



Central Academy of Technology & Arts Cougar Chronicle

Volume 7

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Social Media Sites
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Instagram



Dear CATA Family,

By order of the North Carolina Governor public schools are closed for the remainder of the school year and remote learning will continue. We will have more information for seniors in the coming weeks. In addition, stay tuned for details about returning items that belong to the school. (Uniforms, textbooks, calculators, library books, Chromebooks, chargers).

UCPS Remote Learning Plan: Beginning the week of April 20, UCPS moved into Phase 4 of the **UCPS Remote NEW Learning Plan**. During Phase 4 students will proceed with checking in with their 1st and 2nd block classes on Mondays and Wednesdays and 3rd and 4th block classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Fridays are Teacher Office Hours. At this time, students will be encouraged to participate in the **NEW LEARNING** 180 minutes per week/per class or 90 minutes per class/per day. Until otherwise announced, teachers are to only provide on-going feedback, there will be no numerical grades. Learning this new information now is a huge opportunity for those that are able. As a reminder, the [Empowered Family Portal](#) is available for free learning resources for all grade levels. Click [here](#) to review the UCPS Remote Learning Plan. **Technical Support:** A Special technical support line has been established for student technical support, device troubleshooting, and maintenance issues: Student Technical support may be accessed at studenthelpdesk.ucps.k12.nc.us. Students should check their UCPS email DAILY! We will send out finalized grading plans for the Spring semester for freshmen sophomores, and juniors in the coming weeks.



Wednesday, April 22 was **Administrative Professionals Day**. Please take the time to thank Ms. Bivens, Ms. Nahum, Ms. Newsome, Ms. Riley, Mr. Smith, Ms. Tweed, and Ms. Viar for all of their hard work at CATA.

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 5– May 9. Please take the time to give your teachers a message of appreciation.

PTSO Needs You. We would like to ask for volunteers for positions on the board: President, VP, secretary, membership, fundraising (only 1 per year event) and a member for the Performing arts from the dance and MPRA academies. Please contact Nicole D'Amico at this email, noledoc2@comcast.net

ATTENTION SENIORS - The UCPS Graduation Survey is located in your Naviance Account and needs to be completed. Log into Naviance, Click About Me - My Surveys - Surveys Not Started - 2020 UCPS Graduate Survey. Answer the questions and if you have a question reach out to your assigned counselor. You do not have to upload your scholarship letters to Naviance in the Journal section, you can send directly to Ms. Cole (ashley.cole@ucps.k12.nc.us).

Senior Scholarships: † is that time of year to **REPORT your SCHOLARSHIPS!** Please send a copy of your scholarship letter to Ms. [Ashley Cole](#)- even those scholarships you are not going to use- by Friday, May 8. Your scholarship totals will be listed in the Scholarship Slide Show. Please continue to review scholarship opportunities on the CATA School Counseling Web-site. If you have questions please ask your assigned counselor.

ATTENTION JUNIORS - Common App Essay Prompts have been released. This is something you can work on now and it will make your senior year much easier. The prompts are listed in this edition.

More Important Information on the next page.



More Information from Page One

Board of Education approves changes to graduation requirements for Class of 2020: During the April 7 Union County Board of Education meeting, board members approved changes to graduation requirements for the UCPS Senior Class of 2020. The changes, which were adopted because of COVID-19 and the associated school closure, align with the amended graduation plan approved by the NC Board of Education. As part of the updated graduation requirements, UCPS high school seniors are now required to have a minimum of 22 credits by their originally scheduled graduation date. Prior to the change, current UCPS seniors would have been required to have a minimum of 28 credits to graduate with a high school diploma. Parents of high school seniors will receive more detailed information.

Here's what you need to know from CATA at this time:

- **If you need to contact a school counselor, then there is a page in this edition for assistance.**
- **UCPS is serving free lunches to those 18 years and younger during the closure. Please look for locations in this edition.**

Testing Updates:

- The May 2nd **SAT** has been canceled. Any student that has signed up for this SAT will get a refund from the College Board. The June 6th SAT is still scheduled at this time.
- **AP Classes:** Students can go to the College Board sites for review and a schedule is posted in this edition. This is a full course schedule for the free, live online AP classes available, along with information about what will be covered this week. Links to upcoming classes are [here](#):
- **CATA's Test Prep partner, Future Prep Educational Services**, is offering online **SAT prep** options for students wishing to prep for this important test while they are at home. Future Prep currently has availability for one on one and small group tutoring through the Zoom platform. You can contact them directly at 704-307-8975 or customerservice@futureprep.com to discuss what will work best for your student.

More Registration Information: Students interested in taking a class next year at SPCC but who are not currently taking classes at SPCC please make sure to apply to SPCC as soon as you can by going to SPCC.edu and click Apply Online. Registration for new students is not scheduled until April 20.

2019-2020 Yearbooks: Yearbooks are now \$85.00. Send check or cash to Ms. Christensen in The Den or order online at yearbookforever.com (search for CATA). Stay tuned to details about distribution.

Please take time to read over this newsletter. The Cougar Chronicle, in addition to our website, will be the main form of communication from school to home. Go Cougars! Ms. Merritt



UCPS Remote Learning Guide

Special Note: Governor Roy Cooper and Superintendent of Education, Mark Johnson announced that Remote Learning will continue through the remainder of the school year (April 24– June 9). Please continue to stay connected to your daily course assignments and NEW Learning. Please review the FAQ document about grading for K-12 from the NC State Board of Education. Thank you!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First Block (90mins)	Third Block (90mins)	First Block (90mins)	Third Block (90mins)	Office Hours (120 mins)
Second Block (90mins)	Fourth Block (90mins)	Second Block (90mins)	Fourth Block (90mins)	

Grades 9-12 Communication Highlights

- Schedule will begin on April 20 and assignments will be posted in Canvas by 8:00 a.m. each day.
- Students will spend no more than 90 minutes on activities per subject/course each day.
- Students receive instruction, assignments, and/or activities in each course for which they are enrolled.
- Students/parents should direct questions to teachers of the subject/course.
- Teachers will maintain “remote” office hours for a minimum of 2 hours on designated office hours days and should respond to student/parent inquiries within 24 hours to the greatest extent possible.
- Flexibility is key – instruction and activities should take into account each student’s current situation
- New standards of instruction will be introduced and students are encouraged to stay engaged and participate in the learning opportunities.
- In order to support all students, teachers will track student participation and monitor student progress through feedback. This will be done in order to make sure our teachers know which students may need additional support once UCPS has completed remote learning due to COVID-19 school closure and students and staff are back in school after May 15th.
- Until UCPS receives further guidance by the North Carolina State Board of Education (NCSBE) and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), there is no formal grading of assignments.



Counseling Center Assistance & Lunches

Hello, Cougars! We want to let everyone know that we are still here to support you during this break. Our students' mental and physical health and wellbeing is always our top priority. Please know you can reach out to your counselor if you need to. We have also listed some resources in case you or anyone you know should need them. Make sure you are checking your email and school & county social media pages so you can stay informed about what is happening.

- Optum has a toll-free 24-hour Emotional Support Help Line at 866-342-6892 for people who may be experiencing anxiety or stress related to COVID-19.
- Cardinal Innovations (mental health referrals - multiple languages) 1-800-939-5911
- Mobile Crisis 1-866-275-9552
- The National Suicide Prevention Hotline (1-800-273-TALK) offers free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources 24/7
- Text HOME to 741741 to connect with a Trained Crisis Counselor 24/7
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746 (TTY 1-800-846-8517)
- 911 when someone needs help right away because of an injury or an immediate danger

Please stay safe and know we are here for you!

The CATA Counseling Department

ashley.lawson@ucps.k12.nc.us - Medical and Transportation Academies

ashley.cole@ucps.k12.nc.us - Dance, Theatre, and Pre-Engineering Academies

sarah.goodwin@ucps.k12.nc.us - Information Systems and MPRA Academies

FREE DAILY MEALS DURING CLOSURE

Beginning Tuesday, March 17 • 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

📍 Health Sciences Academy
at Monroe Middle
601 E. Sunset Drive
Monroe, NC 28112

📍 Rocky River Elementary
500 N. Rocky River Road
Monroe, NC 28110

📍 Sardis Elementary
4416 Sardis Church Road
Monroe, NC 28110

📍 Wingate Elementary
301 Bivens Street
Wingate, NC 28174





UCPS FAQs for Remote Learning

Frequently Asked Questions for UCPS Remote Learning Guidelines

1. What are the daily learning expectations for students during the school closure?

Please refer to the remote learning guidelines that were distributed on Thursday, March 26. Click [here](#) for the most recent guidance. We will continue to use our normal means of communication as updates/changes are made to our guidelines.

2. How is remote learning defined in UCPS and in the State of North Carolina during the school closure?

In North Carolina and Union County Public Schools, remote learning is defined as learning that takes place outside of the traditional school setting using various media and formats, such as but not limited to: video conference, telephone conference, print material, online material, or learning management systems.

3. What is the expectation for grades and required assignments during the school closure?

All schools in UCPS are prepared to provide remote learning opportunities to engage all students, continue academic growth, and respond to social and emotional needs. It is paramount to remember the unprecedented condition students are learning in and to focus on engagement more than evaluation or grading. As such, UCPS is not requiring any assignments or grading at this time.

4. How is the NC Department of Public Instruction addressing matters related to seniors who are expected to graduate?

On Friday, March 27, the North Carolina State Board of Education issued guidance on how school districts should proceed with regards to spring grading practices for NC K-12 public schools. Seniors will not be penalized as a result of the school closure order issued by the governor and will pass a course if they were passing the class on March 13.

If seniors had a grade of 'F' in a course as of March 13, they will get a withdrawal code for the class, meaning they won't receive credit. However, UCPS will put practices into place to give these seniors a chance to pass the course.

More information will be shared with schools as district staff have an opportunity to review the State Board of Education's recently issued guidance.

5. If my student was enrolled in Advanced Placement courses, how can he/she continue with online learning during the school closure?

AP updates for schools impacted by COVID-19 can be found by clicking [here](#). The College Board is providing online instruction for [AP courses](#) and is working on an at-home testing option.

For each AP course, there will be a "secure 45-minute online free-response" exam. The exams will focus on the content most schools completed by early March. Students can take the exams on a smartphone, tablet, or computer, and will also be able to write the responses and submit a photo.

Free online AP review courses are now available. Click [here](#) for the course schedule.

6. How will UCPS address remote learning for elementary students?

Please refer to the remote learning guidelines that were distributed on Thursday, March 26. Click [here](#) for the most recent guidance. We will continue to use our normal means of communication as updates/changes are made to our guidelines.



UCPS FAQs for Remote Learning & Junior Common App Questions

7. How can my student contact his/her teacher for assistance?

Please contact your child's teacher via email if you have specific questions/concerns about your student's progress. If you are unable to make successful contact with your child's teacher, please contact your school's principal. Email contact information for all school-based employees can be found on each school's website.

8. What conferencing platforms are approved for students and teachers to use during the school closure?

As teachers increase their communication with students remotely, it is essential that Board of Education Policies are followed in this new setting.

The Union County Public Schools Board of Education Policy Manual addresses the manner in which employees are expected to engage in electronic communications with students. Click [here](#) for the applicable policy governing Staff-Student Relations in an electronic setting. Please know that UCPS staff are continuously reviewing current policies and practices and assessing how best to meet the needs of our learners in a remote learning environment.

[Most Recent Guidance Link for Remote Learning](#)

[Advanced Placement Updates](#)

[Online Instruction for AP Courses](#)

[AP Course Schedule](#)

[UCPS Policy on Conferencing Platforms](#)

ATTENTION JUNIORS - Common App Essay Prompts have been released. This is something you can work on now and it will make your senior year much easier. The prompts are listed below -

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma — anything of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.



College and Career Corner

Class Information from the Guidance Counselors

[Counseling Twitter @CATA_Counseling](#)
[Counseling Instagram @CATA.counseling](#)

Attention Seniors Class of 2020– Stay tuned for updated Information

Graduation is on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 1:00 PM at the Winthrop Coliseum in Rock Hill, SC

The Fall Senior Letter is on our website. Senior students & parents [click here](#)

The Spring Senior Letter will come out once we have more information.

Sign up for College Visits [Click Here](#)
Dates for College Visits are posted in this Newsletter on the [Around CATA Page](#)

Scholarship Spotlight– Click [HERE](#) for more scholarships

SAT—All juniors will be taking the SAT. The original date was 3/25. **A new date will be communicated at a later date.**

"Builders Bridge Internship Program is now accepting applications. This is an 8-week program in a homebuilding skilled trade. Pay ranges from \$10-15/hr and interns will work 30-40+ hours a week. More info and application links are on the Opportunities for Students page on our website."

****Attention Juniors ****

If you are interested in applying for a semester internship your senior year, Click [here](#) for online application. Qualifications:

- Have completed at least two CTE courses (preferably in the same career cluster/academy such as Health Science I & II)
- Good attendance record (no more than 7 absences in a semester for the last 2 years)
- Reliable transportation
- No suspensions or serious disciplinary actions on your high school record
- At least a 2.5 GPA
- Able to commit to attend at least 8 hours a week during your internship

Here is the link to apply: (must be logged in to your google account to access this form)

Please email Ms. Corbett with any additional questions @ adrienne.corbett@ucps.k12.nc.us

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



Media Center (The Den) News & AP Information

The Den Digest

April is...

National Poetry Month—<https://poets.org/national-poetry-month>

School Library Media Month-School Library Month is the American Association of School Librarians' celebration of school librarians and school libraries.

Administrative Professionals Week-April 20-24. Thank you to Mrs. Nahum, Mrs. Viar, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Tweed, Mrs. Riley, and all those who play such important roles in our schools!

CDC Information About the Coronavirus—<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Visit our website for many resources—<https://sites.google.com/a/ucps.k12.nc.us/cata-media-center/>

Remember that you can still access e-books and other resources through our online catalog—<https://search.follettsoftware.com/metasearch/ui/105625>

We have a special section just on Evaluating News Resources—

<https://sites.google.com/a/ucps.k12.nc.us/cata-media-center/online-resources/identifying-fake-news>

AP® Classes and Review YouTube Live

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CollegeBoard

DAILY COURSE SCHEDULE — ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN TIME

youtube.com/advancedplacement

Period	Eastern Time	Live Stream 1	Live Stream 2	Live Stream 3	Live Stream 4	Live Stream 5
Period 1	9-9:45am	Calculus BC	*	*	*	*
Period 2	10-10:45am	Chemistry	Music Theory	*	*	*
Period 3	11-11:45am	Physics C: Mechanics	U.S. History	European History	*	*
Period 4	12-12:45pm	English Lit	Physics 1	Italian	*	*
Period 5	1-1:45pm	Art History	Environmental Science	German	*	*
Period 6	2-2:45pm	Statistics	Spanish Lit	Calculus AB	*	*
Period 7	3-3:45pm	Spanish Lang	Microeconomics	U.S. Government and Politics	English Lang	*
Period 8	4-4:45pm	Biology	Psychology	Comparative Government & Politics	Computer Science A	Japanese
Period 9	5-5:45pm	Chinese	Physics 2	Human Geography	Macroeconomics	*
Period 10	6-6:45pm	World History: Modern	Physics C: E&M	French	Latin	*



Around CATA & Yearbooks

Upcoming Events– March

No School at this time until March 30. Please follow UCPS and the NC governor's office for updates.

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

2019-2020 Yearbooks

2019-2020 Yearbooks: Yearbooks are now \$85.00. Send check or cash to Ms. Christensen in The Den or order online at yearbookforever.com (search for CATA).

BUY  YOUR
Yearbook



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](#). Make sure to follow all of CATA's athletic teams on Twitter: [@CATA_Athletics](#)

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) has suspended all games, practices, workouts, skill development, and meetings until Monday April 6th. All athletic facilities on the CATA campus are closed to all teams. We will update you as further decisions are made.

New Athletic Attendance Eligibility Requirements: Please [click here](#) for more information. this Spring to be eligible this coming Fall of 2020.

Fall Sports - 2020

Summer Workouts will start on June 15th. Summer workout calendars & schedules will be posted after spring break, please contact your sports coach for more details.

Summer Dead Weeks NO ATHLETIC: June 29th – July 5th, July 20th – July 26th. All athletic facilities are closed during these dead weeks

Fall sports parent night – Monday, July 27th, 2020 – 6:30 pm

Fall sports will start on Saturday – **August 1st, 2020**, First week of games – **August 17th – August 22nd**

Fall Sports Coaches Contact Information:

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

Cross Country - Kim Inuwa – kimberly.inuwa@ucps.k12.nc.us

Football – Shane Griffin – shane.griffin@ucps.k12.nc.us

Men's Soccer - Jay Niessner – jay.niessner@ucps.k12.nc.us

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

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

Women's Tennis - Terry Lewis – soldbyterrylewis@gmail.com

Winter Sports Coaches Contact Information:

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

Indoor Track & Field – Kim Inuwa – kimberly.inuwa@ucps.k12.nc.us

Women's Basketball – Kevin Allran – kevin.allran@ucps.k12.nc.us

Men's Basketball – Sam Smithson – Samuel.smithson@ucps.k12.nc.us

Swimming – Sally Goodwin – sarah.goodwin@ucps.k12.nc.us

Wrestling – Mike Jacobus – mike.jacobus@ucps.k12.nc.us

Spring Sports Contact Information:

Baseball – Matt Garcia – matthew.garcia@ucps.k12.nc.us

Men's Golf – Mike Jacobus – mike.jacobus@ucps.k12.nc.us

Men's Tennis – Terry Lewis – soldbyterrylewis@gmail.com

Softball – Aaron Hammers – aaron.hammers@ucps.k12.nc.us

Track & Field – Kim Inuwa – kimberly.inuwa@ucps.k12.nc.us

Women's Soccer – Jay Niessner – jay.niessner@ucps.k12.nc.us

CATA COUGAR SPIRIT WEAR

**CATA Spirit Wear will
be on sale online.
Our Band Boosters
sell Cougar Spirit
Wear!**

**Click [here](#) to purchase
online.**

Please call or text Mickie
Carter at 980-257-4174