



September 6, 2011

Dear UPA Parents and/or Guardians –

Welcome back! We're excited to begin the 2011-2012 school year and happy to have our scholars back in school to continue their hard work and their journey up the mountain to college! I hope that all of our families had a restful summer and are ready to begin a new school year filled with hard work, challenges, fun and enthusiasm. I know all of us at University Prep are pleased that you've chosen to partner with us to provide a great education for your children.

As we look forward to this school year, I would like to quickly mention:

- All of our principals are returning, and our great teaching staff has been working hard all summer in preparation for this new school year. I've enjoyed many conversations where our teams have been super-focused on teaching great lessons to ensure our students are receiving a high-quality education
- Our 2010-2011 MEAP scores revealed that UPA schools are continuing to outperform the local district schools, and outperforming the state average in some categories. Many of our elementary school students are continuing to develop as young readers and show impressive increases on the nationally-normed MAP assessment. We know we still have a way to be competitive with some of the highest performing districts in Michigan, but we're focused on the goals.
- Our high school graduated 100% of our seniors, and 100% of them have a seat in college this fall! We are working furiously this year to improve our focus on college-readiness ensuring our scholars leave UPA with more than a 21 on the ACT.

As we think about partnering with you on this mission, there are some things you can do (and **continue** to do) to support your child and your school:

- The student attendance rates for UPA schools are far higher than that of our neighboring schools, which is GREAT. Research tells us that one of the greatest indicators of academic success is school attendance: a child that isn't in school misses a day's worth of instruction. Therefore, being in school and on time every single day is very important.
- Read to your children every night and help them develop a joy for reading. For parents of older high school or middle school children, insist that they read every night, or even read aloud to you. Find the books they like at the library or a bookstore and have them on the page! Focusing on non-fiction reading would be especially rigorous for students. Though we want our scholars reading books, also reading newspapers, magazines and even comic books count as sources of reading for entertainment.

There's a lot to be proud of – our scholars, teachers, and parents are working hard on this mission. Our entire team at UPA is committed to creating the best schools we possibly can, and helping EVERY child reach their best potential. It's with this in mind – our amazing scholars, our hardworking teachers and teammates, and you our committed parents that I'm excited to partner with you. You are part of a mission - a **K-12** educational model - where we will support your child to be academically successful, all the way from elementary school, to middle school, to high school and then off to college. As superintendent, I will be working with our school teams and communities to ensure that every grade level at University Prep is student-centered, achievement-driven, and absolutely dedicated to continuing to graduate 100% of our students to college

Thank you, and let's have a great school year.

Sincerely,

Eric Redwine
Superintendent