

# District Administrator's Report

## August 2013

# Unity School District

### Unity Middle School Awarded PLC Grant!

Unity Middle School was recently awarded a State Personnel Development Grant to develop professional learning communities in the special education program. The grant is made possible by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The five year grant will help to provide training to special education teachers, administrators, and some parents in developing a professional learning community, designed to increase student achievement amongst our students with disabilities. The first year award is for \$14,000, with each year after ranging from \$10,000 to \$16,000. The award does not require any local matching funds and is focused on increasing student achievement through professional development.

### Preparing for the Start of School

The District Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, August 28th. The school year starts for Unity's students on Tuesday, September 3rd. In preparation for that first day and a successful school year, educators at Unity are busy this summer preparing reading curriculum, technology integration, and intervention training. Teachers have attended trainings and seminars targeted at transforming the teaching and learning process. We welcome students back with great enthusiasm and are hopeful that this school year will be one of their best educational experiences yet.

### Student Registration Is Open

*Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to register new students prior to the Open House and the first day of school. This will help to provide the most pleasant and supportive transition to new students at the start of the school year.*

### District Garage Sale Planned

Unity School District will be conducting a District Garage Sale on Friday, August 30th. The garage sale information will be placed in the newspaper and on the District website, [www.unity.k12.wi.us](http://www.unity.k12.wi.us). Sale items include cafeteria folding tables, shop equipment, file cabinets, and miscellaneous furniture. For additional information, please check out the District website or call (715) 825-3515.

### Preliminary School District Budget

Unity School District's preliminary school district budget is being planned and reviewed by the Board Finance Committee. The approval of the state budget in the last month has allowed the District to proceed with a more accurate representation of the state's aid for schools. The continuing implications of a reduction in state aid for Unity School District has been a focal point of the budget planning process. A full preliminary budget, after approval by the Board Finance Committee, will be presented at the Board of Education meeting in September.

Increase student achievement in reading through curriculum development, consistency of instruction, and effective instructional strategies.

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### Summer Maintenance Projects Underway

PROJECT/PURCHASE	DATES AND STATUS
Fire Alarm System Renovation	Approved, Near Completion
Facility Booster Pump Replacement	Completed
Pool Air Handler (HVAC) Replacement	Completed
Clock System Replacement	Completed
Fencing and Gate Replacement	Completed
Automated School Sign	Completed
Pool Office Rollup Window Replacement	Completed
Door Security Numbering	Approved, Near Completion
Door Replacements - High School Classrooms	Approved, Near Completion
Door Replacements - MS Gym, Auditorium	Completed
Computer Network Room Renovation	Completed
Library Wallpaper Removal and Painting	Completed
Concrete Sidewalk Repairs	Completed
Shed Roof Repairs	Completed
School Bus Replacement	Completed
School Bus with Wheelchair Lift Replacement	Completed
School Van Replacement	Completed

### 2013-2014 Enrollment Projections

Enrollment is expected to remain stable or decline slightly for the 2013-2014 school year. The kindergarten through third grade enrollment is expected to be in compliance with the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) grant program's requirements of class sizes of 18 to 1.

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT SECTIONS	
GRADE LEVEL	NUMBER OF SECTIONS
Pre-Kindergarten	4 (60 Students)
Kindergarten	4 (71 Students)
1st Grade	4 (70 Students)
2nd Grade	5 (71 Students)
3rd Grade	5 (79 Students)
4th Grade	4 (74 Students)
5th Grade	4 (83 Students)

SAVE THIS DATE!

UNITY COMMUNITY PICNIC AND HOMECOMING  
**SEPTEMBER 28, 2013**



Implement and incorporate the District's Response to Intervention Model throughout pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade programming for students of all academic and behavioral needs.

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### Summer Professional Development Efforts

Unity School District is committed to providing quality professional development and training opportunities for its staff. Initiatives such as the Response to Intervention (RTI) Model planning, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Common Core Standards, Educator Effectiveness Program, successful transitions planning, and technology integration are at the center of the District's goals and efforts for the school year.

#### Upcoming Efforts:

- August 19-22: Unity Summer Academy
- August 26: New Teacher Orientation
- August 27-30: Fall Staff In-Service
- September 27: Early Release, PBIS Training

### District Insurance Rates Solidified

In an effort to reduce the impact of various types of insurance on the District budget, the administrative team has been reviewing the insurance programs. With the recent change in student accident insurance, the District will realize several thousand dollars in savings this year. The District was able to secure a lower increase in health and dental insurance by leveraging an additional year agreement. Property and liability insurance premiums have risen this year due to several storm damage claims in the past few years. After the bid process this summer, the District is preparing another bid process for next summer's renewal to address this cost. Lastly, the District's worker compensation plan costs have decreased to the lowest amount in recent years. Efforts to increase workplace safety through training and planning have helped to reduce injuries and the costs associated with them.

### 2012-2013 School District Goals

- Increase student achievement in reading through curriculum development, consistency of instruction, and effective instructional strategies.
- Implement and incorporate the District's Response to Intervention Model throughout pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade programming for students of all academic and behavioral needs.
- Promote school spirit and pride through increasing community and parent involvement.
- Integrate technology into the teaching and learning process to best prepare our students for their future.



Promote school spirit and pride through increasing community and parent involvement.

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### Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	MEETING	PLACE	TIME
Tuesday, August 13	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
August 19-22	Unity Summer Academy: Professional Training		
Tuesday, August 20	2013 Summer Food Service Workshop	New Richmond	
Monday, August 26	Bus Driver Training	Turtle Lake	
Monday, August 26	New Staff Orientation	Board Room	9:00 AM
August 27-30	Fall In-Service	District	
Wednesday, August 28	District Open House	District	6:00-8:00 PM
Friday, August 30	District Garage Sale	District	
Tuesday, September 3	First Day of School	District	8:25 AM
Thursday, September 5	Community Education Advisory Council Meeting	Board Room	5:00 PM
Tuesday, September 10	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Friday, September 27	Homecoming Community Parade - Centuria	Centuria	11:00 AM
Friday, September 27	Early Release: PBIS	District	1:00 PM
Saturday, September 28	Unity Community Homecoming and Picnic	District	

### School Supply Lists Available

School supply lists for the upcoming school year have been made available for students and their families. The supply lists are in the July District Newsletter and will also be posted on the District website to ensure that families have time to prepare accordingly. Please contact your child's building office with any questions.

### District Website Changes

The Unity School District website, [www.unity.k12.wi.us](http://www.unity.k12.wi.us), will be changing in late August. The transition is designed to provide more timely information with an improved navigational menu. It is hoped that the changes will improve upon the user experience for the high web traffic on the website.

**"Expect Great Things"**

Integrate technology into the teaching and learning process to best prepare our students for their future.