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UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT / 929 YORK STREET / UTICA, NY 13502

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To Our UCSD Community,

As we step into spring and hopefully some more seasonable weather, I want to take a moment to share with you some important dates and initiatives for our Utica City School District community.

April is the Month of the Military Child, dedicated to recognizing the resilience and sacrifices of children from military families. These young individuals face unique challenges, from navigating frequent relocations to dealing with the complexities of having a parent deployed. To show our support and appreciation, we mark **April 17 as Purple Up! For Military Kids Day**. On this day, we encourage everyone—students, staff, and parents—to wear purple as a visible sign of gratitude and solidarity with our military families.

Please note that our schools will be on **Spring Break from April 19-26**. April 19 has been designated as an emergency day giveback, allowing us to extend our Spring Break and offer our students and staff a well-deserved respite. We hope you use this time to relax, rejuvenate, and spend quality time with your loved ones.

During this break, we also look forward to celebrating several key environmental and cultural observances, including **Earth Day (4/22)** and **Arbor Day (4/26)**, which remind us of our collective responsibility to protect and cherish our planet. Additionally, we will be welcoming the start of **Passover (4/22)**, a time of reflection and celebration for many in our community.

These moments serve as a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn about and reflect on the diversity of experiences and cultures that enrich our community. They remind us of the importance of empathy, understanding, and respect for all.

In closing, I want to express my deepest appreciation for the continued support and involvement of our entire school community. Together, we create a nurturing environment where every child can thrive and excel. Thank you for your commitment to our students' growth, learning, and well-being.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Kathleen Davis
Interim Superintendent
Utica City School District