



# THE PIRATE PRESS

PORTER RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, VOL. 1, ISSUE 4, JANUARY 2019

## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Pirate Families,

Our first week back from winter break was a great week for everyone! We were so happy to see all of our students. And what an exciting week it was as we kicked off our Boosterthon Fundraising Campaign. This is our big fundraiser for the year and the money will go to support the purchase of materials and supplies for science, technology, engineering, arts, and math! One of our favorite parts of the campaign also includes some character education lessons! I had some fun conversations about citizenship and "zest" with students on Friday! We hope that many of you can make it to our Fun Run on the 18th. In the meantime, keep working on those pledges. If we hit our goal of 50 states and/or countries, Mrs. Polk and I will get SLIMED!! Yay!



Parents, thank you for sending in the updated student demographic changes. We are making those updates in Powerschool—this is so very important as part of our school safety plan. Speaking of our school safety plan, we had a recent safety check and the Union County Sheriff's Office representatives were so pleased with the diligence of our staff and students to maintain a safe and secure learning environment.

For our morning car riders, please do not drop off students prior to the 7:05 bell. We do not have staff ready to monitor them. Also, do not allow your child to exit a vehicle without being instructed by a staff member. Moving vehicles and children do not mix.

Finally, Kindergarten Registration for the 2019-2020 school year begins February 1! See the info below to learn more about Kindergarten registration or visit our district website at [www.ucps.k12.nc.us](http://www.ucps.k12.nc.us).

Sincerely,  
Cheryl L. Lawrence, Principal

**UCPS**  
UNION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



► Join the conversation!  
**#UCPSKindergarten**  
**#WelcomeToUCPS**

## Connect and Chat: Kindergarten Registration

Monday, January 28  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

UCPS principals and staff will share information about the kindergarten registration process. Staff will also discuss curriculum, transportation, the UCPS after school program, dual language options and more.

### JANUARY

1/15 Spirit Night-MOD Pizza  
1/18 Boosterthon Fun Run  
1/18 End of 3rd Grading Period  
1/21 Holiday—No School  
1/22 Teacher Workday—No School  
1/24 Red Cross Blood Drive  
1/31 Report Cards go home

### FEBRUARY

2/1 Kindergarten Registration Begins  
2/6 Site Based Meeting-3:00  
2/7 Early Release Day—students leave at 11  
2/8 Terrific Kids Breakfast

## SICK GUIDELINES

It is that time of year again when sickness is on the rise. Please help us keep our teachers and students as healthy as possible. You can help by reminding your child of good handwashing habits. Also, if your child is running a fever, please know they should be fever free (without the use of fever reducing medications) for 24 hours before returning to school. We appreciate your help in ensuring we have a healthy school environment.



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## 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 February 7th.

Once again, we will dismiss at 11:00 a.m. The remaining bank day is 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 recognized for good behavior on the bus.



## SPOTLIGHT ON NEW STAFF

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

### Introducing Mrs. Brooke Kramb, AIG Teacher

I'm thrilled to be a Porter Ridge Pirate this year as I start my 20th year in UCPS! During my years with UCPS, I have had the opportunity to do many different jobs as a classroom teacher - 2nd, 4th, & 5th grade, a Literacy Facilitator/ Curriculum Coordinator, Reading/Writing/Math Interventionist, and AIG for the last 3 years.

I was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio and lived there for 24 years. Growing up in Columbus means that you are a Buckeye "FANatic" - Go Bucks! I graduated from Ohio University with my bachelors in Elementary Education and a minor in Fine Arts then continued my education by earning a Masters in Curriculum & Instruction with an add-on graduate degree in Reading K-12. Later in my career, I completed another add-on graduate degree for AIG certification through Wingate University. I feel very fortunate to be passionate about what I do every day!



When I'm not teaching, I enjoy spending time outside with my husband and two daughters. Our daughters are Porter Ridge Pirates too with one at the Middle School and one at the High School. We enjoy walking on the local Greenways, hiking, traveling to Ohio and to the beach, and reading whenever possible. I also love to write and have fulfilled one of my dreams of publishing children's books.

### Introducing Mrs. Emily Keesee, Kindergarten Teacher

Hi Porter Ridge Family! My name is Emily Keesee and this is my 3rd year teaching kindergarten. I graduated from Auburn University (War Eagle) and have lived in Charlotte for 3 years now. I am so glad to be apart of such a wonderful school. I love learning and teaching and having fun in the classroom! My husband and I have been married for almost 2 years. We have a dog named Lola and she is just amazing! I am very blessed and honored to be on the kindergarten team this year!



## Jan. 18—PIRATE FUN RUN

1st grade: 7:45am  
2nd grade: 8:45am  
3rd grade: 9:45am  
PreK and K: 10:45am  
5th grade: 11:45am  
4th grade: 12:45pm

