

# Central Academy of Technology and Arts

## Cougar Chronicle



Volume 3; New Student Issue  
July 13, 2015

## WELCOME to CATA!!

Central Academy Families

**Welcome to Central Academy of Technology and Arts for the 2015-2016 school year!** We are so excited to welcome our new students. We have a lot of information to share and have listed it by category within this short newsletter. Central Academy is a great place to learn, meet friends, participate in school activities, and to get ready for your post-secondary plans. We look forward to helping you enjoy your high school years and get ready for life after high school. Please be sure to find all of the information that pertains to you and your child. Should you have any questions after reading this information, please do not hesitate to contact Central Academy at 704-296-3088.

**Freshman Orientation** will be on Tuesday August 18th. Medical Science, Pre-Engineering, and Auto Tech/Transportation Academies from 9:00—11:30. Performing Arts (Theatre, Dance, Music) and Information Systems (Cybersecurity, Comp. Engineering, Software Development & Game Design) Academies from 12:30—3:00. Students will meet in the gym. Parents should drop students off as this is a student only event. Other information for parents is contained in this electronic newsletter sent to the email address we have on file for you. This same newsletter is available on the school website under parent, then Cougar Chronicle. A shorter orientation consisting of meeting with your Academy Counselor and touring the school will occur for **new 10th graders** on Wednesday 8/19 from 9:30—10:15. Please meet in room 401.

**CATA Community Read:** CATA supports reading! The CATA community – staff and students – are reading this summer. ALL incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders should read The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch. New 10th graders should read Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom. Each spring CATA teachers pitch books to the 9th-11th graders and students get to select which book they would like to read. We typically have between 18-20 different books being read by the CATA students and teachers. Students meet with the teachers that read the same book on a handful of days during the first 2-3 weeks of school to discuss the book.

**Please take time to read over this newsletter.** These newsletters will begin on a weekly basis once the school year starts so that the whole CATA community can read about the great things our children and teachers are doing. For information about how to make sure you and your CATA neighbors are on the list to receive the newsletter, please go to the Parents and Community tab on our website, or [click here](#). The Cougar Chronicle, in addition to our website, will be the main form of communication from school to home. At CATA we will continue to work toward Leading the Way so that your child can lead the way in the future! Go Cougars! - Mrs. Kim Fisenne, Principal

In this issue you will find information on:

Orientation for new students—pg. 1

Summer Read—pg. 1

Technology— pg. 3

Bus— pg. 6

Extracurriculars—Athletics—pg. 4 "Clubs" - pg. 5 BAND –pg. 4

Schedules—pg. 5

Who to contact—pg. 3

General Info and FAQ's—pg. 6

600 Brewer Drive, Monroe,  
NC 28112

(704) 296-3088 (Phone)

(704) 296-3090 (Fax)

<http://cata.ucps.k12.nc.us>

# Class of 2019

**Ninth Grade Students—CATA Class of 2019:** Welcome to Central Academy. Be sure to read over our New CATA family information page; it contains a lot of great (and really important) information!!

**Orientation Days:** Come and explore CATA, meet your student council representatives, and get important information (schedules, lockers, spiritwear, bus information). Students are to be dropped off at the front of the school and will automatically get their schedules during the activities. Students will also have the opportunity to pick up bus information during their time with us, or parents can accomplish that as well. Parents can pick their students up after the orientation and parents may stop in briefly from 9:00 – 12:00 or 1:00—3:30 to buy spiritwear, ask questions about buses, and rent lockers. Students must remain for the entire orientation period listed below:

- **Medical Science, Pre-Engineering, Transportation/Auto Tech- Tuesday 8/18 from 9:00 – 11:30 am.**
- **Performing Arts (Theatre, Dance, Music), Information Systems (Cybersecurity, Computer Engineering, Software Development & Game Design)– Tuesday 8/19 from 12:30 – 3:00 pm.**

## New Sophomores to CATA - Class of 2018:

We are so happy to welcome you to Central Academy. We hope that you will read the New CATA family information page so that you can get easy answers to questions you may have.



**Orientation Day:** Please come to the Sophomore, Junior, Senior Open House on Wednesday 8/19. We ask that you come from 9:30—10:15 to take a “sophomore tour” and to meet with our guidance department. This is an informal orientation / tour where you can walk your schedule, ask questions, and find out more about CATA. If you have questions, please call Ms. Tammy Tweed at CATA.

Get schedules, lockers, bus information, spiritwear, and parking passes. Lockers can be rented for \$3 per year.

## Can't come to Open House/Orientation??

No Worries. You can accomplish all of the tasks listed above on the first day of school as well.

Any schedules/bus information NOT picked up at open house will be mailed home Wednesday afternoon.

## CHROMEBOOKS– 2015-2016

CATA is the school of Technology and all students are required to use their chromebooks at school.

UCPS Technology Initiative provides learning anywhere, anytime for our students. We are very excited for all of our CATA students to receive their Chromebook again to use for schoolwork during the school year. This is an amazing initiative that students in UCPS will again benefit from. Students at CATA are required to bring their chrome book to school every day.

**Parents**—both you and your child will be required to sign a Chrome book Student /Parent Agreement. **EVERY student will receive a form on the first day of school.** The form will be due back the next morning. Students will not be able to receive a chrome book when they are distributed unless the form is signed.

**The technology user fee for your student is due by September 15th.** More information to follow.

### CATA Guidance Department

A high school guidance department can help your student with a LOT during high school—counseling during a problem/or stress, college planning, career/college questions, interview skills, problem solving with classes/teachers, friendship/social issues. Counselors also help with scheduling and what courses to take. Counselors are available to answer parent questions as well.

Please see the list of counselors by academy:

[Ashley Lawson](#): Medical Science, Teacher Prep (Seniors only), Transportation & Guidance Department Chairperson

[Kendall Cameron](#) : Pre-Engineering and Performing Arts (theatre & dance)

[Mini D'Rozario](#): Information Systems (CyberSecurity, Computer Engineering, Software & Game Design) and Music Production & Recording Arts.

### Student Parking Passes

**Seniors Only** – Parking passes will be on sale from 8:00—10:30 AM on Tuesday August 11th on a first come first served basis.

**All students** – Parking passes will be on sale from 8:00-10:30 AM on August 12th on a first come first served basis. Can't make it those days? Passes will also be sold on 8/19 during open house.

- ALL past due student fees must be paid before you are permitted to purchase a parking pass—this includes the 2013-2014, 2015-2016 technology fee, media center fees, cafeteria, etc...
- ALL Students, MUST print and bring ALL required documents with you along with the check for \$35.00 made payable to Central Academy of Technology & Arts. Any incomplete application packets will delay the process and you will NOT receive your hang tag until all documents and check are turned in. Please make sure to have your parent sign the registration forms. They are available on the CATA website under "Students"
- If you pay with cash, you MUST have exact change.

STUDENTS WHO DRIVE TO SCHOOL ON THE FIRST DAY WILL NEED TO HAVE A HANG TAG TO PARK IN A RESERVED SPACE.





## COUGAR ATHLETICS



Parent Meeting Monday 7/27 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium at CATA. Try-outs begin as early as 8/1 and are mandatory. ALL athletes and parents should see the CATA website – go to Athletics and then [General Information](#) for important dates, forms, and important information. All fall coaches are listed there as well.

**\*\*Please make sure that you go to the Athletics link on the left side of the CATA homepage and click on your sport to access all the important information and [required forms](#).**



Fall Schedules are available on the CATA website. Please check the calendar for game dates for all sports.



- **Summer Workouts:**

- Football – Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday 6:00-8:30 pm
- Volleyball – Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-1:00 pm
- Soccer – Monday/Wednesday 6:00-8:00 pm and Tuesday/Thursday 9:00-11:00 am



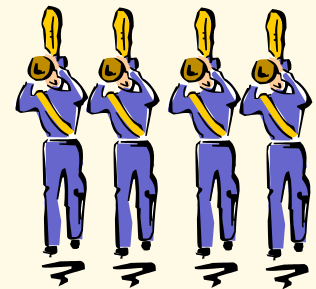
For other sports, please go to the website and contact the coaches. Remember, to participate in summer workouts, students must provide a copy of a physical that has occurred within the past 12 months.

## BAND Program.....

### CATA Band Announcements

July 20th

- New Band Director "Meet and Greet" 4:00-4:45 PM
- Marching Band "Show Reveal" 4:45-5:00 PM
- 5:00-5:30 Freshman/First Year Marcher Meeting 5:00-5:30 PM
- Location - CATA Band Room



Please visit the CATA Band Website [www.cataband.blogspot.com](http://www.cataband.blogspot.com) for the most up-to-date information for the upcoming school year.

Please register for marching band via the band website or by using the following link:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Y7S0LxWLPg6uY1ZUHOX\\_tJscQRG\\_AGclF-gAriBn3vE/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Y7S0LxWLPg6uY1ZUHOX_tJscQRG_AGclF-gAriBn3vE/viewform).

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Retzlaff by email [craig.retzlaff@ucps.k12.nc.us](mailto:craig.retzlaff@ucps.k12.nc.us). Please register before July 16th to guarantee a spot on the roster. Any entries after the 16th will be considered.

**CATA Band of Blue Marching Band Camp August 5-7 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, August 10-14 7:00 AM-7:00 PM on the CATA Campus.**

## How to Get Involved as Parents:

- PTSO – please send an email to [thecougarcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:thecougarcouncil@gmail.com) or call the main office and leave a message for the PTSO. Our PTSO President is Kathie McKain.
- Band Booster Club - Contact Band Booster president Lisa Coley to volunteer at [lisacoley3@windstream.net](mailto:lisacoley3@windstream.net)
- Cougar Athletics – contact Jay Niessner at <mailto:jay.niessner@ucps.k12.nc.us>
- Performing Arts Committee – contact the PTSO (see above) for information about how to help out.

More information from these groups will come out during August as well.

## Student Life

Student Council has met with Administration already this summer to get a head start on making this a spirit filled year. They have some great ideas and are using them to plan the Freshman Orientation right now! Student council also went to a summer workshop at Mars Hill to hone their leadership skills.



Incoming students will get to tour a Student Life fair in the first week or two of school. It is so important to get involved in something at school, whether it is a club, student council, athletics, band, or a co-curricular organization. Keep your eyes open and be open to the possibilities!!!!

Many of our student life organizations are listed on our website. [Click here.](#)

## Schedule Questions

Typically a ninth graders schedule is very full of requirements. Each 9th grader will take a course in English, math, science, social studies & health/pe as these are all requirements. At CATA the majority of 9th graders will have two additional requirements in their Academy. So now the total is up to 7 courses. Each student takes 8 courses per year—4 in the fall and 4 in the spring. As students move up in grade level, there is more room for electives in their schedules.

**What is going on now with my schedule?** if you went to a UCPS school for middle school, your schedule requests were taken at that school and so we have access to that. Our counselors will be working over the next few weeks to adjust your schedule to fit in your Academy classes. If you did not attend a UCPS middle school—that is ok—counselors will look at your middle school courses and create an appropriate schedule for you. They will contact you if there is a question.

**Do I need to meet with my counselor now?** No. You do not. If there are questions about your selections or about the level of course you selected—your counselor will contact you this summer.

**Can I contact my counselor if there is information I think they need before my schedule is finished?**

Yes! Please email or call our Guidance Department Chairperson—[Ms. Ashley Lawson](#). 704-296-3088.

**When do I get to see my schedule?** In High School we work on the schedule ALL summer and it takes us until the second week in August to finish schedules—SO, you will get your schedule when you come in for orientation on 8/18. If there are questions about the schedule then, you can submit a request to the counselor to contact you. If there is something “wrong” on the schedule—for ex. you got scheduled for a course you took in middle school, then you can request a change. Upper-classmen get their schedules that week too, so you are not behind. No worries.



**SUMMER HOURS** Union County Public Schools will observe a four-day workweek during the 2015 summer months to continue to improve our efficiency and energy cost savings for the school system. UCPS will follow a four-day workweek schedule through 8/15.

**Central Academy of Technology and Arts** Office Hours Monday & Tuesday 7:30am – 5:30 pm. Wednesday & Thursday 7:30 am – 11:30 am.

## New Family Information for Central Academy of Technology and Art

- School day hours: 8:50-3:30 (Class starts at 8:50, students should all **arrive by 8:40** when the first bell rings to move to class. ) If you are dropping your student off by car, you should arrive between 8:20—8:30 to ensure that your child can get to class on time.
- Lunches are determined by your 3rd block teacher. Don't worry—you will meet people to sit with.
- Upon arrival on the first day of school, all students will report to Advisory first. Advisory assignments will be posted at the front of the school and in the cafeteria.
- Freshmen students can receive bus letters and assignments during Freshmen orientation.
- Set uniforms are not required for PE classes, but a dress code is strictly enforced. This will be discussed during the first day of class. Sneakers, athletic shorts, and t-shirt are required every day.
- Lockers are not required, but you may rent a locker for \$3.00. **PE Lockers are required.** Your PE teacher will provide information on rental fee. NO students may leave their belongings out in the PE locker room.
- There is not a supply list. Supplies needed are on a class by class basis and each teacher will communicate this on the first day of school. Just bring something to write ON and something to write WITH.
- Attendance is taken during each class, and it is vital that you are present at school every day. If you must make doctor appointments during the school day, be sure to do so at different times of the day so you don't miss too many days in one class.
- Attendance matters for participation in extracurricular activities, credit for courses, and affects eligibility for sports. Students too sick to come to school should not be on school grounds for extracurricular events that day.
- Every teacher will have a web page for students and parents to access with course information.
- All students will receive a student login/password to the Parent Portal so that they can see their grades.
- Students are expected to check their school email account as both teachers and administration use this to communicate with students.