



# Blue & Gold Banner

Uwchlan Hills Elementary

January 2025

## Upcoming Dates

- Jan. 7:** UH Spirit Day
- Jan 8.:** Full Day Kindergarten  
2025-2026 Open House -  
4 PM
- Jan. 14:** UHSA Meeting – 6:30  
PM
- Jan. 15:** Science Fair – 6 PM  
(Snow date 1/22)
- Jan. 17:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Baby Photos  
Due!
- Jan. 20:** School Closed; MLK Day  
of Service 12-2 PM
- Jan. 21:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Picture
- Jan. 23:** Flyers Spirit Day
- Jan. 24:** Opposite Day
- Jan. 29:** Wear Anything Blue Day

## Letter from the Principal

Dear Uwchlan Hills Families,

I hope the break has energized us for the most important time of the year. I wholeheartedly believe that the time between January 1<sup>st</sup> and Spring Break is our critical time to make the most gains in student learning. It was wonderful to see everyone back and in full swing already. What a great start to 2025!

January begins with an in-depth look at all student data. This month we will re-administer our fluency benchmark, Aimsweb. This, along with a multitude of other student data, is used to further drive our 30-minute-a-day RTii reading time. Your child may refer to this time as Unicorn time or book club, but for teachers, it is valuable extra reading time allotted for every student to meet their individual needs. We are incorporating a multitude of curriculum-based assessments, including math and writing pieces. With this data, we can support our high-achieving students as well as target areas of need across every grade level.

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for the continued teamwork and strong partnership between our school and your family. The support you provide for your child's education is invaluable and plays a crucial role in their success. Because of this united effort, we can create an enriching learning environment where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Let us continue to work together, share ideas, and support one another to ensure the best possible future for our students. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to making our school community so special. Together, we are making a difference!

Don't forget that our next HSA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14 at 6:30 PM. Hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,

Robert E. Giering, Jr.  
Principal, Uwchlan Hills Elementary





## Letter from the President...

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone enjoyed your winter break and is ready to start 2025! We're going to hit the ground running in the new year. Our first UHSA meeting will be: **Tuesday, January 14 at 6:30 PM in the Commons**. We have a lot of events to talk about, so please try to join us that evening. Highlights include:

- Science Fair on Wednesday, January 15.
  - Participants should have received an email from Mrs. Cardine regarding drop-off and arrival times. If you haven't received this email, check your spam folder or contact Mrs. Cardine.
  - All UH families are invited to walk around the fair, and students will participate in science games and activities during the Open House.
- MLK Day of Service is coming up on Monday, January 20. Keep an eye on your emails for details and sign-up links for food drives, donations, volunteer hours and coordination from our amazing leader **Heather Landgarten**.
- Pizza Bingo is around the corner on Friday, February 7 at 6 PM at Lionville Middle School. Location is off-site so we can accommodate as many people as possible. Make sure to sign up for this fun event.
- Watch out for details on the Uwchlan Hills Variety Show! This year is a jam-packed production with many amazing talented students. You won't want to miss out.

Last Call! This is the last call for 5th-grade baby pictures. Pictures must be sent to the yearbook by Friday, January 17.

It's never too late to send in your HSA family donation or get a matching gift from your employer! The UHSA is a 501c3 and needs your contribution.

Have a great January!

Kait Knecht  
UHSA President  
[uhhsa.president@gmail.com](mailto:uhhsa.president@gmail.com)  
484-849-1751

### 2024-2025 UHSA Board

#### Principal Advisor

Mr. Bob Giering  
[rgiering@dasd.org](mailto:rgiering@dasd.org)

#### President

Kaitlin Knecht  
[uhhsa.president@gmail.com](mailto:uhhsa.president@gmail.com)

#### Vice-President - *Open*

#### Advisor

Kelly Jackson  
[kjax35@gmail.com](mailto:kjax35@gmail.com)

#### Treasurer

Adrienne McLaughlin  
[amm4433@gmail.com](mailto:amm4433@gmail.com)

#### Secretary

Laura Hartman  
[laura.c.hartman@gmail.com](mailto:laura.c.hartman@gmail.com)

#### Teacher Representative

Ronnie Lemler  
[rlemler@dasd.org](mailto:rlemler@dasd.org)



## Uwchlan Hills Home and School Association

Dear Parents,

The Uwchlan Hills Home & School Association (UHSA) is a non-profit organization serving the students, faculty, staff, and community of our elementary school. We are very fortunate to have an amazing school community and pride ourselves on the incredible support we receive each year.

**The intent of this letter is to explain the purpose of and to ask you to make a \$60 per family donation to UHSA by January 31, 2025.**

One of the functions of Home and School is to raise money for Uwchlan Hills. The money raised pays for a variety of programs and events enhancing your child's educational experience. These programs include: school assemblies, field trip transportation, field-day t-shirts, and classroom supplies above and beyond what the Downingtown Area School District provides. **100% of the money raised by UHSA goes back into the school, benefiting all the students.**

Historically, UHSA raised money through traditional fundraising type events (bake sale, carwash, wrapping paper sales, etc). However, our UH community decided to donate \$60 directly to the UHSA rather than purchase over hundreds of dollars in products throughout the school year. Not only does this free up student, parent, and teacher time, but it also decreases the amount of mail going home with students.

Normally, our biggest fundraising event is the Fall Jamboree and all our other events make a small profit or break even—the main purpose being to bring Uwchlan Hills families and students together for fun.

**We thank you in advance for supporting the UHSA, and we look forward to the challenge of serving our Unicorn community in new and creative ways. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the board.**

Kaitlyn Knecht – President      Kelly Jackson – Advisor  
Laura Hartman – Secretary      Adrienne McLaughlin – Treasurer

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### UHSA FAMILY DONATION

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation of: \$60 or other amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Cash or Checks: Please return this form with donation by Friday, January 31, in an envelope addressed to:**

**UHSA Treasurer/Family Donation. Make checks payable to UHSA.**

**Matching gifts: follow instructions from your employer.** The UHSA 501(c)3 non-profit tax identification number is 23-2363383.

**PayPal:** [uhhsatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:uhhsatreasurer@gmail.com)

Please note *UHSA Family Donation* in the comments or notes section.

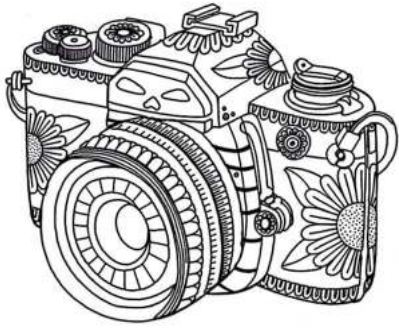


## Uwchlan Hills Home and School Association 2024-2025 Event Dates

*\*Tentative Schedule: dates are subject to change\**

**\*\*UHHSA Meetings are held in the Commons area (behind the steps closest to the main entrance)**

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>
UHHSA Meeting	Tuesday, January 14, 2025	6:30 PM
MLK Day of Service	Monday, January 20	12-2 PM
Science Fair • <i>Snow Date</i>	Wednesday, January 15 • <i>Snow date: January 22</i>	6 PM
Pizza Bingo (LMS)	Friday, February 7	6 PM
Variety Show	Monday February 24	6:30 PM
UHHSA Meeting	Tuesday March 11	6:30 PM
Spring Picture Day ( <i>no retakes</i> )	TBD	During School Hours
Multicultural Heritage Night	Friday, May 9	6:30 PM
Spring Spirit Wear Sale	End of March	Online
Designer Bag Bingo	Thursday April 10	5:30 PM
Scholastic Book Fair – Spring Book Fair Family Night	TBD	TBD
Family Fun Run	Saturday, May 3	9:15 AM
School Supply Sale	End of May 2024	Online
UHHSA Meeting	Tuesday, May 13	6:30 PM
UH School Musical	TBD-End of May	6:30 PM
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Party	TBD- Beginning of June	4-6:30



# JANUARY YEARBOOK NEWS

## Yearbook Photos Wanted

Is your phone filled with amazing photos from school holiday festivities (concerts, parties, field trips)? Send them to the Yearbook Crew for consideration for placement in the UH Yearbook. The next few months are jam-packed with exciting events: MLK Day of Service, the Science Fair and so much more. Get those cameras ready and capture some UH memories!

## Photo Submissions

All photos can be emailed to Mr. Chindemi at [uhyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:uhyearbook@gmail.com)

## Yearbook Sales

The Yearbook is now on sale! To order, please see the flyer in this issue of the B&G. Additional copies of the flyer and payment envelopes can be found in the office.

## 5th Grade Baby Photos (Final Submissions due by January 17)

5th Graders: This is the **LAST AND FINAL** chance to submit baby photos. The final date for submission is Friday, January 17th. We will continue to accept baby photos through January 17th! Please remember to label all photos with your child's name and homeroom teacher. Photos will be returned. Digital images may also be submitted but must be in .jpg or .png format. PDF and HEIC images cannot be accepted.

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## BABY PHOTO SUBMISSION

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Here is my baby picture (Student's name is on the back for easy identification).

\_\_\_ I'll email my baby picture to [uhyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:uhyearbook@gmail.com) by Friday, Jan. 17th.

\_\_\_ No thanks. I'd prefer not to participate.



## 7th Annual Uwchlan Hills MLK Day of Service

Monday January 20 from 12:00-2:00 at the Uwchlan Hills Cafeteria

**This year's day of service will benefit the following groups/organizations...**

Chester County Food Bank, Brandywine SPCA, Prepared to Thrive, CHOP, Military Families, and our local ecosystem!

**Here's how you can help...**

### **1. Sign-up to help run a station or provide supplies for our MLK Day of Service Activities**

- Visit our [signup genius](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4FAEAB2CA4F49-54215270-uwchlan) to find a way you can help on MLK Day from 12:00-2:00
- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4FAEAB2CA4F49-54215270-uwchlan>

### **2. Join us on MLK Day for our Hands-on Event**

Come to the UH Cafeteria on MLK Day from 12:00-2:00 to do hands-on service activities with your family! Students can sew a pillowcase to donate to CHOP, make bracelets and bookmarks for Military Families, make an uplifting card for our local community members, and sow seeds for Native Pollinator Plants in our community!

### **3. Bring new and used items to donate to our various collection drives**

#### **Chester County Food Bank Food Drive – Grade Level Competition!**

- Donate food items to the boxes in your homeroom anytime during the week of 1/13 or bring your items to the cafeteria on MLK Day from 12:00-2:00
- The grade with the most food by weight will win a prize from the HSA!
- We are focusing our donations this year to boxed Macaroni and Cheese, Pasta, and Rice.

#### **Brandywine SPCA Animal Shelter Drive**

- For the Brandywine SPCA we are collecting Dog & Cat Toys, Food, Litter, Collars, Leashes, Food Puzzles, Towels, and Blankets

#### **Prepared to Thrive Baby Essentials Drive**

- This year we are once again pairing with the local nonprofit, Prepared to Thrive, that is focused on providing families in need with essential baby and children's items.
- We are collecting Diaper Cream, Diapers, Baby Shampoo/Soap/Lotion, and new or gently used Board Books & Infant Toys



# Order Your Uwchlan Hills Elementary Yearbook Online



**Step 1:** Visit [shop.memorybook.com](http://shop.memorybook.com)



**Step 2:** Login if returning or new users click 'Register' to create an account using school code **960859M**

**Step 3:** Buy a yearbook for **\$18.00** through **04/18/25**  
or a personalized book for **\$20.00** through **04/04/25**



If you have any questions about ordering your yearbook  
contact your school's yearbook advisor.



[www.memorybook.com](http://www.memorybook.com)





# SUMMER ADVENTURES CAMP & ACTIVITIES FAIR

Held at:  
**Chester County Intermediate Unit**  
455 Boot Road  
Downingtown, PA 19335



For more information, visit:  
[www.cciu.org/summer-adventures](http://www.cciu.org/summer-adventures)



Snow Date  
January 30, 2025

Sponsored By: The Chester County  
Intermediate Unit & CCRES



CME1124486



# ESL COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) Community Outreach Program at West Chester University

The ESL Community Outreach Program offers English language instruction to members of the West Chester University community and individuals in the greater West Chester area.

- Classes run once a week in the spring
- All participants must register.
- West Chester University employees attend free of charge. A valid WCU employee ID card needs to be presented at registration.
- Non-West Chester University employees attend for a fee of \$20.
- Once registered, all attendees will be contacted by the Program Coordinator to schedule a placement evaluation.

For registration information, please contact:

**Dr. Jelena Colovic-Markovic**

[jmarkovic@wcupa.edu](mailto:jmarkovic@wcupa.edu)

610.436.3371

### **English-as-a-second-language (ESL) Classes**

#### **When?**

February 27 – May 8, 2025

Thursdays

5:30-7:15 p.m.

***No classes during Spring Break***

#### **Where?**

Mitchell Hall, West Chester University

#### **How much?**

WCU employees: free

Non-WCU employees: \$20 for materials

*ESL classes are taught by volunteer graduate students in the West Chester MA TESOL program,  
Department of Languages and Cultures.*

# TD Bank Affinity Program

**Raise money for HSA**

**No cost to you!**

Get your account(s) signed up now and ask your friends & family to sign up too.

Call the TD Bank branch in Lionville/Exton anytime at 610-594-0712 and ask a customer service rep. to code the account(s) for the Uwchlan Hills Elementary School Affinity Program OR stop into the branch any time. **CODE: A3224**

\*\*If you signed up last year, you do not need to do anything, the accounts will remain as part of the program.

- No cost to you or the school to participate and it's all handled through the bank confidentially. The H&S does not receive any account information.
- All existing and new TD Bank accounts (personal, checking, savings, CDs, IRAs, Money Market accounts and Business checking accounts) whose owners say they want to be part of our group help us raise money and maintain their 50 households minimum.
- UH families, UH school staff, relatives, neighbors, etc. (anyone) are eligible to link their TD Bank accounts to the program.
- The bank runs a report once a year and takes a % of the average in all accounts linked to the program and makes a contribution to Uwchlan Hills H&S.




Please contact Adrienne McLaughlin with any questions at [uhhsatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:uhhsatreasurer@gmail.com).



**America's Most Convenient Bank®**

# JANUARY

## 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>Happy New Year!</b> <i>(School Closed)</i>	2 F	3 A	4
5	6 B	7 C   UH Spirit Day	8 D  Full Day Kindergarten 2025-2026 School Year – Open House (4:00 – 4:45)	9 E	10 F	11
12	13 A	14 B  UHHSA Meeting 6:30	15 C  Science Fair – 6:00 <i>(Snow Date: 1/22)</i>	16 D	17 E	18
19	20 MLK Day of Service (12:00-2:00) <i>(School Closed)</i>	21 F   5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class Picture	22 A	23 B   Flyers Spirit Day	24 C  <b>Opposite Day</b> Students dress like Teachers, Teachers dress like Students.	25  (National Opposite Day)
26	27 D	28 E	29 F  “January Blues” Wear anything Blue	30 A	31 B	