

Happy New Year, Ebeling Parents:

May 2018 bring peace and prosperity to you and your family!

Before the holiday break, Ebeling students and their families were extremely generous to those less fortunate. We were able to donate boxes filled with canned food items, and winter hats, scarves, and gloves to individuals and various organizations who put them in the hands of those in need. Thank you again for those gifts!

At this time of year, classroom teachers will be busy administering midyear assessments and collecting and tracking student data in the form of NWEA tests, writing assessments, reading tests, and pre and post tests in other areas. We use the results of these tests together with other measures to help monitor our student's progress as well as to improve our curriculum and teaching practices. The results help us evaluate the progress and effectiveness of our plan to improve student achievement, and help ensure we are meeting our building goals for student success, and the District goal, "Every Child Achieves".

With the goal of achievement in mind, please let me remind you that the Power School Parent Portal is open and available to provide you with timely information regarding your child's attendance status and classroom progress. If you have not yet opened a Power School account for your child, please take the opportunity to visit us in the main office at any time during the school day. You must present a photo ID and sign the Utica Community Schools PowerSchool Parent Portal Agreement in order to receive your user ID and password. The Parent Portal has proved to be an excellent tool for advancing our home/school partnership.

On our January calendar, we have a few upcoming dates of interest. There is no school on Monday, January 15th, due to the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Our 2nd marking period ends on Friday, January 26, 2018. Students will attend school for a half day on both Thursday, January 25 and Friday, January 26. All students will be dismissed at 11:30, with teacher records days held on both afternoons.

As a reminder, we will no longer be automatically printing and sending report cards home with students. Utica Community Schools has two easy ways to electronically access your child's grades through a secure system. These options will allow parents to view semester grades and attendance as soon as the information becomes available. If you do not already have accounts set up, look for information later in this newsletter regarding setting up PowerSchool and SchoolMessenger accounts.

Stay warm!