

University Elementary August Newsletter



WELCOME BACK TO UNIVERSITY!

Welcome back to University School and the 2019-2020 school year! We are looking forward to a great year with our returning students as well as the many new faces we will see on August 7th and into the coming week. I hope that you all had a restful and memorable summer with family and friends. We can't wait to hear all the stories from your children!

Over the summer, our teachers, custodians, and support staff have taken time to relax as well, but they have also been very busy getting the school ready for your children. Physically, the school has seen a few changes. When you walk the hallways, look for some picture of students that were taken by our very own Mrs. Killion to reflect the diversity of our students population, along with the love that we have for each other. Also, you will find that the back half of our school's classrooms now have new flooring, along with the cafeteria. Speaking of the cafeteria, we have new lunchroom tables! One of the bigger changes your children will definitely recognize is the final remodel to our playground. We have replaced the old yellow and blue play space with a new orange space that will give your children space to slide, climb, swing, and even make some music!

The teachers and staff can't wait until we get to see your children walk through those doors next Wednesday, August 7th! I am confident that we can all work together to make this year special for each and every child.

~ Glen Hopkins
Principal



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Aug. 5: Kindergarten Parent Meeting @ 6:00-6:45
- Aug. 5: Preschool Parent Meeting @ 6:00-6:45
- Aug. 6: Chocolate Moose @ 3:00-4:00
- Aug. 6: K-6 Meet and Greet @ 3:15-4:00
- Aug. 7: First Student Day
- Aug. 13: New Parent Meeting @ 6:00
- Aug. 13: PTO Meeting following the New Parent Meeting
- Aug. 24: International Family Welcome and Orientation 9:30 AM
- Aug. 29: Open House/Parent Meetings
Gr. 1-2: 5:30-6:15
Gr. 3-4: 6:20-7:05
Gr. 5-6: 7:10-7:55
- Sept. 2: Labor Day (No School)

Communication

We believe that clear and transparent communication is a key component for student success. Mr. Hopkins will continue to send a monthly newsletter, a bi-monthly IB Monthly, and weekly Monday Minutes via email. We also use Facebook and Twitter to share what is happening in school. Please make sure your email, address, and phone numbers are up to date in Skyward. Your child's teacher will share with you how they plan to communicate from their classrooms. Here are some "school-wide" methods of communication.

- Blackboard (automated emails and phone calls)
- Social Media (Facebook and Twitter)
- University Website
- MCCSC App
- Monday Minute (emailed out on Mondays from Mr. Hopkins)
- Monthly Newsletter (Mr. Hopkins will send this out)
- IB Monthly (it's actually bi-monthly)



There are clearly many ways that we communicate, but these don't replace face to face or phone calls. Please reach out if/when you feel a personal conversation is important. We will do the same!



Preschool & Kindergarten Parent Meetings

Kindergarten will hold their Parent Meeting on Monday, August 5th from 6:00-6:45. Preschool will meet in the gym. This is an information session for how life works at University School for our parents. There will be childcare available in the cafeteria during this time for children ages 4 and older, but if you have someone to watch them at home, that would be wonderful. The Meet and Greet the following day is when your children will be able to come in to explore the room with you.

Chocolate Moose and NEW University School Shirts

The Chocolate Moose will be at University School to sell ice cream from 3:00-4:00 on Tuesday, August 6th, during our Meet and Greet. The Chocolate Moose will donate a percentage of their sales to the University School PTO.



The PTO will be set up in the University Bookstore (to the left of the University office) selling our NEW UES swag (shirts)! Be sure to come by and check out our new designs, which include our University Univee! What is a Univee you ask, you will have to come and see! All shirts are \$10. We will only be able to accept cash or checks at this time as our wife is a bit moody right now. Exact change is appreciated!

Meet and Greet

Meet and Greet will take place on Tuesday, August 6th from 3:15-4:00. This is a time for all of our families to get into the school, find out who their teacher is, and where their classrooms are located. This is not a formal parent meeting where there will be a presentation. Simply come in, walk around, see your friends, and get a few of those nerves out of the way before the first day on Wednesday.

New Parent Orientation

Something new this year will be our "New Parent Orientation." This will take place on Tuesday, August 13th at 6:00 in the cafeteria. The target audience for this gathering with Mr. Hopkins and Mrs. Guthrie will be parents that are new to University School. Mr. Hopkins and Mrs. Guthrie will take some time to talk a little about University School and how things work. Following the New Parent Orientation, we will hold our first PTO meeting of the year.

Open House/Parent Meetings

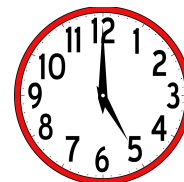
We will hold our Open House for families in grades 1-6 on Thursday, August 29th. Please see the schedule on the front of this newsletter under "Mark Your Calendars" for the times for each grade level. Your child's teacher will communicate with you how this will look in their classrooms as some may elect for a formal presentation while others may engage in a more informal process to preview the year's expectations and curriculum in the classroom. These meetings are intended for parents only. Childcare, ages 4 and older, will be provided during your 45-minute block of time.

Daily Schedule

- 8:45 - Buses arrive/Student Drop-off
- 9:00 - School begins
- 9:00-9:15 - Students marked tardy
- 9:15 - Students marked 1/2 day absent
- 3:35 - Kindergarten dismissal
- 3:45 - School ends (Gr. 1-6)

Lunch Schedule

- Kindergarten: 11:45-12:15
- 1st: 12:25-12:55
- 2nd: 11:00-11:30
- 3rd: 11:10-11:40
- 4th: 11:40-12:10
- 5th: 12:50-1:20
- 6th: 12:15-12:45
- Preschool: Various times (see preschool communication)



YOUR UES PTO

Your University PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) meets on the second Tuesdays of the month starting at 6:00 PM in the library. Specific dates will be in Monday Minutes and monthly newsletters.

Your PTO's singular focus is how to support the students and staff of University School. PTO will send out communication periodically on goldenrod paper, via email, and on their Facebook page. Even if you are only able to help with one event this year, that will go a long way to support our kids!

www.uespto.org Email Hopi Stosberg, PTO President at: hopi@stosberg.com



Lifelines and Learner Profile

This year, University School will continue their Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons each month, focusing on ways for students to "better understand, manage, and express emotions and empathy, develop positive relationships, and make responsible decisions."

In addition to this, we will be pairing a Lifeline with a Learner Profile to help our students to develop the "soft skills" they need to become caring and active citizens.

For month of August, we will focus on the Lifeline of "Manners" and the Learner Profile of "Inquirers."

- **Manners:** "We understand that different situations call for different behaviors."
- **Inquirers:** "We ask questions of ourselves and others. Our curiosity will help us learn facts and skills for life."

Each month, teachers will nominate students from their classrooms that model these traits. Students will have their pictures taken and placed on the large bulletin board outside the gym where we hope to have a collage of our students by the end of the year.

Ultimately, all of our Lifelines fall under the umbrella of the Lifelong Guidelines, "*Do the Right Thing*" and "*Treat People Right*."

As the year progresses, we fully anticipate that our teachers and your children will not only share this common vocabulary but will also model these practices.

Dismissal Changes

If you need to make changes to your afternoon dismissal plans for your child, please make very effort to contact the office by noon at 812-330-7753. Calling the office is the best options as classroom teachers are not always able to check voicemails or emails during the instructional day. University is a large school. The earlier we know, the better.

A Summer of Learning

You can take the teachers out of school, but you can't take the school out of the teachers.....

While our teachers were able to take some time this summer to relax with friends and family, they were still hard at work to refine their skills so they could come back better for your children. Below are a few of the things that our teachers at University engage during the summer. Truly, we are fortunate to have such dedicated and driven educators in our school.

- Taught MCCSC Summer School
- Taught STEM Summer Camp in Hangzhou, China for 3 weeks
- Professional Development in Indianapolis about "Teaching Tolerance"
- Professional Development in Chattanooga, TN about Maker Spaces (STEM Education)
- K-6 International Summer Institute at IU
- IB Workshops at UES
- Indiana State Teachers Summer Conference
- MCCSC Social Emotional Learning Institute
- Taught high school equivalency classes at the Monroe County Jail
- Taught at WonderLab Camp
- Orton-Gillingham Professional Development (Approach to Reading Instruction)
- Bridges Math Professional Development
- Indiana State Teachers Association "Emerging Leaders" Conference
- STEM Fellowship
- IU Summer Kodaly Institute
- IDOE Roadshow - Changing the Role of Early Learning Teacher
- CMP3 Math Professional Development

Believe it or not, this is just a sample! When you see a teacher this next week, please consider taking a time to tell them thank you for giving their summer break to get better. Of course, it's all for one reason: your children!



KEEP UP TO
DATE WITH LIFE
AT UNIVERSITY!

- Follow University on Twitter - @UniversityElem
- Like University on Facebook - University Elementary School
- Download the MCCSC app for Apple or Android - MCCSC
- Visit our webpage - <https://www.mccsc.edu/university>

Email Mr. Hopkins at ghopkins@mccsc.edu

Email Mrs. Guthrie at rguthrie@mccsc.edu