Westmoreland Upper Elementary Administration, Teachers & Staff are challenging students to participate in the **UE Winter Reading Challenge**. The purpose of this program is to promote at-home reading during our 5 week challenge. The challenge is for individual students to read a total of 640 minutes or more. This may seem like a huge challenge but the benefits include developing better reading skills and establishing a reading habit that will last a lifetime. All students will receive a form to record the amount of time they read, the title of the book, total minutes read for the month and a signature of a parent/guardian. These forms should be turned into the classroom teacher at the end of the each week. Teachers will then award students with raffle tickets, and return the log. The complete reading log is due no later than February 14, 2020. Teachers will collect the forms and turn them into the main office. Parents, please total your child’s minutes each week and keep a record of them too. This will help prevent errors at the end of the month. There are many ways to read 640 minutes at home between January 13, 2020 and February 14, 2020. Students may read silently or orally. Parents may also read to their child. Students and parents can take turns reading. Students can read orally to their brothers or sisters. Research indicates that children of all ages need to read and hear good literature read aloud daily. Reading to your child provides an emotional bond, which will be remembered for a lifetime. Reading not only informs and explains; it also entertains.

The reading challenge will end on February 14, 2020. Students can read on any day, for any amount of time, but they should plan ahead. Reaching 640 minutes takes time, commitment and PLANNING! If a student reads every school night they will only have to read about 20 minutes each school night. Any time spent reading at home counts towards the 640 minutes! Students, who turn in their form each week, will receive raffle tickets to enter into a **Utica Comets Drawing**. Each student will be able to enter into the raffle for each day they read 20 minutes. At the end of the challenge students in each grade level will have the chance to win 1 Utica Comets Hockey Stick, Utica Comets Apparel, and a Meet/Greet with the Utica Comet Hockey Players & Audi, the team mascot, on February 24, 2020, at The Upper Elementary School. Other Fabulous prizes will be awarded during our UE Winter Challenge as well. Some lucky readers will be invited to lunches with the principal and to visit the “Dog House” School Bookstore for prizes.

**Plan now to read every night for the UE’s Winter Reading Challenge!!**
Stephen Polera, Upper Elementary Principal