

The background is a vibrant blue watercolor wash with organic, flowing edges. A white rectangular box is positioned on the left side, containing the text. A small, light-colored rectangular tab is visible at the top left corner of the white box.

UWHARRIE CHARTER ACADEMY

NC Future's Meeting

Dr. Sharon Castelli

UCA'S HISTORY

Growth Milestones			
March 2013	- Charter approved	August 2017	- Middle school adds 5th grade with 100 students
August 2014	- High school opens at Lewallen Road location with approximately 181 students in grades 9-10	October 2017	- New middle school site groundbreaking
September 2014	- New high school site groundbreaking and 11th grade added	February 2018	- Sewer project begins
August 2015	- High school opens at Business Highway 220 location and 12th grade added - Middle school opens at Lewallen Road location, adding 300 students in grades 6-8	August 2018	- New middle school opens at Pisgah Covered Bridge Road location - Work continues on Sports Complex on Ludlam Road
June 2016	- 1st Graduating Class	Fall 2018	- New standalone gym opens
May 2017	- Early College program approved with Randolph Community College	Fall 2021	- Expansion of elementary school site completed

CORE BELIEFS

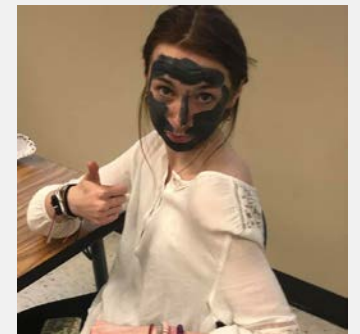
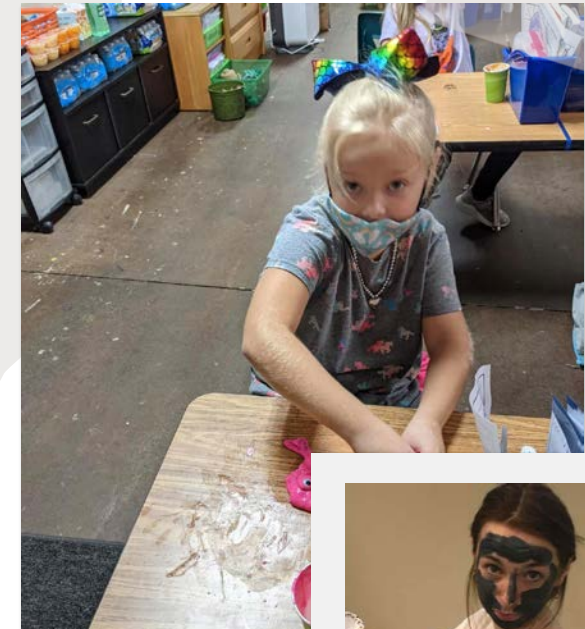


PROJECT- BASED INSTRUCTION

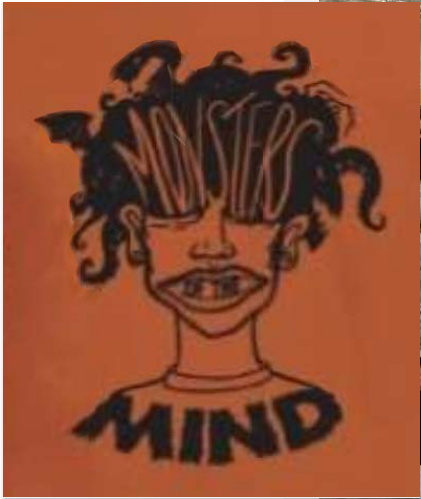
- Through *Experiential Learning*, UCA believes in learning by doing.
- UCA uses project-based learning that is interdisciplinary, is problem-based learning that takes the learner deeper into the core subject and uses the engineering and design process that walks the student through the design thinking process.
- UCA students are actively engaged and participating in an experiential environment.

S.T.E.A.M INTEGRATION

- Through **S.T.E.A.M**, UCA has integrated into all programs offered.
- At the Elementary School, UCA has created S.T.E.A.M as a special course on top of the school integration.
- Our Middle School offers a S.T.E.A.M block, wherein students choose from approximately 19 different S.T.E.A.Ms. Teachers allow for students to participate in the accounts payable, research & design, leadership, marketing, and production niches of the business.
- At the High School, S.T.E.A.M is integrated into elective blocks, with each elective taught through the S.T.E.A.M lens. Students use an interactive notebooks are used to record what each student learns throughout the course. UCA has vertically aligned most of its Middle School S.T.E.A.M classes with the electives offered at the High School (Agriculture, Woodworking, Metals).



FLEX DAYS



- Through *Community Service*, UCA believes that students need to understand how important it is to be a part of something bigger than themselves.
- During flex days, student have numerous opportunities to visit local businesses, volunteer at local charities, or participate in environment projects. Flex days are also used to offer workshops to students like woodworking, blacksmithing, welding, pottery, and glass blowing.
- UCA is also a part of the LIFT Program, a community service program sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce and currently, we have offered our vans to support the students in Randolph County at no charge.
- Student involvement is remarkably strong in school-based community service clubs (Key Club, Beta Club, and FFA). The yearly “Monster Literacy Night” draws thousands of members of the community to the campus for book giveaways, family activities, and curriculum displays.



ATHLETICS

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES





CLUBS



OUR SUCCESSES SINCE 2013

COLLEGE

- Morehead-Cain Scholarship winner
- U.S. Air Force Academy nominee
- Florida State Army ROTC scholarship winner
- Through partnership with RCC, 30% of our senior class graduates with transferable college credits
- Each year, our senior class is awarded 1 million plus in merit and athletic scholarships
- NC Scholarship for Children of Wartime Veterans which covered full tuition at UNCC

CAREER

- Former graduates are now part of our Technology and Maintenance Departments
- Asheboro City Schools School Resource Officer is also a graduate of UCA
- Six students completed NC Real Estate exam in 2021
- Seven students are certified through our drone class
- 3 UCA graduate currently employed and earning a tuition-free degree through Apprenticeship Randolph Program and we have 3 more applications this year



NEXT STEPS:
CAREER
ACADEMY FOCUS

- Through the success of our Project-based Learning, S.T.E.A.M Integration, and Flex Days, UCA is currently in the process to create a Career Academy based on student interest and community partners.



CHALLENGES

Lack of Equitable Funding

- **Capital projects** (we must find our own funding (USDA/Bonds))
- **Transportation** (purchase our own buses)
- **Student ADM** (Charters have 8.2% of students but only 7.68% of state funding)

Results of Equitable Funding

- Prevents the hiring additional support staff (counselors, teachers, assistants, social workers)
- Forcing larger class sizes in some subject areas
- Schools are capped at 13% for students with special needs even though we accept all students through our lottery, regardless of their disability



THANK YOU AND QUESTIONS

