



# **Uplift North Hills Preparatory Primary**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How do I get into Uplift North Hills?**

The first step is to apply for your desired grade level. The application window opens between November and ends February 1<sup>st</sup>. Names are generated randomly from the lottery, typically in early March. A few weeks later, you will be notified if your child's name was generated for admissions or if they are on the waitlist.

Siblings get generated from the lottery first and then names are taken from the general population after that.

### **How many openings are there in each grade level?**

The largest number of openings are in kindergarten with 78 spots. However, after siblings there are usually around 30 spots available. Typically, around 1,000 families apply for these 78 spots.

First grade has about 16 spots available and second – fifth may have 1-5 spots.

### **Can I pay money to get into Uplift North Hills?**

No, we do not take donations or payments to secure a spot at NHP. All students are selected at random through the lottery process.

### **If one sibling gets in, does that mean the other siblings automatically get added or bumped up to the top of the waiting list? What if they are twins?**

Unfortunately, no. If one sibling (or twin) gets accepted, it is not guaranteed that the other will. We have had many cases where one twin was accepted, and the other was not. In cases such as this, families must make the difficult decision of whether they want just one child to attend NHP.

### **Can students transfer from one Uplift school to another?**

No, families may not transfer from one school to another. If you wish to go to a different Uplift school, you will have to apply and get pulled from the lottery.

### **Can my student test out of their grade level and get put in another grade?**

No, we do not test students out of their grade level at the Primary level.



### **Do you have to live in a certain area to attend Uplift North Hills?**

Yes, there are zip code restrictions to attend Uplift North Hills (please see website). However, we also do not bus students, so parents would be responsible for timely dropping off and picking up.

### **What are the school hours? When can I drop my student off at school?**

The official school hours are from 7:45am – 3:00pm and 7:45-2:00 on Wednesdays. You may drop your student off beginning at 7:25am.

### **What is school pick up like?**

Each child is given a set of carpool numbers. You will need to pick your child up between 3:00-3:30 or 2:00-2:30 on Wednesdays or 12:00-12:30 on half days. You will need the carpool card to pick your child up or take your state issued ID to the office to receive a temporary card.

### **Do you have aftercare?**

We do have an aftercare program with limited availability. If you are accepted, we will provide you with information to apply for aftercare and a list of daycares that pick up from our school.

### **Do you have a Special Education program?**

Yes, we do have Special Education and are required by law to follow a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) if they already have one from another Texas public school.

### **Do you have a Gifted and Talented program?**

No. As a requirement of our International Baccalaureate program, all student needs are to be met within their general education classroom. However, our teachers use many differentiation strategies to meet the needs of their students. These strategies include the use of centers or stations, small group instruction, project-based instructional practices, and collaborative learning in the classroom.

### **Can you tell me about school lunches?**

Hot lunches are provided through a catering company called Twelve Oaks Catering. Students have the option of purchasing a lunch (at the cost of \$3.75) or bringing their lunch from home.

### **Is there a snack time?**

Kindergarten and First grades have a snack time at the end of the day. Second through fifth grades do not have a snack time. Snacks must be healthy.

### **How many teachers are in each grade level?**



1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade has four teachers with 25 students in each class. Kindergarten has 3 sections of 20 and one section of 18.

### **Do students have recess?**

Yes, all students have a 30-minute recess each day.

### **What specials do students have?**

All students have one special per day (Art, Music, Spanish and PE).

### **What curriculum do you use?**

We use a variety of curriculum resources that support our PYP Units of Inquiry. Resources include (but are not limited to): Saxon Phonics, Foss Kits, STEM Scopes, a variety of picture books and novels, Eureka Math, Lavinia and a variety of computer based programs such as Study Island, STMath, Exact Path, and Reading Eggs.

### **How do I request vacation?**

We **do not** approve vacation requests and ask that all vacations take place during the days or weeks that school is **not** in session. Scholars missing school for weddings or vacations are considered unexcused absences. Scholar attendance is very important to their academic achievement. Every day a scholar is absent, the school loses funding.

### **What is IB? What is PYP?**

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme is a philosophy of teaching and learning. All of our curriculum is organized under 6 Transdisciplinary Themes – Who we Are, Where we are in Place and Time, How we Express Ourselves, How we Organize Ourselves, How the World Works, and Sharing the Planet. Beyond the curriculum, IB schools develop global, internationally-minded students who are life-long learners.

*Excerpt from an IB document:*

“PYP schools should provide students with learning experiences that are engaging, relevant, challenging and significant, in learning environments that are stimulating and provocative, where:

adults are sensitive facilitators of the process of empowering students to value their learning and to take responsibility for it, students are seen as competent and are listened to, students are encouraged to be curious, be inquisitive, ask questions, explore and interact with the environment physically, socially and intellectually, students are supported in their struggle for mastery and control on their journey to become independent, autonomous learners, the learning experiences are differentiated to accommodate the range of abilities and learning styles in the group.”



## Kindergarten Skills

Beginning Kindergarten is an exciting time for parents, students, and teachers! For many students, it may be their first experience in a school setting and this can be both exciting and may even cause a bit of anxiety for some. Below is a list of helpful skills that you and your student can begin working on, if you already haven't, to set everyone up for success.

### A student entering Kindergarten should...

- ✓ Be fully potty-trained, including being able to clean themselves and put on clothes with no assistance
- ✓ Be able to **verbally communicate** their first and last name as well as their needs
- ✓ Be able to feed themselves
- ✓ Be able to open their own car door and exit the car independently
- ✓ Be able to put on their own jacket and shoes (we can certainly help with zipping and tying shoes ☺)
- ✓ Be able to follow 2 step oral instructions
- ✓ Participates in cleaning up
- ✓ Can share and work with others
- ✓ Can use their words to solve problems or conflicts
- ✓ Will try new things
- ✓ Can follow simple safety rules
- ✓ Can articulate (communicate) their feelings
- ✓ Adjusts well to new situations

### Ideas on things to work on:

- ✓ Allow your child to do things independently (ex. go to the bathroom, dress themselves, clean their room)
- ✓ Practice socializing in new situations (safely with parent supervision)
- ✓ Counting to 50
- ✓ Practice tying shoes
- ✓ Recognizing letters and practice their sounds
- ✓ Incorporate reading a story in your daily or nightly routines
- ✓ Practice rhyming sounds
- ✓ Practice making simple patterns
- ✓ Practice writing first name and last name
- ✓ Encourage your child to ask questions about the world around them



- ✓ Help develop independent socialization by attending a play group or preschool program away from parents (ex. Mother's Day out, pre-k, daycare, Sunday School, Religious Classes)