

District Administrator's Report

October 2013

Unity School District

District Enrollment Remains Stable, Large Graduating Class

Even after graduating a large class in the spring of 2013, Unity School District's enrollment numbers remain stable for 2013-2014. The 3rd Friday Pupil Count in September showed a slightly higher student population in grades K-12, but lower numbers in the high school due to the previously large graduating class. The preliminary Pupil Count is 1,053 students for 2013-2014, up slightly from 1,048 students in 2012-2013.

Due to the revenue limit computation being based upon a three year rolling average of pupil membership, Unity will still receive a declining enrollment exemption for the 2013-2014 school year. Based upon an analysis of the District's recent enrollment history, the enrollment seems to have stabilized with the less populated grades migrating through the high school.

District Communication Sees Updates

Unity School District's website is in the midst of an update. The last revision was completed three years ago. The new website design is part of an effort to provide information to students, parents, and community members in a clean, easy to navigate interface.

The Unity School District Facebook page is fast becoming a way to communicate upcoming events to those who follow the District. It is a more timely, abbreviated version of the notices placed on the District website. Additionally, it is connected with the Unity Community Education Facebook page to facilitate an easy approach for community members to find educational opportunities.

Additionally, the District Newsletter is now being published by the Inter-County Cooperative Publishing Association in Frederic. The change will save the District money, strengthen a local connection, and provide an improved product that will help inform the community. Unity is proud, once again, to be partnering with a local business.

Educator Effectiveness Program Lays Foundation in District

Unity School District has been a local leader in piloting the Department of Public Instruction's approach to the Educator Effectiveness model. Unity participated in the Teacher Practice component pilot during the 2012-2013 school year. This school year, Unity has a pilot group participating in the full model. Unity is committed to being an active participant in developing a strong educator effectiveness model for DPI.



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

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District Response to Intervention (RtI) Program Sees Refinement

Unity School District's Response to Intervention (RtI) plan was recently modified to be in compliance with the changes to Wisconsin's rule for identifying students with specific learning disabilities. The law requires that all schools in Wisconsin use information from interventions to make eligibility decisions for all initial specific learning disability evaluations. These changes ensure that students are provided with effective instruction and their progress is measured through repeated assessments of achievement.

Unity School District's Response to Intervention (RtI) plan was approved two years ago. Its successful implementation has been a focus of the District's professional development efforts and is at the center of the adoption of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) model. The RtI plan has been the basis for providing interventions for struggling learners in the District. RtI is designed to provide additional services and programming for students who are not at their expected academic level.

Unity School District is seeing results with children who are receiving intervention services. The interventions are specific to each child and academic content area. It is hoped that the RtI program will reduce the need for special education services by meeting the needs of struggling learners before they are too far behind their peers.

District PBIS Efforts Gain Momentum

All three schools in the District are implementing the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system. PBIS is a program that promotes and maximizes academic achievement and behavioral competence. It is a school-wide strategy for helping all students achieve important social and learning goals. We know that when good behavior and good teaching come together, our students will excel in their learning.

A great deal of planning and effort were necessary to implement the program District-wide this fall. But, the benefit will be realized when students can focus more on their academic achievement when they are informed of our common behavior expectations.

Unity School District Annual Meeting

October 28, 2013

Elementary Cafeteria, 7:00PM

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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:

- October 25: Early Release, PBIS Planning, WKCE Preparation
- January 20: Full Day, Strengthening Curriculum, PBIS

District Halloween Event Planned

We will once again partner with the Polk County Museum to have trick-or-treating at the museum for approximately two hours after school on Halloween. This event will be staffed by museum volunteers, as well as Unity high school students. Following that, families can enjoy a free supper at school from 5:30-6:45pm. We will have large inflatables in the middle school gym for use from 5:30-8:00pm, which will be kid-friendly for toddlers up through middle school aged kids. We are renting the "Construction Toddler Zone" and the "22' Screamer Slide" from Kid Again, and hope to use the Salvation Army's Bouncy House. The main entertainment that evening will be a "Minute to Win It" game show from 7-8:00pm in the auditorium. This show will be geared to elementary through middle school-aged kids and families. It is a highly interactive show, fueled by audience participation. At 8:30pm that evening, we will be having the Witch's Call.

2013-2014 School District Goals

(Adopted 8-13)

- 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.

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

PARENTS:

Please make sure that your contact information is updated with your child's school office. This will ensure that you receive the Skylert parent notification phone calls.

School Closing Information can be found at these media outlets.

WCCO Channel 4, www.wcco.com
 KSTP Channel 5, www.kstp.com
 KMSP Channel 9, www.myfox9.com
 KARE Channel 11, www.kare11.com

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

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	MEETING	PLACE	TIME
Tuesday, October 8	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Thursday, October 10	District Technology Committee Meeting	Board Room	7:30 AM
Friday, October 11	CESA 11 Superintendent Meeting	Turtle Lake	9:30 AM
Monday, October 14	Parent-Teacher Conferences	District	4:15 PM
Tuesday, October 15	Lakeland Conference Superintendent Meeting	Rice Lake	9:00 AM
Wednesday, October 16	Administrative Team Meeting	District	9:30 AM
Tuesday, October 22	Parent-Teacher Conferences	District	4:15 PM
Thursday, October 24	Curriculum Committee Meeting	Elem. Conf. Room	7:30 AM
Friday, October 25	Early Release	District	1:00 PM
Monday, October 28	School District Annual Meeting	Elem. Cafeteria	7:00 PM
Wednesday, November 6	Administrative Team Meeting	District	9:30 AM
Thursday, November 7	Professional Staff Development Meeting	Elem. Conf. Room	7:40 AM
Thursday, November 7	Community Education Advisory Council Meeting	Board Room	5:00 PM
Friday, November 8	CESA 11 Superintendent Meeting	Turtle Lake	9:30 AM
Tuesday, November 12	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Thursday, November 14	District Technology Committee Meeting	Board Room	7:30 AM
Tuesday, November 19	Lakeland Conference Superintendent Meeting	Rice Lake	9:00 AM
Wednesday, November 20	Administrative Team Meeting	District	9:30 AM
November 25-29	No School - Fall Break	District	

"Expect Great Things"

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

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