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1. Message from the Principal:

Welcome back Thunderbirds! I hope this message finds you refreshed, rejuvenated and ready for a new year. We are anxiously awaiting your return on Monday, August 16th. Our dedicated staff is excited about providing an array of engaging and challenging learning opportunities to all cadets that puts them all in a confident position to graduate with a future.

Our staff understands the crucial role that failure and mistakes play in the ongoing process of improvement. As educators, we strive to model that truth. We will do our utmost to celebrate successes, while helping students through empathy and support. I recently heard someone say that, "all learning is social/emotional." No one can learn at their highest levels if they do not feel safe, secure, and respected, challenged, supported, and cared for. That is our commitment to our students and families.

"Integrity first; Service Before Self; Excellence in All We Do" will not only be our core values but also drive the culture, climate, and community that will be the foundation of Utah Military Academy as we move into the new school year.

Do not hesitate to call, email, or stop in if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Respectfully,
Michael Stumph
Principal

- 2. Message from the Dean:** I am super excited to begin this upcoming year in my new role as Dean of Cadets. What you can expect from me is a commitment to build strong relationships with both cadets and their families. These relationships will be critical as we come across disciplinary challenges, to create a culture where cadets are free to make mistakes, the key will be to learn from those mistakes, how to recognize the behaviors and how they affect others. This type of restorative discipline approach will foster a culture that cadets feel free to make mistakes, but will hold themselves accountable for their actions. It will be an amazing year, please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.
- 3. Changing our Bell Schedule:** Due to the UTA Trax that a lot of our Cadets ride, we are moving our day 15 minutes, so those cadets aren't late! Our new bell schedule will run from 0815-1515 Monday - Thursday and 0815-1400 on Fridays! Please click [HERE](#) for our full bell schedule. TEAM Time will still conclude at 1630.
- 4. First Week of School (Plebe Week):** We refer to the first week of school as Plebe Week. This week is NOT optional, and will count towards your attendance! We will be sending out emails by flight to parents

for the schedule for the first week of school. Please watch for that! It will include what to wear, times, activities, etc!

5. Introducing New Office Staff:

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce Tanner Stimpson and Aaron Lowe as our office staff for the upcoming school year. Please take a moment to come in and introduce yourself.

I would also like to thank Shannon Seward for her dedication for her many years in the front office and announce that she has been promoted to our Community Relations Liaison. This position will bridge the gap between our community and our school. She will work closely with the PIC, families, and our students to really drive the culture at Utah Military Academy. Please welcome her in this new role!

- 6. Schedules:** The counseling staff is diligently working on schedules. We are aiming to have schedules completed in time for plebe week, though schedules are subject to change until the first day of classes. Schedule change request forms will be accepted from 8/23 through 2pm on 8/27. Schedule changes requested after 8/27 will be accommodated at the counselors' discretion and require a \$10 schedule change fee. The fee must be paid at the time of the request. [High School Request form](#) and [Junior High Request forms](#) are available online, or in the front office on 8/23 (before and after school or between classes only).
- 7. Uniforms:** If your cadet did not get their uniforms we will be issuing uniforms during Plebe Week. If they still haven't gotten their uniforms by the 23rd of August, please do not worry. We will be issuing uniforms during military/JROTC classes the first few weeks of classes. Your cadet should wear their khaki slacks and a soft uniform until their uniforms are issued. They MAY NOT wear their gym clothes in place of a uniform. Boots and shoes have been shipped, if your cadet is waiting for them, they should wear tennis shoes with their uniform. We will notify cadets and parents when boots/shoes arrive.
- 8. Fees:** Thank you to many of our parents who have already taken care of your Cadet's fees! Fees are due by Thursday August 19th. If you need a payment plan or a fee waiver, we have linked them [HERE](#)
- 9. UTA Trax Passes:** We will have our Trax passes on Monday August 16th. You can pay and pick them up in the front office! They will already be activated. Cost is \$145. They must be paid for before you pick them up. There is also a UTA Contract that must be signed by both Cadets and Parents prior to receiving your pass!
- 10. Lunch:** Free School Lunch has been extended this year! However, PLEASE still complete a free/reduced lunch form, as it helps the school! You can complete the waiver on Aspire, or the form is linked [HERE](#). Even if you don't qualify, it helps the school if you apply!
- 11. Back to School Night:** Wednesday September 1st from 5-8 pm will be our Back to School Night/ Open House. This will be a night of food trucks, carnival games, information about the many clubs, teams, and activities at UMA, and a chance to ask questions of teachers, counselors and staff (as well as see the building if you haven't already). It is also a great recruiting time, so bring friends and family to check out UMA. The Carnival Games and water will be free, with costs for Food Trucks.
- 12. Athletics:** Welcome back Thunderbirds! We are excited for this upcoming sports season. With any athletic program it is important to have a set of pillars to help support our school wide Core Values, of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. This year we are implementing the T-BIRDS pillars as a part of all our athletics. The "T" is for teamwork, "B" balance, "I" Integrity, "R" respect, "D" Discipline, and the "S" is for sportsmanship. We will discuss these throughout the year and what they mean to our athletic program's development. Please get involved and sign up for our fall sports, we have several that still need athletes.
- 13. Chromebooks:** Parents, if your cadet was issued a UMA chromebook last year, it needs to be returned! We are still missing some! Please bring them immediately!
- 14. Parent Facebook Group:** We try to share as much information as possible with our parents/cadets. One place we share this information is our parent Facebook group. It is a private group, so you will need to search for it, and then answer the questions we have set up so we can verify your identity. If you use Facebook, please search for UMA Parent Intel, and ask to join. We also have a public Facebook page called Utah Military Academy you can follow.