

University Charter School Back to School Night 2023-2024

Leaders. Innovators. Trailblazers.



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

UCS Leadership Team



Meghan Dunn
Principal



Crystal May
Assistant Principal



Brandon Broach
Assistant Principal



Leslie Gibbs
Director of Instructional Support

Guidance Counselor and 504 Coordinator



Cherie Meadows
Grades PreK-12



UCS Support & Intervention Personnel



Emily Broach
UCS Campus Office Manager



Ashia Winston
Mental Health Services Coordinator



Kristen Beard
School Nurse



Austin McRae
Secondary Interventionist

Individualized Education Coordinators



Lisa McHugh
Special Education
Coordinator



Holly Bice
English Language Learners Coordinator
Instructional Support Specialist



Jessie Johnson
Gifted Education
Coordinator

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

UCS Athletics



Sam Mosley
UCS Athletic Director
Head Football Coach

UCS Athletic Opportunities

Fall:

Football, Volleyball,
Cross Country, Cheerleading

Winter:

Basketball

Spring:

Softball, Baseball, Tennis, Golf



UCS Extra-Curricular

Agriculture and Rodeo Club

FCA

Robotics

4H

Jr. Beta Club

National Honor Society

Peer Helpers

SGA



2023-2024 School Calendar

July 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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30	31					

August 2023						
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September 2023						
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October 2023						
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November 2023						
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December 2023						
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31						

January 2024						
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February 2024						
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March 2024						
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April 2024						
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May 2024						
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June 2024						
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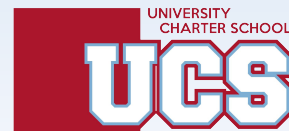


2023-2024 School Calendar

August 1-8	Pre-Planning for Teachers
Aug 9	First Day for Students
Sept 4	Labor Day Holiday
Oct 5-6	Fall Break
October 23-27	Homecoming Week
Nov 10	Veterans Day
Nov 20-24	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 18-Jan 2	Christmas & New Year's Break
Jan 3	Teacher Workday/P.D.
Jan 4	Students Return
Jan 15	M.L. King Holiday
Feb 19	President's Day
Mar 25-29	Spring Break
April 29	Assessment Holiday
May 17	UCS Graduation
May 22	Last Day for Students
May 23	Teacher Workday/Last Day for Teachers

Student Instructional Day	
Teacher/Student Holiday	
Teacher Pre-Planning (no students)	
Teacher Work Day (no students)	
Students Dismiss @1 PM/ Teacher PD	
Student Days	Teacher Days
1 st Semester: 84	90
2 nd Semester: 92	94
Total: 176	184
Employee Holidays: 29	

- Mini Fall Break
- Full Thanksgiving & Christmas Break
- Full Spring Break
- Note Early Release Dates that are NOT on Wednesdays, 10/27 and 12/15



Hours of Operation

UCS Campus

7:25 - Students may arrive on campus

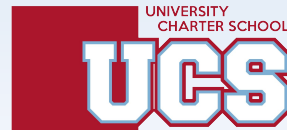
7:25 - 7:55 Breakfast Served

7:35 Students travel to class

7:55 - 3:30 - School Day (M/T/Th/F)

7:55 - 1:10 - School Day (Wednesday)

3:30 PM Dismissal / 1:10 PM on Wednesday



UCS Campus - Car Dash Tags

- A Dash Tag will be required for each student that you plan to pick up from the UCS Campus.
- 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.

UCS Campus - Car Dash Tags



Student Name

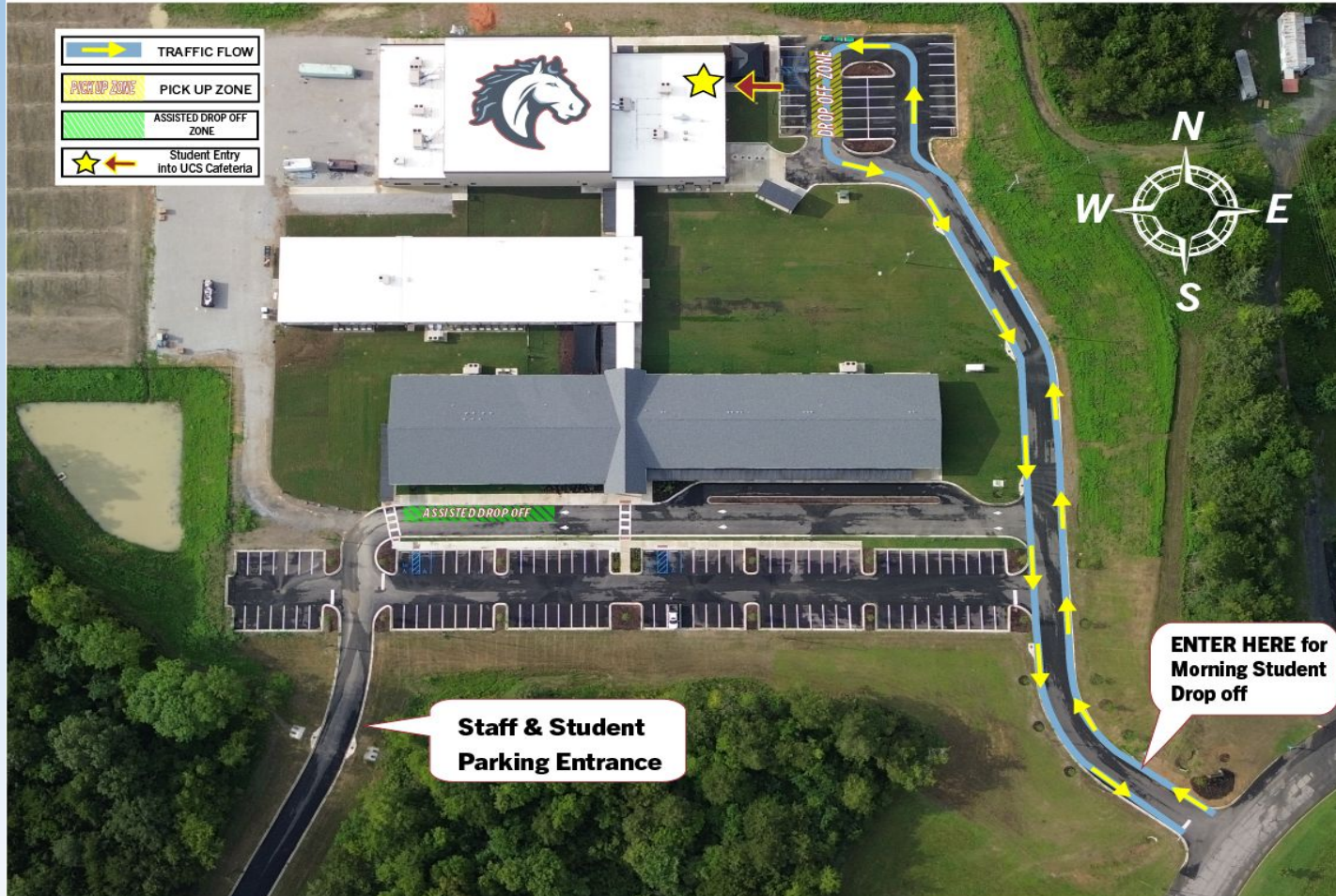
Homeroom

UCS Campus

2023-2024

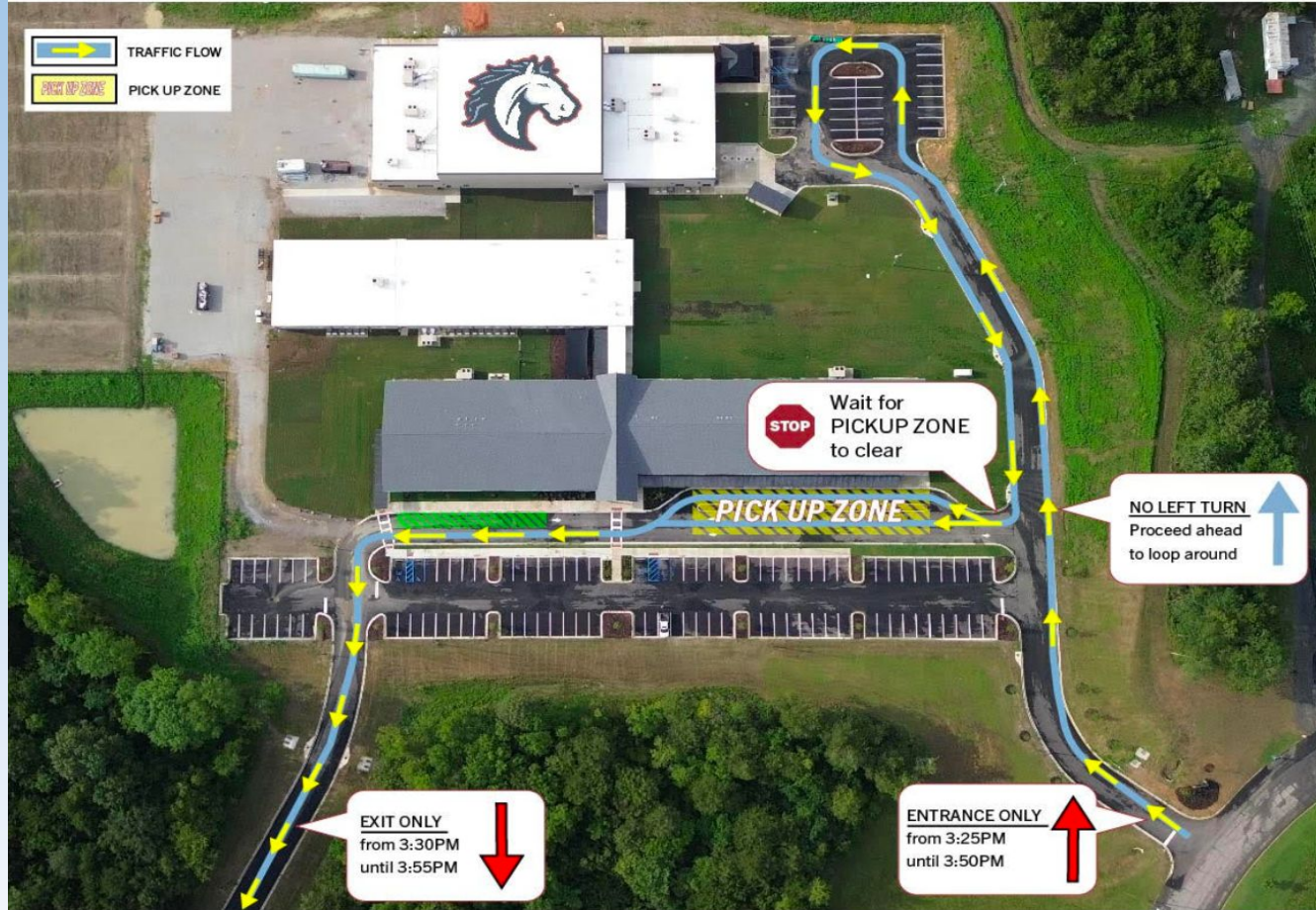


Morning Drop-Off Procedures - UCS New Campus



**Carline -
UCS
Campus
(Arrival)**

Afternoon Pick-up Procedures - UCS New Campus



**Carline - UCS
Campus
(Dismissal)**

Student Drivers

- Students who wish to drive their personal vehicle and park on campus must complete a “Student Driver Application Form”
- Students whose applications are accepted will receive parking privileges and will be notified of next steps via UCS email addresses.
- Students need to park in allotted student parking, in front of the building.
- All student drivers, and their passengers must enter through the main lobby doors, and proceed to the cafeteria (if before 7:35 AM)



Student Parking (2023-2024)



**ALL STUDENTS MUST
DEPART UCS CAMPUS IN A
VEHICLE...NO WALKERS**



Meals - UCS Campus

- 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 - UCS Campus

- 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.



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.



Electronic Devices

- Cell phones and other mobile electronic devices are permitted for student use at UCS only before the school day begins (7:55AM - UCS Campus), and after dismissal (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.
- Students with approved medical needs for electronic devices for monitoring will be permitted to access their devices, only for monitoring purposes.

School Fees

- School fees will be assigned and available for payment in LINQ Connect/Titan on August 28th
- Setup your account online to make payments for fees or extra meal items: <https://linqconnect.com/>
- Complete a meal application in LINQ Connect/Titan to see if your student(s) qualify for waived or reduced school fees

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.

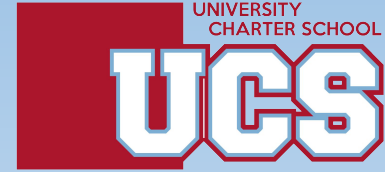
SECONDARY (GRADES 9-12)

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.

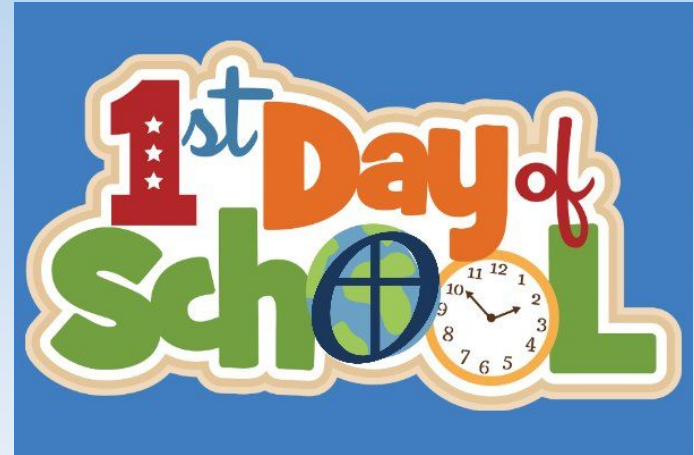
SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT INFRACTIONS IN A YEAR RESULTING IN A SUSPENSION. Students in grades 9-12 who have been suspended from school will have 2 days from the last day of the suspension to turn in assignments to their teachers for a maximum competency based grade of 1.5. Major examinations will be allowed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



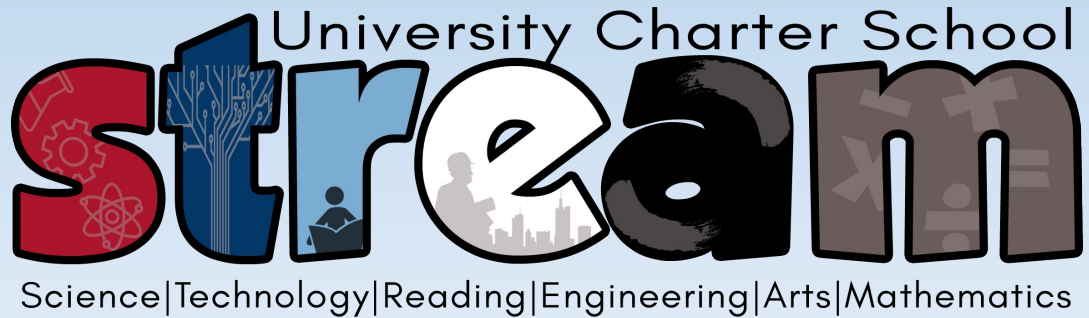
First Day of School Reminders



- 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



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.



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



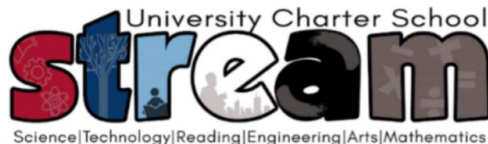
2023-2024 After School STREAM Program

Expanding Learning Possibilities

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

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

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



Director: Christopher Dunn
Cdunn@universitycharterschool.org

tuscaloosa's
ONE
place
• a family resource center •

Scan Here to Register!



<https://forms.gle/8Q8prR9bsdZrTBFg7>

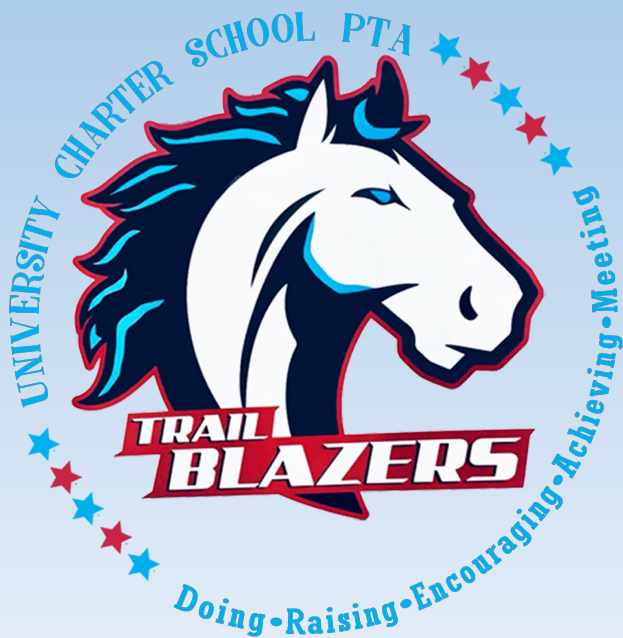




Courtney Vick
UCS PTA President

UCS Parent Involvement Opportunities





PTA Dates to Remember

Aug 09

Back to School

Sept 05 - 19

Charleston Wrap Fundraiser

Sept 14

PTA Meeting and Open House | 5:30 p.m.

Sept 15

Blue Jean Friday for PTA Members

Oct 17

Fall Festival | 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. | Location TBD

Nov 30

PTA Meeting and Cookies and Milk with Santa | 5:30 p.m.

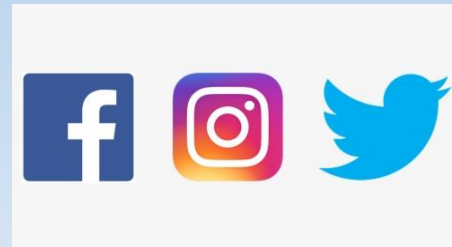


UCS Communications

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



Student Schedules

- If your student did not log into Powerschool to see who their homeroom teacher is, please see Mrs. May tonight for this information
- Homeroom teachers will have student schedules and Powerschool login information.
- Homeroom teachers will also have “Change of Course” forms.
- Mrs. May is available for Dual-Enrollment information



Here we go...

4th - 6th Grade Families: Head to your classrooms first, then vendors

7th - 12th Grade Families: Visit the vendor tables, then classrooms

ROOTED in PLACE
BUILD
for the
FUTURE

a capital campaign for



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*



(\$1,000 per month)

*Innovators
Circle*



(\$500 per month)

*Founders
Club*



(\$250 per month)

*Blazer
League*



(\$100 per month)

*Community
Builder*



(\$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!