



TEXAS ACADEMY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

Dear TAMS Parents and Students of the Class of 2013:

Due to economic factors beyond the control of the academy, it will be necessary to reestablish the "Program Charge" of \$1,300 per student next academic year.

You are aware that the Texas Legislature reduced our Special Item funding by 25%, and public education funding was significantly reduced. UNT had been making up the difference, so we assumed complete funding was available through graduation for the Class of 2013.

However, unanticipated reduced enrollment at UNT has required all units to cut their budgets, which includes the supplement to TAMS from the university. That, with significantly increased costs (postage, printing, textbooks, etc.) means that we must either (a) reduce class size, (b) reduce services, or (c) ask parents to help us with the cost of the program.

- If we reduce the incoming class size, UNT Housing will fill the open wings in McConnell Hall with college students. That has to be the last option, in my opinion. Additionally, we lose three times the income from public education than we save if we reduce the number of incoming students. You can see that this would mean a vanishingly small incoming class.
- We would have to reduce our services drastically to save a significant amount on costs. Having academic counselors, a college counselor, or electives are important to the success of the students.
- So, we're left with parents helping a bit with the funding of TAMS. The \$1,300 is about the cost of a three-hour course plus books, which is not too bad. We have asked for this Program Charge in the past when times got tough, and then we were able to eliminate it as funding increased. Despite this new charge, TAMS remains an excellent educational bargain.

The Program Charge will be due to the TAMS office by September 1, 2012. If the student decides to leave TAMS after that, it is not refundable.

I regret greatly having to ask for this financial assistance. Still, TAMS is very strong. The students are doing amazing things and have been recognized recently both locally and nationally for their successes.

Thank you for your understanding in these difficult economic times.

Richard J. Sinclair
Dean