

District Administrator's Report

February 2022

Unity School District

LEAP Child Care Program Continues to Grow!

Unity School District's Little Eagles At Play (LEAP) Child Care Program is growing each month! There are now 49 children enrolled at the center, with an additional 7 children on the waiting list. Children range in age from a few months old to four years. There are seven different classrooms where children are grouped by their relative ages. The program is focused on providing a safe, playful, and caring environment for children.

The LEAP Child Care Program is YoungStar certified, ensuring quality programming and affordable services for families. Parents who would like further information about the program should visit the website at <https://www.unity.k12.wi.us/page/leap-little-eagles-at-play-child-care-center>, email htiedemann@unity.k12.wi.us, or call 715-825-3515.

Employment opportunities also exist at the LEAP Center. If interested in working in the program, please visit the school website at www.unity.k12.wi.us or email jroettger@unity.k12.wi.us.

We thank the community for their support of the program and their patience during the early stages of the program. With its steady growth over last year and a half, it has become an invaluable resource for families, businesses, and the community.

Eagle Care Club Begins February 14th!

Unity School District's new school-aged child care program, Eagle Care Club, will be opening on Monday, February 14th! The long awaited program is the product of research and planning that started this past summer. The fee-based program is available to elementary aged students. The hours of the program are from 6:00 am to the start of the school day, and from the end of the school day to 6:00pm. Parents can sign their child up for either of the times, or for both. Fees are based upon how long the student attends each day.

The focus of the program is play in supervised school environment. Students will be in classrooms, with time on the playground, in the library, and in the gymnasium. The programming is provided a number of teachers, educational assistants, and high school student workers.

Registration information will be sent home again to all Unity Elementary students. Parents who would like additional information should visit the school website, <https://www.unity.k12.wi.us/page/school-aged-child-care-program>.

Staffing Shortage Is Significant Issue for Schools

Unity School District, like other districts throughout the region, is feeling the effects of a staffing shortage in many categories. The lack of substitute employees is one issue that is affecting programs. Substitute teachers, educational assistants, food service, maintenance, custodial, and child care positions are open. The District is willing to train and help applicants obtain licensure for any substitute positions.

Kobussen Transportation is also seeking bus drivers. They are offering incentives for new employees and will provide training to help applicants obtain their CDL school bus license.

Interested individuals are encouraged to contact the school district office at (715) 825-3515 or Kobussen at (715) 330-4234.

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COVID Testing Clinic is Important Part of Plan

Unity School District's **free, voluntary COVID-19 Testing Program for students and staff** has been an important component of Unity's Return to School Plan. The program is being offered free in collaboration with funding from the WI DHS. Regular voluntary testing helps protect our students, staff, family members, and others who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 or are otherwise at risk for getting seriously sick from COVID-19.

Through this program, COVID-19 cases are identified quickly and early, which can help us stop an outbreak before it happens. This helps to keep students in the classroom and able to take part in the school activities they love.

Already this school year, over 1,400 COVID tests have been administered at the Unity COVID testing site. The clinic is located next to the high school office. Results are available in as little as twenty (20) minutes.

To learn more or register your child for a test, please call x3010 or email rschmid@unity.k12.wi.us. Your completed consent form can also be emailed to rschmid@unity.k12.wi.us.

**It is important to note that your child will not be tested for COVID-19 without your permission.*

Student Open Enrollment Is Open For 2022–2023

What is Public School Open Enrollment?

Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend a school district other than the one in which they live. Applications may be submitted to up to three nonresident school districts.

Who may participate in open enrollment?

Pupils in 5-year-old kindergarten to grade 12 may apply to participate in open enrollment.

Open enrollment for prekindergarten, four-year-old kindergarten and early childhood education is limited. Parents should call their resident school districts to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify for open enrollment.

How and when may parents apply?

The open enrollment application period for the 2022-23 school year is from February 7-April 29, 2022. The application period closes at 4:00 p.m. on April 29, 2022.

Parents may apply online at <https://dpi.wi.gov/oe>.



"Expect Great Things"

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Unity Community Education Is Busy Again!

Unity School District has a strong legacy for outstanding community education programming. Unity's community education programming was on hiatus last year during COVID, but it is in full swing again this year.

- ★ Information regarding Unity's Community Education program can be found on the District website at <https://www.unity.k12.wi.us/page/community-education>.
- ★ The Unity Fitness Center is open to the community. Hallway walking is also available in the evenings, November to March.
- ★ To request the usage of the facility for a group or organization, please visit the Facility Scheduling System at <https://www.unity.k12.wi.us/page/facilities-calendar>.
- ★ Unity School District's Community Education Program is continually looking for instructors for classes. Unity Community Education offers a diverse catalog of classes to meet the needs and interests of the community. The program is looking for new, exciting, and interesting classes. If you are interested in teaching a class, please contact Amanda Warner at awarner@unity.k12.wi.us or (715) 825-2101 x5010.

Unity Wall of Honor Nominations Sought

Years ago, the Unity Board of Education 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. 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.

Unity School District Belief Statements

Unity Belief Statements represent our strong convictions, our common core values, and our moral character.

We Believe:

- The student, family, school, and community as partners, share the responsibility for a successful educational experience.
- An awareness of and a tolerance for diversity enriches life.
- Learning thrives in a safe, caring, disciplined environment.
- Learning is lifelong.
- Character development (respect, trustworthiness, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship) is an essential component of effective education.
- All individuals learn in different ways, at different rates, and at different times.
- Education includes social, emotional, intellectual, physical, and aesthetic growth.
- Problem solving, critical thinking, effective communication, and working cooperatively are fundamental life skills.
- In challenging individuals to develop to their fullest potential.
- Education provides students with a solid academic foundation.

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	MEETING	PLACE	TIME
Tuesday, Feb. 8	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Wednesday, Feb. 9	WASDA Statewide Superintendent Meeting	ZOOM	1:30 PM
Friday, Feb. 11	CESA 11 Superintendent Meeting	Turtle Lake	9:00 AM
Monday, Feb. 14	First Day of Eagle Care Club (ECC)	District	
Tuesday, Feb. 15	Lakeland Conference Superintendent Meeting	Turtle Lake	9:00 AM
Wednesday, Feb. 16	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	12:30 PM
Thursday, Feb. 17	2nd Grade Concert (Open to Family Members)	PAC	1:30 PM
Monday, Feb. 21	Presidents Day - No School	District	
Thursday, Feb. 24	Parent-Teacher Conferences	District	4:00-8:00 PM
Wednesday, Mar. 2	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	12:30 PM
Tuesday, Mar. 8	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Tuesday, Mar. 8	Bandarama - MS & HS Band Concert (Open)	PAC	7:00 PM
Mar. 9, 10	Early Learning Days	Library	
Thursday, Mar. 10	3rd Grade Concert (Open to Family Members)	PAC	1:30 PM
Friday, Mar. 11	End of Trimester	District	
Friday, Mar. 11	CESA 11 Superintendent Meeting	Turtle Lake	9:00 AM
Mar. 14-18	Spring Break - No School	District	

Unity School District Goals

(Approved by the Unity Board of Education, March, 2021)

- **Nurture and promote a positive and inclusive 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.**



School Closing Information

Unity School District Website, www.unity.k12.wi.us

WCCO Channel 4, www.wcco.com

KSTP Channel 5, www.kstp.com

KMSP Channel 9, www.myfox9.com

KARE Channel 11, www.kare11.com