



THE PIRATE PRESS

PORTER RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, VOL. 1, ISSUE 1, OCTOBER 2018

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Pirate Families,

It is hard to believe that we are now in the month of October! I want to thank each and every one of you for your support with a successful start to the school year. I also want to thank all of you for your warm welcome in my new role as principal. I am so honored to continue to be a part of the Pirate Family! This year, in an effort to increase our home/school communication, we will have this monthly newsletter that will include information from the school and the PTO. I hope that you will find this information to be most helpful! We are also super excited to start the year celebrating our NC Accountability results from last year—we have improved our School Report Card Grade to "B" AND we EXCEEDED growth with our students! That is a huge shout out to our students and teachers!

For this edition I wanted to provide a quick focus on attendance. The guidelines for attendance requirements are found in the student handbook and on the UCPS website. Please ensure that your child has strong attendance and please limit tardies. Please know that a tardy is counted if a child arrives late to school, or when they are checked out early. Attendance is critical to instruction and learning. If your child is a car rider, please ensure that you are allowing enough time for them to get to class before the 7:30 tardy bell. We do our morning announcements starting at 7:25 and then ALL of our students enjoy a morning read aloud—which they never want to miss.

On October 16th we are planning our first STEAM family night and we hope to see you there! I bet you are wondering what STEAM is exactly! STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. It is an interdisciplinary approach to learning that engages children in inquiry and critical thinking! More and more jobs require their employees to think critically and creatively. Many of the STEAM type lessons focus on problem solving and we look at this type of learning as a way to engage our children, but also to prepare them for the future! We truly hope you can join us on the 16th! This will be a fun-filled, hands-on night for learning! Students have made invitation to invite you to this amazing event, and you can even pre-register for a free hot dog supper if you attend the event!

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Lawrence, Principal



VOLUNTEERS

We are always in need of volunteers at school! If you can help, we are glad to have you! Here's the link to the application to become an approved volunteer: <https://www.ucpsvolunteers.com/>

Some current needs we have at school are:

Beautification—keeping the front of the school "weed free" and welcoming to others

Book Room and Math/Science Room—Organizing materials and supplies

Media Center—Reshelving Books

Classrooms—Reading with first grade students—we are part of a campaign for all of our 1st grade students to have reading buddies

These are just a few of our current needs! Come on out and lend a helping hand! Just call the school-704-289-1965, or tell your child's teacher!

OCTOBER

- 10/08 Teacher Workday—No School
- 10/10 End of 1st Grading Period
- 10/16 STEAM Family Night-5:30-7:30
- 10/18 PTO Spirit Night at Moe's in Indian Trail
- 10/23 Early Release Day-students leave @ 11
- 10/26 Fall Makeup Pictures

NOVEMBER

- 11/2 PTO Fall Festival— 5 PM to 8 PM
- 11/6 Election Day
- 11/7 Site Based Meeting—3 PM
- 11/8 Veteran's Day Program-6:30 PM
- 11/12 Veteran's Day Holiday-NO School
- 11/15 PTO Spirit Night-Sweet Frog's Monroe
- 11/20 PTO Pie Day for staff
- 11/21-11/25 Thanksgiving Holiday

STUDENT INFORMATION

It is important to keep your contact information current. If you move, please bring in two proofs of your new residence, so we can change your address in our system.

If your telephone number changes, let the school know. We need working phone numbers for our "Blackboard Connect" calls and in case your child gets sick at school. Please make sure we have your email address as well—we can send attachments with our messages!

Thank you for taking the time to write a note when your child's transportation changes. For your child's safety, we need transportation changes in writing!



CAR RIDER REMINDERS

- If your child is tardy to school, a parent must come in the front office and sign them in.— please make sure you bring your ID to sign your child in.
- Please do not drop off children before 7:05— we do not have staff to monitor students before this time.
- If your child is a morning car rider and you wish for them to eat breakfast here at school, please arrive by 7:10.
- Afternoon car riders—parents need to arrive no later than 2:20! Please be on time, or plan to have your child ride the bus.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Social Media to get MORE school and PTO info:

<https://www.facebook.com/PorterRidgeES.NC/>

Twitter: @Porter Ridge ESNC



EARLY RELEASE DAYS

Our next early release day is: **Tues., Oct. 23**

Once again, we will dismiss at 11:00 a.m. The remaining bank days are: Dec. 4, Feb. 7 and Mar. 7. Please mark your calendars!

Note: Even though early release days are half days, your child must be in school from 7:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. to be counted present for the day. Early dismissals on bank days will result in your child being marked absent for the day.

BUS RULES & BEHAVIOR

Please discuss proper bus behavior with your child. The bus rules and consequences are found in the Student Handbook in the front of the agenda.

Riding the bus is a privilege. When students misbehave on the bus and do not follow the rules, safety is an issue. Drivers cannot have their full attention on the road if they have to constantly address students for discipline issues. Students who have continuous misbehaviors will be in danger of being suspended from the school bus.

Our students can earn "Ready to Ride" bus tickets from the drivers. These tickets allow for the children to be



SPOTLIGHT ON NEW STAFF

We have many new staff members this year! So, each month we will spotlight a couple of our new Pirates!

Introducing Mrs. Sarah Jarrett: 4th Grade Teacher

Hi! My name is Sarah Jarrett. I'm from High Point, NC. After getting married last year, I relocated to Eastern NC where I taught third grade in Duplin County. I have officially moved to Charlotte and my husband and I are looking forward to making this our home. We have a 3 year old chocolate labradoodle named Teddy, and he is the sweetest pup! In my free time, I enjoy reading books, running or working out, playing soccer, and spending time by the beach or lake. This school year is my sixth year teaching and I am so excited to start this year with the Porter Ridge community! I am looking forward to being a part of the 4th grade team!



Introducing Ms. Brittany Mangum—4th Grade Teacher

Hello! My name is, Brittany Mangum and I am a 4th grade teacher this year at Porter Ridge! This is my first year teaching, and I am very excited to take on 4th grade! It was definitely one of my favorite years when I was in school, so I am ready to make it one of the best years for my students. I grew up in Union County, and I am a third generation teacher. I graduated from Wingate University in May, with my bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. I am also getting married in November of this year! This school year is definitely going to be full of excitement!

