Directors Note

Families,

Thank you for such a strong start of the school year! I can already tell this is going to be a magnificent year as we had the highest attendance at Back to School blast, and as I see your scholars' smiling faces when I greet them each morning.

We have so many wonderful things in store as we focus on IB-focused instruction and scholars feeling ownership of our school culture. Stay tuned for the Open House date and first Donut/Dessert with the Director.

Thanks for your continued support!

Aleia Mims, Middle School Director

Please take a moment to read the 2016-17 Car Line letter, and review all of the attachments. There is a lot of important information captured here that every family needs to be aware. Here is the link to follow (http://upliftsummit.org/Page/12999)

2016-17 Car Line Letter - please read this important letter from the Operations Director
Morning Car Line Map - morning operations are exactly the same as they were in the 2015-16 school year
Afternoon Car Line Map - afternoon operations are significantly different. Please carefully review this map
Sibling Pickup Procedures - please read this if you have scholars in more than one school on campus

Car Line Videos
These videos do not have very good sound. You are encouraged to turn on the "closed caption" feature in the videos. While this is still imperfect, it may provide some context as to the spoken portions of the video that are difficult to hear.
Click here to watch a YouTube video on picking up primary school scholars in the afternoon.
Click here to watch a YouTube video on picking up middle and high school scholars in the afternoon.

Walk-Home Authorization Form
If your child will be walking home from campus, please fill out this permission form and submit it to the office. As a general rule, scholars should not be walking home unless they live within a 3-mile radius. Outside of these parameters, submitted permission forms will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

This information is also included on the Uplift Summit website.
Hello Everyone and Welcome to Summit Middle School! My name is Miss Burke and this is my first year at Summit Middle. I will be working in the Scholar Support department. I recently moved to Dallas, Texas from Corbin, Kentucky. I went to college at University of the Cumberlands where I majored in education. I knew I wanted to be a teacher since about 2007. I'm so excited to be here at Summit and so excited to learn as many things as I can from the other teachers at Summit as well as you scholars. I can already tell this is going to be an AWESOME year!

Campbell Lunsford is originally from San Diego, California. She is a graduate of Emory University with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in American Studies and minored in History and is currently pursuing her Masters in Education from Southern Methodist University. She loves to read and write, and can’t wait to instill that same passion in her scholars. She believes in challenging and rigorous atmospheres and holds her scholars to high expectations. She will do whatever is necessary to help her scholars meet those expectations as well as their own personal learning goals. She realizes that a scholar can only succeed if their teachers support their endeavors both inside of and outside of the classroom. Some of her biggest mentors and role models were her teachers, and she hopes to inspire that same love for lifelong learning in her own scholars.

Alyssa Burke

Autumn Larbi is a graduate of The University of North Texas. She began her career as a broadcast journalists in Denton, that took her to parts of the country as a working journalist for several television news affiliates. After 20 years of producing, editing, and writing news reports, Ms. Larbi decided to transition to education in 2015. Ms. Larbi’s is extremely happy to be here, and is dedicated to scholars overall success. Ms Larbi is ready to support our scholars in anyway necessary to reach their goals and expectations.
Hello families! My name is Amanda Pace, and this will be my 3rd year teaching Art at Summit. This year I am extremely excited to be working with 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in my art classroom as we pilot our new fine arts elective classes. I look forward to working with you and your scholars over the course of this school year.

Amanda Pace

My name is David J. Harris, and I am so excited to embark on my fourth year as a Summit teacher. As I've entered the tenth year of my teaching career, I could not be more elated about the challenges and opportunities ahead. This year I will be instructing our 6th grade General Music Scholars, and our 7th grade/8th grade choir and band ensembles. These varying music principles have never been available to our wonderful campus, so we are so thankful to have your scholars be a part of our school history within the arts department. I look forward to working with you and your scholar this year. The best is yet to come!

David Harris

Aria Lott is from Chicago. She began her collegiate studies at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL (affectionately referred to as T-town by undergrads). The intention was to study medicine but life decided to take her on an amazing and challenging journey that would lead her to the doors of SIP’s scholar support department. Ms. Lott is calm, but energetic-if the two can coexist. :) She's a lover of using music to enhance learning, particularly big band era so don't be surprised if you hear Sinatra or Coltrane incorporated into her lessons. She's always up for the challenge of making learning fun and new and exciting! Only excellence will do!

Aria Lott
Get in Gear for the New School Year: Back-to-School Tips for Parents

It’s almost that time of year again. Yes, in a few weeks school will be back in session. Is your child ready to succeed? Are you ready to help?

It’s a fact: Parents who play an active role in their children’s education make a huge difference in their success. Here are some things you can do to help your child prepare for the upcoming school year:

Get the children to bed on time. During the summer, children aren’t always on a schedule. But, proper rest is essential for a healthy and productive school year. Help your child get used to the back-to-school routine: start the transition now to earlier wake-up times and bedtimes. For more information, visit: http://www.ed.gov/parents/countdown-success

Communicate with teachers and the school. Contact your child’s teachers at the start of the school year. Get acquainted with them and let them know you want to be an active partner in helping your student to learn and grow. Plan to keep track of your child’s subjects, homework, activities and progress throughout the school year. And, consider serving on your local PTA or joining other parent groups that engage with and support your child’s school. For additional ideas, go to: http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/succeed/succeed.pdf

Provide for healthy meals. Hungry kids can’t concentrate on learning, so good nutrition plays an important role in your child’s school performance. Studies show that children who eat healthy, balanced breakfasts and lunches do better in school. Fix nutritious meals at home, and, if you need extra help, find out if your family qualifies for any Child Nutrition Programs, like the National School Lunch Program. Learn more at: http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Back-to-School.shtml

Take your child to the doctor, and make sure your child has health insurance coverage. It’s a good idea to take your child in for a physical and an eye exam before school starts. Most schools require up-to-date immunizations, and you may be asked to provide paperwork showing that your child has all the necessary shots and vaccines. So, check your state’s immunization requirements. And, always keep your own copies of any medical records. What’s more, you can explore and choose the most affordable health insurance options, including free and low-cost coverage for those who qualify for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Find more student health resources at: http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Back-to-School.shtml

- Prepare a study area. Set up a special place at home to do school work and homework. Remove distractions. Make it clear that education is a top priority in your family: show interest and praise your child’s work.

Read Together. Take the pledge to read with your child for 20 minutes every day. Your example reinforces the importance of literacy, and reading lets you and your child explore new worlds of fun and adventure together.

Diondra Hicks is a student at Georgetown University and an intern in ED’s Office of Communications and Outreach.

Contributed by Imelda Gutierrez
Teach All Students Problem Solving

Problems will always come up inside and outside of school. Scholars are much more likely to recognize and resolve them appropriately when we teach them how to do so. Problem solving can also be used retrospectively (with the luxury of hindsight) to help scholars make better decisions in the future. The Boys Town Education Model uses the SODAS method to teach students the general skill of problem solving.

SODAS is an acronym for the following steps:

S - Define the SITUATION.
O - Examine OPTIONS available to deal with the problem.
D - Determine the DISADVANTAGES of each option.
A - Determine the ADVANTAGES of each option.
S - Decide on a SOLUTION and practice.

Praise Scholars for Good Choices

Kids don’t care what you know until they know that you care. Many of our scholars, especially those who struggle, don’t receive nearly enough positive feedback in the classroom or in their personal lives.

"When kids are taught with a proactive, praise-heavy approach, they tend to do better," says Erin Green of Boys Town. But be specific. Generic, overly generalized comments such as "Good job!" don’t really help. Complimenting a specific behavior ("Thanks for showing respect to our visiting guest"), on the other hand, reinforces that particular behavior. Challenge yourself to give 15 compliments a day, or 25 or even 40. You might just be amazed at the difference it makes.

As always you can continue to check your scholar’s grades through PowerSchool. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to any teacher on the 6th grade teaching team.

Grade Level Chairs

Your grade level chairs are a great resource to ask questions about grades, classes, behavior, and scholar events. Please direct such questions to your respective grade level chairs:

6th-Mr. Harris dharris@uplifteducation.org
7th-Ms. Pace apace@uplifteducation.org
8th-Mr. White (jewhite@uplifteducation.org)