

LIETZ, THOMAS

From: Thomas Lietz <THOMAS.LIETZ@UticaK12.org>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 3:31 PM
To: LIETZ, THOMAS
Subject: UHS Weekly Update: Dec. 18 (Week 16)

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Good afternoon Utica High Families,

We had another great week at Utica High School. Thanks to our Student Mental Health Committee for their 12 Days of Wellness campaign and for our UHS Student Council for their work to create a virtual spirit week! Congratulations to our Debate and DECA teams which had their competitions this last week. And, thank you to their advisors who continue to find creative ways to make sure our students have opportunities to engage in the co-curricular activities they love!

As we finish exams and wind down our semester 1 efforts, I want to **look ahead to semester 2**. In my announcements this morning, I shared the following. As of yesterday, Mrs. Olson was notifying teachers of new schedules for S2 and student placement will be finalized over the next three days. I need to reiterate that the schedule is extremely tight. As students have shifted to and from the virtual academy, we've had to reconstruct the schedule. Requests to change full-year courses, drop selected courses like AP, etc., are unlikely to be fulfilled. We just do not have open elective courses. It is important that students focus on passing those exams and positioning themselves to be successful in your full-year courses.

A second reality of that tight schedule is that teachers will change. All of our courses are broken down by semesters, and unless there is only one teacher instructing that particular course, there is a possibility, if not probability, that your instructor could change from Semester 1 to semester 2. We will not make schedule changes for an instructor request. Again, we just do not have the flexibility to do that.

I wanted to expand on last week's update about **the calendar**. You can see the [revised S1 schedule](#) under How Do I >> UHS Return to School Docs. I have also placed a [UHS Remote Schedule through 1/15](#) in that same folder with the first couple weeks of S2 leading up to our expected return to in-person learning on Tuesday, January 19. That calendar anticipates our current planned return to school in a hybrid form as was discussed at our Board of Education meetings and as we planned for in November.

Looking ahead, here some key student calendar dates for your planning purposes:

- 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

As our [Utica Community Schools Return to School webpage](#) states, we continue our work to ensure a safe return to in-person learning for students on Tuesday, January 19. As we return from the break, I will be communicating a variety of processes all of which will be posted to that [UHS Return to School Documents page](#) under the How Do I tab.

I want to remind you that we are sending out report cards at the end of the day, Friday, January 8, 2021. The report card will be sent electronically to all parents that signed up for a [secure PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#).

Online registration for **Credit Recovery** begins on Monday, January 18, 2021. Credit recovery courses for students in grades 10 through 12 begins on January 26, 2021 and ends on May 21, 2021. You can complete [this registration form](#) to sign up for Credit Recovery courses, one course at a time. If a student has multiple courses to complete, they can sign up for additional courses when they've completed their previous course. Students can only take the second course if they've completed the first by April 16.

Students who submitted a [parking pass application](#) for S1 will have that application request rolled over to S2. As we remain in a tenuous place and in hybrid mode for the foreseeable future, we will continue not charging for **parking passes** during the 2020-21 school year. However, as I stated earlier, and is in the document on the webpage, sophomores are not permitted to drive when return and should not complete a pass. If we find sophomores are driving they will lose the opportunity to drive as juniors and seniors. If you are a junior or senior and want to drive when return, please complete the Parking Pass Application and upload the appropriate documents.

Students and families looking for information on **post-secondary preparation** opportunities have two great places to start! The first is our UHS Counseling page which has a section for [College Bound Students](#) that contains information on SAT and ACT prep workshops, comparison charts for universities and admissions guides, grade-level checklists, and resources from community and regional colleges and universities as well various deadlines and informational pieces. At the district level, our

[UCS College Central](#) site is another tremendous resource! The page has a series of grade-level pages that have tailored information for students and families!

Finally, please help me **welcome Mr. Tyler Dargis** to Utica High School. I introduced Mr. Dargis on social media yesterday, but wanted to notify parents here as well! He will be joining Utica High to lead our vocal music program next semester. He graduated from Oakland University this winter after student teaching up the road at Eisenhower. We are very excited to have him join our team. He has orange and black in his blood as his parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles all went through Utica High School and were members of our music programs!

Mr. Tyler Dargis

Classes:
Vocal Music

Degree:
BA, Music in Music Education with
Specialization in Choral and General Music
from Oakland University

Hobbies:
Traveling, Photography, DnD and
Obscure Music

*"The people who are crazy enough to think
they can change the world are the ones
who do." - Steve Jobs*



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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