

District Administrator's Report

October 2021

Unity School District

Before and After School Program Update

In August, the Unity Board of Education approved the development of a school aged childcare program for before and after school hours. The program's approval comes after input from parents, along with months of research and planning. It was hoped that the program would start at the beginning of the school year. Unfortunately, due to a staffing shortage, the program is being placed on hold at this time.

Further information will be provided as the program is able to be rolled out. Information regarding registration, policies, rates, and hours of operation will be placed on the District website as it becomes available.

Unity is very excited to be offering this program to its families. It is hoped that the program will be phased in as staff become available. Likewise, if you are interested in applying to work in this ground-breaking program, please visit the District website at www.unity.k12.wi.us.

Student Enrollment Down Slightly

The Unity School District's pupil enrollment is down slightly this year, as reported in the DPI September Pupil Count. Unity has had a stable enrollment for the last several years, having slight increases or decreases each year.

To compensate for this year's enrollment decrease, Unity will qualify for a Declining Enrollment Exemption for the 2021-2022 school year's budget.

Staffing Shortage Is Difficult 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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Voluntary COVID Testing Program Is Popular at Unity

One of the steps Unity is taking to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep schools open for in-person learning, is the **free, voluntary COVID-19 Testing Program for students and staff**. 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.

Unity is working with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to offer this program.

- **Who will be tested?** Testing is offered to everyone—all students and staff—even if they don't have symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Testing is also available for students and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19, even if vaccinated, or who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- **How is the testing done?** The COVID-19 testing is free, quick, and easy. Members of the clinic staff will oversee testing with an antigen and PCR test, which includes:
 - Gently swabbing the inner part of the lower nostril. This test is not painful. We do not use the longer swabs that reach higher into the nose.
- **Where and when is the testing done?** Unity's testing site will be in Room 101, near the high school entrance, and is open during school hours. The tests are administered by a testing technician. Antigen test results are available within 20 minutes. All tests have both antigen and PCR analysis performed.
- **How can I be sure that my child's information will be protected?** Sharing of information about your child is only done for public health purposes and in accordance with applicable law and policies protecting your privacy and the security of your child's data.
- **How will test results be communicated with me?** If your child has a specimen collected for COVID-19 testing at school:
 - You will be informed each time that a COVID test result has been performed.
 - You will be notified of the COVID-19 test result or informed of how the test result will be received (for example: by phone, text, or email). Please ensure that your contact information is updated and accurate in Infinite Campus.

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

We are extremely grateful to our committed families and staff who continue to show great flexibility and resilience as we work together to contain the spread of this virus. If you have questions regarding the COVID-19 Testing Program, please reach out to Rachael Schmid, Julie McClelland-Komorouski, or Brandon Robinson.

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

"Expect Great Things"

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Food Service Meal Program Update

Unity School District is participating in the USDA Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for the entirety of the 2021-22 school year. This means that our school is providing free meals to all students! This program provides additional support and flexibility for the district to continue serving meals to children while maintaining safety measures and managing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though receipt of free meals does not depend on an approved free and reduced-price meal application, we are still distributing and processing them so Unity School District families may qualify for P-EBT benefits as well as other school funding.

This year sees several exciting changes to Unity's Food Service Program. There is now a "Fan Favorite" menu line. This line features one of the top five meals daily. This year also sees the return of salads. Each weekday will have a different featured salad as an option. Finally, the A La Carte Deli is reopening to provide additional tasty options.

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.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Unity School District Annual Meeting

Monday, October 25, 2021

Unity Performing Arts Center (PAC), 7:00PM

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	MEETING	PLACE	TIME
Friday, October 8	CESA 11 Superintendent Meeting	Turtle Lake	9:00 AM
Tuesday, October 12	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Wednesday, October 13	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	10:00 AM
Tuesday, October 19	Lakeland Conference Superintendent Meeting	Turtle Lake	9:00 AM
Wednesday, October 20	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	10:00 AM
Monday, October 25	District Annual Meeting	PAC	7:00 PM
Wednesday, October 27	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	10:00 AM
Wednesday, November 3	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	10:00 AM
Tuesday, November 9	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Friday, November 12	CESA 11 Superintendent Meeting	Turtle Lake	9:00 AM
Friday, November 19	End of 1st Trimester	District	
November 22-26	Fall 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