



# Unatego Elementary School

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**Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go.** - Unknown author

**Autumn is the season to find contentment at home by paying attention to what we already have.** - Unknown author

**Teachers have three loves: love of learning; love of learners; and the love of bringing the first two loves together.** - Scott Hayden

Dear Parent and Guardian:

November has arrived, the season when leaves fall, the air turns crisp and cold, and the holiday seasons begin. It is also the end of the first ten weeks of school, as hard as that is to believe.

This year, Unatego Elementary School is using ten-week marking periods instead of trimesters. This allows parents and guardians to receive one extra report card this year and to receive information on student progress sooner. We plan to send home report cards on November 18<sup>th</sup>, prior to the start of Parent-Teacher conferences on November 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will allow you to refer to your child's report card during the ZOOM or telephone conference.

## **Standards-based Report Cards**

Unatego Elementary report cards are called standards-based report cards because we assess students based on Next Generation New York State Learning Standards. Each standard is listed as an "I can" statement so you and your child know exactly what the student should be able to do each marking period. We use a 1-4 rating scale to assess students, rather than a 0-100 grading system.

The 1-4 system lets you know if your child is above, on, or below grade level expectations as follows:

- 4 – Exceeds grade level
- 3 – Meets grade level
- 2 – Approaching grade level
- 1 – Below grade level

We may also put the code **NA** if we haven't yet assessed a standard (Not Assessed) or **I** for incomplete, which means the student needs to submit missing work before we can assess this standard.



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## Parent-Teacher and Guardian-Teacher Conferences

We will hold parent-teacher or guardian-teacher conferences on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, and Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will dismiss all elementary students at 11:30 AM on both days so that we can hold afternoon conferences.

Out of an abundance of caution, we will be holding our parent-teacher and guardian-teacher conferences using ZOOM videoconferencing or over the telephone. We will not hold in-person conferences this year.

You child's classroom teacher (in grades UPK – 3) or your child's homeroom teacher (in grades 4 and 5) will be contacting you to schedule a ZOOM videoconference or, if you would prefer, a telephone call.

## Important November and December Dates

November 9	Students, Faculty, and Staff wear Red, White, and Blue or Camouflage
November 11	NO SCHOOL – Veterans Day Holiday
November 12	End of the first marking period
November 18	Report cards go home
November 19	½ Day Parent-Teacher Conferences - Students are dismissed at 11:30 AM
November 22	½ Day Parent-Teacher Conferences – Students are dismissed at 11:30 AM
November 24 – 26	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Recess
December 23 – 31	NO SCHOOL – Christmas Recess

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

Sincerely,

Mike Snider

