

UPA COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER EDITION

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The 2020-2021 school year is upon us, and the challenges we will be facing are simultaneously daunting and

exhilarating. Covid-19 has created a perfect storm pitting what we know about ensuring the safety of the UPA community against what we know as best practices for teaching and learning

I would not want to face the challenges of the upcoming school year anywhere else. This summer has passed by in a blink of an eye because of the planning, creating, and exploring new and innovative ways to create safe learning conditions and interactive learning experiences from a distance. Our IT department has been burning the midnight oil to implement a live-streaming experience via Panopto, which allows for the most secure Zoom interactivity and to create a real classroom simulation.

During the planning process, great ideas and best practices came from all corners of the community. We

are as prepared for the upcoming school year because of the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our students, and the support of our families. Going forward, we will continue to listen and improve our practices by listening to the needs, desires, and dreams of all who call UPA their school.

No matter how the circumstances change over the coming months, our commitment to our mission will keep us on course and focused on the task at hand – preparing every child for success in college or University.

Sincerely, David Porter

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University Preparatory Academy Keeps Block Schedule

Thanks to our IT team, led by Tom Guevara, our ability to provide a live-streaming classroom experience continues to improve daily and has now given us the ability to keep our block schedule. **The block schedule reduces the number of courses a student takes in one day and allows for multiple opportunities for direct teacher tutoring and support almost daily.**

Semester 1 Calendar and Bell Schedule

July					August					September				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30	31	31					28	29	30		

October					November					December				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	30					28	29	30	31	

Due to Covid-19, all schedules are subject to change. This calendar represents what we know as of 07/31/2020	
All Students Distance Learning	36 Days Sem 1/1 Day Sem 2
A Group Days	23 Days Sem 1/48 Days Sem 2
B Group Days	23 Days Sem 1/48 Days Sem 2
Finals	3 Days Sem 1/3 Days Sem 2
Holidays	16 Days Sem 1/14 Days Sem 2

1,3,5,7 Schedule			
Total	Start	End	Period
1:35	8:15 AM	9:50 AM	Per 1
0:10	9:50 AM	10:00 AM	Break
0:05	10:00 AM	10:05 AM	Pass Per
1:30	10:05 AM	11:35 AM	Per 3
0:40	11:35 AM	12:15 PM	Lunch
0:05	12:15 PM	12:20 PM	Pass Per
1:30	12:20 PM	1:50 PM	Per 5
0:05	1:50 PM	1:55 PM	Pass Per
1:30	1:55 PM	3:25 PM	Per 7

2,4,6 Seminar/Open Tutoring			
Total	Start	End	Period
1:35	8:15 AM	9:50 AM	Per 2
0:10	9:50 AM	10:00 AM	Break
0:05	10:00 AM	10:05 AM	Pass Per
1:30	10:05 AM	11:35 AM	Per 4
0:40	11:35 AM	12:15 PM	Lunch
0:05	12:15 PM	12:20 PM	Pass Per
1:35	12:20 PM	1:55 PM	Per 6
0:05	1:55 PM	2:00 PM	Pass Per
1:00	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	Seminar/ Tutorial

Friday Schedule			
Total	Start	End	Period
0:50	8:15 AM	9:05 AM	Per 1
0:05	9:05 AM	9:10 AM	Pass Per
0:50	9:10 AM	10:00 AM	Per 2
0:10	10:00 AM	10:10 AM	Break
0:05	10:10 AM	10:15 AM	Pass Per
0:50	10:15 AM	11:05 AM	Per 3
0:05	11:05 AM	11:10 AM	Pass Per
0:50	11:10 AM	12:00 PM	Per 4
0:40	12:00 PM	12:40 PM	Lunch
0:05	12:40 PM	12:45 PM	Pass Per
0:50	12:45 PM	1:35 PM	Per 5
0:05	1:35 PM	1:40 PM	Pass Per
0:50	1:40 PM	2:30 PM	Per 6
0:05	2:30 PM	2:35 PM	Pass Per
0:50	2:35 PM	3:25 PM	Per 7

Important Dates

- July 31:** Schedule Distribution Electronically
- August 3-12:** Staff Training
- August 3-7:** Student-Counselor Meetings, on Zoom
- August 3:** Grade 7/8 Book and Technology Pick-Up
- August 4:** Grade 9/10 Book and Technology Pick-Up
- August 7:** Grade 11/12 Book and Technology Pick-Up
- August 10:** Make-Up Book and Technology Pick-Up
- August 10:** PTSO New Family Welcome 7:00 PM, on Zoom
- August 11:** Student Technology Training 4:00 PM, on Zoom
- August 11:** Parent Technology Training 6:00 PM, on Zoom
- August 12:** Student Technology Training 4:00 PM, on Zoom
- August 12:** Parent Technology Training 6:00 PM, on Zoom
- August 13:** Start of School – Periods 1,3,5,7
- August 13:** Board Meeting 6:00 PM, on Zoom
- August 14:** Periods 2,4,6, and Seminar
- August 19:** PTSO Meeting: Supporting Families. 7:00 PM, on Zoom
- September 3:** Back to School Night – Virtual, on Zoom
- September 7:** Labor Day – No School
- September 17:** Board Meeting 6:00 PM, on Zoom
- September 18:** End of 1st Marking Period

Student/Family Expectations during Distance Learning

- Create a separate learning space that used solely for distance learning.
- Discourage after work hours emails
- Support a teacher's ability to have 48 hours to respond to an email
- Reinforce the "stop work" time to help them unplug
- Participate in all office hours

Teacher Expectations during Distance Learning

- Turn off the email on your phone so that you only check it with a computer in order to create a space between work and home
- Do not share their personal phone number or respond to text messages from students
- Consider making social media private so that there is no mixing of work and life (unless the social media is for work only then stick with work hours and topics)
- Set clear working and office hours in the syllabus
- Set a 48 hour window for responding to email
- Set a general "stop work" time to ensure they are unplugging

Homework/Distance Learning Guidelines

- Homework is a vital part of the learning experience and provides students continued practice
- Homework shall only be assigned on the day of the class
- Homework should be non-technology based. Meaning students should be assigned activities that are based on textbooks, novels, or other resources that helps a student continue learning without having to increase screen time.
- Homework Time Limits
 - Grades 7-8: No more than 20 minutes per period
 - Grades 9-12:
 - Non-AP Courses: No more than 30 minutes per period
 - AP Courses: No more than 40 minutes per period
- In the event that a class activity is not completed during the period and is assigned to be completed at home, then that assignment is considered homework. Teachers will not assign additional homework on the days that a class activity is asked to be completed at home.

Distance Learning Guidelines

- Students will log into Schoology no later than 8:10 AM
- Teachers will provide a link to the live-streaming event on Schoology
- Students need to know that daily attendance will be taken during distance learning by logging into the event.
- Panopto is a secure video delivery program and students will have to use their upatoday email accounts to log in.
- In the case of internet connectivity issues, parents will be requested to send a message to the teacher explaining the issue and the absence will be excused



Instructional Improvements:

***One stop shop for students, teachers, and families.
Interactive lessons, easier online grading and feedback, individualized education, track student progress***

Technology Improvements:

Imbedded live-streaming and Zoom, students can submit documents, podcasts, or videos, connects to all other school resources

Communication Improvements:

One step outreach to the community via text, email, and mobile alerts, unites messages from coaching, clubs, and parent organizations

Mobile Improvements:

Teachers can use any device to access Schoology. Teachers can grade from any device and students can submit work from any device.

UPA Parent Teacher Student Organization is your Community

One of the many critical factors that makes UPA a unique and successful school is the level of parent support and engagement. **Given the instability of our current times, PTSO's purpose and mission is even more critical.** This year, PTSO will be offering a multitude of supports for the entire community:

Evening Tutoring for Students

Parent Community Meetings

Parent Support Meetings

Parent Technology Support Meetings

Teacher supply support

Student AP Exam and SAT scholarships

College scholarships

School Volunteer Coordination

Community Celebrations

UPA needs your support. We need parents willing to assist with tutoring, technology assistance, and school volunteers (when on campus instruction begins) and we need your financial support.

The state will be deferring monetary support for UPA and your financial support will go directly to help students and to keep UPA thriving.

UPA is Committed to Supporting All Learners

Individualized Education Plans

- UPA fully supports IDEA law and will actively work with each family to tailor the learning plan and the instruction to meet the needs of the student.
- The IEP Case Manager will complete several check-ins with the student during distance learning to ensure the student is receiving the services within the IEP.
- Students who receive support classes during the day will continue to receive those courses during distance learning
- IEPs will be conducted virtually during distance learning and will meet all required deadlines
- **Students with IEPs will have the opportunity to study on campus in the Horton Auditorium with in-person support, but will still be participating in distance learning.**

504 Plans

- UPA fully supports IDEA law and will actively work with each family to tailor the learning plan and the instruction to meet the needs of the student.
- The Director of Special Programs along with 1 counselor will help to oversee the implementation and monitoring of all 504 students
- 504s will be conducted virtually during distance learning and will meet all required deadlines
- **Students with IEPs will have the opportunity to study on campus in the Horton Auditorium with in-person support, but will still be participating in distance learning.**

Support for Struggling Students:

- Teachers will identify and reach out to students who are not participating in distance learning or struggling in class.
- If the teacher cannot make progress with the student, they will be referred to our support system
- Front office staff will attempt to reach out to the home to notify the family and to get the student back in the virtual or real classroom
- Students will also receive academic support from their counselor and be offered social-emotional support
- In the instances that the student is non-responsive, UPA will conduct a home visit
- **Students who are struggling with distance learning will be provided the opportunity to study on campus in the Horton Auditorium with in-person support, but will still be participating in distance learning.**

