

UNION ELEMENTARY @ LA PORTE CITY



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Union Community School District

Next Week's Schedule

Mon., Aug. 27 - 3rd Day of School - Day 3
- Regular Day of School
Tues., Aug. 28 - 4th Day of School - Day 4
- Regular Day of School
Wed., Aug. 29 - 5th Day of School - Day 5
- Regular Day of School
Thurs., Aug. 30 - 6th Day of School - Day 6
- Regular Day of School
Fri., Aug. 31 - 7th Day of School - Day 1
- 2:25/2:35 Early Dismissal
Mon. Sept. 3 - No School - Labor Day

News from the Principal

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year. I am very excited about starting my fourteenth year as the k-5 elementary principal here at Union in La Porte City. I am looking forward to building on the last thirteen years' successes. This will be my twenty-eighth year in education and my eighteenth year as an elementary principal. Our goal is to create a positive atmosphere in our building where education is engaging, exciting, challenging, and a fun place for our students. The safety and learning of our students are our top priorities. I feel with our teachers, parents, and students all working together, this will be a great year for our children.

Start Time

At Union Elementary in La Porte City our school will begin at 8:05am with the tardy bell. Students can start coming into the building at 8:00 and go straight to their classroom. If they come before 8:00, they are to go to the gym. Students eating breakfast may enter the front doors of the building **no earlier than 7:40**. Serving ends at 7:55am for breakfast.

Please do not drop your children off to school before 7:40am as no direct supervision is available until then.

Visitors

Parents are welcome to visit their child in school. Please give the teachers and students a few weeks to establish classroom routines and expectations before coming to visit. We ask that you check in at the office and sign in the notebook on the counter. If you are coming for lunch, please call ahead of time so we can add you to our lunch count.

Elementary Theme - Motto

This year's elementary theme will be **"All In - Every Child - Every Day."** This will be our 5th year that our building focus is on a professional development process called (PLC) or Professional Learning Communities. We also will be using the motto "Come Grow with Us" as our focus on having a growth mindset. We will continue our commitment as a team to meet the needs of all of our students together, for every child, everyday! We will be embracing the vision of all students will learn from the thought that all student can learn. It is our responsibility to do everything possible to make this happen. The PLC process involves the teachers working in grade levels across the district in weekly meetings. This will continue to help us in making a better connection between teaching effectiveness, learning, assessing, reviewing data results, reteaching, differentiation of instruction, and meeting student's needs. This again will be a great challenge for all of us to take on. We want to continue our transformation from a good school, to a great school, and then on to an awesome school!!! I believe if we all work together as one team in a supporting, encouraging, challenging, and reflecting way, then our students will learn more than we ever imagined they could. We will decide what we want students to learn, find out if they have learned, challenge them if they do learn, and respond appropriately with time and support when they have not. We are ready to do our part to support, guide, encourage, motivate, and lead our building in a collaborative environment where all students will learn. All In - Every Child - Every Day!!!!

Holiday Early Dismissal Friday - Labor Day

Just a reminder that all Union Community School District buildings will dismiss early on the day proceeding a holiday or holiday break. This includes Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and Memorial Day. This upcoming Friday, we will have a scheduled early dismissal for the Labor Day weekend. At the elementary building, the 2:15 early dismissal time really translates to 2:25 for town/car riders and 2:35 for bus students. Please make sure your child knows of any changes to their normal pick up routines for early dismissals.

No School Monday

We will have no school this upcoming Monday, September 3 since it is the Labor Day Holiday. It will be a great 3 day weekend break. School will resume on Tuesday, September 4.

This Past Week's Highlights

- **Open House:** Thanks to all of the parents who attended our open house at the LPC elementary building on Tuesday evening. A special thanks to custodians and teachers who worked so hard to get our building ready for another school year. It was great to see so many of the students and parents that night before the first day of school.

- **1st Day of School Flag Raising**

Ceremony: Yesterday, we kicked off the new school year with a flag raising ceremony led by the local American Legion Post 207. A legion member and I talked to our students about freedom and the symbolism that our flag has for us. Our school motto was discussed as well as doing their very best this school year. All of the teachers were introduced to the students. I then shared my enthusiasm and excitement about the great new ALL IN school year we will all have. It was a great 1st day of school for our elementary students.

- **August/September Lunch Menus:**

Yesterday, the August lunch/breakfast menus were sent home with students. Also on the calendar is the number of the 6 day cycle for art, music, P.E., library, and guidance. Calendars will be sent home each month.

Upcoming Dates

Aug. 23 - 1st day of School

Aug. 31 - Early Dismissal(2:25 Town/Walkers)(2:35 Bus)

Sept. 3 - Labor Day Holiday - No School

Sept. 14 - School Pictures

Sept. 25-28 - Homecoming Week

Sept. 24 - No School: Teacher Professional Development

Newsletters

This is the first of weekly newsletters that the youngest or only child of each family will be bringing home on Fridays throughout the school year. The main purpose of this newsletter is to form strong lines of communication between our elementary school and you, the parents. By sending these home on Fridays, you will have an opportunity to look at the upcoming events for the next week and have a chance to prepare for them over the weekend. Ask your child for this newsletter printed on red each Friday and post it in a place where you can use it to organize your child's week. Effective communication is the key to our success! If we don't have school on a Friday, the newsletters will be given out earlier that week.

6th Year of the Buzzer Check In System

This year will be our fifth year with our new buzzer check in system to the main office. Parents will need to enter the front set of doors as usual, but will need to press the monitor buzzer system near the left side of the office door/window to be allowed into the office. The secretaries will then press the release button to let you in the office door. The second set of doors will be locked in the morning after the 8:05 tardy bell and opened at the 3:10 dismissal bell. After checking into the office, parents then will have access to their child's classroom. We are doing the buzzer procedure in the effort of safety and to make sure all parents remember to check into the office, before going to their child's classroom.

Volunteers & Substitutes

We are always in need of volunteers and substitutes throughout the school year. If you are interested in volunteering in the classrooms and/or substituting as a classroom teacher, secretary, nurse, cook, or associate, please contact the elementary office.

Parent/Student Handbook on our Webpage

Usually we would hand out our Parent/Student Handbook at registration, but now that we have online registration we will put the handbook on our webpage. The handbook has information that is specifically for the LPC Elementary. There will also be a general all district handbook that will be online. Please take a few minutes to review the handbook with your child. Your child's teacher will review important information in the handbook the first few days at school. I will also come around to each classroom and stress the importance of making positive choices according to the handbook. Schools run very smoothly when everyone understands and follow the same procedures and expectations. Your cooperation with the handbook is appreciated.

Collections for the year

Once again the La Porte City Elementary School will be collecting the following items throughout the entire school year. These items can be collected and turned into school: Box Tops for Education, pop top tabs, and Hy-Vee pink receipts. At the LPC Elementary, proceeds are used for building and classroom instructional supplies that enrich the overall education of the students.

Change of Plans

Students who have a change of plans that varies from their typical after school routines need to bring a note from home stating their intentions. This is a safety issue as we want to keep track of the children and let bus drivers know of changes.

Attendance Policy

Our district has an attendance policy in which we are trying to reduce the number of days students are absent from school. Please refer to the handbook for more information.

Assignment Books

Students in grades third, fourth, and fifth will be using assignment books again this year. Each classroom teacher will be discussing their expectations in using these with their students.

