UNION ELEMENTARY @ LA PORTE CITY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

UNION COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

LETTER #24 | *"EDUCATION TO MEET TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES"* | FEB. 8, 2021

Next Week's Schedule

Mon., Feb. 8 - 99th Day of School – Day4(M&A)
- Start Regular 3:10 Dismissal Time

Tues., Feb. 9 - 100th Day of School - Day5(L&PE)
- Regular Day of School

Wed., Feb. 10 - 101st Day of School-Day6(PE&M)
- Regular Day of School

Thurs., Feb. 11 - 102nd Day of School-Day1(M&L)
- Regular Day of School

Fri., Feb. 12 -103rd Day of School - Day2(A&PE)
- Regular Day of School

Regular Dismissal Time Continues

At the Union CSD board meeting on January 18, it was decided that all UCSD buildings will *resume "normal" or 'regular" dismissal times starting February 1*. At the elementary level, normal dismissal time is 3:10 for walkers and car riders and 3:25 for bus students. Students will continue to enter and exit the building the same way using the outside classroom exterior doors on Gates and Fillmore streets. This change back to regular dismissal times started on Monday, Feb. 1.

100th Day of School Tuesday

We are quickly approaching the 100th day of school that our students have attended. With a four snow days now this month, the 100th day of school for students is now be Tuesday, February 9. Each classroom will be doing lessons and activities centered on the concepts of 100. Take time at home to talk to your child about what 100 means to them. Try counting 100 things, by either 1's, 2's, 5's, 10's, 20's and/or 25's. These different ways of counting will reinforce the basic concepts in math. This is a great teachable moment to incorporate math into our everyday activities.

Upcoming February Dates

Feb. 1 - All UCSD Buildings return to 3:10 Dismissal
Feb. 9 - 100th Day of School
Feb. 12 - Valentine's Parties
Feb. 23 - 2:15 Dismissal P/T Conferences 3-7:00 pm
Feb. 25 - 2:15 Dismissal P/T Conferences 3-7:00 pm
Feb. 26 - No School

Sweet Treats due February 9th

The PTO would like to help deliver your Valentine's messages. Students can order Sweet Treats for teachers, staff, bus drivers, siblings, etc. Family members can also order treats for students. The PTO will be sure to deliver the Sweet Treats before Valentine's Day. The order forms were sent home last week.

Valentine's Day Classroom Parties

Coming up on Friday, February 12, the elementary classes will have their Valentine's Day parties. Your child's teacher should be letting your child know if they need to bring anything for their classroom party. With COVID, we are asking that any treats be prepackaged or store bought.

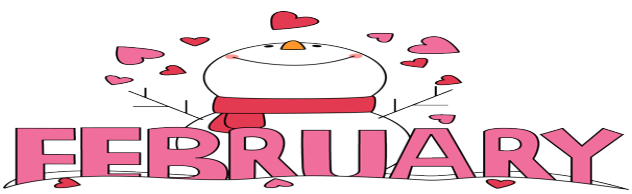
The Gold Star Award

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

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.



Hawkins Memorial Library News

- The library has Valentine's Day puppy dog cut outs for a fun children's craft to celebrate the upcoming holiday of love. Swing in and pick up an activity sheet to make yours at home. And don't forget to snatch up Valentine card or bird feeder kits while in the building.
- There is a groovy photo booth in the library, so be hip and get your cool picture taken in front of the "love wall" with our neat-o props. It is a far out photo experience in February!
- Click, Clack, Moo I Love You! by Doreen Cronin, is the February window story you can read in business windows downtown. Begin at the library and follow the pages and signs from shop to shop for this progressive adventure. It's Valentine's Day on the farm and that means a Valentine's party. On top of a hill, a little fox hears the music from the party and follows Little Duck's many decorations to the barn…but foxes are not at *all* welcome on farms.
- Three different educational backpacks can be checked out from the library, courtesy of Iowa Public Television. Learning themes for the backpacks are Coding Fun, Building Challenge and Pattern Puzzles. STEM activities, books and PBS KIDS DVDs are included in each backpack, with activities serving children between 3 and 8 years of age.
- It is time to create a cute bug Valentine card with our new Kid's Kits. These free kits are activities available at the library for children in this community. Most everything you will need to complete a project is included in the kit, with the exception of scissors and glue.
- Board games are available for checkout. The library has great games including Farkle, Yahtzee, Memory, Monopoly, Battleship, Clue, HiHo Cherry-O, Life, Connect 4, and many more. All we ask is that you keep the pieces together and return the game inside the library instead of using the book drop.
- Patrons can check out jigsaw puzzles for adults and children from the library. This is good news for those of you that dash through puzzles – it will give you more choices. And if you have puzzles at home you are done with, please consider donating them to the library's collection.

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. On Feb. 1 all UCSD buildings will go back to regular dismissal times.

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.

Happy Valentines Day

The PTO would love to help with your Valentine message deliveries!
Your Valentine message and treat can be delivered to anyone in the LPC Elementary building or bus barn.
Please contact us on Facebook or email LPCElementaryPTO@gmail.com if you have any questions!

Due February 5th

Treat Choice A: Plain M&Ms — **50¢**

Treat Choice B: SweetHearts — **50¢**

Treat Choice C: Lindor Truffles — **$1.00** (recommended for teachers and staff)

Example for Student

To: Sam Student

Teacher: 1—Jesse

From: Mom & Dad

Message: We LOVE You!

Treat choice: B

Example for Teacher/Staff

To: Ms. Teacher

Teacher: _____

From: Sam Student

Message: Thanks for being a great teacher!

Treat choice: C

1. Fill in boxes on page two for EACH person you would like to send a Sweet Treat. Remember—they will be cut on the lines to deliver each one.
2. If delivering to students—use first and last name on "to" line and include the recipients teachers name (if known).
2. Add the total number of each treat choice that your ordering and write the numbers below.
3. Return the bottom section of this page and all of page two to the office by Friday February 5th.
4. Include cash OR checks payable to LPC PTO.

Student's Name & Teacher: _____ **Contact Email or Phone:** _____

Total of each letter/treat choice needed (How many of each do you want us to deliver?)

Treat Choice A (M&Ms 50¢ each): #_____ Amount Total $_____

Treat Choice B (SweetHearts50¢ each): #_____ Amount Total $_____

Treat Choice C (Truffles $1 each): #_____ Amount Total $_____

TOTAL AMOUNT ORDERED #_____ Amount Total $_____

Happy Valentine's Day!

TO: _____

Teacher: _____

From: _____

Message: _____

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_____

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Treat Choice: _____

Happy Valentine's Day!

TO: _____

Teacher: _____

From: _____

Message: _____

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Treat Choice: _____

Happy Valentine's Day!

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Treat Choice: _____