

# District Administrator's Report

*December 2017*

## Unity School District

### **Diploma Plus Program Sees Additional Programming**

Unity High School's Diploma Plus Program has helped many graduating students over the past few years earn college credit or certification in addition to their high school diplomas. With the Unity Board of Education adopting a district goal that focuses on "career, college, and technical readiness," there has been a renewed effort to establish cooperative agreements with the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) for transcribed and articulated credit for Unity's students who participate in specific career and technical education (CTE) classes. With the new course offering handbook, the 2018-2019 school year will see the most dual credit opportunities for Unity's high school students ever. In addition, Unity High School has some of the most Advanced Placement (AP) courses for college credit available for a high school of its size.

### **District and School Report Cards**

Unity School District, like all public school districts in Wisconsin, received its district and school report cards in November. Unity School District received an "exceeding expectations" district designation, while each school received a "meeting expectations" designation. Unity School District is proud of its educators and programming, and is working to improve with each report card.

This is the second year that the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction used legislatively mandated growth and value-added calculations for the 2016-2017 School and District Report Cards. Statewide, more than eighty percent of Wisconsin's public and private school report cards had three or more stars, meaning the schools met or exceeded expectations for educating students.

As part of the state accountability system, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) produces report cards for every publicly funded school and district in Wisconsin. These Accountability Report Cards include data on multiple indicators for multiple years across four Priority Areas (Student Achievement, Growth, Closing Gaps, and On-track and Post-secondary Success). In addition, given the impact on student success, the Accountability Report Cards also measure chronic absenteeism and dropout rates. A school or district's Overall Accountability Score places the school/district into one of five Overall Accountability Ratings.

It is important to be cautious about drawing conclusions from the overall results noted in the report cards. It is important to analyze the specific results behind the scores to determine what is working well and what needs to be improved upon. Report cards are an important part of the conversation about what happens in a school or district, but it must be paired with local data, student opportunities, and programming that is unique to each district. Report cards are intended to help schools and districts use performance data to target improvement efforts to ensure students are ready for their next educational step, including the next grade level, graduation, college, and careers.

Implement the Educator Effectiveness Model with a focus on school improvement, staff collaboration, student achievement, and educator practices.

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### Grants Continue To Provide Support To Beneficial Programs

Unity School District has aggressively sought grant funding in recent years. With school funding as tight and limited as it has been, grants have been helpful in financially supporting unique and beneficial programming for students and community. The limitation of grants is that the funding must be used specifically for the program or initiative they were awarded for.

Some of Unity's grants have helped to fund programs that students, parents, and the community have come to appreciate.

- The American Language Revitalization Grant serves to ensure that the Ojibwa language is not lost and that our students are aware of its cultural significance. In the new addition, there were Ojibwa language signs posted next to the new areas in the building.
- The Community Learning Center Grant provides support for an after-school educational program designed to provide assistance and enrichment for early elementary students who could benefit from an additional approach to reinforce learning from the school day.
- The Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grant is focused on providing healthy snacks to elementary students. The grant has provided students with an opportunity to sample unique fruits and vegetables, as well as student favorites.
- The Physical Education Program Grant has concluded, but it has made a long-standing impact on Unity's offerings. It has provided programming and assistance to the District's physical education program to support the wellness of Unity's students. The grant has been focused on connecting with Unity's ability to provide outdoor education and various lifelong physical activities, like kayaking, fishing, mountain biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and climbing. In addition, the grant provided funding for fitness equipment located in the Unity Fitness Center.

### Unity Wall of Honor Nominations Sought

The Unity Board of Education has established a "Wall of Honor" to recognize and honor the accomplishments of Unity alumni and employees. Criteria for selection to the "Wall of Honor" will be based on contributions in the areas of education, business, human services, government, athletic, military, fine arts, and community involvement. Alumni selection is based on post-high school accomplishments. The nominee will be screened by a selection committee, which will meet in early March. Deadline for applications each year is March 1st.

If you know of someone who is worthy of being considered for the "Wall of Honor," nomination forms are available at Unity's District and School offices. Additionally, application forms are available on the District website at [www.unity.k12.wi.us](http://www.unity.k12.wi.us). If you have any questions, call or write to Unity Wall of Honor, Unity School District, 1908 150th St./Hwy 46N, Balsam Lake, WI 54810; (715) 825-3515.



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### 2017-2018 School District Goals

(Approved by the Unity Board of Education, March, 2017)

- 1. Focus on school improvement, staff collaboration, student achievement, and educator practices.
- 2. Encourage career, college, and technical readiness through business and school partnerships.
- 3. Promote and provide flexible accelerated, personalized learning opportunities for students.
- 4. Encourage healthy students, staff, and community.

### School Closing Information

Unity School District Website, [www.unity.k12.wi.us](http://www.unity.k12.wi.us)

WCCO Channel 4, [www.wcco.com](http://www.wcco.com)

KSTP Channel 5, [www.kstp.com](http://www.kstp.com)

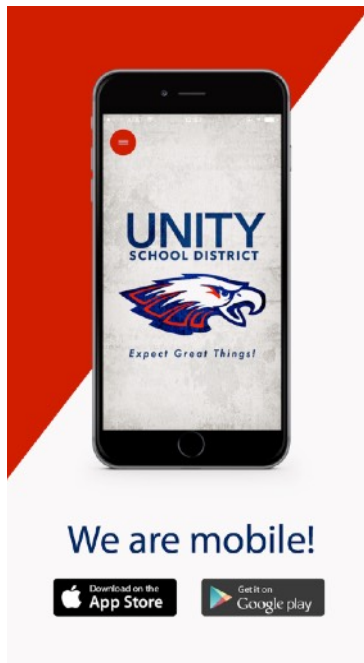
KMSP Channel 9, [www.myfox9.com](http://www.myfox9.com)

KARE Channel 11, [www.kare11.com](http://www.kare11.com)

iOS or Google App, Unity School District



### Unity School District Technology Updates



**SCHOOL DISTRICT APP** Unity School District has developed an app to better communicate with parents and the community. The app is available for both Android and iOS mobile devices. The new app, Unity School District, can be found at the App Store or Google Play.

**INFINITE CAMPUS** Unity School District has transitioned from Skyward to Infinite Campus over the summer for its student information system (SIS). The new program will provide a high quality experience for parents and students. The new program has have many new features.

#### Parents:

Update your contact information online or by calling your child's school office.

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## Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	MEETING	PLACE	TIME
Tuesday, December 12	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Wednesday, December 13	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	10:00 AM
Thursday, December 14	District Technology Committee Meeting	Board Room	7:40 AM
Friday, December 15	3rd and 4th Grade Concert	Performing Arts Center	2:00 PM
Tuesday, December 19	Lakeland Conference Superintendent Meeting	Turtle Lake	9:00 AM
Wednesday, December 20	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	10:00 AM
Thursday, December 21	Curriculum Meeting	Elem. Conf. Rm.	7:40 AM
Friday, December 22	Staff Holiday Breakfast	Elementary Gym	7:30 AM
Friday, December 22	Busy Bugs Concert	Performing Arts Center	9:30 AM
December 23 - January 1	Winter Break - No School	District	
Wednesday, January 3	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	10:00 AM
Thursday, January 4	Professional Staff Development Committee	Elem. Conf. Rm.	7:40 AM
Thursday, January 4	League of Women Voters Candidate Forum	Performing Arts Center	6:00 PM
Tuesday, January 9	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Wednesday, January 10	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	10:00 AM
Thursday, January 11	District Technology Committee Meeting	Board Room	7:40 AM

"Expect Great Things"

Encourage healthy students, staff, and community.

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### Inclement Weather Information

The decision to close or delay school due to inclement weather is a complicated one. There are many factors that must be considered and each school district is different. Unity School District is unique in that most of the students are bussed or transported to school daily. Each decision at Unity School District regarding school closings or delays includes consultation with others, such as the Polk County Highway Department, National Weather Service, and other area school districts.

Unity School District considers school closings or delays due to inclement weather when there is a significant concern for student safety. Generally, school closings or delays due to cold weather may be considered when temperatures are below -20°F and/or wind chill temperatures are below -40°F.

Unity School District considers school closings or delays due to snow or freezing rain when road conditions are hazardous. Closings or delays due to snow are dependent upon road conditions and not total snow accumulations. Snow accumulations vary greatly by location and are a concern when adversely impacting road conditions.

If school remains in session, it is important to clothe your child appropriately for the conditions. Ensuring that there is no exposed skin in cold weather, in addition to warm insulated clothing, is very important. The playground remains open for outside recess to -10°F, so please send appropriate winter apparel to school with your child. If appropriate apparel is needed, please contact the elementary principal or counselor.

If conditions are a concern where you live, please communicate those conditions to your child's school office. It is important to note whether a road or driveway is hazardous or unplowed. Additionally, please communicate with your child's office if your child will be absent due to acute inclement weather issues where you live, when school is in session.

The Parent Notification System will continue to keep you informed of Unity's school closings and other important announcements. Please share with your child's office any changes to your contact information.



Safety is our highest priority.