



# **Uwharrie Charter Academy**

## **Parent/Student Policy Handbook**

(Section 500)

**2026–2027**

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**UCA Established 2013**

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# ESSENTIALS: WHO WE ARE

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## Mission

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

## Ethics Statement

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Uwharrie Charter Academy will make decisions that are morally sound, environmentally responsible, fiscally fit, safe for the community, adaptable, and that promote the development of its students — always with integrity.

## Vision Statement

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Uwharrie Charter Academy is the model of innovative learning environments where curiosity, adaptability, and critical thinking are inspired through transformative methods and passionate educators preparing graduates for the rapidly evolving world.

## Core Beliefs

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Uwharrie Charter Academy is founded on our core beliefs of relationships, relevance, and rigor. 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 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 develop our youth into responsible, innovative citizens.

## **Charter School Information**

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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 that increase learning opportunities traditional public schools cannot offer. Charter schools are public schools funded with public money, yet they may be supplemented with private donations; admission lotteries are sometimes utilized when the number of applicants exceeds the program's capacity. Any North Carolina student is eligible to attend a charter school without paying tuition.

Benefits include smaller class sizes, more individualized instruction, high academic and service standards, innovative programs and course offerings, and unique educational philosophies.

## **Non-Discrimination Policy**

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Uwharrie Charter Academy provides equal educational opportunities — including educational programming and activities — for all students and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, age, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, nationality, or any other status protected by law. UCA adheres to applicable legal obligations under all state and federal laws, including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and its Amendments of 1997.

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# **SECTION 500 ~ PARENT/STUDENT POLICY HANDBOOK**

## **ACADEMICS AND CURRICULUM**

### **501 ~ Code of Conduct**

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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. Signing the Code of Conduct demonstrates an understanding of 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 Code of Conduct as the primary directive for all of my decisions. 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 UCA'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, including telling the truth and demonstrating good manners.
- I will respect myself and others, and I will not steal or damage others' personal property.
- I will take responsibility for my words and deeds.
- I will not take credit for work that is not my own, and I will not use generative AI technologies for any school assignments unless directed to do so by a teacher.
- I will be punctual and reliable.
- I will collaborate on academic assignments unless directed otherwise by a teacher.
- I will support others in upholding the Code of Conduct.

## **STAKEHOLDERS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

In order for Uwharrie Charter Academy to achieve success, all stakeholders must understand and accept their roles, responsibilities, and duties.

**Students will:** Support UCA's mission; Come to UCA prepared to learn with all necessary supplies; Keep all distractions to learning (phones, toys) turned off and put away, except at teachers' or administrators' discretion; Attend school with minimal absences; 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 the Code of Conduct; Have a positive attitude; Develop a strong work ethic.

**Teachers will:** Support UCA'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 their learning; Stay abreast of all new instructional methods; Demonstrate a strong work ethic.

**Parents will:** Support UCA's mission; Ensure students' preparedness for learning; Volunteer at UCA and support extracurricular activities; Understand their role in their child's success; Resolve conflicts and voice concerns with the appropriate party — teacher, principal, or central office; Promote their child's adoption of UCA's Code of Conduct by modeling strong moral values; Become aware of environmental ethics.

**Administrators will:** Support UCA'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, and 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 student service in the community; Investigate ways to make UCA more environmentally friendly; Educate the public about UCA and its mission; Communicate regularly with the Board.

**Board will:** Make decisions and policies that support UCA's mission; Meet regularly; Support and promote UCA to the public; Avoid conflicts of interest.

## **502 ~ Student Expectations**

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Students at Uwharrie Charter Academy will be taught and expected to follow a set of character traits that will prepare them to be successful after graduation. These traits are represented by the acronym PRIDE:

**P – Preparation**

**R – Respect**

**I – Integrity**

**D – Determination**

## E – Empathy

### 503 ~ Dress Code

Students at UCA should dress comfortably and appropriately. Since the focus should be on learning, students are encouraged to dress modestly and follow the standards of decency. For any items not addressed below, UCA administrators will determine if clothing is appropriate.

#### Dress Code Requirements:

- Shirts/tops must completely cover the stomach, chest, and back. No bare midriffs; shirts cannot be see-through.
- Shorts should be long enough to cover undergarments and extend below the pocket area. Mid-thigh length is preferred.
- No clothing may display sexual content or innuendo, alcohol, drugs, violence, offensive logos, or any gang-related theme.
- No undergarments should be visible.
- Hats are allowed, but hoods may not be worn.
- No bedroom shoes or slippers.
- Appropriate footwear must be worn for PE.

#### Dress Code Violations — Consequences:

1. The teacher will address the issue; if it cannot be corrected, the teacher will contact the front office.
2. Parents will be contacted to bring the student a change of clothes. If a parent cannot bring clothes, the student will be given appropriate clothing from school stock or sent to ISS for the remainder of the day.
3. Further consequences will be at the discretion of the school administrator.

### 504 ~ Grading Scale

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A standard 10-point grading scale will be used for students in grades 3–12. This

scale will not include "pluses" or "minuses." Grades from prior years will not be altered retroactively.

| Letter Grade | Numeric Range | GPA Points |
|--------------|---------------|------------|
| A            | 90–100        | 4.0        |
| B            | 80–89         | 3.0        |
| C            | 70–79         | 2.0        |
| D            | 60–69         | 1.0        |
| F            | 59 and below  | 0.0        |

**Quality Points:** Quality points are applied only to high school students. An additional 0.5 quality point is awarded for Honors courses; an additional 1.0 quality point is awarded for Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), community college, or four-year college/university courses taken in high school. Example: A student who earns an A in an AP course receives a weighted grade of 5.0. A student who earns an A in an Honors course receives a weighted grade of 4.5.

Uwharrie Charter Academy High School's calendar is divided into four nine-week periods. Final exams are administered at the end of each semester and count as 20% of the final course grade.

Students will be exempt from teacher made exams under the following criteria:

- The student has a grade of an A and no more than 3 absences and no more than 5 tardies.
- The student has a grade of a B and no more than 2 absences and no more than 5 tardies
- The student has a grade of a C and no more than 1 absence and no more than 5 tardies.

This policy includes ALL absences- excused and unexcused.

## 505 ~ Academic Requirements

In an effort to uphold the school's mission for academic rigor, Uwharrie Charter

Academy offers the North Carolina Academic Scholars Program, which allows the school to offer every available honors-level course. Teachers are expected to provide the necessary scaffolding to help students perform at their highest potential, including remediation and tutoring.

**Academic Scholars** designated by the State Board of Education as North Carolina Academic Scholars will: receive a seal of recognition on their diplomas; may receive special recognition at graduation and community events; may be considered for scholarships from local and state business/industrial community; may use this recognition in applying to post-secondary institutions (candidates identified by end of grade 11).

To qualify, students must: begin planning before entering ninth grade; complete all requirements of the NC Academic Scholars Program; achieve an overall four-year unweighted GPA of 3.500; complete all requirements for a NC high school diploma.

**Future-Ready Core Course of Study (Grades 9–12) — students must earn:**

| Credits | Subject Area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4       | English I, II, III, IV                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 4       | Mathematics (must include Math I, Math II, Math III, and a 4th math aligned with student's goals)                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3       | Science (Physical Science or Chemistry, Biology, and an Earth/Environmental Science course)                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 4       | Social Studies (World History; Civics/Economics; American History or AP U.S. History; and one additional Social Studies course including Financial Literacy)                                                                                                             |
| 1       | Health and Physical Education                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 6       | Elective credits: 2 required from any combination of Career and Technical Education (CTE), Arts Education, or World Languages; 1 Computer Science course; 4 elective credits strongly recommended from one concentration area (Arts Education or any other subject area) |
| 22      | <b>Total Credits</b> (plus any local requirements)                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

**506 ~ Daily Schedule – High School**

| Period | Monday–Thursday | Friday |
|--------|-----------------|--------|
|--------|-----------------|--------|

|            |             |             |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1st Period | 9:00–10:25  | 9:00–9:53   |
| 2nd Period | 10:30–11:55 | 9:58–10:51  |
| 3rd Period | 12:00–1:45* | 10:56–11:48 |
| 4th Period | 1:50–3:15   | 11:53–12:45 |

\*Includes rotating lunches: 1st Lunch 11:55–12:20 | 2nd Lunch 12:45–1:10 | 3rd Lunch 1:20–1:45

## 507 ~ Daily Schedule – Middle School

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*The current Middle School daily schedule is posted on the UCA website at [uwharriecharter.org](http://uwharriecharter.org) and at the school office. Please contact the Middle School office for details.*

## 508 ~ State Testing

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All UCA students in grades 3–12 will take required North Carolina state tests.

- **3rd Grade:** Reading BOG (11th–15th day of school), Reading EOG, Math EOG
- **4th Grade:** Reading EOG, Math EOG
- **5th Grade:** Reading EOG, Math EOG, Science EOG
- **6th & 7th Grade:** Reading EOG, Math EOG
- **8th Grade:** Reading EOG, Math EOG, Science EOG
- **9th–12th Grade:** Math I EOC, Biology EOC, English II EOC, Math III, Pre-ACT, ACT, EXTEND1 (EOC scores count as 20% of final grade)
- **ESL Students Only (Grades K–12):** ACCESS

**Athletic Eligibility:** In accordance with the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, any UCA high school student wishing to participate in school sports must pass a minimum load of three courses the semester prior to the sport.

## 509 ~ Promotion and Retention

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All students are expected to master grade-level material each year. Teachers at Uwharrie Charter Academy are responsible for assessing each student throughout the school year. If a teacher has a concern about a student's academic progress or behavior, the concern will be brought to the MTSS Team (Multi-Tiered System of Support). The district MTSS Team is comprised of the Superintendent, School Counselor, MTSS Director, Exceptional Children's Director, and grade-level principal. Any student being considered for retention must have already been referred to both the School MTSS Team. Pursuant to state law, third graders who fail to achieve reading proficiency may not be promoted unless a statutory exception applies.

**Elementary School retention criteria:** Teacher must provide compelling, verifiable evidence of lack of conceptual understanding. Factors include: previous retentions; level of text at which student is independently successful; observations; checklists; student portfolios; classroom assessments; current grades; attendance.

| Grade Level  | Threshold for Concern / Retention Consideration                                |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kindergarten | mClass Composite 420 or below (Progress Monitoring) / 405 or below (Retention) |
| 1st Grade    | mClass Composite 440 or below (Progress Monitoring / Retention)                |
| 2nd Grade    | mClass Composite 438 or below (Progress Monitoring / Retention)                |
| 3rd Grade    | Lexile below 725 (Progress Monitoring / Retention)                             |
| 4th Grade    | Lexile below 840 (Progress Monitoring / Retention)                             |
| 5th Grade    | Lexile below 985 (Progress Monitoring / Retention)                             |

**Middle School:** Students must pass 2 out of 4 Core classes while meeting NCDPI attendance requirements.

### High School Promotion Requirements:

- 9th to 10th grade: 6 credits
- 10th to 11th grade: 13 credits
- 11th to 12th grade: 20 credits
- Graduation: 22 credits

## **510 ~ Exceptional Children**

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The mission of Uwharrie Charter Academy is to ensure that children and youth with disabilities develop educationally, socially, emotionally, and vocationally through the provision of a free, appropriate education and related services in the least restrictive environment. Through the IEP process, UCA offers a free appropriate public education to each student with special needs. This includes the Occupational Course of Study (OCS) for high school students if determined appropriate by the student's IEP Team. Inclusion, resource, and functional skills programs are offered in grades K–12.

## **511 ~ The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)**

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The PPRA affords parents certain rights concerning student privacy, parental access to information, and administration of physical examinations to minors. Parents have the right to: consent before students submit to certain U.S. Department of Education-funded surveys concerning protected areas; receive notice and opt out of other protected surveys, non-emergency invasive physical exams, activities involving collection/disclosure of personal information for marketing; inspect surveys, data collection instruments, and instructional materials before use. Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5920.

## **512 ~ Right to Know Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

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Parents have the right to know the professional qualifications of UCA's classroom teachers, including: whether the State has licensed the teacher for the grades and subjects taught; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees; whether paraprofessionals provide services; the School Improvement Plan; professional development opportunities; parent involvement opportunities; Title I Parent Involvement Plan; School Report Card.

## **513 ~ Child Find**

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UCA participates in Project Child Find to locate and identify children and youth ages

birth through 21 with disabilities who need special education and related services. UCA provides: a complete evaluation and, if appropriate, eligibility determination in one of the 14 disabling conditions; an Individualized Education Program; referrals to other agencies when needed. Students are identified through MTSS and parent/teacher referrals.

### **514 ~ Student Files (FERPA)**

UCA adheres to all federal laws relating to student files. Under FERPA (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99), parents and eligible students have the right to inspect and review student education records, request corrections to inaccurate or misleading records, and have a formal hearing if corrections are denied. UCA must have written permission to release information from a student's education record, with exceptions for: school officials with legitimate educational interest; schools to which a student is transferring; specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes; parties in connection with financial aid; accrediting organizations; judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas; appropriate officials in health and safety emergencies; state and local authorities within a juvenile justice system.

### **515 ~ Student Letters of Recommendation**

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Students requesting a letter of recommendation must request them a minimum of two weeks prior to the date needed. Staff are not required to write the letter, but if they agree to do so, they will be expected to furnish the letter within two weeks. A copy of the letter will be kept on file in the School Counselor's office.

### **516 ~ Student Transcripts**

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Official transcripts may be requested in person at the main office (72 hours advance notice required) or through the UCA website. Electronic transcripts are provided free of charge. Hard copies furnished by the school are provided for a fee. Official transcripts for scholarship applications and final verification to colleges are free and will not count towards the first three transcript requests.

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## 517 ~ Admissions and Enrollment Policy

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UCA is a nonprofit, tuition-free charter school authorized by the state of North Carolina, open to all students who would otherwise qualify for enrollment in NC Public Schools. UCA will not discriminate against any student on the basis of ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability. Open enrollment begins in January and ends in April. The lottery occurs in February if needed, with the date, time, and location published on the school's website ([uwharriecharter.org](http://uwharriecharter.org)).

### Enrollment Priority (in order):

1. Children of full-time employees and board members (may not exceed 15% of total school population)
2. Siblings of current students (as determined by Charter School law G.S. 115C-218.45. The term "siblings" includes any of the following who reside in the same household: half siblings, stepsiblings, and children residing in a family foster home. \*Any student who withdraws or was excluded for any reason will forfeit their sibling priority status.
3. Students who were enrolled at UCA within the past two years but left for academic study abroad, an academic program at another school, competitive admission residential program, or due to vocational opportunities of the parents.

**Lottery Procedures:** Prior to the general lottery, a sibling lottery is held if more siblings apply than spots are available. Then the general lottery begins with all applications from the open enrollment period. Students are placed in their respective grades if spots remain; otherwise placed on the grade-level waitlist. The school posts lottery results on the website within 5 business days.

### Enrollment Deadlines:

- Students selected through the lottery will have five (5) calendar days from the date of notification to claim their enrollment slot. Upon notification of acceptance, families must accept or decline the offer within five (5) calendar days. All required enrollment documentation must be submitted within ten (10) calendar days of acceptance.
- Failure to claim the enrollment slot within the five (5) day period will result in

forfeiture of the student's position. The school will then offer the available slot to the next eligible student on the waitlist.

- Students placed on the waitlist will receive periodic email notifications regarding their status as movement occurs. If a waitlisted student is offered enrollment, the same timelines will apply: five (5) calendar days to claim the slot and ten (10) calendar days to submit all required enrollment documentation.

## **UCA's Right to Refuse Enrollment**

UCA reserves the right to refuse to enroll any student currently under a term of expulsion, suspension or conviction by his or her school until that term is over.

UCA reserves the right to refuse to enroll a student if a parent willingly and knowingly provided incorrect information on the enrollment application.

## **Handling of Errors**

### **UCA Errors**

If any mistake is made by UCA in administering the lottery (or if any discrepancy occurs in the lottery process as a result of the actions of UCA that is not corrected during the lottery), such mistake or discrepancy will not invalidate the lottery and the lottery results will stand with respect to all applicants who were admitted at the appropriate grade level through the lottery. The mistake or discrepancy will be corrected at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors (after recognition of the mistake). If a mistake is made by an applicant resulting in the applicant not being placed at the appropriate grade level in the lottery, the applicant will not be admitted and may submit a corrected application, which will be subject to the process followed for students applying after the enrollment period.

If too many students were included in the lottery at a grade level or if a student name was duplicated in the lottery at a grade level, the student or students who should not have been included (or the duplicate with the lower priority placement number, as applicable) will be removed, and any applicants with placement numbers behind the applicants who were removed will be advanced in order on the list.

If an applicant is left out of the lottery by mistake, the number of students who were included in the lottery will be determined. For each applicant not included by mistake, a random application number from the full pool of applicants received will be assigned, and the applicant will be assigned that number as his or her lottery placement number and appropriately placed as if they were pulled at the same time as the randomly assigned placement number. Any applicants with placement numbers on the waitlist behind the applicants who were left off by mistake will be moved down in order on the list. As noted above, lottery results will stand with respect to all applicants who were admitted at the appropriate grade level through the lottery.

### **Parent Errors**

If a student name is duplicated in the lottery and UCA administration determines that the student was intentionally registered more than one time, the student will be assigned the lowest priority placement number assigned to the student in the lottery.

If an applicant has been incorrectly placed in a grade because a parent wishes to have their student retained, the applicant will not be admitted and may submit a

corrected application, which will be subject to the process followed for students

applying after the enrollment period.

### **517.1 ~ Proof of Residency**

Any of the following will be required upon registering at UCA: Copy of deed or record of most recent mortgage payment; Copy of lease agreement; A utility bill dated within the past 30 days; A valid NC driver's license or NC photo ID card; A vehicle or property tax bill dated within the past one year.

### **518 ~ Withdrawal**

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If a parent would like to withdraw their child from UCA, they should fill out the online or paper Student Withdrawal Form. Parents are required to list the student's next school on the form at the time of withdrawal. If the student will be homeschooled, the state-issued homeschool identification number must be provided.

### **519 ~ Attendance/Absences**

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All students are expected to attend school on all days of the established school calendar. Regular attendance is vital to achieving high academic outcomes. Excused absences include: Illness or Injury; Quarantine; Death of an immediate family member; Medical or dental appointments (note required); Court Proceedings; Religious observance; Inclement weather; Approved educational opportunities.

Parents should email the school or send a note stating the reason within 3 days of the absence. After 10 days of excused absences (unless communicated with administration), all absences will be considered unexcused and referred to the truancy panel.

#### **Unexcused Absence Actions:**

- 3 Unexcused Absences: Written or emailed notice to parent
- 6+ Unexcused Absences: Written notice to parent by mail with copy of NC GS 115C-378. Possible referral to Child Protective Services, law enforcement, or court.

- 10+ Unexcused Absences: Parent notification and referral to CPS, UCA Truancy Panel, law enforcement, or court. Possible student retention/no credit status.

## 520 ~ Attendance/Tardies

It is very important for students to be on time to school and class. High school students who are tardy will report to the attendance office to get a note. Students who are late jeopardize their driving privileges.

### Tardy Consequences Table:

| Frequency        | Elementary Consequence                          | Middle & High School Consequence                                                             |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 Tardies        | Teacher contacts parent, documents conversation | Teacher contacts parent, documents date/contact                                              |
| 4–6 Tardies      | Teacher contacts parents, notifies data manager | Assigned afternoon or lunch detention. Failure to report = 1 day ISS.                        |
| 7+ / 10+ Tardies | Discretion of administration team               | Lunch detention and/or Friday after-school detention (1:00–4:00 pm). Admin contacts parents. |

## 520.1 ~ Truancy Panel

At UCA, attendance is an important part of student learning and school expectations. If attendance becomes a concern, the school will hold families accountable for their role in this partnership. In order to be true to our Charter and our waitlist, UCA holds the right to dismiss a student and return a student to their school of record due to truancy. We understand there may be times where circumstances are out of the control of the family.

Beginning in the 2023–2024 school year, UCA established a Truancy Panel with authority to recommend disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Conduct, including permanent exclusion from UCA.

## The Truancy Panel consists of:

- School Assistant Superintendent
- School Principal
- School Guidance Counselor / Student Support Advocate
- School Board of Director Representative

The panel meets as needed to review all students brought forward by the school. The full panel does not convene until students fail to improve after initial measures have been implemented. Each school must present a packet that includes:

- Parent contact log
- Copy of student grades
- Copy of absences
- Copies of the 3-, 6-, and 10-day notification letters
- Copy of administration or guidance counselor correspondence (emails and calls)

After the panel meets with administration and the family, the panel will issue a written decision to the family within 10 calendar days.

## 521 ~ Check Outs

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Early dismissals are only excused for medical and dental appointments or to comply with court-ordered attendance. Early dismissals are classified as tardies. Parents must sign students out through the front office. High school students who drive themselves must bring a signed parent note to be released.

High School students who drive themselves to school must bring a note signed by the parent, including a contact number for the parent, to the office before school begins to be released for appointments during the school day. A dismissal slip will be issued to the student after the parent has been contacted and the early dismissal has been verified.

At the Elementary School, the latest time a child may be picked up for early dismissal in grades K-5 is 1:45 pm due to the congestion at the elementary school location. Students K-12 must be picked up no later than these times:

Elementary M-Th by 3pm and Friday 1pm

Middle M-Th 3:30 pm and Friday 1:00 pm

High school M-Th 4:00pm and 1:00 pm on Fridays

At the Middle School, students may not be checked out of school past 2:15 Monday - Thursday or past 11:45 on Fridays.

UCA schools reserve the right to establish a cutoff time for early dismissal notification. Except in emergencies, parents should notify the school for early dismissal as early as possible to avoid school distractions. Please consult newsletters and emails from your school for these times and policies.

## **522 ~ After-School Care**

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UCA offers an after-school care program until 5:30 pm. Students not picked up from the Elementary School by 3:00 pm will be sent to after-school care for a fee of \$15 per occurrence. Repeat offenders will be charged the full rate after the third occurrence.

## **523 ~ Visitors**

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Parents and guests are welcome but must schedule their visit in advance by calling the school office. All visitors must sign in at the front office and wear a visitor badge while on campus. UCA may suspend this policy for health and safety reasons at any time.

## **524 ~ Volunteers**

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Volunteers are broken into two categories: Level 1 Volunteers work alongside staff without unsupervised access; Level 2 Volunteers can have unsupervised access and must complete a Criminal History Background Check. All volunteers must have a background check on file (dated within 2 years), sign the confidentiality agreement, and be approved by the Superintendent. Volunteers must report to the office and sign in. Volunteers are prohibited from disciplining students or

administering medications.

## **525 ~ Inclement Weather/School Closings**

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Parents and staff will be notified of delays or closings through the All Call System, email, and the UCA website. Parents are encouraged to make sure their contact information is current in Infinite Campus.

## **526 ~ Transportation (Driving)**

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Students who drive to school must register their vehicle and obtain a parking pass. Driving privileges may be revoked for violations, excessive absences, or tardies. Students may only drive themselves and are not permitted to transport other students unless documented parental permission is on file.

## **527 ~ Transportation (Bus)**

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Students riding school buses must follow all bus rules and assigned seating. The bus is an extension of school grounds. Misconduct may result in loss of bus riding privileges.

## **528 ~ Parking Lot Liability**

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UCA is not responsible for any damage, theft, or personal injury that occurs in the parking lot. Students and parents park at their own risk.

## **529 ~ Class Interruptions**

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Non-emergency interruptions are not permitted. Forgotten items should be left in the front office for student pick-up during non-instructional time.

## **530 ~ Make-Up Work for Absences**

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Students are responsible for making up all missed work. Students will be given one day for each day absent to make up work, not to exceed five days. Work not made up within the allotted time may result in a zero.

### **531 ~ Partial Attendance for Participation**

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Students must be present for at least half of the school day to participate in any extracurricular, athletic, or school-sponsored activity that same day. For grades K-12, students must arrive before or leave for early dismissal by 11:30 AM to be present for half of the school day. *\*Note: Since Fridays at UCA are half days, students who provide a doctor or dental note for an appointment on that day remain eligible to attend school-sponsored functions.*

### **532 ~ Arrival and Dismissal Procedures**

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Please refer to the school's website and updates from school administrators for arrival and dismissal times and procedures.

### **533 ~ Third-Party Transportation Providers**

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UCA does not condone students leaving campus in third-party ridesharing services (Uber/Lyft). Parents wishing to use such services must provide written authorization. UCA is not responsible for student safety in these services.

### **534 ~ School Communication**

Communication occurs through the All Call System, emails, Infinite Campus, newsletters, and the website. Staff will return emails/calls within 48 business hours.

### **535 ~ School Directory**

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UCA may disclose "directory" information (name, address, phone, etc.) without consent. Parents wishing to opt out must notify the school in writing within the first 10 days of the school year.

### **536 ~ Student Events, Fees, and Field Trip Fees**

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Fees support technology and curriculum. Students with outstanding fees may not attend school-sponsored events (clubs, trips, dances, games) or participate in graduation ceremonies.

### **537 ~ Eligibility for Field Trips and Overnight Trips**

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Students on field trips are subject to search. Personal devices are generally

prohibited on overnight trips. Eligibility for overnight trips requires good academic standing (no failing grades) and meeting behavior requirements (no more than 10 detentions or 3 ISS days).

### **538 ~ Snack and Lunch Guidelines**

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UCA uses an online payment portal for meals. Food deliveries to students (DoorDash, etc.) are not permitted. Parents may drop off lunch for their own child only at the front office.

### **539 ~ Personal Items**

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UCA is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal items. Devices brought to school are subject to search if there is reasonable suspicion of a policy violation.

### **540 ~ Destruction of Property**

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Students who damage school or personal property will be subject to discipline and restitution. Restitution may be required before a student may return to school.

### **541 ~ Student Deliveries**

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The school will not interrupt class to deliver forgotten items. Non-emergency deliveries (food, flowers, etc.) will not be accepted.

### **542 ~ Emergency Data**

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Parents must keep contact information current in Infinite Campus to ensure the school can reach them in an emergency.

### **543 ~ Parent Concerns**

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Concerns should be addressed first with the teacher, then the Principal, then the Superintendent. Please consult the UCA website for contact information.

### **544 ~ Classrooms and Desks**

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School-provided storage (desks, lockers) is UCA property and subject to search at any time without cause or consent.

## **545 ~ Parent/Student Grievance Procedures**

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This policy is in place to respond to parent/student grievances. It is expected that any parent/student with an issue should try to resolve the issue by using open communication with the teacher. This means that if a parent or student disagrees with any policy or procedure within the classroom, the first level of grievance is their student's Teacher. If the student/parent is not satisfied with the teacher's response, they should then set a meeting with the grade-level Principal. At that meeting, the teacher, student, grade-level Principal and parent must be present and the issue at hand will be fully discussed. If the parent or student wishes to pursue the matter further, they may then meet with the Superintendent. Similarly, if a parent/student disagrees or has an issue with a policy or procedure at the school, the parent/student should set a meeting with the Superintendent. If the parent/student feels that their issue is still a concern after meeting with the Superintendent and the issue meets the definition of a grievance set forth below, the parent/student may initiate the grievance procedures as described below. Many issues that a parent/student has with the classroom, teacher or school will not rise to the level of a grievance and appropriate resolution will be found with the teacher and/or grade-level Principal.

### **Definition of a Grievance**

A grievance is defined as a formal written complaint by a parent/student stating that a specific action has violated a UCA policy or law/regulation. A grievance does not include a complaint of sexual harassment, discrimination or bullying, which shall be handled pursuant to those policy provision and consistent with state or federal laws, including Title IX. A grievance also does not include any actions of individual teachers or administrators that pertain to the day to day operations of UCA that do not violate an express UCA policy or law. In addition, a grievance does not include any discipline that is governed by UCA's discipline policy or procedure or falls within North Carolina's law governing student discipline.

### **Time Limits**

A grievance will only be heard if the complaint has been filed within fifteen days of the meeting with the Superintendent. The fifteen-day deadline may be extended at the discretion of the Superintendent.

## The Grievance Process

Step 1: If the parties are not satisfied with the decision of the Superintendent, and the grievance meets the definition set forth above, the parent/student must submit a letter in writing stating the UCA policy, board policy or law/regulation that was violated including details of the actions and the place, date and time of the violation. The parent/student should make all efforts to include any details about the event that may be helpful in the decision-making process. The written letter should be submitted to the Superintendent and to the Chair of the Board of Directors. If the Superintendent is implicated in the grievance, the grievance should only be submitted to the Chair of the Board of Directors.

Step 2: The Board will review the facts and notify the parties in writing (email accepted) if further action is necessary. If the Board considers the matter should be heard, the parties will be called to meet with the Board. After the hearing, any decision of the Board will be communicated to the Superintendent and the parent/student who filed the grievance within five school days. The Board's decision concerning the grievance is final.

## TECHNOLOGY USE

### 546 ~ Electronic Devices

Devices used in violation of policy may be confiscated and returned only to parents. Devices are subject to search based on reasonable suspicion.

### 547 ~ Telephone and Cell Phone Usage

**Elementary School:** Cell phones are prohibited at the elementary school level. Students who bring a phone to school must keep it powered off and in their backpack at all times. Consequences for violations:

- **1st offense:** Phone is confiscated and returned to a parent at the end of the

school day.

- **2nd offense:** Phone is confiscated and a parent must come to school to retrieve it.
- **3rd offense:** Phone is confiscated and the student is assigned to ISS.

**Middle and High School:** During all instructional periods, all cell phones must be secured in a designated lockbox in the classroom. High school students may use personal devices during lunch periods and class transitions only. Smart watches, earbuds, and personal audio devices follow the same policy. Consequences for violations:

- **1st offense:** Teacher confiscates the phone and submits it to the front office.
- **2nd offense:** Phone is held in the office and a parent must come to retrieve it.
- **3rd offense:** Phone is confiscated and the student is assigned to ISS.

## **548 ~ Technology Use Policy**

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All school technology and network activity is monitored (e.g., GoGuardian). Prohibited uses include inappropriate websites, cyberbullying, hacking, and threatening communications.

## **549 ~ Internet Acceptable Use Policy**

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UCA complies with CIPA. Internet access is filtered for educational use. BYOD program requires specific OS and monitoring software. Cyberbullying is strictly prohibited.

## **550 ~ Social Media Policy**

Students may not use social media to disparage staff/students or post photos taken on school grounds without permission.

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# **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

## **551 ~ Student Expectations**

Students are expected to adhere to UCA's Code of Conduct at all times. The discipline framework is educational, restorative, and fair.

Consequences for violating the policies in this handbook, teacher/team standards, or rules may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Parental involvement
- Loss of privileges and/or restitution
- Behavior improvement agreements (contracts)
- Individual or small group sessions with an administrator
- Detention during lunch or before/after school
- Exclusion from extracurricular activities
- Suspension or exclusion.

UCA is not required to engage in progressive discipline. Some offenses are so serious they warrant more severe consequences including, but not limited to, immediate suspension and/or recommendation for longer-term consequences.

This Student Code of Conduct is not to be seen as all-inclusive. The administration reserves the right to amend or add to these lists as unique situations arise. The administration further reserves the right to deviate from the stated disciplinary action(s) based on unique or aggravating factors.

Failure to follow the instruction of a teacher, administrator or other school official and any conduct in violation of any written rule, policy or procedure or code of UCA will result in appropriate disciplinary measures.

## 552 ~ Definitions

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**Short-Term Suspension:** Suspension from school, school activities and school grounds for a period of up to ten (10) school days.

**Long-Term Suspension:** Suspension from school, school activities and school grounds for more than ten (10) school days, but less than exclusion.

**Exclusion:** Permanent removal of the student from school, school activities and school grounds. A charter school student who has been excluded may return to his local educational agency pursuant to North Carolina law.

**Expulsion:** Permanent termination of the student-school relationship. This applies only to students 14 years of age or older whose continued presence constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or school staff.

## 553 ~ Discipline Matrix

|    | Violation                                                                                                                                                                             | Consequence                          |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1  | Classroom Disruption                                                                                                                                                                  | 1                                    |
| 2  | Inappropriate Display of Affection (PDA)                                                                                                                                              | 1                                    |
| 3  | Dress Code Violation                                                                                                                                                                  | 1                                    |
| 4  | Unauthorized absence from class or school                                                                                                                                             | 1-3                                  |
| 5  | Inappropriate, racially insensitive, derogatory slurs, or abusive language that causes disruption                                                                                     | 1-5                                  |
| 6  | Rude or disrespectful behavior toward staff or student                                                                                                                                | 1-4                                  |
| 7  | Change to possession of tobacco, electronic vaping device, or vaping paraphernalia.                                                                                                   | 2-5 Vape & paraphernalia confiscated |
| 8  | Disregard of directions from school personnel                                                                                                                                         | 2-4                                  |
| 9  | Assault on another student, fighting, or threats of violence                                                                                                                          | 2-6                                  |
| 10 | Theft (per investigation of administrator)                                                                                                                                            | 2-5                                  |
| 11 | Destruction of school property                                                                                                                                                        | 4-6 Restitution and/or exclusion     |
| 12 | Persistent violation of disciplinary code                                                                                                                                             | 4-6                                  |
| 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 | Threats towards the school or any action/behavior that compromises school safety or disrupts learning at the school level                                                             | 4-5; 6 Referral to authorities       |
| 17 | Possession of items considered to be weapons                                                                                                                                          | 3-5, 6 Referral to authorities       |

|    |                                                               |                                                                                       |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18 | Sale and /or Distribution of a controlled substance           | 6 Referral to authorities                                                             |
| 19 | Harassment (see section 573)                                  | 4-5; 6                                                                                |
| 20 | Sexual Misconduct (see section 573)                           | 4-5; 6                                                                                |
| 21 | Code of Conduct Violation                                     | Grade of zero and parent contact/conference                                           |
| 22 | Bullying or Cyberbullying (see section 573)                   | 1-5; 6                                                                                |
| 23 | Instigation of a fight or assault on another student or staff | 2-5                                                                                   |
| 24 | Truancy and Repeated Truancy                                  | Truancy Panel referral and possible Exclusion to return to student's school of record |

The above table is not an exhaustive list of offenses that are subject to disciplinary action. UCA reserves the right to impose consequences on conduct that violates the school's policies, the law, creates a disruption to the school environment, places others in danger, or impacts the safety or security of the school.

Conduct/communications that occur off campus, including interactions/posting on social media, may be subject to disciplinary action if such conduct/communication impacts UCA's operations, the safety or potential safety of others at the school, or would be a violation of UCA's Code of Conduct.

The middle and high schools have a discipline matrix that has been created based upon this handbook to address repeat offenses. Please reach out to your administrator if you would like a copy of the discipline matrix.

## 554 ~ Disciplinary Consequences

- **Level 1:** Warning, teacher intervention, ISS.
- **Level 2:** Detention, parent conference, ISS.
- **Level 3:** Office referral, 1–3 days ISS.
- **Level 4:** 3–5 days ISS, 1–3 days OSS.
- **Level 5:** 3–10 days OSS, Superintendent referral.

- **Level 6:** Long-term suspension (>10 days) or expulsion.

## **555 ~ In-School Suspension (ISS)**

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Students in ISS are separated from the general population and must complete assigned work. No extracurricular participation on ISS days.

## **556 ~ Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)**

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Students on OSS may not be on school property. OSS days count against attendance.

## **557 ~ Short-Term Suspension**

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Suspensions of 10 days or fewer require notice and an informal conference opportunity.

## **558 ~ Disciplinary Process/Due Process**

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Administration notifies students of allegations and allows a response. Short-term suspensions cannot be appealed. Long-term suspensions/exclusions require a formal hearing and may be appealed to the Board.

Upon receiving a report of a potential occurrence of any of the above violations, school administration will begin an investigation. An investigation may include interviewing witnesses, reviewing camera footage, speaking with staff members, and a search of a student, a student's locker, or a student's belongings. Refusal to permit the search will result in the assignment of consequences that are commensurate with the suspected violation. Administration will speak with the student and give the student an opportunity to deny or explain the violation.

There is no appeal of an out of school suspension that is 10 days or less.

If a student is determined to have committed a violation for which the possible consequence is exclusion or long-term suspension, the school principal will follow the procedures outlined in the section below.

### **Long-Term Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion Procedures**

Each School Principal or the Superintendent may recommend a Long-Term Suspension, and/or Exclusion, and/or participation in a Behavioral Contract.

Principals may recommend a long-term suspension; exclusion; and/or expulsion.

The Truancy Panel may recommend exclusion as set forth in 522.1 and shall follow the procedures set forth herein. Decisions as to long-term suspensions and/or exclusion shall be made by the School's Superintendent or an impartial hearing officer (appointed by the Superintendent) after appropriate written notice to the parties involved. The decision of the Director or hearing officer may be appealed to the school's Board of Directors within two (2) days of the decision. The Board will appoint a panel of three board members to hear the appeal. Appeals to the Board of Directors shall be done in writing. No new evidence shall be allowed, and the Board may or may not ask for oral argument.

If UCA's Superintendent is involved in the investigation of the disciplinary incident or the recommendation for long-term consequences or the Executive Director wishes to have a board panel hold the hearing, then any hearing that must be held shall be conducted by a panel of three board members appointed by the board chair. Decisions of the Board Panel shall be final, and there will be no further appeal to the full Board of Directors.

For expulsion, the School will follow the requirements set forth in North Carolina's General Statutes and any other applicable laws.

## **559 ~ Compliance with State and Federal Laws**

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Students with disabilities are entitled to Manifestation Determination Reviews (MDR) before suspensions exceeding 10 days.

## **560 ~ Loss of Privilege**

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Any UCA student that violates the disciplinary code may be removed from UCA recognitions and privileges, including but not limited to Junior Marshals, Beta Club, Student Government, and other entities that represent the school. The status for removal will be determined by the principal.

## **561 ~ Drug and Alcohol Policy**

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UCA is a drug- and alcohol-free environment. Possession/use results in Level 5–6 consequences and possible law enforcement involvement.

## **562 ~ Health Information**

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Students with fever (100°F+) must be picked up and remain fever-free for 24 hours before returning.

## **563 ~ Communicable Diseases**

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Students with reportable conditions (chickenpox, strep, etc.) must remain home per DHHS guidelines.

## **564 ~ Immunizations**

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Immunizations are required for kindergarten and 7th grade entry. New students have 30 days to provide records.

## **565 ~ Garrett's Law**

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North Carolina law mandates that at the beginning of every academic year, UCA shall provide parents and guardians with information about meningococcal meningitis, influenza, Human Papillomavirus (HPV), and their vaccines.

### **565.1 ~ CERVICAL CANCER, CERVICAL DYSPLASIA, HPV, AND THEIR VACCINES**

HPV can be transmitted through sexual contact. High-risk types of HPV are the primary cause of cervical dysplasia and cervical cancer. Some HPV types produce no symptoms; others lead to genital warts and cervical cancer. Dysplasia does not have warning symptoms

— early detection through regular screening is critical. Vaccines (Gardasil and Cervarix for females; Gardasil for males ages 9–26) protect against the most common cancer-causing types of HPV. Common side effects include soreness at the injection site, fever, nausea, dizziness, and headache.

### **565.2 ~ MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS**

Meningococcal meningitis is a bacterial infection of the membranes surrounding the

brain and spinal cord. Symptoms include sudden fever, severe headache, and stiff neck. The disease can be rapidly life-threatening. Vaccination requirements: one dose required entering 7th grade or by age 12; a booster dose is required entering 12th grade or by age 17 (effective August 1, 2020). If the first dose is administered on or after the 16th birthday, the booster dose is not required. A Tdap booster is also required entering 7th grade.

### **565.3 ~ INFLUENZA**

Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness. Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, and fatigue. An annual flu vaccination is recommended, particularly for young children, elderly individuals, and those with chronic health conditions.

### **566 ~ Head Lice Policy**

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Students with live lice are excluded until treated. Students with nits may remain with notification.

### **567 ~ How a Parent May Lawfully Abandon a Newborn**

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Under North Carolina law (N.C.G.S. § 7B-500), a parent may voluntarily surrender an infant less than seven days old to any responsible adult at a hospital, police station, fire station, or other approved safe location, and will not be prosecuted for child abandonment. The infant must be surrendered directly to a responsible adult and not left unattended. For assistance or more information, contact local social services or call 1-800-4-A-CHILD.

### **568 ~ Administration of Medication**

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Medication requires written physician order and parent authorization. Medications must be in original containers.

### **569 ~ Self-Administration of Medication**

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Students with chronic conditions (asthma, diabetes) may self-carry with physician/parent authorization and demonstrated competency.

### **570 ~ Food Allergies**

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Parents must inform the school of allergies. UCA cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment.

### **571 ~ Harassment, Discrimination, Bullying, and Title IX**

Harassment and bullying are strictly prohibited. Violations are investigated and disciplined.

### **572 ~ Anonymous Reporting**

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Concerns can be reported anonymously through the "See Something, Say Something" program. The link can be found on the UCA website under the "Parents and Students" tab.

### **573 ~ McKinney-Vento Act**

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Homeless youth are immediately enrolled and supported with access to services.

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## **GENERAL POLICIES**

### **574 ~ Audio and Video Recording Policy (Two-Party Consent)**

To maintain trust, privacy, and a respectful school environment, the school prohibits the audio or video recording of conversations, meetings, or interactions involving

students, staff, or families without the knowledge and explicit consent of all parties involved.

North Carolina is a one-party consent state; however, as a school community, we require two-party (all-party) consent for any recording that occurs on school grounds, during school-related events, or in connection with school business.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- In-person meetings (e.g., conferences, disciplinary meetings, IEP/504 meetings)
- Phone or virtual conversations
- Classroom interactions or school events

Any individual wishing to record must:

1. Clearly request permission in advance, and
2. Receive explicit consent from all participants prior to recording.

Unauthorized recordings may result in disciplinary action for students and staff, and may lead to restrictions on campus access for parents/visitors, in accordance with school policies.

## **575 ~ Boosters or Parent Organizations**

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A booster club or parent organization is a volunteer group of parents and other generous individuals who are devoted to supporting specific activities in schools and throughout communities.

Activities can include sports and athletics, theater, music, arts, and other programs. Usually, the club develops fundraisers and other pledge drives to earn money for their organization. They may also seek to garner fans within their community.

Please know that while these organizations work with the schools/teams/activities, they are a separate entity from the school and the school is not responsible for any issues affiliated with the organization.

## **576 ~ Posting Student Pictures**

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The School reserves the right to post pictures and images of current and former students on its website, official Facebook page or for any other School purpose. Parents who do not wish to allow Uwharrie Charter Academy to use their child's picture or image must send a letter to the Superintendent.

## **577 ~ Boy Scouts Equal Access**

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UCA provides equal access to Boy Scouts and designated youth groups.

## **578 ~ Gender Equity Policy (Title IX)**

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UCA provides equal opportunities regardless of gender.

## **579 ~ Drug and Alcohol Use**

---

UCA prohibits the use, possession, distribution, or sale of any illegal drug, controlled substance, alcohol, drug paraphernalia, or look-alike substance on school property, school buses, and at all school-sponsored events. Students found in violation will be subject to serious disciplinary action per the Discipline Matrix, which may include long-term suspension, expulsion, and referral to law enforcement.

### **579.1 ~ SMOKING OR VAPING ON CAMPUS**

Smoking and vaping — including the use of e-cigarettes, vaping devices, tobacco products, and electronic nicotine delivery systems — are strictly prohibited on all UCA property at any time. This prohibition applies to students, staff, parents, and all visitors on campus, in parking lots, and on school buses. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action per the Discipline Matrix.

## **580 ~ Weapons Ban and Threat/Violence Policy**

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### **580.1 ~ WEAPONS BAN**

UCA prohibits the possession, display, use, or threatened use of any weapon — including firearms, knives, explosive devices, and replica or look-alike weapons — on school property, school buses, and at all school-sponsored events. Any student found in possession of a weapon will be subject to a Level 6 disciplinary consequence, including immediate removal from school, possible law enforcement involvement, and a recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion. This policy is enforced in accordance with North Carolina law and the Gun-Free Schools Act.

### **580.2 ~ THREAT/VIOLENCE POLICY**

Any student who makes a credible threat of violence — verbally, in writing,

electronically, or through any other means — will be subject to serious disciplinary action, including immediate removal from school and notification of law enforcement. The school will investigate all reported threats and take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of students and staff.

### **581 ~ School Safety**

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UCA conducts regular safety drills and maintains a crisis management plan.

### **582 ~ Unsafe School Choice Option**

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Victims of violent crimes on campus may request transfer.

### **583 ~ Asbestos Management Plan**

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Available for inspection in the school office.

### **584 ~ Pesticide Notification**

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Parents will be notified in advance of pesticide applications.

### **585 ~ Hazardous Chemicals**

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MSDS available upon request.

### **586 ~ Fire and Safety Regulations**

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UCA complies with all safety regulations and inspections.

### **587 ~ Non-Title IX Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying**

---

UCA prohibits all forms of discrimination, harassment, and bullying not covered under Title IX. This includes discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, disability, or any other legally protected class. All employees must report witnessed or suspected violations immediately; failure to do so may result in disciplinary action. Anonymous reports are accepted but cannot serve as the sole basis for formal discipline.

**Complaint Process:** Formal complaints should be filed in writing with the Superintendent's designee within 30 days of an incident. Investigations are conducted using a preponderance of the evidence standard. Provisions exist for informal resolution except in cases involving sexual assault. All proceedings are conducted with strict confidentiality. The results of an investigation may be appealed

to the Superintendent, and if the Superintendent is the subject of the complaint, directly to the Board of Directors. Retaliation against any person who reports a violation in good faith is strictly prohibited.

## 588 ~ Title IX Policy

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Title IX provides that "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

It is the policy of Uwharrie Charter Academy that students shall not be subjected to any form of unlawful discrimination or harassment based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, or LGBTQ+ identification while at school or participating in school-sponsored activities. The School prohibits sexual harassment (including sexual violence), gender-based harassment, and retaliation against any individual who reports a violation or participates in a Title IX investigation.

**Application:** This policy applies to all behavior in any school building, on school buses, at bus stops, during school-sponsored activities, and in electronic communications including email, text messages, and social media.

**Prohibited Behaviors:** Sexual harassment (unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including quid pro quo and hostile environment harassment); gender-based harassment; discrimination based on sex or gender; retaliation against those who report violations.

TO REPORT A VIOLATION: **PLEASE REFER TO THE SCHOOL'S TITLE IX REPORTING AND GRIEVANCE POLICY.**

## 589 ~ Mandatory Reporting Policy

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Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 7B-301, all school personnel are required to report any suspected abuse, neglect, or dependency of any child directly to the Department of Social Services in the county where the child resides. Reports may be made by calling **(336) 683-8000**. All

reports made to DSS must also be reported to the Superintendent immediately. All school personnel receive training on how to identify and report child abuse.

In addition, under N.C.G.S. § 14-318.6, any person 18 years of age or older who knows or should have reasonably known that a juvenile has been or is the victim of a violent offense, sexual offense, or misdemeanor child abuse shall immediately report the case to the appropriate local law enforcement agency in the county where the juvenile resides or is found. Such reports must also be made to the Superintendent immediately.

#### **CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEX TRAFFICKING TRAINING**

In compliance with N.C.G.S. 115C-218.75(g), Uwharrie Charter Academy has adopted and implemented a child sexual abuse and sex trafficking training program for all school personnel who work directly with students in grades K–12. This program shall be conducted in even-numbered years. School personnel subject to this training include teachers, instructional support personnel, principals, and assistant principals.

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**SECTION 600 ~ RESERVED FOR FUTURE POLICIES**

## APPENDIX A: PARENT AND STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT FORM

### 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 embed 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 students' everyday lives and the integration of NC's Environmental Literacy Plan in a cross-curricular approach.

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Student Name (print):

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Parent/Guardian Name (print):

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_