

ALLIANCE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

• Armada Area Schools • Mount Clemens Community School District
• Utica Community Schools •

December 3, 2008

Dear Parents:

It is with great excitement that the *Alliance for Academic Excellence*, a cooperative educational partnership between Armada Area Schools, Mount Clemens Community School District and Utica Community Schools, presents a series of new opportunities for students enrolled in the three districts.

Funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant, the *Alliance for Academic Excellence* is committed to providing educational choices necessary to address different learning styles and provide areas of specialization. With the students' needs in mind, we offer eight programs at the middle and senior high school level.

There are two middle school programs supported by this federal grant. The Armada Middle Academy for Arts and Sciences is a half-day program devoted to project-based instruction. The Mount Clemens Middle School will be teaching the International Baccalaureate Middle Years curriculum.

At the high school level, six program choices are open to qualified students. Armada will expand the number of seats available at the Macomb Academy for Arts and Sciences. Mount Clemens High School will introduce freshmen to the school's three thematic academies - Legal Studies, Medical Bioscience and Creative Arts and Communication - within a focused ninth grade small learning community following which they will select the career pathway of their choice. Utica Community Schools will open the Center for Science and Industry, a career academy with Engineering Technology, Mechatronics and Multimedia Technology as its core. Also offered is the Utica Academy for International Studies, a four-year curriculum culminating in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

Each of these *Alliance for Academic Excellence* programs is available to any qualified student enrolled in Armada Area Schools, Mount Clemens Community School District or Utica Community Schools. Detailed descriptions, eligibility requirements, and contact information for each of the programs is provided on the back of this letter. Interested high school students may apply to two programs and middle school students may apply to one program.

Our three superintendents - Dr. Arnold Kummerow, Armada Area Schools; Dr. Charles Muncatchy, Mount Clemens Community School District; Dr. Christine Johns, Utica Community Schools - continue to keep your children their number one priority. Call now for enrollment information. Tell your family and friends about our one-of-a-kind partnership for all students in this ever-changing global society.

Sincerely,

Robert McBroom, Project Director

ALLIANCE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SECONDARY PROGRAMS

Armada Area Schools

Middle School Program **Armada Middle Academy of Arts and Sciences (Half Day)**

Eligibility: The Armada Middle Academy of Arts and Sciences is open to 6th grade students in the fall of 2008. Students must submit math, science and ELA MEAP scores, classroom grades and a teacher recommendation.

Description: Students in this accelerated half-day program will undertake rigorous science and mathematics coursework in a unique hands-on learning environment. Annual student-designed research projects will engage students in the real life application of math and science concepts and provide them with opportunities to integrate technology and creative arts concepts into their learning experiences.

Questions may be directed to:
Michael Gielniak 586.784.2185
mgielniak@armadaschools.org

High School Program **Macomb Academy of Arts and Sciences (Half Day)**

Eligibility: Grade 8 Students enrolled in Math 8, Algebra I, or higher. Students must take an admissions test and submit teacher recommendations.

Description: The Macomb Academy of Arts and Sciences is a 9th-12th grade regional center for honors-level mathematics, science, technology and creative thinking. This four-year integrated curriculum focuses on natural learning and problem-solving. All students attend during one-half of their school day and their home high school the other half of the day. Course work includes honors science, mathematics and computer science, along with full-year research projects at all grade levels. Additional courses include Design of Experiments, a statistics-based data course, and Interdisciplinary Studies.

Questions may be directed to:
Elsie Ritzenheim 586.784.2150
eritzenheim@armadaschools.org

Mount Clemens Community School District

Middle School Program **International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme Grades 6-8 (Full Day)**

Eligibility: The Middle Years Programme is open to all students who will be in 6th - 8th grade in the fall of 2008.

Description: The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme is a coherent and comprehensive curriculum, which provides a framework of academic challenge and life skills. With an emphasis on holistic learning and intercultural awareness, students acquire the knowledge to prepare them to effectively address Twenty-First Century global issues. Students will take a full schedule of courses in these areas: English, Spanish, science, technology, humanities, math, PE and fine arts.

Questions may be directed to:
Katherine Zuzula 586.461.3313
zuzulak@mtcps.org

High School Program **Small Learning Communities (Full Day)**

Eligibility: All ninth grade students enrolled at Mount Clemens High School.

Description: The ninth grade small learning communities will facilitate a smooth transition for students entering their freshman year and prepare them for college and future career pathways. Career options will be introduced to students through the following programs: **Creative Arts & Communication:** The creative process and the development of avenues for expression will be explored in this program. The utilization of technology as a medium of communication will be emphasized. **Legal Studies:** An extensive curriculum provides aspiring students who have had an interest in law, legal procedures and ethical principles the opportunities to develop their knowledge beyond the standard high school program. **Medical Bioscience:** Through a stimulating, innovative and challenging program, students will be prepared for careers in the medical and health services field.

Questions may be directed to:
Pam Bilbrew 586.461.3746
billbrewp@mtcps.org

Utica Community Schools

High School Programs **Utica Center for Science and Industry (Half Day Program)**

Eligibility: Grade 8 students enrolled in Math 8, Algebra I, or higher. Students must have a 2.5 GPA as reported by their 8th grade schools.

Description: The Center for Science and Industry is the blending of rigorous academic content and relevant, real world application of this knowledge. The program will make use of its strong relationships with business, industry and post-secondary partners to provide students with the skills necessary to be successful in a global workplace. This program is a 9th to 12th grade program that will integrate English and math into the following three programs: Engineering Technology, Mechatronics, and Multi-Media Technology.

Questions may be directed to:
Scott Palmer 586.797.6806
Scott.Palmer@uticak12.org

High School Program **Utica Academy for International Studies (Full Day)**

Eligibility: Grade 8 Students enrolled in Math 8, Algebra I, or higher. Students must have a 3.0 GPA as reported by their Middle or Junior High School.

Description: The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is an internationally respected and recognized interdisciplinary curriculum that focuses on a complete liberal arts education in the foreign languages, science, math, English, social studies and the arts. This curriculum adheres to worldwide standards offering a high level of accountability and validity while offering students a rigorous course of college preparatory study. The IB Diploma is recognized by universities around the world as the premier secondary education platform.

Questions may be directed to:
Thomas Lietz 586.797.6807
Thomas.Lietz@uticak12.org

Applicants must reside in the Armada, Mt. Clemens or Utica districts or are enrolled as school of choice students in one of the districts.