

March 7, 2025

Dear UE Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. It has been truly inspiring to see our scholars deeply engaged in their learning over the past few weeks. Their curiosity, perseverance, and excitement have been shining through in every subject, and we are so proud of their hard work!

In humanities, students are eagerly preparing to launch their upcoming novel units. It's always a joy to see them dive into rich texts, make meaningful connections, and develop their love of literature.

In math, scholars have been strengthening their understanding of key grade-level concepts. They are not only mastering foundational skills but also applying their knowledge to more complex, real-world problems—a testament to their growing confidence and critical thinking.

Science classrooms have been buzzing with inquiry! From energy conservation in fourth grade to earth systems in fifth, and plate motion in sixth, students are actively exploring the wonders of the natural world.

I encourage you to take a moment to read your student's grade-level newsletter and chat with them about their learning. These conversations reinforce their growth and help them reflect on all they have accomplished.

[4th Grade February Newsletter](#)

[5th Grade February Newsletter](#)

[6th Grade February Newsletter](#)

Thank you for your continued partnership and support!

Warm regards,

The UE Leadership
Amy O'Connell & Nerecesa Pires

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES: PHA & Beyond

- **Join our UE PHAmily!** We invite you to have a seat at the decision-making table at your child's campus. The UE campus is seeking family members who are interested in becoming more involved and active in the community to serve as campus-level family leaders. [Check out this flyer for more details!](#)
- **STEAM Saturday:** Is your student interested in Digital Photography? Crafts? Remote Control Racing? Comics and Digital Animation? Slime? [Sign them up for STEAM Saturday at PHA.](#) This program is located at our High School campus (54 Essex St, Cambridge) and will be taking place from March 22nd - April 12th between 9 am - 12 pm. Please email Kim Le at KLe@phacs.org if you need help with registering your child!
- **PHA Adult English Classes:** We are again offering English as a Second Language Classes for PHA community members! Classes are offered for beginners and intermediary speakers and take place on Saturday mornings at our Cambridge campus. The fee for the 8-week class

is \$30 per person. [Please register here.](#) We look forward to improving our English skills together!

- **[dynaMIT Summer 2025:](#)** dynaMIT is a free-of-cost STEM summer day program aimed at students with low income and/or low exposure to STEM. The program accepts students who will be **entering 6th, 7th, 8th, or 9th grades in the 2025-2026 School Year** (must be at least 11 years old by the start of dynaMIT). [Use this link to register.](#)
- **PHA Board Meeting RSVP** - If you wish to attend any of the upcoming PHA board meetings, please [complete this form](#) to indicate which meetings you'd like to receive an invitation to and an email address at which you can be reached. For security purposes, you will receive a link to the meeting (hosted on Zoom) via email an hour or two before the meeting begins.
- **Please join the Special Education Parent Advisory Council at PHA!** The SEPAC is a parent-run group for parents of students with disabilities. The SEPAC seeks to facilitate opportunities for parents of students who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan to connect with and support each other. The SEPAC also supports the district in planning for and supporting the needs of our students. Please save the date for the 24-25 SEPAC meetings on the dates: Mar 19, Apr 16, May 21, June TBD. These meetings are held virtually from 6:00 - 7:00 on Wednesday evenings. Email the SEPAC leadership team at sepac@phacs.org to be added to the SEPAC Membership List.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Monday, March 10:** Professional Development Day - No School
- **Friday, March 14:** Quarter 3 Progress Reports Sent Home
- **Friday, March 28:** Sports Dress Down Day
- **Tuesday, April 8:** ELA MCAS Session 1
- **Thursday, April 10:** ELA MCAS Session 2
- **Friday, April 11:** End of Quarter 3
- **Friday, April 11:** Decades/Eras Dress Down Day
- **Friday, April 18:** Half Day - Noon Release
- **Monday, April 21-Friday, April 25:** April Break - No School
- **Friday, May 2:** Quarter 3 Report Cards Sent Home
- **Tuesday, May 13:** Math MCAS Session 1
- **Thursday, May 15:** Math MCAS Session 2
- **Friday, May 16:** Quarter 4 Progress Reports Sent Home
- **Monday, May 19:** STE MCAS Session 1 (5th Only)
- **Tuesday, May 20:** STE MCAS Session 2 (5th Only)
- **Monday, May 26:** Memorial Day - No School
- **Friday, May 30:** Hat Dress Down Day
- **Friday, June 13:** Vacation Vibes Dress Down Day
- **Monday, June 19:** Juneteenth - No School
- **Friday, June 20:** End of Quarter 4 / Scheduled Last Day of School
- **Friday, June 27:** Quarter 4 Report Cards Sent Home

LINKS TO HELPFUL RESOURCES

- [UE Frequently Asked Questions](#): Please see this document for answers to common questions families have about the Upper Elementary Campus. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions that are not covered here.
- [Counseling Referral](#): Please complete this form if you believe your child requires extra support or check-ins, and a counseling team member will contact you shortly.
- [Principal Office Hours Sign-Up](#): Use this sign-up to add an appointment to my calendar. We can meet via phone, online, or in person. Feel free to ask questions, discuss your ideas for our school, or get to know one another!
- [School Improvement Plan](#) - Our campus three year school improvement plan is linked here and can be found on the PHA website. This document outlines student learning outcomes and the strategic objectives we will be focused on for the next three years.