



Advanced Learning Experiences  
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To: Parents/Legal Guardians of TUSD 8<sup>th</sup> grade students  
Date: August 25, 2014

**TUSD Advanced Learning Experiences (ALE):**

Making the transition from middle school to high school can be an exciting yet challenging time for students and parents. The beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year is a great time to talk to your student about future academic options, including several advanced learning high school programs in TUSD that offer challenging and engaging learning options for our students. We urge you to talk about these options with your student and to encourage her or him to consider enrolling in an ALE in high school. It will be excellent preparation for college and other future opportunities.

**ADVANCED ACADEMIC COURSES (AAC) – TUSD High Schools**

- **Honors/Advanced Courses:** TUSD high schools offer AP-Prep courses in core academic subjects that will prepare students for AP courses. Each high school will have unique options for their students. Please check with your school of choice for the courses available.
- **Advanced Placement (AP) Program**  
AP courses follow a set curriculum established by the College Board and provide a rigorous and challenging course of study. The opportunity for earning college credits exists if a student passes an end-of-year test. Any interested student may enroll in these courses.
- **Dual-Credit Courses:** Some TUSD high schools offer dual-credit courses for which students can receive both high school and college credit if successfully completed. This opportunity is available through a partnership with Pima Community College and/or the UA. Please check with your school of choice for the courses available with this option.
- **Gifted and Talented (GATE) Courses:** Gifted and Talented (GATE) classes, which offer an accelerated and enriched curriculum, are available at TUSD high schools, primarily for freshman and sophomore students. Various courses are offered at different high schools, and students will be informed of their choices when they register at the end of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Any interested student may enroll in these courses.

**SITE SPECIFIC PROGRAMS**

- **Dual-Language Program at Pueblo Magnet High School:** Students in this program will develop the ability to speak, read, and write in English and Spanish. Students will be expected to achieve at or above grade level in all academic areas. Instruction is provided by a bilingual education endorsed teacher.
- **The International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme at Cholla Magnet High School:** The IB Diploma Programme is one of the best college-preparatory curriculums in the world. It develops internationally-minded students with strong character and ensures that participants are well-educated and well-rounded. Any interested student may participate in this program. Please review the enclosed informational flyer and letter regarding this valuable educational opportunity.
- **University High School (UHS):** University High School is a college preparatory program that offers a rigorous and engaging course of study designed for students to be successful at any post-secondary institution. Students must meet an admissions criteria to attend the school. Please note - this Fall the required testing for admissions for current 8<sup>th</sup> graders is open only to those who did not take the admissions test as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader in Spring 2014. Seats may be available in a student's sophomore and junior years.

*TUSD is proud to offer students many choices for their high school experience, and we look forward to their participation in an ALE option. We welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have about these programs, and information sessions will be held about these programs during the school year. For further information, please contact Martha Taylor (TUSD Director of ALE) at [martha.taylor@tusd1.org](mailto:martha.taylor@tusd1.org) or visit the ALE website: <http://tusd1.org/ale>.*