

Warrior Weekly

Volume IX, Issue II, Friday, August 29, 2025

Student Centered; Future Focused!



Weddington High School

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Reminder



THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST IN
OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY.

enjoy the long weekend! **W**

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Monday, September 1st: No school in observance of Labor Day

Wednesday September 3rd: Senior Info Night (see below for more information)

Friday, September 5th: Required Back to School Forms Due (see below for more information)

Tuesday, September 23rd: Teacher Workday, no school for students

Tuesday, September 30th: Underclassmen Picture Day (more information to come)

2025-2026 Bell Schedules

Click [HERE](#) for the 2025-2026 bell schedules.

We will follow the Advisory Bell Schedule for the first week of each term.

SCHOOL HOURS FOR STUDENTS

Students are asked to be in the building by 8:00AM each day. This will allow them to be ready for the start of class and help set them up for success. The school day ends at 3:05PM.

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.

INFINITE CAMPUS



**If you are having problems with
Infinite Campus Parent Portal,
Please scan the QR code and fill
out the Google Form.**



ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE FAQ



What do I need to do if my student needs to leave early?

Send them to school with a parent note stating their name and what time they need to be dismissed. They will bring their note to the front office and receive an early dismissal slip.

Do I need to come into the school to sign out my student?

If they brought in a note - NO.
If they did not bring in a note - YES.

What if my student drives and needs to unexpectedly leave early?

We will need WRITTEN permission for your student to check themselves out. Please email the front office.

When do I need to use the Student Absence Portal?

Anytime your student is absent. Doctor's notes should **only** be uploaded to the portal - we do not need the paper copy.

When does my excuse note need to be uploaded?

Requested within 24 hours of the absence. Deadline for ALL excuse notes is before the end of each 6 week grading period.

Can I use the Student Absence Portal for an early dismissal?

NO. Students need to bring in a physical note in order to receive an early dismissal slip.

What is the latest time I can pick up my student?

We do not have a cutoff time, however, we suggest arriving before 2:30, as the car rider line tends to become congested.

What absences can be considered excused?

With appropriate documentation: medical appointments, illness (5 parent-excused per semester), DMV (1 per year), approved college visits (juniors & seniors)



STUDENT ABSENCE PORTAL

In the event your child is absent from school due to illness/injury, please upload your documentation to the [Student Absence Portal](#). The proper documentation **MUST** be provided in order to excuse the absence. A phone call to the school, stating your student is absent, is not necessary. Remember, parent notes will only be accepted during the current 6-week grading period, of the absent day.

WEDDINGTON HIGH SCHOOL PTSO

You can help pave the way for everyone to experience the Weddington Way! Go to www.whsptsso.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 @weddingtonhighschoolptsso (WHS PTSO) and Instagram @whs_ptsso. Email us at w.d.h.s.ptsso.nc@gmail.com

STAFF APPRECIATION

Help us welcome back our awesome staff with our September Staff Appreciation. Sign up below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044AACAA2CA6FE3-57527147-202526>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044AACAA2CA6FE3-57527153-whsstaff>



WHS PTSO

@WHSPTSO



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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 4 and 14 of the student handbook linked below. **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](#).

PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS

The Union County Board of Education recognizes the value of family engagement in a child's academic success and believes that the education of children is an ongoing cooperative partnership between the home and the school. Parents and other family members are their

children's first teachers; therefore, the continued involvement of parents and family members in the educational process is most important in fostering and improving educational achievement. The North Carolina General Assembly recently passed Senate Bill 49—Parents Bill of Rights. This act was voted on to enumerate the rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education, healthcare, and mental health of minor children. For more details on the Parent Bill of Rights, please visit the UCPS Parent's Bill of Rights page by clicking [HERE](#).

Additionally, the UCPS Student Achievement Guide provides parents with resources and information to stay connected in your child's education. This can be accessed on the UCPS Parent Bill of Rights page under the section heading of Quick Links 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 5, 2025**.

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.

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. **Parking in the wrong spot will result in a parking ticket with a fine of \$25.** 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.

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 or by calling the school.

MEET OUR ADMINISTRATORS



Mr. Kevin Beals - Principal

Mr. Kevin Beals was raised in southern New Hampshire until he moved to North Carolina in 2006. Mr. Beals earned his Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of New Hampshire, and his Master's Degree in Teaching Mathematics from Rivier College. He has been an educator since 1992. He worked for 11 years in education in NH, including five years with Special Education students, and for six years as a middle school teacher. In 2006, Mr. Beals and his family moved to Union County where he resumed his teaching career at Sun Valley Middle School. After earning his

license for School Administration, he transitioned to the role of Assistant Principal at SVMS in 2011. Then, in 2015, Union County Public Schools granted Mr. Beals a transfer to Sardis Elementary as an Assistant Principal. After serving at Sardis for nearly three years, Mr. Beals was named Interim Principal to close out the 2017-2018 school year. Shortly thereafter, he was given the incredible opportunity to lead Sardis as Principal. In 2022, Mr. Beals was named the principal at Central Academy of Technology & Arts.

Mr. Beals has been married to his wife, Randi, since 2003, and together they have 3 children that attend or have attended school in UCPS. Mr. Beals enjoys coaching baseball and basketball and can often be found on the field or court when not at school. Mr. Beals is honored to work with the faculty, students, parents, and all stakeholders of this great school community.



Dr. Michelle Newnam - Assistant Principal, Last Names H-O

Prior to being assistant principal of Weddington High, Dr. Newnam was assistant principal at Central Academy of Technology & Arts and Porter Ridge High School since August 2018. She was an assistant principal in the county for six years at an elementary school. Dr. Newnam earned a B.F.A. from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, a Masters of School Administration from Queens University of Charlotte, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Dr. Newnam has three kids and two dogs. Her oldest two children are graduates of Appalachian State University and her youngest child is a senior at Appalachian State University.

Dr. Newnam has worked in education since 1994. During her tenure teaching, Dr. Newnam worked at the District level designing rubrics, performance assessments, and creating curriculum guides. She also worked at the state level reviewing performance assessments.



Mrs. Marni Menkin - Assistant Principal, Last Names A-G

Marni Menkin graduated from the University of South Florida with her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. While in south Florida, she became ESOL certified (working with students whose native language is not English). She earned National Board Certification in 2002 and renewed in 2012. Mrs. Menkin collaborated with a team of National Board Certified teachers to develop and implement a workshop for the school system, Using Literacy to Teach Across the Content Areas. She had the

opportunity to have a variety of experiences from teaching in a Title I school to serving at a science and technology magnet school before moving to North Carolina with her family in 2006. Mrs. Menkin continued her career at Marvin Elementary where she won numerous classroom grants, began a multi-age education program, served as a county trainer for technology, science, and literacy, was named teacher of the year, and went on to become a top 10 finalist in UCPS. Mrs.

Menkin earned her Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Winthrop University in December of 2014.

In the Summer of 2015, she was named as an assistant principal at Marvin Ridge Middle School and served there for three years. Mrs. Menkin completed the Future Ready Leadership Program at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Mrs. Menkin joined the Weddington High School team in June of 2018 and is excited to help carry on the tradition of excellence and high standards that have been established at such a remarkable school.

In her spare time, Mrs. Menkin loves being with her family and taking trips to the beach. Mrs. Menkin is married to Jay Menkin, and they have two children, Josh and Kylie.

Mr. John Grexa - Assistant Principal, Last Names P-Z

Mr. Grexa graduated from Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, New York with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Secondary Education. Upon graduating from college, Mr. Grexa taught 8th Grade Social Studies at Blue Mountain Middle School in Montrose, New York. While teaching in New York, Mr. Grexa received his Masters in Instructional Technology from New York Institute of Technology.

After moving to Union County in 2004, Mr. Grexa first taught 7th grade Social Studies at James Martin Middle School in Charlotte.

He then moved to Forest Hills High School where he taught US and

World History. In the spring of 2007, Mr. Grexa was appointed assistant principal at Sun Valley Middle School, where he remained until his current reassignment to Weddington High School. During his tenure at Sun Valley Middle School, Mr. Grexa attended Wingate University and completed his add-on licensure in School Administration.

Throughout his career, Mr. Grexa has combined classroom instruction with extra-curricular activities. He has coached football, lacrosse, volleyball, basketball, and wrestling at both the middle school and high school levels. He has also acted as Student Council advisor at Blue Mountain Middle School and Forest Hills High School.

Mr. Grexa resides in Wesley Chapel with his wife Donna, a school counselor at Sun Valley High School and his two daughters, Jackie and Dani, who are Weddington High School alumni. In his spare time, Mr. Grexa enjoys spending time with family, playing golf, kayaking, working around the house, tinkering with cars, and reading a good book.



Mr. Grexa is honored to be selected to continue his career in Union County, particularly at Weddington High School. More importantly, he is excited to work with the students, staff and parents of Weddington High School in order to continue its tradition of excellence and leadership in Union County and across the state of North Carolina.

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Counseling Department Information

Please visit the [WHS Counseling Department webpage](#) for information and resources.

FROM THE NURSES OFFICE

Meet Our Nurse, Penny Harrison!

Hello my name is Penny Harrison (Nurse Penny). I am a wife and mom to 3 amazing kids. I am also a dog mom to Moose who brings us all so much joy! I love spending time with my family, traveling and helping others achieve success with their health. I have been working as a Registered Nurse for the last 23 years. As a school nurse, I have really enjoyed getting to know and helping students and their families. I hold each and every one of them close to my heart and think of them often. I am looking forward to a wonderful year here at Weddington High School.



You can reach me at extension 1905 or penny.harrison@ucps.k12.nc.us

REQUEST FOR HEALTH INFORMATION

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](#).

ATHLETIC INFORMATION

SPIRIT WEAR

Hey warriors - did you know that we offer SPIRITWEAR year-round? Many of our items are available for purchase ANY TIME! Tshirts, hoodies, pj pants, sweats, hats, etc. are available NOW for immediate pickup. Email whsabcspiritwear@gmail.com or text 704-806-6433 to get yours today!

WMS SEASON PASS

UCPS EVENT PROTOCOL

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 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

