University Charter School
Back to School Night
2023-2024

Leaders. Innovators. Trailblazers.
Presentation Topics

Faces of UCS
Hours of Operation
Carline Procedures
Breakfast and CNP
Discipline
Policy Updates and Attendance
First Day of School Reminders
STREAM/After-School and CMA Dance
Communications
Capital Campaign
UCS Executive Leadership Team

Dr. JJ Wedgworth
Chief Executive Officer/ Head of School

Dr. Matt Johnson
Chief Academic Officer

Mrs. Ginger Lusty
Chief Financial Officer

Jennifer Nelson
Chief School Financial Officer

Tracy Bryan
Strategic Partnerships Officer
Guidance Counselor and 504 Coordinator

Cherie Meadows
Grades PreK-12
UCS Support Personnel

Emily Broach
UCS Campus Office Manager

Lisa Kaeo
Operations Assistant / Lyon Hall Receptionist

Ashia Winston
Mental Health Services Coordinator

Kristen Beard
School Nurse
UCS Support Personnel

Emily Broach
UCS Campus Office Manager

Jana Cram
Bookkeeper

Ashia Winston
Mental Health Services Coordinator

Kristen Beard
School Nurse
UCS Support Personnel

Greg Hughey
Technology Coordinator

Lisa Kaeo
Operations Assistant / Lyon Hall Receptionist

Ty Washington
School Resource Officer

Jacob Dunn
Facility Manager
Intervention and Support

Janice Watt
Elementary Interventionist

Austin McRae
Secondary Interventionist

Holly Bice
Instructional Support Specialist

Libba Reed
ARI Reading Specialist
Individualized Education Coordinators

Special Education Coordinator
Lisa McHugh

English Language Learners Coordinator
Holly Bice

Gifted Education Coordinator
Jessie Johnson
UCS Career Coach

Courtnei Harper
Sumter County Career Coach

- Assist students in understanding the value of personal interests and skills assessments and the role each plays in career development
- Assist students and parents in making educated and informed career decisions
- Cultivate student understanding of the process necessary to obtain their career goals
- Encourage and advise students to pursue the process for college and career readiness and success
- Responsible for networking with local businesses and industry members
- Responsible for making connections with local organizations (chambers of commerce, regional workforce development councils, etc.)
UCS Athletic Opportunities

Fall:
Football, Volleyball, Cross Country, Cheerleading

Winter:
M&W Basketball

Spring:
Softball, Baseball, Tennis, Golf

Sam Mosley
UCS Athletic Director & Football Coach

UCS Athletics
UCS Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Agriculture and Rodeo Club
FCA
Robotics
4H
Jr. Beta Club
National Honor Society
Peer Helpers
SGA

UCS Extra-Curricular
UCS Board of Directors
2023-2024 School Calendar

August 2023
- August 1-8: Pre-Planning for Teachers
- August 7: First Day for Students
- September 4: Labor Day Holiday
- October 2-6: Fall Break
- November 16: Veterans Day
- November 23-27: Thanksgiving Break
- December 18-22: Christmas & New Year’s Break

September 2023
- September 4-10: School Yearbook Ad Deadline
- September 11-15: Student Council Elections
- September 19-23: Teacher Workday/First Day for Students

October 2023
- October 10-13: Parent-Teacher Conference
- October 15-19: Pre-Planning for Teachers
- October 23-27: Mid-Year Break

November 2023
- November 20-24: Teacher Workday/Last Day for Teachers

December 2023
- December 25-29: Winter Holiday
- December 30-31: Winter Break

January 2024
- January 2-6: Winter Break
- January 7: First Day for Students

February 2024
- February 14: Valentine’s Day
- February 20-24: Presidents’ Day

March 2024
- March 27-31: Spring Break
- April 1-5: Pre-Planning for Teachers

April 2024
- April 14-18: Student Council Elections
- April 25-29: Pre-Planning for Teachers

May 2024
- May 22-26: Teacher Workday/Last Day for Teachers
- May 23-27: Mid-Year Break
- May 28-31: End of School Year

Student Instructional Day
- Teacher/Student Holiday
- Teacher Workday (no students)

Teacher Prep/Planning (no students)

2023-2024 School Calendar

August 3-6
- Pre-Planning for Teachers
- September 4: Labor Day Holiday
- October 2-6: Fall Break
- November 16: Veterans Day
- November 23-27: Thanksgiving Break
- December 18-22: Christmas & New Year’s Break

Juniors
- September 4: Pre-Planning for Teachers
- September 15: Student Council Elections
- October 10-13: Parent-Teacher Conference
- October 15-19: Pre-Planning for Teachers
- October 23-27: Mid-Year Break
- November 20-24: Teacher Workday/Last Day for Teachers

Seniors
- September 4: Pre-Planning for Teachers
- September 15: Student Council Elections
- October 10-13: Parent-Teacher Conference
- October 15-19: Pre-Planning for Teachers
- October 23-27: Mid-Year Break
- November 20-24: Teacher Workday/Last Day for Teachers

Graduating Class
- September 4: Pre-Planning for Teachers
- September 15: Student Council Elections
- October 10-13: Parent-Teacher Conference
- October 15-19: Pre-Planning for Teachers
- October 23-27: Mid-Year Break
- November 20-24: Teacher Workday/Last Day for Teachers

Student Instructional Day
- Teacher/Student Holiday
- Teacher Workday (no students)

Teacher Prep/Planning (no students)

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Student Instructional Day
- Teacher/Student Holiday
- Teacher Workday (no students)

Teacher Prep/Planning (no students)
Hours of Operation

Lyon Hall Campus

7:15 - Students may arrive on campus
7:15 - 7:45 Breakfast Served
7:25 Students travel to class
7:45 - 3:20 - School Day (M/T/Th/F)
7:45 - 1:00 - School Day (Wednesday)
3:20 PM Dismissal / 1:00 PM on Wednesday
A Dash Tag will be required for each student that you plan to pick up from Lyon Hall.

You will receive your Dash Tags during UCS Back to School Night (tonight).

Please place them in your front dash on the passenger side, face up or on your car visor, so that car line attendants can easily read them.

Each student will be issued (2) car tags at the beginning of the year. Any additional tags can be purchased by the parent or guardian ONLY for $2 each.
Lyon Hall - Car Dash Tags

Student Name

Homeroom

Lyon Campus 2023-2024
Turn onto Foust Drive from Stadium Drive, CAR TAGS DISPLAYED
Continue onto Pruitt Drive, then turn RIGHT onto McConnell Drive
Follow McConnell up to Lyon Hall, turn LEFT, and follow to “PICK UP / DROP OFF ZONE”
Please wait until a UCS Team member releases your vehicle to leave the zone
Drop Off / Pick Up - Lyon Hall Campus
(Close view)
Morning Drop-Off Procedures - UCS New Campus

Staff & Student Parking Entrance

ENTER HERE for Morning Student Drop off
Carline - UCS Campus (Dismissal)
NO WALKERS FROM LYON HALL DURING AFTERNOON DISMISSAL
Meals - Lyon Hall

- We are pleased to announce that we are able to offer breakfast and lunch to all students at NO COST this year.
- Students will use their TITAN pin code to receive their meals.
- No Cost meals are limited to (1) breakfast and (1) lunch per day, additional food may be purchased by funding your student’s TITAN account.
Meals - Lyon Hall

- Because of the “No Cost” meal program, and in an effort to provide healthy and delicious meals to our students please note that -

- No outside food (food brought to school that is not in a student’s lunchbox) will be allowed. The federal funding guidelines that provide this program is very stringent on this policy, and we must adhere.
Breakfast - UCS Campus

Students enter school at the cafeteria. Enter door to right, proceed through breakfast line to receive meal and enter PIN for meal to be counted. Students eat breakfast in cafeteria. (Monitored by duty teachers/staff.) May be released to classrooms beginning at 7:35. Students that arrive between 7:35-7:55 that are not eating breakfast should go directly to classroom. Students that arrive after 7:50 will be offered a “last chance breakfast” that is compliant but can be eaten on the go. If a student arrives tardy (between 7:55-8:15), they may go to the cafeteria to get a “last chance breakfast” - AFTER getting a tardy slip and reporting to homeroom.
Be patient- New equipment and 2 locations
Promote the program
CEP
HMI Grant - Salad Bar is coming!
Menu under development
More options each day
 Titan (Account creation and ordering lunch)
Discipline

- Updated student discipline policies can be found on the UCS website.
- Please review student handbook with your students before signing and returning. This will be our standard for policy enforcement.
- Consistency leads to a safe, comfortable and productive learning environment for all students.
Uniform Updates/Reminders

- Only PreK-3rd grade students will be allowed to wear UCS' light blue ruffled knit dress.
- Alternative, non-natural hair colors, and distracting lengths of hair are prohibited for all students.
- **Everyday attire**: Students may wear any UCS jacket/coat WITHOUT a hood or any UCS outerwear purchased from the uniform vendor as outerwear both inside and outside of the building.
- **Dress attire**: Students MUST wear navy UCS outerwear purchased from the uniform vendor with their dress attire. No other outerwear will be allowed with the dress attire inside the building.
- No hoodies allowed.
- Tennis shoes should be predominantly (90%) white, navy, gray, or black.
Uniform Quick Guides

For BOYS:
- Monday Option 1:
  - Gray pants or gray shorts
  - Light blue polo or light blue Oxford shirt
  - Navy belt
- Monday Option 2:
  - Gray pants or gray shorts
  - Light blue polo or light blue Oxford shirt
  - Plaid shirt
  - Brown dress shoes
- Tuesday Option 1:
  - Gray pants or gray shorts
  - Light blue polo or light blue Oxford shirt
  - Navy belt
- Wednesday:
  - Gray pants or gray shorts
  - Light blue polo or light blue Oxford shirt
  - Plaid shirt
- Thursday Option 3:
  - Gray pants or gray shorts
  - Light blue polo or light blue Oxford shirt
  - Navy belt
- Friday Option 4:
  - Gray pants or gray shorts
  - Light blue polo or light blue Oxford shirt
  - Navy belt

For GIRLS:
- Monday Option 1:
  - Plaid skirt, navy pants, or navy shorts
  - Light blue polo or light blue Oxford shirt
  - Ruffled belt dress (Grades 3-5 ONLY)
- Monday Option 2:
  - Navy or black dress code shorts
  - Light blue polo or light blue Oxford shirt
  - Ruffled belt dress (Grades 3-5 ONLY)
- Tuesday Option 2:
  - Navy or black dress code shorts
  - Light blue polo or light blue Oxford shirt
  - Ruffled belt dress (Grades 3-5 ONLY)
- Wednesday:
  - Navy or black dress code shorts
  - Light blue polo or light blue Oxford shirt
  - Ruffled belt dress (Grades 3-5 ONLY)
- Thursday Option 3:
  - Plaid skirt, navy pants, or navy shorts
  - Light blue polo or light blue Oxford shirt
  - Ruffled belt dress (Grades 3-5 ONLY)
- Friday Option 4:
  - Plaid skirt, navy pants, or navy shorts
  - Light blue polo or light blue Oxford shirt
  - Ruffled belt dress (Grades 3-5 ONLY)

*Note: Dress uniforms on Wednesdays will NOT be required until after Fall Break! PreK students are excluded from dress day attire. PE Uniforms (required for 7-12 ONLY) = UCS 1-shirt and solid back or navy shorts/pants.
3005: Attendance Policy

Students must be in attendance for at least one half of the day in order to be counted present for the day. One half day is equivalent to 225 minutes or 158 minutes (early release days) at 11:30am. Guidance of appropriate half-day check out times are outlined in the student handbook and determined by school start/end times. Late arrivals must be present 3.75 hours of the school day to be counted as present.
UCS will implement the stated attendance interventions according to the thresholds below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absence Threshold</th>
<th>UCS Intervention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 total (excused and unexcused) per year</td>
<td>Written Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 total (excused and unexcused) per semester* or year</td>
<td>Attendance-Court and Subject to Loss of Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 total (excused and unexcused) per year</td>
<td>Attendance Meeting &amp; Subject to Retention and/or Loss of Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 unexcused</td>
<td>Unenrollment/Withdrawal from School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*per-semester count only applies to students taking high school credit bearing courses.
Electronic Devices

Cell phones and mobile devices are permitted at UCS during classroom instruction only to enhance the instructional experience at the discretion of each individual teacher. Cell phones should otherwise be turned off or muted and stowed in the student’s backpack, purse, or locker while on the UCS campus both before, during, and after the school day. This includes time waiting before school in the auditorium or lunchroom, in hallways, during lunch, restrooms, and waiting for rides at dismissal. Cell phones and other mobile electronic devices are permitted for student use at UCS only before the school day begins (7:45AM - Lyon Hall, 7:55AM - UCS Campus), and after dismissal (3:20/1:00 - Lyon Hall, 3:30/1:10 - UCS Campus). Students are not permitted to utilize cell phones, wireless earbuds, or any other cellular based electronic device (smartwatches) during the school day. Mobile electronic devices should be turned off or muted, and stowed in the students backpack, purse, or locker during the instructional hours each day. UCS teachers and staff reserve the right to enforce procedures regarding acceptable use of all electronic devices, both those furnished by UCS and those provided by individual students as a way to ensure increased student safety and attentiveness to the importance of instruction. The use of personal laptops, Chromebooks, iPads, or other mobile devices during the school day and on school grounds is prohibited. Further guidelines and expectations can be found in Policy 6110. UCS is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or broken electronic devices that students may bring with them to campus.
1015: In School Suspension

In-school suspension is a consequence of Level 1 and Level 2 violations in the tiered system and is to be served by the student as assigned by the principal or assistant principal. In-school suspension is assigned during regular school hours and supervised by a UCS faculty member. **Students** are able to complete classroom assignments while serving In-School Suspension. Assignments completed during in-school suspension would be treated just as any assignment completed in the students regularly scheduled classroom.
1015: Out of School Suspension

Out-of-school suspensions of 2-10 days are to be used when appropriate as designated by the Principal using the tiered system. At the discretion of the Principal, a suspension can be longer as needed. A suspension shall not exceed 10 school days per semester for non-special education students and 10 days per year for special education students. During suspensions students are permitted to take home work, get missed assignments, and take tests or quizzes during the students’ time away from school. In an effort to afford every student a free and appropriate education, students whose actions merit Out-of-school suspensions shall be permitted to complete make-up work that was assigned in their regularly scheduled class time. There shall be a systematic approach to assigning, and grading make-up work, designated by the student’s grade level.

ELEMENTARY (GRADES K-5)

Students in grades K-5 will have 2 days from the last day of the suspension to turn in assignments to their teachers. Assignments that are not completed and turned in within the prescribed 48 hour time frame shall be subject to a reduced grade, at the discretion of the teacher. The parent/guardian shall be responsible for arranging necessary make-up work. Major examinations will be allowed to be made up, without penalty or reduction in credit.
1015: Out of School Suspension

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8)

Students in grades 6-8 will have 2 days from the last day of the suspension to turn in assignments to their teachers for a maximum competency based grade of 2.5. The student shall be responsible for contacting the teacher(s) to arrange to make up work. Major examinations will be allowed to be made up, without penalty or reduction in credit.

SECONDARY (GRADES 9-12)

FIRST INFRACTION IN A YEAR RESULTING IN A SUSPENSION. Students in grades 9-12 who have been suspended from school will have 2 days from the last day of the suspension to turn in assignments to their teachers for a maximum competency based grade of 2.5. Major examinations will be allowed to be made up, without penalty or reduction in credit.

SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT INFRACTIONS IN A YEAR RESULTING IN A SUSPENSION. Students in grades 9-12 who have been suspended from school will have 2 days from the last day of the suspension to turn in assignments to their teachers for a maximum competency based grade of 1.5. Major examinations will be allowed to be made up, without penalty or reduction in credit.
First Day of School Reminders

For the first day of school, parents/guardians are asked NOT to escort their students to their classrooms. We ask that you please drop them off in carline.

Uniforms must be worn Day 1 (dress uniforms NOT required until after Fall Break).

Meet with Nurse Kristen Day 1 to bring required medication for your child to have at UCS.
STREAM/After-School Program

University Charter School

Christopher Dunn
After School Director
STREAM Details and CMA Dance

- UCS offers after school care for all enrolled students on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 3:20-5:30, and on Wednesdays from 1:00-5:30. More information about tuition, activities, and curriculum within this program can be located on our school website and in the UCS After School Handbook.
- UCS teacher, Mr. Christopher Dunn (cdunn@universitycharterschool.org), is the After School Director.
- Starting Monday, August 14th.
- For any questions or concerns please let me know.

CMA Dance: CMA Dance will be at our PreK-3rd Grade Back-to-School Night and will begin Wednesday, August 30th in the Lyon Hall Auditorium. Parents of any 4th-6th graders registered for CMA Dance will be responsible for getting their student to Lyon Hall on Wednesdays. CMA Dance's schedule will be provided once registration is complete.
2023-2024 After School STREAM Program
Expanding Learning Possibilities

Mondays
Tuesdays
Thursdays
Fridays
3:30pm-5:30pm
Wednesdays
1:30pm-5:30pm

100 students
$15 per week
or
$5 for Wednesday Only

If the number of students exceeds 100, a random lottery drawing will be held.

Director: Christopher Dunn
Cdunn@universitycharterschool.org

Scan Here to Register!

or register at https://forms.gle/8Q8prR9bsdZrTBFg7

Engaging,
STREAM Project
Based Enrichment
Program for
students in grades
K-12

Tuscaloosa’s
ONE place
A family resource center

University Charter School

UCS
UCS Parent Involvement Opportunities

Courtney Vick
UCS PTA President
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 09</td>
<td>Back to School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 05 - 19</td>
<td>Charleston Wrap Fundraiser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 14</td>
<td>PTA Meeting and Open House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 15</td>
<td>Blue Jean Friday for PTA Members</td>
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<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>Fall Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>PTA Meeting and Cookies and Milk with Santa</td>
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UCS Mass Communications will be reaching out to UCS Families through several different platforms this year.

Look for our posts on social media in addition to texts, emails, and phone calls.

We want to make sure our parents are informed, and we want to show you the great things our students are achieving at UCS.

https://www.facebook.com/universitycharterschool
@UCSTrailblazers on Twitter
@universitycharterschool on Instagram
ROOTED in PLACE
BUILD for the FUTURE
a capital campaign for
UNIVERSITY CHARTER SCHOOL
UCS

University Charter School

“"You can DREAM, create, design, and BUILD the most wonderful place in the world, but it requires PEOPLE to make the dream a REALITY.”

-Walt Disney
Together we can transform lives

ROOTED in PLACE: BUILD for the FUTURE

Hero Society
Innovators Circle
Founders Club
Blazer League
Community Builder

($1,000 per month)
($500 per month)
($250 per month)
($100 per month)
($50 per month)
If you have further questions, please stay after and see one of UCS’ Leaders. We look forward to a great school year!