

District Administrator's Report

July 2021

Planning for 2021-2022: What Will School Look Like This Year?

Unity School District is committed to making the 2021-2022 school year the best possible for our students and families. With some practical precautions and changes, the planning for the school year is focused on providing a quality, traditional, in-person learning experience for students. While the planning is ongoing, there are several expectations that have been solidified. It is important to note that it is possible some of these plans may change if an order is directed from the WI DPI or DHS. More specific details regarding the school year will be released as they become available.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings for students and staff are optional.

Confirmed Positive COVID Cases

- Confirmed positive COVID cases will continue to be excluded from the school setting.

COVID Testing

- Voluntary COVID testing will continue to be available onsite for students and staff.

Contact Tracing

- COVID contact tracing will be conducted by the Polk County Health Department.

Virtual Learning

- There will no longer be a "virtual learning option" available to families.
- Virtual learning may be requested by parents and may be provided in individual and special circumstances, at the discretion of the principal.

Learning Management System

- Canvas will continue to be the platform that organizes learning experiences for students.
- Canvas extends the classroom beyond the building, so students can connect with learning at home.

Food Service

- Students meals, breakfast and lunch, remain free for the 2021-2022 school year.

Bus Transportation

- Bus transportation returns to 100% capacity.
- Parents are advised that social distancing is not possible on a school bus.

Student Pickup/Drop-off

- Student pickup and drop-off has been redesigned slightly for the upcoming school year. Specific details regarding the flow of traffic will be provided soon.
- Parents entrance to the building will continue to be limited before and after school to reduce congestion in the entries.

Physical Precautions

- Plexiglass barriers will be removed in most classroom and common area settings.
- Drinking fountains remain turned off. Many drinking fountains have been replaced with water bottle filling stations.
- Classrooms will continue to be organized in a manner that provides as much space for students as possible.

Volunteers and Visitors

- Volunteers are welcome to return to the school setting. COVID screening may be conducted.
- Classroom visitors remain limited at this time. Visitors are allowed for various events and activities.

Events and Activities

- Specific information will be shared with parents about how they can participate at an upcoming class event or activity (Dads & Donuts, Moms & Muffins, Poetry Readings, Homecoming, etc.).

WIAA Sports

- The WIAA has not yet released fall sports season guidance.
- Concessions for games will return for the 2021-2022 school year.

Performing Arts

- Concerts will be performed in-person and will be open to families.
- Theatrical productions (plays and musicals) will be performed in front of a live audience.

Community Education

- The Unity Pool and Fitness Center remain open for the community. Visit the District website for information about hours.
- Community Education classes and events are returning for the 2021-2022 school year.

Communication

- Communication regarding COVID planning, precautions, and responses will continue to be provided on the District website at www.unity.k12.wi.us.
- Direct communication regarding immediate and urgent information will continue to be provided to parents via the Infinite Campus Automated Parent Notification system.

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Before and After School Program Being Planned

Unity is planning to offer a before and after-school child care program this fall. The program was being developed prior to the COVID pandemic but was paused during last year. Unity has restarted the planning process with a target of offering a program at the start of the school year. While the program is early in the planning stage, it will be geared toward elementary school students. The program will be composed of a balanced approach to recreation, play, and discovery learning. The program will be fee-based, dependent upon the amount of time a child is in the program. A proposal is expected to be brought to the Unity Board of Education at the August Board meeting.

Unity Long-Range Plan and Summer Projects

Unity School District's Comprehensive Long-Range Plan was reviewed and updated at the Board of Education planning session on March 23rd. The plan includes a strategic approach to the District's next ten years. The revised plan has various components; a Facilities Plan, Campus Maintenance Plan, District Vehicle Replacement Plan, District Teaching and Learning Pathway, Curriculum Development Cycle Summary, Technology Plan Replacement Schedule, and Community Partnership Outline. The plan will help to ensure the Unity School District continues to meet the needs of its students and community into the future, providing quality educational programming.

Some highlights of the plan updates are:

- * **Curriculum** - English/Language Arts and Social Studies curriculum materials are being reviewed for consideration and adoption.
- * **Technology** - Student iPads are scheduled to be replaced this summer (2021). They were scheduled to be updated last summer (2020) but it was placed on hold due to COVID and virtual learning.
- * **Facilities** - Resurfacing of the tennis courts, parking lot asphalt repair, and elementary, middle school and district exterior window and door replacements are all being considered for summer completion.

Parents - Get a Head Start On the School Year!

Parents are encouraged to update their contact information in Infinite Campus. The Parent Portal can be accessed at <https://www.unity.k12.wi.us/page/parent-resources>.

Accurate information in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal ensures that parents will get the necessary notifications and information regarding the start of the school year. In addition, student registration information for the 2021-2022 school year will be shared in the coming weeks.

Community Education Is Back!

Unity Community Education has upcoming engaging classes, adventurous trips, and exciting events scheduled! Visit the Community Education webpage at <https://www.unity.k12.wi.us/page/community-education> for further information!

"Expect Great Things"

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Food Service Meal Program Update

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced in April that it will continue reimbursing schools and childcare centers for free meals to all students regardless of their income through the 2021-2022 school year. This free meal program has been incredibly successful over past year. The program has ensured that school children do not go hungry and have access to nutritious meals, both breakfast and lunch. Further details will be provided later in the summer as the WI DPI processes the program change and extension.

Meal prices are typically considered by the Board of Education in the summer for the following school year. In light of the free meal program extension, meal prices will not be considered at this time.

District Budget Planning

The District budget process continues as administration is analyzing the impact of the state budget that was signed by Governor Evers last week. This year's budget process is also affected greatly by federal funding due to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). There are specific requirements regarding this type of funding that are being considered. Unity will be working through budget calculations and implications through the summer.

Farm2School Is Literally Growing!

Last summer, Unity School District received a \$96,005 USDA Farm to School grant to implement a farm to school program that encompasses the use of local resources found on the 100-acre campus along with the many resources from Unity's surrounding community. The program has successfully provided green vegetables to the food service program this past year from their hydroponic growing system. This summer they have turned their attention to their outdoor growing plots on campus. Sweet corn is growing, as well as berries and vegetables. The program also planted several apple trees. Thank you to those who have supported this amazing program!



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Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	MEETING	PLACE	TIME
July 12 - 15	ALERT Safety Training at School - Polk Co. Sheriff	District	
Tuesday, July 13	Board of Education Meeting	Library	6:00 PM
July 19 - 22	District Audit	Board Room	
Wednesday, July 21	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	10:00 AM
August 9-13	Summer Academy - Staff Professional Development	District	
Tuesday, August 10	Board of Education Meeting	Library	6:00 PM
Monday, August 23	First Day of Fall Staff In-Service	District	8:00 AM
August 25, 26	Eagle Academy	District	
Wednesday, September 1	First Day of School	District	8:00 AM



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.**

Check Out Some Amazing Career Opportunities!

Join the team! Unity School District is seeking team members in a variety of different positions. Consider becoming an employee of an amazing school district! Career opportunities are accessible at <https://www.unity.k12.wi.us/o/unity-school-district/page/employment>.