



Upper
Arlington
High
School
PTO

www.uahspto.org

Secrets of an Upper Arlington High School Parent -

Absenteeism – If your child is going to be out of school for a day or more, be sure to call the Attendance Line. Call the high school and push “1” to leave your student’s name, grade and reason for absence. If your student is running late you can call the school but, if it is not for an unexcused absence – i.e. flat tire – it will still be marked unexcused and they will “owe time” during a lunch period. You may get an incident report if your child is not in class and they will get a detention. They can be teacher error so be sure to have your child check in with the teacher if they know they were in class.

Activity Fair – There is a fall activity fair during the lunch periods in September. It is a great way for freshmen to discover all the different clubs and activities that are offered.

Appointments during the school day – Be sure to send a note with your student to give to the attendance office with his/her appointment time and period when they will leave and return. Be sure to get a note from the care provider confirming the time of your appointment for the student to give to the office when they return to class. You do not have to check them out, they can do that themselves.

Athletic Passes – There are annual athletic passes that can be helpful. Options (Household, Adult, Student, etc.) and prices can be found on the UAHS website under Athletics. Find Forms & Information tab and look for the yellow box on the far right side of the last column. Check it out to determine if it is right for you and your family.

Coffee Bar - There is a coffee bar called UA Rise that is open in the morning and during lunch. Kids can carry coffee and drinks throughout the school during the day. Often teachers allow them to eat in their classroom too, but it is best to ask permission of each teacher. UA Rise takes cash, credit or debit cards.

Counselors - Meet and get to know your child’s counselor and make sure your student gets to know them too! This is the gateway to class scheduling, college recommendations and all good things while at the high school! The first letter of the student’s last name determines the counselor to whom they will be assigned. You can sign up to see them on line under the Counseling Center tab on the website. Click on the Schedule button and you can see what time slots they have available by day – some are 15 minute and some are 30 minute slots.

Dances - There are two dances/year for freshmen and sophomores – Homecoming Dance in September and Winter Dance in January. Usually, the boys ask the girls to Homecoming and girls ask the boys to Winter. Often freshmen ask each other to Homecoming right after school starts. There is some ceremony to the “ask” – videos, posters, surprises, friends helping, costumes, etc. Girls generally wear short dresses and boys wear jacket and tie or suits. They

exchange boutonnieres and wrist corsages. Generally they go out to dinner in groups and then have an after party. “Dates” are not required and many friends go in same sex or mixed groups.

Drop off/Pick up – There is no school bus service to or from the high school. Students walk, ride a bike, get a ride or drive to school. Drop off and pick up are notoriously challenging due to multiple exits and lots of people in small areas.

- Drop off – The student’s locker or first class location often determines where it is best to drop them off. This is something they can figure out after Textbook pick up day. There are lots of “no parking” signs in front of the school on Ridgeview.
- Pick Up – Again, often based on their last class, locker or where you can idle waiting for them. Many jam into the “circle of death” on Ridgeview at the main entrance or sit along the streets that run perpendicular to Ridgeview like Westmont.

Dropping Classes – You can drop a class without penalty within the first 6 weeks.

Evening Meetings - Doors open for evening meetings – There are 31 entrances to the high school and they cannot all be open at night. The best bet is the main door on Ridgeview at the circle or the back door between the tennis/baseball fields and the building.

Fall Sports – Fall sports cannot officially start until August 1st but some may have strongly encouraged captain’s practices as early as June. You will want to know when the conditioning and other events begin to see how that impacts your summer scheduling. Usually there are team nights in the spring, prior to the end of the school year.

Grade Point Average – GPAs are only reported on the semester even though your student will get a quarterly grade as well. That is a good check in to make sure all is on track, but only the semester grades appear on their transcript. There is a formula for determining the GPA that is found on the “Program of Studies” that will be on your student’s MAC Air book. It is at the front of the “Program of Studies.

Jaywalking – As you would imagine, at lunchtime and at the end of the day there can be a flood of 1,800 students exiting the building and filling the streets. Students must stay in the designated walkways to avoid accidents. There have been years when UA Police issued jaywalking tickets. Have your child follow the rules of the road when walking to and from the school.

Lost and Found - The Attendance Office will keep lost water bottles, sweatshirts, etc. Bear Essentials, the school store, has all the valuable items that have been lost like keys, computers, phone, etc.

Marching Band – The marching band also starts up before the beginning of school. Generally, they practice the week before July 4th and then march in the July 4th parade (not mandatory, but encouraged). Band Camp (Mon-Sat) is around the first week of August. If the student has registered for band, information is emailed in the spring regarding summer dates.

Office Hours – This is a great opportunity for your kids to meet with teachers and get extra help or make up a lab or other missed work. This year office hours are at 8:05 a.m. on Wednesday mornings and at offer an additional 27-minute office hours on Thursdays at 2:38 p.m., beginning on September 2, 2016. As is the case with Wednesday morning office hours, teachers may assign

students to attend or students may choose to stop to see their teacher. Students are expected to use the time to work with a teacher or utilize the learning center to work on their assignments. Additionally, extracurricular activities will not be permitted to start any earlier on Thursdays. Use of this time will be monitored throughout the school year to determine its viability.

Open House – second week in September – This is the equivalent of “Meet the Teacher” night.

1. Be sure to bring your student’s schedule with you. You can print it from Power School or have it available on your phone to view. If you don’t bring it with you, you will have to wait in line.
2. You will follow their schedule. Plan to get lost and confused. Kids are stationed to help you along the way...be sure to ask for directions! If you have multiple kids, sometimes families split up or see those teachers where your student is doing really well or struggling.
3. You will only have time to introduce yourself to the teacher but it is a great way to find out their expectations and see what is on the syllabus for the year.
4. BRING YOUR CHECKBOOK! During your child’s lunch and/or study hall you can roam the main hallway and buy the yearbook, join PTO, get a directory, sign up for The Arlingtonian – the school newspaper, etc.

Open Lunch – Students can leave campus during their lunch period if you sign off on the permission form. This is your family’s decision. Many students leave campus and many do not. Some go out once or twice a week. Others go out every day and others never go out. You can always wait and see how first quarter grades go before opening up this option for your child. You always have the ability to close it back down at any time in the school year.

Eating Out -

- Places to eat “out” within walking distance – Wendy’s, Giant-Eagle Market District, Yabo’s Tacos, and Donato’s, maybe Panera’s?
- There are upper classmen who can drive them to other places.
- Many kids bring their lunch and eat with friends while out. Most of the places above allow the kids to bring a lunch. They prefer if they buy a drink or something, but it is not required.
- It can get expensive. Many families use this as an opportunity to teach budgeting skills.
- Some families have found that a debit card with a clear limit is a good way to handle the expense.

Eating In -

- They can bring their lunch and buy a drink, dessert or other a la carte menu items
- They can buy lunch using the EZPay program that you had in middle school.
- Choices include
 - Salad bar
 - Hot entrée that changes daily
 - Pizza
 - Cheeseburgers and fries
 - Vending machines - drinks and snacks

Lunch lasts 45 minutes. After their third tardy, they will be assigned a lunch detention and might have the school close their open lunch privileges down for a period of time.

Orchestra – There are 3 levels of orchestra – Strings, Concert and Symphony. Tryouts are in the spring of 8th grade. They meet one period per day.

Schedules – All students get their schedules the week prior to school starting as part of textbook pick up day.

Freshman Book Pick Up/Pictures
Thu, 8/10/17 - 8:30 am to 11:30 am

Sophomore Book Pick Up/Pictures
Fri, 8/11/17 - 8:30 am to 11:30 am

Senior Book Pick Up/Pictures
Thu, 8/10/17 - 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Junior Book Pick Up/Pictures
Fri, 8/11/17 - 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Make Up Book Pick Up/Pictures
Tue, 8/15/17 - 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm

At that time they will get their school pictures taken and that will be used as their student ID photo as well. They get their photo ID that day. They will need that for testing and for entrance to various games. **DO NOT GO WITH THEM.** Many kids go with friends or meet up with friends once they arrive at school. It should only take about an hour. Earlier in the day is usually quiet.

Freshmen have the first day of school to themselves without the upper classmen. It is the first day of school for the rest of the district. Upperclassmen come the next day. The first day for freshmen next year is Wednesday, August 16th.

School Store - Bear Essentials Book Store – We have a GREAT book store just outside of the main office. They often stock required paperbacks, school supplies, UA spirit wear for the whole family, UAHS car stickers, go mugs, etc. Open daily from 7:50 am to 3:15 p.m. They welcome parents any time!

School Supplies – Unlike the other grades, your student will not get a school supply list prior to the first day of school. Each teacher will outline his/her expectations during the first week of school and usually the student has a week or so to get their materials lined up. Although some teachers require a separate binder with specific tabs, it is often up to the student to find his/her best method of organizing materials.

Service Hours – There are no service hours required freshman year. Six hours are required during sophomore and junior year and 10 hours senior year. There are national awards like the President's Service Awards for those who are interested in doing more.

Start/End times – School starts at 8:05 a.m. There are two exceptions on Wednesdays.

1. Office Hours - Once school is underway (after a couple of weeks), teachers have office hours where kids can meet with them to get extra help or have questions answered. Wednesday's school officially starts at 8:37 a.m., and on Thursday's school officially ends at 2:38 p.m. Office Hours are not mandatory but it is a good idea to encourage your child to get in the habit of attending office hours. It is a great opportunity!
2. Early release Wednesdays - There are no office hours and school starts at 8:05 a.m. and the school day ends at 1:30 p.m..

The school day ends at 3:05 p.m. every day but early release days (1:30pm) and Office Hour Thursdays (2:38pm).