UNION ELEMENTARY @ LA PORTE CITY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Union Community School District

LETTER #3 | ***"Education To Meet Tomorrow's Challenges"*** | **Sept. 4, 2020**

Next Week's Schedule

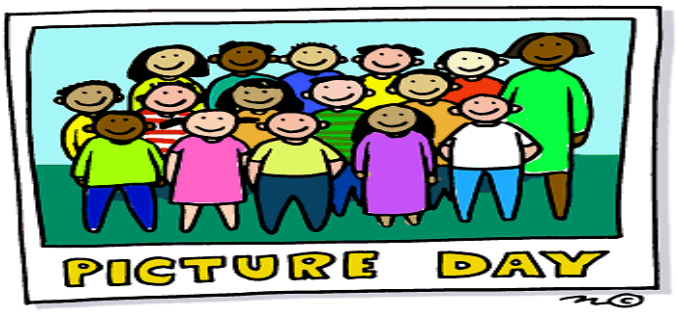
Mon. Sept. 7 - No School - Labor Day
Tues., Sept. 8 - 8th Day of School - Day 2(A&PE)
- School Resumes
- 2:25/2:35 Early Dismissal
Wed., Sept. 9 - 9th Day of School - Day 3(M&PE)
- 2:25/2:35 Early Dismissal
Thurs., Sept. 10 - 10th Day of School-Day 4(A&M)
- 2:25/2:35 Early Dismissal
Fri., Sept. 11 - 11th Day of School-Day 5(P&L)
- 2:25/2:35 Early Dismissal

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 seven 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.

School Pictures

In a week or so, your child will bring home a Lifetouch Photography school picture form. Take a moment to look over the form and pick the package that best suits your needs. La Porte City Elementary School pictures will be taken this Friday, September 25. Don't forget to have your child bring back their picture forms. Students are not required to purchase these pictures, but all students will have their picture taken for the class composite. If for some reason your child cannot attend school on this day, picture retakes will be done on November 6.



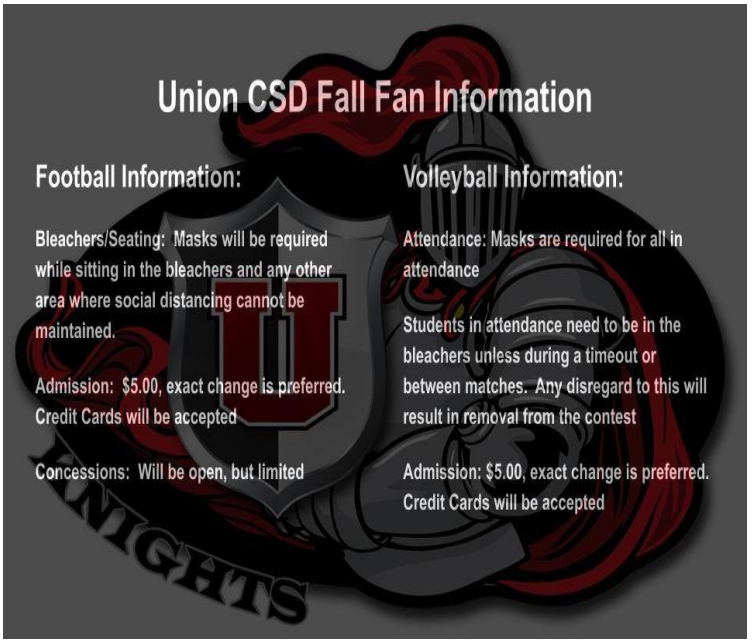
Upcoming Dates

Aug. 27 - 1st Day of School
- Early Dismissal until October 2
- 2:25Walkers/2:35 Bus students

Sept. 7 - Labor Day Holiday - No School
Sept. 25 - School Pictures

Home Football Games

Our first varsity home football game was last week. Our next home game is next Friday. 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 or on the hill 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. Please practice social distancing and face coverings are required in the stands.



CONSTITUTION DAY
SEPTEMBER 17TH

Constitution Day Honored Sept. 17

We will celebrate the annual Constitution Day on Thursday, September 17. The federal legislation passed over ten years ago, requires schools to conduct events on this day centered around the history of the Constitution. Teaching about the constitution will be done in a variety of different ways in each grade level in the elementary building. Teachers and students will discuss topics involving the branches of government, the constitution, the Bill of Rights, and other areas related to this topic. It is important to teach these concepts to our children. We encourage students to wear red, white, and blue that day.

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.

Good Sportsmanship

As the junior high and high school football, volleyball, and cross-country seasons are ready to begin, our district needs your help. As parents and role models, we need you to set the tone at all games. We need you to support our players, cheerleaders, and coaches in a positive manner that represents our school with pride. Come cheer on the Knights to V-I-C-T-O-R-Y! Go Knights!

New Social Worker at Union

Please see the following information from our new district social worker attached. Beth will be working part time in all four buildings in our district. She can be reached at bweber@centralriversaea.org

Gates Street Side Reminders

A reminder to parents picking up students on Gates Street in the afternoon. Please do not have your child cross the street unattended. It is OK for parents to come across the street and meet them so they do not have to cross the street by themselves.

Parent Return to Schools Plan

Listed below are specific building guidelines that the La Porte City Elementary building will follow for the 2020-21 school year. These guidelines were developed from recommendations from the Black Hawk County Public Health Department and our Union Community School District's Return to Learn Plan. Some of these guidelines may be subject to change as recommended by the Public Health Department and Department of Education.

Main Focus

All plans are designed around the main focus of social distancing and the safety of our students and staff. This will be done with keeping classrooms and grade levels together as much as possible and not mixing with other grades

Start Date & Time

Union Community Schools will begin face to face classes on Aug. 27, 2020. We moved the start date back from Aug. 24, due to power outage in the district. We will still run a shortened day schedule from 8:00-2:15 district-wide. At the LPC elementary, 2:15 is actually 2:25 for walkers/town students and 2:35 for bus students. A shortened day schedule will run from August 27 to October 2. We will re-evaluate this schedule as the fall progresses. The 2:35-3:30 time will be for teachers to work on Remote Learning, PLC's, grade level meetings, and planning time. If the district decides to have a two hour late start due to weather conditions, the district will follow a two hour late start schedule with a regular dismissal time of 3:10 walkers/town - 3:25 for bus.

Prescreen Students at Home

Parents will screen their children at home for fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Call the elementary office and a medical professional if your child is symptomatic. Students do not report to school if they are symptomatic.

Pick Up and Drop Off Of Students

Parents are encouraged to stay in their vehicles during drop-off and pick-up times and/or practice social distancing if you need to come to the office. If picking up for an appointment, please call the office, and we will send your student out to you.

Entering and Exiting the Building

Students will enter and exit the building through their classroom's outside door following the schedule below:

Gates St. Side	Main Hallway	Fillmore St. Side
KP	KJ	TK
KL	1P	4N
1J	1D	4S
2N	3A	4J
2P		5S
3G		5B

Preschool will use the side door next to the SB field

In the morning, students will report directly to their classroom. If they are having breakfast, they will then go to the breakfast room after they have dropped off their backpacks and coats. ***If students are not riding the bus and will not be eating breakfast they are encouraged not to come to school prior to 8:00. All students need to be in the building by the 8:05 Tardy Bell.*** Students and parents are encouraged not to congregate at or around their student's classroom's door before and after school. During dismissal, classrooms will be released one at a time.

Classrooms

Student desks will be spaced out in the classroom as much as possible (3-6 feet apart) for social distancing, facing the same direction. Community sharing items will be limited as much as possible - students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after the use of them. When students are in small groups they will wear masks and be with others that they normally sit near. Hallway doors will be left opened to reduce the number of students touching the door handles throughout the day. When lining up, students will be near others that they sit by and should keep their hands to themselves, wear masks, and practice social distancing. Student backpacks will be spaced out using the classroom hooks or spaced out around the room. All classes will be required to keep track of seating charts in large and small groups.

Face Coverings

Face coverings that cover the mouth and nose will be required for all PK-12 (including 4 year old preschool) students and staff on buses, hallway passing time, and in classrooms where social distancing is difficult to maintain. Face covering breaks will be given each class period. Some classes might be able to make covering exceptions, as directed by the teacher, if students are participating in non-verbal work such as reading or assessments. Union CSD recognizes that student abilities and tolerances for wearing a face covering will differ by age and thus, expectations may differ at the elementary level. Students with medical exceptions will be required to have documentation. Students who refuse to wear a face covering while in the building will have to choose the online learning option. Students will be provided with a lanyard to keep their mask on when they are not wearing it and bags to place them in at while eating.

Special Classes

PE will be outside as much as possible and when physical distancing is possible, masks will be optional. Face coverings will be encouraged in all special classrooms including music. Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 4th grade will have some mixed classrooms for specials in the same grade level – they will wear face coverings and social distancing will be observed between classrooms. If possible at times the special area and special education teachers will try to come into the regular classroom. In 4th & 5th Grades, the departmentalized setting of students moving rooms will be limited this year for social studies and science. In special education classes, students from different grades will be separated in the room as much as possible. Tables/desks will be disinfected after each class has left the rooms in the special areas (Art, Library, Guidance), title I reading, and special education.

Recesses

Students are to wash their hands/sanitize before and after recess. They will stay with their own grade level peers. They are asked to physical distance and not to participate in activities that involve close contact. Students may wear their face coverings at recess.

Hand Washing and Santizing

Students and staff will wash or sanitize their hands upon entering and exiting the building in their classrooms. They will continue to wash their hands throughout the day when entering and exiting individual classrooms, cafeteria, recesses, and special classes.

Touch Surface Cleaning

Enhanced cleaning protocols will be in place throughout the day by all staff and after hours by the custodial staff. Disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and halls

Caferteria/Meals

Students will sit in assigned tables and seats in the lunchroom with students they normally sit by in their classroom. Social distancing will be followed in the lunchroom and at the tables with limited seating and diagonal seating. 3 lunch shifts will be used with time for cleaning being added between lunch shifts. Students will sit at assigned classroom tables for breakfast with social distancing.

Nursing/COVID

We will have special spaces for students with COVID Symptoms. Teachers will implement plans to reduce unnecessary visits to the nurse's office (example: bandages, chapped lips, etc.) We will follow guidance from Black Hawk County Public Health. If a student or staff member becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, the student/staff member will be sent home. Classroom will be thoroughly cleaned. We will follow guidance from the Black Hawk County Public Health Dept. We will communicate that "we have a confirmed case in the Elementary, MS, or HS involving a student or staff member." We will not identify a specific grade level.

Water Bottles

Water fountains will be shut off in the halls and replaced by additional water fill stations. Students will be allowed to bring water bottles to school (with their names on them) and take them home at night to be cleaned. Water bottle fill stations will be available. We prefer refillable water bottles with removal drinking lids verse disposable ones. Student will need to make sure they do not touch the top of their bottle to the refilling station when refilling them.

Restrooms

Students will be asked to wash their hands or use sanitizer before and after they use the restrooms. PK-3rd grade classes will use their regular classroom restrooms. 4th & 5th Grade Hall Restrooms will have a limit of 4 students at a time - Some sinks and urinals will be blocked off. All restrooms will be thoroughly cleaned after school hours.

Halls/Social Distancing

Students will follow the markings on the floor to keep to the right side of the hallway and follow social distancing guidelines. Face coverings will be worn in the hallways.
Social distancing of 3-6 feet will be expected when possible at all times throughout the school day.

Visitors

Visitors will not be allowed past the school office. We will not have parents eat with students this year during lunch. Volunteers will not be utilized at school this year. For all students who need to leave the building (have an appointment, are ill, need to leave early, etc.) parents are asked to call the school office upon arrival to the building and the student will be released.

Transportations

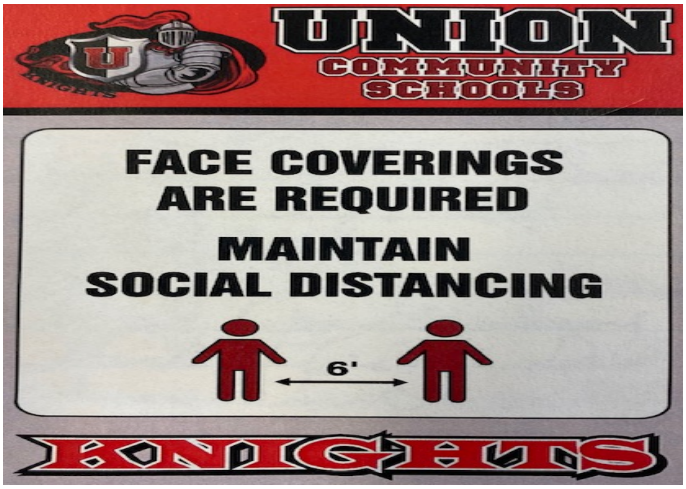
Students will be assigned seats. Surfaces will be wiped down between routes. Students will be spaced apart as permitted by the number of riders. Students are required to wear face coverings

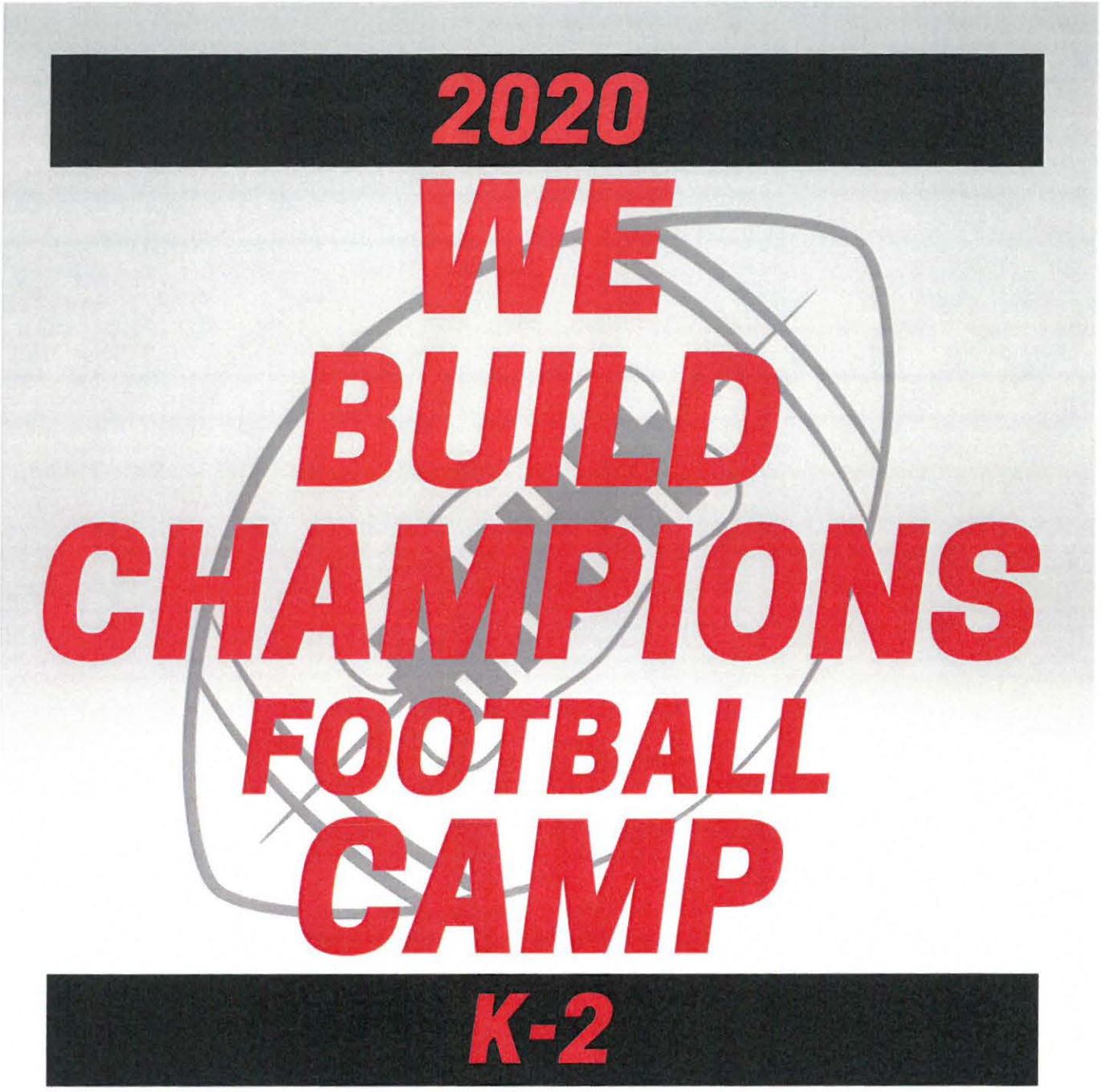
Snacks At School

Students will only be able to bring prepackaged store bought items for snack. Birthday and holiday treats will be allowed as long as they are prepackaged store bought.

Extra Curriculuar Activities

The beginning of the year Open House will only take place for Preschool, TK, and kindergarten students. Teachers will contact parents to schedule this. Parents may bring their child the first day to the outside door of their classroom. Field Trips are postponed until further notice. Building wide assemblies, concerts, the art show, and track & field/fun and fitness day will be on hold until further notice.




2020
WE
BUILD
CHAMPIONS
FOOTBALL
CAMP
K-2
NEW THIS YEAR - 2 DAY CAMP!
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH
AND
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH
12:30-1 CHECK IN 1:00-3:00 CAMP
@ DYSART CITY PARK
REGISTER AT: WWW.KYFC.INFO

Hello!

Hello Knights!

I'm Mrs. Weber! I am the School Mental Health Social Worker for Union District. I have a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Wartburg College and a Master's degree in Social Work from UNI. Previously, I worked 10 years at Four Oaks as a Therapist and Program Coordinator and a few years as a Link Specialist at Cedar Rapids Community School District.

My family and I live in Cedar Falls, where my husband works for John Deere. I have a daughter Maya and a son Ethan.

I am excited to join this community and help support students and families.

Go Union!

Beth Weber, MSW, LMSW