

THE ACADEMY TIMES



Volume 2, Issue 5

June 2010

The bi-monthly newsletter of the Utica Academy for International Studies

Reflecting Back on an Exceptional School Year

Academy Points of Interest

- June 17 (10:30—2:15) End of Year UAIS Picnic
- Aug 31 – Sept 2, Freshman Orientation
- Sept. 7, First day of school

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Last Thursday, the UAIS held its first Freshman Honors Night, to aptly congratulate and regale the work of our class of 2013. Over 50 students were recognized for departmental awards, academic merit awards, and our Freshman Outstanding Learner of the Year Award. Its exciting to know that not a week later, I am officially welcoming the class of 2014 to our community through our Academy Times. What an exciting year we have had and what an incredible growth spurt we have and continue to experience.

The spring was typified with a unique event; the UAIS student took the AP World History test. And, though there is nothing unique about that, the fact that 100% of our 10th grade class took the exam was an unparalleled event. After PSATs, EXPLORE texts, MEAPs and the rest, the students had graduated to examinations that will not only effect college entrance, but earn credits toward college completion. UAIS students made us proud this year. From our second place Quiz Bowl Team, our MIFA State Finalist

Forensicators, our State Champion Japanese Quiz Bowl Team, our Science Olympiad team and a host of other accolades made it clear that the UAIS would not settle for mediocrity. Nothing demonstrated that more clearly that the UAIS Key Club raising over \$13,000 to benefit the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. An incredible feat!

That exceptional performance outside of school was matched by the work in school. Students read novels in English, social studies and mathematics, studied science, learned four languages throughout the school, and participated in school and district wide performances. Our incredible orchestra under the direction of Ms. Gaye Hofer was invited to play at the UCS 6th Grade Career Focus Luncheon, and UAIS presence was felt at many of our districts largest events. Students traveled to China, are preparing for trips to Europe and South America and are heading off to Japan and various other locations this summer; all directly associated with classroom

instruction. Our student body has had an incredible year and continues into exams this week.

As we wind down the 2009-10 school year, the Academy looks forward to another year of unparalleled growth as it welcomes the 145 student large class of 2014 to its hallways. As we do this, the school looks forward to its beautiful new library and four new classrooms where the existing library stood. These renovations will help the Heritage site to grow to accommodate the continual growth of the Academy.

As we end this year, I would be remised to do so without a tremendous and heartfelt thank you to the parents who supported our students this year. It has been an incredibly successful year, and you have been an integral part of that success. Thanks! Have a wonderful summer!



Tom Lietz
UAIS Head
of School



Freshman Honorees display their awards of Merit, departmental awards and IB Outstanding Freshman Learner awards.

“The experience not only challenged the physical comforts of those who participated, but expanded their perspective to a world that most of us can hardly begin to consider.”



Shanghai University, where six UAIS students will attend class and experience China this summer.

Freshman Honors: UAIS Freshman Outstanding Learners

The freshman year is a challenging one. This freshman year was more challenging than most. For many students it meant a new environment, new teachers, and a new curriculum that was more difficult than any they had yet experienced. Still, a number of students were honored as Outstanding Freshman Learners for excelling in this environment both as students and as IB Learners.

In order to be honored, UAIS students were required to maintain a 3.5 GPA and embody the elements of the IB Learner Profile. The teach-

ers were able to submit recognition for two students from each school and the top two were honored, unless there was a tie.

The following students were honored on Thursday June 10, 2010 at the UAIS Freshman Honors Night:

Eppler:
Christopher Knarre
Taylor Clark

Davis:
Sam Floyd

HFII:
Titiana Bona

Heritage:
Gordon Smilnak
Troy Zuccaro

Jeanette:
Sara Najjir al Tinawi

Malow:
Catherine McKay

Shelby:
Deanna Galer
Kaitlyn Koselansky

Academy Students Experience Life in Development.

The Utica Academy for International Studies Global Journey's club sponsored its second annual trip to the Heifer International Global Village in Howell Michigan. Once there, students and teachers participated in activities to foster communication and team-building, but most importantly, experienced first-hand the challenges of living in a developing nation.

UAIS students were broken into different village families from Thailand, Rural America,

Peru, and the Urban Slums. Within the village, there were enough resources for everyone to survive and do so well, but as with real life, the devil is in the details. Each village was given a particular resource and this community of learners had to strive to communicate in foreign languages, to learn new cultures and customs, and deal with challenges to their families such as simulated disease, pregnancy and care for the weak, sick or incapacitated.

In the end, students and teachers alike were exhausted, dirty, and hungry when it came to a close, but were tremendously far better off than those whom they were learning to understand.

The experience not only challenged the physical comforts of those who participated, but expanded their perspective to a world that most of us can hardly begin to consider. It was an exciting event.

Coordinator's Corner

As we conclude the year and prepare for a summertime of activity, relaxation and, certainly, continued learning and growth, please don't forget to reflect on all that has been accomplished this year by our learning community. I have been inundated with the ambitious plans that our students have for themselves and their families. Many are eagerly anticipating the rigors of summer employment and others are looking for-

ward to travel, both foreign and domestic, while our junior class is delving into their initial CAS project framework.

Rest assured, new experiences and growth await not only the students, but staff as well. Beyond the three teachers that have just returned from a week-long grading session of AP exams, Mr. Lietz and I will be traveling to Harvard next week to better understand the college admission process that our

students will be experiencing in the very near future. I am also pleased to announce that nine of our teachers will either gain their first exposure to official IB training or build upon previous knowledge by attending training sessions this summer.

Whatever your summer holds for you, know that we are proud of you and wish you well. Congratulations on the successful completion of a wonderful school year.

Sophomore and Junior Readings Lists for Groups 1 and 3

ELA 10

Of Mice and Men 9780140177398
 Kite Runner 9781594480003
 Book of Job 9780060969592
 Taming of the Shrew 9780451526793
 Nectar in the Sieve 9780451528260

World History AP

Night 9780374500016
 Thousand Splendid Suns 9781594483851
 Whole New Mind: 9781594481710
 Three Cups of Tea 9780143038252
 Flyboys a Tru Story of Courage 9780316159432

IB ELA 1

141439513 Pride and Prejudice
 486270629 A Doll's House
 60883286 A Hundred Years of Solitude
 486440966 The Woman in White
 872205711 Antigone
 435913522 So Long a Letter
 451526775 MacBeth
 978-0060009427 How to Read Literature Like a Professor
 321011821 The Practical Stylist 8th edition

IB HOA

205673708 Short Guide to Writing about History (7e)
 486415988 Federalist Papers
 375705244 Founding Brothers
 486284999 Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
 486419231 The Jungle
 151010269 Animal Farm & 1984

Second Annual UAIS Talent Show is a Hit!

Once again, the talented scholars of the UAIS showed off in front of their peers. Thanks to the good work of Mr. Kuhlman and Ms. Dunn, the UAIS Student Senate sponsored this event which featured 10 incredible acts including singing, stage performance, piano, dancing, and two live bands.

The event was an incredible success. Winning the Second Annual UAIS Talent Show was freshman Catherin McKay who did a fantastic rendition

of Kristin Chenoweth's Taylor, the Latte Boy. Her comical vocal performance saw incredible competition from its runners up, dancer Kaitlyn Koselanski and a band featuring Grant Ogden, Nolan and Brennan Brown, And Aaron Rush. At the end of the day, any of the 10 performers could've been the champion and all represented the wide array of talent at the Utica Academy for International Studies.

Sending the night into final

overdrive was an unexpected performance of a UAIS-modified "If I Had a Million Dollars" by Mr. Kuhlman and Mr. Lietz. Though the guitars and mics had problems, the humor was heard loud and clear by the audience of laughing students in front of them.

All-in-all, the talent show was a much needed stress reliever and an incredible show of UAIS talent!

"Teach this triple truth to all: A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity."

~Buddha

UAIS Key Clubs Repeats as the ACS Relay for Life School Champs!

Mr. Spear and the Key Club set out to make a difference through service learning and have done just that. Attending a host of new events this year including the State Key Club conference, the club continued its impressive showing at the May Relay for Life.

For the second time in our two-year existence, the UAIS Key Club has been the top student fundraiser for the event. Last year, the club

raised over \$10,000 and this year topped that by near \$4,000, raising over \$13,000. As important, the 2010 relay saw the UAIS students take their role in leadership. Five UAIS students, Victoria Pace (10), Sarah Fortunado (9), Deanna Schafer (10), Liz O'Brien (9) and Noelle Williams (10) were on the ACS Relay for Life coordination team and delivered one of the key addresses.

At the end of the event, an

interview by local television news summed up the experience. Though some of the over 40 participants had to leave for various activities, a core of excited, if a bit tired from their 24 experience, stood as a unified group standing together against a horrible disease.

Key club president Deanna Galer and sponsor Mr. Spear, as well as all its members, have a great deal for which to be proud. Congratulations!



Mike, Caroline, Deanna, Rachel and a Caroline-toting Catherine are not letting the RFL rain get their spirits down!

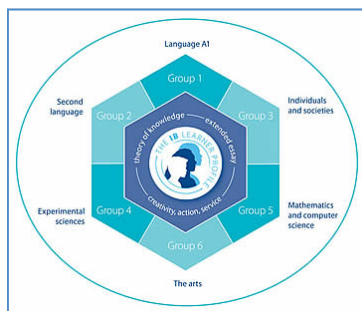
The Academy Times

To the Class of 2014...



This will be an adventure for all of us! I am thrilled to have each of you joining the Academy and look forward to our next four years together!

"Pita uko," si kuenda. Kwenda ndi "Tiyende kuno!" mbwa inzifu yemanya, or, "Go in that direction" does not mean that you go. To go means, "Let's go together!"



The Diploma Programme promises rigor in six unique groups including the languages, social science, experimental science, math and the arts.

As incoming freshmen to the Utica Academy for International Studies, I commend your choice to make your academic experience in Utica Community Schools a challenging, fulfilling and unique experience. The Academy is designed to give students an educational experience that is as much about developing habits of mind as ways of being. Our program is unique because your very participation places you in fraternity of learners around the world, committed to education, to improving the quality of life throughout our shared commons, and to preserving the core practices of our democracy. This is no small task, but I am confident you are up to the challenge. You are not extraordinary because you were accepted into this program. Still, you chose to be here, and that affirmation of the urgency and importance of education makes you different.

This program will not be easy. It will be wrought with pitfalls, challenges, and long nights of homework, difficult tests and myriad challenges you have yet to encounter in academia. But, fear not as those struggles will not be without the support of an incredible team of educators, wonderful and supportive families, and a group of your peers who will be

sharing your experiences with you. As the class of 2014, you are the largest class we have welcomed into the Academy. Your experiences will be different than your predecessors. Not only will you have their experiences to lean on; you will have their expertise to learn from. Your experience will be unique because the Academy has matured in these past two years. You will



have assets that were simply unavailable to your older peers, but you will also have expectations that were co-constructed by those same students, and their expectations are lofty. We will institute a variety of means by which you will be able to work with and learn from these young but tested veterans of this experience. Most importantly, you will have your chance to leave your unique fingerprint on this institution, and to shape it through your experiences.

Life is a journey and you have chosen a new direction at the fork. It will be far from easy. There will

be moments with guidance but many that require you to use every bit of your wit and experience. There is an African proverb that states, "Pita uko," si kuenda. Kwenda ndi "Tiyende kuno!" mbwa inzifu yemanya, or, "Go in that direction" does not mean that you go. To go means, "Let's go together!" We do not send you out without guides, but rather embark together with you. On behalf of myself and all of your teachers at the Academy, I welcome you. As you enter the Utica Academy for International Studies, you are becoming a member of a family, a tribe, a group of individuals who believe that together we can achieve more. We are grateful to have you amongst us. We will look forward to your courage, we will await all that you bring to our community, and we stand ready to help right you when you have strayed down a path we have tested and found impassable. But, more than that, we look forward to heading down those paths and, through your unique experiences, learn how to pass those hurdles we could not by ourselves.

Welcome to your new home, your new extended family, and to one of the most challenging but rewarding experiences of your life.

Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes

Freshman Summer Reading

A number of Emails have flooded my inbox as to whether there was assigned summer reading or whether or not there is list of books to read this summer. As incoming freshman there are a number of things you should do to prepare for the coming year, but more than summer reading, we stress preparation of the mind as you enjoy your own reading. The following are a few strategies we recommend your employ to prepare for the coming year.

1. Read 20 minutes every day!
2. Read something you want to read.
3. Read something you're able to read. If you have to look up more than five words on the first page, choose another book and work your way back to that one.
4. Don't give up. When you come across a sentence you don't understand, look for the meaning in the context, in other association, in whose voice is speaking.
5. Read actively. Predict what will happen in the book and see how many times you're right!
6. Replace words that are confusing with other words when searching for meaning.
7. Make personal connections to the reading. Try to understand the characters in the novel through empathy and sympathy. Find a connection to the reading.

Reading should be a labor of love, it should inspire, and it should be a part of your daily summer routine. Read and read often. If you're not enjoying what you're reading, you're reading the wrong thing. Don't be afraid to go to the library or to a book store, and just spend some time finding literature you'll appreciate. Reading allows you to experience the plot, the characters, and the meaning in a personal sense, through your own minds eye.

What to expect Freshman year...

With a new year approaching and a new school beginning there are probably endless permutations to the question above. First, breathe easy and do not get overwhelmed. There are some changes, but few will be sudden and most will seem quite fluid and natural. So what should you expect?

Dress Code

The UAIS will enforce the UCS dress code and will not have a unique dress code. However, we will expect each of you to look neat and well kept and in line with UCS policy. If you have questions, please refer to your student handbook for direction.

Study and Homework

Students should expect more and more difficult different homework at the Academy. We are going to move faster and expect more of you than ever before. At the same time, we will work to assure that you are not being overloaded. And, if you feel so, you should speak with your teachers.

They expect and encourage your feedback and need it to keep them aware of your needs. Two to three hours of homework nightly should be expected or roughly 30 minutes per class. Rest assured, that for every hour you are putting toward your classes, your teachers are putting in substantially more. Like respect, this work ethic is a reciprocal value.

Clubs and Activities

Students who are interested in clubs and activities will find a multiplicity of options. Students are encouraged to take part in clubs, sports and activities in their base schools, but the Academy will have unique opportunities as well. Last year the Academy offered debate, newspaper, yearbook, music club, Key Club, and a host of others. Moreover, if you're interested in starting an appropriate club or activity and have other students and teachers who support it, we will readily support that cause. Additionally, our student leadership will be planning dances and student activities that will be

Freshman Reading List:

Siddhartha (Hesse)

Outliers (Gladwell)

Catcher in the Rye (Salinger)

Speak (Anderson)

Romeo and Juliet (Shakespeare)

What Do Muslims Believe?

Genghis Khan and the Making of the

Modern World (Weatherford)

The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano (Equiano)

King Leopold's Ghost (Hochschild)

Flatland (Abbot)

unique to our educational community.

Communication

Feedback is an essential part of any educational institution. As students, you are encouraged to play an active role in that process. A number of student leadership organizations will be available in the fall, your teachers will actively seek your feedback and will actively communicate with you and your parents, and we will reciprocate by providing ours as well.

The Utica Academy for International Studies promises to be the most challenging and exciting academic experience of your lives. It will be a time of unparalleled growth in each of you as students and people.

Growth does not occur without both the trials and the encouragement to see those challenges through. We will face them together. This process will not be easy, and that is what makes it worth the effort.



UAIS students at the 2010 Global Village experience in Howell Michigan. Students are pictured in front of an African hut.

“Over the course of the last five months, this school came to know an incredible woman to whom counseling was a labor of love with no time limits, now reservations required and no shortage of passion for the students she serves.”



Student's turned themselves into cartoons. This representation is of Sophomore Lisa Barrio.

New Additions to the Academy for International Studies

The UAIS continues to grow at a tremendous pace. The UAIS began with 110 students and 14 teachers, most of whom were part-time. In our second year, we nearly doubled in size to 210, and saw many teachers become full-time as our population grew. In 2010-11, our third year, our student population will nearly double again. We will grow by nearly 150 students to 350 UAIS students. This growth will be incredible.

As we welcome our new students to the UAIS we will also welcome a host of new teachers as well. The UAIS

will be expanding by nearly 5 full-time teachers including the expansion of existing teachers in the arts and second languages, and the addition of new teachers in all four core areas as well as the electives.

One of the unique aspects of the UAIS is the student-centered approach to learning and program design. The UAIS teacher selection process has been no different. Future UAIS teachers not only dealt with questions from their peers and the Head of School, but their future students as well. This was an exciting process for students

and the teachers, both the interviewers and interviewees. The nature of the conversation changed radically. Conversation was more genuine, the approach was more informal, and the end result was a much better image of our teachers.

As new additions become formalized, we will send Emails out introducing the new staff members to you as students, parents and members of the UAIS community. As always, if there are any questions, you can Email Mr. Lietz and discuss these with him.

Freshman Orientation: August 31-September 2, 2010

Incoming Freshman students at the Academy for International Studies will participate in a highly recommended voluntary orientation on August 31—Sept. 2, 2010 from 9am to 1pm. This three day experience is a number of things, not the least of which is a chance to interact with your new peers, to meet your new teachers, and to learn a bit about how learning looks and feels different at the UAIS.

This three day workshop will

be co-facilitated by Academy teachers and Academy students who applied and are selected to be student orientation leaders. These three days will help us see how we as individuals, as a community and as a team function better when we respect and understand one another. This process is both intellectually challenging and fun for everyone involved! It gives all of us a chance to see where we are, where we will be going, and how we're go-

ing to get there together.

So, start making plans now, put it in your calendar and we'll see you on Tuesday, September 1 for the first day of your new school orientation. We look forward to meeting and working with you all!

Freshman should come to orientation in comfortable clothes, bring a sack lunch, and arranged their own transportation.

UAIS Student Artists Continue to Shine!

One need only look any of our Academy Times to see the incredible work that is produced in Mrs. Khan's art classes. This month is certainly no exception.

The artwork to the left and right is featured art work from two Academy art students, Brianna Lombardini and Allison Stankov. In these works, the students turned their classmates into cartoon characters.



"Doug"



"Tori"



"Merkhan"



"Dana"

UAIS Yearbook Update Transportation Changes at the UAIS

The UAIS yearbook is one of the most exciting parts of the end of every year. And, every year students wonder when they're going to receive those yearbooks.

The 2010 yearbook will be distributed in at registration on, Wednesday, September 1st as students come to get final class schedules, take pictures, and engage in other registration activities.

If there are any questions about yearbook, please Email Mrs. Yeokum at Amyjo.yeokum@uticak12.org

As the 2010-11 school year starts, there will be a noticeable change in the way students are transported. As a part of the overall budget cuts throughout UCS, busing will look very different at the Academy in the fall.

In cooperation with our transportation department, we will be assigning general community stops for the Academy students. Students and parents will be notified of these stops by mail over the summer, and they will include local high schools, Jr. High schools and elementary schools. These locations

offer a number of advantages including control of lighting, space for parents to wait should they have to or choose to drive students to the stop, and a host of other security benefits.

Though this is not a perfect solution, it is certainly a realistic solution in the face of continued cuts to the overall general funding of UCS. All programs throughout the district have taken significant blows over the past few years, and the Academy is certainly not immune to those challenges.



The 2010 Yearbooks will be available for pickup and purchase in August.

Evolving Student Leadership at the Academy

Students at the Academy are known for their outspoken nature, their desire to lead and their commitment to involvement in their school. As the 2010-11 school year starts, the Academy will see new student-driven changes to that dynamic that will make this place more unique and more intrinsically student-centered than ever.

Students at the Academy have a host of leadership opportunities. From the Student Senate, our elected

board that is selected annually in the fall, to our Student Advisory Board, an appointed group of students, also selected in the fall, and a host of other committees, clubs and groups. As we move to the 2010-11 school year, the students have begun to plan new opportunities.

In the fall of 2010, students will already have played intensive roles in the school, including helping with teacher professional development over the summer,

planning and implementing the Freshman Orientation and becoming leaders within the building. Students will begin working as Lesson Observers in the 2010-11 school year where students will have the opportunity to serve as sounding boards to individual teachers and as critics in the classroom. Of course, this will all come with time and training, but it presents incredible opportunities for student growth.

“The 2010 yearbook will be distributed in at registration on, Wednesday, September 1st as students come to get final class schedules, take pictures, and engage in other registration activities.”

A Little Bit of Perspective from What the Dog Saw

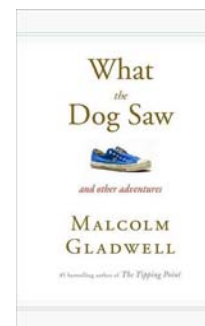
In Malcolm Gladwell's newest work, *What the Dog Saw*, the New Yorker author takes a series of his articles from the acclaimed magazine and interweaves them into a compelling story of why some endeavors succeed and some do not. Like all of Gladwell's works, the banal topics come to life in eloquent prose and captivating storytelling.

In one of the opening chapters, literally on ketchup and

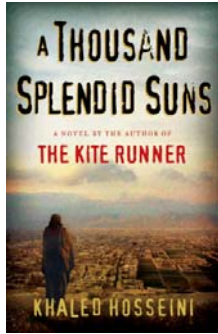
mustard, Gladwell takes what would be an un-fascinating look into the topic of table condiments and turns it into an exploration of human psychology. *What the Dog Saw*, from start to finish, is a wonderful introspective into human psychology and the process of human decision making. And, the book delivers regardless of your interests. From mathematics and the sciences, to conversations about telemarketing

and communication, the book provides endless fun for the inquisitive mind.

What the Dog Saw is an engaging read that will stimulate the mind and captivate the reader. From start to finish the book delivers the kind of insightful prose that has made Gladwell such a beloved writer. For those who enjoyed *Outliers*, *Blink*, and, *Tipping Point*, this will be another enjoyable and thought provoking read.



Gladwell's fourth book, *What the Dog Saw*, is an exceptional collection of his writings from the New Yorker that take a unique look at



A Thousand Splendid Suns is one of two Hosseini books and gives the female perspective of Afghanistan.

As sophomores, your reading will advance in difficulty preparing you for the textual challenges that lie ahead in your AP and IB examinations and coursework.



Creating Checklists is a great way to work on time management and perfectionism.

Sophomore Reading List Takes Shape

Reading is a centerpiece of the Academy educational process. As sophomores, your reading will advance in difficulty preparing you for the textual challenges that lie ahead in your AP and IB examinations and coursework.

Consistent with the 2008-09 school year, there will be readings in a variety of classes, but primarily in English and History of World Civilizations. The following books will be a part of the reading process:

- Of Mice and Men

(Steinbeck)

- The Kite Runner (Hosseini)
- Nectar in a Sieve (Markandya)
- Book of Job (Mitchell)
- Prophet (Gibran)
- Taming of the Shrew (Shakespeare)
- Flyboys (Bradley)
- Three Cups of Tea (Mortensen)

- A Thousand Splendid Suns (Hosseini)
- A Whole New Mind (Pink)
- Night (Wiesel)

These books and others will be the centerpiece of your academic reading for the 2009-10 school year. They represent authors and topics that span our history and our many cultures. They will provide a rich tapestry of understanding that will guide you through the next three years.

Relax...really!

As summer arrives it is important to begin to work on that part of the IB Learner Profile that we often neglect; balance. As imbalanced individuals, we all struggle to find balance. Between families, work, school and the myriad things that occupy our lives we often forget to relax.

It is important, every day, to find even 10-15 minutes, but hopefully an hour or more, to spend on yourself. Read, write, meditate, pray, or do

whatever else centers you as an individual. For some this might be working out and for others it may be losing yourself in a novel. Whatever it is that helps you focus, you should find that thing and make sure you do it daily and often.

Not only will relaxation help you focus your mind, clear your thoughts, and become a more productive thinker, but the very nature of relaxation reduces stress that is anathema to learning, to

productive living and to our personal, social and emotional well-being.

So, the moral of this tale is to take a few moments out of everyday for you. Though you may be tempted to believe that this is taking you from homework, and the other things you do, it will help you do all of those things better!

Thoughts on Time Management and Perfectionism

As this first year of the Academy winds to a close, a great deal of reflection has occurred regarding what we do well and less well as learners. Universally, as teacher learners, student learners and lifelong learners, we all tend to procrastinate, and, it is easy to understand why.

Each of us has a tremendous amount on our personal workload. As that is the case, we should all maximize

our time by being more organized, well-prepared, and generally efficient; easier said than done! Each of us have to work harder to organize ourselves and our workloads so that we can be more productive; both in our work and in our play. Here are a few tips to being more organized.

1. *Set Goals Everyday!*
2. *Don't Rush, it only makes it more overwhelming*

3. *Avoid Clutter*
4. *Make To-do Lists*
5. *Get Adequate Sleep*
6. *Eat Three Solid Meals*
7. *Parts and Wholes—Avoid Overloading*
8. *Schedule Ahead—Plan your time effectively*
9. *Break-up Your Study Time*
10. *Prioritize and Triage*

And, remember, reward yourself for a Job Well-done!

**UAIS
2010—2011
School
Calendar**

- 31 August Freshmen Orientation Begins. 9am—1pm
- 1 September: Picture Day and Registration
Freshman Orientation (9am—1pm)
9—11am Sophomores
12—2pm Freshmen
- 2 September Freshmen Orientation Day 2
9am—1pm.
- 3—6 September: Labor Day Recess
- 7 September: School Begins
- 2 November: No School - Teacher Professional Development
- 10-23 Nov. Conference Window - 2 evenings
- 18 Nov. All students half day - p.m. conferences
- 24-26 Nov. No school - Thanksgiving Break
- 22 Dec.-2 Jan.. No school - Holiday Break
- 3 Jan. Classes resume
- 17 Jan. No school - Martin Luther King Day
- 19-21 Jan. All students half day - secondary exams
- 21-25 Feb. Mid-Winter Break
- 1-11 Mar. Secondary conference window - one evening
- 4-8 Apr. No school - Spring Break
- 22 Apr. No school
- 27 May No School - Teacher Professional Development
- 30 May Memorial Day - No School
- 14-16 June Secondary half day - secondary exams
- 17 June All students half day - secondary exams; last day of school

August/September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25

Understanding the Brain-Mind and How it Works!

The Utica Academy for International Studies is a brain based learning institution. To that extent, all of our practice is influenced by our understanding of how the brain processes information, the means by which to make that processing more effective, and the ways in which that increases student aptitude.

The very nature of learning centers around the brain and yet so much of education pays little attention to what we know of brain functions. So what do we know:

1. The brain functions best when it is in a

state of high challenge and low threat.

2. All brains want to learn and will if given the chance.
3. All learning is social and shared.
4. We see things in parts and wholes.
5. The brain-mind learns emotionally

So, what does all of this mean to instruction at the Academy. It means that we learn differently. In all of our classrooms, we try to establish a state of relaxed alertness or high challenge / low stress that is optimal for learning. It

means that regardless of the class we ask students to discover, to work together with their peers, and to make personal connections and find meaning in what students are asked to do.

In short, we tend to tell students a lot in most schools. At the Academy, we create a rich environment in which discovery takes primacy over memorization, in which questions are more valuable than answers, and in which students are asked to challenge, question, and succeed and are supported in that process.

Primary Business Address
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Your Address Line 3
Your Address Line 4



Name
Address 1
Address 2

Utica Academy Online at
<http://UAIS.Uticak12.org>

Utica Academy for International Studies students will engage in active inquiry toward becoming knowledgeable thinkers, effective communicators, principled and open-minded students and members of our society and caring citizens of our world. As learners, UAIS students will be conscientious risk-takers seeking answers where others might accept conclusions, who look for balance in all aspects of physical, emotional and academic life and are reflective of the journey on which they

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act and the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act, it is the policy of Utica Community Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion national origin or ancestry, sex, age, disability, height, weight or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any instructional opportunities, programs, services, job placement assistance, employment or in policies governing student conduct or attendance. Any person suspecting a discriminatory practice should contact the Executive Director of Human Resources at Utica Community Schools, 1393 Greendale, Sterling Heights, MI 48312 or call (586) 797-1000

