UNITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

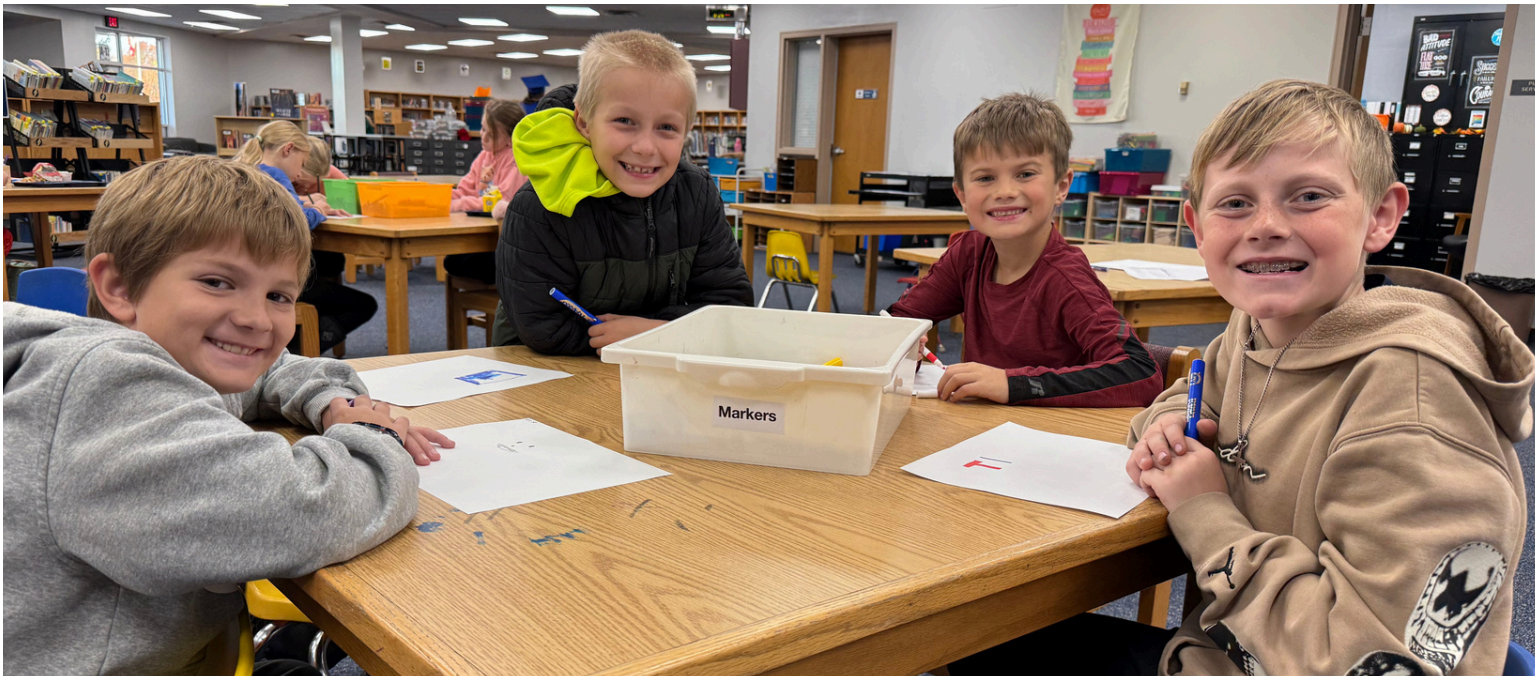
EXPECT GREAT THINGS

2026-2027

November 2026

Principal's Report

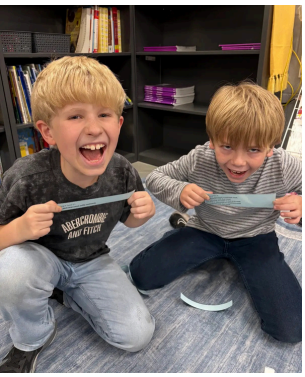
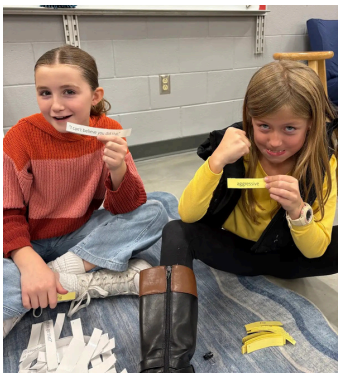
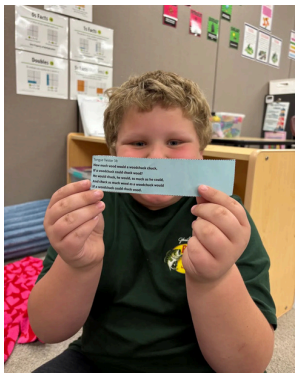
Sarah Engstrom-Yde, Unity Elementary School Principal



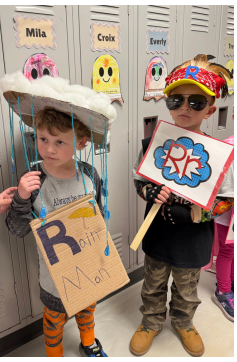
OUR STUDENTS

Unity Elementary students had another fabulous month both inside and outside of the classroom! Our Walk to Read program (K - 4th grade) is already in its second round. Students are working hard to master each Phonics level as they move through the progression at their own pace. Our 3rd grade students (pictured left & center below) recently practiced tongue-twisters and guessing each other's expressions as part of a Fluency Fun lesson! At each grade level, students are mastering math facts as they work to conquer each milestone in our new SpringMath program.

Meanwhile, student council members are working hard to prepare for Veterans Day by creating posters to decorate the hallway for the upcoming Veterans Day program (pictured right below). All elementary students have an opportunity to create cards that will be distributed to the veterans at the program. Providing our elementary students with opportunities to grow in leadership and service is an important part of developing the whole child at UES!


The month of October would not be complete without the Kindergarten Alphabet Superhero Parade! This occurred throughout the hallways of the elementary school as the kindergarten students showed off their amazing costumes for the 1st - 4th grade students and Unity staff members. Then, the kindergarten students and teachers marched over to the high school gymnasium where the procession continued for parents, grandparents, and other family members.










OUR STAFF





Unity staff are focused on Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) in four main areas this school year: Literacy, Math, Attendance, and Behavior. On October 19th during our half-day inservice, our educators spent time preparing their SLOs (Student Learning Objectives) in alignment with our school goals. Our SLOs are focused on growth for all students this year. We will be measuring our progress and celebrating our students' success throughout the school year as we work toward achieving our Wildly Important Goals as follows:

- **Literacy:** 100% of students will make typical or high growth as measured by STAR Early Lit/Reading (PK-4th grade) from Fall 2026 to Spring 2027.
- **Math:**
  - **1st-4th grade: 100%** of students will make typical or high growth as measured by STAR Math from Fall 2026 to Spring 2027.
  - **Kindergarten:** 100% of students will demonstrate mastery of sums to 5 based on a classroom End of Year (EOY) assessment.
  - **Pre-K:** 100% of students will know the numbers 1-10 and demonstrate counting from 1-10 on a classroom EOY assessment.
- **Attendance:** Increase the overall UES attendance rate from 94.8% to 96% from Spring 2026 to Spring 2027.
- **Behavior:** 80% or more of PK-4th grade students will have 0 or 1 Office Discipline Referrals each trimester.

As you can see by the photos, our staff also joined in the fun on our October 30th dress-up day. The 1st Grade theme was "Dress Like a Grandparent" and the 2nd Grade theme was "Dress Like a Character."

OUR FAMILIES & COMMUNITY



On October 19th, we welcomed students and their families for Fall Conference Night. This was an opportunity for parents and caregivers to partner in their child's education by reviewing their progress and asking questions. As a Title I school, Unity Elementary takes this partnership seriously. Reading and Math Interventionists (Sam Hansen and Kelsey Bazey, pictured left) greeted families and encouraged them to complete a survey during conference night. This information will be used as we plan family engagement opportunities this school year.

As mentioned, the Kindergarten Alphabet Superhero Parade brought families together for a joyous end to the month of October. On Friday, October 30th, students showcased their creative costumes and enjoyed participating in activities including scooters, a bounce house, and coloring. It was wonderful to see the excitement of students and their families during this fun event.







Finally, we want to thank the local Knights of the Lakes (Knights of Columbus, Balsam Lake) for their generous donation of coats, hats, and scarves to Unity School District. A portion of the district health office is used to store and distribute winter gear to our students. These donations will help keep our students warm as they enjoy outdoor recess and activities all winter long. Thank you!



DISTRICT VISION & MISSION

Vision: Our Vision is to be the leading school district in Wisconsin where every student reaches their highest potential.

Mission: Our Mission is to empower every student to thrive as a successful citizen in partnership with our vibrant community.

UNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
1908 150TH STREET/HWY 46 NORTH, BALSAM LAKE, WI 54810
PHONE: 715-825-3515 FAX: 715-825-3517 WWW.UNITY.K12.WI.US
@UNITYSCHOOL "EXPECT GREAT THINGS" #UNITYEAGLEPRIDE

Middle School Board Report
November 2026

PBIS Reward Activites

On Friday, October 16, we held PBIS reward activities to recognize students meeting expectations in attendance, academics, and behavior. Activities included staff vs. student football and volleyball competitions, providing opportunities to celebrate positive choices, build relationships, and promote school spirit.





STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

	5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	E Team
Oct. 7	 Corinth Hikel	 Adam Kerber	 Ruby Tourville	 Hallie Carlson	 Kennedy Nelson
Oct. 14	 Levi Urhammer	 Ariya Erickson	 Charlotte Nord	 Lauren Vadner	 Carly Davis
Oct. 21	 Jameson Selander	 Oakley Fisk	 Isaac Studtmann	 Timothy Patterson	 Jasper Erickson
Oct.. 28	 Farrah Koenig	 Mya Halverson	 Eleanor Olson	 Carson Dworshak	 Estella Sventek

Staff Spotlight

A huge thank you to our middle school office secretaries for everything they do to support our students, staff, families, community, and administration! They are often the first friendly faces people see and the steady, reassuring presence everyone can count on throughout the day. Whether they are answering questions, helping students through a difficult moment, supporting staff, communicating with families, solving unexpected problems, or stepping up wherever help is needed, they do it all with care and a willingness to help. Their knowledge, flexibility, patience, and dedication make a tremendous difference in the daily operation of our school. We are incredibly fortunate to have people who are always willing to go above and beyond for our students and staff. Thank you for all the big and little things you do behind the scenes to help make Unity Middle School a great place to learn and work.

We appreciate you more than you know!



Tina Larson-Memmer



Heather Hill

GO EAGLES!

Middle School Board Report
November 2026

DRESS UP DAYS

The week of October 26th was full of energy, creativity, and school spirit! Students enjoyed creative dress-up days, collaborated on creative outfits, and brought plenty of enthusiasm throughout the week. A big thank-you to the Student Council for organizing such a fun and memorable week at UMS!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 9th	MS Boys BB @ Unity *vs Grantsburg - 5pm*
Nov. 10th	MS Boys BB @ Cumberland
Nov. 11th	Veteran's Day Program *Grades 7-12, 10:30am, PAC*
Nov. 12th:	MS Boys BB @ Unity *vs Hayward - 5pm*
Nov. 13th:	MS Girls Wrestling @ SCF
Nov. 14th:	MS Girls (7&8) BB Tournament *@ Unity*
Nov. 16th:	MS Boys BB @ Shell Lake
Nov. 17th:	MS Boys BB @ Ladysmith
Nov. 19th:	MS Boys BB @ Unity *vs Rice Lake - 5pm*
Nov. 20th:	End of Trimester 1
Nov. 23-27:	Fall Break - No School
Nov. 30th:	In-Service - No School

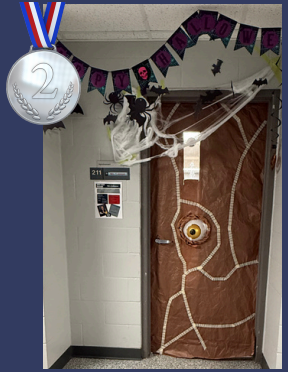
Homeroom Door Decorating

Throughout October, homerooms participated in a fall-themed door decorating contest. It was a fun, collaborative activity that encouraged creativity, teamwork, and school spirit.

Congratulations to Mrs. Damaris Campeau's homeroom for taking first place and Mrs. Tamara Johnson's homeroom for finishing second!



Mrs. Campeau

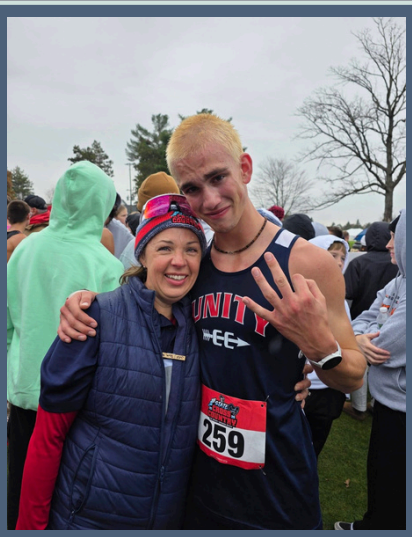


Mrs. T. Johnson

GO EAGLES!

HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: NOVEMBER, 2026





WHAT AN EXPERIENCE FOR UNITY CROSS COUNTRY! FOUR OF OUR ATHLETES TOOK THE COURSE AT THE STATE MEET AND DELIVERED SOME OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES, MAKING THEIR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PROUD!

AVA MULLER FINISHED 43RD OVERALL WITH A TIME OF 20:39, CAPPING OFF AN INCREDIBLE FOUR YEARS OF COMPETING AT THE STATE MEET. WHAT A WAY TO CLOSE OUT HER HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CAREER!

ISAIAH MORALES FINISHED 12TH OVERALL AND SHATTERED THE PREVIOUS UNITY STATE MEET RECORD BY AN IMPRESSIVE 12 SECONDS!

DOMINIC FOX RACED TO A 9TH-PLACE FINISH, EXECUTING A SMART RACE PLAN AND FINISHING STRONG WITH AN INCREDIBLE FINAL PUSH!

OLIVER GARIEPY MADE UNITY HISTORY WITH A 3RD-PLACE FINISH, SETTING A NEW RECORD FOR THE HIGHEST STATE MEET FINISH BY A UNITY RUNNER!

WE COULDN'T BE PROUDER OF THESE FOUR ATHLETES AND ALL THEY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED. BEYOND THE TIMES, PLACES, AND RECORDS, THEY REPRESENTED UNITY WITH DETERMINATION, SPORTSMANSHIP, AND CLASS.

🎃 ANNUAL PUMPKIN GUESS! 🎃

THE HIGH SCHOOL HOSTED ITS 2ND ANNUAL PUMPKIN GUESS, AND THE BIG QUESTION WAS... JUST HOW MUCH DID THAT GIANT PUMPKIN WEIGH?!

THE ANSWER: 330 POUNDS! 🎃

👏 JUDAH HIKEL HAD THE CLOSEST GUESS AMONG OUR STUDENTS, COMING IN RIGHT ON THE MONEY!

👏 ALYSSA JOHNSON TOOK THE ADULT GUESSING TITLE WITH A GUESS OF 353 POUNDS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS, AND THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO JOINED IN ON THE FUN! WE LOVE SEEING A LITTLE FRIENDLY COMPETITION AND SCHOOL SPIRIT THROUGHOUT OUR BUILDING! 🎃



HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: NOVEMBER, 2026

A MESSAGE OF HOPE AND CONNECTION

UNITY WAS HONORED TO WELCOME NATIONAL SPEAKER KEVIN HINES ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, FOR AN INSPIRING DAY OF CONNECTION, AWARENESS, AND HOPE.

KEVIN BEGAN THE DAY BY SPEAKING TO NEARLY 500 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO INCLUDE UNITY ALONG WITH FREDERIC, AND LUCK. STUDENTS HEARD HIS POWERFUL MESSAGE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF REACHING OUT, ASKING FOR HELP, RECOGNIZING WHEN OTHERS MAY BE STRUGGLING, AND BEING WILLING TO OFFER SUPPORT.

THAT EVENING, KEVIN RETURNED TO UNITY FOR A FREE COMMUNITY PRESENTATION, GIVING FAMILIES, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AND OTHERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR HIS STORY AND MESSAGE. WE ARE INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL TO THE POLK COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE FOR LEADING THIS WORK AND FOR KEVIN FOR SHARING HIS STORY AND REMINDING US ALL THAT ASKING FOR HELP IS A SIGN OF STRENGTH, CONNECTION MATTERS, AND ONE CONVERSATION CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 11, 2026 – Veterans Day
- Novemeber 20, 2026- End of Trimester 1
- Novemeber 23-27 Fall Break
- First two weekends of November: UHS Drama Club Presents: *"The Addams Family"*

UNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Special Education Board Report

November 2026



Educational Assistant, Rachael Schmid, and a first grade student were having a bit of fun before Halloween!

Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training

Educational Assistants and several special education teachers will attend trainings either through CESA 11 or with Jacklyn Mackey onsite or at CESA 11 to certify or re-certify in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVCI) techniques in November or January. NVCI is a comprehensive training designed to proactively, effectively, and safely address challenging behaviors. The training emphasizes all aspects of crisis development, including prevention, intervention, and planning for future success while addressing the requirements of Wisconsin ACT 125 & ACT 118.

"One kind word can change someone's entire day." – Unknown

Working Together: Birth to 3 and Early Childhood Programming

A child's transition from Birth to 3 services into the school system is an important step for families. In Wisconsin, Birth to 3 programs and local school districts work together to help ensure children who may need continued support transition smoothly into early childhood special education.

Unity has an ongoing partnership with local Birth to 3 providers. We communicate regularly with the county and meet to discuss children who may need school-based services when they turn three. These conversations help us plan ahead, share information, and support families as they navigate the transition.

In Wisconsin, the transition process begins before a child's third birthday. At 27 months, Birth to 3 notifies the local school district about children who may be approaching the transition to school-based services. For children who may need continued support, Birth to 3 holds a Transition Planning Conference between 90 days and nine months before the child's third birthday. This meeting brings together the family, Birth to 3 providers, and a school district representative to discuss the child's development, strengths, needs, and next steps. With parent consent, Birth to 3 refers the child to the school district. The district then completes its own special education evaluation to determine whether the child meets Wisconsin's eligibility requirements. If eligible, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) identifies the services and specialized instruction the child will need when turning three.

Birth-to-3 providers bring valuable knowledge about each child's development and the strategies that have been successful. By communicating regularly and working together with families, we can build on that knowledge and make the transition into our schools as smooth as possible.

Our shared goal is to help children continue growing, learning, and receiving the support they need, and to build skills in the years before they begin PK.

DOTL Board Report
September 2026

KEY COMPREHENSION ROUTINE - MS & HS LITERACY INITIATIVE

At the August in-service, Jillian Chell, our District Reading Specialist, began a training series with MS and HS staff on the Key Comprehension Routine (KRT). KRT is a research-based process for teachers to utilize in designing instruction that is highly likely to result in strong comprehension of content by students. This approach is grounded in the Science of Reading.

So far, staff have been trained in 2 of 4 strategies. The other two will be folded in during the 2nd half of the school year. Top Down Topic Webs was introduced in August, and Two Column Notes are now being implemented after the October in-service training session.

One staff member cited the significant difference the Top Down Topic Webs have made for students as measured by classroom assessment scores. She is excited to continue building on this success!

Many teachers have shared similar stories. One other way to see and measure impact is through test scores. When the Junior class took their ACT Practice Test in October, their average Reading score composite (18.8) was a full 2 points higher than it was when they took the same practice test last October.

GIFTED & TALENTED GRANT

The work related to Unity's Gifted and Talented Grants is now underway. There are a total of 79 students across grades 2nd through 8th that are currently receiving instruction from Mrs. Hendricks one day per week.

In this programming, students are engaging in extension of grade level curriculum and/or preparing to participate in Math competitions. As part of this grant, Unity students will be trying out Math Masters, Math Olympiad, and Continental Math League competitions at various grade levels.

HS MATH COURSE PATHWAYS

We are now implementing our new HS Math course pathways that will take three years to fully transition into. Students will be enrolled in a Math course for at least their first 7 semesters of HS so that students do not have a gap in Math instruction.

Additionally, students who would have traditionally been enrolled in a remedial Math course are now enrolled in Algebra I Yearlong which has embedded intervention built in by utilizing SpringMath. This new approach keeps all students learning grade level Math while getting the extra support that they need.

AIMING FOR GROWTH

As part of our coordinated effort as an administrative leadership team to drive districtwide improvement, we are shifting our leadership goals to focus on academic growth rather than hitting an achievement benchmark. Our goals in literacy by building level are below.

Elementary: 100% of students will make typical (35-65 SGP) or high growth (66-99 SGP) as measured by STAR Early Lit/Reading (PK-4) from Fall 2026 to Spring 2027.

MS: During the 2026-27 school year, 100% of students will achieve a SGP score in the 35th percentile or higher from Fall to Spring on the Star.

HS: During the 2026–27 school year, each grade-level cohort will increase its average ACT composite score by 2 points on ACT/PreACT from baseline to spring assessment.

EXPECT GREAT THINGS!