

July 5th, 2023

Urgent- We need your Immediate Attention!

The University Park Library has a dynamic reading program for our kids and will reward them with a trip to Navy Pier on **July 11th** if you sign your child up for the reading program and you both participate. The remaining seats are going fast. Contact the UP library for more details about this exciting opportunity. Parents, Grandparents, future parents: we need to involve ourselves and provide reasonable support for our children during the most crucial ages of birth to 5 (five) years old by teaching them the needed skills to enter kindergarten. Our 201U school district family is experiencing many incoming 5-year-olds not ready to begin kindergarten. As a result, the students may be behind for years to come.

We are making every effort to teach the students that are behind raised to academic adequacy. Nevertheless, the sustainable solution is to start now and get involved with your child or grandchild as early as possible. The handout attached to this letter is what your child should know and what you can do to better ensure academic success for our students' brighter future. We know you can and will be there for our students. However, you must act now!

Early learning paves the way for learning at school and throughout life. What children learn in their first few years of life and how they learn it can have long-lasting effects on their success and health as children, teens, and adults. Studies show that supporting children's early learning can lead to:

- Higher test scores from preschool to age 21
- Better grades in reading and math
- A better chance of staying in school and going to college.
- Fewer teen pregnancies
- Improved mental health.
- Lower risk of heart disease in adulthood
- A longer lifespan

We have partnered with Governors State Early Head Start program which provides specialized support services to qualified pregnant women, children up to three years of age, as well as children with disabilities. The Governors State University Early Learning program can address the needs of all day daycare early learning. Our 201U Early Learning program starts at age three and ends when they enter kindergarten. We also have volunteers ready to work with our new forming **Little Red Hen Project** which has the Mission: "Is to support our early learners to **READ TO SUCCEED**"! Let's work together!

We Care and Believe in **U**

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