



What I Need to Know for the Week of August 24-28

Important Docs:	How to log into Schoology via Classlink Use credentials from ParentLink message	Peak SLA Calendar 8/10-9/4	Monday, 8/24: B Day Tuesday, 8/25: A Day Wednesday, 8/26: B Day Thursday, 8/27: A Day Friday, 8/28: B Day
------------------------	--	--	---

An Announcement from Uplift CEO, Yasmin Bhatia

- On Thursday, the Dallas County public health office released its strong recommendation that at this time all Dallas County public schools (traditional ISDs and charters) and private schools remain in virtual learning mode.
- Uplift will extend our virtual learning for ALL Uplift schools through **Friday, October 2nd**.
- 6th graders whose families have selected the hybrid or in-person learning options may be asked to come back to school on September 28th. More details will be communicated in the coming weeks.

Bell Schedule and Independent Practice Time

Monday-Friday, August 24-28	
8:00-9:00	Advisory
9:00-9:10: 10 minute break	
9:10-9:47	1A/1B
9:47-9:52: 5 minute transition	
9:52-10:30	2A/2B
10:30-10:40: 10 minute break	
10:40-11:17	3A/3B
11:17-11:22: 5 minute transition	
11:22-12:00	4A/4B
12:00-1:00 Scholar Lunch and Brain Break	
1:00-3:00 Scholar Independent Practice Time (See explanation below)	

- During Independent Practice Time, scholars need to complete a task assigned to them from their advisory teacher, posted on their advisory teacher's Schoology page. This week's activities include two counselor lessons and four choice board activities.
- Scholars do not need to be present for the entire 1:00-3:00 period. The need to submit the completed activity in order to be counted present.

Call us! 8AM-4PM All Weekdays! **469-533-7141 (main office)**



MAP Testing August 31st-September 2nd

- **Two weeks from now, Monday August 31, Tuesday September 1st, and Wednesday September 2nd,** all Peak MS scholars will take the MAP tests for Reading, Language Usage, and Mathematics on their Chromebooks or personal devices at home.
- The MAP test is administered to **help teachers make choices about what to focus on** in the first weeks of instruction so they can **meet scholars where they're at** and fully understand **where scholars are struggling.**
- Each session will run from **1PM-3PM** in the afternoon and will be supervised by their advisory teacher.
- Scholars will receive a URL and a password in their advisory class to log into the MAP test. They will take the test on camera, so that teachers can monitor their progress and answer any questions scholars may have about the test.
- Any questions? Email MHecimovich@uplifteducation.org for support and look out for more information during the week of August 24-28

Questions? Email the following people for help!

- Cindy Paredes (Office Manager): cparedes@uplifteducation.org
- Veronica Reyes (Receptionist): vreyes@uplifteducation.org
- Nick Erber (7th and 8th grade Dean): nerber@uplifteducation.org
- Jessica Murillo (6th grade Dean): jmurillo@uplifteducation.org

Scroll down for more updates!



Call us! 8AM-4PM All Weekdays! **469-533-7141 (main office)**



A note on Zoom safety from Ms. Meador:

This week, teachers and scholars experienced so many positive moments together in their virtual classes. It was a joy for our teachers to see their scholars' faces in class. Unfortunately, we did experience a few incidents of scholar misbehavior as well as something known as "Zoom bombing."

Zoom bombing is an unwanted and disruptive intrusion into a Zoom call. We are all learning how to navigate the virtual learning space, and I am glad that we were able to learn quickly from these incidents. We have put safety protocols in place that all teachers are now following.

1. Teachers use the waiting room feature on Zoom and admit scholars one by one checking that their name is on their roster for that class period. Teachers will not let scholars in the room who do not belong in class.
2. Teachers have communicated to scholars that they must use their first and last name on Zoom in order to be admitted from the waiting room.
3. Teachers set their Zoom classrooms so that scholars cannot unmute themselves. Scholars must use the Zoom raise hand feature to be called on, and the teacher unmutes them. This allows the teacher to control who is talking in class. These basic safety precautions will ensure increased teacher control over the virtual learning space.

Of course, our scholars are at the age where some misbehavior will happen, and our teachers are prepared to intervene and address misbehavior when it takes place. Please know that teacher intervention often takes place privately or between the teacher and the parent, so you may not hear or see everything a teacher does to address misbehavior live in the Zoom classroom. That being said, as a parent, if you ever overhear something troubling on a Zoom call, you can always reach out to Ms. Meador or a grade level dean. We often rely on parent reporting to support our investigation into incidents that violate our code of conduct and standards for safety.

Lastly, I want to make you aware that at least one of the Zoom bombing incidents was committed by a non-Peak scholar who has a public Instagram account. On his account, he solicits Zoom links and class codes from scholars across Dallas so he can interrupt classes. We have reported this account to Instagram and we have notified the Uplift leadership. Please have a conversation with your scholar that it is absolutely unacceptable to share our Zoom links with any external party. This is a significant violation of our campus safety. We know that the safety protocols our teachers are now following will prevent future interruptions of this kind; however, we urge you to still have a serious conversation with your scholar about acting responsibly online and helping to maintain the safety of our classrooms.



Anna Carter, M.Ed., CSC, NCC

Social Behavioral Counselor
AnCarter@uplifteducation.org
(469) 343-4076



Hello!

Hello! I'm Anna Carter, the Social Behavioral Counselor at Peak Middle School. I am so excited to partner with you in supporting your scholar this school year! As your Social Behavioral Counselor, I strive to promote personal, social, and emotional growth for every scholar. Together with administrators, school faculty members, parents/guardians, and community members, I work to develop a supportive, safe, and caring environment that promotes high academic and personal achievement. I use classroom guidance lessons and individual/group counseling techniques to support scholar success in the following domains: Intrapersonal Effectiveness, Interpersonal Effectiveness, and Personal Health & Safety.

Next Week:

Next week, your scholar will complete two Counseling lessons during their Independent Worktime (from 1pm-3pm). On Monday, 8/24, they will engage in a self-paced "Introduction to Counseling" lesson. When they finish, they will join my Schoology Course and complete a short quiz by 11:59pm that evening. On Tuesday, 6th graders will join me for a "Bullying Prevention and Awareness" lesson from 1-1:45pm. 7th Graders will complete this lesson from 1-1:45pm on Wednesday, and 8th graders will complete their lesson from 1-1:45pm on Thursday.

Counseling Referrals & Appointments:

I accept referrals for individual counseling from parents/guardians, scholars, and school faculty members. Referrals can be made by filling out an electronic counseling referral form (<http://bit.ly/upmsreferral>), and sending it to me in an email. I am available to meet with scholars and families by phone/Zoom appointment Monday-Friday during school hours. Please schedule an appointment by clicking on this link: <http://bit.ly/peakcounseling>