

How To Get The Most Out Of Urban Academy



Our Mission is to provide superior education that will develop in our students' academic excellence, leadership skills and social values that will enable them to ultimately become positive contributors to the community in which they live and society as a whole.

Important Contacts To Have

Cafeteria - Ms. Moisha Hopkins ext.217 (Food Service Director)
Transportation – Mr. Brandon Coney ext.215 (Chief Operating Officer)
Student Affairs - Ms. Mareena Moore ext.226 (Dean of Students)
General Information - Ms. Sheila Harris ext. 207 (Admin Assistant)
Family First Center - Mrs. Tashawn Nichols ext.204 (School Counselor)
Admissions & Enrollment - Ms. Clay'Ce White ext.242 (Admissions Coordinator)
Executive Administration - Mr. K. Chase Patterson ext. 231 (Chief Executive Officer)
Academic Administration – Mrs. Angelique Drakeford ext.202 (Principal)

Important Times To Remember

*****STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER THE BUILDING BEFORE 7:30 AM*****

- Breakfast begins at 7:30 AM and ends at 7:50 AM
- Class begins at 8:00 AM
- Students are marked late at 8:15 AM
- Changes cannot be made to student dismissal plans after 2:30 PM
- Student dismissal begins at 3:10 PM
- Pickups are late if students remain in the building at 3:30 PM

**THERE IS A \$1.00 PER MINUTE INCONVENIENCE FEE FOR STUDENTS PICKED UP AFTER 3:30PM
BEFORE AND AFTERCARE MAY BE COORDINATED WITH WRIGHT CHILDCARE SOLUTIONS @ 412.336.8637**

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Welcome to The Urban Academy

The key to healthy child personality development -- and often missing from the lives of students in urban and high-risk communities -- are opportunities to take part in school-based activities that reinforce perception of skill, self-esteem and self-sufficiency. The student's lack of such opportunities is often aggravated by isolation stemming from the existing mainstream curriculum; negative self-concept arising from poverty, academic failure and too little exposure to modern and culturally relevant role models; and inadequate learning resources.

The strategy of The Urban Academy -- i.e., to join a unique teaching approach that has proven effective with disadvantaged students in high risk communities with the comprehensive school-based Family First Center -- addressing the needs of the whole child and family -- is designed to enable students to meet or exceed standards. As such The Urban Academy has become a place where students from ALL backgrounds have access to the tools, resources and encouragement needed to succeed in an environment of lofty expectations, high academic standards, and familiar cultural context. The Urban Academy students will be equipped with the skills and attitudes for academic success and life-long learning and be prepared emotionally and psychologically to avoid or withstand, the pressures and risks of the urban environment as they proceed to high school and beyond.

The Urban Academy Way

The Urban Academy is a comprehensive K-5 school, plus a Pre-K component managed independently by Wright Childcare Solutions. The Urban Academy is modeled on the principle that ALL students can achieve at high levels when immersed in an academically rigorous, challenging and innovative curriculum. The curriculum is implemented using highly effective teaching strategies and methods for engaging students in learning and has resulted in demonstrating measurable gains in self-esteem, academic achievement and school retention among our students, including those students deemed at-risk.

The Urban Academy curriculum and teaching methodology is designed to accelerate student learning at a much earlier age through a longer school year, extended school day, and emphasis on literacy, black studies, mathematics, science, technology and problem-solving. The Urban Academy is very intentional in infusing cultural relevance into

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all instructional and cultural aspects of the school to reflect the ethnic and cultural experience and history of our students.

Know What to Expect

Students are usually more successful when they know what to expect. At The Urban Academy, you can expect to find the following:

NEW TEACHERS AND CLASSMATES

For many students, entering elementary school or transferring from another school or district can be a scary process for both parents and students. For all students, elementary school means the start of building foundation for learning, citizenship and social interaction.

NEW RULES

Students must learn to follow the school rules, guidelines and policies which are posted throughout the school and more detailed in the PRIDEBOOK. The PRIDEBOOK, in its entirety can be found on the school's website, www.urbanacademyppgh.org.

UNIFORMS

Students are expected to be in full uniform each day. Uniform shirts and fleece can be ordered from the school by contacting 412.361.1008 ext. 207. Please ensure your student is in complete uniform every day. The school maintains a washer and dryer on site and if necessary may need to wash your student's uniform. You will be notified if this every becomes the case.

SCHOOL UNIFORM	GYM UNIFORM
Royal Blue Shirt with School Logo	White or Grey T-Shirt
Fleece with School Logo and/or Navy/Royal Blue Fleece/Sweater	Blue or Grey Shorts or Sweatpants Bottoms (shorts must be knee length)
Tan Khaki Pants, Skirt, Jumper or Shorts (knee length)	
Navy Blue or White tights (not leggings)	

*****Students are permitted to participate in *Dress Down Fridays* for \$1, unless otherwise expressed by the Dean of Students or an administrator. *****

RIGOROUS CURRICULUM

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Our courses are designed to cultivate excellence. Our grading scales is tougher too. Students are expected to take their learning seriously, ask questions when they need help or are confused, complete their classwork/homework in full and study for exams. Students can receive extra support by requesting a meeting with the principal to help design a strategic approach to supporting the students' growth.

School-Wide Grading Scale

A	93-100%
B	85-92%
C	77-84%
D	70-76%
F	69% and below

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Our school has a calendar that shows when report cards come out, when each grading period begins and ends and when school will be closed for holiday, teacher professional development and vacations. The school calendar also show the dates when open houses, special events, half-days and parent conferences are scheduled.

EMERGENCY CLOSING

In the event that the school will be closed due to an emergency or inclement weather, an announcement will be made on all local TV stations.

DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER URBAN FOLLOWS THE PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOL'S DELAY & CANCELLATION SCHEDULE

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

The Urban Academy school day starts at 8:00 AM and concludes at 3:10 AM. No student should arrive before 7:30 AM. Prior to 7:30 AM, families may engage the services of Wright Childcare Solution extended day program. Wright Childcare Solutions can be reached by calling 412.336.8637.

CODE OF CONDUCT/SCHOOL RULES

The Urban Academy expects that all students take an active role in making their school a safe place where students want to come to learn. If a student or parent ever feels threatened, or if you know of a situation that may put you or someone else at risk, tell an adult immediately and let the classroom teacher know, too. The Urban Academy made

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school rules so that school will run smoothly, and so that everyone will be safe. It's the students, however, who make this school a great place to be!

DISCIPLINE PHILOSOPHY

The Urban Academy attempts to remind scholars that their bad choices don't make them bad people, but do have consequences, which are based on our high expectations and mandate to foster a healthy and distraction free learning environment.

CONSEQUENCES

At The Urban Academy we have high expectations for our scholars, which include good citizenship and self-discipline. We attempt to follow a progressive discipline plan where discipline interventions begin at the least intrusive and lowest level and work up to more restrictive and punitive levels as students continue to repeat poor choices and poor behaviors. Upon receipt of an Administrative Referral the administrator, depending upon the offense, has several levels of discipline that may be utilized up to and including expulsion.

BULLYING

TO REPORT AN ACT OF BULLYING, CONTACT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE URBAN ACADEMY OF GREATER PITTSBURGH CHARTER SCHOOL AT 412.361.1008 ext 222.

PEOPLE TO GO TO FOR HELP

If you look around our school, you'll find teachers, a principal, and school staff. All of these people are here to help students and families have the best school experience possible. At some point, every family or student has a question or problem that you need help with. If you ever have a problem and don't know who to talk to regarding your child please direct all of your questions to the Dean of Students. Important contacts are found at the beginning of this guide and can also be found on the school's website.

MEDICATION

Students are NOT permitted to carry or have in their possession at any time and type of medication-prescription or non-prescription on school premises, which includes the school bus. The school nurse will hold all medications for each student, accompanied by a doctor's note. No student will be permitted to take medication in school without this approval. For more information please see pages 8 - 10 of the PRIDEBOOK.

WEAPONS

The Urban Academy is required by law to refer for expulsion for not less than one year any

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student who is determined to have brought onto or is in possession of a weapon on any school property, any school-sponsored activity or any school bus to or from school or school-sponsored activity. Weapons include, but are not limited to: any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, nunchaku, firearm, shotgun, rifle, and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily injury. Toy weapons are also forbidden at The Urban Academy.

Be In School Every Day

ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS

Students are expected to be in school every day, unless they are ill. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure the student is on time and ready to learn every day. If students have a medical condition or illness that's going to cause them to miss school, the parent must notify the teacher and provide a written excuse note.

If a student is absent for three days, parents must reach out to their teacher to request the missed assignments. Teachers are not able to allow make up work without a valid excuse regarding the student's absence.

The following conditions are considered to constitute reasonable cause for absence:

- Serious Injury to or Death in the Immediate Family
- Medical or Dental Appointments
- Personal Illness or injury
- Quarantine
- Court or Administrative Proceedings
- Observance of a Religious Holiday
- Out of School Suspensions
- Other Absences Approve by the Principal

There are specific things that you need to do if your child is late, or if they must miss school due to becoming ill.

- Request school work for the student.
- Call before 8:30AM each day that the student is absent
- When the student returns they should do so with a note from a physician.
- Notify the teacher via text message and by calling the classroom phone by 8:30am.

*****If your child is late 3 times without an excuse they will receive 1 unexcused absence*****

How to Get Good Grades

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If students come to school every day and do the following, you are sure to get good grades.

- Be on time
- Be organized
- Listen
- Manage your time well
- Study smart
- Always ask for help

Be Involved

As parents and families of Urban Academy students, we encourage you to support and work with the teachers, counselors and administrators at the school. Everyone at The Urban Academy wants our scholars to get the most from their school experience.

*****Parents MUST attend parent teacher conferences to receive their students report card*****

WAYS TO SUPPORT URBAN

Children's attitude about education and school are, to a great extent, determined by what their parents say and do. Your student needs to know that you support the teachers and the administrators at the school. Your student also needs to know that you consider education to be a top priority.

BE AWARE AND INFORMED

- PTO - Call 412.361.1008 extension 226
- Volunteering - Call your students homeroom teacher
- Making Contact – Call, Text, DoJo, Email and Visit (Please schedule your visit as soon as possible.)

Plan and Prepare for your Child's Future

Family First Center- FFC is a partnership with local service providers and health providers that will be located at The Urban Academy and will serve as a hub for families and students to support rich learning experiences that make connections to training and jobs, provide resources and support for healthy living, and incorporate opportunities for economic and social mobility.

Fund My Future - FMF is an exciting opportunity for students to establish savings accounts with local banks. The program also includes financial awareness seminars as well as tips and strategies for helping build financial stability.

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Middle School preparation - Fifth Grade students are required to participate in a middle school fair and are supported by the school counselor and student success advisor to apply to and be accepted to middle school prior to fifth grade promotion.

Tips for Students

- NO FIGHTING
- Ask for help, if you need it.
- Make a real effort to do well in school.
- Be respectful to your parents, your teachers, and your peers.
- If you have done something wrong, don't lie about it. Admit what you've done and accept the consequences.
- Talk to your parents about what is happening in school and what you are learning in school.

Tips for Parents

- Be a good role model.
- Hold your child responsible for their actions.
- Look for opportunities to praise good behavior, grades, and extra effort.
- Attend open houses and parent conferences. Also, regularly check the school's website and social media for information and updates.
- Work with the school as a partner to make sure your child get the best education possible.
- Make sure your child knows that you expect him/her to be in school, on time, every day.

Parents Academy

Parents Academy is a series of evening meetings which are strategically scheduled throughout the school year and designed for parents to meet with teachers, administrators and other families on critical subjects important to their students success. Parents Academy is listed on the schoolwide calendar and information regarding each meeting will be provided with ample reminder by the school prior to the meeting.