

September 2018

Dear Union School Families,

This has been such a wonderful first month of school! As I walk in and out of classrooms throughout the building I am seeing engaged learning at every level and in every discipline. I hope that your children are coming home telling you about some of the interesting learning activities they are participating in each day. I know that sometimes it can be tricky to get kids talking about their day. One strategy I find particularly helpful with my own children is to ask questions that are a little different than, "How was school today?" I often rephrase it, "Who said something interesting that made you wonder today?" or "What was something that was challenging for you today?" I also find that my kids talk to me a lot more when we are driving to or from an activity and they are in the back seat of the car. I don't know why, but I think that they are more willing to open up about their day when we aren't necessarily face to face.

Earlier this week I sent out a document that outlines the different ways we connect with families throughout the year. I am attaching it here as well. We really value our relationships with families and want to make sure that you know what your children are learning about, how they are progressing, and what their individual goals are. We also believe that it is important for students to have a voice in their learning goals. In order to set meaningful goals in consultation with their teachers, students need to know what the performance expectation is, how their work compares to the expected outcome, and what they need to do to close the gaps. This is important in all areas of the curriculum, academic and social/emotional. If, at any time, you have questions about what your child is learning and how it is going, I encourage you to reach out to us!

Our continuous improvement this year is focused within three goal areas:

- **Culture and Climate:**
 - * To create a community of caring in which all students feel that they belong and can express themselves at school.
 - * To grow learners who value and respect diversity and multicultural points of view.
- **Academic Achievement:**
 - * To become mathematicians who make sense of problems and persevere in accurately solving them.
 - * To improve students' ability to communicate effectively with an audience as writers.
- **Teaching and Learning:**
 - ◆ To foster reflection, self-assessment, and persistence through the creation of flexible pathways for enrichment and customized levels of support.

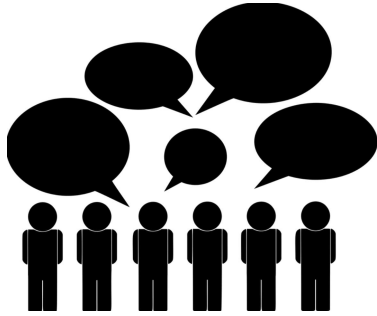
I look forward to sharing all of the ways these goals are enacted throughout our school with you throughout the year.

Warmly,

Caithlin Eckler

Principal





School-to-Home Communication at Union School

We value our partnership with our families! Here are the different ways in which we communicate between school and home:

- **Weekly Updates from Mrs. Eckler:** Quick weekly updates with important dates from Mrs. Eckler sent every Monday morning
- **Website:** (fpsct.org) Access weekly Friday Folders, our Twitter feed, and the Principal's Newsletter (published 3 times a year)
- **Friday Folders:** Weekly emails EACH Friday with important school, PTO, and community information
- **Twitter:** follow us @farmingtonuns "Union School"
- **School Messenger:** Periodic emails to inform parents of important information, reminders, dates, etc.
- **Grade Level or Classroom News:** Regular updates from teachers and grade levels
- **Voicemail and Email:** Easy access to faculty and staff
- **Report Cards:** Sent home three times a year in November, March, and June
- **Conferences:** Nov. (parent & teacher) & Mar. (student-led)
- **PTO Green List:** Access important dates on our school website or follow us on FB "Union School PTO"