

General School Information

School Safety and Security

In light of recent events across the country, we have had to reevaluate school safety and security at Eppler Junior High School. Effective immediately, students may not enter the school prior to 7:30am, when they will be able gain entrance through our secure front entrance. If a student arrives prior to 7:30am for tutoring or participating with a team, club, or organization that meets prior to the start of the school day, the teacher, coach, or sponsor will be responsible for allowing students to enter the secure front entrance only.

Likewise, anyone wishing to enter the school during the day will also have to gain entrance through our secure front entrance only. To gain entrance through our secure front entrance, you must press the button at the front door. You will be asked to identify yourself and your student prior to the door being opened electronically for you.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but trust that we all recognize the importance of increased security and school safety.

Bus Information – [Click here](#) for more information, applications, bus routes, etc.

Bus Safety Reminders

Please be sure you are following these rules:

- Stand 10 feet from the road at the bus stop.
- **NO** cell phones/electronics on the bus.
- Don't rush to the bus as it approaches the stop.
- Must be sitting while the bus is moving (at all times).
- **Respect** the bus driver.



Entering the Building

Entering the Building

Students are expected to remain outside until 8:00am during all seasons unless we are experiencing inclement weather. Students will be allowed into the building if the temperature including the wind chill is 10 degrees or below. Please have your children dress appropriately. 7th grade is to enter the building at the south end, 8th grade is to enter at the north end, and 9th grade is to enter at the main entrance.

Breakfast is Served!

Breakfast for students at all grade levels will begin on Tuesday, September 4, 2018. Please note that breakfast is served on all scheduled school days, including half-days, throughout the school year. Lunch service will begin on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 for secondary buildings and on Wednesday, September 5, 2018 for elementary buildings.

A healthy, nutritious breakfast is a critical ingredient to the success of our students. To help our students succeed, the school breakfast program is available in all of our schools. Healthy choices include cereal, whole-grain breakfast bars, yogurt, fruit and milk in the elementary buildings. Those choices, along with fresh-made hot breakfast sandwiches and other favorites are featured in the secondary buildings. Fresh-made fruit smoothies are also available in the high schools. Breakfast is served in the cafeteria prior to the start of the school day. For menu information and serving times at your student's school, please check the school's website or on the Utica Community Schools Mobile App.

Food Service – [Click here](#) for more information, applications, menus, student accounts, etc.

Food & Beverages

Students are NOT allowed to bring food or beverages from the cafeteria into the classrooms!

2018 -2019 School Meal Prices

To comply with federal pricing guidelines for school menus, prices have been increased for school lunches and breakfasts. Our participation in the program means that menus continue to be focused on providing students with healthy options for a nutritious breakfast and lunch. The new prices for this year are:

2018-2019 Meal Price	
Elementary, Lunch	\$ 2.75
Junior High, Lunch	\$ 2.90
High School, Lunch	\$ 2.95
All Grades, Breakfast	\$ 1.75

Free and Reduced Lunch

Free and reduced-price meal applications **must be updated annually** for benefits to continue without interruption. Families are strongly encouraged to go to www.lunchapp.com or complete a **paper application** as soon as possible for benefits to continue. **The deadline for free and reduced lunch applications for this school year is October 15, 2018.**

Food and Nutrition Services

The Food and Nutrition Services Department is excited to announce that all menus are now digitally accessible on all devices to allow for personalized viewing options. Users can select to view nutritional and allergen information, as well as customize print and language settings. Menus can also be viewed at <https://uticak12.nutrislice.com>, or on the UCS Mobile App.

Customizable New School Menus Now Available Digitally accessible on all devices

- View menus for multiple schools and days
- Filter or highlight allergy and nutrition information
- Customize print and language settings
- Photos of menu items
- Menus available on UCS app and website
- Hear menus on Amazon Echo and Alexa enabled devices
- Demonstration video at www.uticak12.org/foodandnutrition



Menus above represent sample menus and not actual menu items.

Customize, view and print all school menus at <https://uticak12.nutrislice.com>
Or view on Utica Community Schools Mobile App



Visit the app store and search for "Utica Community Schools."



Food and Nutrition Service Meal Policy

When a student meal charge creates a negative balance, prompt repayment is expected. To bring the meal account up to date, families can make deposits online, send cash or a check to school with the student's full name on the memo line (checks made payable to Utica Community Schools).

By establishing an account with [sendmoneytoschool.com](http://www.sendmoneytoschool.com) through the food and nutrition service link on the district website (<http://www.uticak12.org/foodandnutrition>) or app, families/parents can monitor balances and receive low balance email alerts on their students' account. Students who pay for meals may only charge (have a negative account balance) up to five (5) meals (breakfast and/or lunch). If a student has a zero or negative account balance, they will not be allowed to make any a la carte or beverage purchases. After the fifth charge, students will not be able to make purchases of any kind in the cafeteria using their meal accounts. Instead students will be offered a regular meal (alternate meal).

Alternate meals are provided at no charge and include all the components federally required to qualify for a reimbursable meal. Alternate meals will continue to be offered while the negative balance is being resolved. For elementary school households, auto-messages from the school regarding negative/low balances are initiated weekly each Thursday (by email if provided or letter sent home). When an account balance is low or negative, cashiers will share that information with the student in a respectful age-appropriate manner. Please contact the Food and Nutrition Services Department at 586-797-1180 for further assistance.

Perfume/Body Spray

Please **DO NOT** spray perfume, cologne, body spray, etc. in the hallway or classrooms. This includes using strongly scented hand sanitizers and lotions.

NJHS



NJHS Eligibility Overview

What is NJHS? NJHS is part of a national organization that promotes exceptional scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship and character.

What are the requirements to become a member of NJHS?

Students who are in 8th or 9th grade and have a cumulative GPA of 3.45 or higher and exemplary citizenship will be invited to attend an informational meeting for parents and students. If students wish to join, they will receive information about how to apply for membership at this meeting. Eligibility letters will be sent out in late September or early October. Only students who attend the informational meeting with parents will be able to apply for membership, and applications will be due a week or two after the meeting. Applications along with recommendations will be evaluated by a faculty council, and not all students that apply will be accepted.

What is involved in NJHS? Students are required to attend a monthly meeting, complete 15 hours of unpaid school and community service and maintain their GPA and good citizenship. Students are expected to be leaders within the school and community and contribute to maintaining a positive climate in the school.

What can my student do now? Encourage your student to participate in any type of school **AND** community service (with your family, church, community groups, service organizations, sports groups, etc.). Encourage your student to become involved in a variety of school and community-related activities. Have your student keep a log of all of his or her activities and community service projects. Encourage your student to be a leader in the classroom and other areas. Encourage your student to always put forth his or her best effort in the classroom and to maintain a positive attitude.

The Benefits of NJHS

NJHS is one of the oldest and most respected student recognition organizations in the US.

NJHS allows students to promote high standards academically and behaviorally by being role models for their peers. They are role models by having exceptional grades, giving back to the community and school, and displaying positive behavior both in and out of school.

By participating in service projects, students can learn how to be a more effective leader by networking with other student leaders. They can also build a portfolio for college.

Federal Guidelines Set for Snacks Sold in School

Federally-mandated snack and beverage standards were implemented effective July 1, 2014, in school districts nationwide. This will impact snacks sold by the district and through school fundraisers.

In accordance with the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Utica Community Schools has implemented the required nutrition standards for all snacks sold in school by all parties, including parent/student organizations, teachers, boosters, fundraisers and the Food and Nutrition Services department.

These standards for snack sales are in effect from any time before school through one-half hour (30 minutes) after school.

The standards do not apply to items sold beginning 30 minutes after school through the rest of the day. The standards do not apply to foods brought from home for personal consumption or to foods provided to students at no cost (i.e. approved special events).

Inclement Weather – School Closing



Inclement weather or building problems sometimes bring unexpected school closings. At Utica Community Schools there are several ways parents can be informed about these unanticipated days.

Utica Community Schools will implement the use of School Messenger, our mass parent communication system, to make telephone calls to parents/guardians informing them of school closing information. It is important that we have updated contact phone numbers. Please make sure that you notify the main office if there are any changes.

For parents connected to the Internet, the district's web page, www.uticak12.org, lists school closings under the emergency school closing button listed on the main page.

School closing information is broadcasted on radio stations WJR 760 and WWJ 950. Television stations airing school closing information are UCS TV, Channel 2 (WJBK), Channel 4 (WDIV) and Channel 7 (WXYZ).

Attendance Information – See the [Jr. High Student Handbook](#) for more information on UCS's attendance policy

Absentee/Late Arrival/Early Dismissal Call-in

Parents are reminded to call the school attendance line to report their child's absence, tardiness or early dismissals. Students who are tardy or late to school must be called in (to be excused). **All late arrival/tardy students must report to the Main Office upon arrival**, to receive a pass.

For early dismissals, you can also have your child drop off a note from the parent to the main office in the morning upon arrival to school, indicating the time of dismissal along with the name of who will be picking your child up. This will allow us to issue your child an Early Dismissal Pass, which permits them to leave the classroom at the designated dismissal time. You may also leave early dismissal requests on the attendance line before 10:00am. After that time, it is only checked a few times per day.

Automated Attendance System

Utica Community Schools' junior high schools have an automated attendance calling system. The system works in this manner:

- Phone calls will be made beginning at 6:00pm on each scheduled school day.
- Calls will be placed to the number that is entered as the "Primary Phone" in PowerSchool.
- Calls will be made for absence codes of "A = Unverified" and "U = Unexcused."

If your child has absences for one or more class periods during the day, the call will be placed and you will receive a voice message asking you to check and verify your child's attendance on PowerSchool. You will be asked to call the school's attendance office within 24 hours, if you haven't already done so, to excuse a full or partial day absence. If there is a concern with a single hour you will be asked to contact your child's teacher and not the attendance office. Please also inform us if the primary number we have listed for you is not correct.

For more information on attendance see the Jr. High Student Handbook.

1st Hour Tardy Policy

Administration will keep track of students' 1st hour tardies. Hours 2 – 6, will follow individual teachers' classroom rules:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| • 6 tardies | warning letter |
| • 8 tardies | after-school detention |
| • 12 tardies | Saturday School |
| • Every 4 tardies (i.e.: 16, 20, etc.) | Saturday School |

Homework Requests



Per district policy, as spelled out in the [Junior High School Parent and Student Handbook](#), "Homework requests may be made for an absence of three or more days in the case of both excused and pre-excused absences. Homework requests require 24 hours to process." Homework requests should be made through the attendance office. Please understand that teachers are in class with your children all day long and it is very difficult for them to process a growing number of homework requests on very short notice. We will process requests of one day, but teachers are not expected to send work home for a one-day absence.

Once homework is requested, it is expected that it will be picked up in the main office at the time and date requested. It is also expected that homework requested will be completed by the student and submitted immediately upon his or her return to school. In all other cases of student absence in which a homework request is not made, the student is responsible for seeing the teacher to get the assignments. The *Handbook* states "When a student is absent, it is the student's responsibility to arrange for makeup work. Students are generally given the same amount of time to make up the work as the amount of time they were absent."

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the main office.

ZAP (Zero's Aren't Permitted) – [Click here for complete details of this program](#)



The ZAP (Zeros Aren't Permitted) Program has started. Eppler staff wants everyone of you to be successful. Please do your work and hand it in on time. Don't get ZAPPED!

Students Get Student Email and Office for FREE

Everyone at Eppler Jr. High is united behind a single goal – to prepare our students for success in life. To help do that, we're providing Office 365 to every one of our students free of charge. This automatically updatable, subscription-based software ensures your child will always have the latest version of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, and more. We believe that providing our students with free access will enable them to better prepare for their future.

Students will be able to:

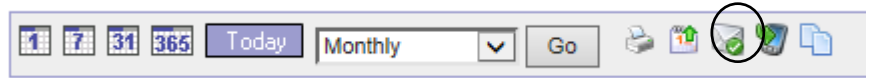
- Install Office on up to 5 personal PCs and Macs, plus 5 tablets
- Use cloud storage OneDrive
- Collaborate in real-time with other students using Office Online
- Gain valuable skills on the popular Office software
- Use the same programs as the staff to ensure full file fidelity

[Click here](#) for instructions for logging into your student email and getting to the Office 365 download site. If you need installation assistance, visit install Office on your PC or Mac with Office 365 at: <https://products.office.com/en-us/student>.

Subscribe to Eppler Calendar Alerts

To subscribe to email alerts for the Eppler calendar:

- Go to the [Eppler calendar](#)
- Click on the subscribe to email alerts icon →
- Select the type of alert wanted



PowerSchool/Unified Classroom – [Click here](#) to go to the district’s PowerSchool website



PowerSchool/Unified Classroom, the school district’s student information system, is used to schedule, take attendance, store grades, and produce transcripts, report cards, progress reports, and more. **Student report cards and progress reports will be email through this system.**

PowerSchool is resources for parents that are accessible through its new Unified Classroom. PowerSchool’s Unified Classroom is replacing the traditional Parent Portal. It is filled with helpful, new features such as attached assignments, enhanced communication tools, and convenient Naviance sign-on for secondary parents.

Existing Parent Portal in PowerSchool

[Click here](#) for instructions on how to create the Unified Classroom account and to associate your **existing** Parent Portal Account.

NOTE – Please use [Google Chrome](#) to create this account and future access to Unified Classroom

New Parents to PowerSchool

[Click here](#) for instructions on how to create the Unified Classroom account and to associate your child/children to this account.

NOTE – Please use [Google Chrome](#) to create this account and future access to Unified Classroom

Naviance

Utica Community Schools has partnered with Naviance to provide a variety of tools for achievement through academic, career and college planning. These tools are located in Naviance Student, a website for students and families to access online resources, communicate with school staff and work on college and career readiness activities with your school and family.

[Click here](#) for the updated parent brochure with more information and step-by-step instructions.

Text Messaging Service

**Utica Community Schools
Text Messaging Service**

Utica Community Schools offers a texting service for parents. The service allows parents to receive important information such as school closings, safety alerts, school reminders and more, directly from their school(s) on a mobile device.

Newly enrolled UCS parents will receive a text message from the district 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.

Even if you have not received a UCS message to join, parents may opt in by texting “Y” or “Yes” to the short code 67587.

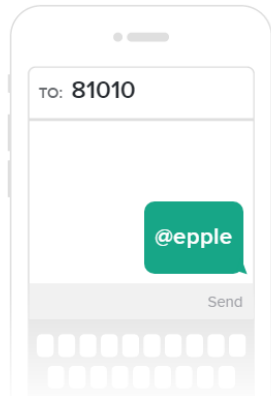
Parents may opt out at any time by replying “Stop” to one of the messages.

*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.



Stay Connected – [Click here for information on all social media](#)

Tell people to text @epple to the number 81010
 They'll receive a welcome text from Remind.
 If anyone has trouble with 81010, they can try texting @epple to (810) 893-7686.



Utica Community Schools has a variety of ways to stay connected with your student's school as well as with district news. Visit our Social Media Page for links and instructions for downloading the UCS app as well as links to all our Social Media pages.

Eppler also uses Remind. This is a text messaging service that will send text reminders to your phone for the Eppler Express, the ZAP Program, as well as other important events happening at Eppler. To subscribe to Remind, text @epple to 81010 or (810) 893-7686

Eppler Cell Phone/Device Policy

Eppler Junior High School

CELL PHONE/DEVICE POLICY

Throughout Entire Building at All Times, Including Before and After School

- NO Pictures
- NO Phone Calls
- NO Texting
- NO Social Media

***This includes Kik, Snapchat, Instagram, and ALL others

During School hours 8:10 – 3:01

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices must be placed in lockers for the entire school day and may not be used during the school day for **ANY REASON.**

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices **ARE NOT** allowed to be taken out of lockers during the school day, except for early release or permission from administration.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices **ARE NOT** allowed in the lunchroom.

If you are found breaking Cell Phone/Device policy, your phone/device will be confiscated and brought to main office.

1 st Time	2 nd Time	3 rd Time	4 th time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taken to Office • Parent must pick up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taken to Office • Parent must pick up • After-School Detention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taken to Office • Parent must pick up • Saturday School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taken to Office • Parent must pick up • One-Day Suspension • Phone banned from building

Note: Eppler Junior High and UCS assume NO responsibility for theft, loss or damage of your device. The student assumes full responsibility and brings the device at their own risk.