



Families of Union Township School Corporation Kindergarten Students:

By now you may have heard about the first year of Promise Porter County from families or staff at your student's school, or from various newspaper articles. We are pleased to announce that we have secured funding to bring the program to first grade students in the 2018-19 school year! Promise Porter County seeks to enroll all first graders in the counties seven school corporations in a CollegeChoice 529 direct savings account, encourage students to engage Champions support, introduce an age appropriate college and career curriculum, and coordinate a fieldtrip to Valparaiso University for a special day called "Walk Into My Future." Research shows that students with a college savings account in their name are four times more likely to attend post-secondary education than those without an account. In addition, these students tend to have better attendance and test scores than students without a college savings plan. The goal of Promise Porter County, generously supported by state and local agencies and community partners, is to give our students HOPE. HOPE for post-secondary education, that they will be better able to afford school. And HOPE, that they will be more successful as they move past high school!

Promise Porter County will be partnering with your school to enroll first grade students in a CollegeChoice 529 direct savings account. Your student will receive an initial enrollment deposit of \$25 dollars into the account, generously donated by Urschel Laboratories. There is no cost to your family to open the account. CollegeChoice 529 direct savings accounts can be used at 2 and 4 year colleges in addition to trade and technical schools. Promise Porter County will also be offering Champions month, where there will be an opportunity for your student to invite their "Champions", family members, friends, neighbors, or others, to invest in their new savings account. If your student is able to raise and deposit \$25 or more into their account – they will receive an \$25 match from local community sponsors! More information on how the students should go about inviting "Champions" to invest in their future will be provided once school has started next year.

Your students first grade teacher will be provided curriculum activities to use throughout the year to help your students begin thinking about their hope to attend college and thinking about possible careers. These activities will culminate in an exciting day called "Walk Into My Future." All first grade students will take a field trip to Valparaiso University and participate in various age appropriate activities meant to encourage further their desire to continue their education after high school.

Porter County Promise is proud to bring the HOPE for higher education and what that can mean to educational success throughout high school and beyond to all public school first graders during the 2018-19 school year. **The enrollment is now open to your family as an in-coming first grade student.** Please visit our website and click on the "Go to your accounts" tab on the main page. From there click the "log in to or set up your 529 account". You will need SSN#'s for both the account owner (adult) and the beneficiary (first grade student) to complete the process. Promise Porter County will be at various events at schools throughout the county next fall for in-person enrollment and information sessions. As always, please contact us if you have any questions or need help with the enrollment process.



Julie Giorgi

Promise Porter County Coordinator

1201 Cumberland Crossing Drive, Valparaiso Indiana 46383
P 219 462 4185 F 219 477 4720 www.valpoymca.org