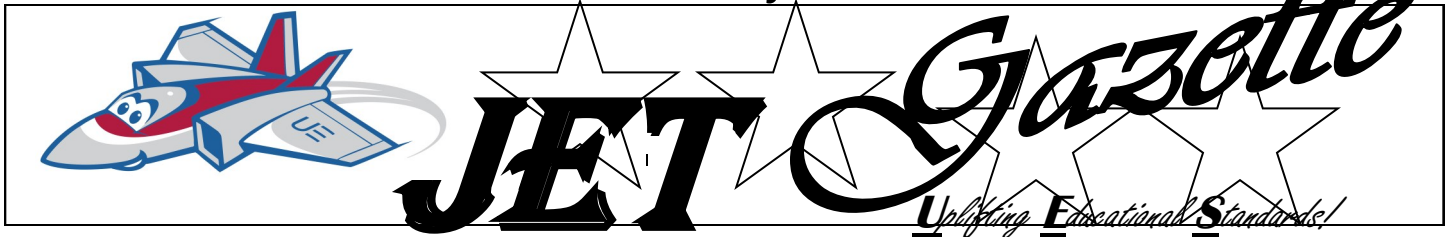


Utica Elementary School



AUGUST 23RD, 2021

Dear Parents,

The new guidelines for quarantining sent out by Greater Clark County Schools have generated a great deal of questions about how that impacts students at Utica Elementary. Our school is working hard to implement these guidelines wherever possible to ensure the safety of all of our students.

Here are some answers to a few of the most commonly asked questions:

1. How has contact tracing changed?

Beginning August 9, masks were required at school, and by August 11, our teachers had modified the physical space in the classrooms to reduce groupings and minimize movement. We also re-implemented many of the procedures that were in place last year that were found effective to reduce the spread of COVID. Due to these changes, we are able to better track who has been exposed to a COVID positive person. When masks are worn, we should quarantine anyone within 3 feet of the person for 15 minutes or more. When masks are not worn, ex. Cafeteria, we should quarantine anyone within 6 feet of the person for 15 minutes or more. These new procedures have already reduced the spread of COVID in our building and the number of students that need to be quarantined. We contact trace on the bus, cafeteria, school sponsored sports, classrooms, and special areas.

2. What happens if my child is a close contact under the new guidelines?

When we are notified that a person has tested positive, we contact trace for every day they could have transmitted the virus to others in our school. We create a list of students in close proximity on what days. This gives us the 14 day quarantine, reduced 10 day quarantine, the window for testing, and a 7 day quarantine. We call every family that has a student that needs to be quarantined. We also recently implemented a new practice of generating a letter with key dates of return to hand over when the student is picked up. This was implemented per parent suggestions. We no longer send a message out to all families, instead starting this Friday, there will be a public dashboard where everyone can check to see how many students are quarantined and how many have tested positive. I do not think this dashboard will include students that are quarantined by the family due to outside exposure.

3. Why are students allowed to return to school on day 11?

The CDC changed quarantine guidelines in fall of 2020 stating that a person could stop quarantining on day 11 if they wore a mask full time and kept their distance. They also said it was reasonable to return to work on day 8 if a COVID test administered on day 5 or later came back negative. It is my understanding that the CDC made that modification because there was evidence that symptoms usually developed by day 5 (I am not medical so, please do your own research on this). Staff in Greater Clark have been allowed to return to work at the earlier dates both last year and this year. Recently our local health department and Greater Clark Schools made the determination that students should also be allowed to return at the earlier date.

4. What are the enhanced measures taken upon their return?

Our school's challenge is how to enhance safety and distance on day 11, 12, 13, and 14 when a parent chooses to send their child back early. We must work within the limits of space and staffing. We will do our best to keep early return students three to six feet from others. We do require early returning students to wear masks the entire day, inside and outside. We space the early return students as far from others as possible. During lunch, when masks are not worn, we are using our gym to space early return students 6 feet apart from each other. We cannot change bussing but would prefer early returning students to be car riders on day 11, 12, 13, and 14 if possible. These guidelines also apply to students that return to school on day 8 with a negative test through day 14. We are continuing to look at our daily routines and determine if there are additional ways to ensure all are safe. If you are not comfortable with your child coming back to school early, we respect that completely. They do not have to return until day 15. We have had a few students return early and struggled with the enhanced procedures. I understand completely and would encourage you to reach out to us in this case.

These are challenging times and our entire staff appreciates your patience and kindness. We care about your child and want to make sure we do everything possible to make Utica Elementary a healthy and safe learning environment. Thank you for trusting us with your children.

~Kathy Gilland
Principal of Utica Elementary School

CHEESE!



Fall Picture Day is
Friday,
September 3rd. All
orders will be placed online. Info will
be sent home soon!

UPCOMING DATES

Monday, August 23rd

- Girls' Cross Country, 3:45-4:15

Tuesday, August 24th

- Boys' Cross Country, 3:45-4:15

Wednesday, August 25th

- Cross Country Meet @ Utica

Thursday, August 26th



- Girls' Cross Country, 3:45-4:15

Friday, August 27th

- Boys' Cross Country, 3:45-4:15

All students are required by law to have a copy of their birth certificates and shot records in their school records.

We are currently reviewing all students' permanent records to ensure we are in compliance with the laws. If the office does not have these on file for your student, please get this to us ASAP. All students missing birth certificates are supposed to be reported to the Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Students missing shot record documentation are not supposed to attend school.

Parents, friends, and family members, Utica does not dismiss students from the office after 3:15 pm due to safety concerns regarding the children. If you arrive later than 3:15, you will be asked to pick up your student in the car rider line.


SCAN THIS CODE FOR THE LINKS TO ALL OF OUR SOCIAL MEDIA!



Dress Code

As seasons and temperatures begin to change, please keep in mind to dress your student in layers. Different parts of our building are different temperatures, so they may want a light jacket for certain areas. Shoes are also a problem. Tennis shoes are always the best choice. Strappy sandals and slides tend to begin breaking this time of year because they start to wear out.

Once dismissal begins, phones are not answered. If you need to call the office, please call before 3:20. After that time, students have been dismissed from their classrooms and staff is already in position to help with dismissal.





If you have a student who needs assistance with their homework, we now offer Brainfuse HelpNow® which is an educational service with live tutors.

It is available daily from 2:00 - 11:00 p.m. EDT. This service is free for anyone who holds a JTPL library card. Just go to jefflibrary.org and scroll down a bit. You'll see the link on the right side under Feature Resources.

Important Info to Remember

If your child is ill and/or experiencing symptoms of COVID—Call the school office at 288-4878. Please state your name, your student's name, teacher, and symptoms.

There is an answering service, please feel free to call before school hours if necessary. If a member of your household is experiencing symptoms of COVID or has been tested, please do not send your student to school. Your student's absence will be excused and we will make arrangements, so your student does not fall behind.



UPCOMING DATES

Monday, August 30th

- Boys' Cross Country, 3:45-4:15

Tuesday, August 31st

- Girls' Cross Country, 3:45-4:15

Wednesday, September 1st

- Cross Country Meet @ Utica

Thursday, September 2nd

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Friday, September 3rd

- Fall Picture Day

Upcoming dates:

9/6-NO SCHOOL

9/7-eLearning Day

9/8-Cross Country Meet for top 7 only

9/10-PRIDE PJ day

9/17-PRIDE Hat day

9/27-PRIDE events for quarter 1

10/1-eLearning Day

SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL

SCHOOL

ORDER FROM PAPA JOHN'S ON

The banner features a red background with images of breadsticks on the left and a pizza on the right. The text is in white and black, with 'SCHOOL' in large, bold, white letters.

Thursday, Aug. 26

AND 20% OF YOUR ORDER WILL BE DONATED BACK TO YOUR SCHOOL.

*Must Use School Promo Code when ordering online, app or phone for school to receive credit.

PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

1616 E 10th Street **812-282-3333**

Utica Elementary

**YOUR SCHOOL'S
PROMO CODE UTICA**

