



## SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS AT THE UPPER MORELAND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

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### *September*

1		Student/Teacher Holiday
4		District Holiday – Labor Day
11		Patriot Day
11	7:00 PM	H.S.A. Parent Meeting - Library
17		Constitution Day
18		H.S.A . Fall Fundraiser Begins Constitution Day Observed
21		Student/Teacher Holiday -
26	7:30 PM	UM School Board Meeting – TLC2
26		Fall Picture Day - Cafetorium

### **Everyday Math/ConnectED**

In an effort to support students in their acquisition of math skills, our new math program offers an opportunity for students to build mathematical skills. In this web-based program children are able to play a variety of math games to build fact fluency and conceptual understanding of the PA Core standards.

<https://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/connected/login.do>

### **ThinkCentral**

ThinkCentral is an all-in-one learning site that provides access to digital books, activities, readers, and more. To access online materials and assignments, please follow these simple steps:

1. Go to <http://www-k6.thinkcentral.com>
2. Select your state, district, and school.
3. To make it easier to log in later, check **Remember My Organization** (optional).
4. Enter your user name and password (this information was sent home via letter to parents).
5. Click **Login**.

Once logged in, the student welcome page will appear. *Things to Do* displays a list of assignments and their due dates. *My Test Scores* shows your child's progress in assessments. *My Library* gives you access to the online version of the text, as well as any other materials the teacher has made available.

### **eCommunicator SIGN UP**

The Upper Moreland School District is continuing with their environmentally responsible and cost effective "Go Green" initiative again this year. Every Monday and Thursday an eCommunicator announcement is sent. The Virtual Backpack—an email sent directly to your phone, ipad, laptop or computer—was created to alert parents, students, and community members, to various community organization offerings including music, sports or township events that would have previously been sent home in your student's backpack. New announcements will be posted every Thursday in the Virtual Backpack and will remain there until the information/event date expires. Virtual Backpack's sections will include: School Announcements, HSA Information, and Community Flyers. You will receive the Virtual Backpack link sent to you through the Thursday morning eCommunicator email. ***Please visit our district website [www.umtsd.org](http://www.umtsd.org) to sign up for this important communication tool and remember to complete your registration by responding to your confirmation e-mail. If you experience any difficulty, please contact Nora Rosenbaum at 215-830-1585 or [nrosenbaum@umtsd.org](mailto:nrosenbaum@umtsd.org).***

### **From the Principal**

We are off to a great school year here at Upper Moreland Intermediate School. I was so pleased to see so many of you attend our Meet the Teacher night. The teachers are very enthusiastic about your support and are very pleased with your interest in our educational programs. I hope that those who attended our Meet the Teacher Night had an opportunity to sign up for a Parent/Teacher conference. If not, this information will be forthcoming from your homeroom teacher. These conferences are scheduled for November 21, 22, & 23. During those days our students will be dismissed at 11:45 AM. The fall conferences are designed to review student work, discuss progress, and set goals for the year. Our teachers look forward to your input as we attempt to strengthen our partnership for the benefit of our students.

Just as a reminder, at the UMIS, we operate on a six day rotation schedule for our specials (Days A-F). The rotation calendar is posted monthly on the official Upper Moreland School District website [www.umtsd.org](http://www.umtsd.org) under the Intermediate School tab. It is also available through eCommunicator.

Upper Moreland Intermediate School cares about the safety and well-being of our students. We want to make sure our school is the best place possible for students to learn. This year we will continue our efforts to reduce bullying behavior through classroom lessons and discussion. The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP) is nationally recognized and highly regarded. OBPP has been proven to reduce bullying. The goals of OBPP are to reduce bullying problems and prevent new bullying problems from happening. The program also works to make relationships better among students. The program is for all students, not just those who are being bullied or who are bullying others.

Our morning arrival and dismissal procedures have been progressing nicely since the first day of school. Students have been entering the building in an orderly fashion and line up in their

learning labs by bus prior to the afternoon call. Any student arriving after 8:40 AM should enter through the office door and obtain a late pass. As you can imagine, dismissal can be a busy time here at the Intermediate School. As we attempt to insure that every child is in the correct line and is safely boarded, please refrain from calling the office between 2:50 and 3:20 PM.

Additionally, all requests for homework for students who are absent must be done prior to each student's scheduled lunch period. This will allow the teacher the opportunity to gather materials to be sent home at the end of the day.

To become more involved in your child's school life, I encourage all parents to become active in our Home and School Association. This is a wonderful opportunity to support your school and make new friends at the same time. Our active parent group welcomes newcomers to their monthly meeting. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, September 12th at 7:00 PM; all are welcome. All general meetings are listed on the school calendar and are held at 7:00 PM in the UMIS Library bimonthly. Four times a year, the UMIS and UMPS have a joint HSA parent meeting. At each of these meetings a guest speaker will highlight a specific topic of interest.

It is with great anticipation that I look forward to an exciting school year. As we work together throughout the year, I welcome the opportunity to meet each of you as we create a new community of learners.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Michael Bair*

Dr. Michael Bair  
Principal



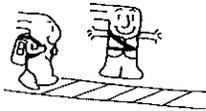
# Home & School

## Working Together for School Success

### CONNECTION®

September 2017

Upper Moreland Intermediate School  
Dr. Michael Bair, Principal



#### SHORT NOTES

##### Sign your work

Encourage your youngster to get in the habit of writing his name on his paper before he begins an assignment. He could think of it as “autographing” his work, just like artists sign their masterpieces. His teacher will know who the paper belongs to, and he’ll get credit for his hard work.

##### Safety smarts

Help your child travel safely to and from school. Explain that it’s important to avoid horseplay at the bus stop and to stay away from the street. If your youngster walks to school, make sure she sticks with a group. And if you drive, drop her at the designated spot, and remember to stop for school buses loading or unloading children.

##### Extra fun, extra learning

Extracurricular activities let your youngster explore hobbies and find friends with similar interests. He might join an art club, a robotics group, or a sports team, for instance. To find options, check in the school office or on the school website.

##### Worth quoting

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” *Nelson Mandela*

#### JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** Which side of a duck has the most feathers?

**A:** The outside!



## Great year ahead

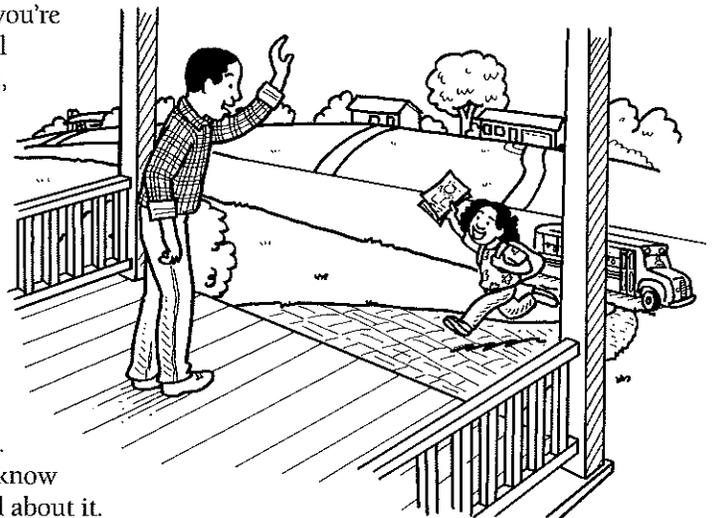
Showing your child you’re excited about the school year will get her excited, too. Encourage her to share what she learns and to make the most of each school day with these strategies.

##### “What will you learn today?”

Talk about your youngster’s day at school *before* it happens. In the morning, let her know you can’t wait to hear all about it. She’ll be on the lookout for things to tell you. She might even jot down notes to remember the highlights (a science experiment she enjoyed, the words to a song she sang in music class).

##### “Show me what you did!”

Ask your child to demonstrate something she learned. Perhaps she’ll show you how to measure the area of a room or write a line of code. You’ll get to see what she’s working on in school. Plus, explaining something out loud will help



her understand and remember it—and build her confidence.

##### “What’s new this year?”

Each school year brings something exciting that your youngster couldn’t do the year before. Maybe she’ll go to recess on a different playground, join the chorus, or change classes for math or reading. Build enthusiasm by talking up these experiences in the first weeks of school, and keep her motivated by following up as the year goes on.♥

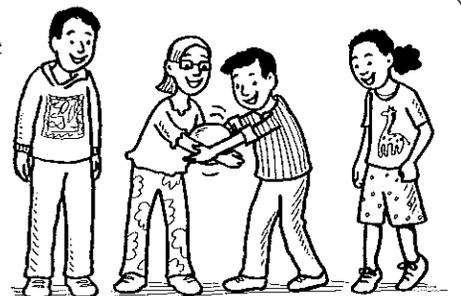
## Team up for success

Teamwork is an important part of life in school *and* at home. Try fun games like these to help your youngster practice cooperating with others to reach a common goal:

● Line up, and pass a balloon from one person to another without dropping it—using anything but your hands.

● Stand in a circle, and hold hands.

Then, have everyone turn around so they’re facing the opposite direction. The catch? You can’t let go of each other’s hands!♥



# Organized all day long

Being organized can reduce stress and make the school day go more smoothly. Here's a checklist that will help.

### Morning

- ☐ Show your child how to set an alarm that will wake him up in time to get ready for school.
- ☐ On a sheet of paper, help him draw or list morning tasks, such as "make bed" and "brush teeth." Let him post the list where he can see it (say, by his bed or on the bathroom mirror).



### After school

- ☐ Have your youngster go through his backpack to take out homework and throw away trash. To store work he wants to save, he might use folders or a shoebox.
- ☐ Ask him to place papers for you in a special spot, perhaps a basket. Look them over, and sign papers as needed.

### Nighttime

- ☐ Before bed, your child should put needed items in his backpack. *Examples:* completed assignments, signed permission slips, show-and-tell objects.
- ☐ Suggest that he pick out clothes and choose breakfast foods for the next day. He could get a head start by setting out cereal, fresh fruit, and a bowl and spoon.♥

## ACTIVITY CORNER

### A homemade calendar

Encourage your child to use a calendar this school year by having her make her own. Follow these steps.



**1. Label.** Have her draw a calendar page for each month, labeling the month and days of the week. She can refer to a real calendar to fill in the dates.

**2. Illustrate.** What does each month make her think of? Let your youngster illustrate the top of each sheet—maybe she'll draw herself making new friends in September and painting pumpkins in October.

**3. Fill in.** Now she can write in regular events (library day on Mondays, spelling quizzes on Fridays). As the year goes on, she could add assignment due dates, tests, or other reminders.♥

### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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## PARENT TO PARENT

### Building knowledge—on a budget

I heard that giving your kids lots of experiences in the community provides "background knowledge" that helps them succeed in school. We're on a tight budget, so I looked into outings for my daughter, Carly, that don't cost a lot.

First, we searched online for free days at nearby museums. I even saw an ad for "Museum Day Live!" on September 23, when many museums offer two free tickets per family. Carly picked out one on pioneer life and another with hands-on engineering projects.

Then, at the farmers' market, someone mentioned a farm that gives free tours. We visited last Saturday, and Carly got to pick apples and see how cows are milked. I'm glad Carly is having new experiences—and we are sticking to our budget.

*Editor's note:* See [smithsonianmag.com/museumday/museum-day-live-2017/](http://smithsonianmag.com/museumday/museum-day-live-2017/) for more information about Museum Day Live!♥

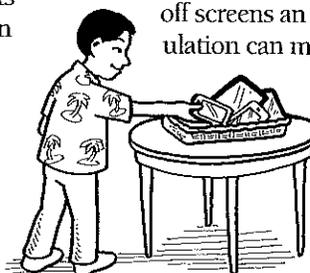


## Q & A How to manage screen time

**Q:** My son could spend hours watching videos or using apps. How can I set reasonable limits?

**A:** The goal should be for your son to have enough "unplugged" time to finish schoolwork, be with family and friends, get exercise, and relax. Experts suggest coming up with a plan that suits your family.

Think about what your youngster uses devices for. A fifth grader may need a computer for homework, while a younger child might simply play on a tablet. Then, set limits that make sense.



Maybe you'll decide on a half-hour of screen time on school days (after homework is done) but give him an hour a day on weekends.

It also helps to name times for everyone to stay off screens, perhaps during meals and car rides. Also, consider turning off screens an hour before bed—the stimulation can make it harder to fall asleep.

*Note:* Set aside a place for stowing devices so they're out of sight.

To create a plan, see [healthychildren.org/English/media/Pages/default.aspx](http://healthychildren.org/English/media/Pages/default.aspx).♥