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

**LETTER #31** ***"Education To Meet Tomorrow's Challenges"*** **April 1, 2021**

## Next Week's Schedule

**Thurs., April 1** - 129th Day of School)-Day4(M&A)
***- Regular Dismissal Time***
***3:10 Walkers/Car Riders***
***3:25 Bus Students***
**Fri., April 2** - No School: Easter Break
**Mon., April 5** - No School: Teacher Inservice
**Tues., April 6** - School Resumes
- 130th Day of School–Day5(L&PE)
**Wed., April 7** - 131st Day of School-Day6(M&PE)
- Regular Day of School
**Thurs., April 8** - 132nd Day of School)-Day1(M&L)
- Regular Day of School
**Fri., April 9** - 133rd Day of School-Day2(A&PE)
- Regular Day of School

## Regular Dismissal Time Thursday

Just a reminder that all Union Community School District buildings will dismiss at regular times today, Thursday, April 1st. A change was made a few years back that the district only dismisses early on the day proceeding a holiday or holiday break for Christmas and Memorial Day. The elementary regular dismissal time is 3:10 for walkers/car riders and 3:25 for bus students.

## Easter Break Friday & Monday

There will be no school coming up due to Easter Break for tomorrow, Friday, April 2 and Monday, April 5. The teachers will have professional development inservice on that Monday. School will resume for students and teachers on Tuesday, April 6.

## Upcoming April Dates

March 14 - Daylight Savings Time - Set Clock Ahead
March 15-19 -Spring Break for UCSD Students & Staff
March 29 - 4 Year Old Preschool Registration
April 1 - Regular 3:10 Dismissal for Easter Break
April 2 - No School – Easter Break
April 5 - No School – Easter Break: Teacher Inservice
April 28 - Kindergarten Parent Meeting 6:30pm

## 4 Year Old Preschool Registration

This past Monday, March 29 the 4 year Old Preschool Registration was held for next year's incoming 4 year old students in the Fall of 2021. Children must be 4 by September 15th, 2021. If you did not get a chance to attend and have a 4 year old child that you want to be part of our preschool next year, please contact Stephanie Estling, LPC Preschool Teacher s_estling@union.k12.ia.us to get a packet. Please spread the word if you know of other families that want their child to attend La Porte City Elementary 4 year old preschool program next fall 2021. You can also contact the LPC elementary office at 342-3033.

## Kindergarten Parent Meeting April 28

The La Porte City Elementary building will be having a parent meeting for next year's 2021 kindergarten and TK students. It will be held on Wednesday, April 28 at 6:30pm in the LPC Elementary gym. Kindergarten registration packets will be sent out with preschool students in the upcoming week. Packets can be returned to the LPC Preschool prior to the parent meeting or at the parent meeting on April 28. We will not have kindergarten roundup this year. We will have a new kindergarten orientation the day prior to the first day of school. More information about the orientation will be discussed at our parent meeting. Please contact the elementary office if you have any questions.

## Hawkins Memorial Library News

- Easter is just around the corner and the library has an eggs-citing Kid's Kit for the holiday. Grab your colors, scissors, and glue, and pick up this kit to create an Easter egg wreath. This is a project that will keep even the littlest bunnies busy and is available from the library for families and daycares at no charge.
- Happy spring! Celebrate by picking up books from the library and reading about spring.
- Easter books and movies for children are on display and waiting to be checked out for the upcoming holiday, along with a lot of spring reading!
- Reading aloud to children has been shown to improve their reading, writing and communication skills, logical thinking and concentration, and general academic aptitude, as well as inspire a lifelong love of reading. The library has books on all sorts of topics that can be borrowed for two weeks. Please read to a child today.
- The library's April photo booth reminds you that spring and Easter have arrived. Drop in and grab props for your silly photos, then get a treat and check out some of our new books!
- Pick up your Decoupage Earth Kid's Kit during the first week in April. With a little glue and this kit children can sculpt a creative Earth Day project to remind them how important it is to take care of our planet.
- Remember, Brainfuse HelpNow is available to learners with free access for homework help. You can access: live online tutoring for all levels and ages of learners; expert writing guidance at every step; academic and standardized test prep; learning more with lessons, videos, and tests; foundational and career-enhancing skills; and more. Click on the Brainfuse HelpNow icon on the library website to access all these learning services and more.

## 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.

differ at the elementary level. Students with medical exceptions will be required to have documentation.

## 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

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 versus 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 and 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.