

# Warrior Weekly

Volume XIII, Issue I, Friday, August 23, 2024

**Student Centered; Future Focused!**



**Weddington High School**

Office Hours: 7:30am - 4:00pm

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**Phone:** (704) 296-6319

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/weddingtonhs.nc](https://www.facebook.com/weddingtonhs.nc)

**Twitter:** [@WHSWarriors](https://twitter.com/WHSWarriors)

## 2024-2025 Bell Schedules

[2024-2025 Bell Schedules](#)

### SCHOOL HOURS FOR STUDENTS

The school day for WHS begins at 8:10am and ends at 3:05pm. Students are expected to be in their first period class ready for class by 8:10am, otherwise, they will be considered tardy. Students and parents are asked to review the WHS Tardy Policy which can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#). Weddington High School students may enter the building each day at 7:15 a.m. Entrances will remain locked until that time. **Due to the increased traffic during the first week of school, parents and students are encouraged to allow plenty of extra time to get to school on-time.**

### IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

**Monday, August 26th:** First Day of School

**Friday, August 30th:** College Colors Day

**Monday, September 2nd:** No school in observance of Labor Day

**Friday, September 6th:** Required Back to School Forms Due

**Tuesday, October 1st:** Underclassmen Picture Day (more information to come)

### WEDDINGTON HIGH SCHOOL PTSO

You can help pave the way for everyone to experience the Weddington Way! Go to [www.whsptso.com](http://www.whsptso.com) and join your PTSO.

All you need to do is create an account, verify your email address and then explore ALL of the opportunities for your involvement. In addition to your Membership we have Invest in Excellence (giving above and beyond without any fundraising), volunteer opportunities, and the option to link up to our donation partners such as Harris Teeter, Publix, and Amazon Smiles, a calendar, and more!!

Follow us on Facebook [@weddingtonhighschoolptso](https://www.facebook.com/weddingtonhighschoolptso) (WHS PTSO) and Instagram [@whs\\_ptso](https://www.instagram.com/whs_ptso). Email us at [w.d.h.s.ptso.nc@gmail.com](mailto:w.d.h.s.ptso.nc@gmail.com)



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WHS PTSO

@WHSPTSO



**venmo**

Scan QR code for payment

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

Parents, student and staff safety and well-being is the number one priority to both UCPS and Weddington High School. As such, we will have numerous safety measures in place for the 24-25 school year. The school administration will hold grade level safety assemblies for all students with our School Resource Officer (SRO) during the first semester and second semester. The first semester grade level assemblies will take place next week.

Additionally, all staff will complete required safety training and safety drills during the school year. Our school also has many staff available to support student overall well-being such as our School Counselor, Nurse, Social Worker, and Behavioral Health Therapist.

Parents and students are reminded of the importance of reporting bullying or anything that could pose a threat to the students or staff. This can be done by reporting directly to a school staff member or the school resource officer or through the Say Something anonymous report system. You can also visit the UCPS website and click on "I Want To" and "Submit a Tip." Students and parents can also report an anonymous tip using the UCPS Tip Line. To report a tip or for information about the Say Something report system and the UCPS tip line, please visit the UCPS Student Support website or by clicking [HERE](#). We will also be reminding students of these resources during our grade level assemblies.

For security reasons, students may only enter the building via the front entrance or the bus lot prior to 8:10am. After 8:10am, all students will be required to enter the building through the front entrance. Students are NOT to open exterior doors for other students. Stickers reminding students of this expectation were placed on exterior doors this week. Parents, please discuss the importance of complying with this safety expectation with your student.

## MEET OUR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER - DEPUTY CHRIS BYRUM



Weddington High School is thankful to have Deputy Chris Byrum as our school resource officer! Deputy Byrum has served as the SRO at Weddington High School for 9 years and has been previously named North Carolina's School Resource Officer of the Year. Deputy Byrum can be reached via email at [chris.byrum@ucps.k12.nc.us](mailto:chris.byrum@ucps.k12.nc.us) or by calling the school.

## WHS STUDENT HANDBOOK

### Dress Code

It is an expectation that students are aware of, and comply with, the dress code. The dress code can be found on page 3 and 14 of the student handbook linked above. **Parents, we saw an increase in the number of students coming to school out of dress code last year. Although we understand that style trends are ever changing and this is often reflected in the clothes that stores are selling, it is important that students understand that there is a different standard for what should be worn during school and what they wear outside of school.** Please review the dress code with your child and remind them of the importance of complying with it.

### UCPS HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK

We also ask that parents and students review the UCPS High School Handbook. The UCPS High School Handbook contains important information for both students and parents. The UCPS High School Handbook can be found on our website under *Student Life: Code of Conduct* or by clicking [HERE](#).

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We also ask that parents and students review the UCPS High School Handbook. The UCPS High School Handbook contains important information for both students and parents. The UCPS High School Handbook can be found on our website or by clicking [HERE](#).

# REQUIRED BACK TO SCHOOL FORMS

We are continuing to utilize the convenience of online form completion that can be located on our school's website by clicking "About Us" followed by "Back to School Forms" or by clicking [here](#). The due date for all required forms is **Friday, September 6, 2024**.

## VISITORS/DROP OFFS

All visitors to the school must enter through the front doors of the school using the video doorbell system. All visitors must check in at the main office during the hours of 7:30 am and 4:00 pm, which are the main office hours on days that school is in session.

### Forgotten Items/Drop Offs/Deliveries:

- items can be placed on the drop-off cart located outside the front doors
- items will be brought inside before the end of each block and placed on the table in the foyer
- please notify your student that their item has been dropped off - WE WILL NOT CALL STUDENTS OUT OF CLASS TO RETRIEVE ITEMS
- students can retrieve items in between class periods ONLY - they will not be permitted to go outside
- lunches can be placed inside the bin, and will be brought in before the end of each block and before the start of each lunch period
- PLEASE NOTE: items such as Chromebooks, phones, headphones, ear buds, etc., should NOT be left on the cart outside, and should be brought inside to the drop-off table

## ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL / TRANSPORTATION

Weddington High School students may enter the building each day at 7:15 a.m. Entrances will remain locked until that time. **Due to the increased traffic during the first week of school, parents and students are encouraged to allow plenty of extra time to get to school on-time.**

### Car Riders:

At arrival time, students are to be dropped off in front of the school. Please help us to keep car traffic flowing efficiently by facilitating the quick but safe exit of your child from your car and by pulling your car up as far as possible in the line. Students will enter through the main entrance of the school. At dismissal time, students will exit the building from the main entrance. School personnel will be supervising the process, but as is the case with arrival, we encourage you to stress with your child/children the importance of safe habits. **Please take note that parking and student drop off/pick-up are not permitted in the student parking lot, staff lot, gravel lot, or the church across the street during arrival and dismissal times. Additionally, the surrounding neighborhoods have requested that we remind students and parents that neighborhood streets are not for parking and dropping off / picking up students. Vehicles may be subject to being towed at the owner's expense.**

### Student Drivers:

Make sure that you are only parking in your assigned parking spot and have your parking sticker visible as directed. Please be sure you allow plenty of time to and from where you are going to

ensure a safe arrival to campus each day. Remember to drive slowly in the student parking lot and lookout for others.

## ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

### NEW ATTENDANCE PROCEDURE

Starting with the 2024-2025 school year, UCPS has implemented a new online portal procedure for reporting students absences. The new [Student Absence Form](#) is designed to enhance our ability to accurately track and manage student attendance. The new system enables real-time tracking of student absences, allowing us to respond promptly to patterns of absenteeism. Our plan is to become as paperless as possible, so we are requiring all families to move to this new system of absence reporting.

**Every family will need to create a one-time account for submitting forms.** This will remain active until graduation.

[Click here to create an account.](#)

**PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTING PAPER DOCTOR'S NOTES OR PARENT WRITTEN NOTES TO EXCUSE ABSENCES. ALL NOTES WILL BE UPLOADED ELECTRONICALLY**

**FOR EARLY DISMISSALS:** The early dismissal process has not changed. Students will still need to present a parent note to the front office for an early dismissal pass. This note does not excuse their absence.

## BUS TRANSPORTATION

### Bus Riders:

Our bus driver shortage continues and will impact operations as we open school. We will continue to practice strategies put in place in prior years, including double runs and bus stop consolidation. In addition to the normal 1st week delays, we anticipate added challenges with the bus driver shortage. We will be communicating any delays using the Edulog Parent Portal app, and additional information is available on the UCPS Transportation website. Your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated as we work through these challenges.

Students will load and unload buses on the side of the school at the bus lot entrance. Students will be directed to appropriate areas. Buses will typically depart Weddington High School around 3:15pm each afternoon. However, as we settle into the routines of a new school year, it is very possible that buses will be delayed during the first couple of weeks of school. Please also note that due to unforeseen mechanical, driver, and/or other issues, bus runs may be delayed on any given day throughout the school year. We will do everything in our power to minimize such instances. For additional bus rider information, please click [HERE](#). This link will provide parents with directions for installing the Edulog Parent Portal smartphone app which allows parents to access designated bus stop times and locations, see real-time information about the location of your child's school bus, and receive notifications when the bus is getting close. Mr. John Grexa, assistant principal, will be overseeing bus transportation at Weddington High School this year.

Questions regarding this area should be directed to him. Mr. Grexa can be reached via email at [john.grexa@ucps.k12.nc.us](mailto:john.grexa@ucps.k12.nc.us) or by calling the school.

## MEET OUR FRONT OFFICE STAFF

We are fortunate to have an incredible staff at Weddington High School and that includes our amazing front office staff. We wanted to showcase our front office staff in this weeks Warrior Weekly to give you an opportunity to put a face with the name.



**Mrs. Michele Loughlin - Receptionist**

[michele.loughlin@ucps.k12.nc.us](mailto:michele.loughlin@ucps.k12.nc.us)



**Mrs. TC Yost - Administrative Assistant**

[tammy.yost@ucps.k12.nc.us](mailto:tammy.yost@ucps.k12.nc.us)



**Mrs. Tina Starnes - Bookkeeper**

[tina.starnes@ucps.k12.nc.us](mailto:tina.starnes@ucps.k12.nc.us)

**Mrs. Elisabeth Sejas-Gangadeen - Data Manager**

[Elisabeth.Sejas-Gang@ucps.k12.nc.us](mailto:Elisabeth.Sejas-Gang@ucps.k12.nc.us)



**Ms. Janice Penegar- Registrar**

[janice.bowers@ucps.k12.nc.us](mailto:janice.bowers@ucps.k12.nc.us)



## FROM THE NURSES OFFICE

### **Request for Health Information Form**

The Request for Health Information Form can be found on our school's website by clicking "About Us" followed by "Back to School Forms" or by clicking [here](#). This form is requested for ALL students every year. A paper copy will be sent home with students at the start of the year and should be returned the next day.



### **Medical Consent Forms**

We will continue to need a Medication Consent form completed and signed by a physician for any meds needed at school (over the counter or prescription meds- other than hand sanitizer, Chapstick or cough drops). We require a new one every school year. They are found on the School Health Department webpage which can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

I look forward to this year at Weddington High School! Please let me know if you ever have any questions or concerns. My phone number here is 704-296-6319 ext 1905.

Thanks so much, Susan Mastin, RN

# CAFETERIA (BREAKFAST & LUNCH)

The Weddington High School cafeteria produces healthy and hot meals for our students. Children and families are encouraged to utilize this service. Breakfast is served from 7:40-8:10. **ONLY** students who complete an application and qualify for free and reduced meal prices will receive free or reduced meals. The application for free and reduced meals along with directions for completing the application can be found on the UCPS website under [School Nutrition](#).

Weddington High School serves breakfast and lunch daily. **Students are to eat in the cafeteria or courtyard area only.** Students are to remain seated while in the cafeteria or leave and go to a designated area. **Students are not permitted to leave campus for lunch OR order lunches to be delivered to Weddington High School. The lunch schedule will be shared with students on Monday.**

Information concerning menus and how to use the online prepay system can be found on the Child Nutrition page of the UCPS website <https://ucpsschoolnutritionservices.com/>.

If you have any questions about the cafeteria or your child's account, please contact our cafeteria manager, Ms. Ann Watson at 704-708-6266 or via email at [ann.watson@ucps.k12.nc.us](mailto:ann.watson@ucps.k12.nc.us).

## PAYING FOR SCHOOL-RELATED ITEMS AND FEES

Last year, UCPS implemented a new online payment system called "School Cash Online," which can be found under the "payments" section of our website. To enroll, parents will need to create an account. Once you have successfully created a user account, you can begin linking your student(s) to their profile. This will allow you to begin accessing outstanding items/activities, receive email notifications about fees/items assigned to their student and process payments for outstanding fees.

You can also sign up for School Cash Online by clicking [here](#).

## COUNTY-WIDE COLLEGE COLORS DAY



# COLLEGE COLORS DAY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30  
WEAR YOUR FAVORITE COLLEGE  
COLORS!

## HOMECOMING DANCE 2024

save the  
date!



# HOMECOMING DANCE

SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

## COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

### SPCC/FLEX

We will no longer be using fobs for students who leave campus for SPCC or flex. Please read the attached document for important information on how to set up your Verkada account.



SPCCFlex.pdf

Download

170.7 KB

The WHS School Counseling webpage is an incredible resource for everything pertaining to the WHS Counseling department. To access the webpage, please click on the following link:

<https://www.ucps.k12.nc.us/Domain/889>

### Schedule Change Request/HOLE IN SCHEDULE GoogleForm

The Schedule Change Request Google form will open Monday, August 28th at 3:00 pm and will close Friday, September 1st at 8:00am. **The only way to request a schedule change is by completing the [Schedule Change Request/Hole in my Schedule](#) form. Requests made via email/voicemail will not be processed.**

**August 26th** - Counselors process **Senior** schedule change requests

**August 27th** - Counselors process **Junior** schedule change requests

**August 28th** - Counselors process **Sophomore** schedule change requests

**August 29th** - Counselors process **Freshman** schedule change requests

**August 30th, 8:00 AM** - Schedule change request closes

Please note, **ONLY** requests submitted via the Google form will be considered. Requests made via email and/or voicemail will not be accepted.

Please be aware that submitting the form **does NOT guarantee a schedule change**. The master schedule was built on student requests. *Counselors will review student requests when considering the schedule change request.* Changes will be made as quickly as possible and as course availability allows. Changes will be visible in PowerSchool and will populate in real time. Check PowerSchool often.

**As counselors fulfill schedule change requests, the master schedule will need to be rebalanced. Rebalancing may cause a student's course sequence to change. Students, please check PowerSchool up through and including Monday, August 26th.**

*Please be aware counselors will have little availability to take phone calls during the week of August 26th due to the quantity of schedule change requests they will be working to complete.* The counseling staff appreciates your patience and understanding as they work through this process.

Link to form: [Schedule Change Request Form, Fall - 2024-2025 \(google.com\)](#)

Students must sign in with UCPS credentials to access and complete the form. Changes made will be based on what the master schedule allows. Please note: A schedule change request **DOES NOT GUARANTEE** a schedule change.

By submitting this form, students acknowledge the possibility **AND** agree to having the sequence of courses currently making up my schedule modified in order for the schedule change request to be fulfilled.

Do not submit this form if you do not want the order of your current schedule to change as a result of accommodating the request.

**Please check PowerSchool for updated schedules.**

**UCPS COLLEGE READINESS SERIES**



## 2024-2025 College Readiness Series

🐦 @UCPSCollegePrep

📷 ucpscollegeprep

### Scoir for Seniors

August 27, 2024

6:00 PM

Webinar

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/collegereadysessions>

**Seniors! Now is the time to apply to college. Learn how Scoir (pronounced score) can help you request transcripts and letters of recommendation, track your application status, and even start your application to some schools!**



## 2024-2025 College Readiness Series

@UCPSCollegePrep

ucpsclegeprep

# College Entrance Exams 101

September 17, 2024

6:00 PM

Webinar

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/collegereadysessions>

**Have you ever wondered what the major differences are between the ACT and the SAT? Are these tests even relevant anymore? What is considered a "good" score? These questions and more will be answered in this webinar!**

***Presented in partnership with Huntington Learning Center, Weddington.***



# 2024-2025 College Readiness Series

@UCPSCollegePrep    ucpscollegeprep

Scoir for Seniors	August 27, 2024	Webinar
College Entrance Exams 101	September 17, 2024	Webinar
Union County College Fair	October 13, 2024	CATA
FAFSA Completion Support	November 7, 2024	Monroe branch of the Union County Library
Getting Ready for College	November 16, 2024	Wingate University
ACT/SAT Blitz	November 23, 2024	Location TBD
High School Programs Expo	December 7, 2024	Union County Ag Center (hosted by CTE)
ACT Blitz	February 1, 2025	Location TBD
College Transition for Students with IEPs and 504s	February 4, 2025	Webinar
Practice ACT Series	February 8, 2025 and March 1, 2025	Location TBD
SAT Blitz	March 22, 2025	Location TBD
Practice SAT Series	March 29, 2025 and April 12, 2025	Location TBD
What Makes a Good College Essay?	May 13, 2025	Webinar

For more information and to register, visit <https://bit.ly/collegereadysessions>.

## ATHLETIC INFORMATION



# WEDDINGTON WARRIORS

## UCPS EVENT PROTOCOL

# ! NEW PROTOCOLS FOR UCPS EVENTS

UCPS has experienced a number of safety incidents at athletic events around the county.

**For fall sports, UCPS will implement the following protocols.**

- Only clear bags, no larger than 4.5" x 6.5" will be allowed in events/games. Medical and baby bags are subject to search.
- Middle and elementary students must be accompanied by an adult (21 years or older) to attend events and games.
- All ticket sales will end at the beginning of halftime or at the mid-point of an event.
- After consulting with law enforcement and district leaders, UCPS will utilize body scanners at events. The use of body scanners will begin in the fall of 2024 at football games.



## Athletic Department Update

Fall Sports are underway and off to a great start! Be sure to come out and cheer on the Warriors!

Questions about Athletics? Please contact our Athletic Director, Mr. Mike Hart, via email [michael.hart@ucps.k12.nc.us](mailto:michael.hart@ucps.k12.nc.us) or by calling the school.

Please visit <https://weddingtonathleticzone.com/> for up to date information!

[Coaches Directory](#)

[Eligibility Website](#)

### Can't Attend Live? Watch it Live Instead!

Click [here](#) to learn more about our live stream partnership with the NFHS Network! Volleyball, wrestling, basketball, football, soccer and lacrosse will all be live streamed!

**LOOKING FOR A PREVIOUS WARRIOR WEEKLY? CLICK HERE!**



**Jeff Kraftson**

Jeff is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



3A Men's Tennis Champions  
2017  
NCHSAA  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

1A/2A/3A Men's Lacrosse Champions  
2017  
NCHSAA  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

3AA State Football Champions  
2016  
NCHSAA  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

3A Women's Soccer Champions  
2016  
NCHSAA  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

3A Men's Indoor Track Champions  
2016  
NCHSAA  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

3A Men's Soccer Champions  
2015  
NCHSAA  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

WEDDINGTON  
WARRIORS

3A Men's Indoor Track Champions  
2020  
NCHSAA  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

3AA State Football Champions  
2019  
NCHSAA  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Large Varsity Cheerleading  
2019  
NCHSAA  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

1A/2A/3A Men's Lacrosse Champions  
2019  
NCHSAA  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

3A Men's Soccer Champions  
2019  
NCHSAA  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

PLEASE NO FOOD OR DRINKS IN THIS AREA

WARRIORS

WARRIORS

WARRIORS

WARRIORS

WARRIORS