

# UNION ELEMENTARY @ LA PORTE CITY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



ISSUE #24

UNION COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

"EDUCATION TO MEET TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES"

"ALL IN – EVERY CHILD – EVERY DAY"

FEB. 15, 2019

## Next Week's Schedule

- Mon., Feb. 18** - 102nd Day of School - Day 6  
- Regular Day
- Tues., Feb. 19** - 103rd Day of School - Day 1  
- Regular Day of School
- Wed., Feb. 20** - 104th Day of School - Day 2  
- Water Rocks Science Assembly
- Thurs., Feb. 21** - 105th Day of School - Day 3  
- Regular Day of School
- Fri., Feb. 22** - 106th Day of School - Day 4  
- Regular Day of School

## Late Starts, Early Outs, No School

Union Community School District serves the communities of La Porte City and Dysart, which covers over 256 square miles and is in the 3 counties of Black Hawk, Tama, and Benton. Our transportation hubs are the middle school in Dysart and the high school in La Porte City. Having many rural bus routes and the size of our district in 3 different counties is challenging in the winter months dealing with snow, ice, winds, and hazardous roads conditions. We will try to use all of our possible options to have school while working around the winter weather and poor driving conditions. Just a reminder that inclement weather announcements about the late starts, early dismissals, and no school will be made on the radio and television stations listed below. These changes are always done with the safety of our students and staff in mind.

**AM Radio:** KXEL-1540, KWLO-1330, WMT-600, KOEL-950

**FM Radio:** KOKZ-105.7, KFMW-108, WMT-96.5, KKCW-98.5

**Television:** KWVL-7, KGAN-2, KCRG-9

**School Alerts:** Iowa School Alerts Gov delivery

**Internet:** [kwwl.com](http://kwwl.com), [kgan.com](http://kgan.com), [kcrg.com](http://kcrg.com)  
[www.union.k12.ia.us](http://www.union.k12.ia.us)

**Facebook:** Union Community School District

## Hard Surface Bus Routes

This is just a reminder to bus route parents. Due to the soft gravel roads and the possibility of having to go to hard surface routes in the winter and spring, your student's hard surface information can be found on your JMC account. Click on the bus tab on the left of the screen. If we decide to go hard surface, a notice will be sent out as usual. If you have any questions, contact Mike Timmer @ [m\\_timmer@union.k12.ia.us](mailto:m_timmer@union.k12.ia.us) or the Bus Barn at 319-342-3286. The District Office number is 319-342-2674.

## Upcoming Dates

- Feb. 1 - Reading Around the World Day  
Feb. 5 - 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Report Card Sent Home  
Feb. 12 - 100th Day of School  
Feb. 14 - Valentine's Parties  
Feb. 25 - No School - Teacher Inservice

## The Gold Star Award

Last week, students brought home brochures to nominate their teachers for the Golden Star Award for Outstanding Teaching. If you would like to nominate an LPC elementary teacher, please fill out the form and return it to the elementary office this week. We feel all of our teachers are golden star teachers. We have some that have won the award in the past.

## Iowa School Alerts: School Notification System

The State of Iowa (Iowa School Alerts) notification system that has been in use in the district for many years has been upgraded. In order to receive email or text messages from Union Community School District, you will need to subscribe to the service. Sign up for texts and email notification at <https://insights.govdelivery.com/accounts/IAEDU6536/subscriber/new>.

## Lunch Money Reminders

Just a reminder to parents to keep a close eye on your child's lunch account each month to make sure the balance is in the positive. Adding money to your child's account at the beginning of each month on a regular basis will eliminate any worries or confusion of having a negative balance. Remember that your account will be used up quicker if your child also eats breakfast. Notes are given to students to take home if their lunch balance is at \$4.00 or below. Our JMC program automatically emails parents as an additional reminder of low lunch account balances. I do see the daily print outs and do call parents if their accounts reach a large amount of negative balance. We track the negative lunch balances each day and that is sent over to the district office. They check it over and ask us to make sure to remind parents that the auditors discourage us from having large amounts of negative balances in this account, since it is not a charge account. Your help and assistance is needed in this area. Please call the elementary office if you have any questions.



Good Afternoon Knights!

The past couple of weeks have been trying for our families, schools, and communities. From snow, to blowing snow, to record-setting cold, to ice, to maybe even more snow, each day has presented a new challenge regarding delaying or canceling school. I want to make it clear that my number one priority is student and staff safety. We do our absolute best to use the information we have available to make the best decision possible. Sometimes it works as planned, and sometimes Mother Nature has other ideas.

While the weather the past three weeks has disrupted learning, we are also aware it has disrupted your lives as well. We know that delaying or canceling school forces you to adjust your schedules to find daycare and change appointments, etc. For your patience and support of the school district, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you.

I would also like thank Mike Timmer, the maintenance staff, the transportation staff, Tina Hanna, and the food service staff. The maintenance staff have been working diligently to keep snow removed and the buildings ready for your student(s) and staff. The transportation staff have been taking on record-setting low temperatures and keeping our bus fleet moving with minimal issues. Tina and her staff have made multiple adjustments to meals with minimal notice and have always made any schedule work. Our bus drivers...if you haven't ventured out beyond the highways or county blacktops, don't, but if you have, you will understand the great job these folks are doing.

Finally, many of you are wondering how all of these missed days will impact the school's calendar. First, remember that it is still February, and just because Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow, it is still Iowa and unfortunately there is still more winter weather to come. That being said, the school board will be discussing any adjustment to the school calendar at the February school board meeting. Based on their decision we will share that information with you as soon as possible.

We are very fortunate at Union to have great students with supportive families. We deeply appreciate your patience and support should we be forced to adjust the school calendar further as the result of weather.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly with questions or concerns.

Have a safe and enjoyable weekend,

Mr. Fleshner