

Collins Cub Reporter

Collins Elementary School | est.



November 2017

Collins Families:

Our 2017-2018 school year is off to a fantastic start! It is hard to believe November is already here. We have already reached many milestones here at Collins Elementary. Our Boo Bash, Red Ribbon Week and the Halloween Parade are just a few of the successes that we have shared as a community. This would not be possible without the support of our terrific parents, teachers, office staff, and students. Working together we make Collins Elementary the best learning community it can be. Thank you!

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday, November 15th from 4:00-7:00 pm and Thursday, November 16th from 12:30-3:30 & 4:00-7:00 pm. Parent teacher conferences provide an important opportunity to strengthen relationships with your child's teacher. During the conferences, you will learn more information regarding your child's strengths, learning styles, and the next steps in their learning process.

Winter is just around the corner, and it's time for students to layer up! Students go out for recess whenever the weather permits. Please remember to pack students their jackets, gloves, hats, boots and scarves. Cold temperatures do not keep us inside (unless it is 10 degrees or below), so please be sure your child is dressed appropriately to enjoy the outdoors on cold November and December days.

This year, our students will be showing off their "PAWS"!

- Positive Choices
- Act Responsibly
- Will be Respectful
- Show Your Integrity

These positive choices will be celebrated throughout the school year with fun school assemblies.

Also, don't forget there will be no school Tuesday, November 7th for a staff professional development day!

Have a great November!

Jennifer Kleiner
Collins Elementary Principal

Collins Elementary's Mission: With the support of the community, the mission of Bruce Collins Elementary is to foster a caring and enriching environment that enables all students to grow academically and socially to reach their individual potential. as they become lifelong learners.

Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School

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Utica Community Schools
Every Child Achieves



Recuperating at Home

When is your child too sick to attend school? The following guidelines, along with the advice of your family doctor, will help you decide when your child should stay home:

- Cold and/or cough – a child with deep mucus that cause a cough and heavy nose drainage cannot function at school.
- Fever – fever is a warning that something is wrong. A child should remain at home for 24 hours after the fever is gone.
- Rash – a rash, spots or blotches on the skin can be the first sign of many illnesses.

Keep your child home until your doctor says it is safe to return.

- Stomach Ache/Upset – a child who is vomiting or has diarrhea should be kept at home.
- Head Lice – a child with head lice must remain at home until treatment is complete and school officials confirm he or she is free of lice.

Check your child's head before school begins in the fall and routinely during the school year or if he or she complains of a n itchy scalp. Look around your child's ears and back of the neck for nits, which are tiny, white, oval-shaped lice eggs that are attached to the hair near the scalp. Nits may look like dandruff or scalp flakes, but nits do not move and are difficult to dislodge.

Notify the school office immediately if your child has head lice. Begin treatment immediately by contacting your doctor or purchasing over-the-counter medication from the drug store. To prevent spreading head lice, wash all infested garments, hair accessories, bedding and other surfaces with hot water and disinfectant. You must sign your child in at the office when he or she is returning to school after treatment for head lice.

Absences

For students to get the most out of school, regular and punctual attendance is important.

If your child is too ill to attend class, please notify the school as soon as possible. Each school has a 24-hour attendance line to take parent calls. The school should be notified each day the child is absent. If a teacher recognizes that an attendance or tardiness problem is developing, the student's parent/guardian will be notified.

Your child will be excused from class for illness, bereavement, recognized religious holidays and medical or dental treatment that cannot be scheduled after school or on weekends. Your child is responsible for makeup work. Homework requests may be made for an absence of two or more days in the case of both excused and pre-excused absences. Homework requests require 24 hours to process.

Absence for family travel during scheduled school days is discouraged. However, should family travel be necessary, parents must submit a written request to the teacher for a pre-excused absence at least one week in advance. Arrangements to complete classroom assignments can be made with the teacher.

If a student arrives late to school, the parent must accompany the student into the office, and the student must be signed in before he or she can go to class.

Truancy officials will be contacted in the event of a student's excessive tardies or absences.

Emergency School Closing

In the event of severe inclement weather; loss of electrical power, heat or water; or other emergency, Utica Community Schools may: close the school (s) for the entire day; open the school(s) but without bus transportation; delay bus transportation and start time(s) by one hour; or dismiss students early.

Parents will be notified of emergency school closings by an automated telephone calling and/or email system. Depending on conditions, the calls/emails may go out the night before or the early morning of a closing. Please be sure the school has your correct phone number(s) and email.

Emergency closings will also be broadcast on radio stations WOMC-104.3 FM,, WJR-760AM, WWJ-950 AM; on TV stations WJBK-2, WDIV- 4 and WXYZ-7 and on the district's Web site www.uticak12.org and UCS-TV cable stations 22 (Comcast) and 15 (WOW).

If students must be dismissed early, efforts will be made to contact a parent or emergency card designee. Please make sure your child knows your family's plan for emergency dismissal.

Lunchroom Expectations

Elementary school lunchrooms are supervised by adults.

Students are expected to:

- Eat quietly and use good table manners
- Remain seated until dismissed by an adult supervisor
- Place all trash and recyclable items in proper containers
- Leave the table in a clean condition for other students
- Show respect for others

Glass containers and knives are not allowed. Students are not permitted to take food or beverages outside the lunchroom.

Parents will be notified if certain foods cannot be brought to school because of the students' allergies or health concerns.

Playground Guidelines

Fresh air and exercise are proven to enhance a child's physical and educational growth.

Recess is an important part of the Utica Community Schools elementary program and is supervised by authorized school personnel. A doctor's note is required to excuse a student from recess for more than two days. Your child should come to school dressed for outdoor play, even in the winter months.

During especially inclement or bitterly cold weather, recess will be held indoors.

Staying in Touch

Utica Community Schools is committed to sharing important news specific to your child's progress as well as the school and district in general, through:

- Student progress reports and report cards
- Parent/teacher conferences
- Notes or telephone calls from teachers
- Email correspondence between teacher and parent, which can be arranged through a prior written agreement with the teacher
- School and district newsletters
- An automated phone calling/email system that may be used to notify parents about school closings and events and activities
- Various types of digital communication
- Board of Education meetings generally held the second and fourth Monday of the month at the Joan C. Sergent Instructional Resource Center, 14201 Canal Road in Sterling Heights
- Utica Community Schools TV on channels 15 (Comcast) or 22 (WOW)
- The district Web site www.uticak12.org
- Local media coverage

Dress and Grooming

Utica Community Schools takes pride in its students and encourages their development of good hygiene and grooming habits. Student dress and appearance that is neat and clean contributes to a positive school environment. Student appearance should not be disruptive to the educational process. Consider the following guidelines in selecting school clothing:

- Indecent, tattered or unsafe dress or footwear, or attire that calls undue attention to the wearer or has lettering or symbols that are disrespectful or derogatory is not allowed.
- Beach wear, low-cut tops, tank tops, sleeveless tops, muscle-shirts, see-through clothing, short skirts, short shorts, tight clothing without proper coverage, pajamas and clothing exposing the shoulders or mid-section are not allowed.
- Knee length shorts and skirts are acceptable. Shoes must be worn.
- Outerwear – such as coats and hats – is not to be worn in school.
- Clothing that promotes illegal substances or drugs, illegal activities, violence, tobacco or alcohol is prohibited.

2017-2018 Calendar

Important Note -

Below please find an overview of the 2017-2018 Utica Community Schools calendar. Please note some important changes from the previous schedules.

These changes are required under a new state law that expanded instructional time for all Michigan students.

For the next school year, legislation for expanded instructional time has resulted in full days on January 3, 2018, May 25, 2018 and a half-day on

Friday, June 15, 2018. In addition, three minutes will be added to the high school instructional day (Eisenhower, Henry Ford II, Stevenson and Utica high schools) with dismissal at 2:14 p.m.

September 5	First Day of School Half Day for Elementary Students Full Day for Secondary Students
October 11	Junior High School Conferences Full Day for All Students Junior High School Conferences in the evening
October 12	7-12 Parent Conferences Full Day for Elementary Students Half Day for Secondary Students for afternoon conferences High School Conferences continue into evening
October 31	Half Day for Elementary Students Full Day for Secondary Students
November 7	Professional Development Day No School
November 16	K-6 Conferences Half Day for Elementary Students for afternoon conferences Full Day for Secondary Students
November 22	Thanksgiving Break Begins No School
November 27	Classes Resume
December 25	Winter Break Begins No School
January 3	Classes Resume
January 15	MLK Day No School
January 24	Secondary Exams Full Day for Elementary Students Half Day for Secondary Students
January 25	Secondary Exams Half Day for All Students
January 26	Secondary Exams Half Day for All Students
February 19	Mid-Winter Break Begins No School
February 26	Classes Resume
March 30	Good Friday No School
April 2	Spring Break Begins No School
April 9	Classes Resume
April 13	Half Day for Elementary Students Full Day for Secondary Students
May 28	Memorial Day No School
June 13	Secondary Exams Full Day for Elementary Students Half Day for Secondary Students
June 14	Secondary Exams Half Day for All Students
June 15	Last Day of School Secondary Exams Half Day for All Students

Nondiscrimination in Education

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act and the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act, it is the policy of Utica Community Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any instructional opportunities, programs, services, job placement assistance, employment or in policies governing student conduct and attendance. Any person suspecting a discriminatory practice should contact the Executive Director of Human Resources at Utica Community Schools, 11303 Greendale, Sterling Heights, MI 48312 or call (586) 797-1000.