

District Administrator's Report

July 2018

Unity School District

Innovative Changes to the Daily Schedule at Unity

With Unity's focus on personalized learning, it has been a natural progression to analyze the school schedules at the middle and high school. In the past year, there has been discussion about how to maximize the school day schedule to ensure that students have more time for project based learning, cooperative learning, and more in-depth, hands-on learning opportunities. Over several months Unity has been developing a trimester schedule for the high school and the middle school. The trimester schedule would align the two schools' schedules and maximize learning time with six periods in a day that are 60 minutes long.

In general, a trimester system makes three significant changes to the master schedule. First is the way the school year is structured. Instead of quarters or semesters, the school year is divided into three 12-week trimesters. Second, there is a reduction of the number of overall class periods. Trimester schedules usually run five or six class periods that meet every day; as opposed to regular schedules which run eight classes for one semester. Third, the trimester schedule offers varying course lengths. Typically, core classes are two trimesters, or 24 weeks; electives are one trimester, or 12 weeks; and some special classes such as Advanced Placement (AP) and music, are all three trimesters, or 36 weeks.

Balancing students' core classes over three terms allows for less stress on students. Staff members are given more preparation time with fewer students and classes to manage. Other major benefits are the curriculum alignment and the ability for students to take courses over in the same year. The lengthened class times affords deeper diving into the curriculum and more project based learning.

General Aid Estimate Can Still Change

Each July 1st, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is required to provide districts with an estimate of the upcoming year's General School Aid. General Aid includes Equalization, Special Adjustment, and Special Transfer Aid. General School Aid is one of the two parts that make up a school district's revenue limit. The other portion is the tax levy. An increase or decrease in the General School Aid does not increase or decrease the school district's budget, rather it correspondingly increases or decreases the tax levy.

Unity is projected to receive an increase of aid for the upcoming school year of \$213,608. This would be only the second time in over ten years that the District's aid would see an increase. An increase in the aid would decrease the corresponding tax levy for the school year. It remains to be seen whether this projection will be a reality when the final numbers are certified by the DPI on October 15th.

Unity Summer School Is BIGGER Than Ever!

Call (715) 825-2101 x 3510, to see what all the excitement is about! This year's summer school program has more participants than ever! Because the sessions are broken up into week-long modules, you can still register!

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Personalized Learning Takes Center Stage

Personalized learning is an approach to learning that is designed around individual learner readiness, strengths, needs and interests. Unity's approach to personalized learning is structured around three focuses: standards-based learning, student choice, and customized learning. A variety of instructional strategies make up Unity School District's Personalized Learning Model based on the age of students, the academic discipline, and the needs of students. Not all strategies are used in classrooms at all times. Unity's personalized learning approach serves to better prepare students for the future of their own design.

Mrs. Jorgensen, Unity Middle School Principal and Director of Instruction said recently, "It is an exciting time to be an educator and a student at Unity. We are having powerful conversations about how to best prepare students for *their* future. Personalizing learning for students gives them a better opportunity to engage and be empowered in the learning process."

Much of this summer's professional development and planning will be focused on personalized learning. Unity's Personalized Learning Framework will be posted to the website soon and will transform many of the teaching and learning processes in the District. One Unity high school teacher, Brian Collins, said of the change, "This is right up my alley. As a science teacher it makes sense to engage our students through projects, inquiry based science learning, experiments, and collaboration." Fellow middle school science teacher, Shawn Perkins, also noted, "This will benefit so many students who are ready to move on and really challenge them. What a great opportunity for those students who are being held back in the traditional classroom model."

Unity Hosts Summer Regional Custodial Workshop

The CESA #11 Custodial Workshop and Vendor Showcase will be hosted at Unity on July 11, 2018. At past workshops, there have been about 150 custodians from CESA #11 schools and ten vendors. In addition to the vendor showcase, there will be several educational topics offered for the custodians.

This workshop is designed to highlight the latest innovations in custodial/maintenance products/ practice and to increase awareness of issues in the workplace affecting staff and students. Session topics may include school safety, cleaning efficiency, lawn and turf maintenance, LED lighting, and new maintenance technologies. This workshop will also offer an opportunity to tour the new Unity High School.

Unity Summer Projects

Even with Unity School District recently undergoing a construction project, the summer is still incredibly busy with routine maintenance projects and Long-Range Plan projects. The District will be incredibly busy with the construction project this summer.

- Painting of the Storage Sheds.
- Flooring replacement in MS Room 224.
- Middle School Classroom LED Light Fixture Replacement.
- Updated Fire Exit/Emergency Exit Signage for Each Room.
- Replacement of the Campus Security Camera System.
- Replacement of the Desktop Computers in the MS Computer Lab.
- Regrading/seeding of the Soccer Fields and Middle School Play Areas.

Encourage career readiness through school and community partnerships.

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2018-2019 School District Goals

(Approved by the Unity Board of Education, April, 2018)

- 💡 **Nurture and promote a positive culture of respect, leadership, and character for all.**
- 💡 **Encourage career readiness through school and community partnerships.**
- 💡 **Promote and provide flexible accelerated, personalized learning opportunities for students.**
- 💡 **Encourage healthy students, staff, and community while continuing to address mental health needs through various programs and partnerships.**

Parents:

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

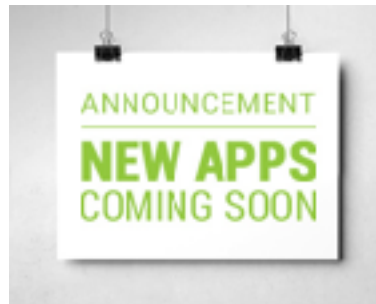
Unity School District Technology Updates

SCHOOL DISTRICT APP The app is available for both Android and iOS mobile devices. The app, Unity School District, can be found at the App Store or Google Play.



SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITE Unity School District updates the District website daily. Please visit the website to ensure that you stay informed regarding the District's events, policies, activities, performance, and programs.

The Infinite Campus App will be updated by the end of June. This update will create two new apps, Campus Parent and Campus Student. They will be added to the App Store and Google Play this summer. Parents and students downloading the apps will instantly be connected to tailored user experiences for accessing assignments, grades and more. The new apps will make it so easy for parents and students to monitor student progress with up-to-date information.



Promote and provide flexible accelerated, personalized learning opportunities for students.

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	MEETING	PLACE	TIME
Tuesday, July 10	Unity Wall of Honor Award Ceremony	PAC	6:00 PM
Tuesday, July 10	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	7:00 PM
Wednesday, July 11	CESA 11 Custodial Workshop and Vendor Showcase	District	All Day
Saturday, July 28	Prairie Fire Theatre Presents Peter Pan	PAC	7:00 PM
Wednesday, August 1	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	10:00 AM
August 1, 2	Personalized Learning Summit	CESA 11	
August 6 - 9	District Annual Financial Audit	District Office	
Wednesday, August 8	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	10:00 AM
Tuesday, August 14	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Wednesday, August 22	First Day of Fall Staff In-Service	District	
Tuesday, August 28	Fall Open House	District	5:00-7:00 PM
August 29, 30	Unity Academy	District	
Monday, September 3	Labor Day - No School	District	
Tuesday, September 4	First Day of School	District	
Tuesday, September 11	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM

"Expect Great Things"

Encourage healthy students, staff, and community while continuing to address mental health needs through various programs and partnerships.