

Universal Academy

4 6 1 2 L O N Y O
D E T R O I T , M I 4 8 2 1 0



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

IMPORTANT DATES:

Count Day

February 10th (All students must attend school on time)

OPEN STUDENT

ENROLLMENT

KG-12

PERIOD:

March 1 - 31st - 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Friday, March 5, 2010 - 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 6, 2010 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: 4612 Lonyo, Detroit, MI. 48120

PHONE: (313) 581-5006

ENROLLMENT LOTTERY:

K - 12 - April 30, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

at 4612 Lonyo, Detroit, MI. 48210

ENROLLMENT

REQUIREMENTS:

- Complete Enrollment Application
- Copy of Birth Certificate & Passport if not a citizen
- Copy of Immunization Card
- Copy of Last Report Card
- Copy of Social Security Card
- Free & Reduced Lunch Application

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

Assalamu Alaikum!!! Greetings and Peace be Upon you All!!!

As we celebrate the closing of the second quarter of the 2009-10 school year, I hope that everyone is re-energized and looking forward to more success in the third and fourth quarters.

At Universal Academy (UA) every student is a priority, and our goal is to ensure that all our students meet or exceed the academic expectations as set forth in the Michigan Core Curriculum. Universal Academy's curriculum is designed and implemented with all types of learners in mind, and with the core belief that all students are capable of learning and achieving their full potential if given the opportunity. UA teachers and administration are dedicated to ensuring that each and every student receives the individual attention and instruction that he/she needs to reach their full academic and social potential. This is done thru ongoing data collection and analysis to identify the high priority areas and to design and implement programs and activities that address those specific needs during and after school. A few examples include but not limited to are the English for Language Learners (ELL), the after school tutorial program (ACE) and the Friday tutoring.

Studies consistently show that parental involvement is key to student success; and we count on the continued support of our dear parents to provide our students with an optimal learning environment and experience. I encourage parents to take advantage of the various volunteer opportunities available at the Academy. If you need more information, please be sure to check with the main office staff or your child's teacher.

Last, we are pleased to share that our academy's program has recently and successfully gone through a rigorous 3-day review process by a third party consulting group that was hired by our authorizer, Oakland University as part of the re-authorization process. Though we're not surprised, the review process described the school's management, the Hamadeh Educational Services (HES) as an outstanding organization whose educational program, system and strategies are among the best practices for any school system. Thanks to the collaboration and dedication of HES's staff and administrative team, Board of Directors, students and parents who played a key role during the site visit by sharing their data and best practices as part of our quality program. WAY TO GO UA TEAM!!!

Keep up the good work and best of luck to everyone!!!

Mrs. Nawal Hamadeh



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

English Department	2
Math Department	2
Science Department	3
Social Studies News	3
Athletic News	3
Arabic Department	3
Counseling Department	4
Tutorial Department News	4
National Honor Society	4
Athletic Department	4
Music News	4
Food Service	4

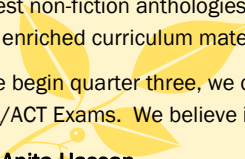
PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Salam to All Students, Parents, & Staff of Universal Academy!

As we forge our way into the third quarter of this school year, much has been accomplished thus far! Students and staff continue to work diligently toward the Grade Level Content Expectations and the IB-MYP Essential Agreements and Inter-disciplinary units! As a team, we are fortunate to have been recognized by the Skillman Foundation-Good Schools as a Continuing Improvement School-being awarded the Making the Grade Grant for Middle and High school, each grant in the amount of \$18,750. Smart boards are being purchased for science and social studies classes to enhance the teaching and student learning of such essential content. We also want to take this time to thank our valuable authorizer, Oakland University, who has also awarded us a grant for over \$8,200 to support the purchasing of intervention reading-strategy supplemental materials and high interest non-fiction anthologies! We are forever thankful that our students will be able to further benefit from such enriched curriculum materials!

As we begin quarter three, we continue to exert efforts preparing our 11th grade students for the Michigan Merit/ACT Exams. We believe in them, and feel confident they will Soar with Success!

Mrs. Anita Hassan



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT K - 1 2 GRADE

The English Department has been working very hard to realign our curriculum and challenge our students to ensure the best learning practices are in place. While the 11th graders are working hard to prepare for the MME/ACT test, 12th grade is getting ready to start Othello. The ninth grade classes are currently reading the classic novel, To Kill A Mockingbird as the tenth graders have begun their study of Raisin in the Sun. We are thrilled to acknowledge the 8th graders accomplishment of successfully completing the Change and Challenge IDU in which

students analyzed moral challenges faced by characters in John Steinbeck's, The Pearl, while looking at the relatable comparisons to the choices made during the Western Expansion. Grade 7 has also finished their Change IDU early this month, in which ELA and Humanities studied Africa the impact poverty has had in citizens' lives. Sixth graders have been working hard building their foundations of novel study with Phantom Tollbooth as they studied the different elements of fiction and fantasy. We are proud to announce that the elementary students in K-5

have been working just as hard! This quarter teachers in grades 1-5 have been working extremely hard, with the mentoring of UA's reading specialist, Ms. Sahar Nafso, to establish reading groups and focused center-based learning. Kindergarten and 1st grade will be working towards establishing their focused reading groups for Quarter 3 & 4!

Bee! Many well wishes and best of luck to each of you!

Congratulations to:

Universal Academy's Spelling Bee Finalists who will be going to Trillium Academy on February 5, 2010 to compete for the State Spelling



MATH DEPARTMENT K - 1 2 TH GRADE

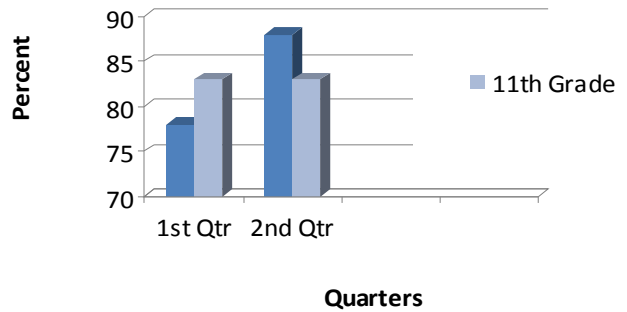
Math helps young students develop critical thinking, problem solving skills, and concepts. The elementary students in grades K-5th grade use a variety of hands on manipulatives, activities and projects to assist them with understanding and developing the ability to comprehend math at a young age. Students at Universal Academy have improved their grade overall in math by 20%. Grade averages are now in the mid 80's percentile. The students continue to use the computer lab as a source of information to understand and comprehend math concepts. Technology continues to play a vital

role not only in math but in other subjects.

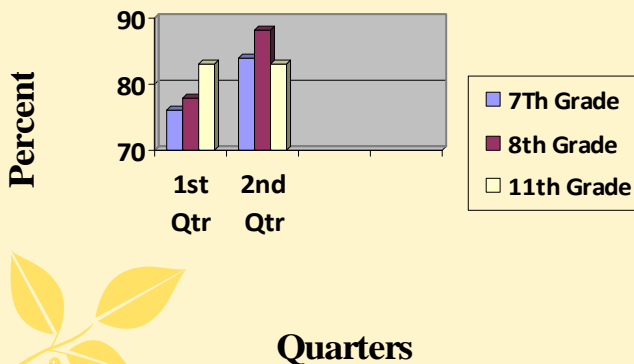
As the year is quickly moving along, our math classes are working very hard to accomplish their goals. Students are staying after school where they are finishing and relearning required GLCE assessments. On the right is a chart of the accomplishments that our students have made. Keep up the great work!!

During math this quarter the 6th graders learned about fraction and decimal operations as well as proportions and equations next quarter. Our students are exceptional learners and have been very enthusiastic about learning math!! Below is a chart of 7th/8th and 11th

Overall Progress from Q1



Overall Progress from Q1 to Q2



grade accomplishments from quarter 1 to quarter 2.

The 9th grade students are working hard and are learning new concepts. They are learning how to solve linear equations and in Chapter IV how to graph linear equations and functions. Most of the students' grades improved from Quarter I. The students in 12A Advanced Mathematics are doing very well learning the advanced math skills and also did a wonderful job on their math projects aligned with AP Calculus rubrics. The 10th grade class is advancing in learning about polygons and triangles and distances to prepare for 11th grade Algebra II.

One of their many accomplishments was their summative assessment scores which students achieved above 80%. The 11th grade class has been enthusiastically learning about linear systems and matrices, quadratic equations, factoring and their relevance in everyday life. They are getting ready to learn **Data Analysis and Statistics**.



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT K - 12 TH GRADE



We are very proud of our students, parents and Science Teachers for the hard work and effort they put in preparation for the Science Fair. Students in grades K-12 have been working extremely hard this quarter individually or in groups in their experiments and analysis of results and putting all data on their poster boards for their presentations. It has been a phenomenal learning experience. First Place and Second Place winners will be displayed during conferences. First place

winners for 6-12 grades will move on to participate in Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit at COBO Hall in March 2009.

Universal Academy's Science Club is underway to start in the coming weeks with a group of students who will work together to improve their Science skills/ High Priority Items. Every Wednesday from 3:20 to 4:00- K-12 students will participate to increase their knowledge base, and we are aiming to provide intellectual scientific

stimulation and enjoyment for students through hands on activities, games, competitions, technology and projects that help children better understand science principles. Please encourage your children to participate and sign letters that will be sent home with your children.



SOCIAL STUDIES K - 12 TH GRADE

Elementary classrooms have been busy learning how to use reading guides, identify elements of a map and read graphs to interpret information. All of our classrooms honored Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 18th with a variety of activities, many of which you can see while walking down the hallways. Our students continue to be enthusiastic while investing topics such as their community, Michigan's history, regions of the United States and United States history.

6th grade students continue to grow in their map reading skills as well. They can distinguish between vegetation, climate and physical maps as well as tell explain what is on each. They are discovering how the first people made it to North America long before Christopher Columbus. The 7th graders recently completed an extensive unit on Africa where they explored the effects of poverty on a nation. 8th graders are learning about the struggles of Manifest Destiny and westward expansion.

9th grade U.S. History class has finished the unit on the Great Depression and moving on to explore the New Deal.

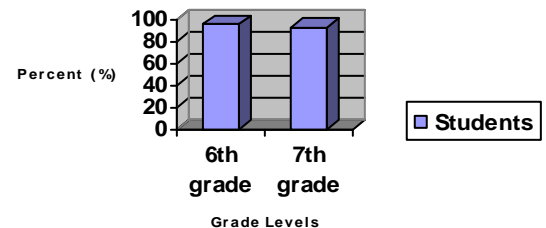
World History students are "exploring the Americas." After recently finishing a unit on the Renaissance, they are moving on to the Age of Exploration. These students have worked tremendously hard while creating presentations and projects that incorporate critical thinking skills and technology.

The 10th grade students are moving on to Economics in semester 2. They have successfully wrapped up their Civics studies. Currently, the Contemporary World Issues class is studying genocide and its affects on a nation and its people. The Current Events class is comparing different economic systems throughout the world.

The National History Day competition is right around the corner on March 6th. This year's theme is Change: Innovations in History. We are looking forward to putting together some amazing presentations so that we can "WOW" them with our knowledge and innovation.



Students Passing Social Studies with at Least 70%



K - 12 TH GRADE ARABIC NEWS



Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced levels continue to do a magnificent job! All grades finalized excellent projects on Heroes, Health, Minority Heroes and Career searches! Students enjoyed these projects. They enjoyed listening to their peers presenting the projects and reflecting using rubrics to self assess as well. Arabic Teachers did very well in directing students and helping them to integrate projects to the unit themes and unit questions that are

being focused on. Kindergarten and First grade students worked hard with their teachers as well to create their own "My Alphabet Book" in Arabic. Special thanks to Mrs. Massoglia for directing and providing necessary resources for the unit and supervising and giving the feedback that made those projects motivating and applicable to our students' interests



COUNSELING NEWS

Counseling is proud to announce that 14 of our Universal Academy seniors will be Wayne State Warriors next school year. That's right, 14 of our seniors were admitted to WSU during onsite admissions in December; well done! We are also happy to announce that the following students have been invited to WSU Scholar's Day in February for an opportunity to receive a full 4 year scholarship.

It does not stop there...out of the 6 seniors who were accepted to

the University of Detroit Mercy not only got accepted, but earned scholarships as well! Nine seniors were also accepted to Oakland University. received a \$4,000 renewable Oakland University Academic Scholarship. Great job to all!!! Along with working on scholarship opportunities and onsite college admissions, counseling is working on organizing a career day for our high school students. At career day students will be able to learn and explore various career pathways.

Counselors



TUTORIAL NEWS

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers,

As every department of the Universal Academy is summarizing the first semester achievements, our tutorial staff is also proudly showing their results as they are helping students in every classroom achieve their academic goals. Not only is tutorial staff assisting students in one-on-one sessions, they also are working with students in small groups or team-teaching opportunities in the classrooms. In their approach to working with ELL learners, they continue to differentiate and accommodate teachers' instruction on a daily basis. As a result, students are showing progress and parents, as well as teachers, are proud of them!

Our English Language learners continue to make incredible progress on daily basis and we hope that by the end of the school year, they will be able to meet the mainstream standards

without accommodations, but with continued tutorial assistance. Our goal is to teach them to become independent learners, learn the English language and other subject academic content standards through various interventions in place and differentiated learning opportunities.

Universal Academy's ACE program started on October 19th, 2009. Students are having all chances to attend and get assistance with their homework, and ELA and math high priority items per State and School expectations. ACE teachers are constantly reinforcing what has been taught, and will be forth coming in the curriculum to ensure that all the necessary prior knowledge needed to be successful is attained.

We remind all students to attend ACE sessions regularly and maximize their efforts towards better academic achievements!



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Keeping up with best practices, the National Honor Society has departmentalized. We have established committees within NHS to help us achieve our goals and uphold the principles. Recently these committees have been responsible for organizing and implementing character education skits, mentoring and tutoring programs and community out-reach activities. Recently NHS students, in cooperation with Henry Ford Community College created cards for the Make a Smile Foundation. These cards will be delivered to children with terminal illnesses in local hospitals. We continue to grow and plan for exciting endeavors next semester.



THE ARTS

During the second quarter, in elementary grades taking music, students began working on developing the singing voice, recognizing and distinguishing between high and low, fast and slow, and loud and soft sounds, and most importantly, feeling and moving to the steady beat. Some other areas we will continue to expand upon in the coming months are solfege pitches, echo singing, name games, songs with stories, call and response, and two-part singing. How instruments work and how to play them

properly has also be an area of exploration for students. The middle school performing arts classes have been learning about the many facets of music through listening, singing, reading, and reflection. They recently finished a unit on drama, in which they had written and performed their own skits and monologues. We are planning a school concert in May 2010 and we will keep you posted on the impressive performances to take place!

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

The athletic department would like to congratulate the boys varsity basketball, girls varsity basketball, and boys middle school basketball teams for their hard work during this winter athletic season. These students showed dedication in both their academic achievement/grades and athletic abilities and teamwork. Upcoming events for the athletic department will include bake sales, school athletic shirt and baseball cap sale, and basketball tournaments. We would also like to recognize those students who are in the chess club-Keep up the good work.



FOOD SERVICE

The lunch department would like to express their satisfaction with the outcome of the Free Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program. This exciting program has been benefiting the students as they have been eating all of the fruits and vegetables delivered to their classrooms every morning. We hope to continue this program throughout the year and continue to encourage our students to become healthy learners and achievers.