

FROM THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPPER MERION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT MARCH 2026

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The Power of Positivity

Most teachers dread calling home. It is literally one more thing added to the to do list. Additionally, there is the anxiety that comes with how a parent or guardian may respond to your call about their learner. What if the way to make the “not so good” phone calls easier is to also make positive phone calls. Calling home to share positive things builds a home to school rapport. It lets parents and guardians know that you do not just call home when it is something negative. Positive phone calls are just as important. Families appreciate when teachers engage with them to share when their learner is doing well. This could be a contribution the student made in class, bringing up a grade, turning in an assignment on time, working well with peers, or earning a reward. You can think of your school’s PBIS values and share how the learner is demonstrating a value with their parent or guardian. Families love positive calls!

Read: [Why A Positive Call Home Is Worth The Effort](#)

STUDENT VOICE

“I feel like I belong in the quiet parts of the morning, when I say hello to people I do not even know yet and they smile back like I am already part of something bigger.”

And I belong in the clubs that fill my week like a heartbeat, choir and band, winter winds, CREATE, CAST, Junior Optimist, Community of Caring, PBIS leaders, student council, Black Student Union, Best Buddies, coding club, Reading Olympics, debate. “

-Excerpt from poem “Where I Learn To Belong”

Written by: Olamide Adegboye, 6th grade



MARCH APPRECIATION

- [Women’s History Month](#)
- [Holi](#)
- [International Day To Combat Islamophobia](#)
- [Irish American Heritage \(St. Patrick’s Day\)](#)
- [Neurodiversity Celebration](#)
- [Eid al fitr](#)
- [World Down Syndrome Day](#)
- [Int. Transgender Day of Visibility](#)
- [Developmental Disabilities Month](#)



THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMM

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This year, I had my students write down what they wanted to hear on tough days. I collected those notes and handed them out when I saw students needed them. **The power of their own positive words returning to them made a difference.**

—DANIELLE SICOTTE, Teacher