UNION ELEMENTARY @ LA PORTE CITY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

UNION COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

LETTER #34 | *"EDUCATION TO MEET TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES"* | APRIL 23, 2021

Next Week's Schedule

Mon., April 26 - 144th Day of School-Day1(L&M) - Regular Day of School
Tues., April 27 - 145th Day ofSchool–Day2(A&PE) - Regular Day of School
Wed., April 28 - 146th Day of School-Day3(M&PE -Next Year's Kindergarten Parent Meeting 6:30 pm
Thurs., April 29 -147th DayofSchool - Day4(M&A) - Regular Day of School
Fri., April 30 - 148th Day of School - Day5(L&PE) - Regular Day of School

Next Year's Elem. Class Lists

We are in the process of compiling class lists for next year. We believe we have a competent and experienced teaching staff which works hard to provide the best education possible for all students. We take many factors into consideration when putting together these lists. They are: number balance, gender balance, behavior balance, and academic balance, which involves Title I reading, ELP, and Resource students. If you have a ***special concern based on only educational reasons and not in the area of social reasons for your child's placement next year, please contact me at the elementary office by April 30.*** We are using FAST data to help place students to have balanced classrooms. Due to the new state mandated FAST assessments, weekly progress monitoring, and interventions, parent special concerns will be considered but may not be able to be met. We have to keep a balance of student academics with the FAST progress monitoring and assessments in each classroom.

Track & Field – Fun & Fitness Days

This year, due to COVID 19 and the Black Hawk County contact tracing guidelines we will not have a formal Track & Field Day for 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade students and a Fun & Fitness Day for K, 1st, and 2nd grade students. We are hoping to be resume this next year.

Spring Grade Level Field Trips

This year, due to COVID 19 and the Black Hawk County contact tracing guidelines we will be limiting field trips to 1 per grade level. We are setting the requirements that these will be in an outdoor setting and all contact tracing guidelines will still be followed. It may be as simple as the class walking to the city park, etc. Each grade will let parents know the specifics, when they have them.

Upcoming April Dates

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

On 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.

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.

Last Day of School for 2020-21

Superintendent Travis Fleshner announced that based on action by the Union School Board at their April 5 meeting, the final day of school for TK-12 students will be ***Friday, June 4.*** This day will be a ***full day of school*** with dismissal being at 3:10 for walkers/car riders and 3:25 for bus students. District students will have met the state mandated requirement for instructional hours for the year.

Daily Attendance Reminders

Just a quick reminder to contact your child's teacher or the office on a day that your child will not be in school. If we do not receive a call or email, the school office will call to confirm your child's absence. Here are the office contacts that you can email:
p_bohnstengel@union.k12.ia.us or
t_parker@union.k12.ia.us or
c_wiedenhoff@union.k12.ia.us

La Porte City Waves Swim Team

Summer is coming! New and returning swimmers are invited to register online this year…more information to come once the link is available. In the event you have questions or need assistance registering, Coach Craft and board members will be available at Hawkins Memorial Library on Tuesday, May 4th from 5 – 6 PM. Team participation is open to youth ages 5 and older who can swim one length of the pool unassisted. The registration fee is $60 per swimmer with reductions offered for additional family members ($30 for club fees and $30 for USA swimming registration card), plus a $5 "splash fee" per meet. A reduced fee is also available for those on free/reduced lunch with proof of eligibility. Practices will likely begin after school May 31st - June 4th, with the regular summer schedule beginning June 7th. The regular schedule includes two daily practice times of 12 to 1 PM and/or 4:30 to 5:30 PM - come to one or both!. Questions can be sent to lpcswimteam@gmail.com. Let's get ready to make some waves! More details to come…to stay informed like our FaceBook page!

Hawkins Memorial Library News

- May Day is quickly approaching and the library has a charming May Basket Kid's Kit to share with you. It is a fun project to assemble, decorate, and give to a friend.
- 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. Go to https://bridges.overdrive.com/ to get started.
- Take at least 30 minutes to put aside all distractions and enjoy books together in the month of April. D.E.A.R. stands for "Drop Everything and Read," a national celebration of reading designed to remind families to make reading a priority activity in their lives. The aim of this nationwide initiative is to encourage families to designate a special time to "drop everything and read" at home.

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.