

"OUR MISSION IS TO PREPARE STUDENTS TO SUCCEED IN AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TO PARTICIPATE AS LEADERS IN SOCIETY."

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University Academy inducts its first members into National Honor Society

Much Anticipated Event Comes To UA

After a considerable amount of planning, University Academy welcomed its first class of nine distinguished juniors and seniors into the newly formed chapter of the National Honor Society. The induction, which took place at the school the evening of September 10th, included Alvin Brooks, a community organizer and former Kansas City councilman, as the featured speaker. NHS chapter advisor, John Veal, served as master of ceremonies. Other speakers included Cheri Shannon, Superintendent, and Clem Ukaoma, Upper School principal.



National Honor Society inductees included: Troy Burtin, senior; Arianna Jackson, senior; Brandon Jackson, senior; Miya Reynolds, senior; Risha Roark, senior; Kayla Wiggins, senior; Ashley Finney-Nelson, junior; Zachary McGowan, junior; and Lawson Williams, junior

After partaking in dinner, inductees participated in a traditional candle lighting ceremony, recited the NHS pledge and were each presented a framed certificate of membership. NHS, which began in 1921, is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to honor those students who demonstrate excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service and character and are commonly active in community service activities throughout the community.

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A BRIGHTER FUTURE BEGINS TODAY

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

We know that children benefit when there is positive and meaningful two-way communication between home and school. Two-way communications invite families and teachers to work as partners, and that's important for children's progress.

Our UA team has worked hard this year to increase our two-way communications. We have instituted our district newsletter, began using *Connect-Ed* (our telephone messaging system), we are excited to have a new web site which is filled with great information for parents, and, of course we have face-to-face opportunities such as parent-teacher conferences.

At UA, we recognize the benefits and challenges of home and school communication and pledge to continue working to build more open and positive communication opportunities in the future.

Cheri Shannon



UA's new website now up and running

Feedback has been great from parents, staff and community - Take some time and visit - www.universityacademy.org

It's official. The new UA website is up and running and contains more information than ever before. "In the early 1990s, hardly a single school or district in the United States had a website. Now, almost all do," explained Gary Martasin, the UA Director of Communications & Development. "School websites are one of the most effective forms of communications we have today, and its benefits to our school are enormous."

- Our website can expand opportunities for parents to communicate with the school and become more informed about their child's education.
- The website will greatly eliminate barriers in involving parents in school and can help keep parents informed about upcoming exams, activities, and other tips to help their children.
- The website now includes greater information on the community and allows UA to build stronger links between businesses, families, and school.

On the "Home" page, visitors will see current "News" items regularly posted as well as important "Announcements." They will also find a "Quick Links" tab that will immediately take them to information such as menus, PowerSchool and the calendar. The remainder of the site is divided into four main sections with each section offering multiple links to important and useful information.

For Parents -

In this section, parents will readily find information regarding:

- School Calendar - Monthly Menus - Admissions/Enrollment Information - Policies - K-12 Information - Children's Mercy Hospital Clinic - Parent Organization News and a link to PowerSchool



For Students -

This section includes:

- Student Handbook - School Supplies - Programs and Services - Community Service - College/Scholarship Information - Athletics and Internet Resources



For Community -

This section contains :

- Our History - District Report Card - Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) Overview - Facilities - Volunteer Opportunities - "How You Can Help" - Alumni Information - Partner Programs



District Information -

Useful links in this section are:

- Superintendent's Message - Board of Directors - Administration - Staff Directory - Human Resources/Employment - News and Communications - Legal Notices - Contact Us





Middle school students benefit from new entrepreneurship program

Barnett Helzberg, founding board member of University Academy, is the driving force behind program whose goal is to get students involved in entrepreneurial activities.

For years, educators have seen a gap between what young people needed to know about economics and what they were being taught. Research has consistently shown that nearly half of our young people don't understand how to save and invest for the future, nor how to handle credit cards. They don't know the difference between inflation and recession, nor how government spending affects them. Because of these troubling facts, School Board member, Barnett Helzberg, along with eighth grade social studies teacher, David Wolfe, decided to begin the first ever University Academy Entrepreneurship Program.

"We both attended workshops run by the National Institute for Teaching Entrepreneurship," explained Wolfe. "It is our goal to introduce middle school students, through our pilot program, the opportunities that exist if one decides to accept the challenges and risks of a career in the world of business and commerce."

The class meets weekly during the advisement period and participates in a variety of activities and discussions. Some topics include:

- The importance of a college education
- Types of business opportunities that exist
- Financing your future
- Learning, earning and investing

The class also has a variety of guest experts drop in from local and national universities and spends some of their time visiting with local entrepreneurs who share



Getting supplies ready for another busy day of selling at the "Gryphon School Supply Shoppe" are 8th grade students; Gabriel Smith, Tyler Morris, Camela Brooks, DaySean Richard and Preston Williams.

their experiences of starting and running a business.

The part that many of the students enjoy most is running their own "Gryphon School Supply Shoppe." The students sell a variety of items, mostly school supplies, on a not for profit basis. Gabriel Smith, a student in the class explained, "The class is great. It helps us get a better understanding of how our economy works, how to run a business and manage money."

Second semester, the students will be focused on developing their own in-depth business plan proposals that will be presented to Barnett Helzberg. Students will use the business terms and concepts they learned first semester to create their plans.

Wolfe explained that although this is only a pilot program this year, he hopes that the program can continue to grow. "I want to encourage early business skills and conversations between the young people and their parents," Wolfe said. "I'm excited about the potential," he added.

Gryphon football sees best season ever

Joe Johnson honored as the Class 1 player of the week for his efforts in a 28-0 victory over Harmon.

Gryphon's head football coach, Damon Paul, gleefully exclaimed, "We knew we were in for a memorable season when we won the coveted "Holmes Road" trophy." August 29 was the date; 38 to 20 was the winning score over the Center High School Yellowjackets. The Gryphon's football team began the season with a 6-1 record. Their first loss coming at the hands of West Platte, 27-26. As the season progressed, the competition got stiff, but the Gryphons worked hard and ended the season with a record of 7-4. "We had so many highlights and so many players step-up and perform," said Paul, "This truly was a great year for our team and I'm proud of each and every one of our men."

The Gryphon's received major contributions this year from a host of players, including; Ricky Thompson, Syreal Sims, Darren White, Auston LaBlance, Chris Harbour, Terrance Ross, and Joe Johnson, all who were named first or second team All-District VII players for 2008.



UA athletic director and head football coach, Damon Paul, accompanied Joe Johnson to a recent UA Board of Directors meeting. Johnson was presented a special recognition award from the Board.

"It's a great feeling knowing I made a difference."

- YouthFriends Mentor



University Academy has teamed up with YouthFriends, a nationally recognized school-based mentoring network, that connects caring adult volunteers with young people. According to UA's new YouthFriends coordinator, Jan Perry, "YouthFriends is fun for both young people and adults. Volunteers can participate in a wide range of in-school activities, including sharing lunch with a student, reading to a student or class, sharing special talents or career interests, tutoring, or just being a good friend who listens." Volunteers, who range from college students to senior citizens, typically spend an hour a week with one or more students. Each volunteer undergoes a quadruple screening process and attends a free training session.

If you, or someone you know is interested in volunteering at UA, please contact: Jan Perry, YouthFriends Coordinator, 816-412-5900.

WINTER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS ...

December

- 17-19 Upper School Finals/ End of 2nd Quarter
- 22-Jan. 5, 2009 NO SCHOOL

January

- 5 Teacher Workday - NO SCHOOL
- 6 Students Return From Vacation
- 19 NO SCHOOL - MLK Holiday
- 27 Board of Directors Mtg. - 4:00 pm
- 28 EARLY RELEASE

February

- 2 Mid Term
- 16 NO SCHOOL - President's Day
- 24 Board of Directors Mtg. - 4:00 pm
- 25 EARLY RELEASE

March

- 5 End of 3rd Quarter
- 9 Grade Cards Mailed
- 12 EARLY RELEASE - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 13 NO SCHOOL - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 16-20 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
- 24 Board of Directors Mtg. - 4:00 pm



Be ready - Winter weather is on its way!

Canceling or delaying school during inclement weather is always a difficult decision, as weather conditions may change for the better or worse. School cancellation or delayed start notices are made by the Superintendent to radio and television stations for immediate broadcasting. Connect-Ed, a telephone calling system, will be used to notify parents and staff members of school closing or delayed start. Closing or delayed start information will also be posted on the UA website @ www.universityacademy.org.

It is always the parent or guardian's decision on whether to keep their children at home or to pick them up early whenever they believe the weather warrants. Also, please remember that University Academy is not part of the Kansas City, Missouri School District; therefore, please listen or watch for specific information that University Academy is closed.

"Wellness Clinic" continues to provide important care

Baptist-Trinity Lutheran Legacy Foundation increases funding commitment to UA and Children's Mercy Hospital for additional two years

The recent news from Becky Schaid, executive director of the Baptist-Trinity Lutheran Foundation, was great. "On behalf of the Board of Directors of Baptist-Trinity Lutheran Legacy Foundation, I am pleased to announce that the request from University Academy for an additional \$60,000 for the next two years to support the Children's Mercy Hospital Wellness Clinic was approved at the October board meeting." The Foundation's allocation to UA will now be \$115,000 per year for the fourth and fifth years which

brings the total five year commitment to over \$400,000. This increased funding will now allow CMH to increase the nurse practitioner position, add physician support and potentially fund one or two medical social workers.

According to Dr. Lynch, Chief of Adolescent Medicine at CMH, UA now has over 850 students registered as members of the Wellness Clinic. Needs being address include physical exams, immunization updates and acute care. "Our number one chronic disease among the UA students is asthma," explained Dr. Lynch.

To learn more about what services the Wellness Clinic at University Academy provides, look for the "Children's Mercy Hospital Clinic" link on the new UA website.

