



Utah Military Academy – Camp Williams Campus

Parent Newsletter 26 Feb 2021

UMA Family,

Happy Friday! Not sure what is going on the last few weeks, but we are seeing a spike in infractions across the school. Early Spring Fever maybe? Regardless of the reason, we need your help. Please discuss with your cadet that he or she is expected to be in the right place, at the right time, in the right uniform (including grooming standards) – every day. We need them to go to class, be on time, and treat each other with respect. This is important to the culture we aspire to here at UMA. We want an environment where everyone can reach his or her full potential—a safe haven where cadets can thrive without distractions. We cannot build that alone. Hearing the same messages from you that they hear at school goes a long way toward emphasizing the values we all hold dear – the values that led you to UMA in the first place: integrity, service and excellence.

Speaking of integrity – we’ve also had several discussions in the past few weeks regarding what academic integrity looks like and what constitutes cheating in an academic environment. Teachers will be having further discussions in their classroom, but please echo these discussions at home. Your opinion is paramount to your cadets and your emphasis on doing the right thing is what will resonate throughout their actions at school.

While, we will never be able to capture every possible method of cheating in a policy, the following – taken from Alpine School District – is a good guideline for discussion. Cadets should be encouraged to discuss specific scenarios with their teachers to make sure they understand the expectations.

Cheating/Plagiarism: Utah Military Academy expects and requires each student to maintain academic integrity, including but not limited to, avoiding cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication.

--Cheating involves the use or the attempt to use unauthorized information, materials, or other aids in academic work. Cheating also includes providing others with said unauthorized aides, or preparing work for another student. Examples of cheating include, *but are not limited to:* passing examination questions or answers to others, copying another’s work, providing materials for copying.

--Plagiarism involves the presentation of another person's or group's ideas or work (e.g. written, artistic, graphic) or portions thereof, not generally recognized as common knowledge, and passing them off as the product of one's own work in any academic exercise or activity. Plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional.

--Fabrication involves the use of invented information, the falsification of research or other findings, or the deliberate misrepresentation of another's work. Examples include, *but are not limited to*: outright fabrication of quotations, research or data; concealment or distortion of the true nature, origin, data, function, or conclusions of real or fabricated elements; citing information not derived from the source indicated; listing sources in a bibliography not used in the academic exercise; incorrect documentation (either intentional or unintentional) of primary or secondary sources.

Consequences for proven acts of cheating, plagiarism, or fabrication, whether intentional or otherwise, shall be determined on an individual basis by instructors, counselors, and administrators, depending on the frequency and severity of the transgression(s). Consequences may include, but are not limit to: 1) no credit for the assignment and its associated components, 2) having to redo the assignment for no, partial, or full credit as determined by the instructor 3) transfer out of class or program, 3) a class II or class III infraction, up to and including an out of school suspension, in addition, early college cadets caught cheating risk losing their UMA scholarship.

Notes for this week:

1. SENIORS AND PARENTS:

So far we've only outfitted about a 1/3 of the senior class in their blues. Most of this is due to cadets not showing up for their scheduled appointment and not making alternate arrangements. Cadets who are unable to make their scheduled appointment time need to CONTACT MSG GRAHAM IMMEDIATELY at mgraham@utahmilitaryacademy.org. **Seniors who do not have their dress blues will not participate in the graduation ceremony.**

2. **Flight Changes:** We continue to make improvements on the structure and activities in our flights. We anticipate flight commanders being increasingly involved in competitions and other morale building events with their flights. If you'd like to get involved in your cadet's flight, you can sign up at this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EAFAD2FA13-flight>.

3. **We will administer the ACT to juniors free of charge March 17 at the school.** This will be an online version of the test and we will supply computers at the school. **ONLY JUNIORS WILL BE IN SCHOOL MARCH 17.**

It is especially important for cadets hoping for a scholarship or admission to an Academy to take the ACT multiple times to ensure the best score possible. There are free study materials and courses to help at march2success.com.

4. We are still looking for volunteers to lead and assist with our **Civil Air Patrol** program. This program not only opens up multiple opportunities for our cadets, but lowers our flight hour cost significantly! If you can help, please contact Maj Stuart Whitney at swhitney@utahmilitaryacademy.org

5. Our 9th and 10th graders will be hosting an 80's Glow MORP (backward PROM) March 19 from 7-10pm. **In order for the cadets to participate safely, we are requiring all cadets who attend to be COVID tested. They can be tested off site or at the school.** If you would like to donate items or help with the event, please contact Cadet Gustavo Campos at s.gcampos@utahmilitaryacademy.org

6. The SBO and Wing Staff leadership are working hard at organizing a **Junior/Senior Prom in April**. Cadets are putting planning committees together now for their "Starry Night" and are excited for this event! **In order for the cadets to participate safely, we are requiring all cadets who attend to be COVID tested. They can be tested off site or at the school.** If you would like to donate items or help with the event, please contact Cadet Kailya Emfield at s.kemfield@utahmilitaryacademy.org

7. The Parent Involvement Committee leadership positions will rotate at the end of this school year. If you are interested in being in an officer role for the committee, please contact Lt Col Bunko at tbunko@utahmilitaryacademy.org

8. We are excited to announce we will be holding a **Middle School Basketball Tournament** March 3 and 10! Please see details and parent permission slip here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ovjX6R5JWFzSfru-RHkoKQOdUUrISNKG/view?usp=sharing>

9. We did a google form a few weeks/months back, and most of you completed that, that was so that we knew an idea of our numbers, and could accept our lottery applicants. **This is the official Intent to Return, to register your Cadet for next school year.** Please follow the steps below.

The DEADLINE TO SECURE YOUR CADET'S SPOT to attend Utah Military Academy for the 2021-2022 school year is March 5th, 2021 please have the registration completed by this date.

This is the link you will use: <https://utahmilitary.usoe-dcs.org/Login.aspx>

From Aspires' login homepage you will:\

1. Enter your contact account's username and password credentials.
2. If you have forgotten your account credentials, please click the "Need Help Logging in?" Button.
 - A. If you have forgotten your username please use the Forgot Username.

B. If you have forgotten your password, you can click on the “forgot password” link.

3. If you have never created a contact account, you can click on “request a username” and enter your student’s school ID# (You will need to ask your cadet or contact the front office for this number), and birthdate, and complete the process of creating your account.

4. Upon logging into your Aspire contact account, you will see a hyperlink above where your student’s address is displayed, It says "You Can Register for ... grade" in green.

If you need to add a sibling, and you have not done so already, you will use this link to do that:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftv50RuVJsk5vPQo7Wfv9f4kp4SNcs8tDnguGUycTx_YWwxQ/viewform

YOU CANNOT CURRENTLY REGISTER NEW SIBLINGS IN ASPIRE. This process is ONLY for our currently registered Cadets! The google form we sent out a while back, was to get an idea for next year's numbers, so that we could accept our lottery applicants. This is the official process that needs to be completed so your Cadet doesn't get moved to the waiting list!

10. The seminary instructor has agreed to change times for seminary class to accommodate transportation challenges/train schedules etc. **Seminary will now be from 8-9am and we will have two busses in transit in order to get cadets to seminary and their first period classes on time.** This will mean students in seminary will miss a portion of their Flight time.

11. Good news!! **Within the next two weeks each student will be assigned a Chromebook he or she can take home each day.**

Cadets will be responsible for bringing their issued Chromebook each day to school. One of the advantages of having a 1:1 system in place is that most of the Google programs your cadet uses can be used offline, meaning they do not have to have internet access in order to work on their papers or presentations! This also means that in the case inclement weather, we would call for an "online" day instead of a closure and teachers and cadets would work from home.

All cadets will be issued a Chromebook, even if they have a laptop or Chromebook of their own. This way we can insure each cadet has access to Canvas while at school as there will be a limited number of Chromebooks on hand to check out to cadets who forget their Chromebook. Students who have to borrow a Chromebook for the day will have to serve a lunch duty that day. **Please fill out the agreement at this link as soon possible:**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/162ItTqQO_mTlij2cVtSv289jeuHWpv7ux9jAJXiOkLo/e/dit?usp=sharing

The form needs to be signed by both the legal guardian and the cadet to whom the Chromebook is being issued. If your cadet currently has a Chromebook checked out to them you can disregard as your cadet will not be issued another.

12. Valley Forge Military College will hold an informational zoom meeting for JUNIORS AND SENIORS at 9am Mar 2. Cadets will be joining the call from their flight classrooms. Online cadets may join at the below link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92242989865?pwd=RmhjRHBtejdQVkhMZE5jeFBBNktOQT09>

Meeting ID: 922 4298 9865

Passcode: Ea1uUp

13. We will begin planning soon for next academic year's Plebe Week. If there is something you would have wanted the school to include in last year's Plebe Week – including parent night - please let us know so we can improve the experience for our incoming parents and cadets. Send your thoughts/ideas to LtCol Bunko at tbunko@utahmilitaryacademy.org

14. We plan to administer the ASVAB one more time at the school this year. We are still working details, but please encourage your cadet to study. Even if they have no interest in joining the military, the test can be a good indicator of aptitude and interest in various careers. There are free study materials at:

<https://www.asvabpracticetests.com/asvab-free-online-study-guide/>

<https://www.npsk12.com/cms/lib/VA02208074/Centricity/Domain/4432/ASVAB%20Study%20Guide.pdf>

<https://www.march2success.com/>

<https://uniontestprep.com/asvab>

15. We have several cadets who are struggling to stay within haircut standards –some through financial hardship. We do not want these cadets to stand out in a negative way among their peers and we likewise cannot apply standards unevenly across the school. We are looking for a way to offer free or reduced price haircuts at the school to help these cadets. If you or someone you know is able to cut boys hair and is willing to donate their time one or two hours per week, please contact LtCol Bunko at tbunko@utahmilitaryacademy.org.

16. The University of Utah Army ROTC rep will be at the school March 11 to meet with interested cadets. If you would like to attend, please email the commandant at tbunko@utahmilitaryacademy.org. There will not be an online availability for this meeting, but if you are unable to attend and would like information, please still send an email and we can connect you directly to the representative.

17. **There will NO FREE DRESS DAY for March.** Please help your cadet remember to wear their soft uniform or spirit gear for Friday March 5.

Lastly, there was a note put on the Parent Involvement Facebook page about scheduling an in-person or virtual parent meeting. Overwhelmingly the response preferred the meeting to be in person. We will work to find a date soon and will release details as soon as possible after they are confirmed. In the meantime, do not hesitate to reach out to the administrative staff with any concerns you have or requests for meeting topics.

Thanks and have a great weekend,

-Your Utah Military Academy Staff