

LIETZ, THOMAS

From: Thomas Lietz <THOMAS.LIETZ@UticaK12.org>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 3:30 PM
To: LIETZ, THOMAS
Subject: UHS Weekly Update: Dec. 11 (Week 15)

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Good afternoon Utica High Families,

We are very quickly approaching the end of Quarter 1 and Semester 1. Our official exam period begins next Friday, December 18. As a result, next week's schedule will look a little different. As I explained on this morning's announcements, Monday – Thursday will follow a standard A/B block rotation. Wednesday will not include the extended SST period. You can see the [revised S1 schedule](#) under How Do I >> UHS Return to School Docs. Looking ahead, here some key student calendar dates for your planning purposes:

- Friday, December 18, 2020 Half-day for secondary students
- Monday, December 21, 2020 Half-day for all students
- Tuesday, December 22, 2020 Half-day for all students
- Wednesday, December 23, 2020 No classes for students - Winter Recess begins
- Monday, January 4, 2021 Classes resume for students (scheduled as remote)
- Monday, January 18, 2021 No classes for students - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Our exams starting next week, so I want to take a moment to discuss student expectations. Many of our teachers are using some form of alternative assessment during these remote exams, but some require a more traditional exam. Either way, there may be parts where the teacher needs to see the student. Whether that is a performative need or to make sure students are not collaborating or cheating, it may be required. Cameras being on has always been my expectation. If a teacher requests that their students have their cameras on and focused on them during the exam, the students must comply. If they are not on, it could cause a student to be seen as cheating and potentially lose credit. Teachers are making that request known on their Schoology pages and in their conversations with students, and I want you to know that's happening as well.

With many students and families dealing with the social-emotional stress of the pandemic, and at a heightened level during the holidays, I wanted to draw your attention to various resources that could be helpful.

- For lower-level wellness and stress relief, our own Student Mental Health Committee (@uhs_SMHC) has been doing exceptional work with their 12 Days of Wellness in December as we work toward exams and their posts on Twitter and Instagram. Beyond that our incredible staff of teachers and counselors have been doing everything in their power to support and encourage wellness.
- Our [Counseling page](#) on the UHS Webpage (<https://uticahigh.org>) which is located under Academics, has incredible expanded resources for students. A partnership with Macomb Family Services has lead to the Adolescent Outreach Program (AOP) which provides 6 free counseling sessions for our High School students.
- The [UCS Wellness Page](#) is full of incredible resources for students and families. The most recent addition to the page is the Virtual Calming Room which has an array of tools, built on the work of our UHS SMHC, to help provide activities or a sensory environment that will help a student who is having a stressful moment. It is a k-12 support so please share that page with your young learners as well!
- Finally, we have another evening event for our parents. UCS is again offering a wellness event with parents as the target audience. "I Matter: A Live YouTube Event" is being held Monday, December 21 from 7:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. See attachment for more information.

ATTACHMENT

Finally, some celebration. Congratulations to our Utica High Thespians who competed at the Michigan Thespian Festival this past weekend. , though it was a smaller troupe that went to a virtual Thespian festival this year, Mr. K's theatre students continued to do exceptionally well. Grace Leonardi and Maria Chessnut combined for a total haul of just under \$300,000 in scholarship offers for schools from around the state and nation! That's an incredible haul and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts!

We have two student groups attending state level competitions this weekend. Good luck to our debate team who are competing at the MIFA State Finals this weekend and our DECA team who will be participating in their regional this coming Monday. These students and their coaches have had to do incredible work to adapt their work to a new virtual environment and competition. Hats off to them for their commitment!

Have a great weekend everyone!

Tom Lietz
Principal



Utica High School Vision Statement:

Empowering students to reach their full potential as members of a global community.

Utica High School Mission Statement:

The mission of Utica High School is to develop successful learners with the support of our community of educators, students, and parents. Our diverse student body will have an equitable, rigorous, and comprehensive education in a safe and supportive environment that promotes self-discipline, motivation, and excellence in learning. We aim to cultivate individual learners with active and creative minds, and a sense of understanding and compassion for others.

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