# Unity Elementary

Volume 16, July, 2025



## Where Little Learners Expect Great Things!



### Thank You Team for Making a Difference!

Being named a School of Recognition again for a second time was a real honor for the Elementary School! This time we were selected as a 'High Impact' school, which we couldn't be prouder of!

We were compared to Elementary and Middle Schools across the entire state who also help serve students with similar 'demographics' (income levels, etc). We outperformed so well when compared to these schools, we received the award.

It is our belief this is due to the unrelenting focus our staff places on teaching, reteaching, intervening where necessary...and never giving up on kid's reading and mathematics growth. We do so many wonderful things at Unity Elementary for kids and we'll always do those things. However, what truly sets us apart is this academic growth focus.

All of the programs and efforts jointly contributed to this: Mr. Rasmussen's detailed analyses and PD support in Math Growth from CESA, Read Right investment from the board, the Wisconsin Reading Corps' tutors efforts, our investment in both a Reading Specialist and Reading Tutor at the school, the new reading curriculum a few years ago, the investment in the Reading Cohort initiative from the board (we now have 8 licensed reading specialists on staff, and 10 licensed reading teachers - committed to staying here at Unity), and countless other efforts have created the ability for us to be successful like this for many more years!

Exception of the construction of students, families, educators, and staff to ensure EVERY student graduates prepared for college, career, and lifetong success.

Public Instruction

## University of Wisconsin - River Falls asks to Study Unity Elementary's Walk to Read Model!

Our school has been approached to by the University of Wisconsin - River Falls to participate in a study of the effectiveness of our new 'Walk to Read Model'. Unity Elementary has become a regional leader in our reading efforts over the years, and our successes gain aattention. UW-RF one of the better known is educational institutions in the region for teachers, and this study will help us determine how well we are doing, and possibly ideas for how to implement or change for even better results. We expect to participate in late Summer.

\*The study will review methods, scheduling, assessments, and will involve teacher inteviews, but NO Student specifice names or data will be shared.

\*\*In our initial review in our office, we have seen phenomeal growth (upwards of 200% in Kindergarten phonics data) Summer Programming -Amazing Classes, Amazing Experiences, Amazing Kids!

Summer School has been resounding success! It was so special to see many 'firsts' happen this year with kids: Horse Camp, Tennis Camp, Football Camp, ACT 20 reading tutoring, Cinderella, and much much more! Thank you to the teachers for their time and the community for the support. We are now heading into July/ August with a smaller footprint and course selection with Elementary grade level programming continue summer to learning retention and enjoyment.

### **School Updates**

Intense Planning underway. for:

 Act 20 training 'Keys to Literacy' - all

participants registered - some already started!

- Year end Data Reviews
  - Walk to Read Results very positive
  - STAR
  - AGR
  - Title
  - FORWARD
- Focus areas being selected for PD emphasis next year



#### **PBIS Celebrations**

June 4<sup>th</sup> was a day to celebrate the students who met attendance, academic and behavior criteria for the end of year reward trip! Many students opted for a beautiful day at Valleyfair Amusement park, while other students went to White Bear Lake and tried a new option, Emagine Movie Theater. The day was met with great weather and outstanding behavior from our students!!



#### **CITIZENSHIP AWARDS PRESENTED**

Eight students were the recipients of the 2024-2025 Citizenship Award. This esteemed award is given to students who not only met academic and behavior expectations, but went above and beyond in the commUNITY!



Pictured left to right: Clementine Ens, Levi Campeau, Uriah Fugate, Alexandra Gariepy, Hallie Carlson, Evalynn Hernandez & Avianna Johnson Not Pictured: Bentley Langiewicz

#### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

17 Eighth Grade students were the recipient of the Presidential Academic Excellence Award this school year. To earn this award, students must obtain a 3.5 or higher GPA for all trimesters in Middle School (grades 5 through 8). Students who received the award were celebrated on the last day of school, with the Middle School student body there to cheer them on! Congratulations to each of these students!



#### **TALENT SHOW**

Several middle schoolers showed off a variety of talents at the Annual End of Year Talent Show! From piano playing to singing, students enjoyed a morning filled with many great performances!





## Middle School Board Report July 2025

#### **5th Grade Campout Success**

It was another successful year of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade camping trip!! Students traveled to Luther Point in Granstburg, where they enjoyed two full days of fun activities! Students were able to kayak, swim, craft, make s'mores and partake in many other memorable moments!





LAST DAY OF SCHOOL: STAFF SENDING OFF STUDENTS WITH A WAVE!



### UNITY TRAP TEAM YEAR RECAP

Trap shooting is the one of the fastest growing and safest sports offered. All of the team's athletes showed improvement throughout the season. The trap team has had an amazing year with 5 straights, and placing 4th out of 6th in our conference. We had 31 athletes participate this year and 10 that will complete in the state trap tournament in Rome Wisconsin on June 7th. The girls that ranked in the top 25 for the conference include Alexis Molamphy at 6th, Madison Anderson at 11th, Liberty Freer at 21st, and Alex Gariepy at 23rd. The Males that ranked in the top 25 for the conference include Oliver Gariepy at 13th and Taylor Gariepy at 19th. The kids that participated in the state trap tournament included Alexis Molamphy, Tanner Freer, Liberty Freer, Austin Borresen, Alec Nagel, Ashton Nagel, Adian Nagel, Charlie Shalander, Caleb Johnson, Braden Vlasnik. Proud of all of the students representing the Eagles. Aiden Nagel shot a 25 straight and Austin Borresen led the team with an 87/100 great shooting. Congratulations!

They ended the season with a fun night that included a family picnic, Annie-Oakley competition, door prizes, and open shooting to all who attended.

**The Balsam Lake Rod & Gun Club donates the targets and range time so the cost is minimal to the athletes.** We also have a fall league that starts in September. Trap shooting is offered to students grades 6-12 with hunter safety or S.A.F.E. training through the USA Clay Target League.

**Huge thank you to our volunteer coaches:** Head Coach Nick Freer, Assistant Coaches: Brin Freer, Denise Freer, Mark Anderson, Cory Gariepy, Kirk Nagel Gun Club Members: Ed Anderson, Frank Palewicz

#### STATE GOLF: JUNE 9-10 IN VERONA

SOPHOMORE JOSH POULIET EARNED A TRIP TO COMPETE AT THE WIAA STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT AT UNIVERSITY RIDGE GOLF COURSE BY FINISHING IN 6<sup>TH</sup> PLACE WITH A ROUND OF 78 AT TURTLEBACK GOLF COURSE IN THE SECTIONAL COMPETITION.

AT STATE, JOSH FINISHED TIED FOR 24<sup>TH</sup> OUT OF 52 COMPETITORS AFTER CARDING ROUNDS OF 87 AND 84 IN COOL, WET CONDITIONS. CONGRATULATIONS JOSH!







- HORSE CAMP @ **DIZZY JAY FARM.** DRIVERS ED.
- BAND.
- **CREDIT RECOVERY**
- **STRENGTH &** CONDITIONING
- MAGIC SHOW
- BASKETBALL CAMP,
- VOLUNTEERING IN **PK-8 CLASSES**





#### WIAA STATE TRACK & FIELD MEET: JUNE 5-7 IN LA CROSSE

#### **BOYS:**

- 100M: PAYTON MERRIDA FINISHED 2ND WITH A TIME OF 11:12. HE ALSO BROKE THE UHS RECORD AT **SECTIONALS WITH A TIME OF 10.83**
- 200M: PAYTON MERRIDA FINISHED 5TH WITH A TIME OF 22.12. WHICH ALSO BROKE THE SCHOOL RECORD!
- 3200M: OLIVER GARIEPY FINISHED 6TH WITH A TIME OF 9:36.07. WHICH ALSO BROKE THE SCHOOL RECORD!
- 4X100M: THE TEAM DID NOT FINISH DUE TO AN UNFORTUNATE HANDOFF MISCUE.
- 4X800M: THE TEAM FINISHED 8TH WITH A TIME OF 8:12.66. 2 SECONDS FROM BREAKING THE UHS RECORD!

#### **GIRLS:**

- 3200M: AVA MULLER FINISHED 14TH WITH A TIME OF 11:45.97. AVA ALSO BROKE THE SCHOOL RECORD!
- HIGH JUMP: ANDREA ERICKSON FINISHED TIED FOR 10TH WITH A JUMP OF 5'. THIS ALSO SET A NEW PR!





#### ACADEMIC LETTERS 3.5-4.3 CUMULATIVE GPA AFTER 6 TRIMESTERS

- 24 SOPHOMORES 21 JUNIORS 32 SENIORS

#### **3RD TRIMESTER HONOR ROLL**

HONOR ROLL = 3.5-4.3 GPA (116 STUDENTS) HONORABLE MENTION = 3.0-3.49 GPA (39 STUDENTS)

• FRESHMEN = 28 HR, 14 HM

- SOPHMORES = 24 HR, 10 HM
- JUNIORS = 26 HR, 10 HM
- SENIORS = 38 HR, 5 HM

# Special Education Board Report July 2025

submitted by Elizabeth Jorgensen, Director of Special Education



For the first time in more than three years, all speech and language services will be in person instead of bein offered virtually. Nearly 70 students receive speech and language services. Jana Fischer will be joining the Unity Team full-time, and the remaining in-person speech and language services will be contracted.

> My name is Jana Fischer. I am very excited to begin working in the Unity School District as a full-time, in-person speech/language pathologist starting the 2025-2026 school year. I have heard great things about the Unity School District from several people, and I can't wait to experience it for myself firsthand.

> A little about myself. I have been a Speech/Language Pathologist in the Osceola School District for 22 years, working with students of all ages from 3 years old to high school. I am originally from Clintonville, a small town in Eastern Wisconsin (north of Green Bay). My husband, Cory, and I have 2 sons, Brady in 11th grade and Grant in 8th grade. We have a 4-year-old Red Fox Lab, named Asher, who makes us laugh every day and rules our house. I enjoy biking, camping, playing games, doing crafts, and getting great deals at thrift stores. I love flowers, especially daisies and tulips. You'll soon notice I am a people person and very talkative. I can't wait to meet and work with all of you.

Meet

Jana

Fischer

# Reading Drives Achievement: Procedural Compliance Self-Assessment

Over the past year, Unity School District has actively partnered with the Department of Public Instruction to complete the Reading Drives Achievement: Procedural Compliance Self-Assessment (RDA: PCSA)—a five-year review aimed at improving legal compliance and outcomes for students with disabilities.

Beginning with staff training during August 2024 Inservice, the district engaged in a year-long process that included IEP reviews in fall 2024, compliance checks of services, corrections by January 2025, and a DPI-led review of selected IEPs in spring. In addition, staff participated in further professional development during winter and spring 2025 to reinforce best practices and support ongoing growth. DPI will continue to provide technical assistance into fall 2025.

As a result of this collaborative work and continued learning, Unity is proud to report that we are now nearly 100% compliant across all areas reviewed. This achievement reflects our deep commitment to quality special education services and continuous improvement.