

Universal Academy of Pittsburgh

Newsletter

Principal's Message



Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, and Students,
Assalam Alaikum Wa Rahmatu Allah Wa Barakatuh

Welcome to an exciting new school year!

As we begin our academic year together, I pray to Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala that it is filled with enthusiasm and optimism for what lies ahead for our school, students, and community.

We strive to create a supportive and enriching learning environment where every student has the opportunity to succeed and flourish academically, socially, and emotionally. Our dedicated staff is committed to providing high-quality education and fostering a culture of respect, responsibility, and kindness, rooted in our Islamic teachings and values.

Recognizing the critical role communication plays in our success, we are launching this monthly newsletter to keep parents, guardians, staff, and students informed about ongoing activities, celebrate achievements, and share important school updates. In addition to this newsletter, we will continue to share information through our website and other school communication channels.

I look forward to a strong partnership with all stakeholders to make this school year both memorable and productive. Together, I am confident we will ensure that our students achieve their full potential.

May Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala grant you and your families good health and prosperity.

Wa Assalam Alaikum Wa Rahamatu Allah Wa Barakatuh

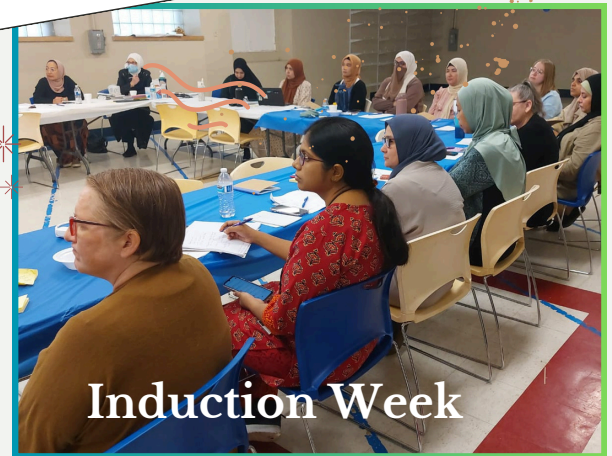
Warm regards,
Dr. Alia Arafah
School Principal

Induction Week

The staff and teachers of the Universal Academy of Pittsburgh completed the Induction Weeks' workshops, which lasted for two weeks (August 5-16). Several remarkable presenters led workshops that covered various professional development topics closely related to the school's programs, teachers, staff, students, and the community.

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- Induction Week
- Parent Night
- First Day of School and more....



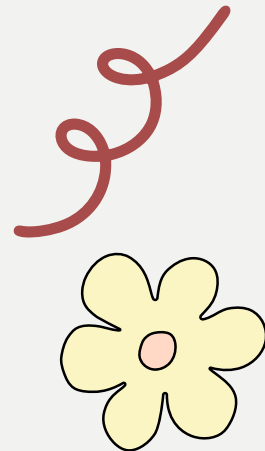
Induction Week

PSSA Testing

The Universal Academy of Pittsburgh decided to transition from Stanford Achievement Test to the PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) for the following reasons:

- **Lack of Public Data:** Stanford test results from other schools are not publicly available, limiting the ability to compare performance between UAP and other schools.
- **Alignment with Standards:** The Stanford test is not aligned with Pennsylvania State Common Core

- **PSSA is specifically designed to assess students according to these standards.**
- **Score Reporting:** The Stanford test uses a more complex statistical measure to report scores. In contrast, the PSSA uses four easily understandable scoring levels: Advanced, Proficient, Basic, and Below Basic.
- **Grade Levels and Scheduling:** The PSSA is administered to students in grades 3 through 8 and is scheduled for April 2025.



Upcoming Events

- October 16th, 2024: International Day
- October 17th, 2024: Teacher Professional Day. **No school for students.**
- October 18th, 2024: No School for students and staff
- October 21st, 2024 End of Quarter One
- October 28- November 1st: Islamic Book Fair
- November 1st, 2024 Parent/Teacher Conference



The Universal Academy of Pittsburgh has recently implemented the use of IXL within its curriculum. IXL is an award-winning learning platform that assists students as they familiarize themselves with various education topics. Implementation of this program will increase our ability to help and support students, as well as to prepare them for the PSSA test.

Student Council Elections

Congratulations to the new Student Council for 2024-2025:

- President- Wafa Y. (7th grade)
- Vice President- Farishta I. (8th grade)
- Treasurer- Aziza N. (5th grade)
- Secretary- Malik E. (5th grade)
 - 6th grade Representative- Robiya K. (6th grade)
 - 4th grade Representative- Layla A.
 - 3rd grade Representative- Leena A. (backup- Amina Ak.)
 - 2nd grade Representative- Thaer M. (backup- Saliha A.)
 - 1st grade Representative- Yusha S. (backup- Aminatou D.)

Parent Night

On Saturday, August 17, 2024, the Universal Academy of Pittsburgh welcomed families and students for the first Parent Night of the 2024-2025 academic year. We set a record for the number of families and students who attended, emphasizing our strong connections with families and the community.

AIU Services

UAP has partnered with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to provide services to students who require additional assistance.

The Reading and Math specialist comes to school twice a week, on Wednesdays and Fridays, to support students by screening them to assess their specific needs and working closely with them to provide targeted assistance.

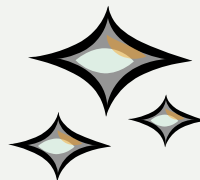
The counselor visits our school every Tuesday, discussing important topics with students in their classes, such as respect, empathy, mutual support, and leadership skills—values that are essential for students to practice in their daily lives. She also works with individual students after receiving permission from their parents or guardians.

The speech therapist visits on Thursdays to work with students who have speech-related challenges. All services are provided after receiving permission from parents.

Kids A-Z Raz-Plus

The UAP received license approval for Raz-Kids. This platform has proven to be tremendously successful in improving students' reading levels and fostering the science of reading among elementary school students.

Teachers and parents can work together to encourage children to read books, record their readings, and answer comprehension questions.



KG students playing



ESL Services

As our students are our priority, the UAP offers excellent services to support them throughout their academic journey.

The ESL program provides students with limited or no English proficiency opportunities to learn the four English language skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking.

The ESL teachers work diligently to ensure that these students are provided with the necessary academic materials and support to improve their language skills.



ESL students enjoying time in the classroom.



Student of the Month

MashaAllah, our students started the school year with enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. UAP will honor students monthly based on their academic and behavioral achievements. One student from each class will be nominated at the end of the month. Students will receive a certificate and a medal.

Students of the Month of September are:

- Pre-K A: *Laylo E.*
- Pre-K B: *Saida M.*
- KG A: *Nilufar E.*
- KG B: *Athallah T.*
- 1st Grade: *Latifa K.*
- 2nd Grade: *Shazneen*
- 3rd Grade: *Athaya A.*
- 4th Grade: *Zainab A.*
- 5th Grade: *Aziza N.*
- 6th Grade: *Robiya K.*
- 7th Grade: *Wafa Y.*
- 8th Grade: *Maryam S.*



THANK YOU DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

We would like to express our gratitude towards Salem's Market and Grill for providing lunches throughout Induction Week.

We are also extremely appreciative towards La Madina for their donations and contributions to our school!

La Madina Mediterranean Halal Market

2880 Banksville Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15216

Salem's Market

1850 Centre Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Salem's Market and Grill

2923 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15201

VOLUNTEER SHOUTOUTS

1st Day Volunteers:

Zane Aqra, Ousmane Conde-Cyrus, Mosa Salah, Khadicha Kosimjonova, Husniya Nurmuhammad

Induction Week:

Ian George, Mosa Salah, Maryam Salah