

LIETZ, THOMAS

From: Thomas Lietz <THOMAS.LIETZ@UticaK12.org>
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2021 3:30 PM
To: LIETZ, THOMAS
Subject: UHS Weekly Update: Jan. 8 (Week 18)

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Good afternoon Utica High families,

We've finished the first week of Semester 2, and are off to the races. Thank you for your patience as my incredible counseling team has working through changes and request. The transfer of students from the VA to UHS and UHS to the VA has made for one of the most challenging semester changes in my memory, but my team has been committed to meeting the needs of students and worked diligently to do so! Thank you for your patience as we complete the final changes into Monday. As we wrap up the fixes to start the semester, I'll move into our waitlist of students to return to in-person from remote learning.

I have to be honest and say the probability of many changes is low. We have a very tight schedule, we have and will work hard to create openings, but it will require a near perfect fit. We will reach out next week with updates if changes are able to be made. If you're emailing me today about a change, it has an incredibly low probability of happening, if it has any.

I have already given you a lot to chew on I my email earlier today! I want to add a few pieces of clarification to [my earlier Email](#) about returning to in-person. I hope this answers a few questions.

Cohorts and A/B Days

- **Cohorts** are groupings of students by alphabet. Our Orange Cohort is A – K and our Black Cohort is L – Z. In the handbook these are referenced as cohorts 1 and 2. Our Orange Cohort, with the exception of the first week (no school on Monday) is in person on Monday/Tuesday and our Black Cohort is in person on Thursday and Friday. All students are remote on Wednesday.
- **A/B Days** refer to the blocks of classes taught on those days. A days are hours 1 – 3 and B days are hours 4 – 6.
- [This schedule](#) shows the days and cohorts through our mid-winter break and identifies A/B Days and Cohorts in session.
- **Remote students** will still login, still attend class and still be actively practicing and learning. *There are no days off in this schedule. School is every day for all students!*

Instructional Expectations

As all students will be learning every day, its important that I am clear about Utica High's shared instructional expectations for our students.

- **In-Person Expectations:**

Our students in-person will obviously be interacting and engaging with staff. However, all students will continue to use their computers. Students will not have lockers or books (except some AP texts) and will rely on their laptops. Students will be asked to bring their computers and headphones every day. We will have charging strips in every classroom.

- **Remote Learning Expectations**

Our remote students will be required to log on for every class. Teacher will make sure that all students have been accounted for in attendance, that lessons are taught to the entire group or projects and work are explained, will offer time for questions, and will check-in with students throughout their practice time. There are no days off as all students will be learning and getting new content and curriculum every day!

Students Driving to Utica High

The [application for student parking](#) is available for all junior and senior students. We will not be charging or giving out passes this year, however we will be checking our lots. Students found driving without submitting a complete application or who are sophomores will face discipline and could forfeit future ability to drive.

UHS Return to School Documents

I created a space on our website, back in November, anticipating our return to in-person learning. It is under the "How Do I?" tab and titled [UHS Return to School Documents](#). I have been updating that site regularly. It remains a go-to point for all information on our return to school including maps, schedules, tech information, and the rest!

Well...I think that's enough for a day! But, before we're done, some congratulations are in order for our students and our staff that have created extra-curricular successes during these trying times. Kudos to our Warrior Yearbook staff and their director Mrs. Smale as its named one the Top Yearbooks earning "Gold" level recognition and the All-Columbia title from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association! Well done! Also, congratulations to our UHS HOSA (Health and Medical Science) team who in the middle of exams went to the first ever HOSA Virtual Regional competition and saw 51 of 65 students earn the right to advance to the state competition. I spoke about this on my Wednesday Announcements and listed their names! We couldn't be more proud of these young people and their advisors, teachers, and support staff including Mrs. Rice,

Mrs. Bologna, Mrs. Tancredi and Mrs. Schmid. We're incredible proud of these young people!

Have a great weekend everyone!

Tom Lietz
Principal



Utica High School Vision Statement:

Empowering students to reach their full potential as members of a global community.

Utica High School Mission Statement:

The mission of Utica High School is to develop successful learners with the support of our community of educators, students, and parents. Our diverse student body will have an equitable, rigorous, and comprehensive education in a safe and supportive environment that promotes self-discipline, motivation, and excellence in learning. We aim to cultivate individual learners with active and creative minds, and a sense of understanding and compassion for others.

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