



Unatego Elementary School

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I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something.

Neil Gaiman

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Welcome to 2021 and a brand new year. Let the New Year's Resolutions commence and good luck keeping them through February. 😊

As the writer H. Jackson Brown, Jr. says (quoting his mother),

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So, throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

I am excited to start 2021, and I wish all of our students the opportunity to explore – dream – discover. We will do our best here at Unatego Elementary to challenge them, inspire them, guide them, and also give them opportunities during the year to sail on their own and make discoveries.

When we look at the wide ranging education theories and philosophies available, three constants appear time and again in all of them:

1. mutual respect among the teacher and students
2. a rigorous curriculum (one that challenges all students)
3. persistence (all students are engaged and all students learn)

If we include these three attributes as part of our yearly goal at Unatego Elementary, I believe that we will exceed our expectations every year.

I wish you the very best this year as we continue with our hybrid and all-remote school schedules.

As always, please don't hesitate to call or email me with questions, concerns, or if you would just like to chat about education.

Sincerely,

Mike Snider

Winter Reminder:

As we start the new year, please remind your children to wear appropriate winter gear (gloves/mittens, coats, hats, snow pants, and boots) when they come to school. We go outside for recess each day, as long as the “feels like” temperature is 20 degrees or higher. Also, please put your child’s name in his or her coats or jackets, snow pants, and boots. This will help us return lost or forgotten items to their owners.

Information for January 2021

- January 5-6 Report cards for Hybrid Students will be sent home in backpacks.
Report cards for all-remote students will be mailed this week.
- January 12–14 NYSED ELA and MATH Assessment simulations – Grades 3-5
We do this simulation to test our Chromebooks, make sure students can access the NYSED State assessment website, and make sure students can submit answers to some sample questions to the NYSED testing center. This is just a simulation. The actual NYSED assessments take place in April (ELA) and May (Math). I will be providing more information in March on these State assessments.
- January 18 No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Enjoy a couple of Calvin and Hobbes cartoons as we start a wintry January.

