Good afternoon, Union City Cyber Academy Families!

We are now more than halfway through our second quarter! Our students are making progress toward a much-deserved holiday break, which is from December 23-January 2. After classes conclude on December 22, our students are not required to sign in for attendance or attend courses during the break. Students will resume regular attendance and coursework on Monday, January 3. The cyber teachers at Warren have our district calendar and are to modify classes so that students are not assigned coursework or given due dates during days that are "off" for our district. Should you notice a due date or assignment that has a deadline during break or on a day off, the student does not have to complete it and he/she will not be penalized for it. Should this occur, or if you have questions about specific assignments or due dates, please reach out to your/your child's individual teachers, and please don't hesitate to let me and your child's guidance counselor know, as well. Our UCASD cyber kiddos get the same holiday break as students in Brick & Mortar classes. With that said, if your child wants to work on cyber coursework during the holiday break -or- if he/she wants to inquire about missing work/late assignments, please reach out to those teachers directly for those requests.

In addition to wishing you all a wonderful holiday break, I wanted to take another opportunity to reach out with some general reminders and information for the next few weeks. As always, please continue to reach out if you have any questions. We are proud of our students for their hard work in their cyber courses this year. Please continue to reach out to us to let us know how we can support you as you work through your coursework.

Stacey Dell
Director of Curriculum & Special Programs

Middle & High School Mid-Term Progress Reports
This week, our secretaries and counselors will be preparing and mailing out mid-term progress reports to our middle and high school cyber students. Students in middle and high school brick and mortar classes receive them in-person, so these will be mailed directly to our cyber students in Grades 6-12. Elementary students do not receive mid-term progress reports.

Tracking Your Child's Daily Progress
All parents/guardians have several options for monitoring student progress and success in the Buzz Portal. Parents/guardians can access the student's portal using the student's login credentials, which are given out by the individual building guidance counselors, or parents/guardians can request to be added as an observer by contacting Misty Weber at Warren (WeberMD@wcsdpa.org). If you reach out to Misty and do not receive
your login credentials from her, please contact me (sdell@ucasd.org) ASAP so that I can assist! By logging in using either method, parents/guardians can view a "Daily Activity Report" as seen below:

Finding the Daily Activity Record:

[Image of a sample daily activity record]

Sample Daily Activity Record:

- **Attendance**
  It is very important that students are checking in with Mr. Thompson during the assigned attendance window each day via Zoom, as per our district policy and cyber academy handbook (link in "Helpful Resources" below). In the "Helpful Contacts" section below, I have included the contact information for Mr. Thompson as well as our attendance secretaries for turning in excuses for absences.

- **Returning to Brick & Mortar for Quarter 3 (January 24-March 30)**
  All students currently enrolled in cyber programming will have the option to return to Brick & Mortar for the third quarter as long as they notify their guidance counselors. The second quarter ends on January 21, so during the week of January 4, families will receive a survey in which they are to indicate their enrollment preferences. Our guidance team will need to know if your child is planning to return to Brick & Mortar classes by Wednesday, January 12 so that schedules and class assignments can be developed in time for the start to the third quarter, which is on Monday, January 24, 2022. After the start of the third quarter, students will not have the option to return to Brick & Mortar again until the start of the fourth quarter, which is on March 31, 2022.
Please start discussing your plans for the third and fourth quarters as we close in on the holidays. Again, look for an email and survey link from me sometime during the first week we return from break.

Materials
If one of the instructors requests materials that you do not have access to, please let us know. In most instances, if it is not something you have available at home, you can let the instructor know, and they will work with you or help you modify the task(s). If it is a particular type of art supplies or school supplies, let us know so we can assist. Elementary students who need additional supplies from their initial supplies bags from the start of the year can reach out to Mr. McMahan (contact information below) or myself.

Keystones: Winter Wave Keystone Testing in January
Some high school cyber students may be contacted by our School Assessment Coordinator, Mr. Joseph Anthony, regarding taking/retaking Winter Keystones between January 4-14. Students can access sample questions for each subject area right here: Keystone Item & Scoring Samples. Students and families can view a host of important information about the Keystones on the PDE website. Information about the Keystones and other assessments in our district can be viewed here: UCASD Student Assessment (under Curriculum tab).

Keystones & PSSAs: Spring Testing Dates
Our district has detailed all Spring Keystone and PSSA testing dates on our district homepage on the Student Assessment tab on the curriculum dropdown. Here, you can view the general assessment calendar, as well as the specific dates for testing in each grade level and content area. These specific calendars are on the right-hand side of that page. As mentioned above, Keystone information, including item and scoring samplers, can be viewed on PDE's website, as can PSSA information.

Important Contacts for Cyber Academy Success
Check out this handy list of folks you can contact throughout your cyber experience:

- When you/your child is struggling with a particular class, an assignment, a due date, live lessons, class pacing, the structure of the course, questions about materials, etc., please communicate with the individual teachers at Warren. Their contact information is listed in the course home pages in the Buzz Portal.
- When you have scheduling questions or general concerns about your/your child's progress, please reach out to your guidance counselors: Elementary - Mr. McMahan (emcmahan@ucasd.org), Middle School - Mr. Anthony (janthony@ucasd.org), High School - Mrs. Dawson (kdawson@ucasd.org), and K-12 - Mrs. McNulty (smcnulty@ucasd.org).
- If you need the attendance Zoom link or have questions about the attendance process, please reach out to Mr. Shawn Thompson (sethompson@ucasd.org).
- If you/your student does miss school/morning attendance, please don't forget to submit excuses to your building-level attendance secretaries as per our cyber handbook: Elementary - Mrs. Blystone (ablystone@ucasd.org), Middle School - Mrs. Himrod (lhimrod@ucasd.org), and High School - Mrs. Reynolds (ireynolds@ucasd.org) so that he/she can be marked accordingly in PowerSchool. It is always good to include Mr. Shawn Thompson (sethompson@ucasd.org) on those correspondences, too.
- If you/your child has an IEP or 504 and you have concerns, please communicate with both the teacher at Warren and your case manager at UCASD. Mrs. Stacey Mulson (smulson@ucasd.org) is our Director of Pupil Services and is also here to help!
- If you are a parent/guardian who would like to be added as an observer to your child's account, please contact Misty Weber at Warren (WeberMD@wcsdpa.org).
• If you are experiencing technical difficulties with assignment submission, the online portal, or your individual Buzz Portal account, you can contact Misty Weber (WeberMD@wcsdpa.org), Neil Kent (kentn@wcsdpa.org), or Michael Cradduck (cradduckm@ucasd.org).
• If you are having challenges with your UCASD-issued Chromebook, please submit a HelpDesk ticket (helpdesk@ucasd.org) to our tech team. Be sure to let them know that you are a Union City Cyber Academy student so they can reach out to you for troubleshooting purposes.

Helpful Resources for Families
As we have some new families joining our cyber academy program, I wanted to share links to a few resources that you may find helpful:

• **Union City Cyber Academy Handbook**: The handbook describes all pertinent information about attendance requirements, processes for struggling students, and more.
• **Buzz Portal**: This is the website that houses all cyber academy courses, grades, communications with Warren teachers, and more.
• **Food Service Request for Meals for Cyber Students**: Complete and turn this form in to your individual building office if you would like to register for meal pick-up through UCASD.
• **Union City Cyber Academy Homepage**: This is our spot on the district website for documents, contacts, updates, and information.
• **Website Links for Free eBooks**: This document features links to websites that allow student access to free books for courses or personal reading.

Have a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year, Cyber Students & Families!

Stacey