

Director's Chair



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Greetings AIMS Family!!!
The picture above reminds me of a famous artist "Stevie Wonders" album *Songs in the Key of Life!* I loved that album...and yes I said album! My question to you today is what song gives life to you? What is your theme song? As you enter this new academic year, I want you to concentrate on the **keys** you need for success in life (personal, family, financial, education etc.).

We are busy in the office working on our Annual Performance Report, setting up recruitment visits and workshops to your schools, and making plans for the entire year including the summer

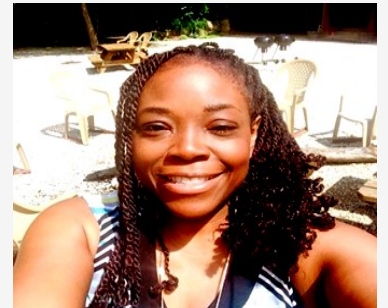
component! Hard to believe that summer 2015 is already down in the books!

We will be sending out a monthly newsletter electronic after this month. Please make sure that we have your correct email address on file. In addition, a link will be placed online of the newsletter for you to review at your leisure. Juniors and seniors, you should have received waivers for the ACT and SAT test for college entrance. If you have not received your waivers, please call the office and let us know so we can mail one out ASAP!

Included with this newsletter is the Academic Year Handbook and a copy of the summer video! Enjoy!

I look forward to seeing each of you soon! Have a great year!

Dr. Doris Clark-Sarr



From our Assistant

Greetings Everyone!

I just wanted to say hello to our new family members as well as our old family. The year has quickly gone by and the summer has almost ended. As always, our program continues with us working on the upcoming 2015-

16 year.

Believe it or not I have started reserving rooms, vehicles, and contacting vendors for next year's Summer Program.

I'm wishing you a wonderful

Fall!

As always, if you have any paperwork that needs to be sent into AIMS, go ahead and send it on in.

Study Hard—it will be well worth your effort!

Gail Woolbridge

Coordinator's Corner—AIMS I

Dear AIMS Family:

Greetings and hello from AIMS



Headquarters!

It's very hard to believe that summer is nearly over and a new school year is in full swing. As some of you may have noticed, I have

already been out and about visiting your schools and meeting with your principals and guidance staff to make plans for this school year. I have met with the new principal and student support specialist at Fulton Independent High School, Fulton County High School principal, and Hickman County High School's counselor. I am scheduled to meet with New Madrid County Central High School's counselor on Thursday of this week. Current AIMS Participants should be on the lookout for me in your schools this month. I am looking forward to speaking with each of you and making certain that you are on the path to academic progress. Also, I definitely want to make certain you are taking advantage of the many resources afforded to you by our program: College Greenlight, BrainFuse (online tutoring), College and

Career Exploration, etc.

I have also had some meetings with a few community centers and resource places in your areas. Evan and I are very aware how critical your classroom time has become so when we visit, we will be taking you out of class as little as possible. We are also aware that several of you are unable to travel to Murray for weekend workshops due to travel constraints. Our solution has been to search for community centers and resource areas in your communities that will allow us to host a few workshops for you on some Saturday mornings. Be on the lookout for a list of workshop dates and locations coming your way in the near future.

Bridge Students, there are some changes coming your way as well. Please pay very careful attention to dates, deadlines, and requirements that Evan and I will be distributing to you. The AIMS Program wants all students to succeed so your participation in the Bridge Component will be based on your completion of required paperwork, academic accomplishment, and your ability to complete college level course work. You will find out more regarding this once you meet with me or Evan.

In conclusion, I'm very excited for this academic year and as always, I look forward to working with you. Please feel free to contact me should you need advice, counseling, assistance, etc. I am here to assist you. I would also like to make you aware that I have been appointed to serve as Vice President of the state TRiO Organization, KAEOPP. I am very excited about this appointment and look forward to sharing ideas and possible ways that we can serve our students. As I said earlier, lots of new and exciting happenings going on this year! I wish you all the best throughout this academic year.

Sincerely,

Stephen Keene

Coordinator's Corner—AIMS II

Hey Gang!

I hope this year has begun with a new sense of excitement and possibility for you. Your future starts now! I want to encourage you to meditate on the possibilities for your life. Take some time alone and just think about it. This can help bring some clarity about the direction you wish to take. Chase those dreams! Better yet, visualize going beyond chasing them to owning them! Start seeing yourself where you want to be. Your priorities, focus, and effort *now* will be the difference between chasing and owning your dreams. Because the present largely determines the future, the AIMS staff strives to be one of your greatest assets to help lead you into a fulfilling, abundant life. We are definitely on YOUR team!

Therefore, please take advantage of all that is offered through this program. Your current and future success drives everything that we do.

It has been nice seeing you at your schools so far—especially those I didn't get to see during the 2015 summer program. I honestly believe this is my favorite time of the year. I love telling students about the opportunities through AIMS! It is my hope that you do too. You can be an awesome recruiter for AIMS!

Be sure to take note of the things Stephen mentioned. I especially want to encourage you to take part in any tutoring made available for you if you need it. I received tutoring in high school and in college. I didn't care what other people thought—and my grades reflected that! This is such a huge benefit and all too often students just ignore it. Take note of when tutor-

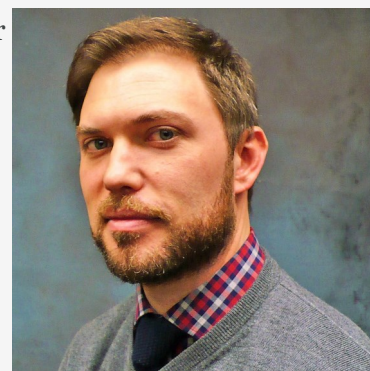
ing is offered at school. This month you will be receiving your cards to access the BrainFuse online tutoring module. You can connect to a live teacher 10 hours a day and access thousands of videos, tutorials, and practice tests 24/7.

I am excited about this year! You should be too. Reach for the skies, kids. Reach for the skies.

Let me know how I can help—I am always available.

All the best,

Evan O'Neal



"There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask why... I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?"

- John F. Kennedy

Start the School Year Right—12 Helpful Tips

The new school year is here! Start the year off right - develop a study schedule, organize your materials, and take a few moments to reflect on what you can do to make this year the best yet.

1) Stay a step ahead Don't wait until you are behind to adjust your study skills. Starting the school year off the right way will provide you the opportunity to maximize your learning and stay ahead of your studies.

2) Attend to your learning Good attendance is necessary for school success. Arrive at your classes early, make sure your materials are ready, and prepare for the day's learning. Being ready before the school day and the individual class begins will help you acquire the most new knowledge.

3) Review your study habits Think about your previous years' study habits and determine what worked best for you. Talk to your teachers about any concerns you may have and how this year's courses will impact your individual study habits. If you have laboratory based courses, such as chemistry, biology, or physics, seek additional time in the lab to review your learning with course materials on hand.

4) Identify your strengths and weaknesses Understanding what your strongest academic areas are, and identifying the areas you struggle with the

most, will help you plan your studying and maximize your learning. AIMS can help. Each customized tutoring plan we create is based on the individual student's strengths and weaknesses. Your tutoring plan will reflect your needs and is crafted based on your individual assessment data.

5) Find What You Need Each student is different and what works best for you is personal. Some students choose to study in large chunks of time and others prefer to spread their studying out over time. You may study best at home in your bedroom but your friend may do better in a secluded corner of the public library. Determining your ideal conditions for studying will aid your preparation.

6) Choose the perfect spot It is important to determine the perfect spot for you to study. All of these study tips will be irrelevant if your study location is insufficient. Where are you most comfortable? Which study spot has the least amount of distractions? Where do you complete your best work?

7) Set a weekly schedule Take the time to create a master study schedule you can stick to each week. Be careful to schedule plenty of time around family, athletic, and extra-curricular activities. Consider building in extra time in case unforeseen circumstances or commitments arise.

8) Know when you need help If your school work is quickly becoming over-

whelming and you are struggling to keep up it may be time to ask for help. Always check with your school to see what is available. Of course, you have access to **BrainFuse** anytime with your Library card. Keep up with your card, and most importantly—USE IT!

9) Stay in Touch It is important to stay on top of both coursework and your individual performance. Knowing when you need additional support, and asking for help, is best done as soon as difficulties arise. If you wait too long to seek assistance you will likely be wasting precious study time.

10) Review expectations Don't just read the syllabus and stick it in a folder. Your course expectations should be reviewed often to ensure you haven't missed any important dates or information. Compare the expectations periodically with your master calendar to make sure you haven't overlooked anything.

11) Connect with others There may be other students in your class who are searching for a peer to connect with. Having another student in the class to study with, compare notes, and bounce ideas off of is a great way to stay connected with the academic work.

12) Communicate with teachers and tutors Do your part to communicate with your teachers and tutors. When you are feeling confused ask for help. When something seems frustrating or overwhelming let them know. Utilize your teacher's office hours or review sessions and spend time during tutoring sessions to share your concerns or problems.

ACT Dates for 2015-16

The ACT National Test Dates in the U.S., U.S. Territories, and Canada

Test dates in other countries

2015–2016

2016–2017

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 12, 2015	August 7, 2015	August 8–21, 2015
October 24, 2015	September 18, 2015	September 19–October 2, 2015
December 12, 2015	November 6, 2015	November 7–20, 2015
February 6, 2016*	January 8, 2016	January 9–15, 2016
April 9, 2016	March 4, 2016	March 5–18, 2016
June 11, 2016**	May 6, 2016	May 7–20, 2016

*No test centers are scheduled in New York for the February test date.

**See [Non-Saturday](#) testing for information related to this test date.

AIMS students will receive and can use a maximum of TWO separate ACT fee waivers per year.

Fee waivers cover the basic fee for either the ACT (No Writing) or the ACT Plus Writing. This fee includes one report to the high school and up to four college choices (if valid codes are provided when the student registers). Waivers may NOT be used to pay for any of the following: late registration fee; test date, test option, or test center changes; additional college choices; standby fee; other services; or residual (on-campus) testing .

College Profile: California Institute of Technology

California Institute of Technology is a private institution that was founded in 1891. It has a total undergraduate enrollment of 977, its setting is suburban, and the campus size is 124 acres. It utilizes a quarter-based academic calendar. California Institute of Technology's ranking in the 2015 edition of Best Colleges is National Universities, 10. Its tuition and fees are \$43,362 (2014-15).

Caltech, which focuses on science and engineering, is located in Pasadena, California, approximately 11 miles northeast of Los Angeles. Social and academic life at Caltech centers on the eight student houses, which the school describes as "self-governing living groups." Student houses incorporate an admired Caltech tradition: dinners served by student waiters. Only freshmen are required to live on campus, but around 80 percent of students remain in their house for all four years. The Caltech Beavers have a number of NCAA Division III teams that compete in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Integral to student life is the Honor Code, which dictates that "No member of the Caltech community shall take unfair advantage of any other member of the Caltech community."

In addition to its undergraduate studies, Caltech offers top graduate programs in engineering, biology, chemistry, computer science, earth scienc-



es, mathematics and physics. Caltech participates in a significant amount of research, receiving grants from institutions such as NASA, the National Science Foundation and the Department of Health and Human Services, among others. Caltech maintains a strong tradition of pranking with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, another top-ranked science and technology university. Companies such as Intel, Compaq and Hotmail were founded by Caltech alumni. Famous film director Frank Capra also graduated from Caltech.

The scientific, engineering, and technological contributions of Caltech's faculty and alumni have earned national and international recognition, including 33 Nobel Prizes, 11 National Medals of Technology, and 57 National Medals of Science, plus 93 faculty are members of the National Academies. Each year, Caltech faculty are granted nearly 140 patents; its faculty and alumni have started more than 130 companies since 1995.

Caltech's 300 professorial faculty members offer a rigorous science and

engineering curriculum to approximately 1,000 undergraduates and 1,300 graduate students, providing one of the nation's lowest student-to-faculty ratios.

Caltech undergraduate students hail from across the globe and represent the top tier of high school graduates - 98 percent placed in the top tenth of their senior class. Caltech offers generous financial-aid packages to ensure that a Caltech education is accessible to all students; more than half of Caltech students receive need-based assistance.

Caltech's 124-acre campus is located in the city of Pasadena, 10 miles from Los Angeles. The Institute manages the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) for NASA, and owns and operates large-scale research facilities such as the Seismological Laboratory - one of the world's foremost centers for geophysical research - and a global network of astronomical observatories that includes the Palomar Observatory and the W. M. Keck Observatory.

In 2012, 98% of Bachelor's Degrees granted were in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) fields.

Parent's Corner



College Greenlight



Free Resources for First-Gen and Underrepresented Students & Their Counselors

College Greenlight is the free resource for first-gen and underrepresented students who are beginning their college and scholarship search. We not only provide a comprehensive college and scholarship search engine and database, but we additionally offer counselors the option to track the progress of their students and receive valuable data reports to best advise their students as they work toward finding a college that is the best fit.

We also offer other helpful tools for counselors and students that work to close the information gap, such as our regular news letters and the College Greenlight blog. We've recently posted [a list of free fly-in and diversity programs for 2015](#), and [tips for students who are having trouble understanding their financial aid award letters](#) as well as lists of scholarships and other helpful articles for both students and counselors.

Want to learn more or are you ready to get your students using College Greenlight? Contact Tisleen Singh at tsingh@collegegreenlight.com with any questions or to get started.

BrainFuse—Live, Online Tutoring for AIMS Students



EXPERT ONLINE SERVICES

Live Tutoring: Enter our online classroom and receive live, online help from a Brainfuse tutor.
Skills-Building: Our skills building service helps you master an academic concept through expert tutoring and standards aligned online lessons, Brainfuse Skills Building has been designed for a

variety of age groups and academic needs.

24/7 Help Center: Submit a question and a tutor will provide you with a response (usually within 24 hours).

Foreign Language Lab: Our Foreign Language Center provides expert assistance and support for students who are learning a foreign language. Expert tutoring is currently offered for Spanish, and a host of helpful online resources for learning other languages is forthcoming.

Writing Lab: HelpNow offers two types of writing assistance.

Live Writing Assistance: Connect with an online tutor for expert writing assistance with our live help feature. Live help is particularly helpful during the initial stages of the writing process when you are working on the organizational and thematic features of your paper.

Intensive Writing Lab: For a more thorough analysis, simply select “Writing Lab” from the launch menu and submit your writing via our secure messaging feature. Within approximately 24 hours of submitting your paper, you will receive a detailed analysis of your paper in your message center inbox. Our writing experts are trained to focus their analysis on voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and organization.

STUDY TOOLS

Test Center: Visit our online assessment library to take practice quizzes in standardized tests (SAT, ACT, GED and more) and practice subject specific tests, like math and science. Get results instantly and, if you choose, share your results with one of our tutors for a targeted skills building session.

Flashbulb -- Mobile friendly flashcards: Enjoy 24/7 access to an extensive library of online flashcard sets in hundreds of subjects. You can also create your own flashcards and multiple choice quizzes for efficient self-study on both computers and mobile devices.

COLLABORATIVE TOOLS

MEET: Study with your peers or school instructors online with MEET. MEET lets you easily schedule online meetings with your peers in the Brainfuse classroom. Use MEET to study for tests, work on assignments, or collaborate on projects.

Brainwave: Brainwave is a breakthrough tool that allows you to record a movie of your activity on the Brainfuse whiteboard. Create brainwaves for note-taking purposes or send them when an ordinary email isn't enough. Brainwave is ideal for recording solutions to homework problems, class projects, or any other concepts that involve motion or sequencing. Create a Brainwave or search our Brainwave archive by keyword. Check back often as new Brainwaves are continuously added to the archive.

Accessing Brainfuse (Live Chat available from 2pm—11pm, Mon-Sun; Access the rest of BrainFuse any time)

Step 1: Navigate to the Library’s website, www.mclib.net

Step 2: Click “Learn” at the top

Step 3: Click “Brainfuse Homework Help” and a new window will open

Step 4: Enter your library card barcode number (back of card) with NO SPACES

COMING SOON FROM MCLIB.NET: **Cyprus** - Resumes for those with little to no typing experience

AIMS

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Murray, KY 42071

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Fax: 270-809-4351

www.facebook.com/groups/msuaims
www.murraystate.edu
— (search for “AIMS”)

Work Hard, Play Hard!



September Birthdays

Lauren Downs

Makitia Finch

Charity Henry

Joyrian Bradley

Elizabeth Clark

Schedule At-a-Glance

September

12th—ACT Test Date

19th—Test Taking Workshop (ACT/SAT)

October

3rd—SAT Test Date

6-8th—KY College Tour/KY Dinner Train

24th—ACT Test Date

November

7th—SAT Test Date

14th—College Admission/Bridge Workshop & MSU

Football Game (Students RSVP for tickets)

Begin advertising for summer program positions

December

Summer Confirmation Letters mailed to Current Participants

5th—SAT Test Date

8th—FAFSA Workshop at Fulton Independent H.S.

12th—Honors Trip Grand Rivers 2pm show/5pm Dinner

12th—ACT Test Date

15th—Summer work applications due

