



Central Academy of Technology & Arts Cougar Chronicle

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Dear CATA Family,

We have important information to share with you about End of Year Grading, Drop-off Day, Graduation, Summer Reading, and Rising Senior Portraits in this edition.

Important Grading Choice Information for all students and parents is on page two and three of this newsletter. Please be sure to read and fill out the UCPS High School Grade form before Monday, June 8. There are charts to help you figure out the best choices on page 3.

Graduation for the Class of 2020: Our Graduation Ceremony will be held at Porter Ridge High School (2839 Ridge Rd, Indian Trail, NC 28079) at their stadium on **Monday, June 22 at 8:00 AM**. We will communicate graduation information with parents and students in the coming days. Please do not contact Porter Ridge High School for information. Our administration will be happy to answer your questions. **Senior Name Pronunciation-** Dr. Wall is sending an email to all seniors about their name pronunciations for graduation. Please follow the directions in his email by Wednesday, June 10.

Senior and Underclassmen Drop Off Day is Thursday, June 11: **Seniors** from 9 am to 12 pm in the front drive circle, **Juniors** 11 AM -12 PM in the bus parking lot, **Sophomores** from 10-11 AM in the bus parking lot, and from **Freshmen** from 9-10 AM in the bus parking lot. Logistics for this day are on page four of this edition and will be communicated separately as well. **Senior Returns-** Chromebook, Chargers, Hot Spots, Uniforms, Musical Instruments, Musical Sheet Music, Library Books, Calculators, Textbooks, SPCC Books, Check in/out Key Fobs, Arts Supplies, Owed Fees, and anything that belongs to the school. **Seniors will receive their graduation packets and have a chance to sign a "Senior Wall" at the school. Underclassmen** will receive their yearbooks and return all of the aforementioned items, but will **NOT** return their Chromebooks, chargers, and hotspots. We will check those items in for the lower classmen next school year. Please read page four and the communication we send carefully.

Summer Read: It is Summer Reading Choice time for CATA returning students. Rising Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors. click [here](#) to review the faculty/staff choices. Check your UCPS emails for the link to make your choice. After the lottery, all incoming freshmen will be informed of the book they should read (which is not in this slideshow).

Juniors & Junior Parents, Class of 2021 Information about your senior portraits: Congratulations Class of 2021! You're finally a senior and we have some information regarding your senior portraits. Please click on the link for a 90-second video from our school's exclusive photographer, Cady Studios. Be sure to watch the entire video and fill out the contact form, so you will receive information on how to schedule your senior portraits. cady.com/2021 You must fill this out to schedule your senior portraits. **Juniors & Junior Parents:** Attention Rising Seniors - **Senior T-Shirts, Yard Signs and Event Passes** are now available to order through the PTSO website <http://www.cataptso.org>. This is a great way to show your CATA Senior Spirit and enjoy special treats throughout the year. If you have any questions, please reach out to PTSO (catacougarcouncil@gmail.com). An order form is in this edition on the last page.

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). We have six left. 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



Grade Choice Form for All Grades

Students and Parent you must fill out the UCPS Grade Choice Form before Monday, June 8. Please click [here](#) for the link. Below is what is in the directional content of the form. You must make this choice for each class.

What you will need to access and fill out this form:

- Log in to student's UCPS email address
- Provide parent portal login ID (or personal email/phone number to match demographic information) for verification purposes
- Student's current overall GPA (accessible through Naviance and Powerschool)
- Reference the weighted credit chart below

Students and parents must use this form to select their preference for taking a numeric grade, passing credit (PC19), or WC19 (withdrawal) for each course for which the student is currently enrolled. "Weighted Credit" shows the GPA quality points students earn depending on course level (CP, Honors or AP) and grade. See Chart Below

Recommendations for choosing grading options:

-If the **weighted credit earned for the course based on the final grade** is **HIGHER THAN** the student's cumulative GPA, a numeric grade would improve the student's overall GPA. Therefore, it would benefit the student to select "Numeric Grade". The numeric grade counts toward graduation credits and GPA. **Example 1:** Student has 3.0 GPA; Final grade in English I Honors is 85 (weighted credit earned will be 3.5) → Student should choose NUMERIC GRADE as this will improve GPA.

-If the **weighted credit earned for the course based on the final grade** is **LESS THAN** the student's cumulative GPA, a numeric grade would NOT improve the student's overall GPA. Therefore, it would benefit the student to choose the PC19 option. The PC19 option is a grade of "Pass" and counts toward graduation credits, but does NOT affect GPA. **Example 1:** Student has 3.0 GPA; Final grade in English I Honors is 75 (weighted credit earned will be 2.5) → Student should choose PC19 so GPA does not go down.

-If a student was **FAILING at the end of T4**, and the average of **T4 and T5 is also FAILING**, the student **MUST** choose **WC19**. This will be recorded as a **WITHDRAWAL** from the course due to Covid-19 situation and **WILL NOT** affect the student's GPA. **Credit will NOT be earned** and if the course is required for graduation, the student will have to **retake the course**.

The above guidance is general information. If a student has specific eligibility requirements for athletics or admission to a specific collegiate academic program, the student and parent may contact their school counselor or collegiate institution to discuss.

Remember, students may discuss their choice(s) with their school counselor within the first **45 days** of the new school year and make adjustments if desired. After 45 days, the decision is final.

Grade	College Prep/ most CCP CTE Pathways	Honors	AP/IB/CCP College Transfer Pathways//PLTW (some but not all CCP and PLTW)
A	4	4.5	5
B	3	3.5	4
C	2	2.5	3
D	1	1.5	2
F	0	0	0

Grade Choice Form Guidance Charts for All Grades

CP Class Guidance Chart

Current GPA	Current Course Grade	Final Mark to Choose
4.0+	A	PC-19
4.0+	B	PC-19
4.0+	C	PC-19
4.0+	D	PC-19
4.0+	F	WC-19
3.0-3.99	A	Numeric Avg.
3.0-3.99	B	PC-19
3.0-3.99	C	PC-19
3.0-3.99	D	PC-19
3.0-3.99	F	WC-19
2.0-2.99	A	Numeric Avg.
2.0-2.99	B	Numeric Avg.
2.0-2.99	C	PC-19
2.0-2.99	D	PC-19
2.0-2.99	F	WC-19
1.0-1.99	A	Numeric Avg.
1.0-1.99	B	Numeric Avg.
1.0-1.99	C	Numeric Avg.
1.0-1.99	D	PC-19
1.0-1.99	F	WC-19
0-0.99	A	Numeric Avg.
0-0.99	B	Numeric Avg.
0-0.99	C	Numeric Avg.
0-0.99	D	Numeric Avg.
0-0.99	F	WC-19

Honors Class Guidance Chart

Current GPA	Current Course Grade	Final Mark to Choose
4.5+	A	PC-19
4.5+	B	PC-19
4.5+	C	PC-19
4.5+	D	PC-19
4.5+	F	WC-19
3.5-4.49	A	Numeric Avg.
3.5-4.49	B	PC-19
3.5-4.49	C	PC-19
3.5-4.49	D	PC-19
3.5-4.49	F	WC-19
2.5-3.49	A	Numeric Avg.
2.5-3.49	B	Numeric Avg.
2.5-3.49	C	PC-19
2.5-3.49	D	PC-19
2.5-3.49	F	WC-19
1.5-2.49	A	Numeric Avg.
1.5-2.49	B	Numeric Avg.
1.5-2.49	C	Numeric Avg.
1.5-2.49	D	PC-19
1.5-2.49	F	WC-19
0-1.49	A	Numeric Avg.
0-1.49	B	Numeric Avg.
0-1.49	C	Numeric Avg.
0-1.49	D	Numeric Avg.
0-1.49	F	WC-19

AP Guidance Chart

Current GPA	Current Course Grade	Final Mark to Choose
5.0+	A	PC-19
5.0+	B	PC-19
5.0+	C	PC-19
5.0+	D	PC-19
5.0+	F	WC-19
4.0-4.99	A	Numeric Avg.
4.0-4.99	B	PC-19
4.0-4.99	C	PC-19
4.0-4.99	D	PC-19
4.0-4.99	F	WC-19
3.0-3.99	A	Numeric Avg.
3.0-3.99	B	Numeric Avg.
3.0-3.99	C	PC-19
3.0-3.99	D	PC-19
3.0-3.99	F	WC-19
2.0-2.99	A	Numeric Avg.
2.0-2.99	B	Numeric Avg.
2.0-2.99	C	Numeric Avg.
2.0-2.99	D	PC-19
2.0-2.99	F	WC-19
0-1.99	A	Numeric Avg.
0-1.99	B	Numeric Avg.
0-1.99	C	Numeric Avg.
0-1.99	D	Numeric Avg.
0-1.99	F	WC-19



Student Drop-Off Day for all Grades 9-12

Our “Drop off Day” for school items is scheduled for **Thursday, June 11**. Please notice the following times and location for each grade level. If you have any items in the school you need to pick up, then you must email Mr. Wall and Mr. Stewart with the item(s) needed and the location. School staff will retrieve the items for you, place in a bag and give it to you on the drop off date. **If you are not a senior or not the parent of a senior, please use the bus/service road next to the PDC and come to the bus parking lot.** Only senior and senior parents should use the main front entrance drive and circle. Students must have a sign on their car front passenger window with their first and last name and students must write the word “Pick up, if they communicated with us about an item in the school to pick up. Either have your items to be returned in the trunk and open it from inside the car and we will pick the item up or have items in the back passenger seat. In addition, we will drop off to you in your trunk or back passenger seat. All staff will have on masks and keep appropriate distance where possible. If possible, since a staff member may have to obtain something from the back seat of your car or from you, then please wear a mask. Students/Parents should remain in their cars at all times unless they are a senior going to the Student Parking lot for the Wall Signing inside. Staff will direct seniors when to get out of cars in the student parking lot.

- Seniors 9 am to 12 pm at the front circle, then to the student parking lot
- Freshmen- 9-10 am at the bus parking lot
- Sophomores 10-11 am at the bus parking lot
- Juniors 11 am to 12 pm at the bus parking lot

Seniors will drop of the following from 9AM-12PM Seniors- Front Circle, then Student Parking Lot

- Chromebooks, Chargers, and Hotspots
 - Athletic Uniforms
 - Textbooks/ SPCC Books
 - Media Center Book/s Items/Calculators
 - Key Fobs for Check in/out
 - Art Supplies
 - Band Instruments
 - Musical Sheet Music
 - Any other items owed to the school
 - **Pay owed fees-** place your money or check in an envelope and put your name, parent name, and parent phone number on the front of the envelope. **You must have a check or exact change.**
 - Communicate with us if they need to pick anything up; we will deliver to your car
- Once Seniors have dropped off, then they will proceed to the student parking lot and follow directions of staff to sign a wall inside the school and pick up their graduation packet. If a student/parent does not wish to come in the school for the signing, then please email Tammy Tweed, so we will have your graduation packet out front. **Our counselors have a detailed plan to keep students distanced and signing pens sanitized.**

Freshmen 9-10 AM, Sophomores, 10-11 AM, Juniors 11-12 PM: Travel down the service road to the bus lot

- Students **will keep** Chromebooks/Chargers/Hot Spots at home and we will check those in the first week of school 2020-21
- Pick up Yearbooks
- Athletic Uniforms
- Textbooks
- Any other items owed to the school
- Media Center Items/Calculators
- Key Fobs for Check out
- Art Supplies
- Musical Sheet Music
- Band Instruments
- Pay Owed Fees– You must have a check or exact change.
- Communicate with us if they need to pick anything up. We will deliver to you.



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 Date and Ceremony: Monday, June, 22 8 AM at Porter Ridge High School
The Spring Senior Letter will come out this week with more information about graduation.
Scholarship Spotlight– Click [HERE](#) for more scholarships

Testing Updates:

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.

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

2020 - 2021 Registration Update: Your school counselors "met" with you to review your course selections and this started on May 4th based on your 2nd block class. Your assigned counselor contacted you by email. Due to the school building being closed for the remainder of the school year we do need students to fill out the Virtual Registration Google Form by clicking [here](#). for any required forms needed - Waiver Form, AP Contract, Online Course Request, Peer Tutor Form, Flex Form, Yearbook Interest. Please reach out to your assigned counselor with any questions or concerns. We look forward to "meeting" with you over the next three weeks!!



Buy Your CATA Yearbook Today

Order online at <https://yearbookforever.com>, search for CATA

Underclassmen distribution details will be announced when finalized.

Copies are running out! Buy yours today!

Follow on Instagram @catalyst.yearbook

On Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CATALyst.yearbook>



College and Career Corner

Class Information from the Guidance Counselors

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

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.

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



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

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

FREE MEALS DURING SCHOOL CLOSURE

What's New?

Monday – Friday

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(two meals served on Friday)



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](https://twitter.com/CATA_Athletics)

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) has suspended all games, practices, workouts, skill development, and meetings. 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: Summer workout calendars & schedules will be posted as soon as sports resumes. 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 once we get the go ahead from the NCHSAA

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



CLASS OF '21 ORDERS



CATA Seniors Class of 2021 Senior Package Form



Senior Events, T-Shirts, Yard Signs and more! In addition to offering senior t-shirts, yard signs and senior week activities, the PTSO Senior Events Committee has planned BONUS activities to make Class of 2021 a year of special memories. These bonus activities may include an ice cream social, dessert bar and other random surprise events during the school day. Entrance into these particular BONUS Senior Events require a Senior Pass. We are offering all senior programs separately or bundled with a \$5-\$10 discount for your convenience.

PACKAGE PRICING:

Senior Items	Basic	White	Maroon	Navy
Senior Event Pass		✓	✓	✓
PTSO Membership		✓	✓	✓
Senior Class T-Shirt	✓		✓	✓
Yard Sign	✓			✓
PACKAGE PRICING	\$ 25	\$ 35	\$ 45	\$ 60

SENIOR
YARD SIGN



SENIOR CLASS T-SHIRT
(black long sleeve t-shirt w/ red text & white scratch)



ORDER FORM:

PLEASE FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW AND RETURN THIS FORM TO THE FRONT OFFICE OR THE DEN/MEDIA CENTER OR VISIT WWW.CATAPTSO.ORG

PACKAGE	AMOUNT	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Basic	\$25		\$
White	\$35		\$
Maroon	\$45		\$
Navy	\$60		\$
Add On To Package Above			
Class Shirt	\$10		\$
Yard Sign	\$20		\$
Event Pass	\$30		\$
TOTAL PAYMENT:			\$

To place your order:

Order by July 15th for Open House Pick Up

ONLINE (available now): Order your package online at www.cataptso.org using your credit/debit card. Please note there will be a 3% transaction fee. Once you have paid you will be directed to an online form to fill out the required student information to complete the order.

OR

IN PERSON (available once the building re-opens): Fill out the information below and submit this form with your cash or check payment (checks made payable to CATA PTSO) to the Front Office or The Den/Media Center.

Name of 2021 Senior: _____

Cell Phone: _____ T-Shirt Size (if ordering above): _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Email: _____

Package Type: _____ Payment: \$ _____ Online Cash Check # _____