We finally made it to summer! What a Spring we have had, no one could have imagined that leaving for Spring Break would be the last time we would see most of you face-to-face. Although the year did not go as planned I am so proud of how our faculty, staff, students, and parents adjusted to the transition to at-home learning. Our model helped us make this change with ease and we were able to finish out the year strong. I want to send out a special congratulations to our Class of 2020; although it was not the senior year they imagined, we hope their time at the UA has been memorable, I know this is one year they will never forget!

As we begin to prepare for next year, please know that we will continue to monitor guidance from TEA and the CDC as to best practices for the health and safety of our students. There are still a lot of details that must be worked out and we appreciate your patience as our team of dedicated leaders work diligently through the summer to develop plans for meeting the challenges that still lie before us. Next year will see some significant changes in how we must operate, but we are confident we will be ready. This newsletter outlines some of the important details we want to share with you so far. We will continue to update you as more plans are finalized.

We are anxious to get back to work with our students and see their smiling faces in our classrooms, we have missed them! Enjoy your Summer and we will see you again soon.

Jo Ann Simmons, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

**SUMMER HOURS**

Campuses will be closed on Fridays beginning June 12th and the offices will be closed to the public the week of June 29- July 3. Staff will return to campus July 6th and to normal operating hours on July 13th.

**PROPOSED REVISION TO 2020-2021 DISTRICT CALENDAR**

As many of your know, a revision to our currently adopted 2020-2021 District Calendar will be presented to the Board during the July 9th meeting. Due to the extended closure our campus faced, and the amount of time students have been without face-to-face instruction, we feel it is best to begin school two weeks early to get a jump start on the year. The proposed calendar has school beginning on August 3rd, with scheduled make-up days added to October in case they are needed to make-up for any possible closures. Additional make-up days have been added to the end of the calendar through the month of June to accommodate meeting the 180-day rule for full funding in the event of missed instruction throughout the year. Links to both the adopted and proposed calendars are included below.

**Currently Adopted Calendar**

**Proposed Revision to Calendar**
CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATION CEREMONY

We are honored to share the University Academy Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony with our community of scholars and their family and friends. The UT Tyler Administration, Board of Trustees, Faculty, and Staff are proud of each and every one of them! Congrats to our seniors, we wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors. To watch the ceremony, go to https://youtu.be/o4CYXVTWJv0

LONGVIEW & TYLER CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

Our Longview and Tyler campuses have had several improvements completed while the students were homebound. We are happy to report that the swing-sets have been installed at both the Longview and Tyler locations, as well as new perimeter fencing! We thank everyone for supporting the swing-set additions.

The classrooms at both locations were also freshly painted so students will come back to a bright new classroom! Last year the halls and many of the larger spaces were painted which gives the campuses a refreshing, clean look.

Additionally, the security camera installation and other safety/security measures were completed in Tyler. These were funded in-part by a grant from TEA to enhance safety and security at our campuses.

PPE ALLOTMENT

The Texas Education Agency just announced last each school will receive an allotment of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for use by students/staff. The allotment consists of disposable masks, gloves, thermometers, and hand sanitizer.

We are still working through guidelines provided by TEA to determine what precautionary measures will be required and which will be considered encouraged/recommended.

Our department is working closely with the university’s Environmental Health & Safety Department to ensure that necessary protocols will be established and followed as students prepare to return to school. The health and safety of our students, their families, and our staff are of the utmost concern.
COUNSELOR CORNER

REPORT CARDS, TRANSCRIPTS, DIPLOMAS

Final Report Cards are being issued through Skyward Family Access and will not be mailed this year. Please log-in to access the year-end report card and print for your records. You will be required to sign for the report card electronically.

Final Transcripts for high school seniors will be mailed.

Diplomas can be picked up from your Campus Director, please contact them to schedule a pick-up time.

CREDIT RECOVERY

Students in need of credit recovery must complete from 6/8/2020 through 7/3/2020. The cost is $300 and must be paid in full before the course will be added to your transcript. Fees are applied in Skyward Fee Management and can be paid online.

DUAL CREDIT ENROLLMENT

Watch for UT Tyler dual credit enrollment forms to be sent to the parent email on file. You will need to sign electronically and the form will come to your email again for the student to sign electronically.

REGISTRATION & 7th GRADE VACCINES

July 6th – 17th – RETURNING STUDENT ONLINE REGISTRATION

All returning students must complete the 2020-2021 registration process during this timeline, it must be completed by the deadline of July 17th. An email will be sent out to parents/guardians of RETURNING students with details on this process in the coming weeks. Please watch for this important announcement.

July 20th – NEW STUDENT ONLINE REGISTRATION

New students will be required to complete the online registration process beginning July 20th. This will include supplying all necessary documents. Some items will need to be delivered in person, such as birth certificates and immunization records, please schedule an appointment with your campus after completing the online registration. An email will be sent out to parents/guardians of NEW students with details on this process in the coming weeks. Please watch for this important announcement.

7th GRADE IMMUNIZATIONS

Texas State law requires that each child attending public school be immunized against certain vaccine-preventable diseases. As your student prepares to enter the 7th grade in the 2020-2021 school year, they will be required to show acceptable evidence of their adolescent vaccinations prior to the first day of school. Without the proper documentation of required vaccinations or a valid medical or conscientious exemption, students will not be allowed to be in attendance.

For information on the Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for K-12, please visit our Admissions page. https://academy.uttony.edu/admissions/
RECOGNITION

SCHOOL BOARD PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

We would like to take this time to thank the parent representative from our School Board, Mr. Jeffry Kennemer of Tyler, Mr. Danny Rodriquez of Palestine, and Mrs. Angela Wright of Longview. The three of them selflessly volunteer their time to not only attend meeting, but also to communicate with their campus community regarding parental concerns. We know that the parents of the University Academy are well represented through the voices of these fine volunteers. Please be sure to tell them thank you!

Mr. Jeffery Kennemer
Tyler

Mr. Danny Rodriquez
Palestine

Ms. Angela Wright
Longview

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Each year the campuses designate a Teacher of the Year, from the three candidates one is selected to represent the University as the District Teacher of the Year winner and nominee for the Region 7 Teacher of the Year honors. Those selected as Campus Teacher of the Year are required to submit a detailed packed that outlines their teaching philosophy and accomplishments, among other things, for consideration of District Teacher of the Year. We are proud to announce Ms. Shelly Parsons of Palestine as the UA District Teacher of the Year. Our campus honorees from Longview and Palestine are Ms. Tracy Breeden and Ms. Rae Lynn Sutsch. Congratulations to each of these outstanding teachers!

Ms. Shelly Parsons
District/Palestine

Ms. Tracy Breeden
Longview

Ms. Rae Lynn Sutsch
Tyler
CURRICULUM TEAM

The UA curriculum team, consisting of the Director of Curriculum and her team of Instructional Coaches, work hard behind the scenes to ensure our teachers have the support they need to be successful in the classroom. From helping teachers plan lessons, review student data, and assist with activities, they are at the heart of every classroom. The transition to at-home, online learning would not have gone nearly as smoothly without them and we cannot thank them enough for the expertise and support they provide our teachers. They are instrumental to our success! Thank you for all you do!

Ms. Jaclyn Pedersen

Ms. Kelly Dyer  Mr. Ben Moran  Ms. Samantha Rector  Ms. Jennifer Rasberry

CURRICULUM CORNER

2020-2021 SUPPLY LISTS

Order Here: https://academy.utttyler.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/UTT003_OrderNow_Bilingual-1.jpg


Palestine - Coming soon, please watch our homepage at www.uttua.org for updates.

TEA ASSESSMENTS

TEA will release Beginning of the Year (BOY) assessments that all students will take when returning to school in August. This data will help our teachers and instructional coaches plan curriculum and needs for each individual student.

PERSONALIZED LEARNING EXPANDS

We are excited to announce that in addition to the 3-7 math classrooms that went to personalized learning this past year, additional classrooms will be moving personalized learning in the coming school year. All math in grades K-10 will be utilizing a personalized instructional model as well as all ELA classrooms in grades 4-8. Please reference the attached flyers in regards to personalized learning.
ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORMS

The district is currently exploring options for a new learning platform(s). PowerSchool Solutions, formerly known as Haiku, is one option that is being considered for adoption. Although under a new company, many of the features and functionality are similar to what we have used in the past with Haiku. We feel this will be an added benefit should the need arise for students to once again transition to an at-home learning environment due to COVID related precautions/closures. Additionally, Canvas is another consideration as it is used by UT Tyler in their coursework and is a platform most of our high school students utilize already. We are currently in discussions and are working to finalize details for implementation at the start of school.

TECHNOLOGY

DEVICES

The district has ordered all new devices for students in grades 3-7 for the upcoming year. Many of the existing devices have met the end of their life and we know students will be happy to have brand new replacements.

K-2 classrooms will be outfitted with devices for each student. These devices will not be taken home.

3-7 will be issued new devices at the start of the year.

8-12 will have a bring-your-own-device (BYOD) policy. Students who qualify for financial assistance can request a district-issued device.

District issued devices will no longer require individualized, personal insurance plans. This will be covered under device warranties purchased by the district.