



Union Community School District

200 Adams St.

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www.union.k12.ia.us

#UKnighted

“Education to Meet Tomorrow’s Challenges”

Greetings from the Union Community School District! Please find below the October 2023 stakeholder communication.

National Principals’ Month

October is National Principals’ Month. In light of this fact, I want to personally thank our principals– Mr. Todd Parker- LPC Elementary, Mr. Derek Weber- DG Elementary, Mr. Wayne Slack- Union Middle School, Jason Toenges- Union High School. These four individuals do an outstanding job, and I am very proud of their efforts to continuously improve their buildings on a daily basis.

Be A Difference Maker

In last month’s newsletter, I explained our district’s motto for the year– Be a Difference Maker– and some things our staff can do to make a difference in the lives of students. In keeping with this theme, the administrative team and instructional coaches are now nominating staff who are meeting this objective. Since the inception of the initiative in late September, we have recognized the following– A. Bechthold, J. Carty, L. Driscoll, A. Happel, K. Knoop, A. Kriz, J. Schmidt and C. Schmitz. What an excellent group of educators! I am so proud of these individuals.

District Needs Assessment

The district needs assessment survey link was sent out to students, staff, families and community members. If you have not completed the survey yet, please do so. The survey will close on Wednesday, Oct. 31st at 5:00 p.m. With your input, we can continue to enhance our district now and long into the future.

ISASP Scores— Elementary

In both the August and September newsletters, I presented some excellent data regarding our students’ ISASP scores. Well, after the state published the data for every school (not district) in Iowa, we were able to do some comparisons. I am ecstatic to share the following in regards to our elementary buildings:

DG Elementary

- Top 20% of all elementaries in the state for 3rd grade ELA.
- Top 9% of all elementaries in the state for 5th grade Science.
- Top 20% of all elementaries in the state for 3rd grade Math.
- Top 5% of all elementaries in the state for 4th grade Math.
- Top 20% of all elementaries in the state for 5th grade Math.

LPC Elementary

- Top 5% of all elementaries in the state for 4th grade Math.
- Top 3% of all elementaries in the state for 5th grade Math.
- Top 20% of all elementaries in the state for 3rd grade ELA.
- Top 9% of all elementaries in the state for 5th grade ELA.
- Top 9% of all elementaries in the state for 5th grade Science.

Revenue Purpose Statement

Just a reminder– The voters are being asked to approve the district’s Revenue Purpose Statement at the election to be held on November 7, 2023. The Union Community School District has effectively and efficiently utilized Statewide Penny revenues over the last year for significant improvements in infrastructure and in better meeting student needs. We can continue this momentum, both now and long into the future with a renewal of the Statewide Penny on November 7, 2023. Remember- **this vote does not impact your sales taxes or increase property taxes.**



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PT Conferences

Thank you to all the parents/guardians who came to first quarter conferences. It was great to see so many of you in the buildings and having quality conversations with our teachers.

Early Out/No School Reminders

- No School- Monday, November 13 (Professional Development)
- No School- Wednesday, November 22- Friday, November 24 (Thanksgiving Break)
- 1:00 P.M. Dismissal- Wednesday, November 29

Enrollment

Though the numbers are not totally “official”, as we are still working with some neighboring districts in regards to open enrolled students, unfortunately, the district enrollment will again be down. The best estimate would be 17 to 25 students fewer than last year.

Fall Activities

We have had a quality fall season in terms of activities. I want to wish them all good luck as their season winds down. From my point of view, each group, organization, team has represented themselves, our districts and our communities very well.

Thank you, as usual, for your support of the Union Community School District! Go Knights!

John Howard, Superintendent