

District Administrator's Report

July 2013

Unity School District

Nutritious Snack Program Grant Received Again

For the second year in a row, Unity School District has been awarded the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grant. The grant, awarded by the Department of Public Instruction, provides an opportunity for fresh fruits and vegetables three days per week during snack time/milk break at the elementary school. The program was very successful this past year and exposed many students to new fruits and vegetables that they may not have experienced otherwise.

District Enrollment Projections

Unity School District is monitoring enrollment trends for the start of the 2013-2014 school year. Enrollment is expected to remain stable or decline slightly for the 2013-2014 school year. Summer is typically a time for families to relocate, so the most accurate information will be available in August and early September. In considering elementary section sizes, some decisions will wait until August to more accurately determine class sizes for enrollment. 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.

Summer Food Service Program Going Strong!

For the fourth year in a row, Unity School District will be participating in the "Summer Food Service Program" sponsored by the US Department of Agriculture. The summer program offers children nutritious food when school is not in session. Meals are similar to those that are served during the regular school year. With this program in our school, all children in our community (and in our summer school programs) will be able to eat a healthy breakfast from 7:45am-8:30am and lunch from 11:00am-1:30pm at no cost during summer vacation on the following dates:

July 15-25 (when summer school is in session)

August 19-23

All children ages 18 and under are eligible to participate (regardless of school enrollment). Children eat free and adults can purchase a breakfast for \$1.75 and a lunch for \$3.25.

Parents are asked to not drop their children off at the door to eat without supervision. There will be staff supervision during serving times for those students enrolled in summer school.

During the June Summer School Session, over three hundred lunches and one hundred breakfast meals were served daily!



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, In Progress
Facility Booster Pump Replacement	Approved, In Progress
Pool Air Handler (HVAC) Replacement	Approved, In Progress
Clock System Replacement	Completed
Fencing and Gate Replacement	Approved, Near Completion
Automated School Sign	Approved, In Progress
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	Approved, Near Completion
Computer Network Room Renovation	Completed
Library Wallpaper Removal and Painting	In Progress
Concrete Sidewalk Repairs	Approved, Near Completion
Shed Roof Repairs	Completed
School Bus Replacement	Completed
School Bus with Wheelchair Lift Replacement	Completed
School Van Replacement	Completed

Unity Summer School Changes Mean Higher Participation!

Unity School District's summer school program has been successfully extending summer learning opportunities to students for years. While the schedule is similar to last year, this year's approach is very different. The new approach has Project Based Learning (PBL) as its focus. Students will be able to learn by doing - with projects at the center of the learning process.

This year's summer school has been a huge success! Over three hundred students participated through the month of June. There is still a great opportunity to participate in the July offerings!

Date	Summer School Program	School
July 15-25	2nd Session	Elementary, Middle & High School
July 17-22	Prairie Fire Theater	Elementary & Middle School
August 19-23	Motivation	Middle School

You can still enroll!

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.

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





State Budget and the Impact on Local Education

The recently approved state budget sees a \$150 per pupil increase for states schools in each of the next two years in the biennium. Although an increase, the budget will not fully fund the increased costs for school districts, which vary by school district. Districts will continue to need to address the funding shortfall as they plan their educational programming for the 2013-2014 school year.

From a local perspective, Unity School District has seen its state aid decline by 15% or more each year for the past six years. The District's budget is now supported by only 14% state aid. In fact, Unity School District will see the second largest reduction in state aid of all school districts in Wisconsin, based upon a percentage of total aid. The lack of state financial support adversely impacts the District property tax levy greater than any other factor. It is a testament to how the school funding formula is becoming less effective.

The State Superintendent's "Fair Funding For Our Future" plan would address many of the issues regarding school finance. This plan, in Unity School District, would reduce property taxes and increase the state's support of our schools.

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, July 9	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Wednesday, July 17	2013 Custodial/Maintenance Workshop	Rice Lake	
Thursday, July 18	CESA II Joint Superintendent/Board Meeting	Turtle Lake	6:00 PM
July 24, 25, 26	WASA Legal Seminar		
August 1, 2	District Audit		
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	
Tuesday, September 3	First Day of School	District	8:25 AM

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, will be changing in late July. 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.