

Central Academy of Technology and Arts Cougar Chronicle

Volume 6; Issue 1 July 26, 2018



Summer Update

- Please see page 2 for the welcome from our new principal Ms. Merritt
- **School starts on Monday, August 27, 2018.** Students should arrive by 8:40 am to make the first bell of the day that signals students to move to their first class. On Monday and Tuesday, students will report to their Advisories (or homerooms) first. Lists will be posted in the hall.
- **Back to School Days. Schedules, lockers, bus info, spirit wear will be available...**
 - Freshman Orientation** will be on Monday, August 20 for ALL new NINTH grade students from 9:00—11:30 AM. Students will meet in the theatre. Parents may choose to drop students off as the Freshman Orientation activities are student only. Parents also may choose to drop in to the media center between 9 and 10 to meet our PTSO parents and some staff for coffee and pastries. PTSO parents and staff will be available to answer questions and discuss both the high school and academy studies with you. Schedules and Bus Info will be given to students DURING their orientation.
 - New Sophomore (10th graders) Orientation** will be on Monday, August 20 from 12:30—1:30. Please meet in room 401—or what we call “the fishbowl”. Parents are welcome to drop in to the guidance office between 12:30-1:00 to ask questions about school procedures, or feel free to just drop your student off.
 - All current 10th—12th graders’ Open House**—Tuesday 8/21, 8:00—11:30 am. Get schedules, lockers, bus information, spirit wear, student section t-shirts (\$12), senior shirts and signs, and parking passes (see Priority Times below). Lockers can be rented for \$3 for the year.
 - Any schedules/bus information NOT picked up at open house will be mailed home the following Wednesday afternoon.**
- **Parking passes** are available for SENIORS ONLY on 8/16 ,8/17, and 8/20 during office hours 8 AM to 3 PM. No schedules will be give out on these days. Passes are sold to all students on Tuesday 8/22 with the following sale schedule: Seniors 8-9:30, Juniors 9:30-10:30, Sophomores 10:30 to 11:30.
- **Parent email and phone contact information**—it is vital that we have accurate information so that we can reach you concerning your students. You will receive a form for changes with the student's back to school paperwork. You may also email Mr. William Smith with any changes.
- **Chromebooks for ALL students at CATA—Please see important information inside.**
- **Schedules and Schedule Changes—Please see important information inside.**
- **CATA Summer Read—Please see important information inside.**

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 For Parents 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! Ms. Merritt

A Welcome from our new principal Ms. Vicki Merritt

Dear Cata Family:

It's with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to Central Academy of Technology and Arts. CATA is a comprehensive magnet (Future Ready) high school of specialized Academies. Each Academy has a curriculum pathway that has a laser-focused curriculum that will assist high school students in achieving their career goals. We are fortunate to have such a diverse group of student learners that represent the best of Union County Public Schools.



Our high school students are critical thinkers, explorers of new learning, creative and innovative problem solvers. Students have planned to spend the next four years of their academic careers specializing their learning in the areas of Information Systems, Pre-Engineering, Medical Science, Transportation System or Performing Arts. Our unique blend of talent brings great value to our high school environment and student learning experience.

Central Academy of Technology and Arts has a staff of certified professionals who bring great passion and expertise to their respective areas of teaching and serving. Our staff customizes instruction and support to meet the intricate needs and interest of our student population. We have a rigorous core curriculum where we offer a variety of Honors and AP courses. It's our goal to prepare students to be informed decision makers and to attain high achievements at the high school level.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe, healthy and rewarding school year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. It's an honor and privilege to serve as your principal.

Respectfully,
Vicki R. Merritt, M.Ed

Cougar Council PTSO Information

Click [here](#) to view important PTSO information, minutes, and agendas.

Congratulations are in order to our new CATA PTSO Board for the 2018/19 school year. A big thank you to our outgoing PTSO Board. We appreciate all of your hard work and you will be missed. If anyone is interested in being a committee chair we have several openings for Fundraising and Membership chairs. Please contact catacougarcouncil@gmail.com for more information.

The PTSO will host the Senior Breakfast on May 24th.

President: Nicole D'Amico

nicole.damico.me@gmail.com

Vice President: Meena Sreeraman,

meenaskalp@yahoo.com

Secretary: Sabrina Clontz,

sfclontz@carolina.rr.com

Treasurer: Ann Helms,

adhelms@aol.com

Communications: Jeannine Kenary & Sarah May,

jmk1098@gmail.com,

sarah.w.may@gmail.com

Hospitality:

Carol Taldo & Megan Huffman

ctaldo@me.com, meghuf5@yahoo.com

Performing Arts:

Carla Harrison & Janet Peirano

carlasharrison@yahoo.com,

janetpeirano@yahoo.com

Membership: Vacant

Jennifer Fisher

jfisher@ishopcart.com

Fundraising: Vacant



Volunteering at Central Academy:

We are happy to have our parents volunteer for events, field trips, and other school activities. Please click [here](#) to fill out an application to volunteer.



CATA COUGAR SPIRIT WEAR

Click here to see CATA Spirit Wear when our online store is open. Spirit Wear will be available during Freshman Orientation on 8/20 and during the Upperclassmen Open House on 8/21 and Open House on 9/4. Spirit Wear is sold at all home JV Football Games and at select Basketball Games. Our Band Boosters sell Cougar Spirit Wear!



The Student Section at CATA is the....

BLUE

Every year a new Blue Crew shirt is designed and voted on by students. Purchase the 18-19 Blue Crew Shirt by going to [our online link.](#)



Student Section Shirts will be sold at Freshman Orientation and at the Upperclassmen Open House

CREW

Shirts cost **\$12** and will be available for pick up on August 10th if ordered by the end of July.

Student Parking Passes

Seniors Only – Parking passes will be on sale on 8/16, 8/17, and 8/20 for Seniors ONLY on a first come first served basis during office hours, 8 AM to 3 PM .

All students – Seniors, 8-9:30, Juniors 9:30—10:30, and Sophomores 10:30 to 11:30 **only on Tuesday 8/21** .



- ALL past due student fees must be paid before you are permitted to purchase a parking pass—this includes the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, AND 2017-2018 technology fee, media center fees, cafeteria, and any fees owed to CATA.
- ALL Students, MUST print and bring ALL required documents with you along with the cash (exact amount) or check for **\$40** made payable to Central Academy of Technology & Arts. Any incomplete application packets will delay the process and you **canNOT** reserve your parking spot 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". [Click here for the link.](#)
- Students may choose their parking spot number if they purchase BEFORE the first day of school. After that we will sell remaining spots in order.
- **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. Parking passes are not guaranteed available throughout the school year. Once we sell out we will start a waiting list. Students obtaining their license during the school year are not guaranteed a spot, and may have to wait until the following year to drive. We will have a waitlist for those students bringing in all appropriate documentation.

Students Schedule Update:

We are working diligently to finalize the master schedule and meet student needs and requests for the upcoming school year. During July and early August we work with incoming ninth grade schedules to complete our master schedule. During the summer, the schedule is not complete as we work up until August to finalize all courses and student enrollment in these courses. If a student can accidentally see a schedule in PowerSchool for next year, it is NOT correct or complete.

**Drafts of schedules will be available to students on Back to School days - Freshman: August 20
Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors: August 21.**

Students will either receive the class(es) they selected during the registration process last spring or students will see "Please See Your Counselor" on their schedule. This year we will not randomly give 10-12 grade students classes they did not register for; therefore, we enter "Please See Your Counselor" as a placeholder in the event a class did not make or there is a conflict we need to discuss with the student. If a student has "Please See Your Counselor" on the schedule, there will be an opportunity for students to meet with a Guidance Counselor prior to the start of school. This dates for this are **8/22 to 8/24 in guidance from 12:30 to 3:00 PM.**

If a student does not have "**Please See Your Counselor**" on the schedule, the student received the classes he/she requested in Spring 2018. Information will be shared with students on the first day of school as to how to request a schedule change for a valid specified reason.

We ask that you please respect the process and not e-mail Guidance Counselors to inquire about schedule changes throughout the summer as Guidance Counselors do not work full time in the summer and when they are here they are working on registering and completing schedules for the incoming ninth grade students so that we can finalize our entire schedule. They look forward to filling holes in late August or responding to requests during the first five days of the semester. Please note that email requests for schedule changes will not be accepted this year. We will have an electronic form that students must complete during school hours the first five days of classes.

CHROMEBOOKS– 2018-2019

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 chromebook to school every day.

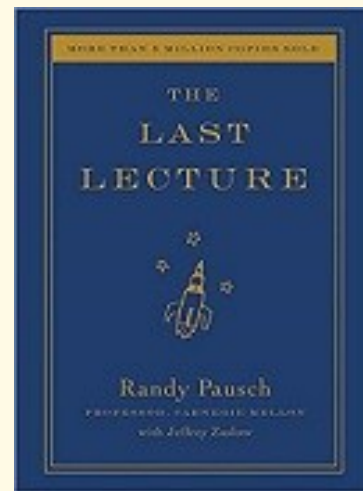
Parents—both you and your child will be required to sign a Chrome book Student /Parent Agreement. **EVERY student will receive a form on the first day of school.** The form will be due back the next morning (Tuesday 8/28). Students will not be able to receive a chrome book on Tuesday 8/28 unless the form is signed.

There is NO technology fee this year!

2018 yearbooks

Yearbooks will be on sale when school starts and students will receive an order form the first day at school. Online sales will be available then as well. Pricing and details for senior ads will also be available. ALL senior ads must be purchased and paid for before the December break. There will not be any late ad sales. The yearbook staff has planned another exciting book so remember to buy one in August!

CATA Summer Read- CATA supports reading! The CATA community – staff and students – are reading this summer. The goal for the summer reading program is for students to have a pleasurable and positive summer reading experience. Learning to read texts without structured assignments and being able to communicate and make connections with others about the reading is an essential skill. **All incoming ninth grade students will read: “The Last Lecture” by Randy Pausch.** When students return in the fall during Cougar Time, in small groups, students will have the opportunity to make connections with a teacher and their grade level peers. The CATA Summer Read is an annual tradition and each spring faculty pitch books and students get to pick their top three. Each student is eventually paired up with one of their book preferences (we usually have about 18-20 different books being read) and everyone gets to read and share. Next spring your student will get this same opportunity!



All 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students should be reading their book selection. If you forgot your book, check your student UCPS email from last Spring, or call the school– we have the list. If you are a new sophomore, then please call the school for a list of books you are able to choose to read.

New Family Information

- 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.
- 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. NO students may leave their belongings out in the PE locker room—ALL belongings must be secured with a school-issued lock. Students will be charged for missing locks.
- Supply lists will be posted on Teacher's Public Canvas pages on Thursday 8/23.
- Attendance is taken during each class, and it is vital that you are present at school every day for every class. 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 may not be on school grounds for extracurricular events that day.** Absence notes MUST be turned in within three days.
- Every teacher will have a web page (on Canvas) 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. This will become active on Monday, September 10.
- Students are expected to check their school email account daily as both teachers and administration use this to communicate with students.

Be in the Know by following us on Twitter

Follow CATA at @cata_monroe

Dance @CATA_DANCE

Performing Arts @CougarArts

Athletics @CATA_Athletics

Football @CATA_cougarfb

Band @catabanddirect

Student Council @StucoCata

Counseling @CATA_Counseling

Cheerleading @CATACougarCheer

Baseball @CATA_Baseball

UCPS @UCPS_MonroeNC

ATTENDANCE AND EARLY DISMISSAL FACTS AND PROCEDURES

People to contact for absences:

SCHOOL PHONE # (704)296-3088

FAX # (704)296-3090

Mrs. Nahum- School Secretary-

andrea.nahum@ucps.k12.nc.us

Mr. Smith- Data Manager-

william.smith@ucps.k12.nc.us

Mrs. Riley- ISS and Absence Recovery Coordi-

nator- karen.riley@ucps.k12.nc.us

Facts about attendance

- Attendance is taken by block (class period) in high school not by day. In addition, a student is marked absent if he/she misses more than 15 minutes of the block and if he/she misses less than 15 minutes of a class, then the student will be coded as a tardy in PowerSchool.
- Lunch is part of 3rd block so missing lunch is not excused and counts toward tardy/absent
- If your student needs to be absent, a written note or documentation must be turned in to Ms. Nahum in the front office within 3 days of your student's return to school in order for it to be considered for excusal. We have an absence form available for you to fill out and turn in. Please make copies of it for you to use throughout the school year. [Please click HERE to find the form on our website.](#)
- A note from a doctor's office is required to excuse an absence due to a doctor's appointment. A doctor's visit note only covers the actual appointment and travel time. It does not excuse the whole day.
- In addition to illness/injury and doctor's appointments, the following are also lawful reasons for school absences: Death in the immediate family, Court, administrative proceedings, jury duty (documentation required), Religious observances (prior approval by principal required), Educational Opportunity (10 day prior approval) [Educational Opportunity Request Form linked on this page.](#) Quarantine, and Military Deployment (documentation required)
- Please see Student Handbook for further explanation of attendance policies.
- All absences will be coded unexcused in PowerSchool until a written note/documentation is received. Written documentation must be legible, dated with the student's absence, contain the student's full name, and **must be submitted within three days.**
- ConnectEd phone calls are made at the end of the school day to notify parents/guardians of student absences whether excused or unexcused.

Early Dismissal Procedures and Facts

- If your student **driver** needs to leave before the school day is over, then a parent note must be turned into the front office before school so that an early dismissal pass can be given to the student.
- The parent note must contain all of the following: 1) the student's name, 2) parent's name and contact phone number, and 3) the time that the student needs to be dismissed.
- If the student is getting picked up by someone other than the parents/guardians or anyone on the student's contact list, then the student's dismissal note must also contain the name of the person that is picking them up.
- It is the student's responsibility to keep their early dismissal pass with them and show it to their teacher so that they may exit class. Once exiting the classroom, the student must then come to the front office to sign out before leaving campus.

An attendance letter will be sent home with students after the 3rd, 6th, and 8th unexcused absence. At this time students will be notified if they owe recovery time for absences.

Around CATA

Monday, August 20-Freshmen Orientation, 9-11:30 AM; **New to CATA Sophomore Orientation**, 12:30– 1:30 PM (Room 401); **Parent Drop in** (PTSO members, counselor, admin, and a couple of teachers to answer questions about processes and general curriculum, 9-10 AM (Media Center) OR 12:30-1:00 PM (Guidance for new Sophomore Parents)

Tuesday, August 21-Upperclassmen Open House 8 AM to 11 :30 AM (drop-in for schedule, parking passes, lockers); **Parking Pass Sells :12th graders:** 8:00 – 9:30 AM, **11th graders:** 9:30 – 10:30 AM, **10th graders:** 10:30 to 11:30 AM (Front of School)

Monday, August 27- First Day of School; Lockers for Sale during lunches

Tuesday, September 4– Open House, 6-8 PM, Senior Night, 7:00 PM (Theatre)

Student Life

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.](#)

AP Level Classes: Announcements were made in the Spring and during registration about AP classes. It is quite typical for Fall AP classes to have summer reading or review activities for students. Please check the CATA website for information. Some teachers send an email to students, so students should check their UCPS student email as well (some teachers did this in the spring before school was out). [All students should check the CATA Website, LINK HERE](#)

Students in AP level courses should expect to take a rigorous AP-level final exam with their AP teacher prior to taking the actual AP exam. This AP level exam will count for 25% of their final grade in the AP course. This will ensure that they are preparing well enough to pass these college-level courses and exams. Teachers will discuss this more with your student at the start of each course. It is important that you and your student remember that an AP course is a college-level course, and as such, has college-level assessments.

Cougar Pride - Way to go!!!

⇒ Congratulations to our **2018-2019 Student Council Officers:**

****Freshman officers will be elected this Fall**

College and Career Corner

Class Information from the Guidance Counselors

Attention Seniors - Tuesday September 4th 7:00 pm

(The Same Night as the Open House) in the CATA Auditorium the **Guidance Department will be hosting Senior Night**. This event is for all seniors and their parents. The purpose of CATA Senior Night is to review a packet of information that explains and guides the timeline of senior year. Seniors will also receive a copy of their unofficial transcript to use for college applications. *Beginning the week of September 5th to the end of September each guidance counselor will have an individual meeting with each of their assigned seniors—please note that seniors will receive important information that they need to have BEFORE they meet with their counselor. Your attendance at the evening meeting is strongly encouraged.* Please contact your assigned counselor if you have any questions.

PSAT: All **Juniors** and possibly, sophomores, will be taking the PSAT, on 10/10/18.

JUNIORS—All juniors will be taking the ACT, a college entrance exam on 2/26/19. In order to best prepare all juniors will work on ACT preparation during Cougar Time two times per week.

Open House—Meet the Teachers is on September 4th We hope to see you there!!



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, Transportation & Guidance Department Chairperson

Ashley Cole : Pre-Engineering and Performing Arts (theatre & dance)

Sarah Goodwin: Information Systems (CyberSecurity, Computer Engineering, Software & Game Design) and Music Production & Recording Arts.

COUGAR ATHLETICS

If you have questions about athletics or want to volunteer to help with athletics, please send an email to Athletic Director, [Coach Jay Niessner](mailto:jay.niessner@ucps.k12.nc.us). Make sure to follow all of CATA's athletic teams on Twitter: [@CATA_Athletics](https://twitter.com/CATA_Athletics)

NEW - Family ID - Athletic Registration



Starting with the 2018-2019 school year all CATA Athletic paperwork will be found and completed online (This does not include a student athletes annual physical). Since this is our 1st Year using Family ID all CATA student athletes will need to create an account. The

registration window for Family ID opens on - July 1st, 2018. Please visit the Athletics Forms page for more information. If you have any questions please contact CATA Athletic Director - Jay Niessner @ - jay.niessner@ucps.k12.nc.us

Tryouts begin as early as 7/31 and are mandatory. ALL athletes and parents should see the [CATA Athletics website](#) – for important dates, forms, and important information. All fall coaches are listed there under Athletics as well. ****Please make sure that you go to the Athletics site and click on your sport to access all the important information including coaches and coach contact information.**

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

Summer Workouts are important to attend. Please contact our coaches to get dates and times—or check the CATA Athletics Website. Remember, to participate in summer workouts, students must provide a copy of a physical that has occurred within the past 12 months.

Fall Head Coach Contact Information:

Athletic Director & Men's Soccer: Jay Niessner – jay.niessner@ucps.k12.nc.us

Football – Chuck Doak— chales.doak@ucps.k12.nc.us

Volleyball – Stephanie Peacock – Stephanie.peacock@ucps.k12.nc.us

Cheerleading – Ashely Lawson – Ashley.lawson@ucps.k12.nc.us

Cross Country – Kim Inuwa – kim.inuwa@gmail.com

Women's Tennis – Terry Lewis – terrylewis@kw.com

Women's Golf – Nelson Rowell – nelson.rowell@ucps.k12.nc.us

CATA Class of 2019

Rising Seniors Order Form



- ◆ Orders must be accompanied with payment by CASH or CHECK only
- ◆ Checks made payable to CATA PTSO - \$10.00 per T-Shirt, \$20 per sign or \$25 for both!
- ◆ Tear off bottom portion - return to the media center with payment by June 12th.
- ◆ T-Shirts will be available at open house in August.

CATA 2019 Seniors Pre-Order Form

Student Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate number of T-Shirts and Sizes below:

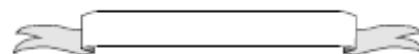
T-shirt/Lawn Sign Combo: \$25.00 ea.-Total ordered: ____

T-Shirts: \$10.00 - Total ordered: _____

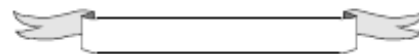
Senior Lawn Sign: \$20.00 each—Total ordered: _____

T-Shirt Size: ____ SMALL ____ MEDIUM
 ____ LARGE ____ XL ____ XXL

Total Paid: _____



Senior T-Shirt Perk:
 Seniors that wear the official Senior T-Shirt with CATA Pride will receive a concession/special at a Fall/Winter & Spring SENIOR NIGHT.



Thank you for supporting your students and the PTSO! Sale proceeds will be used by the PTSO to support students and CATA programs in our upcoming school year.