WELCOME

Uwharrie Charter Academy
Information Session for
Prospective families
Mission

The Uwharrie Charter Academy will exist:

- To provide a truly rigorous pathway to college and career readiness;
- To afford students the benefit of a small learning community with a low teacher/student ratio in an effort to promote strong relationships with students and individualized support for learning;
- To imbed the curriculum with STEM focused content through problem-based learning, historical developments in technology, hands-on math, and inquiry science that requires engineering and ingenuity;
- To promote hands-on, project-based learning in all courses;
- To support the development of 21st century skills integrating the use of technology;
- To partner with parents so that they understand their role in their child’s education;
- To build relationships with local institutions in order to provide real-world connections and opportunities for applied learning; and
- To promote environmental stewardship including the adoption of green practices in student’s everyday lives and the integration of NC’s Environmental Literacy Plan in a cross curricular approach.
Charter School 101

- Charter schools are 20 years old in the state; 160+ across the state.
- UCA is the only charter school in Randolph County and any student in NC may attend, regardless of address, if a spot is available.
- Public schools: No Tuition (traditional school fees).
- Accountability: Must administer End-Of-Grade and End-Of-Course.
- Curriculum: May implement a unique curriculum but meet state testing requirement - UCA uses state’s curriculum with modifications along with locally designed courses.
- Teacher certification: All teachers must have at least a 4-year degree related to the courses that they teach and at least 50% must also be certified.
Charter School 101

- Does provide transportation and free/reduced lunch (not required)
- Accredited by the NC State Board of Education
- Flexible calendar and daily schedule
- Responsive to the communities needs in a timely manner
- Private, non-profit Board of Directors for one school
- Great stewards of state and local tax dollars (funding follows the student)
Why Uwharrie Charter?

- Personalized approach to educating each child from a whole child perspective instead of a test score
- Passionate teachers, administrators, and board members
- Mission-driven, student-centered decision making from the top
- Flex Days for opportunities…
- Where people AND community matters
- Character just as important as curriculum
Lunches

- Families may order lunch online using a debit or credit card for the week that follows the deadline listed on the order form.
- Vendors include: K & W (future partner), Subway, Chick-fil-a, Little Caesars, Bojangles
- Hot lunches to be provided by a vendor beginning 18-19 at all campuses
- Free/reduced lunch: UCA provides a lunch for students that qualify for free/reduced lunch after completing the necessary paperwork upon enrollment.
Transportation

- Families may utilize our “community stops” for morning and afternoon transportation
- We will offer grade K-4 bus routes and grades 5-12 bus routes
- We currently have offer 15 different locations on 9 different buses
- Carpooling arrangements
- Student drivers
- Stops: Randleman, Biscoe, Troy, Ramseur, Denton, Asheboro, and surrounding areas
Facilities

Elementary School Grades K–4
301 Lewallen Road, Asheboro, NC 27205

Middle School Grades 5–8 (New School)
5154 US Hwy 220 Business South, Asheboro, NC 27205

High School Grades 9–12
5326 US Hwy 220 Business South, Asheboro, NC 27205

Central Office
5154 US Hwy 220 Business South, Asheboro, NC 27205
Athletics

- Middle School (Grades 6-8) - Currently compete in Carolina Athletic Association for Schools of Choice (CAASC)
  - Men’s Soccer, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Men's Basketball, Women’s Basketball, Wrestling, Softball, Women’s Soccer, Baseball
- High School (Grade 9-12) - Compete in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA)
  - In the Yadkin Valley 1A Conference
  - Men’s Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country, Cheerleading, Men’s Basketball, Women’s Basketball, Wrestling, Men’s Golf, Softball, Women’s Soccer, Baseball
High School

5326 Hwy 220 Business South
Asheboro, NC 27205
Core courses and programs

- 28 credits required to graduate
- Standard and honor courses offered
- 9 Advanced Placement courses offered (can earn college credit)
- Courses may be taken at local community colleges for college credit and dual credit (as applicable)
- Off-site courses and internships are available and can be personalized for older students
Elective courses and pathways

- Dance classes
- Health Sciences Pathway
- Chorus and Orchestra/band (with honors classes)
- Physical education
- Foreign languages: Spanish and Mandarin
- NCVirtual Public Schools (electives, languages, scheduling conflicts)
Soaring Eagles Early College Institute

- Students in our middle school can earn up to 5 high school credits
- 9th grade students have a prescribed set of classes
- 10th grade: begin taking college courses at Randolph Community College
- 4 pathways to college credit with the most aggressive resulting in Associates Degree at graduation
- MOU with RCC = Great Community Partner
- Exploring options with other community colleges
Flex Days

- At ALL campuses
- Students go out in the community or community comes into the schools
- Real applications of learning
- Community Service
- Community awareness
- Career exploration
- Inspirational and develops a passion
College and Career Readiness

- UCA is proud of its graduates and the paths they are taking to benefit our society.
- University attendance and acceptance: UNC-Chapel Hill, Elon University, High Point University, Pfeiffer University, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Wilmington, NC State, East Carolina University, Auburn, University of Alabama, UNC-Pembroke, Appalachian State, Western Carolina University, and many others including community colleges all over the state.
- Two students have been regional finalists for the prestigious Morehead Cain Scholarship
- Scholarships and financial packages totaling more than $3 million dollars have been offered to our graduates since having our first graduating classes.
Extracurricular and Summer programs

- Clubs: Beta Club, Interact Club, Key Club, Mock Trial, Photography Club, Student Council, Prom committee, Science Olympiad, and many more
- Summer learning opportunities are shared with students and parents and include business, medical, athletic, engineering, and photography at universities around the state
- Starworks partnership for off-site electives
- Exploring new partnerships with other community entities and NC School of Science and Math
- Prom, dances, yearbook, homecoming, and athletics
Schedule

- Our schedule is set up on block schedule four periods a day.
- Students have two cores and an two electives on one semester, and the other two cores and another two electives the following semester.
- A 40 minute Action Research Connection (ARC) period is included at the beginning of each Friday.
Instructional Framework

How we teach what we teach.
Experiential Learning

Learning by doing!!!!!

1. Project Based Learning
2. Problem Based Learning
3. Engineering & Design Process
Project Based Learning

Not at the end of a unit, but the project is the unit.
Always interdisciplinary.
Begins with a “Driving Question”.
Places the focus on Student Centered Learning.
Problem Based Learning

Is usually used within a singular content area.

Starts with a Problem.

Students gain learning through the discovery of possible solutions and outcomes.
Engineering & Design Process

SQUARE 1: Start with a....Question

Utilize resources

Arrive at a possible solution

Roll out a prototype

Evaluate the results

Go back to SQUARE 1!!!!!!!!!!
All of our STEAM classes meet

- 21st Century Skills (critical thinking, cooperative learning, creativity, communication)
- In high school, STEAM is taught through electives and the engineering and design process is taught across the curriculum as applicable to learning objectives
- Plans in place to increase integration of STEAM at high school for 18-19 and beyond
- Tie to Standards (all STEAM classes include written components such as applications, product descriptions, measuring, cost analysis, etc…)
- Real-World Application (students get to apply learned skills in a real-world setting)
Middle School

5154 Hwy 220 Business South
Asheboro, NC 27205
Who are we?

- Uwharrie Charter Academy Middle School
- Public Charter School
- 600 Students
- Grades 5-8
- S.T.E³.A.M.centric Curriculum and Philosophy
Our vision is based on three main core beliefs:

1) Experiential Learning: Providing students real-life experiences to reinforce learned material

2) Environmental Literacy: Incorporating environmental information into all subject areas

3) Community Service: Students work together to provide various services to our surrounding community
Our Vision and STE$^3$AM

- Our vision identifies the ideologies at the core of deep and meaningful learning: relevant, empathy-driven, student-centered, immersive in STE$^3$AM
- Integrated STE$^3$AM across the curriculum provides the conduit for our vision to become a reality.
Integrated STE³AM Pilot

- Began in our middle school
- Dedicated time 4 days a week (60 min)
- Intentional training, planning, and reflection (protected and monitored)
- STE³AM Block lead by talented teachers
- Followed and coached by teacher leaders and administrators
Development of STE³AM Classes

- Themed: product, service, or high interest
- Non-negotiables in syllabi and lesson plans: utilize engineering and design process, student-centered, development of writing skills, development of research skills, development of communication skills, and portfolio-based.
STEAM Classes

- Our STEAM classes are created based on teachers’ strengths.
- Each teacher creates and designs his/her own STEAM class focused on specific interests.
- Student learning is captured within their S.T.E.A.M. Interactive Portfolio in all 19 S.T.E.A.M. classes.
Teacher and Student Buy-in

- Teachers created STE$^3$AM classes based upon their own passions, hobbies, and/or interests.
- Added student-centered, real-world applications
STE³AM Categories

High-Interest Classes: Crossfit, Lego Robotics, Hunter Safety, Dog Training
Product Producers: MakerSpace, Do-It-Yourself, Homesteading, Craftsmanship
Service Providers: Journalism, Music Studio, Focus (Photography)
Our schedule is set up on an “A day,” “B day.”

Students have two cores and an elective on one day, and the other two cores and another elective the following day.

Students also attend their chosen STE³AM class for 60 minutes Monday through Thursday.

A 20 minute Foundations period is included at the beginning of each day to focus on Math skills.
Sample Schedule

Monday

- Foundations (20mins)
- 1st: Science (90 mins)
- 2nd: STE³AM (60 mins) (students do receive a pass/fail grade to give accountability)
- 3rd: Math (90 mins)
- Lunch (30 mins)
- 4th: Physical Education (90 mins)
Sample Schedule (cont.)

- **Tuesday/Thursday**
  - Foundations (20mins)
  - 1st: English & Language Arts (90 mins)
  - 2nd: STE³AM (60 mins) (students do receive a pass/fail grade to give accountability)
  - 3rd: Social Studies (90 mins)
  - Lunch (30 mins)
  - 4th: Art (90 mins)
Advanced Learners

- Classes are offered for High School Credit: World History (7th), Physical Science (7th), Math 1 (8th), Spanish 1 (8th), and Civics (8th).
- Students can begin High School with as many as 5 credits.
- Teachers also differentiate within their classes in order to meet students where they are and get them to where they need to be.
At UCAMG our Exceptional Children’s Department serves students based on the needs outlined in their Individualized Education Plan and 504’s.

Our Exceptional Children Teachers push into classes, pull out of classes for small group instruction, and work one-on-one with students in order to meet their educational needs.

Our staff also follows the State and Federal guidelines for the identification of students who may have learning exceptionalities.
Real-World Leadership Opportunities in STE³AM classes

- Student’s apply for or earn opportunities to serve in student-leadership roles within various classes.
- MakerSpace: Leaders & Directors
- Graphic Design: Consultants
- Journalism: Editors, Sales Manager
- Glitz and Glimmer: Lead Designer
Town Concept At UCA Middle
STE³AM Products
Synergy through the Town Concept

- STE³AM classes work together to accomplish tasks to demonstrate how companies work together.
- Example:
  - Hunter Safety and Myth Busters (Homemade ballistic gel - Can it stop an arrow?)
  - MakerSpace and several STE³AM classes (vinyl-cut logos for products, 3D print useful items for each STE³AM)
  - Journalism and several STE³AM classes (run advertisements for products in their newspaper or on the news show)
STE³AM working with STE³AM
Community Involvement

News 14 does a story on UCA and speaks to our journalism class!

Structural engineer visits UCA!
Who are we?

- Uwharrie Charter Academy Elementary School
  - Public Charter School
  - 500 Students
  - Grades K-4
Our K-2 Model will be based on our Town Concept. Our kindergarten through second grade will consist of twelve classrooms. Each classroom will represent a particular building found in a town. For example: Restaurant, Pet Store, Grocery Store, Post Office, etc. Each building/classroom will be a Learning Lab where all activities are centered around a specific task for the week. Each activity will be matched to the themed Learning Lab.

Learning Labs will be unique while sharing some common features as well. Features such as presentation platforms, tinker stations, play areas, literacy pods, and technology centers will be shared among all learning labs.
The model for third and fourth grades will be similar to the K-2 model with a few modifications. Instead of the Town Concept, third and fourth grades will model the rooms based around North Carolina and Social Studies Essential Standards and strands. Each room would be created based on a theme. We will have eight rooms: The State Capitol, Cherokee Reservation, North Carolina's professional sports teams, North Carolina Zoo, North Carolina Agricultural Center, Famous North Carolinians, North Carolina Landmarks, and Geography. The rooms would teach the following components: financial & environmental literacy, history, culture, geography, and government. A teacher would be able to choose the room for which they would like to design and compile resources. Resources would have sample lessons and PBL’s that integrate all subjects. Teachers would be responsible for locating and finding literacy, math, and science resources based around the theme for the room.
Daily Schedule

Kindergarten Schedule  
(3hr and 45 minutes classroom time)
8:30 – 10:30  Literacy Block  
10:30 – 11:00 LUNCH  
11:00- 11:30 RECESS  
11:30 – 1:15 Instructional Time  
(1PM Snack if needed)  
1:15 – 2:15 SPECIALS  
2:30-2:55 Foundations

First Grade Schedule  
(4 hours classroom time)
8:30 – 10:30  Literacy Block  
10:30 – 11:00 RECESS  
11:00-11:30 LUNCH  
11:30 – 12:15 Instructional Time  
12:15 – 1:15 Specials  
1:15 – 2:30 Instructional Time  
2:30-2:55 Foundations

Second Grade Schedule  
(4 hours instructional/classroom time)
8:30 – 10:30  Literacy Block  
10:35- 11:30 Specials  
11:30 – 12:00 Lunch  
11:30 – 12:15 Instructional Time  
12:30 – 2:30 Instructional Time  
2:30-2:55 Foundations
Daily Schedule (cont.)

Third Grade Schedule
(4 hours instructional/classroom time)
8:30 – 9:30   Instructional Time
9:35- 10:30 Specials
10:30 – 11:30 Instructional Time
11:30 – 12:00 RECESS
12:00 – 12:30 LUNCH
12:30 – 2:30 Literacy Block
2:30-2:55 Foundations

Fourth Grade Schedule
(4 hours instructional/classroom time)
8:35- 9:30 SPECIALS
9:30 – 12:30 Literacy Block/Instructional Time
12:30-1:00 LUNCH
1:00-1:30 RECESS
1:30-2:30 Instructional Time
2:30-2:55 Foundations

Friday Schedule
8:30-9:30 Literacy Block
9:35-10:35 Math Block
10:35-10:55 Snack/Brain Break
10:55-11:55 STEAM Challenge/Presentation/Share Time/Show and Tell
11:55-12:20 Foundations
12:25 Dismissal
Specials

- Physical Education
- Music
- Art
- Foreign Language: Mandarin and exploratory Spanish as time allows
- MakerSpace (Push-in: This Special will be conducted within the core classroom during the designated time.)
Assessments: Math Resources

- Department of Public Instruction wiki
- Manipulatives
- Big Books
- Formative Assessments
- Engage New York
Assessments: Reading Resources

- NCDPI wikis for relevant resources
- Letterland
- Handwriting Without Tears
- Bookadventure.com
- Fontas & Pinnell
Assessments: Writing/Reading Resources

- Write From the Beginning...and Beyond
- Writer’s Workshop
- Words Their Way
- Spelling Inventory
Assessments: Science Resources

Science is one of the hallmarks of a hands-on experience because of the numerous opportunities for engaging with the learning material through labs, models, and other modes of building deep constructs with which to build understanding. UCA will utilize the NC Essential standards in Science K–4 through a project/problem-based lens with genuine integration of STE$^3$AM to engage all learners. Middle and high school teachers will help model lessons and coach during vertical teaming to strengthen the alignment and therefore depth of learning.
The leaders of UCA realize the synergy added by a robust and intentionally taught Social Studies curriculum at all grade levels. So much that themed rooms are a vital part of the learning environment with the idea that social studies is fully integrated and not forgotten. Character education and STEAM are easily blended into the curriculum to increase engagement and deepen learning. UCA will use the NC Essential Standards as a primary resource and support units with project/problem-based lessons and other research-based strategies appropriate for various grade levels and learners.
Eagle Buddies Program

First, it will allow our elementary students to engage and work with students from our middle and high school programs. The goal is to help to foster community through the mentor/mentee relationship. Next, it will allow students from our middle and high school programs to work on leadership skills through mentoring students from our elementary school.
STE³AM

STE³AM will be integrated into the core classes on a daily basis, with the exception of Fridays. On Fridays we will use the last hour of the day to roll out a modified STE³AM block for each grade level. The modified STE³AM block will be based on the integration of a STE³AM Challenge for each class.
Character Education

Our Character Education model is based on eleven working principles from Character.org.

Principle 1: (Promote core values.)
Principle 2: (Defines “character” to include thinking, feeling, and doing.)
Principle 3: (Uses a comprehensive approach.)
Principle 4: (Creates a caring community.)
Principle 5: (Provides students with opportunities for moral action.)
Principle 6: (Offers a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum.)
Principle 7: (Fosters students’ self-motivation.)
Principle 8: (Engages staff as a learning community.)
Principle 9: (Fosters shared leadership.)
Principle 10: (Engages family and community members as partners.)
Principle 11: (Assesses the culture and climate of the school.)
Standard 1: Student Identification
Standard 2: Differentiated Curriculum and Instruction
Standard 3: Personnel and Professional Development
Standard 4: Comprehensive Programming within a Total School Community
Standard 5: Partnerships
Standard 6: Program Accountability
Exceptional Children

Uwharrie Charter Academy’s plan for Exceptional Children will be based on the population of students accepted into the school. We will follow state and federal guidelines and procedures for identifying and serving EC students. Student needs and prior Individualized Education Plans (IEP) will drive our facilitation of services.

It is our expectation that all children with disabilities will be given equal and appropriate access to an education and be provided with the innovative and highly engaging opportunities of their non-disabled peers as it meets their IEP. UCA has received positive feedback from parents about the impact our educational environment has had on their child with disabilities. We currently serve 8.2 % of our population through a comprehensive and caring approach supported by a thoughtful and well-advised IEP developed in the best interest of each child.
Every family at UCA is given the initial Home Language Survey provided by NC Department of Public Instruction. This is our first step in the identification process related to ultimately providing support. If a student is identified from their Home Language Survey as needing assessment for identifying the level of service and modifications that must be provided, then the school will utilize World-class Instruction Design and Assessment (WIDA) or Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State (ACCESS) testing to collect data. UCA will use accepted practices in providing support and documentation based upon accepted federal and state standards and regulations.
# Themed Rooms

## K-2 Themed Rooms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home</th>
<th>Grocery Store</th>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Toy Store</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theatre</td>
<td>Hardware Store</td>
<td>Medical Center</td>
<td>NewsCenter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Maker Lab)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Dealership</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Pet Store</td>
<td>Protect/Rescue Station</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 3-4 Themed Rooms (NC Focus)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Capitol</th>
<th>Native American Tribes</th>
<th>Professional Sports</th>
<th>NC ZOO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NC AG Center</td>
<td>Famous North Carolinians</td>
<td>NC Landmarks</td>
<td>Founded in NC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After school care, Car line, and drop-off

- An after school care program will be in place for the elementary and middle school. Details will be provided in May for the 18-19 school year.
- Early drop-off is available at each school but varies in time.
- Car line is specific to each school. Details and times will be provided by each school by late May or early June.

* Processes will change due to new buildings and grade levels. It is important to follow our website, Facebook, and emails to be up-to-date as things change while we prepare to grow.
THANK YOU FOR COMING

PLEASE VISIT
WWW.UWHARRIECHARTER.ORG
TO ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY