



Messenger

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The mission of Messmore Elementary School is to provide a Montessori environment that fosters self-motivated, responsible, life-long learners.



"If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time"

Author Unknown

January 2018

I love the start of a new calendar year as much as I love the start of a new school year. It is the perfect time to reflect on the past and make goals for the future. Most people will set aside time to write goals or resolutions. This is also a great time for students to reflect on their learning and where they are as a learner. Research has shown that when students set personal learning goals at the beginning of a semester they increase their efficacy, motivation, and their ability to produce a desired result for academic achievement. Students feel a greater sense of control over what they are learning when they can identify how the learning is relevant to them. In addition, goal setting helps students develop self-regulation. Students who are skilled at self-regulation are able to consciously set goals for their learning and monitor their understanding and progress as they engage in a task. Acquiring these skills helps students become independent lifelong learners.

Try creating a learning goal with your child that you can work on together at home. Here are some examples of learning goals:

- I can read for 25 minutes each night for one month to build my reading stamina.
- I can learn 30 new vocabulary words during the third marking period.
- I can have a 90% average in Science by mid-winter break.
- I can read an entire chapter book from cover to cover in two weeks.
- I can automatically know all my addition facts by February.
- I can learn all my multiplication and division facts this card marking.

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Exciting News!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. MARKS!!!

Mr. Marks was chosen from almost 100 nominees to receive \$3,000 in school supplies in a “Comerica Bank: Thanks for Teachers Contest.” Way to go, Mr. Marks! Way to go!!

<http://www.macombdaily.com/general-news/20171201/gym-teacher-wins-supplies-in-thanks-for-teachers-contest>

Contents		Dates to Remember	
Principal’s Message	1-2	Jan. 3, 2018	School Resumes
Exciting News!	1	Jan. 15, 2018	MLK Jr. Day—No School
FYI	2-3	Jan. 25 and 26, 2018	Half Days of School
District Calendar	4	Feb. 15, 2018	Preschool Open House 6-8pm
Calendar	5	Feb. 19—25, 2018	Mid-Winter Break—No School

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How can parents help their child create and reach learning goals?

Set realistic goals. Help your child set a learning goal that is specific, realistic, and attainable. Use short time frames to monitor progress (once a week).

Develop a step-by-step action plan.

Your child should read the goal daily and visualize himself or herself accomplishing it.

Have your child reflect on his or her progress to see if he or she is on target.

Revise the action plan if needed.

Celebrate with your child his or her accomplishments.

Sample Action Plan for a student with the goal of having a 90% or higher average in mathematics: *I will take careful notes and review them at least two days before tests and quizzes so that I can ask the teacher questions about what I don't understand. I will do my math homework before I play with friends, and when I hand it in, I will ask the teacher about anything I am not sure about. When I get anything wrong, I will make sure to ask the teacher, or one of my classmates how they got the right answer.*

Thank you for helping your child keep their eyes on a goal with your support with the steps towards achieving them!

Sincerely,

Renee Fiema

Messmore Principal



NEW for 2018 Utica Community Schools Text Messaging Service

Utica Community Schools is introducing a texting service for parents. The service will allow parents to receive important information directly on a mobile device from Utica Community Schools about school closings, safety alerts, school reminders and more. UCS parents will receive a test message from the district on Wednesday, January 17 that reads:

“Utica Community Schools messages. Reply Y to confirm, HELP 4 info. Msg&data rates may apply. Msg freq varies. schoolmessenger.com/tm”

To receive the free* text messages, simply reply “Y” or “Yes” to the message.

You can also opt out at any time by replying “Stop” to one of the messages.

*Terms and Conditions: Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See schoolmessenger.com/txt for more info.

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Emergency School Closing

In the event of an emergency (severe inclement weather, loss of electrical power, heat, or water, etc.), UCS may either close the school(s) for the entire day, open the school(s) with no bus services, delay bus transportation and school start time(s) by one hour, or dismiss students early.

Parents will be notified of emergency school closings by an automated telephone calling system. Depending on conditions, the calls may go out the night before or the early morning of a closing.

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

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.



NWEA Mid-Year Assessments

The NWEA mid-year assessments monitor the progress of each student. The testing will conclude near the beginning of February. The information provided assists us in planning the remainder of the year and highlights areas our students may still need assistance. Also, this information will help us predict how our students will perform on the state assessment this spring.



Outdoor Recess Expectations

Messmore students do have recess during the winter months. Recess is an important part of the school day. It gives the children a chance to release some of their pent-up energy and clear their minds for the remainder of the school day.

All students are expected to go out for recess unless a doctor's note is provided saying they must stay inside. This is true even during warmer months.

At Messmore, students will go out for recess whenever the wind-chill is 10 degrees or higher. The Mount Clemens area report on Channel 42 and Comcast Channel 22 are used to determine the wind-chill as well as the website, www.weather.com.

Proper clothing for outside recess is a necessity. Children should dress warmly with gloves, scarves, boots, coats, and hats. **It is a good practice to include an additional pair of socks and sweatpants in your child's backpack in case their clothing gets wet.** This practice cuts down on calls home or at work for a change of clothing.

On bitter cold days, the children will stay inside. The length of recess will often be adjusted to allow the children to get a little fresh air so they are not subjected to the cold for an extended amount of time.

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District Calendar

12.25.17 Winter Break All students off 12.25.17 to 1.2.18. Resume 1.3.18.

1.15.18 MLK Day No students attend

1.24.18 Secondary Exams Day 1 Elementary student full day; Secondary student half-day

1.25.18 Secondary Exams Day 2 All student half-day

1.26.18 Secondary Exams Day 3 All student half-day

2.19.18 Mid-Winter Break All students off 2.19.18 to 2.25.18. Resume 2.26.18.

3.30.18 Good Friday No students attend

4.2.18 Spring Break All students off 4.2.18 to 4.8.18. Resume 4.9.18.

4.9.18 MStep Testing Window MStep Testing for grades 5, 8 and 11 through May 4, 2018

4.10.18 SAT, PSAT Day High School students consult specific schedules TBD

4.11.18 Work Keys, PSAT Day High School students consult specific schedules TBD

4.13.18 K-6 Records Day Elementary student half-day; Secondary student full day

4.30.18 MStep Testing Window MStep Testing for grades 3, 4, 6 and 7 through May 25, 2018

5.28.18 Memorial Day No students attend

6.13.18 Secondary Exams Day 1 Elementary student full day; Secondary student half-day

6.14.18 Secondary Exams Day 2 All student half-day

6.15.18 Secondary Exams Day 3 All student half-day; last day of school

Quarterly marking periods conclude: November 3, 2017; January 26, 2018; April 13, 2018; June 15, 2018

January 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 New Year's Day—No School—Winter Break	2 No School—Winter Break	3 School Resumes	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 MLK Jr. Day—No School	16 Winter Peacemaker Recognition Assembly at 2pm	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Half Day of School	26 Half Day of School End of 2nd Marking Period	27
28	29	30	31			