



# Mount Union Area School District

28 West Market Street  
Mount Union, PA 17066



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## Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress, Public School Choice Please Read: Important Information Affecting Your Child

August 9, 2010

Dear Mount Union Kistler Elementary Parent or Guardian,

We are pleased to announce the Mount Union Kistler Elementary made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), based on **2009-2010** Pennsylvania System of State Assessment (PSSA) results and the building now has the status of Making Progress: in School Improvement 1. Our K-6 teaching staff is proud of their efforts and will continue to strive to improvement academic achievement during the 2010-2011 school year. In order for our building to have the status of Made AYP we must make this Adequate Yearly Progress for two consecutive school years. We are still required to offer you school choice based on this requirement of Making AYP for two consecutive school years.

During the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school year the following subgroups of students did not meet the state's academic achievement targets and thus Public School Choice is required to be offered:

- 2007-2008 Economically Disadvantaged students at Mount Union Kistler Elementary did not meet the state's academic achievement targets in Reading (07-08 Pennsylvania percentage of Economically Disadvantaged students proficient or above was 51.7% compared to 35.1% of Mount Union Kistler Elementary Economically Disadvantaged students)
- In 2008-2009 Individualized Education Plan (IEP) students at Mount Union Kistler Elementary did not meet the state's academic achievement targets in Reading (08-09 Pennsylvania percentage of IEP students proficient or above was 39% compared to 7.3% of Mount Union Kistler Elementary IEP students)

As a result of an in depth needs assessment, Mount Union Kistler Elementary has identified the following areas as key strategies for instructional improvement that we will target as part of our School Improvement Plan:

- Target all students in grades 4-6 who performed at the "below basic" or "basic" proficiency level with a 90-minute intensive reading intervention program called Read 180
- Integrate the use of a mobile lab of computers to supplement our core curriculum materials with instructional reading software (Read 180, System 44, Lexia and Study Island) that will help us differentiate our instruction to meet the needs of all students
- Integrate the use of SMART boards in every grade 2-6 classroom to help teachers create lessons that will engage students of all ages and learning styles
- Inclusion of special needs students into the regular education classrooms with support to assure all students are receiving instruction aligned to the rigorous Pennsylvania Academic Standards in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening.
- Implementation of Leveled Literacy Intervention kits to provide intensive early intervention to K-2 students who score "intensive" on DIBELS assessment results.

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### BOARD

Ralph Park, President  
Deanna Lee Wagner, Secretary  
(814) 542-8631

### ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Brett Gilliland, Superintendent  
Autumn Fiscus, Director of Business Affairs  
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As outlined in our school improvement plan, the school district and the Pennsylvania Department of Education will be offering Mount Union Kistler Elementary assistance to implement these strategies.

Please know that the staff at Mount Union Kistler Elementary has a relationship with your child and wants to continue serving your child all the way through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. However, if you feel your child will be better served in another school in the district, you may request a transfer for your child to one of the following schools: Mapleton-Union Elementary or Shirley Township Elementary. If you are the parent of a child with a disability or a child with limited English proficiency, please call Dr. Brett Gilliland at 542-8631 for the available public school choices that best meet the needs of your child. (Educational records are confidential and access is limited to school officials having a genuine need to know.)

Transportation to one of these schools will be provided by the school district for as long as Mount Union Kistler Elementary remains in Title I School Improvement. (Mount Union Kistler Elementary must make AYP for two consecutive years to no longer be a School Improvement school.)

If you would like to request that your child be transferred to one of these other schools, please complete the "Request for School Transfer" form enclosed for each child and return the form to Mount Union Area School District Administrative Office at 28 West Market Street, Mount Union by August 23, 2010. The district will respond to your request by August 25, 2010 with written notice regarding your child's school assignment and transportation availability. You then will have an opportunity to communicate whether you accept the approved choice or want your child to remain at Mount Union Kistler Elementary. If you do not complete this form and return it by August 23, 2010, we will assume that your child will remain at Mount Union Kistler Elementary. If a requested transfer is approved, your child will be permitted to attend the choice school until he or she completes the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. (The district will no longer pay transportation costs once the school exits school improvement.)

Parental support is essential to the success of Mount Union Kistler Elementary. Communicating with your child's teachers, making sure your child attends school regularly, helping your child with homework, monitoring your child's television time, volunteering in the classroom, and participating in school decision-making are important.

The district-wide parent involvement policy will be updated this fall. If you are interested in providing input into this policy, please call Mr. Frank Miller at 814-542-9381. In addition, Mount Union Kistler Elementary will have its annual meeting to revise our school parent involvement policy and parent compact and to review parent rights under Title I. This meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, September 15, 2010, 3:00 PM at Mount Union Kistler Elementary in the school's library.

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The many successes at Mount Union Kistler Elementary cannot be measured in one test and we appreciate your continued support. Below are just a few examples of other data sources that demonstrate that Mount Union Kistler Elementary is making significant gains in academic achievement:

On a yearly average over 90% of our K-6 students meet Pennsylvania State Standard 1.1  
(Independently read 25 books)

Our average growth in Lexiles for students in grades 2-6 is 205 Lexile points based on Scholastic Reading Inventory. Growth of 75-100 Lexile points is considered a full years growth in reading comprehension.

77% of our students made growth on the 2009-2010 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Reading Test according to Growth Model Calculations.

78% of our grade 4 students scored proficient or above on the 2009-2010 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Science Test.

65% of our grade 6 students scored proficient or above on the 2009-2010 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Reading Test.

91% of our grade 3 students scored proficient or above on the 2009-2010 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Math Test.

82% of our grade 3-6 students scored proficient or above on the 2009-2010 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Math Test.

We must admit, however, that if ALL of our students are not doing well, we are not as good as we can be. That is our challenge, our goal and our commitment. Please continue to work with us to make sure that we achieve success for every student.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brett Gilliland  
Superintendent

Mr. Frank Miller  
Director of Elementary and Federal Programs

Mrs. Deb Goodman  
Assistant Principal

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Mount Union Area School District  
Mount Union Kistler Elementary  
Notice of Adequate Yearly Progress Public School Choice  
Request for School Transfer Form  
2010-2011

Name of Student(s):

Grade(s):

Public School Choice of Building: Mapleton Union or Shirley Township Elementary  
(Please circle one of the above)

Parental Signature:

Date:

Please return Request for School Transfer Form by August 23, 2010 to:

Mount Union Area School District  
ATTN: Mr. Frank Miller  
28 West Market Street  
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