UNION ELEMENTARY @ LA PORTE CITY
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
Union Community School District

LETTER #28 | ***"Education To Meet Tomorrow's Challenges"*** | **Mar. 5, 2021**

Next Week's Schedule

Mon., Mar. 8 - 116th Day of School-Day3(PE&M)
- Regular Day of School

Tues., Mar. 9 - 117th Day of School-Day4(M&A)
- Regular Day of School

Wed., Mar. 10 - 118th Day of School-Day5(L&PE)
- LPC Elem. to HS Play 1-2:30pm

Thurs., Mar. 11 - 119th DayofSchool- Day6(PE&M)
- 4th & 5th Grade Maturing Talks

Fri., Mar. 12 - 120th Day of School - Day1(M&L)
- Regular Day of School

Sun., Mar. 14 - Daylight Saving Time Begins

Mon., Mar. 15-19 - Spring Break for UCSD

LPC Elementary to HS Play on Wed.

The UHS Drama department has offered us the opportunity to view a portion of the spring musical, Into the Woods on Wednesday, March 10 at Matt Auditorium at UHS. We will leave the elementary school at 12:30 and 12:45 in 2 shifts to be able to have all students there for the 1:00 start time. We will then leave at 2:30 and 2:45 in 2 shifts to be back at LPC elementary by 3:00 for all students. We greatly appreciate the opportunity offered to us by the high school drama department. With all of the changes with COVID this year, we are looking forward to a fun school-wide activity.

Day Light Savings Time Begins Soon

A reminder to all parents that daylight savings time is coming up this Sunday, March 14. Remember to set your clocks ahead 1 hour for Daylight Savings Time.

Upcoming March/April Dates

March 14 - Daylight Savings Time - Set Clock Ahead
March 15-19 -Spring Break for UCSD Students & Staff
April 1 - Regular 3:10 Dismissal
April 2 - No School
April 5 - No School

A Few Reminders:

Here are a few reminders for parents and students about current procedures at LPC elementary.

*No Breakfast on 2 Hour Late Start Days

On the days that we have a 2 hour late start for Union Community School District we will not serve breakfast. This is due to the fact that we will start serving lunch an hour after students arrive to school. Please make sure your children get breakfast at home on these days.

*Face Coverings Still Required at UCSD

At our school board meeting on Monday, February 15, the Union Community School Board decided to continue with our current Return to Learn COVID Protocols. We are still following the contract tracing guidelines set by Black Hawk County Health Department. Face coverings that cover the mouth and nose are still required for all PK-12 (including 3 & 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.

Spring Break for Union

Just a quick reminder that coming up March 15-19 the Union Community School District will be having no school as we will be having Spring Break. We hope that students and staff will enjoy the time off and reenergize for the last few months of school. The elementary school and elementary office will be closed for the week. School will resume on Monday, March 22.

Bus Routes

This is just a reminder to bus route parents. Due to poor travel on gravel roads and the possibility of having to go to hard surface routes, 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, my contact Mike Timmer at **m_timmer@union.k12.ia.us** or the Bus Barn at 319-342-3286. The District Office number is 319-342-2674.

Hawkins Memorial Library News

- Another seasonal and entertaining Window Story is gracing store windows in La Porte City's downtown giving you a reason to stroll the new streets. The book In Like a Lion Out Like a Lamb, by Marion Dane Bauer, begins at Hawkins Memorial Library and progresses from business to business. March shows up like a lion--wild and messy, muddy and wet. You will read about the changeable nature of spring weather, as the lion makes way for the lamb—with a huge sneeze!—as the trees and flowers spring into bloom. Read each set of pages posted and then follow the directions to find the next book section.
- If you had fun snipping and clipping our last paper snowflake, the library has one more snowflake to create before the calendar reaches spring. Youngsters will be entertained by coloring, folding, and cutting an amazing snowflake. Families can drop in and catch this paper cutout at the library now.
- While we won't be having great activities inside the library over spring break you can still stop by and grab wonderful books, movies, games, and puzzles. Additionally, the library will have special Kid's Kits available beginning March 15.
- Learn about the spread of germs. With the Glowing Germs Kid's Kit activity, you will see how easily germs can spread between you and different things you interact with throughout the day. Wherever you are, you should be mindful of germs and diseases that could make you or others, sick.
- Promote positive screen time with Libby, the one-tap reading app available from Hawkins Memorial Library. Research has found that active screen time – time spent using the creative side of our brains – is beneficial to overall health. Encourage your child to participate in active screen time by reading in Libby. Libby has a wide selection of children's books and magazines available for online checkout at no cost.

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 Sanitizing

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

Cafeteria/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.

Transportation

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 Curricular 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.