UNION ELEMENTARY @ LA PORTE CITY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

UNION COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

"EDUCATION TO MEET TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES"

"ALL IN – EVERY CHILD – EVERY DAY"

ISSUE #2

AUG. 30, 2019

Next Week's Schedule

Mon. Sept. 2 - No School - Labor Day
Tues., Sept. 3 - 7th Day of School - Day 1(M&L)
- School Resumes
- PTO Meeting 6:00 pm
Wed., Sept. 4 - 8th Day of School - Day 2(A&PE)
- Regular Day of School
Thurs., Sept. 5 - 9th Day of School-Day 3(M&PE)
- Regular Day of School
Fri., Sept. 6 - 10th Day of School-Day 4(A&M)
- Regular Day of School

No School Monday

This upcoming Monday, we will have no school due to the Labor Day holiday. It will be a great three day weekend. With six good days of school behind us, it will be a nice short break for our younger students. On Tuesday, the students will start back at it and will get back into their regular routines/schedules at school.

Lunch Policy Reminders

The Iowa Department of Education and our Union Community School District auditors have advised us to incorporate new measures to reduce excessive negative lunch balances last year. **As started 2 years ago, if we do not receive payment by the time the amount reaches $-20.00, we will ask your child to bring a cold lunch until the negative account is taken care of.** Students will continue to bring home negative lunch slips. Parents will receive emails about your child's negative lunch balance. Parents can also set up an online account with JMC and add money online to their child's account. A password needs to be set up with the office. A reminder that our lunch program is not a charge type of system. We thank parents for keeping your lunch accounts in the positive.

A Reminder on Start Time

At Union Elementary at 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.***

Upcoming Dates

Aug. 23 - 1st day of School
Aug. 30 - Early Dismissal(2:25 Town/Walkers)(2:40 Bus)
Sept. 2 - Labor Day Holiday - No School
Sept. 13 - School Pictures
Oct. 7-11- Homecoming Week

Home Football Games

Our first varsity home football game will be coming up next Friday night. A reminder that there is **No Smoking allowed on the Union Community School District grounds** pursuant to the Iowa Smokefree Air Act. The school does not provide direct supervision of students, but will uphold appropriate student behavior and student expectations as follows: 1. Ideally, elementary students should sit with their parents or in small parent-supervised groups in the bleachers and **watch the game**. 2. Students are **not allowed to bring footballs** to the game. 3. **No students are allowed on the practice field.** 4. We also are asking that students dispose of all plastic bottles properly in the waste cans available. **No kicking or throwing of pop bottles will be allowed.** ***Also we ask that students do not sit or stand in the middle of the brick retaining wall under the scoreboard***. Your cooperation is needed and very much appreciated. We want students to have fun and show their school spirit in a positive way.

Morning Drop off Zone Reminders

A reminder to parents that your help is needed before school to ensure the safety of all children and also provide smooth drop zone procedures. We are asking that if parents need to park their car and come into the building with their child, that they ***park at the far end of the drop off zone past the sign.*** This needs to be available for buses and also parents who are just dropping their children off to school from 7:30-8:05. ***Parents who need to come in the building need to park at the end of the drop off lane. The side parking lot on Gates Street is also open for parents to park and come in the building.*** Thank you for helping make the dropoff time in the morning safe and stress free.

September Lunch Menu

Today students brought home the September lunch menu/special day schedule for the month. The 6 day cycle of Music, PE, Library, and Art is included on the menu.

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.

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. Please contact the office by 8:30 if your child will be home sick for the day.

Newsletters

This is the second of weekly newsletters that will be sent out via our JMC email system on Fridays throughout the school year. These will also be on our Union Community school webpage under the La Porte city Elementary tab. 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. If you need a newsletter printed out for you please let your child's teacher know. 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.

7th Year of the Buzzer Check In System

This year will be our sixth 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

Our district website has our building's Parent/Student Handbook online. The first part of the handbook has information that is specifically for the LPC Elementary. The back part of the handbook has general information for our district. 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.

Assignment Books

Students in grades 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.

Bus Safety - A must everyday!

If your child rides the bus, please review the bus procedures in our online elementary handbook. Our bus drivers need to concentrate on their driving and extra noise along with students misbehaving can be a distraction. Please remind your child that riding on a bus is a privilege and students will lose those privileges for repeated bus referrals. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter to ensure all of our students follow proper bus rules and stay safe.