UNION ELEMENTARY @ LA PORTE CITY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

UNION COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

LETTER #15

"EDUCATION TO MEET TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES"

Nov. 24, 2020

Next Week's Schedule

Wed., Nov. 25 - No School
- Thanksgiving Vacation

Thurs., Nov. 26 - No School
- Thanksgiving Holiday

Fri., Nov. 27 - No School
- Thanksgiving Vacation

Mon., Nov. 30 - 62nd Day of School)-Day 2(A/PE)
- 2:25/2:35 Early Dismissal

Tues., Dec. 1 - 63rd Day of School - Day 3(PE/M)
- 2:25/2:35 Early Dismissal

Wed., Dec. 2 - 64th Day of School - Day 4(A/M)
- 2:25/2:35 Early Dismissal

Thurs., Dec. 3 - 65th Day of School – Day 5(L/PE)
- 2:25/2:35 Early Dismissal

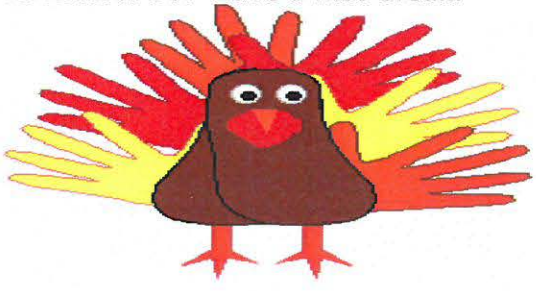
Fri., Dec. 4 - 66th Day of School – Day 6(PE/M
- 2:25/2:35 Early Dismissal

A Time For Thanks

Traditionally this is the time of year when we stop and give thanks for things that we have to be grateful for this year. As I reflect on this first part of the school year, here are the things that I am thankful for. I am thankful for kind words, they make us all feel appreciated. I am thankful for smiles, they make our day brighter. I am thankful for positive attitudes, they are contagious. I am thankful for students, they are the reason that we are here. I am thankful for teachers, secretaries, nurses, associates, cooks, custodians, and bus drivers, they all work together to guide our future leaders. I am thankful for parents, they assist us in educating our children. I am thankful for volunteers and the support of our communities, we cannot provide a quality education alone. I am thankful for the opportunity to work together.

No School Wed., Thurs., & Fri.

We will have no school on Wednesday, November 25, Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday break. School will resume as scheduled on Monday, November 30. Have a nice break.



Upcoming Dates

Nov. 3 - NO SCHOOL – STATE VOLLEYBALL
Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day - Wear Red/white/blue
Nov. 9-13 - American Education Week
Nov. 25 - No School
Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving Day - No School
Nov. 27 - Thanksgiving Break - No School
Dec. 23- Jan. 4 - Winter Break

School Board Actions Taken

At the Union CSD board meeting on October 19, the following changes were approved to our Return To Learn Plan.

1. Union Community Schools ***will continue with a shortened day schedule from 8:00-2:15 district-wide until December 23***. At the LPC elementary, 2:15 is actually 2:25 for walkers/town students and 2:35 for bus students. If the district decides to have a two hour late start due to weather conditions, we will follow a 2 hour late start schedule with a regular dismissal time of 3:10 walkers/town - 3:25 for bus.
2. ***Face coverings will continue to be required*** in all district buildings and buses until further notice.
3. ***Voluntary Remote Learning will*** end on October 30.
4. ***Medical Remote Learning will transition to an online platform.*** Parents have been contacted on this change.

LPC ELEM. WINTER MUSIC CONCERT POSTPONED

Our music programs for the winter music concerts this year for the elementary aged students have been postponed due to COVID-19.

Iowa School Alerts

If you want to receive weather alerts about Union Community School Schools including early dismissals and/or late starts, sign up now. Simply visit the Iowa School Alerts website to subscribe. https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/IAEDU6536/subscriber/new.

You may choose email or text alerts from the drop-down menu; however, please note that in order to receive both, you must go in and subscribe separately for each preference.

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. Be careful backing out of the parking spot at this time also. A reminder that the City of La Porte City has posted a No Parking sign on the Gates Street side. We ask parents please do not park on the side across from where cars are backing up into.

PTO Scrip Orders

Attached in today's newsletter is a PTO scrip order. Please have those turned in by November 13. **Scrip** is an ongoing PTO fundraiser and an easy way to raise money without selling anything! Shop with Scrip is a way to buy gift cards for yourself or to purchase as gifts for any occasion. Gifts cards for yourself can be used for gas, groceries, restaurants, clothes, etc. Every gift card purchased earns a rebate percentage for our school. Shop online at www.shopwithscrip.com to select from a variety of card options including 800+ retails and physical or electronic cards. To sign up to order online, click 'Register' in the upper right corner, then 'Join a Scrip Program' and enter our enrollment code: B4L78C7141185. Contact JoLisa at LPCElementaryPTO@gmail.com or 319-269-5446 to see what cards we have on-hand or if you have any questions.

Hawkins Memorial Library News

Bring non-perishable food and personal care items to the library in November to help reduce hunger in this community. All items collected will be given to The Lord's Food Pantry for local distribution. La Porte City Elementary students can also drop off Dress the Turkey food drive contributions and we will make sure they are tallied with their classroom donations. In addition, any fine totals will be reduced by $2.00 for each item.

Children can express their thankfulness when making a Thanksgiving color wheel, now available as a Kid's Kit project. This kit, and other fun seasonal and STEM activities, are free take and make projects to create at home.

Take fun and funny fall photos at Hawkins Memorial Library with the perfect seasonal backdrop and props. Drop in for a photo at our Fall/Thanksgiving photo booth and you'll earn a treat.

PARENT RESOURCE:

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.

LUNCH December 2020 DG & LPC Elementary Union Community Schools

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Nov.30 Chicken Nuggets w/tea roll Mashed potatoes Carrots Baby fresh Applesauce cup Milk	1 Hamburger on bun Green Beans Carrots Fresh Peaches Milk	2 Crispito Burrito Lettuce & tomato Carrots baby fresh Pears Milk	3 Pork rib on bun Baked beans Carrots fresh Apple slices Milk	4 Pepperoni Pizza Corn Carrots fresh Pineapple Milk
7 Chicken popcorn w/tea roll Mashed Potatoes Carrots Fresh Applesauce Cup Milk	8 Breaded Chicken Patty on bun Broccoli w/cheese sauce Carrots fresh Banana Milk	9 Pizza Fiestada(taco flavor) Lettuce & tomato Carrots fresh Pineapple Milk	10 Breakfast for LUNCH Sausage smokies & Pancakes Hash brown round Carrots fresh Apple slices Milk	11 Mini Corndog Green beans Carrots baby fresh Peaches Milk
14 Chicken Nuggets w/tea roll Mashed potatoes Carrots Baby fresh Applesauce cup Milk	15 Deli Sub Ham/Turkey/cheese on bun Potato French fries Carrots fresh Mandarin oranges Milk	16 Walking Taco Lettuce & tomato Carrots fresh Peaches Milk	17 Breaded Chicken Patty on bun Broccoli w/cheese Carrots fresh Apple slices Milk	18 Cheese filled breadstick w/marinara Green beans Carrots fresh Pears Milk
21 Chicken popcorn w/tea roll Mashed Potatoes Carrots Fresh Applesauce cup Milk	22 Hot dog On Bun Potato tots Carrots fresh Mixed fruit Milk	23 Cheese Pizza Corn Carrots fresh Side Kick Holiday fruit juice Milk	24 NO SCHOOL Winter Break Begins	25
28 NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL	30 NO SCHOOL	31 This institution is an equal opportunity provider.	All items listed will be provided in each meal. Menu is subject to change without notice.

BREAKFAST DG & LPC Elementary Grab & Go December Union Community Schools

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Nov.30 Mini Donut Choice: Cereal w /muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk	1 Pancakes Choice: Cereal w/ muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk	2 Mini Cinnis Choice: Cereal w/muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk	3 Breakfast Pizza Choice: Cereal w/muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk	4 Muffin w/Yogurt Choice: Cereal w/muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk
7 Mini Donut Choice: Cereal w /muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk	8 Pancakes Choice: Cereal w/ muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk	9 Mini Cinnis Choice: Cereal w/ muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk	10 Egg Wrap(Tac&Go) Choice: Cereal w/ muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk	11 Muffin w/Yogurt Choice: Cereal w/muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk
14 Mini Donut Choice: Cereal w /muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk	15 Pancakes Choice: Cereal w/ muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk	16 Mini Cinnis Choice: Cereal w/muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk	17 Breakfast Pizza Choice: Cereal w/muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk	18 Muffin w/Yogurt Choice: Cereal w/muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk
21 Mini Donut Choice: Cereal w /muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk	22 Pancakes Choice: Cereal w/ muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk	23 Mini Cinnis Choice: Cereal w/muffin 100% fruit Juice Fruit Milk	24 NO SCHOOL Winter Break Begins	25 NO SCHOOL
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