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Hello UE PHAMILIES!

We are looking forward to celebrating our Scholars learning through the month of February and beyond! They are creating their own history and modeling their learning each and everyday!

National Elementary School Honors Society

[National Elementary School Honors Society](#) (Link)

Our UE PHAMILY is extremely excited to be kicking off our National Elementary School Honors Society chapter for our campus. Our campus is registered. We want to acknowledge our Scholars scholastic and CREW leadership. Admin has asked our staff to give us their Scholar nominations after report card parent teacher conferences on 2/14.

For the academic portion of the nominations, and due to Standards based grading, the Teachers will nominate scholars based on meeting or exceeding when they demonstrate an especially original, flexible, or fluent application of the standard that goes beyond what is expected at that grade level. In order to earn a score of Exceeding on the standard or report card area students must demonstrate this level of mastery consistently and on a range of assessment types. Exceeding scores equate to a 4 on our grading scale.

For nominations based on using CREW in the school community, Staff will be nominating Scholars who magnify (C) Courageousness, (R)Responsibility, (E) Empathy, and (W) Well balance while being leaders within their own learning journey.

Our Honors Society Induction pinning and certificate distribution will take place on March 1, 2024.

Black History Month Advisory Activities for BHM WEEK #1 (7:45am to 8:15am Mon-Fri)

2/1- "[Black History Month- How Much Do We Already Know?](#)" Day 1

2/2- "[Black History Month- How Much Do We Already Know?](#)" Day 2

2/5 - 2/7- Virtual Tour of the Smithsonian [National Museum of African American History and Culture Museum](#)

Q2 Report Cards/ Parent- Teacher Conferences

Q2 Grades will be submitted by Teachers no later than 2/12/24. For Q2 Wrap Up, we would like to create space for Scholars to join their parent/teacher conferences. Conferences will be on 2/13/24 and 2/14/24. If either of those dates conflict with your schedule, please email your Scholars cohort Teacher directly to schedule a different time that works for both Teacher and family.

In Preparation for our grade submission and conferences, a suggestion we gave our Teachers were to:

- Have Scholars do a reflection on Q2 that can be accompanied (sent home and emailed) with the grades. Scholars can write their own “glows & grows” for the previous term, and detail their goals for Q3. This can be shared at a parent/teacher conference as well

Standards Based Grading @ PHA - UE: Understanding Your Scholars(s) Report Card

SBG is the grading system most aligned to our schoolwide priorities focused on anti-racist, equitable, universally-designed, and highly effective teaching and learning, in that:

- Grades solely **communicate a student’s achievement of the essential standards** in each course, as clearly and specifically as possible.
- Grades **support the development of growth mindsets** in which students never reach a point where passing is “hopeless” due to past performance.
- Grades **empower students to build their academic identities** by better knowing themselves as learners.

Question	Responses and Rationale
What is standards-based grading?	SBG is a grading system that uses a four-point scale to identify students’ skill and knowledge level on specific academic standards. For each course, report card grades only reflect the proficiency level on standards that a student demonstrates by the end of the reporting period. <u>The biggest difference between SBG and a traditional grading system is that final grades do not include scores for things like work completion, participation, behavior, or student’s proficiency at the beginning or middle of a unit.</u>
Why are we doing it? What’s wrong with traditional grading systems?	We believe grades should communicate, as clearly and specifically as possible, what a student knows and can do. In the old system, many different types of assessments, tasks, and student behaviors were averaged together to produce a score out of 100. The way this number was determined was often inconsistent and masked students’ readiness for the academic challenges of the next grade. We believe SBG is a more accurate, fair, and student-empowering way to grade.

Term	Definition
Academic standards	Academic standards are the specific academic skills and content knowledge standards identified by the state in each course. Each standard will have its own descriptor for each level of proficiency.

E = Exceeding Grade-Level Standards	A student earns a score of <i>Exceeding</i> when they demonstrate an especially original, flexible, or fluent application of the standard that goes beyond what is expected at that grade level. In order to earn a score of <i>Exceeding</i> on the standard or report card area students must demonstrate this level of mastery consistently and on a range of assessment types. <i>Exceeding</i> scores equate to a 4 on our grading scale.
M = Meeting Grade-Level Standards	A student earns a score of <i>Meeting</i> when they independently demonstrate grade-level understanding and application of a standard. In order to earn a score of <i>Meeting</i> on the standard or report card area students must demonstrate this level of mastery consistently and on a range of assessment types. <i>Meeting</i> scores equate to a 3 on our grading scale.
P = Partially Meeting Grade-Level Standards	A student earns a score of <i>Partially Meeting</i> when they meet some but not all criteria of grade-level expectations for understanding and application of a standard. In order to earn a score of <i>Partially Meeting</i> , students must demonstrate partial understanding and accuracy of application consistently and on a range of assessment types. <i>Partially Meeting</i> scores equate to a 2 on our grading scale.
NM = Not Meeting Grade-Level Standards	A student earns a score of <i>Not Meeting</i> when they meet few criteria of grade-level expectations for understanding and application of a standard. In order to earn a score of <i>Not Meeting</i> , students must demonstrate minimal understanding and accuracy of application consistently and on a range of assessment types. <i>Not Meeting</i> scores equate to a 1 on our grading scale.
NA = Standard Was Not Assessed in This Grading Period	If a student has not yet demonstrated their level of understanding and skill on a given assessment or sufficient range of assessments, that standard will be marked as <i>Not Assessed</i> . These scores will not be included in the final calculation of a student's grade.

OUR UPPER ELEMENTARY TEACHERS ARE ACTIVELY LEARNING, TEACHING AND UTILIZING:

“[The Power of Collective Efficacy](#)” and the (4) EDUCATOR STANDARDS, which are:

STANDARD I: Curriculum, Planning, and Assessment

STANDARD II: Teaching All Students

STANDARD III: Family and Community Engagement

STANDARD IV: Professional Culture

This week they are engaging in a two hour/ two part Professional Learning Experience regarding Special Education models and SEI- Sheltered English Immersion. This English language acquisition process for young children in which nearly all classroom instruction is in English but with the curriculum and presentation designed for children who are learning the language.

MULTICULTURAL FAMILIES CLUB AT UE

Parents! Come to the FIRST meeting of UE's **Multicultural Families Club** on Tuesday, February 6, at 3:15 PM (right after school) in our Main Office Conference Room (inside the Main Office). Come discuss and plan cultural and academic activities for our children/scholars! Questions? Email In (ipaik@phacs.org) or Vaijayanti (vaijayanti.gawande@gmail.com).

FAMILY SCHOOL LIAISON Job Opening for Parent

Would you like to work at your child's school? Become our first FAMILY SCHOOL LIAISON! If you are interested in working alongside our school teachers and staff, please apply for this NEW part-time job. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the details, and call In Paik with any questions at 716-202-0301.

UPPER ELEMENTARY CLUB SCHEDULE & ROOMS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
Morehouse: Mad Skills & Drills for Total Success Room 107 Facilitators- Mr. St. Louis & Mr. Campbell	Mindful Majesties Room 102 Facilitators- Dr. Lites & AP Pires	Origami: Just Fold It In Room 207 Facilitators- Ms. Scott
Beyblades: The Ultimate Challenges Room 208 Room 107 Facilitator- Mr. Newell	Book Club- Literacy that is Lively & Thoughtful Room 104 Facilitator- Ms. Slager	Sensational Sculpture Creativity Club Room B-01 Facilitators- Ms. Cat

DESE AMAZING TEACHER NOMINATIONS 2024- **WE ARE TAKING PARENT INPUT FOR OUR NOMINATIONS!**

The PHA-UE Community would like to submit our Teacher nominations for the *DESE (Department of Elementary & Secondary Education) Amazing Teacher Awards!* Additional to our thoughts, we are accepting Staff to Staff nominations, Parent Nominations, and Scholar nominations. Please see the link below for further information. If you would like to nominate a colleague, please email the Admin Team Office (Ms. Irving, AP Pires & Dr. Lites) [DESE AMAZING TEACHER NOMINATIONS](#) (Click The Link)