



September 20, 2024

Dear Utopian Academy Families:

At Utopian Academy Charter School Network, we strive to provide a safe and secure learning and work environment for our students and employees. In 10 years of serving students, we have found that one of the most important components of our school safety plan is maintaining open lines of communication with you, the parents, relatives, and guardians of our scholars.

As we continue our transparency in communicating with you, I want to inform you that two UAFA schools were recently included on a list of more than 35 Metro Atlanta area public schools threatened with violence on social media. The incident is under investigation and is believed to be part of a series of anonymous cyber threats posted to disrupt teaching and learning in Georgia's public schools. Police patrols have been stepped up as a precaution.

UAFA Charter School Network is working closely with Clayton County Public Schools and local law enforcement to remain vigilant over campus safety in today's climate in which pranksters and others inspired by current events and politics may demonstrate negative behavior toward schools. We invite all Utopian Academy families to partner with us in our efforts to safeguard our campuses. Please inform your scholar's principal or teachers about any suspicious activity near school grounds or threats to the health and safety of our faculty, staff, and students. We will take all tips seriously and will continue to work proactively to help UAFA schools to respond quickly and effectively to emergency situations.

Throughout the school year, we routinely schedule drills to practice crisis response protocols for fires, severe storms, and intruders. The intruder drill is scheduled for next week. The goal of the intruder drill is to practice our emergency management ALICE—Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate—procedures with students present. ALICE is an active shooter response training exercise that Clayton County Schools has adopted for such emergencies. Staff members have spent several hours training and practicing ALICE techniques over the years to better prepare themselves in the event of an actual situation. Scholars will also practice how to respond if an intruder enters one of our school buildings.

We know that such safety drills may be uncomfortable for some scholars, but they are necessary. Please join us in supporting your child emotionally as we prepare them for these upcoming drills. Thank you for your continued partnership in making UAFA Charter Network a safe place for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela A. Dingle".

Ms. Pamela Dingle  
Executive Director, UAFA Charter School Network