

**Underwood
Gifted & Talented
Elementary School**



New Family Orientation

We will cover:

- Underwood History
- Mission, Vision, Values
- Transportation: Buses, Carpool, and Walkers
- YMCA; Before and After School Care
- Breakfast and Lunch
- Communication Tools
- Electives vs. Specials
- Elective Interest Surveys
- Elective Brochures & Elective Registration
- Technology & Digital Resources
- Library Resources
- Student Social & Emotional Assistance
- Health & Immunizations
- Kindergarten Staggered Entry
- Remote Learning
- School Wide Events
- Parent Partners
- Foundation & PTA
- Summer Events
- Beginning of School Year Events



Staff Introductions



Anne Waechter
Principal



Alexandria Judge-Lenkeit
Assistant Principal



Sarah Hurst
Instructional Facilitator



Heather Callahan
Magnet Coordinator



Brett Pesce
Counselor



Kyra Hartsfield
Secretary



Anna Totten
Data Manager



Phyllis McDaniel
Receptionist



Kelli Hosford
Nurse

Kindergarten Team



Maggie Lohr
K Teacher



Robin Fox
K Teacher



Jenny Cortez
K Teacher



Samari McLean
K Teacher



Marjorie Freeman
Kindergarten IA



Katie Chandler
Kindergarten IA



Danielle Fatoorchi
Kindergarten IA



Lidise Garcia-Tavarez
Kindergarten IA

Specialist Team



Gussie Marshallsea
Art Teacher



JR Richardson
Band Teacher



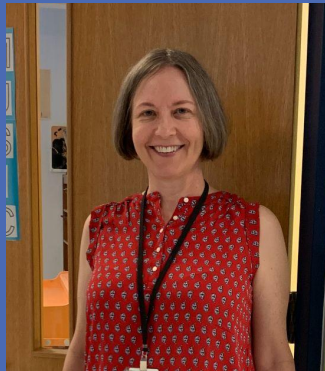
Beth Seaton
Dance Teacher



Molly Hamelin
Drama Teacher



Star Davis
Media Specialist



Dawn Spiggle
Music Teacher



Jamika Robinson
PE Teacher



Shannon McKenna
Spanish Teacher



Jill Sherling
Strings Teacher



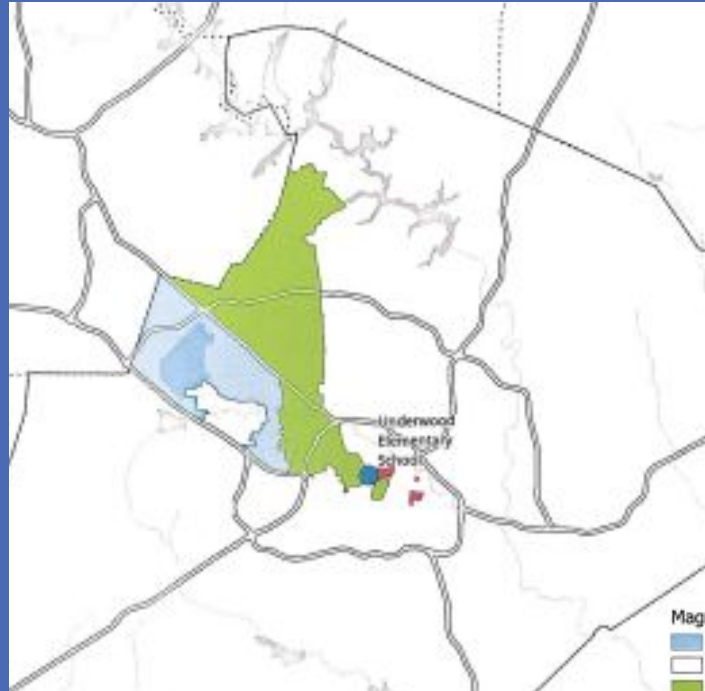
Established in 1949
Hayes Barton Elementary from 1926-1949



Myrtle Underwood

First Principal after we became
a magnet school, who led
the school for over 25 years.

Magnet Draw Areas



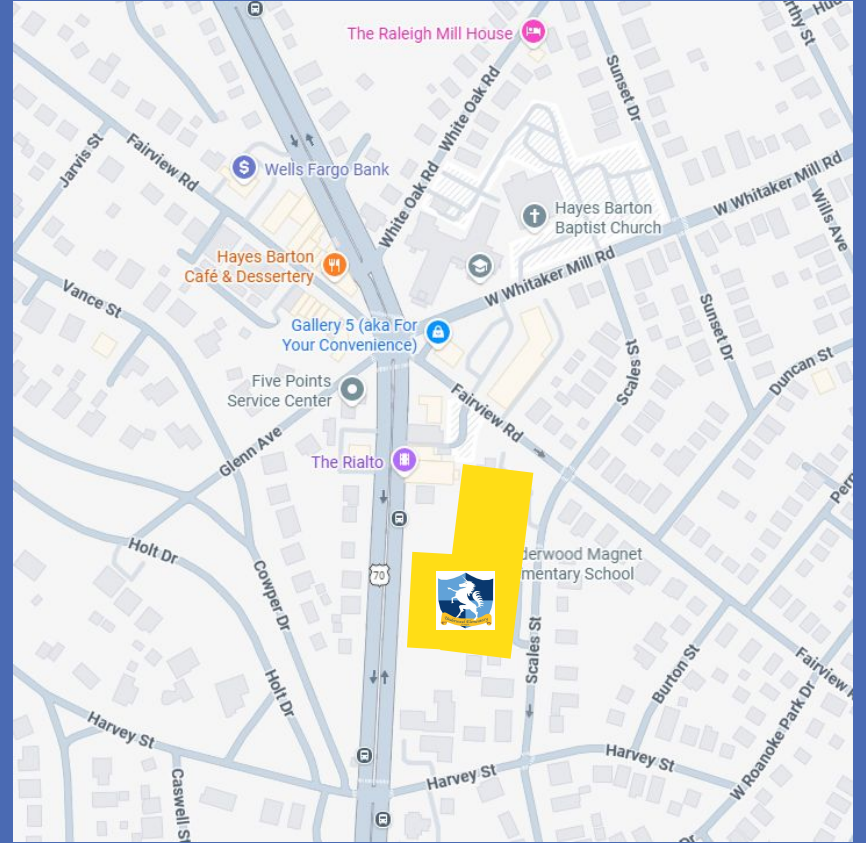
Magnet Draw Area Transportation

- Express
- Ineligible
- Neighborhood
- Parent Provide
- Base Attendance Area

**Gifted & Talented
Elementary
Schools in WCPSS**

**Underwood (1983)
Washington (GT)
Hunter (AIG/GT)
Fuller (AIG/GT)
Poe (AIG/GT)**

5 Points





Underwood was Renovated in 2001

When the county renovated, they made an agreement that we would not have any trailers.

Underwood will always be a small school ...
filled with TONS OF TALENT!

Mission

Underwood Elementary will provide a relevant and engaging education and will graduate students who are collaborative, creative, effective communicators and critical thinkers.

Vision

We challenge each child to develop their individual gifts & talents and to demonstrate academic, creative, and social growth by providing universal access to resources and opportunities in order to become a productive, responsible citizen.

Values

- We will have high expectations for all students with multiple, varied opportunities to demonstrate growth.
- We will provide an inclusive, supportive environment that embraces the diversity of all students, families, and staff.
- We will partner with our community to enhance all our programs.
- We will provide opportunities for parental & family involvement in each child's learning.
- We will personalize instructional practices to best meet the needs of all students.
- We will analyze data to guide teaching and learning.
- We will reflect on best practices in order to continuously improve.

Buses



Arrival Window: 8:45–9:15 AM

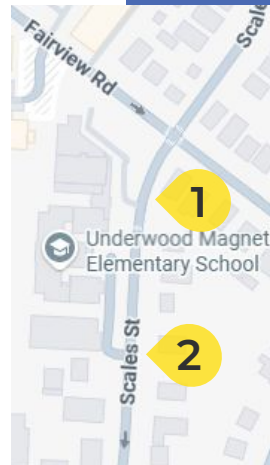
Dismissal Window: 3:45–4:15 PM

Underwood currently operates 4 buses. Families can track their child's bus using the *Here Comes the Bus* app. Arrival and departure updates are also posted on our website.

Parents who need bus transportation are expected to register during the summer.

Kindergarten & 1st Grade students NEED to have an adult meet them at the bus for them to be dropped off at their bus stop.

Carpool



Students are assigned a carpool number, and families receive a tag to display on their rearview mirror for dismissal. Carpool begins promptly at 3:45 PM and is typically complete by 4:00 PM. No tag is required for morning drop-off. To help traffic flow smoothly, please enter the school from the Glenwood side of Fairview to Scales.





Walkers

Parents can elect to either pick-up their student in the walker line or allow their student to walk home unescorted. A form will come out in August for parents to give permission for students to walk home unescorted.



YMCA Before & After School Care

Before school care is provided by the YMCA here at Underwood GT from 7:00am to 8:45am in the cafeteria & gym spaces. You will need to walk your child to the cafeteria to sign them in each morning.

After school care is also provided by the YMCA from 3:45pm-6:00pm. Students meet in the gym, have a snack, play on the playground, complete homework, and participate in group activities. You will pull up to the side door to pick up your child.

Visit

<http://www.ymcatriangle.org/schools/underwood-elementary-after-school>
for information.

Breakfast and Lunch

MY
SCHOOL
BUCKS



Underwood
Elementary

RALEIGH, North Carolina



Meals and Snacks

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Free-and-Reduced Application
- Student ID numbers
- Snacks

You can prepare at home by allowing your child to open containers, encouraging independence while cleaning up, and establishing regular meal times for your family.

Communication Tools

- Talking Points
- School Messenger
- Infinite Campus
- Tuesday Folders
- Kindergarten Daily Folders

Talking Points



- Teacher-to-Guardian Communication
- Works off your Cell Phone
- No code is needed to work
- Translates messages into the language you set up in your app

School Messenger



- How you receive messages from WCPSS
- Principal Messages
- Set it and forget it

Infinite Campus

- You will be sent a reminder email every Tuesday until you create your account
- One account per parent
- In elementary school, Attendance is the most used function for parents



Electives vs Specials

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
K	1 special	1 special + 1 elective	1 special + 1 elective	1 special + 1 elective
1st	1 special + 1 elective	2 electives	2 electives	2 electives
2nd-5th	2 electives	2 electives	2 electives	2 electives

Electives: In multiage classrooms, students attend electives 4 times a week for 40 minutes. These classes change every 8 weeks with electives down for a short time at the BOY, MOY, and EOY. 1st-5th grade students attend electives M-TH (changing quarterly). Kindergarten students start electives 2nd quarter.

Specials: Students attend specials with their homeroom class. All students attend 2 specials on Fridays while teachers dig deep with data in PLCs. Kindergarten students attend specials daily with weekly rotations. Friday specials differ by grade level. They could include: Art, Dance, Drama, Enrichment, Literacy, Media/Technology, Music, Physical Education, Spanish.

Electives

Elective classes reflect many diverse areas of study.

Robotics

Keyboarding

Drawing and Painting

Let's Experiment

Coastal Ecology

Gymnastics

Track

African Americans in U.S.

History

Spanish

Kitchen Chemistry

Ballet

Tap

Chess

Sign Language

Freaky Fractions

Theatre Production

Behind the Scenes

Tar Heel Junior Historians

Clay Sculpture

Architecture

Inventions

Intro to Engineering

Band

Strings

My Green Thumb

Yoga

Cultural Kaleidoscope

World of Wonders

Authors in the Making: Lego

Narrative Building

and many more!





Parent Elective Interest Surveys

Due: May 6, 2026

Rising Kindergarten: <https://bit.ly/RisingKElectiveInterests>

Rising 1st Grade: <https://bit.ly/Rising1stElectiveInterests>

Rising 2nd Grade: <https://bit.ly/Rising2ndElectiveInterests>

Rising 3rd Grade: <https://bit.ly/Rising3rdElectiveInterests>

Rising 4th Grade: <https://bit.ly/Rising4thElectiveInterests>

Rising 5th Grade: <https://bit.ly/Rising5thElectiveInterests>



Rising Kindergarten Parent Elective Interest Survey



Elective Brochures

Fall Semester

Brochures will come home the first day of school for 1st – 5th graders.

- Students will typically start electives the third week of school.
- Kindergarten will not start electives until 2nd quarter.

Spring Semester

Brochures will come home mid-December for all students K-5.



Elective Registration

When brochures are sent home, please review choices with your child and have them number their top 3 elective choices for each section and star their overall choice. Make sure to check and see if the elective they are choosing has a requirement of multiple quarters (example: band and strings are yearlong electives). Also, electives with * at the beginning of the title need initials next to them for your student to take them. Those electives have prerequisites; students must have taken a beginning elective before, have an IEP, intervention/enrichment needs etc. If there are initials next to the elective they can choose that elective. Registration will be based on need and availability.

Once students have numbered 1, 2, 3 in each section, send brochures back to school. The Magnet Coordinator starts registration with 5th grade and works their way down grade levels. Students in 5th-2nd grade are pulled and asked what their top choice is from what is available. Based on their answer, they're registered for their electives ensuring 1 academic and 1 art elective for each quarter.

3rd Quarter: February 3, 2025 - March 26, 2025

Elective Share: March 27, 2025

K-1 Elective - 7th Period

Academic Elective Choices

Choose your top 3 choices in this section.
Number them 1, 2, 3.

Language Arts

- *Adventures in Learning (addendum)
- Prize Winners
- *Reading Cafe

Languages

- *Continuing Spanish

Math

- Group Solutions

Media

- NC Children's Book Awards (addendum)

Science

- Animals, Animals

Social Studies

- Destiny Travel Agency

STEM

- *Fairy Tales STEM GT

Arts Elective Choices

Choose your top 3 choices in this section.
Number them 1, 2, 3.

Languages

- *Continuing Spanish

PE/Health

- Sports Arena

Performing Arts

- International Folk Dance
- K-1 Intro to Stage Musical

Visual Arts

- All Together: Art in Stories

1-2 Elective - 8th Period

Academic Elective Choices

Choose your top 3 choices in this section.
Number them 1, 2, 3.

Language Arts

- *Adventures in Learning (addendum)
- Authors in the Making: Lego Narrative Builder
- *Reading Cafe
- Sign Language

Languages

- Beginning Spanish

Math

- The Piggy Bank

Science

- African Safari
- *Protectors of the Earth GT

Arts Elective Choices

Choose your top 3 choices in this section.
Number them 1, 2, 3.

Languages

- Beginning Spanish

PE/Health

- Jump for Fun

Performing Arts

- Creative Drama
- Let's Move I
- Rhythm Band

Visual Arts

- The Feel of Things: Time & Money

The * means a teacher referral is required!

All course descriptions can be found online (see link on front of brochure)

Technology & Digital Resources

Chromebooks:

Students in K-2 use chromebooks that are assigned to a cart in the classroom.

Students in 3-5 are currently assigned a personal chromebook.



Other Digital Resources:

- Wake ID Portal
 - Discovery Ed.
 - Destiny Discover
 - Britannica
 - Renaissance learning
- Robots: Beebots, Dash, Finch & Sphero
- Lego We Do & Spike
- Micro:bit
- iPad apps

Library & Physical Resources

Library

Our library is a constant work in progress to keep our collection updated for students and staff.

Underwood PTA supports the enhancement of the library each year.



Student Circulation

The library operates on a flexible schedule where students can come independently to check books in or out.

Students use the Follett Destiny app to search the collection.

4th and 5th grade library assistants support younger students each morning.

Student Support

Help them spread their wings: Sometimes they'll fly, ...and sometimes they'll make mistakes. It's all part of learning and growing.



- Recognize the first few months are a transition period. Foster **growing independence**. Emphasize how proud you are that they are being the “big kid” now.
- Keep things as calm, predictable, and consistent as possible. They will be tired!
- Help your child by practicing activities that foster paying attention, following directions, and sitting on the carpet. Play games such as, “Simon Says”. Google related activities to practice.
- Practice giving one, two, and then three step directions (for activities they like to do).

Health Conditions

It is the parent's responsibility at the beginning of the school year to inform both their child's teachers and the school nurse if there are medical conditions that require special measures during the school day.



Form 1702

Required before medication can be given at school.

Name must match

Medication must not be expired

Kelli Hosford, BSN, RN

919 - 524 - 5652

khosford@wcpss.net

Help Stop the Spread of Illness

Symptom

Return to School

Temperature of 100.4 or higher	Fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication such as Tylenol or Motrin
Diarrhea	Free from diarrhea for 12+ hours
Nausea and Vomiting	Free from nausea and vomiting for 12+ hours
Severe Headache	Free of symptoms
Red, watery eyes with yellow discharge	Evaluated by a doctor and have a note
Inability to attend learning activities	Free of symptoms
Change in student's typical medical status	Free of symptoms
Undiagnosed Rash	Evaluated by a doctor and have a note

Immunization Requirements



Kindergarten

DTaP	5 doses
Polio	4 doses
Hib (4-YEAR-OLDS ONLY)	3-4 doses
MMR (or 2 measles, 2 mumps, 1 rubella)	2 doses
Hepatitis B	3 doses
Varicella	2 doses
Pneumococcal conjugate (4-YEAR-OLDS ONLY)	4 doses

NORTH CAROLINA HEALTH ASSESSMENT TRANSMITTAL FORM

This form and the information on this form will be maintained on file in the school attended by the student named herein and is confidential and not a public record.

(Approved by North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and Department of Health and Human Services)

PARENT TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Student Name:			
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	
Birthdate (M/D/YYYY):		School Name:	
Home Address:	City:	State:	County:
Parent Information: Name of Parent, Guardian, or person standing in loco parentis:		Telephone(s)	
		Home:	
		Work:	
		Cell Phone:	
Health Concerns to be shared with authorized persons (school administrators, teachers, and other school personnel who require such information to perform their assigned duties):			
HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION			
Medications prescribed for student:			
Student's allergies, type, and response required:			
Special diet instructions:			
Health-related recommendations to enhance the student's school performance:			
Vision screening information:			
Passed vision screening: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Concerns related to student's vision:			

Hearing screening information:				
Passed hearing screening: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
Concerns related to student's hearing:				
Recommendations, concerns, or needs related to student's health and required school follow-up:				
School follow-up needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
Medical Provider Comments:				
Please attach other applicable school health forms:				
Immunization record attached: <input type="checkbox"/>				
School medication authorization form attached: <input type="checkbox"/>				
Diabetes care plan attached: <input type="checkbox"/>				
Asthma action plan attached: <input type="checkbox"/>				
Health care plans for other conditions attached: <input type="checkbox"/>				
Health Care Professional's Certification				
I certify that I performed, on the student named above, a health physical examination with screening for vision and hearing, and if form is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.				
Name:				
Signature: _____				
Practice/Clinic Name:			Practice/Clinic Address:	
Practice/Clinic City:	State:	Zip:	Phone:	Fax:
Provider Stamp Here:				

NC Health Assessment

Required within 30 days of the first day of school—September 23.
Children will be excluded from school after this date until the form is received.

Kindergarten Staggered Entry

- Staggered Entry is aimed at helping ease your child's transition into Kindergarten with small group orientation.
- Smaller group sizes allow the staff to offer individual attention and support as children try new things.
- Goal is to promote student success through early identification of developmental needs & learning styles.
- Students will be assessed on:
 - Basic number knowledge and fluency (1-20)
 - Foundational literacy skills (letter names/sounds)





2026

Kindergarten Staggered Entry

August

Student only attends on their **one** assigned day.

Mon 24

Staggered
Entry

8:45-3:45

Tue 25

Staggered
Entry

8:45-3:45

Wed 26

Staggered
Entry

8:45-3:45

Thu 27

Teacher
Assignment



Fri 28

K Meet
the Teacher

2:00-3:00



Remote Learning

Underwood GT Magnet Elementary's plan for learning if WCPSS declares a remote learning day due to bad weather/emergency.

All remote learning days will be asynchronous.

This means:

- There will be **no live Google Meets**
- Teachers will **not** teach lessons in real time
- Students may complete assignments **at a time that works best for their family.**

This structure is intentional and designed to provide flexibility for families during weather-related or emergency situations.

Remote Learning

Grades K-2: Paper/Pencil with Optional Digital Access

- Learning will be primarily paper-and-pencil, with optional digital access.
- Families will receive a TalkingPoints message with a link to daily grade-level folders.
- Families may: print assignments, **or** have students complete work on blank paper at home.

Asynchronous remote learning might include:

- Phonics/Letterland
- Handwriting
- Math: spiral review and DreamBox
- Science or Social Studies: a MyOn reading with a written response

If we have advance notice of a weather event, paper packets may be sent home. Additional packets may also be provided upon return to school, if needed.

Remote Learning

Grades 3-5: Canvas-Based Learning

- Students will access assignments through **Canvas** .
- Homeroom teachers will post a **Remote Learning Module** that includes
 - **ELA:** (possible example: a reading passage with questions)
 - **Math:** (possible example: spiral review and DreamBox)
 - **Science or Social Studies** : (possible example: a MyOn reading with a written response)

Students may complete work digitally **or** families may choose to print assignments from Canvas.

School devices will not be sent home in anticipation of bad weather. Families may use a home device if available or print assignments as needed.

Remote Learning

Attendance & Completion Window

- Students will have **up to five school days after returning to school** to complete and submit assignments.
- Work **completed** during this window will allow students to be counted **present** for the remote learning day.
- Work **not completed**, the student will be marked as **absent** for that remote learning date.



School Wide Events

Arts Pleasure

Cultural Arts Programs

First in Fitness

Field Day

Holiday Performances

Quarterly Elective Shares

Science Olympiad

Theater Production



Parent Partners

If you're a parent new to Underwood,
You might have some questions.

- How do I fill out this elective brochure?
- How does my child get assigned to an elective?
- What's the best way
to ask the teacher some questions?
- What about carpool vs. walkers?
- Where are the best places to park?

BREAKING NEWS:

In September, you will receive a form asking you if you'd like a Parent Partner to help with these kinds of questions when they arise. ...Or if you are a seasoned parent, if you'd like to BE a Parent Partner -Mrs. Pesce



Kate Handfield
DESIGNS



Ways the Foundation raises money:

- One-time/Recurring donations
 - Giving Tuesday Campaign (Nov)
 - Night of the Unicorns (Apr/May)
- www.underwood.givesmart.com





UNDERWOOD PTA

Helps to support:

- Technology
 - Media Center Collection
 - Instructional Supplies
 - Professional Development Opportunities
 - Teacher Stipends
- ...and more!



PTA Supported Events

- Back To School Picnic
- Unicorn Trot
- Spring Fling
- Science Olympiad
- Book Fair
- Cultural Arts
- Trunk or Treat
- Movie Night
- Unicornia Store
- Artspleasure
- Field Day
- Staff Appreciation Week



Underwood GT Magnet
ELEMENTARY FOUNDATION



UNDERWOOD PTA

Underwood Magnet Elementary School

PTA & Foundation Interest Form



We look forward to connecting with you in the upcoming school year. Welcome to Underwood!





Kindergarten Playdate on the Playground

Kindergarten students with families, meet on the Underwood Playground on July 18 from 9-11 am! The building will be closed during the event. The closest restroom is Walgreens.

Underwood Spirit Day at Big Air

Underwood students with families, meet at Big Air (state you're an Underwood family so our PTA will get credit) and jump with other Underwood friends! PTA will share date when it's decided. Will be a week or 2 before school starts.

Marbles Kids Museum

Kick-off to Kindergarten

Get ready for Kindergarten with engaging activities and programming to help rising Kindergartners and their families prepare for school. *This is a free event. Registration is required.*

Year-Round: Thursday, June 25, 2026 • 3pm-7pm

Traditional: Saturday, August 22, 2026 • 9am-5pm



Sessions are 30 minute blocks between 9:00-3:00. Need to register on their website.



**MID
AUG**

1st-5th grade families notified the name of teacher and school supplies needed.

**AUG
20**

5:00-6:00 PM 1st-5th Meet the Teacher
5:30-6:00 PM New Family School Tour

**AUG
24**

1st Day of School for grades 1-5

**AUG
24-26**

Kindergarten Staggered Entry

**AUG
28**

2:00-3:00 PM Kindergarten Meet the Teacher

**AUG
31**

1st Day of School for Kindergarten

**BEG.
SEPT**

Family Picnic



Beginning of the Year Events





Get and stay connected..



Underwood GT Magnet Elementary



underwood_unicorns



Questions & Answers Around the Room





**Welcome
to the family!**

We are lucky to have you!

#smallschoolbigtalent