



University Preparatory High School

"Every generation has the chance to change the world" UPHS Students 2009

Dear Future UPHS Student,

Thank you for expressing interest in our school! We are excited to know you are picking up an enrollment packet for the upcoming academic school year. UPHS offers a rigorous academic program along with opportunities for qualified students to explore college courses at the College of the Sequoias. At UPHS, you will find many on-campus activities, a variety of clubs, a busy student leadership team, engaging classes, friendly students and, most importantly, helpful faculty and staff.

We are looking for students who are:

Understanding — and show compassion for all abilities, ethnicities and beliefs.

Prepared — for classes, leadership, community service and collegiate opportunities.

Honorable — in all aspects of life (academics, extracurricular and school functions).

Studious — and serious about academic endeavors, concerned about exams, assignments and school projects.

Please take your time filling out the enrollment packet. We spend a great deal of time reviewing completed packets. We look forward to getting to know you and your family during the interview. We have included an *Enrollment Packet Check List* to help make sure you have all the needed documents to enroll at UPHS*.

Sincerely,

The UPHS Faculty and Staff

***UPHS Non-Discrimination Statement:** University Preparatory High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or age in any of its policies, procedures or practices, nor does it tolerate sexual harassment in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1991, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (pertaining to race, color, and national origin), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (pertaining to sex), Section 504 of Discrimination Act of 1975, (pertaining to age).



Students/Parents--Enrollment Packet Check List

The following documents **MUST** be included in the enrollment packet in order for an administration review to take place and/or for an initial interview to be scheduled:

Needed Enrollment Documents

- Completed Application with Demographic Information
- Statement of Core Values and Skills for Life
- Parent/Guardian Questionnaire
- Support Services Acknowledgement
- 504 Plan / IEP (only if applicable)
- UPHS Dress Code Policy and Student Code of Conduct
- Mutual Accountability Agreement
- Internet Acceptable Use Agreement
- Affirmation of Prior Discipline Records
- Behavior/Discipline Report from Previous School
- FERPA and Media Release
- COS Medical Release Form
- Medication in School Procedure
- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Records with Tdap
- Tdap Exemption Form
- Attendance Record for most Recent Completed Year of School
- Most Recent Report Card (for students entering 9th grade)
- ALL Transcripts (for students entering 10th, 11th, or 12th grades)
- Student Introduction Letter
- Student Academic Essay

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Applying for Grade _____

Current Grade _____

Legal Last Name _____ Legal First Name _____ Legal Middle Name _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Male Female Birthdate _____ Birth City _____ Birth State _____ Birth Country _____

Student's Current Age _____ Student Email Address _____ Student Cell Phone _____

If born outside the United States, when did the student first enter the United States? (Month/Year) _____

Is this student Hispanic or Latino? Yes No What is this student's race?

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino | <input type="checkbox"/> Korean | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahitian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Guamanian | <input type="checkbox"/> Laotian | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Hawaiian | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cambodian | <input type="checkbox"/> Hmong | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan | |

Mother/Guardian 1 Name	Father/Guardian 2 Name
Relationship to Applicant	Relationship to Applicant
Home Address	Home Address
City, State, Zip	City, State, Zip
Home Phone	Home Phone
Cell Phone	Cell Phone
Work Phone	Work Phone
Occupation/Place of Work	Occupation/Place of Work
Email Address	Email Address
<input type="checkbox"/> Not a High School Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> High School Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Some College	<input type="checkbox"/> College Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Grad School/ Post Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Not a High School Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> High School Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Some College

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Emergency Contact Information

Please list 2 Emergency Contacts for your student that can be reached if you (*as the parent or guardian*) cannot be reached.

Emergency Contact #1 (First and Last Name)	Emergency Contact #2 (First and Last Name)
Relationship to Applicant	Relationship to Applicant
Home Address	Home Address
City, State, Zip	City, State, Zip
Home Phone	Home Phone
Cell Phone	Cell Phone
Work Phone	Work Phone
Email Address	Email Address

Home Language

What is the primary language spoken at home by the parents/guardians? _____

What is the primary language spoken at home by the potential UPHS student? _____

How Did you Learn about UPHS?

Check all that apply:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Presentation (at your student's school) | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Night at COS | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper or Magazine Advertisement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> Transit Advertisement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classmate | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media |

Statement of Core Values

The educational model for curriculum and instruction at University Preparatory High School is based on these Core Values:

- The development of knowledge is a worthwhile pursuit in its own right, and its development requires dedicated effort.
- High expectations for all students will lead to all students performing at high levels.
- A supportive and caring school environment is essential to nurture students' abilities, talents, aspirations and desires.
- Participation in youth development activities, community service, mentoring and civic engagement empowers students to improve their communities, reach out to others, and become positive agents for change.
- All human beings are deserving of dignity and worth, and University Preparatory High School is a place where the ideals of equality of treatment and equality of opportunity contribute to a culture of tolerance and respect for each and every individual.

*These core values are the foundation of a student-centered environment created to develop self-reliant and successful high school students who are well prepared for college, careers and service to the wider community. Prior to admission, both student and parents/guardians will be required to complete **The Student Application for Admission and participate in an interview.***

A student's continued enrollment in University Preparatory High School will be dependent on fulfilling the terms of the enrollment contract and demonstrating academic growth and achievement.

Parents will be required to play an active role in creating a positive and productive learning environment in the home, including:

- Participating with their student in events scheduled during evening and weekend hours
- Attending after school parent/teacher conferences and school meetings
- Volunteering to serve on UPHS projects, committees, and/or the advisory council
- Assuming responsibility for their student's behavior, including the enforcement of the school's attendance and dress code policies
- Supporting the **Core Values** of UPHS
- Providing records from previous schools

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Skills for Life

All UPHS students will learn the behavioral skills needed to successfully move forward in life after high school and acquire the academic skills needed in order to transition smoothly to a university/college and/or be able to obtain a job right out of high school.

- Time management, goal setting, decision-making, conflict resolution, and organization are just a few of the skills we help students develop to help them become successful on the job or in college.
- Prior to beginning any classes at College of the Sequoias or being placed in an internship in the business community, students must demonstrate consistent attendance and academic expertise in all core academic classes.
- Behavioral skills are skills which are not solely academic, but significantly influence academic and job success. These include: being in class on time, being academically prepared, following through with course and behavioral expectations, exhibiting a positive and responsible attitude, communicating effectively, and taking responsibility for one's actions.

UPHS students will demonstrate the ability to work independently, be a team member, and show growth/achievement in all aspects of school in order to participate in many of the opportunities available at UPHS and at the College of the Sequoias.

UPHS is a free public school. No admission fees will be charged. Enrollment at UPHS shall be on a voluntary basis.

Our signatures below demonstrate that we acknowledge we have read and understand the UPHS Core Values and Skills for Life.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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Parent/Guardian Questionnaire

Has your student received Special Education Services within the last 12 months? Yes No

If yes, you must provide UPHS with copies of the following documents:

- Current Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Most recent Psychological Education report (3-year evaluation)
- Sign and date the Support Services Acknowledgement

Has your student received services under Secion 504 within the last 12 months? Yes No

If yes, you must provide UPHS with copies of the following documents:

- Initial 504 Evaluation Report
- Current 504 Accommodation Plan
- Sign and date the Support Services Acknowledgement

High School of Residence: _____

School Currently Attending: _____ Grade: _____

If parents are separated or divorced, with whom does the student reside? _____

Who has education rights? _____

You may complete this form in your primary language. Please address the following concerns. If more space is needed for your response, please use a blank page.

Why do you believe University Preparatory High School is the correct school for your student?

Please describe your student's school experience during the past two years.

Please tell us about your student's strengths.

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a program of

Tulare County
Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

Students on an IEP or 504--Support Services Acknowledgement

UPHS is committed to providing academic, life, college, and career success for all students. The school ensures that proper connections to services take place when and where warranted via various school wide programs.

For Parents/Guardians:

I have been advised of the importance of my student's Individualize Education Program and the necessity to adhere to the elements developed within the IEP for the overall success of my student.

I understand that UPHS offers a full inclusion educational model for students seeking support services. Academic needs are addressed in the regular program by small class sizes and individualized assistance and/or accommodations when needed.

I have been advised (date) _____ as to the support services that University Preparatory High School is able to provide (student name) _____ according to his/her current 504/IEP.

University Preparatory High School is a Charter School and provides special education services based off of a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) as determined by the IEP Team.

Comments:

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For Office Use Only

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Dress Code Contract

Print Student Name: _____

UPHS Student Dress and Grooming Philosophy

To promote a safe, secure, and comfortable environment conducive to a valued education, *University Preparatory High School* has established a student dress code for all students. We believe school is like a work place, and students need to wear clothing that promotes the business of learning. *All UPHS students are required to adhere to the following code:*

General Dress Code

UPHS students may not wear any clothing, accessory, jewelry, hairstyle, and/or cosmetic that:

- Creates a safety concern
- Is determined by school administration to be gang-related
- Draws undue attention
- Degrades cultural, religious, or ethnic values
- Promotes sex, the use of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, violence, or any unlawful acts
- Distracts from the learning environment

All Students Must Follow these Dress Code Requirements

- *Shirts:* Students must wear short-sleeve shirts or long-sleeve shirts. **No muscle shirts.**
- Tank tops of any kind may **NOT** be worn. Sleeveless shirts must go to the edge of the shoulder.
- Girls are never to have exposed cleavage.
- Shirts may **NOT** be skimpy, see-through, ragged, or ripped and no more than the top 2 buttons may be undone.
- Skirts must be **no shorter than 3 inches above the knee.**
- Shorts must have at least a **3-inch inseam.** No short-shorts allowed.
- **NO** undergarments or midriff may show.
- **NO** shirts, tops, blouses, and/or low-cut pants, slacks, or shorts which result in several inches of skin showing, revealing necklines, backs, or bare midriffs.
- Baggy pants may not be worn and pants are not to sag or show any undergarments.
- *Shoes:* Tennis shoes, sandals, flip-flops, or dress shoes may be worn. **Slippers are only allowed on spirit dress days.**
- *Jackets/Sweatshirts:* May be worn, but students still must wear required dress code underneath. Hoods must be **off the head inside any building.**

Lanyards & Eye Wear

- An appropriate lanyard is carried by all students, and it contains their UPHS student ID.
- Only prescription glasses may be worn in classrooms.
- Sunglasses are not to be worn in classrooms.

Dress Code Contract, continued

Special Assemblies/Field Trips/Success Days Dress Requirements

FEMALES

- A business suit with pants or skirt/dress (*no shorter than 3 inches above the knee*).
- Shirts must be appropriate.
- No T-shirts, exposed cleavage, and/or bare midriff.
- Dress shoes and/or heels must be worn (*heels must be 3 inches or less in height*).

MALES

- Slacks and collared shirt, button-up shirt with a tie.
- Sport jacket, if desired.
- Dress shoes must be worn.

We have read, understand and agree to the UPHS Student Dress Code as described above.

Student Signature	Date	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
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UPHS Student Code of Conduct

As a UPHS student I will be:

Understanding — and show compassion for all abilities, ethnicities, and beliefs.

Prepared — for classes, leadership, community service, and collegiate opportunities.

Honorable — in all aspects of life (academics, extracurricular, and school functions).

Studios — and serious about academic endeavors, concerned about exams, assignments, and school projects.

As a UPHS student, I understand that we are not a typical high school. We are University Preparatory High school, and **I am UPHS!**

Print Student's First and Last Name	Student's Signature	Date
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Mutual Accountability Agreement

Student Name (*PRINT*): _____

All University Preparatory High School (UPHS) students need to understand and commit to the following agreement:

Academics

- Make a consistent effort to earn excellent grades while at UPHS and the College of the Sequoias.
- Be actively engaged and productive while attending UPHS/COS classes.
- Complete all academic assignments at UPHS/COS.
- Achieve a 'B' (3.0) average before enrolling in COS classes.
- Constructively and regularly participate in UPHS school activities, school clubs, community service, service learning, and leadership projects.
- **Complete required college units. (20 units starting with class of 2018)**

Behavior

- Maintain 95% attendance in both UPHS and COS assigned classes.
- Respect faculty, property, and collegiate atmosphere of the COS campus.
- Respect and follow the established procedures, policies, and behavior expectations as defined by UPHS teachers and the student handbook.
- Do not partake in Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs, as their use is prohibited on the UPHS/COS campus as well as at any UPHS function. California Education Code 48900
- Maintain respectable behavior toward faculty, staff, parents, and other students at all times. Any type of bullying behavior will not be tolerated at UPHS.
- Observe UPHS Dress Code at all times as explained in the student handbook.

If you agree to the above stated items, UPHS agrees to provide all enrolled students with the following:

- Safe and healthy classroom and campus environment
- Positive, friendly, and productive classroom and campus environment
- Appropriate college preparatory classes and activities
- Strong academic support leading to college readiness
- Individual academic counseling in support of high school services and college assessment/placement
- Assistance obtaining financial aid and scholarship monies for college

By signing below, I agree to honor the UPHS Mutual Accountability Agreement:

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Internet Acceptable Use Agreement

Please read this detailed document carefully before signing.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting millions of computers all over the world and billions of individual subscribers. Students have access to:

- Electronic mail (Email) communication with people all over the world
- Public domain software and graphics of all types for school use
- Discussion groups on a variety of topics ranging from culture to the environment to music to politics
- Many University Library Catalogs, the Library of Congress, and research resources, such as Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), a large collection of relevant information to educators and students
- The World Wide Web, the most exciting access tool on the Internet
- A school wide Intranet and school email address through Google Sites

With access to computers and people all over the world, there also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. The Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials and UPHS administration and staff do monitor student computer and internet usage.

However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover controversial information. We firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweigh the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the Tulare County Office of Education. Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies, and regional and state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines.

These guidelines are provided here so students and parents/guardians are aware of the responsibilities they are about to acquire. In general, this requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources. If a UPHS user violates any of these provisions, his or her account will be terminated and future access could possibly be denied.

Internet Acceptable Use Agreement, continued

Internet Terms and Conditions of Use

- The purpose of the networks making up the Internet is to support research and education in and among academic institutions by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work.
- The use of a UPHS account must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Tulare County Office of Education.
- Transmission of any material in violation of any national or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret.

Privileges

- The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges.
- The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final.
- The system administrators may close an account at any time as required.
- The administration, faculty, and staff of UPHS may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific UPHS user accounts.

Responsibilities

All UPHS students are required to abide by the following rules:

- Use school computers for school work only.
- Do not attempt to bypass blocked Internet sites.
- Do not connect any devices, for any reason, to a school computer without the consent of your teacher and then only under the direct supervision of your teacher. This includes CDs, flash drives, iPods, earphones, PDAs, etc.
- Do not modify or tamper with the school's computer hardware or software.
- Do not download, install, or run any programs unless specifically instructed by your teacher and then only under the direct supervision of your teacher.
- Do not log-on under another person's name.
- Never give or let another student have access to your password.

Internet Acceptable Use Agreement, continued

Network Etiquette

All students are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette.

These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Be polite. Do not get abusive or harass other students in your messages.
- Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- Electronic mail (email) and Instant Messages (IM) are not private. TCOE and UPHS personnel who operate our Internet and Intranet systems have access to all student email, instant message, and Internet history. Messages relating to, or in support of, illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
- All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.

Warranties

UPHS makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. UPHS will not be responsible for any damages a student suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, lack of deliveries, mis-deliveries or service interruptions caused by provider negligence or student's errors or omissions.

Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the student's own risk. The Tulare County Office of Education specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

Security

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem on the Internet, you must notify a system administrator or the UPHS Principal. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Do not use another individual's account. Attempts to log-in to the Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the Internet.

Vandalism

Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user or any of the above listed agencies or other networks that are connected to any of the UPHS Internet systems. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

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UPHS Internet Acceptable Use Agreement Acknowledgement

STUDENT

I understand and will abide by the above *Internet Acceptable Use Agreement*. I understand further that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, and school disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

Student Name Printed

Student Signature

Date

PARENT/GUARDIAN

As a UPHS parent/guardian, I understand that my UPHS student needs to abide by the above *Internet Acceptable Use Agreement*. I understand further that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should my UPHS student commit any violation, his/her access privileges may be revoked, and school disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

Parent/Guardian Name Printed

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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Affirmation of Prior Discipline Records

Please complete the applicable paragraph below, provide all appropriate information, and sign this document.

Paragraph 1:

The undersigned affirms that _____ (*Student Name*) has **NOT** been suspended or expelled from any public or private school in California or any other state for an offense involving weapons, alcohol or drugs, or for the willful infliction of injury to another person or for any act of violence against persons and/or property committed on school premises, at any school-sponsored activity, or on public or private conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity.

Paragraph 2:

The undersigned affirms that _____ (*Student Name*) **HAS** been suspended or expelled from any public or private school in California or any other state for an offense involving weapons, alcohol or drugs, or for the willful infliction of injury to another person or for any act of violence against persons and / or property committed on school premises, at any school-sponsored activity, or on public or private conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity.

If you complete **Paragraph 2**, explain the circumstances in detail on the bottom of this form and include a copy of the expulsion documents. Include the school name, dates of the suspension or expulsion, and description of the incident that resulted in the suspension or expulsion.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Paragraph 2 Response

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Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The *FERPA Release of Information Form* must be signed by each UPHS student, regardless of the student's age.

College of the Sequoias – University Preparatory High School FERPA Release Form

I, _____, give UPHS staff and faculty permission to share information contained in my UPHS educational records with College of the Sequoias staff, potential employers, and my parents. I understand that I am giving this permission pursuant to my rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

Date

University Preparatory High School – College of the Sequoias FERPA Release Form

I, _____, give COS staff and faculty permission to share information contained in my college transcript that pertains to college grades and units received while taking college coursework as a student concurrently attending College of the Sequoias and University Preparatory High School. I understand that I am giving this permission pursuant to my rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Picture, Audio Taping, Video Taping, Web Release Form

College of the Sequoias – University Preparatory High School

Throughout the year, photographs are taken of students for use in UPHS/COS classes, TCOE and UPHS web pages, TCOE and UPHS newsletters, community publications and advertising. Students may occasionally be video- and/or audio-taped to record instructional practices or document extracurricular events at school, or to allow the news media to cover such events.

Please sign below if you give permission to UPHS to photograph, video-tape, or audio-tape your child.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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Permission to Release Personal and/or Medical Information to the College of the Sequoias (COS) Health Center

Please fill out the form below, indicating that you **"do"** or **"do not"** give permission to UPHS to share this information with the COS Health Center.

Name of student (please print): _____ Date of Birth: _____

Please check one of the following:

_____ I **do** grant permission for UPHS to share my child's name, date of birth, any important medical conditions, primary emergency contacts and alternative emergency contacts with the College of the Sequoias Health Center.

_____ I **do not** grant permission for UPHS to share my child's name, date of birth, any important medical conditions, primary emergency contacts and alternative emergency contacts with the College of the Sequoias Health Center.

Printed name of Parent/Guardian _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date: _____

Tulare County Office of Education--School Health Programs

Medication in School Procedure

University Preparatory High School extends you the courtesy of giving your child the necessary medications during school hours. However, for your child's health and safety, we can assist with administration of medication **only** if the following procedure is followed.

Medication Procedure (All must be completed)

1. Pick up medication form from the school office to be completed by the parent and doctor.
2. **MUST BE DONE** at the beginning of each school year, a new form must be completed.
3. The form should be completed by the student's physician detailing the method and time schedules for taking the medication.
4. Medication must be brought to school in the original prescription bottle by parent or guardian.

Facts You Should Know

1. **A note from home is not enough.** A medication form **must** be completed by physician and parent.
2. Medication brought to school by the child, even with a note, **cannot be given at school.**
3. Tylenol®, cough drops, ointments, cold pills, eye drops, asthma inhalers, etc. are all medications. This medication procedure must be followed with these as well.

By law, no exceptions can be made to these rules. If they are not followed, we cannot assist with administering your child's medication at school. You must then come to the school and administer the medication to your child.

In addition

Please list any medical conditions/allergies/medicines that UPHS leadership would need to know to insure your student will be safe on campus should he/she decide to attend UPHS. This information is only given to our school nurse.

Medical Conditions/Allergies:

Medicine:

I understand that I am providing information to help the UPHS nurse, faculty, and staff stay informed regarding the needs of my student should he/she attend UPHS in the fall.

Print Parent/Guardian First and Last Name

Parent/Guardian Signature



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Student Introduction Letter

Please write/type an informal letter addressed to the UPHS Principal. This letter is used to get to know students who are enrolling at UPHS. In this 1-2 page letter, please discuss each of the following topics:

- Provide biographical information about yourself and your family
- Explain why you want to attend University Preparatory High School
- Describe your learning styles and address your academic talents
- Describe what college or university you would like to attend and why

* Include at least one paragraph for each of the four topics listed above *

** Please follow MLA Format for an Informal Letter **

Student Academic Essay

Please read the following article, *Let Kids Run Wild Online*, out of *Time Magazine* and produce a 500-600 word persuasive essay taking a stance on kids' online access. *Do you agree that kids should be free to explore online without parent interference or should parents have control over what their kids do online?* Your persuasive essay needs to be typed, contain a clear stance, be double-spaced, use spell check and grammar check, use MLA Format, and be clear and concise. This essay gives us insight into an enrolled student's writing voice.

Let Kids Run Wild Online

Photograph by TIME; Illustration by Joel Holland for TIME

Trapped by helicopter parents and desperate to carve out a space of their own, teens need a place to make mistakes

Bicycles, roller skates and skateboards are dangerous. I still have scars on my knees from my childhood run-ins with various wheeled contraptions. Jungle gyms are also dangerous; I broke my left arm falling off one. And don't get me started on walking. Admittedly, I was a klutzy kid, but I'm glad I didn't spend my childhood trapped in a padded room to protect me from every bump and bruise.

"That which does not kill us makes us stronger." But parents can't handle it when teenagers put this philosophy into practice. And now technology has become the new field for the age-old battle between adults and their freedom-craving kids.

Locked indoors, unable to get on their bicycles and hang out with their friends, teens have turned to social media and their mobile phones to gossip, flirt and socialize with their peers. What they do online often mirrors what they might otherwise do if their mobility weren't so heavily constrained in the age of helicopter parenting. Social media and smartphone apps have become so popular in recent years because

teens need a place to call their own. They want the freedom to explore their identity and the world around them. Instead of sneaking out (should we discuss the risks of climbing out of windows?), they jump online.

As teens have moved online, parents have projected their fears onto the Internet, imagining all the potential dangers that youth might face—from violent strangers to cruel peers to pictures or words that could haunt them on Google for the rest of their lives.

Rather than helping teens develop strategies for negotiating public life and the potential risks of interacting with others, fearful parents have focused on tracking, monitoring and blocking. These tactics don't help teens develop the skills they need to manage complex social situations, assess risks and get help when they're in trouble. Banning cell phones won't stop a teen who's in love cope with the messy dynamics of sexting. "Protecting" kids may feel like the right thing to do, but it undermines the learning that teens need to do as they come of age in a technology-soaked world.

The key to helping youth navigate contemporary digital life isn't more restrictions. It's freedom—plus communication. Famed urban theorist Jane Jacobs used to argue that the safest neighborhoods were those where communities collectively took interest in and paid attention to what happened on the streets. Safety didn't come from surveillance cameras or keeping everyone indoors but from a collective willingness to watch out for one another and be present as people struggled. The same is true online.

What makes the digital street safe is when teens and adults collectively agree to open their eyes and pay attention, communicate and collaboratively negotiate difficult situations. Teens need the freedom to wander the digital street, but they also need to know that caring adults are behind them and supporting them wherever they go. The first step is to turn off the tracking software. Then ask your kids what they're doing when they're online—and why it's so important to them.

Boyd, a principal researcher at Microsoft Research and a fellow at Harvard University's Berkman Center, is the author of It's Complicated: The Social Lives of Networked Teens.

Works Cited

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