the Naviance/Family Connection training.

Seniors: Mrs. Yeokum will provide training to all seniors on writing the required abstract for their final draft of their Extended Essay in the morning before lunch. Following this training, all seniors will participate in an extended science laboratory experience with their respective science teachers.

Senior Class Important Dates

Senior parents, please mark the following important dates in your calendar. These dates are critical to a smooth and successful graduation from UAIS. The following dates are also listed on the UAIS Calendar on the uais.uticak12.org website:

Mandatory Parent/Senior Graduation Meeting: Tuesday, March 21st (6:30-7:30pm)

Senior Honors Night: Thursday, May 25th (6:30-9pm) @ Eisenhower PAC

Graduation Practice: Monday, June 5th (12-2pm) @ Henry Ford II PAC

UAIS Commencement Ceremonies: Tuesday, June 6th (7-9pm) @ Henry Ford II PAC

A senior supplemental email will be sent in the coming months with more information and dates; however, it is essential these dates make it into family calendars early.

Group 4 Mandatory Project

Attention all junior parents: the mandatory junior Group 4 (sciences) project will take place on Tuesday, February 28th, 2017. The project lasts the entire school day and requires that students stay after school to give group presentations. This project is an IBO requirement. Please mark this date in your calendars, being aware that this date is the Tuesday following winter break for students. We select this date because it is the week between winter and spring sports and avoids the most conflicts. More specific information will be forthcoming. Please contact your student's science teacher if you have questions or a potential scheduling conflict.

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

Important information was shared with parents at our Curriculum Night/Open House regarding the impact Michigan school funding formula is having on Utica Community Schools. The information from Superintendent Dr. Christine Johns is titled “What’s the Cost of Educating a Child?” If you have not had the opportunity to read the material, we encourage you to do so as it is important to the future of our school and district.

Copies of the materials are available in our school office or can be found on the district website at <http://www.uticak12.org>. We also encourage you to attend one of the community meetings about this issue: October 19 at 7 p.m. at Henry Ford II Performing Arts Center and November 16 at 7 p.m. at the Eisenhower Performing Arts Center. The agendas for both meetings will be the same. Please contact me if you have any questions at the school office 586-797-3100.

Parent Boosters Update

A huge thank you to those families who have donated to the IB a Parent Booster Organization through the payment of dues. Our program IB a Parent Booster is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to enrich the educational experience of the students while attending UAIS. The Boosters are planning on renewing the UAIS subscription to Questia, an online research library with access to books, journals, articles and other college-level material critical to the required work for all of our students. The Boosters is also volunteering to help with the setup of UAIS Homecoming. Throughout the year, the Boosters run many different fundraisers to assist the students and their academic clubs and other activities and competitions regionally, at the state-level, and nationally. They also sponsor school-wide social events. In order to continue to provide this high-level of education, it is necessary for the Parent Boosters to take an active role in funding some of the resources to help ensure our children, their teachers and staff achieve success. They annually request a donation from UAIS parents in the amount of \$50 per student. The Boosters need your help to continue to provide financial support for the academic clubs, teacher supplies and student activities. **Your donation is tax-deductible!**

If you are interested in volunteering or joining the Boosters or wish to pay dues so that all of our students continue to benefit from supplementary resources and experiences, please visit: www.ibaparent.weebly.com for more information on how you can help our students! Meetings are held the Second Tuesday of each month at school at 7:00pm. The next meeting is October 11th in the Media Center. 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! We also need donations!

Contact Info for the Boosters:

President: Dr. Shery Wojtara (uaisbooster@gmail.com or swojtara@yahoo.com)

Vice Pres.: Mrs. Sonja White

Secretary: Mrs. Jill de Jesus

Treasurer: Mrs. Wendy Stroup

Trustees: Mrs. Nurcan Ozdemir, Mr. Keith Carbary and Mrs. Michelle Kirkum

Website: <http://ibaparent.weebly.com/>

Facebook: UAIS IB A parent Booster (Join us)

That's it. Have a wonderful week, everyone!

Warm Regards,

Justin Spear, Program Director