

# The Eagle Express

*AES Principal's News September 2018*

## Open House Coming Soon

We were so delighted to have welcomed 75% of our families during the meet & greet last week. This was a great opportunity for our students to get a sneak peek of their classrooms and friends. A great big thank you to the PTO for providing popsicles on the playground afterward. We hope 100% of our families will come to Open House on Sept. 13th from 5-6:30. We will all start our evening together in the gym. I'm so looking forward to it- I hope you are too.



**Teachers Having Fun**



**Morning Meeting Greeting**



**Fun on the Playground**

## Quick Reminders

### Thank you for partnering with us!

- Please remember to use Pick-Up Patrol for dismissal information.
- If your child is out for any reason, be sure to call in and provide the reason.
- Assemblies are now every other Friday afternoon. Check out the AES website for updated information.
- The first PTO meeting of the year is Sept. 10th at 3:30 in the Muzart room. All are invited.

### What is Grit?

We will be rolling out a new core value this year, and it is GRIT! What is grit actually? Grit is the ability to keep working toward a goal, overcoming challenges and sticking with it even when it's hard. A true definition of grit would say that grit is a personality trait that helps you keep working toward long-term

goals despite setbacks or failures. It is similar to [perseverance](#) and it requires a growth mindset— two similar character traits that mean you are willing to keep working and improving at something despite the challenges that get in your way. This is something that will serve our children well in school and in life.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGKSb\\_dSZ1I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGKSb_dSZ1I)



## What is UDL?

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a set of principles to develop learning environments that give all individuals equal opportunities to learn.

UDL proposes not a single, one-size-fits-all solution but rather a set of flexible scaffolds and supports that can meet individual needs. Individual learners are very different from one another and may require different methods and means to reach a common goal. These differences -both seen and unseen, may be shaped by brain development learned and innate skills, cultural and social experience, and a host of other factors.

The UDL framework encourages creating flexible designs from the start that have customizable options, which allow all learners to progress in the curriculum. The options for accomplishing this are varied and robust enough to provide effective instruction to all learners.

The NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education has contracted with [CAST](#): Center for Applied Special Education Technology to provide New Hampshire educators with professional customized learning opportunities that build capacity in the implementation and roll out of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) as a systemic framework for educational decision-making. CAST Professional Learning team provides a formula for successful UDL implementation that clearly defined goals, ongoing measures of progress relative to the goals, and flexible methods and resources that support the five phases of implementation (Explore, Prepare, Integrate, Scale, and Optimize). The CAST Professional Learning Team is proposing a three-year program for implementing UDL across 24 districts in New Hampshire; eight districts will be selected to participate in the UDL Academy.

The UDL Academy is a yearlong professional learning program for schools that are committed to using a team approach to impact educator effectiveness and agree to actively participate in the key components of the UDL Academy. The design of the UDL Academy supports learning about UDL,

trying out UDL in practice, reflecting about application of UDL, and working in teams that identify and address common needs and actions. We will be sending a small team from AES to attend the UDL Academy, and we are committed to sharing our learning with the entire staff for the benefit of our students.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDvKnY0g6e4>



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