

# District Administrator's Report

*August 2018*

## Unity School District

### **Unity Academy**

Unity Academy is on August 29th and 30th. These days are two normal school days, with school transportation and food service. Students are encouraged to attend these meaningful, high quality days as they will provide unique, engaging, and exciting opportunities for students to start their school year.

These days will have themes for each school. There will be team-building, problem solving, project based experiences, and student leadership opportunities. They will be focused on providing a solid and positive transition for students.

Kindergarten, Pre-Kindergarten, Early Childhood, and ADP will not have school these days. They have a separate beginning of the year transition that is unique to their program.

### **Mental Health Support Expands**

Unity School District has partnered with Polk County to provide a full-time social worker in the school setting. Unity contracts directly with Polk County for the position and services are available for all students. The social worker may provide access to social, human services, and crisis intervention for students with immediate needs. School counselors and principals may provide a referral for a student. Or, a parent may contact the social worker directly with concerns. There is no cost to the family. The office location of the social worker is room #303.

Unity's social worker program is the only one in Polk County. It has been developed as a model for other schools and agencies. The success of the program in the past two years can be measured in the positive experiences, services, and interventions for students and families. As the program is funded exclusively by the school district's budget, the support and priority given by the Unity Board of Education is greatly appreciated.

### **Innovative Changes to the Daily Schedule at Unity**

Over several months Unity has developed a trimester schedule for the high school and the middle school. The trimester schedule aligns the two schools' schedules to 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, personalized learning experiences, and more project based learning.

# District Administrator's Report

*August 2018*

## Unity School District

### **School Safety Grant Award**

The Wisconsin Department of Justice awarded Unity School District \$45,373 through its School Safety Initiative Grant. In this grant, school expenditures enhanced or improved upon school or district efforts to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and/or recover from violence. Unity's grant is for specific hardware and safety measures.

Unity has already submitted a letter of intent to apply for Round 2 of the grant funding, which will focus more on student mental health. It will advance baseline mental health and physical security improvements made in the first round of grant funding through advanced training for teachers on mental health; the creation of local teams of educators, counselors, and law enforcement to develop School Safety Intervention Teams that will assess threats and identify students in need of support; and additional physical security upgrades.

### **Personal Electronic Computing Device Grant**

The "Personal Electronic Computing Devices" grant is authorized in Wisconsin statute 115.438. The grant will be administered by DPI and will provide Wisconsin school districts up to \$9.2 million each school year from 2018-2019 to 2022-2023, for student mobile devices and supporting software, curriculum, and training. Every Wisconsin school or school district -- public, charter, private, or tribal -- with 9th grade students is eligible to receive \$125 per 9th grade student, each year for the next five years.

Unity School District will be expanding its 1:1 iPad Program to the 5th grade. With this grant, Unity School District will now provide an iPad for each student to use in grades 5-12. Unity's iPad program has been successful in providing access to technology to all students, ensuring that students have access to information, learning opportunities, and the ability to create projects. Unity's approach to technology in education continues to lead the area in providing opportunities for students.

### **Summer Maintenance Projects Nearing Completion**

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 this summer.

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

Encourage career readiness through school and community partnerships.

# District Administrator's Report

## August 2018

# Unity School District

### 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 was updated. This update created two new apps, Campus Parent and Campus Student. They were added to the App Store and Google Play. Parents and students downloading the apps will instantly be connected to tailored user experiences for accessing assignments, grades and more. The new apps 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.

# District Administrator's Report

## August 2018

# Unity School District

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	MEETING	PLACE	TIME
Tuesday, August 14	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Wednesday, August 22	First Day of Fall Staff In-Service	District	
August 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 31	Fall Staff In-Service	District	
Friday, August 24	Community Education: MN State Fair Bus Trip	District	8:00 AM
Tuesday, August 28	Fall Open House	District	5:00-7:00 PM
August 29, 30	Unity Academy	District	All Day
Monday, September 3	Labor Day - No School	District	
Tuesday, September 4	First Day of School	District	
Wednesday, September 5	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	10:00 AM
Tuesday, September 11	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Wednesday, September 12	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	10:00 AM
Friday, September 21	Homecoming Parade, Annual Picnic, Homecoming Football Game	District	

"Expect Great Things"

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

# District Administrator's Report

## August 2018

# Unity School District

### UNITY COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH SERVICES

Unity School District is dedicated to providing comprehensive health services for its students and employees. The District is an educational leader in partnering with local providers and the county for a focused health program.

#### School Nursing Services

- Unity School District provides nursing services for all of its students.
- Unity School District has a Department of Public Instruction licensed registered nurse on staff full-time to meet the needs of its student population.
- The school nurse oversees the dispensation of medication to students.
- The student wellness program is coordinated by the school nurse.
- The school nurse coordinates with a medical advisor from the St. Croix Regional Medical Center (SCRMC).

#### Mental Health Clinic

- Unity School District has partnered with Family Therapy Associates (FTA) of New Richmond and St. Croix Falls to provide mental health therapy for referrals at the school.
- The mental health clinic has been approved by the State of Wisconsin.
- A therapist from FTA will be assigned to Unity one or more days a week, dependent upon the caseload.
- School counselors and principals may provide a referral packet to the parent/guardian of the child. The subsequent therapy is handled by the family's insurance.
- With parent permission, the therapist and clinic may provide scheduled therapy sessions as needed with the student and family.
- The office location of the therapist is room #108, in the high school area of the library.

#### Social Worker

- Unity School District has partnered with Polk County to provide a full-time social worker in the school setting.
- Unity contracts directly with Polk County for the position and services are available for all students.
- The social worker may provide access to social and human services. The social worker may also provide crisis intervention for students with immediate needs.
- School counselors and principals may provide a referral for a student. There is no cost to the family.
- The office location of the social worker is room #303, next to the special education office.

#### Public Health Services

- Unity School District contracts with Polk County for Public Health Services. The services provided include:
  - Infectious Disease
  - Immunizations, including Influenza
  - Annual Health Screening
    - Vision and Audiology Screening
  - Classroom Presentations

#### Student Oral Health Program

- Unity School District has a cooperative agreement with NorthLakes Community Clinic to provide oral health services to its students.
- With parent permission, students may receive teeth cleaning and sealants. There is no charge for the services provided to the student.

#### Athletic Trainer

- Unity School District has a business partnership with the St. Croix Regional Medical Center (SCRMC) to provide athletic training services to its athletes.
- The services provided are free of charge to Unity's athletes and are coordinated through SCRMC's sports medicine program.
- The office location of the athletic trainer is in the high school, room #136.

#### Physical and Occupational Therapy

- Unity School District has a business partnership with the St. Croix Regional Medical Center (SCRMC) to provide physical and occupational therapy to students who qualify.
- Physical and occupational therapy services are typically provided to students as part of an IEP or 504 plan.

#### Staff Training/Professional Development

- Trauma Informed Training
- DPI Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Training
- Lifelines Suicide Prevention Training