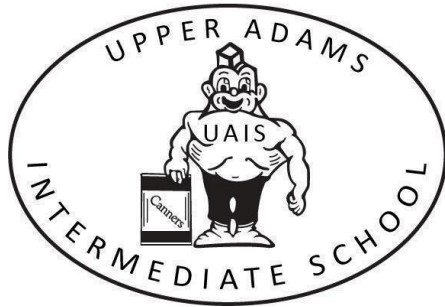


Upper Adams School District  
Upper Adams Intermediate School

**2026 - 2027 School Year  
Parent & Student Handbook**

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The Upper Adams Intermediate School provides challenging and inspirational opportunities in order to prepare students for their future.

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**Office Hours and Contact Information**

Office Hours: 8AM - 4:15 PM, Monday - Friday (*holiday and summer office hours vary*)

School Office Phone: 717-677-4300 or 717-677-7191, Ext. 3

School Fax: 717-677-4330

Karen Swartz, Administrative Assistant - [k.swartz@upperadams.org](mailto:k.swartz@upperadams.org)

Sheri Tuckey, Administrative Assistant - [s.tuckey@upperadams.org](mailto:s.tuckey@upperadams.org)

**Student School Day:**

8:45 – 9:05	-	Arrival at School and Breakfast
9:05 – Lunch	-	Class Time
11:25 – 12:55	-	Lunch Periods
Lunch – 3:35	-	Class Time
3:35 – 3:50	-	Dismissal

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Mrs. Sonia Buckley, Principal

[s.buckley@upperadams.org](mailto:s.buckley@upperadams.org)

Mr. William Thomas, Assistant Principal

[w.thomas@upperadams.org](mailto:w.thomas@upperadams.org)

136 Fohl Street, P. O. Box 340  
Arendtsville, PA 17303

Phone: 717-677-4300

Fax: 717-677-4330

Dear Parents and Students:

We would like to welcome you to the Upper Adams Elementary and Intermediate Schools. We are extremely proud of our schools. The students and staff members all work hard to make this a fine school district. If you have any questions or problems, please ask any of the teachers, students, or building principal(s) for help.

The rules are simple. We expect students to be courteous, friendly, and considerate of others. In addition, we expect students to do the best work that they are capable of doing. Playground and other safety rules and routines are contained in this handbook and posted in your child's classroom for your convenience. If you have any questions, please have your child's teacher or another student go over them with you.

We hope that you find your educational experiences with us to be pleasant and rewarding.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sonia Buckley, Principal  
Upper Adams Intermediate School

Mr. William Thomas, Assistant Principal  
Upper Adams Intermediate School

Mr. Jamie Kerstetter, Principal  
Biglerville Elementary School

Mrs. Jennifer Nelson, Assistant Principal  
Biglerville Elementary School

\* \* \* \* \*

This handbook is a joint effort of the students, teachers, and principals of the Upper Adams Intermediate School and Biglerville Elementary School. School-specific information is printed first, followed by the Upper Adams School District Elementary and Intermediate Student and Parent Handbook.

\* \* \* \* \*



*“The Upper Adams School District does not discriminate or deny services on the basis of sex, race, color, creed, national origin, age, or handicap in its educational programs or activities nor in its employment practices.”*

## Table of Contents

Upper Adams Intermediate School Faculty and Staff . . . . .	4
2026-2027 Upper Adams School District Academic Calendar . . . . .	6
UAIS School-Specific Information . . . . .	7
Acceptable Use of the Computer Network . . . . .	10
Address Changes . . . . .	11
Artificial Intelligence . . . . .	11
Attendance . . . . .	11
Behavior Code . . . . .	13
Birthday Parties/Classroom Parties . . . . .	18
Bullying Prevention . . . . .	18
Cell Phones . . . . .	18
Communication . . . . .	19
Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment . . . . .	19
Dress Guidelines . . . . .	19
Elementary School Counseling . . . . .	20
EL Program . . . . .	20
Field Trips . . . . .	20
Grading and Report Cards . . . . .	21
Health Services and Immunization Requirements . . . . .	21
Homebound Instruction . . . . .	23
McKinney-Vento . . . . .	23
Library . . . . .	24
Lost and Found . . . . .	24
Lunch and Breakfast Programs . . . . .	24
Physical Education Program . . . . .	25
Promotion Policy . . . . .	25
Registration for Kindergarten and First Grade . . . . .	26
School Closings and Delays . . . . .	26
School-Wide Activities . . . . .	26
Student Personal Property . . . . .	26
Student Records . . . . .	26
Telephone Calls. . . . .	27
Transportation . . . . .	27
Volunteer Program . . . . .	27
Wellness Policy . . . . .	27

### Upper Adams School District Mission Statement

The Upper Adams School District provides challenging and inspiring educational opportunities empowering each student to be a responsible and productive individual.

### Upper Adams School District Vision

All students college and career ready.

### Non-Discrimination Policy

Upper Adams School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or handicap in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, and the American Disabilities Act. All investigations into reports of sexual harassment and assault will be impartial, free of bias and conflicts, and will not prejudice the facts for either side.

For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact the District Superintendent and Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, and ADA Coordinator at 717-677-7181 ext 2751, or by mail at 161 N. Main St., Biglerville, PA 17307. If you would like to file a Title IX complaint, you can do so by contacting the above person at any of the above-listed ways.

# UPPER ADAMS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL FACULTY & STAFF

## Administrative Personnel:

- Principal - Mrs. Sonia Buckley
- Assistant Principal - Mr. William Thomas
- Administrative Assistants - Mrs. Karen Swartz and Mrs. Sheri Tuckey
- School Nurse - Mrs. Jenna Landis
- Guidance Counselor - Mrs. Ashlee Saunders
- UASD Social Worker - Ms. Melissa Calderon
- Computer Technology - Mr. Anthony Hurkala

## 4th Grade Teaching Team:

Mrs. Brittany Lawrence      Mr. Jesus Gomez  
Mrs. Stephanie Moritz      Mrs. Rachel Hertzog  
Mrs. Ashly Wilkinson

## 5th Grade Teaching Team:

Mrs. Amanda Deardorff      Mrs. Stephanie Althoff  
Miss Chelsea Miller      Mrs. Nicole King  
Miss Heather Stine

## 6th Grade Teaching Team:

Mrs. Elizabeth Bennett      Mr. Justin Gruver  
Mrs. Doni Karn      Mrs. Megan McLean  
Mrs. Kerry McCleaf

## Specialty Classrooms Teaching Team:

Mrs. Jaime Kuhn - Life Skills Support Class  
Ms. Rachel Althoff - Behavior Intervention Class

## Specialty Support Instructional Team:

GATEways (Gifted Enrichment) - Mrs. Emily Kissner  
Speech/Language Support - Miss Emili Scavitto  
English Second Language - Mrs. Alejandra Garibay, Ms. Anna Jowanowitch, and  
Mrs. Melisa Patrono  
Instructional Support - Mrs. Tashia Neely and Mrs. Amy Walter  
Learning Support - Mrs. Dawn Donnelly, Mrs. Justine Irwin, Mrs. Kelly Kuntz,  
and Mrs. Lydia Wansel

## Specialty Arts Instructional Team:

Art - Miss Emily Seils  
Music - Instrumental - Mr. Ben Arnold  
Music - Vocal - Ms. Ann Gerlitzki  
Library - Ms. Rachel Bort  
Physical Education - Mrs. Deborah Yargar-Reed

**UPPER ADAMS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**  
**FACULTY & STAFF (Continued)**

Instructional Assistants and Personal Student Aides:

Mrs. Kerry Bishop  
Ms. Amy Didas  
Mrs. Pat Lindemulder  
Mrs. Kim Redding

Mrs. Amanda Chinnick  
Mrs. Susanne Harriett  
Mrs. Donna McCauslin  
Mrs. Brenda Sell

Mrs. Maria Florencio Artillero  
Mrs. Michelle Leppo  
Mrs. Ying Qian  
Ms. Stephanie Smith

Aramark Custodial Staff:

Mr. Clair Althoff  
Mr. John Kidd

Ms. Angela Miranda  
Mr. Kenny Myers

Ms. Tela Tuff

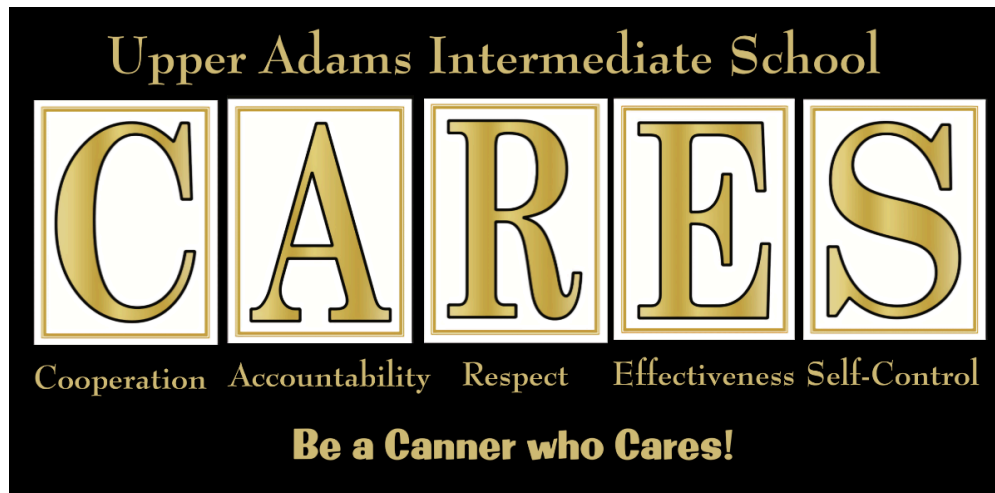
Chartwell Cafeteria Staff:

Ms. Peggy Eckert

Ms. Skylar Lewis

Mrs. Kathy Stoner

Please note: **All staff members have a district email address** and may be contacted by using the following address format: **first initial.last name @ upperadams.org** (i.e. – [s.tuckey@upperadams.org](mailto:s.tuckey@upperadams.org))





161 North Main Street, Biglerville PA 17307  
 Phone: 717-677-7191 / Fax: 717-677-9807

**UPPER ADAMS SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
[www.upperadams.org](http://www.upperadams.org)  
**HOME OF THE CANNERS**

**2026-2027  
 Academic Calendar**

Board approved: February 17, 2026  
 Student Start Date: August 19, 2026

**July 2026**

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

**January 2027**

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

**August 2026**

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

**February 2027**

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

**September 2026**

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

**March 2027**

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

**October 2026**

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

**April 2027**

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

**November 2026**

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

**May 2027**

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

**December 2026**

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

**June 2027**

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

- First Day of School for Students
- Last Day of School for Students/Early Dismissal
- No School for Elementary Students
- Professional Development/No School for Students
- Early Dismissal - *UAMS/BHS at 10:45 am No Lunch*  
*UAIS/Biglerville Elem. at 11:45 am No Lunch*
- No School for Students/Parent Teacher Conferences
- No School for Students or Faculty
- No School/Snow Make-Up Day
- Mid-Marking Period (subject to change)
- End of Marking Period (subject to change)

- Aug 14, 17, 18- Teacher In-Service
- Aug 19 - First Day of School for Students
- Sept 7 - Labor Day Holiday - No School
- Sept 18 - Mid-Marking Period
- Sept 21 - No School for Students or Faculty
- Oct 9 - Early Dismissal/PM Professional Development
- Oct 12 - Professional Development/No School for Students
- Oct 22 - End of Marking Period
- Nov 23, 24 - Parent/Teacher Conferences/No School for Students
- Nov 24 - Mid-Marking Period
- Nov 25, 26, 27 - Thanksgiving/No School
- Nov 30 - Professional Development/No School for Students
- Dec 22 - Early Dismissal/PM Professional Development
- Dec 23 - Jan 1 Winter Break/No School
- Jan 11 - End of Marking Period
- Jan 15 - Early Dismissal/Professional Development PM
- Jan 18 - Professional Development/No School for students
- Feb 12 - No School /Weather Make Up Day 1
- Feb 15 - President's Day/No School (Fruit Growers Convention)
- Feb 16 - Mid-Marking Period
- Mar 5 - Early Dismissal/Professional Development PM
- Mar 17 - Parent/Teacher Conferences - Elementary Only - Evening
- Mar 18 - Parent/Teacher Conferences - Elementary Only  
No School for Elementary Students Only
- Mar 18 - End of Marking Period
- Mar 19 - No School for Elementary Students Only
- Mar 24 - Spring Break - No School/Weather Make Up Day 2
- March 25 - Spring Break - No School/Weather Make Up Day 3
- March 26 - 29 - Spring Break - No School
- Apr 26 - Mid-Marking Period
- May 7 - Early Dismissal/Professional Development PM
- May 26 - Early Dismissal/Professional Development PM,  
**Class of 2027 Graduation**
- May 27 - Early Dismissal/Last Day of School/End of Marking Period/  
Professional Development PM,  
**Class of 2027 Graduation - Tentative Rain Date**
- May 28 - Professional Development/No School for Students

**PSSA/Keystone Exam Schedule**

December 7-18, 2026	Keystone Testing Window Wave 1
April 26-May 7, 2027	PSSA Testing Window
May 17-May 28, 2027	Keystone Testing Window
July 26-30, 2027	Keystone Testing Window

	Student Days	Staff Days
August	9	12
September	20	20
October	21	22
November	15	17
December	16	17
January	19	20
February	18	18
March	17/*19	19
April	22	22
May	19	20
June	0	0 Total
<b>Days</b>	<b>176/178</b>	<b>188</b>

(\*Secondary Student Days Count)

# UPPER ADAMS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

## School-Specific Information

### **Arrival and Dismissal:**

1. Students who walk to and from school are expected to use the sidewalks where available and cross the street only at the street crossings. Students are also expected to respect property by not walking on the lawns of property owners on the way to school.
2. Parents who drop off their children in the morning are not permitted to enter the lobby area to wait with their child. Students may be dropped off at school no earlier than 8:30 AM. Likewise, students who walk to school should plan to arrive at school no earlier than 8:30 AM. All students must report by 9:00 AM in order to be ready for the start of class at 9:05 AM. Once a child enters the school building, they must remain inside until they are dismissed to go to their classroom.
3. Parents who want to pick up students at the end of the day need to adhere to the same guidelines as noted above. Parents are not allowed to wait in the lobby area to pick up students. All walkers and students who are picked up at the end of the school day will be dismissed from the building at 3:38 PM.
4. Buses arrive at the school via the Queen Street driveway between 8:40 and 9:00 in the morning and between 3:30 and 3:50 in the afternoon. **Only buses may use the Queen Street driveway during these times.** Parents and others who are dropping off or picking up students should use the Fohl Street driveway or have their student use the sidewalk leading to the building from Fohl Street.
5. Parents are asked to notify the school when a child is going to be absent by calling the school and leaving a message. Parents who do not notify the school will be contacted to verify that the parent is aware their child is not in school.

### **Behavior Expectations - Canner C.A.R.E.S.:**

The Upper Adams Intermediate School uses a comprehensive behavior management program called Canner C.A.R.E.S. The goal of the program is to teach students how to participate in all educational opportunities while maintaining a safe school environment. Likewise, it empowers students to be responsible, productive, and ethical individuals at school and in our community, making them college and career ready. At the heart of the program are five expectations that apply to all areas of the school, the school grounds, and on school buses at all times during the day. Those five expectations are:

- C - Cooperation
- A - Accountability
- R - Respect
- E - Effective Learning and Citizen
- S - Self-Control

Students are expected to act in a manner consistent with these expectations. Infractions will be recorded and consequences assigned based on the frequency and severity of a student's misbehavior. Students are recognized with a gold star each month they have no infractions. At the end of the year, students will be allowed to participate in special activities according to the number of stars they receive throughout the year.

### **Playground/Recess Guidelines and Restrictions:**

1. Students must remain within eyesight of the adult(s) on duty at all times.
2. Softballs and wooden/metal bats are provided by the school for students to use. Baseballs may not be used on the playground.
3. Anytime a student has a problem on the playground or during recess, the problem should be reported to the adult on duty.
4. Good sportsmanship is expected at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct such as arguing, swearing, trash talking, gloating, and aggression will result in disciplinary action.
5. When playing organized sports (such as football, basketball, soccer, or kickball) students are expected to use rules of the game as taught in physical education class.

## **Homework Policy:**

Homework is an important aspect of a child's education. When given the proper attention, homework gives a child the opportunity to practice skills, review concepts, rethink information, and reflect on readings or discussions that the teacher has presented or assigned. This allows the student to develop a deeper understanding of the material and results in improved performance in class. In order for homework to have its intended effect, teachers, students, and parents must fulfill their unique responsibilities.

- **Teachers** have the responsibility of assigning homework. This responsibility includes making sure the assignment will help a student acquire the skills and knowledge needed to achieve the desired outcome. Teachers must be sure that students have enough background to complete the assignments. Teachers also must be sure to explain the directions for assignments so that students have a clear understanding of what is expected of them when they work on the assignment. When a child experiences difficulty with homework, the teacher must work with parents and the child to determine the cause of the difficulty.
- **Students** have the responsibility of completing homework and handing it in on time. This responsibility includes giving homework one's undivided attention and striving to achieve the desired outcome. Students should attempt to complete homework independently. In order to do this, students must be attentive during class presentations, listen carefully to directions, and ask questions for clarification. When a student cannot complete an assignment independently, it is his or her responsibility to ask parents or the teacher for assistance.
- **Parents** have the responsibility of setting high expectations for their child with regard to homework. This responsibility includes communicating the importance of homework to the child and maintaining an open line of communication with the teacher. Parents must insist that assignments be completed and turned in on time. The student's work should be checked by the parent and represent the best effort of the student. Parents can help students meet their responsibility by establishing a homework routine at home. A regular homework time helps students get in the habit of doing homework, and a designated place, free of distractions, helps students give their undivided attention to their work. When a child consistently has difficulty with homework, parents need to let the child's teacher know about the difficulty and work with the teacher to determine the reason for the difficulty.

Through consequences, parents and teachers must hold students accountable for not completing assignments and/or not handing them in on time. Parents need to identify what the consequences will be if their child fails to meet his or her homework responsibilities and consistently follow through with these consequences. Likewise, there must be consequences at school. At Upper Adams Intermediate School, the following consequences will be the result of not completing and/or handing in homework on time:

- Your child will be required to inform you every time he or she does not complete a homework assignment or turn it in on time. This notice may be in the form of a note, which you will be asked to sign, or a telephone call to you.
- Depending upon the nature and purpose of the assignment, the teacher may require your child to complete the assignment during recess.
- The teacher will keep a log of assignments that were not completed or not turned in on time. Infractions will be assigned after a given number of missed assignments. This number is determined by your child's grade level. Homework infractions, like any other infraction, will prevent your child from earning a gold star on their behavior certificate for that month. Unlike other infractions, homework infractions will not affect the severity of consequences your child may receive for other behavior infractions.
- Finally, and most importantly, failure to complete and/or hand in homework assignments on time may cause your child to struggle at school and result in lower grades.

Homework has many benefits, but it can be a source of frustration and conflict. When teachers, students, and parents work together and fulfill their responsibilities, most of these difficulties can be avoided. It is hoped that this statement of philosophy and policy will help define the importance and value of homework, help everyone involved understand their responsibilities, and ultimately result in students' experiencing success at school.

## Visitors:

Parents, guardians, and community members are welcomed and encouraged to visit the school and their student's classes. To ensure that the greatest benefit can be derived from such visits and to ensure order in the schools, as well as the safety of both students and staff, it is necessary that visitors adhere to the following guidelines. Parents and others wishing to visit District schools during the school day **must stop at the respective office and make known their presence and purpose by registering and wearing an identification badge** before continuing into the school. Anyone not doing so may be questioned and asked to leave the building. When possible, arrangements to visit a classroom should be made at least 24 hours in advance. Classroom visitations are welcomed and can be a valuable tool in providing parents and guardians with a better sense of the instructional program. Such visitations will be permitted upon approval of the building principal and prior notification of the respective teacher. *For further information on this topic, please refer to the School Board Visitor Policy #907.*

## Upper Adams Intermediate School Awards and Recognition:

- **Orchard of Excellence** - This student recognition award works in conjunction with the Canner C.A.R.E.S. criteria. Teachers and school staff nominate recipients three times a year (October, February, and April) who exhibit positive behavior. Students are able to earn an Academic Golden Apple and/or a Canner Character Golden Apple.
- **Joyce Ebbert Memorial Library Award** - The Joyce Ebbert Memorial Library Award recognizes 6th grade students who demonstrate exceptional knowledge of the library curriculum including library usage, authors, fiction and nonfiction literary works.
- **Librarian's Choice Award:** This award is given to 6th grade students who are considered to be enthusiastic readers and library citizens. They exhibit the following traits: Uses books for a variety of purposes (including reading for pleasure and researching topics), reads independently and on a voluntary basis, shows respect to library staff and other students during library classes, and shows a genuine love of reading!
- **J. Clare Routsong Student of Excellence Award** - This award, given to 6th grade students, was established by J. Clare Routsong to recognize those who excel academically and display high moral and social standards.
- **Margaret Lady Fourth Grade Reading Award** – This award is presented to a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student who shows significant improvement in reading and enjoys various types of literature. This award was established in 2005 in honor of Margaret “Peg” Lady who served the Upper Adams School District as a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for 36 years and retired in 1988.
- **Physical Fitness Awards** - This award is presented to students in grades 4 – 6 who score in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (National Level) or at the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile (Presidential Level) or above in the five designated skill areas of the annual President's Physical Fitness Test. Students earning the Presidential Award receive a certificate and a trophy. Students who score in the 50<sup>th</sup> – 80<sup>th</sup> percentile range, or National Level, in all events receive a certificate and pin.
- **Upper Adams Jaycees Community and School Service Award** - This award is sponsored by the Upper Adams Jaycees and is presented to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who are selected for their school or community service. Service can include, but is not limited to, the following examples: helping other students; volunteering at nursing homes or hospitals, church activities, scouting activities, Junior Fireman, Junior Jaycee, Apple Harvest Festival volunteer, or picking up trash/litter along the highways.
- **Lions Club Character Award** - This award is presented to 6th grade students who have been selected for their strength and consistency of character. These students should demonstrate high standards of conduct, be truthful, have a keen sense of right and wrong, and make appropriate choices based on that knowledge.
- **American Legion Awards** - The American Legion Award is presented by the Ira E. Lady American Legion Post 262 in Biglerville to the 6th grade students that best display the following qualities: Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship, and Service. Students are awarded with a certificate and a medallion.
- **Presidential Academic Excellence Awards** - This award is given to 6th grade students who have less than six 1s or 2s on their 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade report cards and who have achieved advanced proficiency in reading or math on their most current standardized test. Students receive a certificate signed by the President, as well as a pin provided by the school. The Principal, with the recommendations from the faculty, may also recognize students with an Academic Effort Award and pin.

**NOTE:** Any reference to “parent” throughout this document includes guardians as well.

## **ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE INTERNET**

(Reference: UASD School Board Policy # 815)

The Acceptable Use Policy applies to all students, all faculty and staff members, and all visitors to District campus (both adults and minors) including parents and subcontractors. All children and teens visiting our campus are also subject to the terms and conditions of this Acceptable Use Policy. Students have access to computers, networks, and other forms of educational technology for educational purposes. As a result, Board Policy #815 states that students are prohibited to:

1. Send or display offensive messages or pictures through public messages, private messages, and material posted online by students.
2. Use obscene language
3. Utilize any technology to harass, demean, humiliate, intimidate, embarrass, or annoy their classmates or others in their community. This is unacceptable student behavior known as cyber bullying and will not be tolerated. (Any cyber bullying on or off-campus that is determined to substantially disrupt the school and/or threaten the safety and/or well-being of a student(s) is subject to disciplinary action according to the Upper Adams School District Discipline Code. UASD School Board Policy # 249, Cyberbullying.)
4. Damage computers, computer systems, or computer networks.
5. Modify, alter, change, repair, or reconfigure computer settings, software, or security settings on any school-owned computers or technology.
6. Violate copyright laws.
7. Use others' passwords or reveal others' passwords.
8. Trespass in others' folders, work, or files.
9. Intentionally download or install new programs or software without permission.
10. Intentionally engage in illegal file sharing.
11. Intentionally introduce a virus or software program onto the network.
12. Engage in commercial activities to sell, purchase, or barter any products or services.
13. Access any instant messenger services from the school's technology.
14. Access Social Networking profiles or accounts during academic hours from either personally- owned or District-owned technology.
15. Access any photography sharing websites from a District-owned computer or District's technology.
16. Access any rating or dating websites from the District's technology.
17. Access material that is offensive, profane, or obscene including pornography and hate literature.
18. Take or send photographs or video with their phones or any other electronic handheld or wireless device while on District property or at District events without advanced permission from a District official.
19. Use the District's school name, logo, or mascot or any other likeness or representation on a non- school website without permission from the Superintendent.

Violations of district policy may result in loss of access to the Internet and/or network. Additional disciplinary or legal action may result as appropriate. Anything created on school property using assets of the District becomes the property of the District. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on the District equipment will always be private. The District is not responsible for any damages, injuries, and/or claims resulting from violations of responsible use of technology.

The District reserves the right to monitor and track all behaviors and interactions that take place online or through the use of technology on our property or at our events. The District also reserves the right to investigate any reports of inappropriate actions related to any technology used at school or on District property. All emails and messages sent through the District's network or accessed on a District computer can be inspected. Messages of a personal nature sent on District devices during school hours are prohibited. Personally owned device users have a limited expectation of privacy when using their own technology on District property or at school events so long as no activity violates policy, law, and/or compromises the safety and well-being of the school community.

Cell Phones, Data and Gaming Devices: Cell phones and other electronic handheld devices should not be visible or in use at any time during the school day or on the bus. The District is not responsible for safe keeping of these devices or the content stored on them. Misuse of such items could result in confiscation in which case they will be held in the office for parent pick up, and disciplinary action may be taken.

### **ADDRESS CHANGES:**

In order to maintain the proper care of your child, please notify the school of any change of address, telephone numbers, or other important information. Also, if you plan to move, please notify the school office so that parent signatures may be obtained and appropriate records and materials may be properly forwarded to the new school. Finally, if plans necessitate a move during the summer, please call the school office so we can help your child's adjustment to a new situation by forwarding their records before the new school year begins.

### **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:**

The Upper Adams School District uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance learning in a safe, responsible, and fair manner. Students are only permitted to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools that have been officially approved by the district, and personal information should never be shared with these programs to ensure privacy. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is meant to support education not replace it. Therefore, students may only use Artificial Intelligence (AI) on assignments when their teacher explicitly gives permission. When allowed, any Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated text, ideas, or images must be properly cited to avoid plagiarism, as per the direction of the student's teacher. Any inappropriate use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) may result in student discipline. For additional clarification and explanation, students and their families should review Board Policy 815.1: Artificial Intelligence and Board Policy 815: Acceptable Use Of Electronic Resources.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

(Reference: UASD School Board Policy Reference #204 and 204.1)

- **Absence from School** – Regular attendance at school is necessary if students are to receive a quality education. From time to time, however, it will be necessary for students to miss school due to an illness, a professional health care or therapy appointment, or a death in the family. Parents should call the school office by 9:00 AM to let us know your child will be absent and provide a written excuse when the child returns. **Note: An automated phone message reporting the absent child/children will be made to the homes of parents who do not call in to report their child's absence by 9:00 AM.**
- When students are absent from school, the following procedures will be followed:
  - A written note must be signed by the parent and returned to school within 3 days after the student returns.
  - If a student is absent for 3 consecutive days, a doctor's note is required upon returning to school for the absences to be considered legal.
  - The mere fact that a parent has sent a written excuse does not necessarily mean the absence shall be considered to be lawful.
  - Excused absences include but are not limited to: Absences resulting from illness; professional health care or therapy appointment; quarantine; recovery from accident; required court attendance; death in the family; pre-excused family educational trips; impassable roads; pre-approved religious holidays.
  - After three days without an excuse, the absence will be counted as unexcused and/or illegal and dealt with accordingly.
  - Oversleeping is not an acceptable excuse for being tardy/absent and will be recorded as unexcused.
  - Students will not be excused to attend a sibling's sporting or extra-curricular events.
  - Students will not be excused to attend practices prior to the end of the school day.
  - A First Notice Letter will be issued after three (3) days of unexcused/illegal absences during a school year.
  - Work missed due to absences must be made up based on the general guideline of one day for each day absent.
  - Students who are illegally absent or unexcused may not be able to make up work or take tests which they missed while out of school illegally.
  - Assignments for legally absent students can be obtained by calling the school office or by notifying the teacher before 10:00 AM. A message may be left on the school voicemail before school. Assignments may also be picked up by parents or sent home with siblings.
  - **If a student is brought into school late, the parent must accompany the child to the school office to sign the**

**student into school. Unexcused minutes due to tardiness may add up to result in unexcused absences.**

- Students arriving at school after 10:30 AM without lawful excuse will be charged with a ½ day absence for the morning. Students leaving school prior to 2:00 PM without lawful excuse will be charged with a ½ day absence for the afternoon.
- **Appointments** – Regular school attendance is essential for maximum benefit from the instructional and extracurricular programs offered. Whenever possible, appointments for non-school activities or services should be scheduled outside the school day. If a student must see a doctor, dentist, etc., during the school day, a note giving parental permission must be submitted to the office prior to the appointment day. Illegal absences will be recorded if time is loitered away while moving to or from the place of appointment. **Upon their return to school, students should provide a doctor’s note from the doctor or dentist office verifying the appointment so their time away from school can be counted as excused.**
- **Early Dismissals** – No student shall be excused from school prior to dismissal except for reasons approved by the Principal of the school or his/her appointed representative. Such reasons shall give primary consideration to the welfare of the child. Likewise, no student shall be permitted to leave school prior to dismissal at the request of, or in the company of, anyone other than a professional school employee, a police officer, a court official, or the parents of the child, unless permission of the parent in charge is first procured. Parents who request early dismissal of their children are required to report to the Principal’s office and sign their child out of school.
- **School Early Dismissals** – Students should be prepared ahead of time to know where they would go in the event of early dismissal due to half days or emergencies.
- **Signing Students in and Out** – Parents *must* come to the office and use the school registration kiosk when removing or returning a student during the school day. It is no longer permissible for the school to release students without parent signature.
- **Family/Educational Trips** – We believe learning is an experience not limited to the confines of a school building. Thus travel by a student of an educational nature and/or attendance at educational functions other than school will be considered a legitimate, excused absence from school if they are preplanned and pre-approved. Cooperative attempts to enhance the educational value of the experience are to be made between the school, parents, and student. Following are guidelines of the Educational Travel Policy, Board Policy 204.1:
  - A request form for Educational Travel is available on the District website and in school offices. This form must be filled out and submitted by a parent at least three(3) days prior to the student’s anticipated absence.
  - Educational travel absences shall not exceed a total of ten (10) school days.
  - The student must have an attendance rate of 90% or better in order to be approved. .
  - Special arrangements for Educational Travel which is expected to exceed ten (10) school days must be made with the Principal.
  - Any days beyond the maximum of ten (10) days permitted will be considered unexcused and appropriate legal action may be taken.
  - Requests for approval may be denied based on academic standing of student, attendance record, or disciplinary record.
  - The Board and Administration strongly advise parents not to plan family educational trips within the first or last ten (10) school days of the school year.
  - Prior to the beginning of the trip, it shall be the responsibility of the student to initiate contact with his/her teachers to arrange for assignments, examinations, and/or missed work to be made up.
  - Students will be permitted the same number of days after the absence as were originally granted for the absences to submit all course requirements issued during the absence. Teachers may grant exceptions for this “day-to-day” procedure as needed. No work should be submitted after the last day of the school year.
  - Failure to submit work within the given time period will result in the student receiving a zero (0) for the assignment, which may be averaged into the marking period grade for that subject.
  - **Educational Travel requests will be denied during the PSSA testing window for grade levels that are testing.**
- **Notes from Parents Regarding Bus Transportation** – In issues regarding bus transportation, if you know in advance that your child will not be riding the bus in the AM or PM, please provide the bus driver with a written note. A written note is required for your child’s bus driver if you plan on your child getting off the same bus but at a different bus stop. **Copies of**

**transportation notes should also be given to the school office, especially when you plan to pick your child up at school at the end of the day.**

- **Notes for Physical Education** – If your child is unable to participate for longer than a week, he/she must have a written excuse from a physician. Please have the physician include recess activity as well as P.E. in the note regarding inability to participate only as applicable. Extended excuses from normal P.E. classes may require placement in an adaptive physical education class.
- **Chronic Absences** – According to Upper Adams School Board Attendance Policy #204, a maximum of ten (10) days of cumulative medical/illness-related absences verified by parental notification shall be permitted during a school year. **All absences beyond ten (10) cumulative days shall require an excuse from a licensed practitioner of the healing arts. (Please note: if a student fails to provide a doctor’s excuse, the absence will be considered unexcused/illegal. After three (3) days of illegal or unexcused absence, a letter of warning will be sent to the parent or guardian and appropriate actions taken.)** Chronic Absenteeism may restrict a student from enrolling in a Cyber School Program.
- **Absence Improvement Plan** – The building principal or designated Attendance Officer may develop an Attendance Improvement Plan for any student deemed “at-risk” of significant academic decline due to absences. Input shall be gathered from teachers, guidance counselors, parents, students, and other pertinent individuals in order to attempt to identify the root causes for the absence pattern and steps for improvement. This plan, if adhered to by the parents and the student, may be utilized in lieu of the legal remedies available to the District. Failure to adhere to the components of the plan will constitute reasons for immediate pursuance of legal remedies for the illegal absences.

### **BEHAVIOR CODE OF CONDUCT:**

(Reference: UASD School Board Policy Reference #218)

The Board acknowledges that conduct is closely related to learning and, therefore, hopes to maintain an effective instructional program by maintaining an orderly and safe school environment. In order to do so, the Board shall require each student in the district to adhere to the conduct rules and regulations decided upon by the administration and aligned with the Pennsylvania School Code Section 1317. Every teacher and administrator shall have the right to exercise the same authority with regard to conduct and behavior over students attending our schools from the time they are in class, going to and from school, or attending and participating in school-sponsored activities. The circumstances of any situation will dictate the degree and type of correction that needs to be exercised. The following disciplinary infractions shall be used in determining the disciplinary measure to be taken by the administration. Students who accumulate multiple disciplinary infractions, such as those listed below, may be subject to suspension, expulsion, or an alternative placement.

- Direct disobedience, insubordination, or disrespect to those in authority
- Possession, distribution, use or sale of alcoholic beverages and/or drugs
- Offenses for possession and/or use of tobacco in any form
- Stealing
- Vandalism
- Fighting or assaulting another person
- Profanity directed towards staff members or extreme profanity in any situation
- Direct defiance of any school regulation or policy
- Endangering a person or offenses against property
- Possession, distribution, or use of any weapon. Should a student accidentally bring such things to school, they should be given to a Teacher, Instructional Aide, or Principal immediately.
- Harassing or threatening another person
- Arson, false alarm, or terroristic threat
- Bullying/Cyber-Bullying (UASD School Board Policy # 249)
- Any infractions covered under the School Code not listed here

### **Behavior in General** –

- Students are expected to be courteous, kind, and considerate of both students and adults at school.
- Students should be prompt and prepared for each class.
- Students should refrain from profanity, name-calling, making threats, and any form of teasing.
- Cheating and telling lies, etc., will not be tolerated.

- Students should not have more than \$1.00 over the cost of lunch at any time during the school day, except for school store, book fairs, and field trips.
- No running anywhere inside the building (exception – during Phys. Ed. Class).
- No gum chewing in the building, on the playground, on the buses, or on any trips outside of the school (i.e. – during field trips, Color Day, PTA/O Meetings, Open House, etc.)
- No buying or selling of food and/or other items on the bus or on school or District property.
- No giving away or trading of personal belongings is permitted on the bus or on District property.
- All students should remove caps, hats, hoods, or headgear while in the hallways and building unless special permission is given (i.e. Hat Day, Dress Up Days, etc.) or unless worn for religious reasons.
- Students may not bring print materials to school containing pictures or content that is disruptive to the learning environment or otherwise determined to be inappropriate in the school setting by the Principal.
- Cell phones or other electronic handheld devices (PSPs, iPads, etc.) should not be visible or in use at any time on District property, including the bus.
- No public displays of affection.

#### **Behavior in the Cafeteria –**

6. Students are expected to eat quietly, display good eating habits, and utilize good manners.
7. Students should help the custodian keep the cafeteria clean and a nice place to eat. In order to do this, students must clean up all paper, milk cartons, and food crumbs.
8. All food taken to the cafeteria or obtained in the cafeteria must be eaten in the cafeteria.
9. Carriers who purchase milk will go through the line with their class and pay the cashier.
10. Students shall be seated according to directions given by the cafeteria staff.

#### **Behavior at Recess – Good Weather –**

- Students are expected to go outside at recess if the weather permits.
  - On the way to the playground, students are to get a drink and go to the restroom.
  - No student is to return into the building unless permission is granted by the teacher on duty.
  - Students must play on the blacktop if the ground is wet or muddy.
  - The playground equipment is there for your enjoyment, but it can be very dangerous if not used properly. Never stand or climb on any of the playground equipment unless it is designated for such activity. Swings are to be used properly. Students are not permitted to join swings or twist the chains.
  - **Baseballs are not permitted on the playground.**
  - Playground balls not supplied by the District must be cleared with the teacher on duty.
  - **Tackle football is not permitted.** Other games involving rough play or tackling are also not permitted.
  - **No snowballing will be permitted.**
  - Toys such as radios, walkie-talkies, electronic handheld devices, dolls, trucks, cars, etc., are not permitted on the playground.
  - Ball-playing of any kind must be done in the designated areas.
  - No throwing rocks, stones, or other potentially dangerous items.
- Individual students not able to go outside for recess must report to the designated area with a book or other schoolwork to be completed. There will be no talking permitted in the inside recess room, nor will games or toys be permitted. All students must go outside during recess unless the child:
  - has a note from parents stating that the child cannot go outside due to a recent illness,
  - has work to make up, or
  - is being kept in for disciplinary reasons by a teacher, the Principal, or other school personnel.

The Code of Student Conduct, and associated Policy 218 (Student Discipline) shall apply to the behavior of students at all times during the time they are under the supervision of the school or at any time while on school property, while present at school-sponsored activities, and while traveling to or from school and school-sponsored activities or at other times while riding in school-provided means of transportation (“on-campus”). This Code of Student Conduct and Policy 218 also apply to student behavior that occurs at other times and places (“off-campus”) when the conduct:

- Involves, threatens or makes more likely violence, use of force or other serious harm directed at students, staff or the school environment;
- Interferes with, or threatens to interfere with, the rights of students or school staff or the safe and orderly operation of the schools and their programs;
- Materially and substantially disrupts or interferes with the school environment or the educational process, such as school activities, schoolwork, discipline, safety, and order on school property or at school functions;
- Involves the theft or vandalism of school property; or
- Relative to its proximity, timing, motive, or other factors pertaining to the conduct, otherwise establish a direct connection to attendance at school, to the school community, or to a school-sponsored activity. This would include, for example, but not be limited to, conduct that would violate the Code of Student Conduct if it occurred in school, that is committed in furtherance of a plan made or agreed to in school, or acts of vandalism directed at the property of school staff because of their status as school staff.

Students have the right to express themselves unless such expression is likely to or does materially and substantially disrupt or interfere with the educational process, including school activities, schoolwork, discipline, safety, and order on school property or at school functions; threatens serious harm to the school or school community; encourages unlawful activity; or interferes with another's rights. Student expression is prohibited to the extent that it:

1. Violates federal, state or local laws, Board policy or district rules or procedures;
2. Is defamatory, obscene, lewd, vulgar or profane;
3. Advocates the use or advertises the availability of any substance or material that may reasonably be believed to constitute a direct and serious danger to the health or welfare of students, such as tobacco/vaping products, alcohol or illegal drugs;
4. Incites violence, advocates use of force or threatens serious harm to the school or community;
5. Materially and substantially disrupts or interferes with the educational process, such as school activities, schoolwork, discipline, safety and order on school property or at school functions;
6. Interferes with, or advocates interference with, the rights of any individual or the safe and orderly operation of the schools and their programs; or
7. Violates written district procedures on time, place and manner for dissemination of otherwise protected expression.

Student expression that occurs on school property or at school-sponsored events, or occurs at any time or place when created or communicated using district-provided equipment, email, websites or other technological resources, is subject to Policy 220 (Student Expression). The limitations, prohibitions and requirements of Policy 220 shall apply to expression that occurs outside the foregoing circumstances only when and to the extent that the out-of-school expression:

1. Incites violence, advocates use of force or otherwise threatens serious harm directed at students, staff or the school environment;
2. Materially and substantially disrupts or interferes with the educational process, such as school activities, schoolwork, discipline, safety and order on school property or at school functions; or
3. Interferes with, or advocates interference with, the rights of any individual or the safe and orderly operation of the schools and their programs.

## **Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco**

(References: School Board Policy #222 and #227)

The educational environment is disrupted by a student who, while in school or while engaged in or attending a school activity, or during the time spent traveling to and from school and to and from school-sponsored activities, possesses, uses, attempts to sell, distribute, or remain under the influence of any materials mentioned in the current School Board Drug and Alcohol Policy #227. All students shall be encouraged to report to the Principal any person suspected of soliciting, giving, or using any narcotics, alcohol, or other health-endangering compounds while on District property, under school jurisdiction, or while attending school-related functions. Students who, while under the school's jurisdiction, are found to possess or use a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or any controlled drug, shall be suspended/expelled from school-related activities for a period conforming with current Pennsylvania School Code and Board Policy. Police will be notified, student-parent counseling will be made available, and a prescribed course of study related to the offense must be successfully completed.

1. **Tobacco Use** – Students are prohibited from using or possessing any tobacco products on District property or buses. Any student in violation of Board policy or Act 145 of Pennsylvania is subject to a \$50 fine and court costs (usually \$75).
2. **Electronic Cigarettes** – Students are prohibited from possessing, using, purchasing, or selling electronic cigarettes or vaping devices on school property and buses.

## **Weapons Policy**

(Reference: School Board Policy #218.1)

According to Act 26 of 1995 and Upper Adams Board Policy #218.1, any student who possesses a weapon, look-a-like weapon, or hazardous substance will be subject to strict disciplinary measures. Students and parents need to be aware that those items that are not permitted on District property include, but are not limited to:

- Any knife, cutting instrument, or cutting tool
- Nunchaku
- Firearm, shotgun, or rifle
- Any realistic replica of a weapon
- Noxious, irritating, or poisonous gasses
- Accelerants, poisons, or drugs
- Any other tool, implement, instrument, material, or substance capable of inflicting serious bodily injury

Any student who is determined to have brought a weapon onto District property or who is in possession of a weapon on District property shall be expelled for not less than one (1) year, unless the Superintendent recommends discipline short of expulsion on a case-by-case basis. Any student who brings a weapon, look- a-like weapon or hazardous substances onto District property will be subject to disciplinary actions, which may include expulsion. Any student who assists another student in any actions related to Policy 218.1 will also be subject to disciplinary action, which may include expulsion. Whenever a weapon prohibited by law from being carried onto school property is discovered, the local law enforcement officials will be notified by the Superintendent.

A student may request prior, express approval from his/her building Principal to bring a weapon onto District property for classroom purposes or a school function. In asking approval, the student shall make arrangements with the Principal for the safe storage and transportation of the weapon. After the weapon is used for the approved purpose, it shall be removed from District property by the student by the conclusion of the school day or after the school function in question.

## **Bus Rules:**

(Reference: Upper Adams School Board Policy # 810 and 810.2)

1. **General Information** – Bus drivers have a difficult job and students and parents can help make it easier. The exercise of caution, good manners, and consideration for other people will make a bus ride more pleasant and safe for all. The general guidelines for students riding buses are as follows:
  - Proper conduct is expected at all times.
  - The school day begins for students when they board the school bus. At that point, the students are under the rules and regulations of the Upper Adams School District.
  - The bus driver has the right to enforce and discipline students. Continued disorderly conduct or refusal to respect

the authority of the school bus driver shall be sufficient enough reason for the student to be denied transportation in accordance with the regulations of the Upper Adams School District. Suspension of bus privileges can range from three (3) days to one (1) year.

- Bus drivers are permitted to pick up or discharge students only at the student's stop. For other considerations, **parents must submit a written request to the building Principal prior to the date of the change.** Notes from parents to bus drivers are not acceptable for such arrangements.
- Special bus stops will not be established for students to be delivered to places other than their own homes. Bus drivers may only make stops authorized by the UASD Supervisor of Transportation.

2. Bus Code of Conduct – Any distractions or disruptions that take the bus driver's attention away from driving can easily result in an accident. It is for this reason that students must behave properly at all times.

- The driver is in full charge of the bus and students, and students must obey his/her directions. Disrespect, defiant conduct, or obscene language or gestures directed toward the driver may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the bus.
- Students must remain in their seats. A student may be assigned a seat permanently or temporarily at the driver's discretion.
- Students shall ride their regularly-assigned bus.
- When requested by the driver, students must identify themselves.
- Students must arrive at the bus stop five minutes prior to the arrival time of the bus and wait in a safe, orderly manner out of the roadway and off private property. They must not approach the bus until it has come to a full stop.
- Students must enter and leave the bus in an orderly manner in view of the driver. They must cross the road in front of the bus after the driver has indicated that it is safe to proceed.
- Students are to remain seated and face the front of the bus while it is in motion. Students are to remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop at its destination or their bus stop.
- No student shall at any time extend head, hands, arms, or any other body part out of the windows, whether the school bus is in motion or standing still.
- Students will reimburse the District for damage to school buses resulting from student misconduct and may be subject to loss of riding privilege and suspension or expulsion from school.
- Students will refrain from excessive noise, fighting, vulgar or obscene language or gestures, and any form of harassment while on the bus.
- Students must not have anything in their possession that might cause injury to another (i.e., sticks, breakable containers, knives, laser pointers, skateboards, or any type of firearms or fireworks.) No animals are permitted on the bus.
  - Absolutely no weapons, tobacco products, illegal substances or alcoholic beverages are allowed on the bus.
  - Students must maintain clean bus interiors by keeping trash off the floor. Students will not throw refuse or any other objects out the windows or on the bus.
  - Eating on the bus is not permissible except when specifically authorized and supervised by District personnel. Gum chewing is not permitted.
  - Place books or parcels on your lap, not on the floor or in the aisle. The aisle must be kept clear.
  - Windows are not to be opened without the driver's permission.

3. Procedures for Disciplinary Actions for Student Bus Misconduct – The driver of any school bus shall be held responsible for the orderly conduct and safety of the students transported. Continued disorderly conduct or refusal to respect the authority of the school bus driver shall be sufficient reason for the student to be denied transportation in accordance with regulations of the School Board Transportation Policy #810. If a student refuses to cooperate with the bus driver's directions, the driver shall report misconduct of the student to the building Principal or Assistant Principal. A bus conduct report will be completed and forwarded to the Principal. The four levels of offenses under normal conditions will be followed as stated below. However, the administration reserves the right to implement any level of offense dependent upon the seriousness of the offense. The number of offenses by students will not carry over from one school year to another, but the loss of bus privileges may carry over.

- **First Offense** – The building Principal shall call the offending student to the office and discuss the problem or infraction and verbally warn the student that he/she will lose riding privileges if the misconduct continues. The bus conduct report will be completed and forwarded to parents.

- **Second Offense** – The building Principal shall call the offending student to the office to address the offense. A letter from the building Principal may be sent to the parents informing them of the second offense and warning them that another offense will result in withdrawal of riding privileges. The bus conduct report will be completed and forwarded to the parents.
  - **Third Offense** – The building Principal shall call the offending student to the office to address the offense. A letter may be sent to the parents informing them that the student’s riding privileges have been withdrawn for a minimum of three (3) days. The student’s parents must meet with the Principal, either in person or over the phone, before the student’s riding privileges will be reinstated.
  - **Fourth Offense** – The building Principal shall call the offending student to the office and discuss the problem or infraction and address the offense. The student may be reported to the Superintendent and the principal will inform the parents that the student has lost the privilege of riding the bus for a minimum of one (1) semester to a maximum of one (1) year.
4. Guidelines for Book Bags with Wheels, Band Instruments, Etc. - Entering/on/exiting the Bus
- Handles must be pushed down and remain down while boarding, riding, and disembarking the bus.
  - Students must carry the object on and off the bus; not drag or pull it behind them.
  - The student must keep the object either on their lap or on the floor in front of them; not in the aisle thus making it difficult for other students to pass as they enter or exit the bus.

### **BIRTHDAY PARTIES AND CLASSROOM PARTIES:**

Classroom parties are permitted to occur at the classroom teacher’s and building Principal’s discretion. Classroom teachers are required to follow PDE Nutritional Standards. Individual birthday parties are **not** permitted unless approved by the teacher. In order to avoid hurt feelings and misunderstandings, students and parents are asked not to distribute party invitations at school unless: (1) all students in the homeroom are invited; (2) a boy would invite all boys in the homeroom; or (3) a girl would invite all girls in the homeroom.

### **BULLYING PREVENTION:**

(Reference: UASD School Board Policy #249)

The Upper Adams Elementary Schools are dedicated to creating a physically and emotionally safe environment. We are committed to developing socially responsible students who maintain a safe, positive learning climate in which all individuals can participate, learn, and enjoy. **As defined by the District’s Bullying/CyberBullying Policy #249, bullying is an intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act, or series of acts, directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside of a school setting, that is severe, persistent, or pervasive.** The elementary schools will not tolerate any acts of bullying and staff members will take immediate steps to intervene. If you think your child is being bullied:

1. Take his/her complaints seriously.
2. Ask for specifics and write them down.
3. Contact the Teacher.

Children who have friends are less likely to be bullied or to bully others. Help your child learn social skills necessary to make friends and spread kindness towards others. Bullying concerns should be reported to your building Principal or anonymously through the Safe to Say Platform.

### **CELL PHONES:**

**Cell phones** and other electronic, handheld devices **should not be visible or in use at any time during the school day, on District property, or on the school bus.** The District is not responsible for safe keeping of these devices or the content stored on them. Misuse of such items could result in confiscation, in which case the device will be held in the office for parent pick up and disciplinary action may be taken.

## COMMUNICATION:

Good schools require ongoing, quality communication. Communication is the key to developing a partnership between educators and parents in working for the best interests of children. Such communication has been the strength of the Upper Adams Elementary Schools. Parents are strongly encouraged to contact the teachers at the school with concerns and questions about their child's education or to inform the school whenever there is a problem at home that could affect the child's performance at school. All school personnel have email addresses that can be accessed through the District's website. It is the goal of all the staff members to respond to parents within 24 hours. Excellence will be achieved when the school has a direct line of communication with parents, who are a valuable component of our educational team.

## DISCRIMINATION/TITLE IX SEXUAL HARASSMENT AFFECTING STUDENTS:

(Reference: UASD School Board Policy #103)

Upper Adams School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or handicap in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, and the American Disabilities Act. All investigations into reports of sexual harassment and assault will be impartial, free of bias and conflicts, and will not prejudge the facts for either side.

For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact the District Superintendent and Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, and ADA Coordinator at 717-677-7181 ext 2751, or by mail at 161 N. Main Street, Biglerville, PA 17307.

## DRESS GUIDELINES:

(Reference: UASD School Board Policy #221)

Students should use proper discretion with respect to school dress. Clothing should be clean and free of suggestive or vulgar printing or pictures, advertising signs, symbols or slogans of alcohol, drug, or tobacco products. Clothing which disrupts the educational process by style or appearance (bare midriffs, spaghetti straps, and short shorts) is prohibited. Likewise, students are highly discouraged from wearing flip flops without heel straps, clogs, and dress shoes with higher heels due to the safety concerns they present on the playground and in school. **The administrator reserves the right to require students to change their attire if deemed inappropriate. Parents are encouraged to help their child make appropriate dress choices with warm weather apparel.** Parents and students must be mindful that dress, which may be disruptive to the learning process, will not be tolerated. Any student violating the School Board Dress and Grooming Policy #221 will be considered insubordinate and dealt with according to the District's Discipline Policy. School administrators have the final responsibility for interpretation and enforcement of these guidelines.

- **Policy Guidelines:**

1. There shall be no clothing worn depicting the following specifically:
  - Drug, alcohol, or tobacco messages
  - Messages with implications of a sexual nature, obscenities, suggestive remarks, negative comments about another's culture, or reference to illegal substances.
  - Symbols related to racist or hate groups.
  - Violence
2. Shoes must be worn in the building at all times.
3. Hats, handkerchiefs, or similar headgear may not be worn in the school building during regular school hours except for religious or health reasons. Hoods should not be up inside the school building.
4. There shall be no chains worn, other than those designed as neck, wrist, or ankle jewelry.
5. Shorts and skirts may be worn as long as they exceed the length of your hand hanging naturally at your side. The fingertips shall serve as the dividing line.
6. Any garment that overly exposes the upper torso will not be permitted.
7. Garments worn in such a manner as to expose underwear will be in defiance of the dress code.
8. Sunglasses are not permitted inside the building unless required by a physician.
9. Sneakers must be worn on Phys. Ed. Days. Flip-flops may not be worn on these days.

## **1. Jewelry and Other Adornments:**

1. The District recognizes the right of students to wear jewelry and other adornments. However, certain jewelry and other adornments, and the manner in which they are worn or displayed, may not be appropriate under certain circumstances and may pose a danger to the safety or welfare of the student or to other students or staff, and may pose a threat to – or substantial interruption of  
– the educational process.
2. In the case of the day-to-day school environment, the administration and/or teaching staff may require that students remove any jewelry or other adornments which might reasonably be considered as posing a threat to the safety of the student, other students, or staff, or as posing a threat to – or substantial disruption of – the educational process.

## **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNSELING:**

The role of the elementary school counselor is to promote academic and interpersonal success through the delivery of a developmental school counseling program. This program focuses on skills to help children cope, make decisions, develop a positive self-concept, and become responsible citizens. Program components include classroom guidance lessons, small group counseling, and individual support. The classroom guidance curriculum is delivered to students in all grade levels. The lessons align with the American School Counselor Association National Standards, and address academic, personal/social, and career domains. In addition, the elementary school counselor facilitates small counseling groups and provides individual support to address student needs. The counselor is a resource for teachers, administrators, and parents, and is available to discuss academic, social, or personal issues concerning your child. Upper Adams School District has established its school counseling program as an integral part of the total education process.

## **EL PROGRAM:**

The English Learners (EL) program is established to provide students with the vocabulary and grammatical structures needed for both school performance and everyday living. The program functions in grades K- 12, following the Planned Course of Instruction developed for regular education in the Upper Adams School District. Together with the classroom teacher, the EL teacher develops language acquisition and cognitive academic language skills through the use of sound instructional techniques. The EL program provides the English language learners with the opportunity to grasp the academic, social, and cultural aspects of the English language through the teaching of reading, writing, spelling, and listening.

## **FIELD TRIPS:**

(Reference: UASD School Board Policy #121)

Participation in field trips, picnics, and other activities is not automatic. Students must meet all eligibility requirements in order to participate. Students who are suspended or expelled, behind in their assignments or class work, etc., will be denied the privilege of participation. When denied participation, the student is required to attend school and to work on school assignments. All school policies (including Tobacco and Alcohol) apply on all field trips. Field trips are designed to enhance and enrich the concepts students are learning in the classroom. They are not meant to be family trips. Therefore, the following guidelines will be followed by chaperones:

1. The destination of the trip and the age of the students will determine how many chaperones are needed on a trip. Some field trips may require no chaperones at all.
2. Only adults listed as chaperones will be allowed to accompany and/or participate with the students on a field trip. Any parent or adult who decides on their own to follow the bus or drive separately will not be allowed to join the group at any time (including lunch) unless they have been chosen as a chaperone.
3. All chaperones must have active volunteer clearances on file at school. Only parents with active clearances will be considered to serve as chaperones.
4. Chaperones who have been selected are not permitted to bring siblings of their child with them on the field trip.
5. Chaperones will be selected using a fair method. If more parents volunteer to chaperone than are needed, a random drawing will be used to select chaperones.
6. Parents are not permitted to post photos of other students on any social media platform.

## **GRADING AND REPORT CARDS:**

(Reference: UASD School Board Policy #212 and #213)

The elementary schools in the Upper Adams School District use a standards-based report card to report student progress. Report cards are issued two (2) times a year for grades K-6. Teachers will also hold parent conferences in the fall and spring to update parents on their student's progress. These conferences are very important as they allow parents to learn exactly how their child is progressing. Parents should make it a priority to attend these conferences.

Report cards are issued twice a year. These grades represent our teachers' best judgment of the student's accomplishments. Parents will be informed when there is a major change in achievement at the midpoint of each marking period. We ask that you consult your child's teacher early in the marking periods if you anticipate your child is having difficulties. Please respond when teachers indicate a conference is desired. Report cards need not be returned; copies are maintained by the school. Students will be graded on attainment of standards using the following scales:

2. **4** - Excels in Area: Your child consistently performs above and beyond with this skill.
3. **3** - Meets Expectations: Your child is able to perform this skill consistently and independently.
4. **2** - Building Understanding: Your child needs assistance and/or practice to perform this skill consistently and independently.
5. **1** - Area of Concern: Even with guidance, your child is not able to perform the skill consistently and independently.

Report cards will be held at the end of the school year until students return library books and school-issued calculators. When items are returned or payment is made, report cards will be distributed.

**Assessments** – The Upper Adams School District elementary schools use a number of standardized assessments to monitor student progress through the curriculum. **DIBELS** (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) assessments are administered three times each year to students in grades K-3 to determine students' growth in reading readiness, decoding, and comprehension skills.

Pennsylvania requires all students in grades 3-6 to participate in the **PSSA** (Pennsylvania State System of School Assessment) tests. Students in these grade levels are assessed in Math and English/Language Arts (ELA). In addition, 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are also assessed in Science. Dates for the PSSA Tests are listed on the District calendar. **It is important that parents not schedule appointments during these testing times and avoid educational trips both during the testing dates and the weeks prior to the tests.**

## **HEALTH SERVICES AND IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS:**

(Reference: UASD School Board Policies #203 and #246)

**Required Immunizations** – Under regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of health, all children entering school for the current school year are required to provide proof of having received the following immunizations:

1. DTP                      4 doses with the fourth given after the fourth birthday
2. Polio                    3 doses with the last being given after the fourth birthday
3. Hepatitis B            3 doses
4. MMR                    2 doses
5. Varicella                2 doses or proof of the disease

**Health Screenings** – State law requires schools to check students' annual weight, height, BMI, hearing, and vision screening once a year. Students will be checked by the school nurse or the nurse assistant at each building. After hearing and vision screenings are completed, anything other than apparently normal findings will be mailed to the parents. Parents are requested to return the report of the examination as soon as possible after the defects have been corrected or investigated. This permits us to keep your child's individual school health record up to date. This frequently is of considerable help to both parents and family physicians in the event of serious illness.

Pennsylvania now requires schools to report Body Mass Index (BMI) to parents every year. When a child's risk for becoming overweight is found early, parents, children, teachers, and healthcare providers can work together to help improve a child's health. The BMI is a good way to see a child's risk for becoming obese or overweight. The BMI formula helps us see whether a

child's weight is in proportion to his/her height. The BMI percentile indicates how a person's measurements compare to others of the same age and gender.

Any student who is known to have a hearing loss or history of hearing difficulties shall have their hearing tested. A complete physical examination is given to each student on original entry in grades K or 1, 6, and 11. Parents have the option of having an examination conducted by the family physician. Students in grades K, 1, 2, 3, 7, 11, and special education students who have not returned a completed Dental Form from their family dentist will be given a dental examination by the school hygienist with the completed parent's permission form.

**Medication Procedures** – From time to time it may be necessary to send medication to school to be taken during the school day. These medications (both prescription and non-prescription) must be given to the school nurse or designee. All prescription medications should be sent to school, clearly labeled in its original, pharmaceutically-dispensed container and include the following information:

- Student's name
- Name of Physician
- The date of the prescription
- The name and telephone number of the pharmacy
- The name of the medication, dosage, and frequency of administration

All non-prescription medication must be presented in its original, manufacturer's packaging and be presented to the nurse with an Administration of Medication Form. Any medication that is placed in a plastic bag or container other than the original container will not be accepted.

**If a child needs to be given any medicine at school, other than the ones listed on the emergency card, a doctor must fill out an "Administration of Medication Form".** Whenever possible, medication schedules should be adjusted to minimize the medications that need to be taken at school. **An "Administration of Medication Form" is available from the school nurse and/or may be printed from the UASD website for both Prescription and Non-Prescription medicines. The form must be completed before medication can be given.** The parent, or a responsible adult, is required to deliver all medications to the health room. Medication should NEVER be sent to school with a child. All medications must stay in the health room.

Licensed nurses are bound by law regarding the administration of medicines in school. **Nurses may not give medications without a doctor's order. This applies to over the counter (OTC) medications as well as prescription medications.** It is important for the school to know how to get in contact with the parents should any questions arise.

At the end of the school year, a parent or designated adult needs to pick up their child's medication that was brought in throughout the school year. All medications will be disposed of within 24 hours after the final dismissal of the year.

**Exemption from EpiPen Use** - The Pennsylvania Public School Code, Section 1414.2(g) allows 'parents/guardians to request an exemption to the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector for their student. In order to request this exemption, parents must contact the school nurse to make an appointment to discuss this decision, review and sign the opt-out form.' (UASD Board Policy #210.1)

**Use of Inhalers** – State law requires that school districts have a policy regarding students' self-administration of asthma inhalers. The medication policy (UASD Board Policy #210.1) for the District reflects this law. Students are permitted to carry a self-administer emergency medication, such as an asthma inhaler, with the written permission of the student's parent(s), a physician's order, and after review by the school nurse. It is the parent's responsibility to be certain that their child has their inhaler with them at all times while engaged in student activities.

### **General Information for Illness** –

11. Students who become ill in school should report to the health room office with teacher's permission. If the nurse is not available, they should report to the school office. If the condition is thought to be serious enough, the parents will be contacted to pick up their child. Parents are responsible for transportation of ill students to their homes. In case of an emergency when parents cannot be contacted, the child will be taken to the family physician, the school physician, or the hospital's emergency room at the parent's expense.
12. Parents should be absolutely certain that **the emergency card is completed in its entirety and promptly returned at the start of each new school year. It is also important that this information be kept up to date throughout the**

**school year.** As changes occur, please contact the school office so changes can be made to your child's record. Please note: To keep your child's health and immunization records up to date (including boosters, etc.) please send written proof from the physician to the school nurse whenever he/she receives additional protection. This enables us to keep an accurate record of your child's health history.

13. All students suspected of having a communicable or infectious disease will be excluded from school and parents will be notified by the school nurse. Any student with a fever of 100 degrees or above will be sent home and should not return to school until their fever is under 100 degrees for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications or after they have stopped vomiting/diarrhea for 24 hours.
14. The school cannot assume responsibility for injuries that did not occur at school. Parents are asked to refrain from asking school personnel to treat such injuries. If your child has an injury at home, please treat it at home. Students are encouraged to take out the School Accident Insurance, which covers accident expenses of private physicians and hospitals. The school is not responsible for physician's fees or other charges connected with follow-up treatment of injuries sustained. The insurance is offered to students during the first month of school at a nominal fee.
15. **Parents of Kindergarten Students** are encouraged to send an extra pair of clothing, placed in a plastic grocery bag, in their child's backpack in case of spills or accidents.
16. **Note:** Physical forms, dental forms, and medication forms are available on the district website.

**Dental Health Program** – The Upper Adams School District provides a Modified Dental Health Program to students in the elementary schools. A part-time certified school dental hygienist provides dental health instruction and serves as a resource for dental information to faculty, parents, and students. Dental examinations are state mandated for students in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade and upon original entry into school (usually Kindergarten). Students in grades K, 1, 2, 3, and 7 who do not provide the District with a completed Dental Examination Form from their family dentist will receive a dental evaluation by the school dental hygienist with the parent's permission. The District, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, provides a Fluoride Supplement program. With parental permission, elementary students may participate in this preventative program.

### **HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION:**

A child of school age who is also physically incapacitated from attending class for a prolonged period may qualify for homebound instruction. Parents should contact the school Principal to make arrangements.

### **HOMELESS ASSISTANCE / MCKINNEY-VENTO:**

(Reference: UASD School Board Policy #251)

Youth who are experiencing homelessness have specific rights under the federal law called the McKinney- Vento Homeless Act. Under this Act, School Districts are required to continue supporting the educational needs of these students that are identified as experiencing homelessness. These students are entitled to immediate enrollments and their families are not required to prove residency regarding school enrollment. Youth who have run away from home, been thrown out of their home, been abandoned by parents, or separated from their parents for any other reason are termed "unaccompanied homeless youth" and may enroll without documents and without the help of an adult. These students are considered residents of the district where they are presently residing; however, they can continue their education in the district of prior attendance.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Act defines "homeless children and youth" as individuals that lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Identified homeless students are provided two options for attending school: their school of origin (were attending when they became homeless) or the school in the District where they are currently staying. The Liaison's from those districts will work with the family and/or student in determining "best interest". Transportation to either the district of residence or the district of origin will be provided.

This includes youth who are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons (sometimes referred to as "doubled up") due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or some other similar reason;
- Living in a motel, hotel, camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Abandoned in hospitals;
- Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
- “Migratory children” who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described through/above. “Migratory children” are children who are (or whose parent(s) or spouse(s) are) migratory agricultural workers, and who have moved from one school district to another in the preceding 36 months, in order to obtain (or accompany such parents or spouses in order to obtain) temporary or seasonal employment in agricultural work.

If you are experiencing homelessness, have questions concerning homeless students or need additional information, please feel free to reach out to your District McKinney-Vento Liaison, Melissa Calderon at (717) 677-7191 ext. 2512 or email [m.calderon@upperadams.org](mailto:m.calderon@upperadams.org).

### **LIBRARY:**

Students in grades 4-6 receive library instruction each cycle for 30 minutes followed by a 10-minute book exchange. Any student in grades 4-6 wishing to exchange materials prior to the scheduled class time may exchange during the morning homeroom period (time permitting). Students in grades K-3 receive library instruction each cycle for 20 minutes, followed by a 10-minute book exchange. All students may borrow books for a two-cycle loan period. Although no fines are collected, library privileges may be limited for any student with overdue books. A letter will, however, be sent home requesting payment for lost or damaged books.

### **LOST AND FOUND:**

Each school maintains a lost and found collection. Parents should clearly label all articles of clothing, school bags, umbrellas, etc., that a child may bring to school in order to assist with the identification of lost items.

### **LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMS:**

All foods available in District schools during the school day will be offered to students with consideration for promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity. Foods provided through the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs will comply with federal nutrition standards under the School Meals Initiative. All competitive foods and beverages available to students in District schools during the school day will comply with the Nutritional Standards for Competitive Foods in Pennsylvania Schools. The cafeteria operates under strict state and federal regulations governing the preparation and serving of foods. The current price for breakfast and lunch is noted below. Some students may qualify for free and reduced meals based upon family size and income. Information on this program is available at [www.upperadams.org](http://www.upperadams.org) or by contacting 717-677-7191, Ext. 2740.

- **Meal Prices for 2026-2027** (please note that prices are subject to change without notice) -
  - Student Breakfast (including milk) - \$1.50
  - Student Reduced Breakfast (including milk) - \$.30
  - Student Lunch (including milk) - \$2.95
  - Student Reduced Lunch (including milk) - \$.40
- **Lunch Accounts** –
  - Each student has their own personal account with their own unique access PIN. As your child purchases meals, milk, or ala carte items, the amount spent is subtracted from the balance in their account.
  - Students may purchase lunch on a daily basis or parents may put money into the child’s account to pay for lunch and for the purchase of ala carte items, if desired. Parents may designate the funds put into their child’s account as ‘lunch only’. If no designation is made, it is assumed the child may purchase ala carte items.
  - **Students who pay for their lunch on a daily basis must present exact change to the cashier.** No change can be given. Any money given to the cashier that is above and beyond the cost of a lunch will be put directly into the student’s account. Likewise, parents who come to school to eat lunch with their child need to present exact change or the balance of funds will go into your child’s account.
  - **Checks for lunch money should be made payable to Upper Adams Food Service.**
  - **MYSCHOOLBUCKS.COM** - The Upper Adams School District is pleased to offer an online option for families to pay for student lunches. Our Food Service Department accepts payments for school meals through MySchoolBucks.com, an

online payment service. MySchoolBucks.com offers a secure transaction gateway that accepts all major credit cards/debit cards as a means of adding money to your child's meal account. **(Important: The District participates with MySchoolBucks.com to provide parents/ guardians the opportunity to view their child's account 24/7. Setting up and viewing the account is free. Making a payment to their account online is optional.)**

- Negative Account Balances: If a student's cafeteria account has a negative balance, the student will be offered a standard breakfast or lunch, as defined by the National School Lunch/Breakfast Program (NSLP, NSBP). No charges will be allowed for extra items, such as a-la-carte options, drinks, or second meals.
- The initial collection of negative balances will be communicated to the parents/guardians by the 15th of every month. If at the end of the school year the student continues to have a negative balance, the negative balance may be referred to a collection agency.
- If a payment by personal check is returned to the District, marked "Non-Sufficient Funds" (NSF), the District will reverse the credit to the student's account in the amount of the original check. A \$25 fee will be assessed for NSF checks returned to the District. This may result in a negative balance in your child's account and the procedures listed above will be followed for charging meals and paying the overdue balance.
- **Packed Lunch** – students may carry their own lunch to school. However, if no lunch is brought from home, students will be expected to purchase lunch in the cafeteria.
- **Charges** – Students will be allowed to charge for meals only. No ala carte items - including milk - may be charged. The account must receive funds to cover these charges before any further charges are allowed. No charges will be permitted the last 5 days of the school year.
- **Milk** – Milk may be purchased separately by students who pack their lunch..
- **Snacks** – Several types of snacks are available for a minimal charge after students have finished eating their lunch. **Snacks may not be purchased by students with negative lunch accounts.**
- **Menu** – UASD, in partnership with Chartwells K12, now uses **Nutrislice** to publish school menus via an interactive website and a free smartphone app! You can access your child's school menu any time, anywhere! Links are posted on the Upper Adams School District website at [www.uasd.org](http://www.uasd.org).

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

Children in grades K-6 will participate in scheduled Physical Education classes. Grades K-3 will have two 30- minute classes per six-day cycle; grades 4-6 will have two 40-minute classes per six-day cycle. If a child is unable to participate in physical education, he/she must have a note from his/her parents. If a child is unable to participate for longer than a week, he/she must have an excuse from a physician. Please have the physician include recess activity as well as Phys. Ed., if applicable. Extended excuses from normal Phys. Ed. classes may require placement in an adaptive Phys. Ed. Class.

**Physical Education Dress Code** – students are encouraged to wear shorts, sweatpants, or other comfortable pants when participating in Physical Education classes. Students should be properly dressed for outside activities. Sneakers that tie or close with Velcro need to be worn for safety; platform sneakers, roller skate sneakers, and flip-flops are not acceptable to wear in Phys. Ed. class. Students are discouraged from wearing dresses or skirts during participation in Phys. Ed. classes. **Jewelry is not permitted in Phys. Ed. classes at any grade level for safety reasons; all jewelry should be left at home or in the classroom for safekeeping.**

### **PROMOTION POLICY:**

(Reference: UASD School Board Policy #215)

A student will be promoted into the succeeding grade level when s/he has (1) completed the course requirements at the presently-assigned grade; (2) achieved the academic standards established for the present level based on the professional judgment of his/her teachers and the results of assessment; (3) demonstrated proficiency to move ahead to the educational program of the next level; and (4) demonstrated the degree of social, emotional, and physical maturation necessary for a successful learning experience at the next learning level. Elementary students shall be promoted or retained based upon the criteria established by the Principal and the classroom teacher. Current guidelines for promotion/retention are as follows:

1. Students will be retained no more than two (2) years in the elementary grades.
2. If a child must be retained, consideration will be given to placing that child with another teacher when feasible.
3. Students may be retained no more than one (1) time during the primary school years and one time during the intermediate school years.

4. Students with an IEP will be promoted based on the student's reaching the expected level of achievement for the goals and objectives found in the IEP.
5. Students receiving English Language services may not be retained due to a language barrier.
6. Retention will be considered only after multiple, documented attempts at remediation have occurred during the school year.
7. If a student is experiencing difficulty, a conference will be scheduled to encourage parental assistance and support. If a student continues to experience failure, a "Retention Being Considered" meeting with parents will be scheduled at the beginning of the second semester.
8. Parents will be notified of final student promotion/retention in May.

### **REGISTRATION FOR KINDERGARTEN / FIRST GRADE:**

(Reference: UASD School Board Policy #201)

To be eligible for Kindergarten according to Board Policy, a child must be five (5) years of age before September 1<sup>st</sup>. To enter first grade, a child must be six (6) years old before September 1<sup>st</sup>. When parents initially register a child for either Kindergarten or first grade, they must present the child's birth certificate, immunization record, and proof of residency. Admission of beginners to the Upper Adams School District shall be confined to the first two (2) weeks of the school year, and thereafter at the District's discretion.

### **SCHOOL CLOSINGS / DELAYS:**

When weather conditions warrant the closing or delay of school, announcements will be shared through the District Parent Notification System. Parents will receive calls and/or emails based on the information provided at the start of each school year. Similar announcements will be made in case an early dismissal is necessary. Closings and delays are also posted on the Upper Adams School District Website and Upper Adams App. At no time should schools be telephoned for this information as it clogs the lines for important, essential use.

### **SCHOOL-WIDE ACTIVITIES:**

Parents who wish to exempt their students from any of the District's programs for religious or other reasons must notify the building administrator in writing, specifying the reasons. Children who are not allowed to participate for religious reasons will be provided alternate educational opportunities. The Principal may exempt the student or refer the matter to the Superintendent or designee for a decision. Parents have the right to appeal the Superintendent's decision to the Board of School Directors. Parents who attend school activities are not permitted to post photos of other students on any social media platform.

### **STUDENT PERSONAL PROPERTY:**

Any personal property brought to school is not the responsibility of the District. With the number of students in each building, it is advisable to label all personal items that your child brings to school. Such items would include coats, boots, hats, mittens or gloves, lunch boxes, baseball gloves, etc. Certain items such as play guns, toys, baseballs, etc., must not be brought to school. Such toys may become quite dangerous when used in a group of children. To protect the children, such items will be taken from the student. Confiscated items of value must be claimed in the Principal's office by parents prior to the end of the school year. Unclaimed items will be discarded.

**Show and Tell** – Periodically students will want to bring toys, stuffed animals, etc., for Show and Tell. These items should be cleared with the classroom teacher beforehand and must be kept securely in a bag or box.

### **STUDENT RECORDS:**

(Reference: UASD School Board Policy # 216)

Upper Adams School District works to maintain student confidentiality by abiding by Federal and State requirements regarding the collection, maintenance, confidentiality, and release of information in student records that are kept in whatever form by the District. Included in School Board Policy #216 are parental and student rights regarding access to records, disclosure and nondisclosure requirements, and procedures for requesting corrections to student records.

## **TELEPHONE CALLS:**

Students will be permitted to use the telephone only when the school deems it necessary. Telephoning home for forgotten items such as musical instruments, assignments, and physical education clothes will be permitted only with a teacher's permission. **Cell phones may not be used during the school day or on the buses.** To keep classroom interruptions to a minimum, telephone calls to students will only be accepted in the event of a dire emergency. Messages for teachers and other staff members should be left with the building secretary. Staff members will make every attempt to return calls at their earliest convenience.

## **TRANSPORTATION:**

Each child will return to his/her home after school each day by his/her normal route or means of transportation. In the event of an emergency or other unforeseen situation, permission for alternative arrangements must be received from the Principal's office. Anytime your child is going to be picked up at the end of the school day as opposed to riding the bus, a note must be received in the school office at the beginning of the school day. Due to the volume of calls and/or emails received throughout the course of the day, we must ask that you refrain from calling the school with alternate dismissal instructions unless an emergency situation arises.

## **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:**

(Reference: UASD School Board Policy #916.1)

The Upper Adams School District recognizes that community volunteers can make valuable contributions to the educational program. However, we must balance our volunteer program with a goal of ensuring students attend a school that is safe, secure, and comfortable. Therefore, **all volunteers who are unsupervised or partially supervised when working with children and/or who are alone with students must have an Act 34 (criminal) clearance, an Act 151 (child abuse) clearance, and Tuberculosis Test prior to participating in student activities. The applicant will also be asked to provide a photo ID, and some volunteers will also need to complete the FBI fingerprint-based Federal Criminal History Clearance unless an exemption applies. Clearance paperwork must be presented in person to a building administrative assistant or Principal for review. Upon Board approval, the applicant will be able to serve as a volunteer.**

Volunteers who will require clearances include, but are not limited to: field trip chaperones, book fair helpers, volunteer athletic coaches, yearbook helpers, one-on-one tutors, clerical helpers, and after-school tutors. Information on how to apply for clearances is available in the school office as well as on the District website. All clearances must be renewed every five (5) years.

## **WELLNESS POLICY**

(Reference: UASD School Board Policy #246)

The Upper Adams School District Wellness Policy ensures that students have a nutrition program consistent with federal and state requirements. It also ensures that students have access at a reasonable cost to foods and beverages that meet established nutritional guidelines, and physical education courses and opportunities for developmentally appropriate physical activity during the school day. District curriculum and programs for grades K-12 are designed to educate students about proper nutrition and lifelong physical activity, in accordance with State Board of Education curriculum regulations and academic standards.

**A Note About Water Bottles:** Water bottles are permitted upon the approval of the classroom teacher. No flavoring or other beverage is permitted unless approved by the Principal.