May 29, 2009

Dear TEAMS Academy Parents and Students:

After a long but productive academic year we are all looking forward to the final week and graduation on June 8th. I wanted to inform you of some important changes we’ve made for the last week and some important deadlines for juniors and seniors.

• **Please RSVP by Monday June 1st to let us know how many from your family will attend graduation.** We hope you will join us to see the students’ outstanding projects and celebrate their accomplishments. At least one student per ATDF team should show up early at 3:30 pm to set up their project. Students will demonstrate projects from 4:30 to 5:15 pm, followed by graduation from 5:15 to 6:00 pm. The picnic will start at 6 pm.

• Because of a $30,000 budget gap, **we are cancelling all bus service for the last four days** for juniors (June 2 to June 5). We are cancelling a series of lab tours and special guest speaker we planned for those days. Instead, students may use the time independently to finish up any outstanding work. If students need help, Ms. Thomas or I will be available in Ball 402 during normal class hours and from 4 pm to 6 pm. Dr. Jumper and/or Mr. Doherty will be available during class hours on certain days.

• Students must complete and turn in all missing Assistive Technology & Electronics lab work and ATDF projects by June 5. The ATDF project is worth 35% of the semester grade. The last day for seniors was on May 22nd, but seniors will receive an incomplete grade until the ATDF project is completed (not later than June 5).

• Students must turn in their final Bat Engineering Design Project by 9:15 am on Wednesday, June 3. Grades for seniors will be sent out to schools on Monday, June 1.

Finally, our funding situation for next year has still not been resolved and it appears that the state’s fiscal crisis may preclude the continuation of our program next year. Senator Panagiotakos and the UMass leadership are currently exploring funding alternatives, but the delay will leave us with many challenges to overcome to continue the program next year. At graduation we will give you an update on this situation.

If, in the worst case, TEAMS does not run next year the juniors will still have full access to me and other instructors for college recommendations and similar support.

Please feel free to give me a call or send me an email at donald_rhine@uml.edu if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Donald A. Rhine
Director