



FAQ for Families | Updated January 6, 2020

Should our family be excited about this move?

Absolutely! This is a unique opportunity for our students to attend school on a university campus; our co-location on the UTSA Downtown Campus has the potential to provide HFA: Alameda School students with the motivation, focus, and a new appreciation for what college can provide and what it takes to succeed.

Why are we moving?

In short, we need a temporary, appropriate learning space. The City of San Antonio is undertaking an extensive transformation of the Alameda Theater complex, where HFA: Alameda School is currently located. School leaders have been working diligently in partnership with the City of San Antonio for some time to determine the impact of the renovation on the high school and students, and creatively plan forward. This includes identifying and formalizing the use of an appropriate, temporary learning space as construction expands into the current school space and the impact becomes more than internet outages and the noise of building equipment.

Is this move permanent? When will we return to Casa de Mexico?

This is a temporary move. The City of San Antonio anticipates that the school will be able to return to the Alameda Theater complex within 18 months.

When will the move start and be completed?

HFA: Alameda School's relocation to UTSA will happen over the upcoming holiday break. Students will begin classes at our new home at UTSA on January 8, 2020; our staff returns earlier, on January 6, which gives them time to unpack, become more familiar with the campus, and get settled. As we created the 2019-2020 school schedule, we anticipated some disruption due to the Alameda Theater complex construction, so we built extra days into the school schedule. As a result, students will not lose instruction time as we pack and transition into the new space at UTSA.

How will the school and the university community differentiate between HFA: Alameda School students and UTSA students?

High school students and staff will be required to wear school-issued ID while on UTSA Downtown Campus.

What is the school's phone number and mailing address while at UTSA?

We are planning to maintain the same phone number. Our mailing address will be:

501 W. Cesar Chavez Blvd

San Antonio TX 78207

Attn: Henry Ford Academy - BVB - 3rd Fl.

Will there be any changes to my child's educational program?

HFA: Alameda School will maintain the same focus on its nationally-recognized and award-winning educational program and strong student personal and academic outcomes. We do not anticipate any changes to your child's educational program, outside of those that might enrich learning outcomes for students or might happen in any given school year.

What is the formal relationship between HFA: Alameda School and UTSA?

While the HFA: Alameda School and UTSA relationship is formally a tenant-landlord arrangement, UTSA administration is eager to help our students develop college connections and provide facilities that will enrich both mind and body, including learning studios, and scheduled access to the exercise room, large meeting spaces, theater, and outdoor event patio. UTSA will also display the high school students' artwork in designated public spaces. Families have inquired about our students' ability to use campus library resources and we will explore this question with UTSA.

Will there be an academic partnership between UTSA and HFA: Alameda School?

We are in the process of better understanding what a structured academic partnership might look like.

What time will school start and end?

There will be no changes to our start and end times. School begins at 8:55am and ends at 4:15pm. There will be no changes to tutoring schedules.

Where do I drop off and pick up my child each day?

UTSA has developed a plan for an efficient drop off and pick up process that utilizes the Monterey Lot which is directly across S. Frio Street from the school. Drivers will enter the Monterey Lot from Buena Vista St. (as the graphic below shows) and wrap around the Monterey Building. Students will enter/exit cars in this lot. They will use the new "HAWK" light at the crosswalk to cross S. Frio Street when going to/from the Monterey Lot.



Where do students have breakfast and gather before school?

All students will gather in the Assembly Room on the ground floor of the adjacent S. Frio Street Building before school every morning. Breakfast will be served.

Where does my child wait if I am unable to pick them up by 5:00pm?

After 5:00pm, students may remain in the building where our school is located (as well as Starbucks), the cafeteria, or a variety of other spaces across campus. As with our W. Houston St. location, students are not monitored by HFA: Alameda School staff after 5:00pm.

How do I pick my child up for an appointment during the school day?

Student attendance is critical to strong academic outcomes. Whenever possible, please schedule appointments outside of regular school hours. On the rare instances when you do need to pick your child up during the school day, please call the Main Office at 210-226-4031 when you arrive outside the Buena Vista Street Building. We will then pull your child from class and direct them to you.

What procedures are in place to ensure that my child has a safe experience at UTSA?

HFA: Alameda School for Art + Design, along with UTSA, will ensure student safety while allowing students to experience and embrace a college-going climate. The dedicated learning spaces are located in the securely protected and monitored Buena Vista Street building on the UTSA Downtown Campus; the UTSA Police Department is also housed in this building and is on duty 24 hours a day. We will develop and maintain a strong relationship with the UTSA Police Department, make certain that all students and faculty wear HFA: Alameda School for Art + Design ID while on campus, constantly monitor hallways and collaborative spaces, and maintain a strong relationship with the UTSA Police Department.

Where and what will my student eat?

We will continue to provide a well-balanced lunch and breakfast. Students who have earned flexible privileges will be allowed to choose where they purchase meals or eat their packed lunch on the UTSA Downtown Campus.

Does this move change anything for my graduating Senior?

Senior year is very important and our Seniors will complete their core program as planned. We are certain that even this year's graduating Seniors will have an experience enhanced by the co-location with UTSA.

Is parking available?

Visitor parking is available in short term spaces for a small fee. There are options for paid student parking. We are working on the specifics.

Will the school still assist with VIA Transportation?

Yes. HFA: Alameda School will continue its commitment to aid students with public transportation needs to and from school.

How can I help make this transition a success?

We have THE BEST families in San Antonio. Please continue to be a part of our school's strong network of support by being active in school events, patient with and supportive of one another, and an ambassador who encourages new families to join us. If you would like to volunteer to help with the transition in some way, please contact Mr. Montez (jmontez@thealamedaschool.org).

Who do I contact with further questions?

Please contact Mr. Montez (jmontez@thealamedaschool.org) directly with any questions. He will also reach out to families individually over the next few weeks.