



UPWARD
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Student Handbook 2026-2027

Helping students LAUNCH into their God-given calling.

Kingdom Citizens • Academic Excellence • Character Building • Lifelong Learner

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Contents

Identification.....	4
Statement of Faith.....	5 - 7
Admissions.....	7 - 8
Dress Code.....	8 - 9
Academics.....	10 - 12
Attendance.....	12
Lifestyle Expectations.....	13 - 15
Technology Acceptable Use.....	15 - 16
Volunteer Policy.....	16 - 18
Health Requirements.....	19
Parent Expectations.....	20
Disclaimers.....	20

Identification

Vision Statement

Our Vision at Upward Christian Academy is to provide a quality education that is biblically based and accessible to the conservative Anabaptist community in the Cumberland Valley region of Pennsylvania.

Mission Statement

Our mission at Upward Christian Academy is to deliver on its Vision by empowering students with knowledge, Christian values, and leadership skills through programs rooted in biblical principles. We will equip our students with the skills, character, and moral compass needed to navigate an ever-changing world, all while fostering partnerships with parents in our patron-driven organization.

Statement of Purpose

The founders of Upward Christian Academy believe that parents are primarily responsible, with the assistance of the church, to teach their children in the Christian faith, its virtues, and the morals of life. It is the job of UCA to stand beside the parents and church in this responsibility while fulfilling its primary goal to prepare students for life through its academic endeavors. It is our goal to provide instruction from an Anabaptist perspective. The school shall:

- A. Offer a Christian education centered around God's Word and its applications to life.
- B. Cultivate appreciation, loyalty, and respect for the Christian

- home, church, and other authority figures.
- C. Equip teachers to model Christ-like character while demonstrating and cultivating a love of learning.
 - D. Promote the need for Godly character and service to God.
 - E. Nurture respect, love, acceptance, and compassion to all people of all races and backgrounds.

Statement of Faith

1. Inspiration of scripture. We believe that the entire Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit; that it is inerrant in the original writings, authentic in its matter, authoritative in its counsels; that it is the final authority for faith and practice for all men of all ages and is the standard by which all men shall be judged.
2. God, His existence and nature. We believe in one God, who is omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, infinitely perfect and eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. Creation. We believe in God as creator and sustainer of all things. We accept the Genesis account of creation as an historical fact and literally true.
4. Fall of Man. We believe that man was created in the likeness and image of God and by disobedience brought depravity and death upon humanity; thus, he inherits a sinful nature and needs to be redeemed.
5. Jesus Christ and Redemption. We believe in Jesus Christ as the eternal Son of God, born of a Virgin; that He is the perfect Lamb of God, who died and shed His blood to make atonement for the sins of man and rose for our justification that through repentance and faith we might be saved.
6. The person and work of the Holy Spirit. We believe in the deity and personality of the Holy Spirit; that he convicts of sin, effects the new birth, gives guidance in life, empowers for service, and enables perseverance in faith and holiness.
7. The Institution of the Church. We believe that the church is the body of Christ, a brotherhood of the redeemed, a disciplined people, obedient to

the Word of God; that Christ commissioned her to go into all the world to make disciples of all men and minister to human need.

8. New Testament Ordinances. We believe that the New Testament ordinances are for the Christian: that baptism be administered upon the confession of faith; that communion be observed as a memorial of Christ's death and coming again; that feet washing be observed literally by the saints; that the Christian woman be veiled; that anointing of oil be administered to the sick for healing, to those who call for it in faith; and that marriage be the union of one man and one woman for life, with Christians marrying "only in the Lord."
9. The Christian's relation to society. We believe that the state is ordained of God to maintain order in society; that it is the Christian's duty to honor and pray for those in authority; that Christ's disciples refrain from carnal force in human relations and that Christians are to show love for all men. Our belief is that followers of Christ should not conform to the patterns of the world but instead strive to align themselves with Christ in every aspect of their lives.
10. Satan – His person and work. We believe that Satan is the personal enemy of God; that he is the deceiver of mankind, and that he is at work in men, promoting evil and seeking to draw them away from God.
11. Return of Christ. We believe in the imminent return of Christ to receive the righteous unto himself, that he will judge the world in righteousness, and bring to fulfillment the restitution of all things unto God.
12. The Final Consummation. We believe in Hell as the place of eternal punishment for the devil, his angels and the unrighteous, and that God has prepared Heaven as the place for the righteous to enjoy His fullness and glory eternally in His presence.
13. The Sanctity of Human Life. The worth of human life is beyond measure, encompassing every stage and aspect, from conception in the womb to old age, and including those with physical or mental challenges. We are thus compelled to honor and treasure the value of every human being, from conception until natural passing. Furthermore, we hold the belief that the determination of an individual's sex occurs at the moment of conception. Any endeavor to modify sexual attributes or to adopt an identity that deviates from one's assigned sex at birth is regarded as a transgression against the divine blueprint ordained by God for humanity.

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Upward Christian Academy's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the board of directors is UCA's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

ADMISSIONS

How to Enroll

- Step One:** Read Parent-Student Handbook.
- Step Two:** Follow enrollment steps at upwardchristian.org.
- Step Three:** After completing your application, the school administration will respond with steps to continue.

First-year Requirements

- 1. Kindergarten students need to be 5 years old by September 30.
- 2. First grade students need to be 6 years old by September 30.
- 3. All first-time students in Kindergarten and 1st grade will be subject to placement testing. Parents will be contacted about testing once enrollment is confirmed. Testing sessions will take place in early-June.

Transfer Students

UCA will place a request for all academic and health records. After receiving the records, the UCA administration will set up a meeting with both the parents and the transfer students.-All incoming students will be subject to placement testing.

Admissions Policy:

Students seeking admission to UCA must meet the following requirements:

- 1. One parent or guardian of the student(s) must be a disciple of Christ and

maintain an active role in their home church. Other cases will be dealt with on an individual basis subject to board approval.

2. Students and parents are expected to be in harmony with the purpose, statement of faith, and handbook policies as held by UCA.

In an effort to best fulfill the goal outlined in our Vision statement, our core Anabaptist constituents from our supporting Anabaptist churches will receive priority consideration for available seats. However, we encourage all interested families to apply. We will consider other applications on a case by case if we have remaining seats.

DRESS CODE

Dress Code [Visual Guide](#)

Bottom Colors

- 1. Black
- 2. Grey
- 3. Navy
- 4. Khaki/Tan



These bottom colors apply to pants, dresses, skirts, jumpers, & leggings. All clothes need to be solid in color.

Top Colors - Any solid color. Textures are acceptable if the color is the same.

- 1. Boys are expected to wear polo or dress shirts with a collar.
- 2. Pants are required. Shorts are not permitted.
- 3. Textures such as corduroy and denim pants are allowed, but it should be solid in color and not tattered, stonewashed or faded.
- 4. Hair must be kept neat and trimmed short enough to stay off the shirt collar and out of the eyes.

Girls

- 1. Girls are required to wear dresses or shirts with skirts/jumpers.
- 2. Shirts must be a blouse, polo, or a collared shirt. Shirts should appear

dressy, t-shirts are to be avoided. See the dress code visual guide for specific examples.

3. Skirts, jumpers, and dresses must cover the knees at all times and can not have slits. Dresses can have an alternative top color.
4. Girls need to keep their hair pulled back either in a ponytail, braid, or bun.
5. Girls professing faith in Christ are asked to abide by the standards of their home church's application of the veiling.

Other

1. During class time, only sweaters and sweatshirts that are solid in color may be worn. Logos and lettering need to fit inside a 2" x 2" square. The only exception being Upward hoodies. Others can be worn to school and outside, but not during class time.
2. Students need to wear closed-heel, closed-toe shoes at all times.
3. Students may not wear hats or sunglasses or keep their sweatshirt hoods up while inside the school building.
4. Jewelry, including bracelets, necklaces, and similar accessories, are not permitted.

Special Activities

1. The school dress code applies to official school activities.
2. The staff may make exceptions to the school dress code for special occasions such as field trips.

Reasons for Standardized Dress Code:

1. A student's appearance, self-respect, and performance tend to complement one another.
2. Standardized dress promotes modesty and neatness.
3. Standardized dress promotes an atmosphere that focuses on instruction and learning.
4. Standardized dress gives identification for building school spirit.
5. Standardized dress eliminates competition in dress.

Upward Christian Academy recognizes that a person's dress and grooming does not make him or her Christian or even more "spiritual." However, as a school, we want

to maintain standards that we believe create an atmosphere conducive to education.

Academics

Classroom Structure

Academic instruction is provided in a traditional classroom setting, with the exception of a few Abeka video classes for electives such as typing, foreign languages, etc. To maximize instructional effectiveness, some non-sequential subjects—such as Science, History, and Bible—may be taught in combination classrooms that include multiple grade levels. Sequential subjects, such as Math and English Language Arts, are taught by individual grade level to ensure students receive instruction appropriate to their academic progression.

Curriculum

Math	A Beka
Science	A Beka
History	Faith Builders / A Beka
English	A Beka
Bible	A Beka
Reading	A Beka

Grading Scale

- A 93 - 100
- B 85 - 92
- C 77 – 84
- D 70 – 76
- F 0 – 69

Failing Grades

1. When an Elementary student's grades fall below an average passing grade (70% or lower) a meeting will be held between the administrator, teachers, and parents. At that time a plan with actionable points to increase the student's grade will be collectively decided upon by all parties. If progress is not made throughout the school year, an end-of-the-year meeting will occur between the Administrator and parents to decide what the plan will be moving forward.
2. When a Secondary student's grade falls below a passing grade (70% or lower) in any subject, the student is expected to take responsibility for improving the grade. The student should meet with the teacher of the subject to determine actionable steps to recover the grade. The Administrator will evaluate students' grades at the end of each quarter. If the failing grade indicates a lack of mastery or comprehension, a Section 504 plan may need to be developed. If the failing grade reflects a lack of motivation or responsibility on the student's part, the student can expect to be disciplined. A student who fails to show sufficient progress will need to meet with the Administrator, teachers, and parents to determine whether they should continue to receive their education at Upward.

Student Support Plans

To best support student learning, Upward Christian Academy may develop an in-house Student Support Plan, including accommodations similar to an IEP or 504 Plan, in collaboration with the Special Education Coordinator, school administration, and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s). These plans are designed to provide appropriate academic support, accommodations, modifications, or small-group intervention based on the student's individual needs.

The development of a support plan may be initiated by either a parent/guardian or the Special Education Coordinator. All recommended accommodations and services will be discussed collaboratively and documented in a written plan that is agreed upon by all parties.

Plagiarism and Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty and is considered a serious offense. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- Failing to give proper credit for another person's ideas, words, quotations, images, or other creative work used in an assignment.
- Copying words or information directly from books, websites, articles, or other sources without appropriate citation.
- Submitting another person's work, in whole or in part, as one's own.

The use of ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) software to generate or complete an assignment, unless specifically authorized by the teacher, is also considered cheating and will be treated as a serious offense.

Students may use AI-generated search summaries (such as Google AI Overviews) as a starting point for research; however, they are responsible for verifying the accuracy of the information using reliable sources. Any information, ideas, or quotations used in an assignment must be properly cited according to the teacher's instructions.

Consequences may include failing the assignment, redoing the work, loss of computer privileges, etc. at the discretion of the teacher and/or the Administrator.

Report Cards

Report card will be issued after each quarter (9 weeks) of study.

Attendance

School Day

School begins at 8:25 AM each day. Students may arrive at school from 8:10 – 8:20 AM. Dismissal is at 3:10 PM.

Absences and Tardies

Tardy = Any absence that the student is absent for 1 hour or less.

Half Absence = Absent between 1 – 3 ½ hours in a school day.

Absence = Absent for more than 3 ½ hours in a school day.

Upward Christian Academy excuses the following absences and tardies:

1. Sickness
2. Doctor and Dentist Visits
3. Weather Conditions/State or national emergencies
4. Family Emergencies

Attendance Communication and Planned Absences

For planned absences, such as doctor or dental appointments, parents should notify the student's teacher at least two days in advance whenever possible. Notification may be sent by text message, email, or a written note brought by the student.

For illnesses or other unexpected absences, please notify the homeroom teacher or principal as soon as possible by phone call or text message.

- **Grades K–6:** Contact the student's homeroom teacher directly.
- **Grades 7–11:** Contact Mr. Brenneman, who will notify the student's teachers and coordinate any missed assignments.

Students are responsible for completing all missed assignments. Once assignments have been received, students will have 24 hours for each day of absence to complete and submit their work, unless other arrangements have been made with the teacher due to extenuating circumstances.

Other Planned Absences

For planned absences that do not fall under the categories listed above, families must complete an Absence Request Form and receive approval from the Administrator before the absence occurs.

Students are limited to seven (7) approved absences per school year under this category. Request forms are available in the school office and should be submitted at least one week in advance, or earlier for extended absences.

Upon returning to school, students may be required to complete a report or

presentation related to their trip or experience. To minimize disruptions to learning, family trips will generally **not** be approved during the first two weeks or the last two weeks of the school year. Parents are encouraged to use discretion when scheduling vacations or other discretionary absences during the academic year.

Lifestyle Expectations

The school supports parents in helping students develop self-discipline, respect for their peers, and respect for those in authority. Teachers are expected to set up rules for their classrooms that are consistent with the goals and philosophy of the school. When there is a conflict between a teacher and student, the teacher will use redemptive correction so that the student makes the necessary change of conduct and all guilt is removed.

Discipline Categories

Below are listed common categories of behavior that result in discipline being administered:

- Food/Drink – chewing gum or eating/drinking without permission
- Dress Code – students dressed in a manner not in accordance with the dress code
- Hallway – running, disturbances, loitering, or walking around without permission
- Language – disrespectful or inappropriate speech
- Procedures – refusing to follow directions or not cooperating
- Talking – speaking without permission or at an inappropriate time
- Tardy – arriving late to a class or activity
- Trespassing – accessing other student or teacher spaces or belongings without permission

Personal Conduct

Since Upward Christian Academy represents Jesus Christ, it is important that a high standard of conduct be maintained. These guidelines can be effective in building a strong, moral character that reflects godliness when used consistently in the school and at home. When there are infractions of these guidelines, the teacher will address the student with correctives measures and seek for remorse. If the issue reoccurs or is not corrected, administration

will get involved along with parent communication. In the event there is continued infractions or an uncooperative spirit from students and parents, expulsion or dismissal can be expected.

Respect

- Students are expected to promptly and cheerfully obey all authority.
- Students are expected to show courtesy and respect for other students, teachers, and visitors in their cooperation with each other.
- Students are to address all faculty and school staff by title and last name.
- Students must regard the desks, lockers, and personal belongings of teachers and other students as private property and are not permitted to remove or use objects, computers, or other equipment on/in a teacher's desk.
- Students are expected to assume responsibility for property damage.

Responsibility

- Students are expected to practice Christian standards of moral and social conduct. Fighting, cheating, and stealing are considered serious offenses.
- Students must abstain from inappropriate physical contact (pushing, hitting, punching, etc.). A general "hands off" rule is to be observed.
- Physical, sexual, and verbal abuse will not be tolerated. Any form of bullying or intimidation will not be tolerated. The school reserves the right to discipline a student for actions taken off campus that adversely affect the safety of other students.
- Students are expected to choose words that are helpful for building each other up. Improper speech, name-calling, and gossip are not acceptable. Obscenity in words or action or lauding in any way those things which are condemned by Scripture is not acceptable.
- Students are asked to highly regard the safety of others.

Relationships

- Teasing or disrespectful comments to each other about boyfriends/girlfriends are not permitted.
- Public displays of affection such as hand-holding, hugging, kissing, etc. are not permitted.

Weapons & Illegal Substances

- A student using or in possession of these items on campus at any school-sponsored event can expect immediate suspension or expulsion:
 - Pornographic or other inappropriate materials
 - Knives, guns, explosives, or any other harmful weapons or Alcoholic beverages or nicotine products, etc.

Technology Acceptable Use Policy

Upward Christian Academy makes available a networked computer system. Our intention is to provide a safe computer-access environment in order to further the educational goals and objectives of our school. We provide content filtering and an internet firewall to minimize the possibility of inappropriate web access. We realize, however, that no filter is 100% effective, and students may find ways to access information that is inappropriate for the school environment. Therefore, the purpose of this document is to clearly state Upward Christian School's usage expectations and guidelines for hardware and software technology.

Expectations for Student Technology Use

Upward's Faculty will monitor student use of school hardware and software. Faculty reserves the right to review all content on school computers as well as any other data (computers, mobile devices, wearable technology, USB drives, CDs, etc.) that is brought onto school property. Staff will report any violation of the Technology Acceptable Use Policy to the Administrator.

Students are responsible for moral behavior when on the Upward Christian School computer network just as they are in their classrooms. General school rules for personal conduct apply to technology usage. Likewise, individual users of the UCA network are responsible to ensure their behavior, actions, and communications over the network are supportive of the school's mission statement, philosophy, and Handbook. Material created and/or stored on the network should not be considered private. If any student accidentally accesses any material on the computer or internet that is obscene, promotes immoral acts, or is otherwise inappropriate, he or she must notify a teacher immediately.

The following actions by a student are considered a violation of the

Upward Christian Academy Acceptable Use Policy for Technology:

- Sending or posting offensive/inflammatory messages or images about the school, its staff, or other students.
- Downloading or accessing games, websites, programs, large files, images, music, and video without specific teacher permission. Students are expected to access websites for educational activities and assignments and not for entertainment purposes.
- Accessing email accounts that are not school-issued without permission.
- Violating copyright laws.
- Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks.
- Intentionally spreading computer viruses or making changes to system files or software.
- Accessing, editing, or destroying another user's folders, passwords, work, or files.
- Taking pictures of a fellow student against their wishes.
- Manipulating images in a negative or unbecoming way.
- Logging in under any username other than their own.
- Posting media or text about classmates against their wishes.

Student Use of Electronic Media

Cell phones, tablets, smart watches, and all other forms of electronic media brought from home must stay off and stored away while on the school premises. If this policy is violated, the devices will be confiscated and parents will be required to come pick up the devices.

Volunteer Policy

Volunteer Opportunities

Each summer, the school recruits volunteers for the upcoming school year. Opportunities include serving hot lunch, leading chapel services, assisting with field trips, helping during special school events, and other areas of need. Whenever possible, volunteers are asked to follow the staff dress code while serving at the school.

All volunteers must have prior approval from school administration before beginning service. Any prospective volunteers applying for or holding an unpaid position as a volunteer with the school as a person responsible for a child's welfare or having "direct volunteer contact" with children must also be in possession of the following certifications to be in compliance with current Pennsylvania legislation. "Direct volunteer contact" is defined by the law as "The care, supervision, guidance or control of children and routine interaction with children." Routine interaction with children is defined as "regular and repeated contact that is integral to a person's employment or volunteer responsibilities." Please note that these certifications are not necessary for parents or grandparents to simply visit or observe their child's classroom.

1. Child Abuse Certification

- a. Link to electronic form: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS>
- b. The cost is free for volunteers.
- c. The online Child Abuse Clearance site will require you to create an account and submit your request electronically. The results will be emailed or mailed (decided upon registering) to you within 14 days of submission. You also have the option of completing this process using a paper application sent by mail.

2. PA State Police Criminal History Certification

- a. Link to electronic form: <https://epatch.pa.gov/home>
- b. The cost is free for volunteers.
- c. You also have the option of completing this process using a paper application sent by mail.

3. FBI Federal Criminal History Certification (Fingerprints)

- a. This clearance is only required of prospective volunteers who have lived outside of Pennsylvania at any point within the past 10 years and who have not yet received this certification since establishing PA residency. If a copy of this certificate has been obtained at any time since establishing residency in Pennsylvania, it may be used to meet this requirement. If, however, you have been a continuous

resident of Pennsylvania for the past 10 years, you will all need to affirm in writing at the school office that you are not disqualified from service based on any convictions for offenses.

- b. Link to electronic form:
<https://uenroll.identogo.com/workflows/1KG6TR/>. The service code for non-public schools is 1KG6TR.
- c. There is a cost associated with this certification. Updated costs are available in the link shared above. The cost of this certification is \$22.60 for volunteers.
- d. Only the registration process to be fingerprinted is completed online. You will then need to go to the nearest Identogo site with a valid photo ID for the actual fingerprinting process. You will receive an unofficial copy of the results in the mail which will contain information needed by the front office to access the official report online.
- e. If meeting the above requisites for needing the FBI Federal Criminal History Certification when starting service at Upward Christian School and your FBI clearances are more than one year old, you will need to complete the process for receiving this certification from the beginning. An applicant's fingerprints are not stored in the system for more than one year.

The required documents must be submitted to the Administrator prior to volunteering. A copy of these forms will be kept on record. All new volunteers must submit all certifications prior to beginning their service. A volunteer can only obtain free Child Abuse and Criminal History certifications every 57 months.

Any volunteer who is arrested for or convicted of an offense that would constitute grounds for denying employment or participation in a program, activity or service, or is named as a perpetrator under a founded or indicated report of child abuse, shall provide the Administrator with written notice not later than 72 hours after the arrest, conviction, or notification that the person has been listed as a perpetrator in the statewide database.

Health Requirements

Immunizations & Examinations

All students enter UCA must provide an official immunization record documenting that PA state requirements have been met. A state approved exemption form can also be provided to the school.

A physical examination by a physician is required for students entering school(Kindergarten or Grade 1) and for students entering Grade 6.

A dental exam is required for students entering school(Kindergarten or Grade 1), Grade 3, and Grade 7

Health Screening

The school secretary arranges for students to have their ears and eyes tested once a year. Parents are informed of all these testings and may receive referral notices if the child needs.

Medications

Non-prescription Medications

Upward Christian Academy keeps over the counter painkillers on hand to dispense to students with aches and pains. Parents need to sign a waiver form to allow the school to do this. Non-prescription painkillers will not be dispensed if a waiver has not been signed.

Prescription Medications

Parents of students who need prescription medications administered while the students are at school need to inform the school's administration about how to properly administer the medication. The medication will be kept in the school office and will be administered by a staff member.

Allergies

Parents need to inform the school of any allergies students may have. The school will keep this on record and do its best to keep the students safe.

Parent Expectations and Opportunities

Back to School Night

All families are asked to attend a Back to School Meeting held each year a week or two before the start of school. This meeting will include an introduction of the staff, provide the administrator and board opportunity to share expectations for the coming school year, and provide opportunity for parents to have questions answered and visit their child's classroom.

Parent-Teacher Conference (PTC)

Meetings between the teachers and patrons will be scheduled around the end of the first quarter and available upon request for the other 3 quarters. These meetings will be scheduled with each student's teacher.

Patron's Business Meeting

This meeting is held at the end of the 3rd marking period and serves as a time for patrons to give input on the direction of the school, view the financials of the school etc.

Disclaimers

This handbook or any other handbook published by Upward Christian Academy does not contractually bind the school in any way.

This handbook or any other handbook published by Upward Christian Academy is subject to change without notice by the school's governing body.

School Culture

What is it? How do you affect it?

(Adopted from an article by Lyle Musser)

One of the greatest challenges of leading a school in excellence is to develop and maintain what we refer to as school culture. School culture describes the general environment which surrounds the school. School culture affects the thoughts of every child as they come to school. Are they excited to learn? Are they scared? Are they ready to participate in class? The answer to all of these questions is affected by school culture.

All of us understand that there are different cultures in our world today. But how is a culture maintained? What are the internal motivations that keep a culture distinct? A culture is maintained by its values and beliefs. These values and beliefs are perpetuated by the teaching of the culture. Besides teaching, there are also rituals and traditions that are faithfully kept. The values, beliefs, rituals, and traditions are the internal moorings that maintain a visibly distinct external culture.

When we speak of school culture, the basics are the same. Solid beliefs, beneficial “rituals”, and faithful traditions are what will maintain the school culture. All patrons at UCA have been asked to read our statement of faith and philosophy of education (beliefs). Patrons are expected to value the type of education that is being offered at UCA. An example of a beneficial ritual would be the teacher who is always by his/her door to welcome students back after they have been in the music room or out at recess with another teacher. Examples of traditions at UCA would be the programs, Friends and Family Night, Track & Field Day, etc. All of these activities are intentionally planned by the school to develop and maintain a positive atmosphere here at school.

You also have input into school culture here at UCA. Whether you are a teacher, patron, grandparent, or church leader you have an impact on school culture at UCA. Teachers influence school culture by the way they

run the classroom and the excitement they show for learning. Patrons influence the classroom environment simply by showing interest in what the child is learning. They affect the general school culture by the way they talk about school, their child's teacher, or the homework assignment that they are helping their child to do. Grandparents can have a great influence on school culture with simple words of encouragement to a young grandchild. If a child's schooling is important enough for grandpa to notice, then it certainly raises the level of importance in the mind of the child. Church leaders play an important role in shaping the churches that are represented at UCA. The family is under attack in our culture, and the devil would like nothing more than to tear down the families in our churches and school. In many ways the school receives the "by product" of what is produced in families and churches in this community. Pastors who support and train the parents in their churches can have a great impact on what happens at school. If love, respect, and obedience are carefully taught and maintained in the church, and home, the child will certainly bring those character qualities along with him into the classroom of his school.

Maintaining positive school culture is one of the highest priorities we have at UCA. It requires much time, planning, and careful attention on the part of every staff member. Staff are extremely integral to leading a positive school culture. However, when the school day is over, the responsibility of maintaining positive school culture slips out of the hands of UCA staff and into your hands as parents, grandparents, and church leaders. Will you join with us in our effort to maintain a school culture that values, love, respect, and obedience, while promoting a desire for learning on the part of each student? May we each take our part to faithfully promote positive school culture at UCA.