



Uwharrie Charter Academic
Parent-Student Partners' Handbook
Middle Grades
2019-2020

Uwharrie Charter Academy-Middle
5154
Asheboro, NC 27205

www.uwharriecharter.org

“People who are environmentally literate understand
how natural systems function and how humans and the environment are intertwined.”
North Carolina Environmental Literacy Plan

Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to introduce the reader to the values, norms, expectations, conduct, behaviors, and procedures at Uwharrie Charter Academy. It is meant to be a guide and not restrictive for the teachers, administrators, staff, employees, or Board of Directors of the school. In regard to changing law, the manual is subject to change, amendment, and alteration by the Board of Directors.

Uwharrie Charter Academy will operate on the belief that students learn when policies and procedures have been made clear in an environment of positive reinforcement; however, when rules, policies, and/or procedures are violated, the Board supports teachers and administrators in employing the discipline plan as outlined herein.

Contact Information:

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Uwharrie Charter Academy serves students in grades K-12. Flex Days are scheduled during the school year. Students will coordinate with organizations and businesses to serve community interests and to exercise their learning.

Uwharrie Charter Academy: An Overview

Mission Statement

The Uwharrie Charter Academy will exist:

- To provide a truly rigorous pathway to college and career readiness;
- To afford students the benefit of a small learning community with a low teacher/student ratio in an effort to promote strong relationships with students and individualized support for learning;
- To imbed the curriculum with STEAM focused content through problem-based learning, historical developments in technology, hands-on math, and inquiry science that requires engineering and ingenuity
- To promote hands-on, project-based learning in all courses;
- To support the development of 21st century skills integrating the use of technology;
- To partner with parents so that they understand their role in their child's education;
- To build relationships with local institutions in order to provide real-world connections and opportunities for applied learning; and
- To promote environmental stewardship including the adoption of green practices in student's everyday lives and the integration of NC's Environmental Literacy Plan in a cross curricular approach.

Core Beliefs

We believe that, when presented with challenging and engaging real-world instruction, all students can learn and will rise to the challenge. Our youth are equipped with a desire to make a difference in the world and are looking for an opportunity to do so. Learning in a safe, small learning environment provides the nurturing setting that students need to see how academic learning fits into the world outside the classroom. We live in a changing world where students need to be prepared for the future of technology and environmental issues as problem solvers, not rote memorizers, so students should be given the chance to show what they know by collaborating with peers and creating meaningful projects. Parents and community members care deeply about our youth because our youth represent the future of our world; therefore, parents and community members will offer the assistance needed to accomplish the task of developing our youth into responsible, innovative citizens.

Charter School Information

A charter school is an alternative to the traditional public school setting, and many people

appreciate the choice they create for parents and students. They fill the gap between public school and private school because many charter schools offer innovative approaches and programs and increase learning opportunities that traditional public school systems cannot offer. Charter schools are public schools, so they are funded with public monies, yet they may be supplemented with private donations, and sometimes admission lotteries are utilized when the number of applicants exceed the program's capacity. Any North Carolina student is eligible to attend a charter school without paying tuition.

There are several benefits to attending a charter school, including an often smaller class size, more individualized instruction, high academic and service standards, innovative programs and course offerings, and unique educational philosophies. With high expectations from all stakeholders, students will learn, grow, and exceed expectations.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Uwharrie Charter Academy upholds the belief that diversity creates a rich and stimulating learning environment. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, or handicap in accordance with state and federal law.

Admissions and Lottery Process

Uwharrie Charter Academy will admit any eligible student under North Carolina law who submits a completed application during the enrollment period, unless the number of applicants exceeds the limit for the program, classes, grade levels, or building capacity. The enrollment period will be from April 1 to June 1 each year. As applications are submitted each one will be reviewed for completeness, age/grade of student, and validation that the parent/guardian has reviewed and accepted the school's philosophy and had a conversation with the school's Director of Operations. In the event that the number of applicants exceeds the maximum, the school will use a lottery system to give all applicants an equal chance for admission. A lottery will not be held if the number of applicants does not transcend the maximum number possible. UCA will give enrollment priority to siblings of currently enrolled students who were admitted in a previous year and to children of the school's principal, teachers, and teacher assistants. Once enrolled, students are not required to reapply in subsequent enrollment periods. Within one year after the charter school begins operation, the population of the school shall reasonably reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the community in which the school is located or the racial and ethnic composition of the special population that the school seeks to serve residing within the local school administrative unit in which the school is located. The school shall be subject to any court-ordered desegregation plan in effect for the local school administrative unit. A charter school may refuse admission to any student who has been expelled or suspended from a public school until the period of suspension or expulsion has expired

A lottery is meant to provide a fair and equitable way of admitting students to the school when the number of applicants exceeds the class, program, school, or building maximum

capacity. Following an application period in which the number of applicants exceeds the maximum allowed, a lottery will be conducted within four weeks of the application deadline.

Once a lottery is deemed necessary, the following guidelines will apply:

1. Letters will be mailed to each applicant's parent/guardian, informing him/her of the need for a lottery; the date, time, and location of the lottery; and the lottery process.
2. Lottery cards with numbers will be assigned to each applicant.
3. The lottery will be conducted by a certified public accountant unaffiliated with Uwharrie Charter Academy, its employees, or the Board of Directors and who has no child attending or wishing to attend the school.
4. On the day of the lottery, the certified public accountant will ensure that each applicant is represented by a number written clearly on a card.
5. Each card will be placed into a tumbler.
6. One hour prior to the lottery drawing, interested parties will have the opportunity to review and inspect the lottery process and tumbler.
7. Prior to drawing the first card, the certified public accountant shall state that all lottery numbers have been checked and that each applicant is represented by a number.
8. The certified public accountant will be the only authorized person to draw cards/numbers from the tumbler.
9. When the accepted number of applicants for the class, program, grade, or building has been reached, the certified public accountant will continue drawing numbers for the purpose of creating a waiting list.
10. The waiting list will be available for review.
11. As openings occur in the class, program, grade, and/or building, parents of students on the waiting list will be contacted in compliance with the strict order in which the names appear on the list.

The following exceptions to the admissions and lottery process apply each year:

1. If multiple birth siblings apply for admission to a charter school and a lottery is needed, UCA shall enter one surname into the lottery to represent all of the multiple birth siblings. If that surname of the multiple birth siblings is selected, then all of the multiple birth siblings shall be admitted.
2. Siblings of currently enrolled students will be given admission priority.
3. The children of the school's directors, teachers, and staff will be given admissions priority. If a new teacher is hired for the current year after the lottery date, his/her children will be given priority for any program, class, grade, or building, which is not already full. If the child of a director, teacher, or staff member is put on the waiting list, the child will be given first priority and the chance for enrollment of any openings that occur in the grade, program, class, or building.

The following exceptions to the admission and lottery process shall be in effect for the first year only:

- Uwharrie Charter Academy will give enrollment priority to children of the initial members of the school's Board of Directors as long as their children do not exceed more than ten percent of the school's total enrollment or to 20 students, whichever is

less.

Code of Conduct

Honor Code

Students of Uwharrie Charter Academy are expected to hold themselves to the highest standards of ethical behavior and strong character both on campus and in the community. The signing of the Honor Code demonstrates an understanding and agreement to uphold a commitment to strong character and personal integrity.

As a student of Uwharrie Charter Academy, I understand the importance of the Honor Code as the primary directive for all of my decisions. As such, it will be at the forefront of all of my interactions with others in and out of the classroom and as a way of life. I understand that the school's directors have full discretion to enforce this code and that violations will result in disciplinary action.

As a student of the Uwharrie Charter Academy community,

- I will uphold the principles of integrity reflected in the Honor Code in an effort to maintain trust with my peers, teachers, parents, administrators, and community.
- I will tell the truth.
- I will hold myself to the highest environmental ethic.
- I will not steal or damage others' personal property.
- I will not take credit for work that is not my own.
- I will take responsibility for my words and deeds.
- I will not assist others in academic assignments unless directed to do so by a teacher.
- I will support others in upholding the Honor Code

Stakeholders' Responsibilities

In order for Uwharrie Charter Academy to achieve success, all stakeholders must understand and accept their roles and responsibilities and duties. The following delineates the roles and responsibilities of the school's members:

Students will:

- Support the school's mission
- Come to school prepared to learn with all necessary supplies
- Leave all distractions to learning (phones, toys) turned off and put away except at teachers or administrators discretion
- Be on time to class
- Actively engage in learning activities
- Consider their impact on the earth
- Be polite and responsible to all and support one another
- Challenge assumptions
- Adhere to Honor Code
- Have a positive attitude
- Develop a strong work ethic

Teachers will:

- Support the school's mission
- Respect students and others
- Plan engaging, rigorous lessons
- Challenge students' thinking
- Listen to students
- Communicate regularly with parents
- Be fair and equitable in all dealings with students, including grades and discipline
- Create a safe, enjoyable learning environment
- Develop their own green practices
- Remediate and tutor students for success and enrich
- Stay abreast of all new instructional methods
- Demonstrate a strong work ethic

Parents will:

- Support the school's mission
- Ensure student's preparedness for learning
- Volunteer at school and support extracurricular activities
- Understand their role in their child's success
- Resolve conflicts and voice concerns with the appropriate party
- Promote the child's adoption of the school's Honor Code by displaying strong, moral values
- Become aware of environmental ethics

Administrators will:

- Support the school’s mission
- Maintain a safe and orderly school
- Promote high ethical standards
- Communicate regularly with parents
- Deal with students and staff equitably and fairly
- Listen to students’ and parents’ concerns, ideas, recommendations
- Adhere to public school law
- Challenge teachers and students to do their best
- Get to know each student, teacher, and family
- Offer staff development
- Coordinate students’ service in the community
- Investigate ways to “green the school”
- Educate the public about the school and its mission
- Communicate regularly with the Board

Board will:

- Make decisions and policies that support the school’s mission
- Meet regularly
- Mediate conflict
- Support and promote the school to the public
- Avoid conflicts of interest

Policies and Procedures

In addition to clear rules and policies, Uwharrie Charter Academy believes in the importance of practiced procedures. Therefore, the first few days of school will be spent developing and practicing classroom management procedures with students.

Transportation

We strongly encourage carpooling to lessen the effect on the environment, in accordance with the school’s mission. If you are willing to provide carpool or are in need of a carpool, please contact Chris Krayniewski at 336-610-0813 or through email at chris_krayniewski@uwharriecharter.org.

Transportation (Bus)

Uwharrie Charter Academy offers limited bus transportation. Students must complete all bus transportation forms prior to getting on the bus. Students will only be allowed to be transported by the bus they are assigned to. Non-assigned students will not be allowed to ride with assigned riders at any time. Students who wish to go home with another student must arrange their own transportation. Transportation will be offered to full time riders only at a fee of \$55.00 per semester, per student. If you have more than 1 student there will be an additional fee of \$30.00 per semester. After 3 no-shows from a rider the student will be removed unless communicated by the parent for medical reasons. If the bus route has reached full capacity, a waiting list will be generated. Parents are not allowed on any UCA bus unless there is a medical

emergency. The following rules should be followed to maintain the safety of the students:

- Students will have assigned seats. (middle/high school students will be separated)
- No food or drink allowed on the bus at any time.
- After boarding the bus students shall be seated immediately and remain properly seated for the duration of the bus ride.
- Students are expected to behave accordingly on the bus and know the rules for riding the bus.
- The aisle of a school bus must be kept free of objects that could obstruct an emergency evacuation of the bus.
- Students are prohibited from bringing any potentially hazardous items, chemicals, animals, or breakable items on board the bus.
- It is very important to remember that the Bus Driver is in charge.
- No tobacco product used/vaping on the bus at any time. (This offense will result in immediate dismissal for 3 days-1st offense, 1 week-2nd offense and total removal-3rd offense.)

Consequences for breaking the rules

- 1st Offense – verbal warning to student by driver.
- 2nd Offense – written warning to student/parent or guardian by principal
- 3rd Offense –will result in suspension from riding the bus for the remainder of the school year.
- Any damages to the bus property by a student will be the responsibility of the parents.

For bus concerns or questions contact Chris Krayniewski at (336) 610-0813 extension 139 or email him at chris_krayniewski@uwharriecharter.org.

Parking Lot Liability

1. Parking lot related incidences are not covered under any insurance policy. The school assumes no liability for damage to cars:

- a. Parked in the parking lot during school hours
- b. Parked in the parking lot after school hours

2. The only exception to this policy will be when an adult observes a student accidentally causing damage to a vehicle while engaged in a school activity, such as physical education equipment breaking a window (e.g. a ball)

3. Otherwise, liability is as follows:

- a. If a student willfully causes damage (i.e. not an accident as described above), the student's parent or guardian is responsible.
- b. If a parent or other visitor causes damage, that individual is responsible.
- c. If an employee causes damage, the employee is responsible.
- d. If an unknown person causes damage and there is no witness, the affected individual would determine if they have applicable coverage through his/her individual insurance policies. Adopted

6/15/2017

Dress Code

The school and classroom dynamic can be affected by distracting attire. Since the focus should be on learning, students are charged to dress modestly and follow the standards of decency.

The following are unacceptable:

- See-through shirts, blouses; halter tops, tank tops/tube tops, undershirts, muscle shirts
- Shorts should be appropriately fitting and have at least a 3-inch inseam with a straight-across hem
- Students should wear tops, bottoms, and shoes at all times while at school.
- No Pajamas and/or bedroom slippers.
- No clothing displaying sex or sexual innuendo, alcohol, drugs, violence, offensive logos or anything deemed gang related.
- Shirt straps should be 1.5" or wider. Shirts must completely cover the stomach, chest and back. Shirts should not be see through.
- No underwear should be visible at any time; including, bras, bralettes, under shirts, underwear and any other under-things.
- See-through holes in pants must be below mid thigh.
- Hats and hoods are permitted at the discretion of the teacher.

If students are found to be wearing clothing that is unacceptable or distracting to others, administration will be notified. Parents will be contacted to bring the student a change of clothes. If a parent cannot bring clothes for the student, the student will be given appropriate clothing that the school has on hand. If there is no extra clothing available, the student may be sent to ISS for the remainder of the day. If the student continually wears inappropriate clothing, parents will be asked to take the student home and it will be marked as an unexcused absence.

Acceptable Use Policy for Internet and computer use

Laptops and computers should be used for educational purposes only and for learning connected to school work. During orientation, administrators will clearly explain appropriate uses for electronic devices. Students who access unauthorized sites will be subject to disciplinary action and/or cancellation and revocation of Internet privileges.

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones are to be stored and are not to be visible in the classroom/restrooms. Middle school will have a no cell phone policy throughout the day unless deemed necessary for education purpose by the classroom teacher. In rare circumstances, students might need to make an urgent phone call. In order to do so, they must come to the office. Students are responsible for any damages that may occur while on school property. Student cell phones will not have access to UCA internet without prior approval. The following consequences are for students who violate the cell phone policy:

- First offense - Verbal warning
- Second offense-Teacher confiscates the phone until the end of the school day.
- Third offense-Teacher confiscates the phone and turns it in to the office; the parent may pick it up at the end of the school day.
- Fourth offense-Student must turn cell phone in to the office upon arrival at school.

Parents are urged to call the school with urgent information for students instead of calling or texting students directly during the school day.

Harassment Policy

Uwharrie Charter Academy is to be a safe, welcoming place for the purpose of learning. To maintain a comfortable environment, each community member must be treated with respect and honor. Harassment based on sex, race, religious or ethnic group, or national origin will result in swift and severe disciplinary action. Therefore, no acts of intimidation, humiliation, degradation, or violence toward others will be tolerated. Any student who feels that he/she has been the target of harassment should immediately report the incident of harassment to the Dean. All charges of harassment will be thoroughly investigated. Any charge determined to be true will result in disciplinary action. Examples of prohibited conduct include:

- Epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping or threatening, intimidating or hostile acts that relate to any legally protected characteristics or activity.
- Written or graphic material displayed or circulated on the school property that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion towards an individual or group because of any legally protected characteristics or activity.
- Intimidating, hostile, derogatory, disrespectful, or otherwise offensive conduct or remarks that are directed at a person because of any legally protected characteristics or activity.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

Uwharrie Charter Academy students will be free from illegal drugs, alcohol, or the abuse of prescription or over-the-counter drugs at UCA and while attending or participating in any school-sponsored event.

Uwharrie Charter Academy students will not use, consume, deliver, purchase, sell, have in their possession or be under the influence of illegal drugs (including alcohol and tobacco/vapping), while on school property or while attending or participating in a school-sponsored activity whether on campus or off. Students in the company of any student who is using, consuming, delivering, purchasing, selling, or possessing or under the influence of illegal drugs while on school property or while attending or participating in a school-sponsored event will be subject to the same disciplinary action as the offending student, unless said student in attempting to intervene in the situation, trying to prevent the situation, or is attempting to get adult help. This policy is in effect at all times.

Any student who has concerns about his/her own or a friend's use or illegal or prescription drugs or alcohol may approach the principal or a school counselor to discuss the issue. Confidentiality extends only as far as the law allows.

**Student Athlete Substance Abuse Policy

The UCA Board of Directors is currently researching and reviewing information related to a student athlete substance abuse and considering all of the relevant data as it considers instituting a policy to be implemented during the 18-19 school year. More information will be provided in the future.

Disciplinary Code

	Violation	Consequence
1	Classroom Disruption	1

2	Inappropriate Display of Affection	1
3	Dress Code Violation	1 Appropriate clothing will be brought in by parents or sent to choices or sent home
4	Unauthorized absence from class or school	1-3
5	Inappropriate or abusive language	1-3
6	Rude or disrespectful behavior toward staff or student	1-4
7	Possession of Tobacco (or tobacco paraphernalia)	2-4
8	Disregard of directions from school personnel	2-4
9	Assault on another student	2-5
10	Theft (per investigation of administrator)	2-5
11	Destruction of school property	4 Restitution
12	Persistent violation of disciplinary code	4-5
13	Tampering with a fire extinguisher or fire alarm	5 Restitution
14	Possession, consumption, or being under the influence of a controlled substance as described under the Drug and Alcohol Policy-applies to any school-sponsored event on or off campus	5 Referral to Authorities
15	Assault of a school employee	6 Referral to authorities
16	Making terroristic threats	6 Referral to authorities
17	Possession of items considered to be weapons	6 Referral to authorities

18	Sale and /or Distribution of a controlled substance	6 Referral to authorities
19	Harassment	6 Investigation
20	Sexual Misconduct	6
21	Honor Code Violation	Zero and parent contact/conference
22	Bullying	1-5; 6
23	Vaping or possession of vaping paraphernalia	2-4 Vape and paraphernalia confiscated

- Consequence 1 Detention served as directed by teacher; teacher records offense; behavior contract may be initiated
- Consequence 2 Short-term, partial day, in-school suspension, and/or task (1-3 days)
- Consequence 3 Short-term, full day, in-school suspension (1-5 days)
- Consequence 4 Short-term, full day, out of school suspension (1-3 days)
- Consequence 5 Long-term, full day, out of school suspension (more than 3 days)
- Consequence 6 Immediate removal from school until a board review hearing (Expulsion)

In-School Suspension

In response to some violations of the Disciplinary Code, in-school suspension shall be instituted. The student must serve In-School Suspension at a location designated by an administrator for a partial or full school day(s) where the student will be expected to study and complete his/her school work. Suspended students are responsible for obtaining and completing all school work assigned during the suspension period. Suspended students are not allowed to attend or participate in any extracurricular events during the period of his/her suspension.

Out-of-School Suspension

In some cases a violation will be deemed as serious as to warrant Out-of-School Suspension. In the event that a student has been given Out-of-School Suspension, he/she must serve the entire period of time and is not allowed to participate in any school event, either on or off campus during or after the school day. Suspended students are responsible for obtaining and completing his/her school work.

Discipline with Regards to Special Education

Students who are served under IDEA (Special Education), 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq. and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 706(8) are entitled to certain additional rights in the area of

discipline based upon their qualifications for services under these federal laws. If Uwharrie Charter Academy suspends a student with special needs, it shall continue to provide to the student all continuing education services to the extent mandated by federal and state laws and regulations. In the event UCA suspends or expels a student, the school shall promptly notify local school officials in the school district to which the student would otherwise be assigned. The notification shall include the student's name, special education status, length of suspension/expulsion and the circumstances giving rise to the suspension/expulsion.

Due Process

Prior to any disciplinary action, the students shall be made aware of the seriousness of the infraction and the potential consequences shall be explained. The student shall be provided an opportunity to explain his/her version of the situation. If, after the student has been provided his/her due process, the teacher or administrator feels that there has been a violation of the Disciplinary Code and that disciplinary action is warranted, the student's parent/guardian shall be informed (in person or by telephone) of the violation and its consequences. In the event that a student or his/her parent feels that he/she has been treated unfairly, they may schedule a parent conference with the Chief Academics Officer. If the student or parent still feels as though the student has been wronged, then the parent(s) may appeal to the school's Board of Directors.

Attendance

In order for students to be successful, they must be on time and attend school regularly. North Carolina has a compulsory attendance law, requiring that school-age children be present when school is in session except in some circumstances such as illness. Any student who does not comply may be reported for truancy.

Students are expected to be present for all classes by the posted time. If a student is late to class, he or she must have a note from the office. To be counted present in class, a student must be present for half of the class's total time. When students are absent, upon returning, they must present a signed and dated note from home or a doctor, explaining why the student was absent, to the front office. The note must be brought in within three days of an absence. Students may not exceed 12 absences from a year-long class in order to be able to pass the class. Students who have more than the maximum amount of absences allowed to pass a course may appeal to the Board of Directors for a waiver. Students who know in advance they will miss school should have a parent/guardian call the school office in advance or bring a signed note from the parent/guardian. Parents will be notified by teachers, school officials, and/or administrators as absences accrue according to the following:

- 3 absences—Parent contact by a teacher; teacher completes attendance form
- 6 absences—Teacher must contact parents and also inform the guidance counselor to discuss attendance policy
- 7-11 absences—Attendance contract
- 12 absences—waiver is now mandatory. Parent will be contacted by the teacher and an attendance waiver will be sent home with the student. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to return the completed waiver by the due date. If a waiver form is not completed and returned by the due date, the student will receive an "FF" as a final grade regardless.

Lawful Absences include: (This policy pertains when the student reaches 10 or more absences and a waiver sheet has been completed)

The Superintendent and Dean, are the only ones who have the right to excuse a student temporarily from attendance on account of sickness or other unavoidable cause. (Below are the valid/lawful excuses for temporary nonattendance of a student at school.)

1. **Illness or Injury:** When the absence results from illness or injury which prevents the student from being physically able to attend school.
2. **Quarantine:** When isolation of the student is ordered by the local health officer or by the State Board of Health.
3. **Death in the Immediate Family:** When the absence results from the death of a member of the immediate family of the student. For the purpose of this regulation, the immediate family of a student includes, but is not necessarily limited to, grandparents, parents, brothers, and sisters.
4. **Medical Appointments:** When the absence results from a medical or dental appointment of a student. If a student needs long term mental health care, parents are to provide written notes from a medical doctor and must be evaluated every three weeks.
5. **Court or Administrative Proceedings:** When the absence results from the attendance of a student at the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if the student is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness. The Local Board of Education can be considered an administrative tribunal.
6. **Religious Observance:** School dean's are required to authorize a minimum of two excused absences each academic year for religious observances required by faith of a student or a student's parents. The student shall be given the opportunity to make up any tests or other work missed due to this excused absence. (S.L. 2010-112)
7. **Educational Opportunity:** When it is demonstrated that the purpose of the absence is to take advantage of a valid education opportunity, such as travel. Approval for such an absence must be granted prior to the absence. This would include, but is not limited to, a student serving as a legislative page or a governor's page. Each student is afforded three days each year for education opportunities.

Tardies

It is very important for students to be on time to school/class. Students are to sign in with the front office if they are late for school. Students who are late to school/class bring about whole class disruptions and they lose valuable instructional time. Excessive tardies may result in the requirement of the student to make up time during their STEAM block, lunch time, or after school.

- 3 tardies—Teacher will contact parent
- 4-6 tardies—Parent contacted by administration
- 7-9+ tardies—Parents contacted for conference

Check Outs

Students who need to check-out early from school should bring a signed note from a parent prior to checking out. Students cannot be checked-out early from school over the phone. All students checking out must be signed out by an approved adult.

Visitors

Due to the unique nature of Uwharrie Charter Academy, we expect that members of the community will want to learn more about our program. Parents and guests are welcome and are encouraged to participate in school events. To plan for such visits, kindly schedule a visit or tour in advance with our secretary. Visitors are required to sign-in with the secretary at the front office.

Grading Scale

In October 2014, the State Board approved a standard 10-point grading scale to begin with the 2015-2016 school year for all high school students. This scale will not include “pluses” or “minuses.” Grades from prior years will not be altered retroactively. All Uwharrie Charter Academy students (3-12) will be graded on the 10-point scale.

Under the new scale, grades and grade point average calculations will be applied as follows:

- A: 90-100
- B: 80-89
- C: 70-79
- D: 60-69
- F: < 59

Daily Schedule

Monday - Thursday

Time	5th	6th	7th	8th
8:40 - 9:35	Core 1	Core 1	Elective	Core 1
9:37 - 10:33	Core 2	Elective	Core 1	Core 2
10:36 - 11:31	10:36-11:06 Recess 11:07-11:35 Lunch	Core 2	Core 2	Core 3
	Elective Planning	Elective Planning	Elective Planning	Elective Planning
11:35 - 1:10 Lunch/Cores	Core 3 & Steam 11:35-12:28 Core 3 12:30-1:10 STEAM	11:38-12:05 Lunch 12:08-1:10 Core 3	11:35-12:08 Core 3 (split) 12:10-12:38 Lunch 12:40-1:10 Core 3 (split)	11:35-12:38 Elective 12:41-1:10 Lunch
1:13 - 2:08	Elective	Core 4	Core 4	Core 4

2:10 - 3:05	Core 4	STEAM	STEAM	STEAM
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Friday Schedule

Time	5th	6th	7th	8th
8:40 - 9:25	Core 1	Core 1	Elective	Core 1
9:28 - 10:13	Core 2	Core 2	Core 1	Elective
10:16 - 11:01	Core 3	Elective	Core 2	Core 2
11:04 - 11:49	Elective	Core 3	Core 3	Core 3
11:52 - 12:35	Core 4 Elective Planning	Core 4 Elective Planning	Core 4 Elective Planning	Core 4 Elective Planning

How a Parent May Lawfully Abandon a Newborn

The parent of an infant under seven days of age, expressing an intent to not return for the infant, may voluntarily deliver the infant to a health care provider, as defined under G.S. 90-21.11, who is on duty or at a hospital or at a local or district health department or at a nonprofit community health center; a law enforcement officer who is on duty or at a police station or sheriff's department; a social services worker who is on duty or at a local department of social services; or a certified emergency medical service worker who is on duty or at a fire or emergency medical services station. The individual who takes an infant into temporary custody may inquire as to the parents' identities and as to any relevant medical history, but the parent is not required to provide the information.

Meningococcal Meningitis and Its Vaccine

Meningococcal meningitis is a bacterial form of meningitis, a serious infection of the meninges that affects the brain membrane. It can cause severe brain damage and is fatal in 50% of cases if untreated.

Causes

Several different bacteria can cause meningitis. *Neisseria meningitidis* is the one with the potential to cause large epidemics. Twelve groups of *N. meningitidis* have been identified, five of which (A, B, C, W135, and X) can cause epidemics. Geographic distribution and epidemic potential differ according to group.

Transmission

The bacteria are transmitted from person to person through droplets of respiratory or throat secretions. Close and prolonged contact – such as kissing, sneezing or coughing on someone, or

living in close quarters (such as a dormitory, sharing eating or drinking utensils) with an infected person – facilitates the spread of the disease. The average incubation period is four days, but can range between two and 10 days.

Neisseria meningitidis only infects humans; there is no animal reservoir. The bacteria can be carried in the throat and sometimes, for reasons not fully understood, can overwhelm the body's defenses allowing infection to spread through the bloodstream to the brain. Although there remain gaps in our knowledge, it is believed that 10% to 20% of the population carries *Neisseria meningitidis* at any given time. However, the carriage rate may be higher in epidemic situations.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms are a stiff neck, high fever, sensitivity to light, confusion, headaches and vomiting. Even when the disease is diagnosed early and adequate treatment is started, 5% to 10% of patients die, typically within 24 to 48 hours after the onset of symptoms. Bacterial meningitis may result in brain damage, hearing loss or a learning disability in 10% to 20% of survivors. A less common but even more severe (often fatal) form of meningococcal disease is meningococcal septicemia, which is characterized by a hemorrhagic rash and rapid circulatory collapse (World Health Organization).

Diagnosis and Treatment

Vaccines, diagnosis and treatment may be obtained by visiting a physician or local health department. The Randolph County Health Department is located at:

IRA McDowell Building
2222-B South Fayetteville St. Asheboro, NC 27205
(336) 318-6200

Influenza and Its Vaccine

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year.

Symptoms

The flu is different from a cold. The flu usually comes on suddenly. People who have the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms:

- Fever* or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches

- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

*Not everyone with flu will experience fever.

How Flu Spreads

People with flu can spread it to others up to about 6 feet away. Most experts think that flu viruses are spread mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Less often, a person might also get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth or nose (Center for Disease Control and Prevention).

Diagnosis and Treatment

To receive a vaccine, or if you suspect that you or a loved one may have influenza, contact a physician or the local health department. The Randolph County Health Department is located at:

IRA McDowell Building
2222-B South Fayetteville St. Asheboro, NC 27205
(336) 318-6200

Cervical Cancer, Cervical Dysplasia, Human Papillomavirus, and Their Vaccines

Dysplasia is the medical term for abnormal cells on the cervix caused by the human papillomavirus. If the abnormalities are mild and few in number, they usually go away without treatment. However, some cases of moderate dysplasia, and most cases of severe dysplasia, will not go away on their own. At this stage, the cells are considered "pre-cancer": In other words, if they are not found and treated, they could develop into cervical cancer.

Causes of Cervical Dysplasia, Cervical Cancer, and Human Papillomavirus

There are several ways of getting human papillomavirus through sexual contact, and it does not have to be passed through direct sexual intercourse. However, sexual intercourse is the most common way of getting HPV. Because HPV can affect the skin that is not covered by a condom, it is easy to pass the virus through intercourse. Also, HPV-infected cells can live in the mouth, so it is possible to spread the disease through oral sex. The virus can also be passed through bodily fluids and mucous membranes.

Since high-risk types of human papillomavirus are the primary cause of cervical dysplasia and cervical cancer, anyone who has ever had intimate, skin-to-skin (genital) contact with a partner is at potential risk of developing the condition.

Symptoms

Some human papillomavirus are without symptoms or health risk, and others lead to genital warts and even cervical cancer.

Dysplasia does not have warning symptoms. If symptoms such as vaginal bleeding or low back pain occur, the condition may already have progressed to cervical cancer. That is why it is important to be screened regularly with a Pap and (if you're age 30 or older) the HPV test.

Vaccines

Vaccines can protect males and females against some of the most common types of HPV that can lead to disease and cancer. These vaccines are given in three separate administrations. It is important to get all three doses as it provides the best protection. The vaccines are most effective when given at 11 or 12 years of age.

Girls and women: Two vaccines (Cervarix and Gardasil) are available to protect females against the types of HPV that cause most cervical cancers. One of these vaccines (Gardasil) also protects against most genital warts. Gardasil has also been shown to protect against anal, vaginal and vulvar cancers. Either vaccine is recommended for 11 and 12 year-old girls, and for females 13 through 26 years of age, who did not get any or all of the shots when they were younger. These vaccines can also be given to girls beginning at 9 years of age. It is recommended to get the same vaccine brand for all three doses, whenever possible.

Boys and men: One available vaccine (Gardasil) protects males against most genital warts and anal cancers. This vaccine is available for boys and men, 9 through 26 years of age.

Benefits and Possible Side Effects of HPV Vaccine

The vaccines target the HPV types that most commonly cause cervical cancer. One of the vaccines also protects against the HPV types that cause most genital warts. Both vaccines are highly effective in preventing specific HPV types and the most common health problems from HPV.

The vaccines are less effective in preventing HPV-related disease in young women who have already been exposed to one or more HPV types. That is because the vaccines can only prevent HPV before a person is exposed to it. HPV vaccines do not treat existing HPV infections or HPV-associated diseases.

The Most Common Side Effects of HPV Vaccine are:

- Pain in the area of the injection
- Swelling in the area of the injection
- Redness in the area of the injection
- Fever
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle pain.

There are several side effects with the HPV vaccine that you should report immediately to your healthcare provider.

These include, but are not limited to:

- Very high fever
- Weakness, tingling, or paralysis (which may be signs of Guillain-Barre syndrome)
- Signs of an allergic reaction, including difficulty breathing, wheezing, an unusual skin rash, itching, or hives.

(The preceding information was obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Parents and guardians may seek further information from their physicians or the local health department. The Randolph County Health Department is located at:

IRA McDowell Building
2222-B South Fayetteville St. Asheboro, NC 27205
(336) 318-6200

Parent and Student Honor Code Agreement Form

The Uwharrie Charter Academy will exist:

- To provide a truly rigorous pathway to college and career readiness;
- To afford students the benefit of a small learning community with a low teacher/student ratio in an effort to promote strong relationships with students and individualized support for learning;
- To imbed the curriculum with STEAM focused content through problem-based learning, historical developments in technology, hands-on math, and inquiry science that requires engineering and ingenuity;
- To promote hands-on, project-based learning in all courses;
- To support the development of 21st century skills integrating the use of technology;
- To partner with parents so that they understand their role in their child's education;
- To build relationships with local institutions in order to provide real-world connections and opportunities for applied learning; and
- To promote environmental stewardship including the adoption of green practices

in student's everyday lives and the integration of NC's Environmental Literacy Plan in a cross curricular approach.

As the **parent/guardian** of _____ (student's name), I willingly accept my role and responsibility in promoting both the success of my child's educational goals and the success of the Uwharrie Charter Academy community.

Signed, _____ Date, _____

As a **student** of Uwharrie Charter Academy, I _____ willingly agree to uphold the school's Honor Code in order to achieve my own success, my peers' success, and Uwharrie Charter Academy's success.

Signed, _____ Date, _____

As a **student** of Uwharrie Charter Academy, I _____ understand the following policies and procedures: Dress Code, Cell Phone Policy, Harassment Policy, Drug and Alcohol, Attendance Policy, Tardy Policy and Exam Exemption Policy. I also understand each one of my classroom teacher's rules and responsibilities.

Signed, _____ Date, _____

Teacher's Signature, _____ Date received, _____