

2025-2026 CALENDAR



UWHARRIE
CHARTER ACADEMY

Mission

Uwharrie Charter Academy will exist to provide a truly relevant and rigorous pathway to career and college readiness by establishing relationships with students, families, and community partners.

Vision

Uwharrie Charter Academy will graduate students who understand the importance of critical thinking, problem solving, responsible citizenship, and clear communication so that they are prepared for the world of work and/or higher education. Administrators and teachers lead with a focus on Relationships, Rigor, and Relevance.

2025-2026 Handbooks:

Parent Handbook



Athletic Handbook



Dear Eagle Students, Families, and Staff,

Welcome back to a new school year in the Eagle Nation! As we begin this exciting chapter together, I'm proud to share our districtwide theme for the year: **"Every Piece Matters."** Just like the intricate pieces of a puzzle, each student, staff member, and family plays a vital role in building a strong, connected, and successful school community.

At Uwharrie Charter Academy, we know that greatness doesn't come from one piece alone—it comes from the way we come together. Every classroom conversation, every act of kindness, every challenge overcome—they all contribute to the bigger picture of who we are. And as Eagles, we rise higher when we lift each other up.

Over the summer, our teams have been hard at work preparing for the year ahead. From enhancing our academic programs to creating safe and welcoming spaces, our commitment remains clear: to make sure every piece of our district is supported, valued, and empowered to thrive.

This year, I encourage all of us—students, educators, families, and staff—to embrace this theme. Let's celebrate our individual strengths while remembering that we're strongest when we fly together.

Thank you for your continued support, energy, and enthusiasm. I can't wait to see the amazing things we'll build this year—together.



Kindest Regards,

Dr. Sharon S. Castelli,
Superintendent

AUGUST/AGOSTO 2025

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					1	2
3	4 Newcomers Orientation <i>National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day</i>	5 Staff Returns	6 MS/HS Open House	7 ES Open House	8 Convocation	9
10	11 First Day for Students	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 <i>National Trail Mix Day</i>						

Title I

Title I is a federally funded program that provides financial assistance to schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families. These funds help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards, regardless of economic background.

What This Means for Your School:

Uwharrie Charter Academy, qualifies as a Title I school and receives Title I funding to support student achievement.

Scan a QR Code below for more information about Title I, available resources, your rights as a parent, and how we can work together for student success.



Fall Sports

Fall High School:

- Volleyball
- Men's Soccer
- Women's Tennis
- Cheer
- Cross Country



Fall Middle School:

- Football
- Women's Softball
- Cheer
- Rec Leagues
- Football



English



Español



SEPTEMBER/SEPTIEMBRE 2025

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	1 No School <i>Labor Day</i>	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Grandparents Day</i>	8 ES Chocolate Sale Kickoff	9	10	11 <i>Remembrance Day</i>	12	13
14	15	16	17 <i>Constitution Day</i>	18 Virtual Day - Students Parent/Teacher Conference	19 Service Day/ MS FLEX Day	20
21 <i>First Day of Autumn</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 <i>National Coffee Day</i>	30				

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Scan for form:



See Something, Say Something!

Please use this form to anonymously report anything you have seen at UCA that administration needs to address. Your responses are only seen by Mr. Wheat who will forward them to the appropriate school principal. You do not have to include your name.



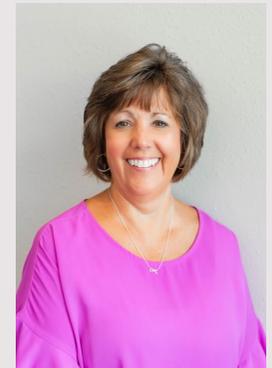
Join the UCA PTO!

Joining the PTO empowers you to enrich learning, support educators, and strengthen the UCA community. It's a meaningful way to connect with the school and help ensure your child—and all students—thrive.

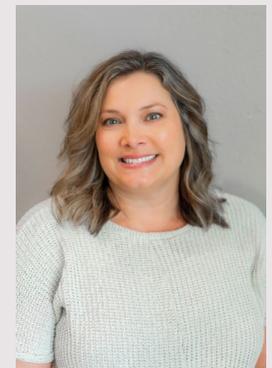
Principal Highlight



High School Principal
Whitney Smith



Middle School Principal
Kristy Priest



Elementary School Principal
Lauren O'Brien

OCTOBER/OCTUBRE 2025

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		<i>National Principals Month Bullying Prevention Month ADHD Awareness Month Down's Syndrome Awareness Month</i>	1 <i>School Custodian Day</i>	2	3	4
5 <i>World Teachers Day</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>MS FLEX Day High School AG Day</i>	10 <i>Virtual Day - Students/Staff</i>	11
12	13 <i>No School Fall Break</i>	14 <i>No School Fall Break</i>	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 <i>National Apple Day</i>	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 <i>Halloween</i>	

Winter Sports Highlight

Winter High School

Wrestling



Men's Basketball



Cheer



Women's Basketball



Winter Middle School

- Cheer
- Men's Basketball
- Women's Basketball
- Wrestling

Recreational Leagues

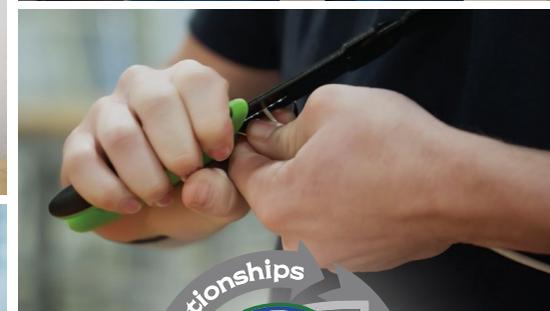
- Basketball

Sports Achievements

High School Wrestling
3 Time State Champions

Career Academy Partnership

The UCA Career Academy serves students in grades 9-12 by providing pathways to certification and relevant work experience in the areas of construction trades, culinary arts, health sciences, 3D modeling and game design, welding, automotive technologies, agriculture, and other STEAM based occupations.



NOVEMBER/NOVIEMBRE 2025

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						1
2 <i>Daylight Savings</i>	3	4	5 <i>National Donut Day</i>	6	7	8 <i>STEM Day</i>
9	10	11 No School HS Cultural Night <i>Veterans Day</i>	12	13 <i>World Kindness Day</i>	14	15
16	17	18	19 <i>Education Support Professionals Day</i>	20	21 <i>Substitute Educators Day</i>	22
23	24	25	26 Virtual Day - Students/Staff	27 No School <i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	28 No School <i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	29
30						



**UWHARRIE
CHARTER ACADEMY**

DECEMBER/DICIEMBRE 2025

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	1	2	3	4 High School Winter Concert National Cookie Day	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 HS DECEMBER FEST	13
14	15 Hanukkah - First Day	16	17 MS STEAM Night	18	19	20
21 First Day of Winter	22 No School First Day of Winter Break	23 No School	24 No School Christmas Eve	25 No School Christmas Day	26 No School Kwanzaa	27
28	29 No School	30 No School	31 No School New Year's Eve			

UCA Board of Directors

Uwharrie Charter Academy is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of a diverse group of community leaders.

The Board of Directors is responsible for a strategic plan to guide the mission, growth, and development of the school including excellence in academic performance, fiscal responsibility, managed growth, and clear leadership.

For more information
scan this QR code:



Meet Our Board



Becca Mead
Chairperson



Regina Rush
Treasurer



Chelsey Butler



Valery Dambreville



Paige Fish



Meredith Arbaiza



Maria Hayes



Elisha Savchak-Trogdon



Ryan Terry



Dr. Jonathan Thill



Jennifer Mabe



Anthony Cugino

JANUARY/ENERO 2026

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			School Board Recognition Month	1 No School New Year's Day	2 No School Last Day of Winter Break	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day	10
11	12	13	14	15 National Bagel Day	16	17
18	19 No School Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20	21	22	23 National Pie Day	24
25	26	27	28	29 National Puzzle Day	30	31 National Hot Chocolate Day





Virtual Academy

- **Open to NC students in grades 6–12** — completely free for North Carolina residents
- **Follows the UCA academic calendar** — including holiday and summer breaks
- **Fully virtual program** — with the option to request select on-campus classes
 - High schoolers can request Career Academy courses
 - Middle schoolers can request STEAM classes (space permitting)
- **Access to UCA activities** — athletics, graduation, clubs, prom, and more
- **Daily schedule** — includes a Zoom check-in with a certified teacher, plus independent, self-paced work
- **Middle school curriculum** — Google Classroom with assignments from UCA teachers, based on NC standards
- **High school curriculum** — Online platforms like NCVPS and Graduation Alliance with certified teachers
- **Tutoring and extra support** — available via Zoom or in person with UCA virtual teachers

For more information scan this QR code:



Love the Bus - Celebrating Our Drivers

Each February, **Love the Bus Month** gives us a special opportunity to recognize the dedication and care of our **UCA bus drivers**—the individuals who safely transport **750 students** across approximately **156,000 miles** per year.

With a team of **16 committed drivers** operating **11 buses**, these professionals play a vital role in each student's school experience, ensuring they arrive safely and on time, every day.

Parents and students are encouraged to show appreciation through small but meaningful gestures—whether it's a simple “thank you,” a handwritten note, or another act of kindness. These thoughtful acts go a long way in showing our drivers just how much they are valued.

Let's take a moment to celebrate the everyday heroes behind the wheel.

FEBRUARY/FEBRERO 2026

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Black History Month

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*School Counselor
Appreciation Week*

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National Pizza Day

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14

Valentine's Day

15

*School Resource Officer
Appreciation Day*

16

No School

President's Day

17

*Random Acts
of Kindness Day*

18

19

20

National Muffin Day

21

22

*School Bus Driver
Appreciation Day*

23

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S.T.E.A.M.

Uwharrie Charter Academy makes science, technology, engineering/empathy/ entrepreneurship, art and mathematics (STEAM) curriculum a focus for interdisciplinary teaching.



Embedded firmly through our curriculum is an intentional emphasis on STEAM-related topics and skills based upon research that indicates a need for students to experience science, technology, engineering, empathy, entrepreneurship, art, and math in ways that mimic their uses in society and industry. Students are afforded opportunities within lab settings, project development discussions, and competitions to utilize their skills and advance their understanding in STEAM. The role of STEAM heightens engagement as students are faced with problems to solve using the content from their classrooms coupled with the rigors of finding a creative solution through science, technology, engineering, or math that are applicable.



MARCH/MARZO 2026

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Women's History Month

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Read Across America Day

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MS FLEX Day

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Virtual Day - Students

Mini-Conference

14

*Pi Day
National Potato Chip Day*

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St. Patrick's Day

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National Chip & Dip Day

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MS DC Trip - Day 1

31

MS DC Trip - Day 2



UWHARRIE
CHARTER ACADEMY

Thank you

♥ volunteers ♥

We appreciate your support!

Parents are integral to the success of our students at UCA and we encourage active parent participation, as it is an important role in your child's education. We greatly appreciate our volunteers and thank you for your interest in serving as a Volunteer for Uwharrie Charter Academy.



Spring Sports Highlight

Spring High School

- Baseball
- Softball
- Men's Tennis
- Women's Soccer
- Golf

Spring Middle School

- Volleyball
- Baseball
- Men's Soccer
- Women's Soccer

Recreational Leagues

- Indoor Soccer

Sports Achievements

High School Baseball
3 Time State Champions



APRIL/ABRIL 2026

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		<p><i>Autism Awareness Month</i> <i>Month of the Military Child</i> <i>Poetry Month</i></p>	<p>1 MS DC Trip - Day 3 <i>Paraprofessional Appreciation Day</i></p>	<p>2 MS DC Trip - Day 4</p>	<p>3 No School <i>Spring Break</i></p>	
<p>5 <i>National Assistant Principal Week</i></p>	<p>6 No School <i>Spring Break</i></p>	<p>7 No School <i>Spring Break</i></p>	<p>8 No School <i>Spring Break</i></p>	<p>9 No School <i>Spring Break</i></p>	<p>10 No School <i>Spring Break</i></p>	
<p>12 <i>National Grilled Cheese Day</i></p>			<p>15 <i>National Banana Day</i></p>			
<p>19</p>	<p>20 <i>National School Volunteer Week</i></p>		<p>22 <i>Administrative Professionals Day</i> <i>Earth Day</i></p>			<p>25 High School Prom - Pinewood</p>
<p>26 <i>National Pretzel Day</i></p>			<p>29 Art Showcase Night</p>	<p>30</p>		



MAY 4–8, 2026

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK



**Join us as we celebrate the
incredible teachers of Uwharrie Charter Academy!**
This special week is dedicated to recognizing their
hard work, passion, and lasting impact on our students.
Let's show our gratitude and support for the educators
who make a difference every day — because at UCA,
teachers are the heart of our success!

Thank You Teachers! 

MAY/MAYO 2026

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					1 <i>School Principal's Day</i>	2
3 <i>Teacher Appreciation Week</i>	4 <i>May The Fourth Be With You</i>	5 <i>Cinco de Mayo</i>	6 <i>School Nurse Day</i>	7	8	9
10 <i>Mother's Day</i>	11	12	13 <i>National Apple Pie Day</i>	14 High School Spring Concert	15	16
17	18 <i>Speech Pathologist Day</i>	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 No School <i>Memorial Day</i>	26	27	28	29 Last Day for Students Graduation Greensboro Complex Field House 6PM	30
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Congratulations Class of 2026!



JUNE/JUNIO 2026

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	1 <i>Teacher Workday</i>	2	3	4 <i>National Cheese Day</i>	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Have a Great Summer!

Contact Information

Dr. Sharon S. Castelli — *Superintendent* — sharon_castelli@uwharriecharter.org

Dr. Chris Wheat — *Deputy Superintendent* — chris_wheat@uwharriecharter.org

Ms. Beth Kearns — *Assistant Superintendent* — beth_kearns@uwharriecharter.org

Mr. Ryan Nelson — *Chief Finance Officer* — ryan_nelson@uwharriecharter.org

Mr. Rick DeLaunay — *Chief Technology Officer* — rick_delaunay@uwharriecharter.org

Ms. Denise Schoenberger — *Student Information Specialist* — denise_schenberger@uwharriecharter.org

Ms. Lauren O'Brien — *Elementary School Principal* — lauren_obrien@uwharriecharter.org

Ms. Kristy Priest — *Middle School Principal* — kristy_preist@uwharriecharter.org

Dr. Whitney Smith — *High School Principal* — whitney_smith@uwharriecharter.org

Ms. Rebecca Harris — *Virtual Academy Principal, Director of Teaching & Learning* — rebecca_harris@uwharriecharter.org

Mr. James Green — *Career Academy Director* — james_green@uwharriecharter.org



JULY/JULIO 2026

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Independence Day

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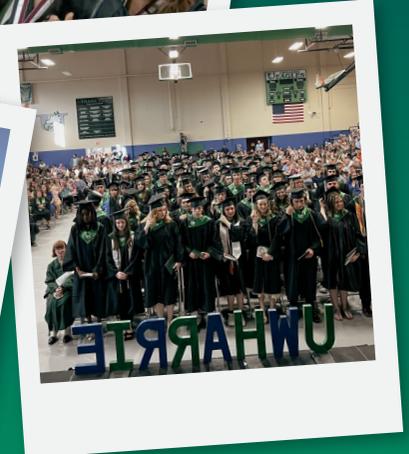
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NOTES



UWHARRIE
CHARTER ACADEMY