**From the Superintendent ~**

As we near the end of the 2018-19 school year, we want to thank all of those who volunteered or took an active role in helping our students to be successful in their academics. It makes educating all students easier with the help of so many dedicated people.

The fourth nine weeks brought with it the assessment of students through state testing. Like previous years, we tested our students electronically. Staff have been working to provide intervention and testing strategies to enhance the student's opportunities on the test. We continue to work on our four Pillars to Success, which have provided us a road map to improvement. You can review the four pillars on our website.

We are happy to say that the pilot preschool program was a help to many of our parents. It is our intention to offer this program another year at Utica Elementary. The program will continue to have thirty-two seats available for those students who are primarily in need of special education services. We will fill the remainder of seats with general education students. The *Leader in Me* program has shown great promise for our elementary students and staff. This program utilizes Stephen Covey's characteristics for highly effective students. Our staff has been working in teams all year to develop the building-led program for each of our elementary buildings.

We look forward to continuing the collaboration we have built with a number of parents, businesses, and community members with our community engagement activities. For the upcoming school year, we are preparing to offer several sessions on items such as fraud, personal finance, drugs, and social media. We believe these are worthwhile to provide information to everyone on common issues our community is facing and hope you will be able to attend these sessions.

We would also like to thank all of the parents and staff who attended the district “Think Tank” meetings. These meetings give us an opportunity to hear from our community and see where all of you would like our district to move. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have ideas for the future. We are always looking for ways to improve the programs and lives of our students.

This is an exciting time for all of us. We will be introducing approximately 120 students to the world as graduates of North Fork Local Schools. This is the completion of thirteen years of education in our district, and potentially the beginning of further education for many. We would like to offer our congratulations and best wishes to all of those graduating.

We wish all of you a healthy and safe summer break.

Scott Hartley, Superintendent
Utica Elementary would like to highlight a few of our clubs, organizations, and activities that have taken place this school year.

**MATH CLUB - Mrs. Downes**
This is the fifth year of **Math Club**, and this year there are 24 members - 11 in 4th grade and 13 in 5th grade.
Following is a synopsis of what we have done each month:

**October 9** - Pringles Stack Challenge - Students watched a video about how to create a ring using only Pringles; then they tried to do it themselves.

**November 13** - Students played the old-fashioned board game Monopoly, buying and selling properties.

**December 11** - Students created Christmas decorations cutting snowflake fractals from paper and making mobius chains.

**January 15** - Domino Games - Domino Keepers Multiplication - Played in pairs, students each picked a domino and multiplied the sides together. The player with the highest product kept both dominos. The player with the most won.

**February 12** - Students built structures with spaghetti and toothpicks to see who could build the tallest, most stable structure with a specific set of materials.

**March 12** - To celebrate Pi-Day, students verified the value of pi using a selection of round treats (sausage and slices of fruit). They measured the circumference and diameter of several items and then calculated the value of pi. They then ate the evidence.

**April 16** - At our final meeting, students in teams used Zome materials to build the tallest free-standing structure they could. A special thanks to Mrs. Dupler for allowing us to use her materials.
SCIENCE CLUB - Mrs. Ridgeway

Utica Elementary Science Club consisted of 31 fourth and fifth graders this year! We met once each month to explore science in the real world and make connections between every day happenings and scientific phenomena! This year we’ve studied things such as the human body, magnets and fossils! We even spent some time outdoors looking for magnetic objects and playing the magnetic attraction game. Our final Science Club meeting for the 2018-2019 school year was April 24th and 25th, during this meeting we explored the world of water.

Stay tuned for next year’s group of kids and their after-school adventures in the world of science!

Reading Buddies - FIFTH GRADE and PRESCHOOL

Mrs. Ridgeway’s fifth grade students have begun meeting twice weekly with Ms. Chandra’s preschool class as reading buddies! The fifth graders were so excited for a chance to show off their reading skills while helping the younger students develop their own. Both classrooms are already looking forward to meeting with their buddy again. Ms. Chandra says that her students even said that their reading buddy was their new best friend!
Utica Elementary School ~ continued

READING BUDDIES - FIFTH GRADE and PRESCHOOL

Continued
Student Government - Mrs. Maleszewski
This year the Student Government has had their hands in many things to help out our school. The students sold candy canes at Christmas time to raise money for playground equipment. We helped organize the campaign Pennies for Patients. This organization raises funds for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Student Government collected the money, helped count it and passed out prizes. We raised $3,042.00 for the Pennies for Patients campaign. Members of our Student Government also helped run the Talent Show by working backstage, passing out programs and serving foods from the concession. Our last project for this school year is to restore our rock garden at the front of the school.

Have a SAFE summer!
FFA News

Congratulations to the following students who have qualified for the State FFA Agriscience Fair competition in May! These students will go through an interview on May 2nd to find out their placings on May 3rd. They were selected for this by completing an experiment and report, as well as completing an application. No more than 12 students can compete in the age divisions.

**Division 3: 9th or 10th Grade Students**
- **Food Products and Processing**
  - Allie Burgess
  - Lindsay Gray
- **Power Structural and Technical Systems**
  - Bella Ellis
  - Emily Hill

**Division 5: 11th or 12th Grade Students**
- **Plant Systems**
  - Shaeley Wamer
- **Power Structural and Technical Systems**
  - Trina Orr

**Division 6: 11th or 12th Grade Pair of Students**
- Kimberlee Homyak and Aramaik Wright

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**Important Dates and Field Trips**

- May 1 – Service Learning Essays and Hours due in order to graduate
- May 3 – Contemporary History Classes visit the State Capital
- May 9 – Senior Scholarships & Awards Night
- May 16 – Student Awards Assembly
- May 17 – Last complete day for seniors!
- May 20 and 21 – Senior Exams
- May 21 - All senior grades are due at 11:59 PM.
- May 22 – Notification of non-graduates and notification of valedictorian and salutatorian.
- May 23 – Senior Breakfast, Picture, Graduation Practice, and Checkout
- June 2nd – Graduation @ C-TEC

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**Steamin’ Starcups**

Thank you to Tristan Morgan for her creativity and initiative in setting up a coffee cart for Utica Middle School and High School. Students in her class and in some of the middle school math classes are selling coffee to teachers on Fridays! This has provided a great opportunity for students to get practice with counting money, interacting with customers, and is providing potential experience for a future job! Students are making incredible progress and this project is having a positive impact on staff and students!
Trip to the Dominican Republic
Article by: Mrs. Lily Wall
During spring break, a group of juniors and seniors from upper level Spanish classes had the opportunity to travel to the Dominican Republic with Mrs. Wall. They spent the week exploring the beautiful country, trying different foods, listening and dancing to traditional music, learning about the history of the country, and meeting locals. Additionally, students had the chance to try a large variety of new activities such as white water rafting, snorkeling, pottery making, surfing, riding in a cable car, zip-lining, learning to dance the Merengue and Bachata, and visiting a variety of museums, caves, parks, and cities. Thank you to the Utica Animal Care Center for your generous donation, which helped to make this trip possible for our students, as well as to those of you who participated in our fundraisers throughout the year!

The students who attended are: Nathan Boyd, Caleb Lybarger, Zach Maurer, Trina Orr, Emily Dunn, Lauren Commons, Jordan Mockus, and Serenity Osborne.

Congratulations to the 2019 UHS Prom Court!
Front Row, L-R: Juniors Sydney Hoover, Taylor Heckman, Abbi Ashcraft, Kaylee Woodard, & Sara Dudgeon
Back Row, L-R: Juniors Brandon Piper, Blake Hale, Adam Crawford, Ethan Adams, & Trenton Carr
The Art Department recently competed in the Vans Custom Culture Shoe Customization Contest. Now that their submissions have been made, some students are shifting their focus to a program called, “Paint the Plow!” In an effort to enhance awareness and promote safety, ODOT - District 5 has introduced a successful, creative community outreach initiative to southern Ohio called “Paint the Plow.” Paint the Plow is a program in which area students are invited to paint an ODOT snow plow blade with original artwork to represent their individual school. In addition to being visible when in full service during the winter-weather months, the blades are used at events within the school’s community, not only to increase public awareness, but also to promote safety and foster greater appreciation of both ODOT and the schools' art programs. Juniors Mya Lepley and Ryleigh Carlin are working on Utica High School’s plow!

Rent a Wrestler!

Mowing  Indoor Chores

Gardening  Moving Items

Painting

Do you need help with time-consuming outdoor work? Or perhaps you want assistance with this year’s spring cleaning. Whatever the job, the Utica Wrestling Team is back with their “Rent a Wrestler” fundraiser. Please help these young men by contributing to the program so they are able to purchase new equipment and go to wrestling camps this summer.

For more information, contact Coach Rakoczy at (740) 644-8629.

Congratulations to Pierce Jordan on placing 3rd at the Young Guns Freestyle in Pennsylvania!
Eighth Grade Events ~
Ms. Almendinger’s and Mrs. Williams’ regular 8th grade ELA students are learning about the Holocaust the next few weeks. Students watched a video of a survivor’s story, read an informational article about Auschwitz, and are now reading the novel *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. Students will be able to conduct short research projects and connect outside information with the novel through completing choice projects. This unit prepares students who are going to Washington, D.C. for what they will see at the Holocaust Museum, and also gives all students knowledge about this important event in history.

The students will begin writing essays on the importance of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in advance of their trip to Washington, D.C. It is with these essays that the teachers will choose the students to lay the wreath at Arlington. The opportunity to lay the wreath is one of those life events. In addition, the students in Mrs. Skinner’s technology class are making PowerPoint presentations after researching one of the monuments they will see. What a great way to practice all of those great skills!!

Seventh Grade Events ~
The 7th graders in Mrs. Smith’s and Mrs. M. Williams’ ELA classes have been busy searching for Grover during their “Sea of Monsters” Quest - a blended learning unit covering test prep material. The students had to complete various lessons and activities in order to “earn” 2,000 drachmas to save Grover. The top drachma earners for Mrs. Smith’s classes were: Matt Stump, Destiney Bell, Faith Westbrook, Hannah Myers, Lauren Schmitt, Nevaeh Anthony, Stephen Epps, Cheyenne Shepler, Dawn Willis, Hanna Wygle, Kylee Gutridge. The top drachma earners for Mrs. Williams' classes were: Abbi Myers, Kylie White, Mason Rine, Owen Miranda, Aliyah Fluhart, Gunner Bowman, Ella Fischer, Camden Miranda, Zack Harvel, Brooklyn Fender, Roman Gamble, and Emma Lucas.

Sixth Grade Events ~
Mrs. Davis taught the students all about CELLS using the new microscopes!! The students then had to make their own model of cells. Some made artistic representations and some made them out of CAKE! Nice work!

Look out for the 2nd annual READING Fair! Mrs. McCoy and Mrs. Walton’s ELA classes will be presenting their informative and 3D book reports on May 17th for parents. Look for more information closer to the time. We look forward to seeing what the students create!
School Wide Activities ~
We will soon have raised beds in the inner courtyard, lumber courtesy of HOLMES LUMBER in SUNBURY!! Thank you! Mr. Trost’s class is planting vegetables to put in the raised beds! Look for awesome veggies in the fall!

In collaboration with Mrs. Fouty, Library Aide, Mr. Mitchell, Industrial Tech, and the community, we used recycled bottle caps to make AWESOME art!! These will be installed in the shared courtyard between UMS and UHS! Nice work!!
Utica Middle School Rockin Lock-In ~
Over 80 middle school 6th - 8th grade girls attended the first annual all girls “U Matter” Lock-In on March 21st. With the help of 20 staff members, the girls learned about improving their self-confidence, self-esteem, and empowerment through breakout sessions, team building activities, a glow stick dance party and movies. We were also honored to have a guest speaker from RoX talk to the girls about being strong, independent and courageous girls!

A big thank you to our community, area businesses and partnerships for their support of our successful event: Ariel Corporation, RoX (Ruling Our Experiences), The Ramseyers, Kroger, Tim Horton’s, Domino’s Pizza.
News from Newton Elementary 2nd Grade ~

We are so proud of all of our students this year! They have really been working hard. Through our Reading Counts Program, the students have been keeping track of the words that they have read throughout the year. All of the students are meeting their personal reading goals and showing improvement every day! We do have several students who we would like to recognize for their extreme effort and success with the Reading Counts Program. In the 100,000 word category we have Ellie Franks, Jaxson Linger, Isabella Davis, Brooklyn Kreager, Evelyn Barnes, Chloe Prince, Nayahna Ferrin, Clayton Hollis and Brody Gallagher. Reading over 200,000 are Michael Byers, Shalyn Firman, Wake Willis, Jason Douglass, Tucker McElroy, Elias Atwood and Felisha Hartley. Wow, Elise Statczar, Taleah Clark, Katelyn Wooddell, Emanuel Gonzalez, Adrienne Meyer and Olive Ley have read over 300,000 words! Cambree Perkins is at a whopping 400,000 words! Chloe Meek weighs in at over 500,000 words! Finally, a reader that amazes us all is Kendyll Shaffer who has read over 1,700,000 words! Congratulations to all!

The Y Healthy Kids Network ~

Newton Elementary is lucky to be part of a program that provides backpacks of nutritious and easy-to-prepare food for elementary students to take home on weekends. The meals are single-serve and kid-friendly. There are food items such as macaroni & cheese, fruit cups, spaghetti and meatballs, beef ravioli and milk. Out of the 535 children served in Licking County, we have 17 students in our building who participate in this wonderful program! We would like to thank the volunteers from various local churches who volunteer their time every week to pack the backpacks for our students!

NEWTON PTO 5K

The 6th Annual Newton PTO 5K Fun Run is Sunday, May 5, at 2:00 p.m. at the Utica High School track. Please go to the following link for information.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1G5wpXTx5ALEPQLqP1yX-GH9ZP4DKyjYQVMhj_O-g0EA/edit?usp=sharing

Please “Like” the Newton PTO 5K Facebook page for updates!

Upcoming Events

May 5       PTO 5K
May 17      Walk-a-Thon at UHS Track
May 21      PTO Fun Day
May 27      No School
May 30      Last Day for the 2018-2019 School Year!