

Q-A for 2023-2024
Union Middle School

We are looking forward to a great school year. Please find below some important questions and answers that will help you and your child navigate through the school year. If you have any questions regarding any of these, please feel free to contact us.

General Questions

What are the school's hours of operation?

Office: 7:30-4:00

School Day: 8:10-3:08

Administration:

Principal: Wayne Slack w_slack@union.k12.ia.us

Busing?

A schedule will be sent to parents from the transportations department in regards to pick up time for route buses. Students who ride the shuttle from LPC will leave from UHS at 7:30am and will depart from UMS at 3:15 and will arrive back at UHS around 3:40. Any bussing questions can be directed to John Mix, j_mix@union.k12.ia.us

Lockers?

All students are assigned a hallway and gym locker. Students are allowed to carry backpacks throughout the school day.

How do I pay for my student's lunch/fees?

Lunch can be paid through JMC online or the app, you can also send a check or cash to the office.

What do I do if I want to report an absence?

Parents can call or email the office personnel to report all absences. We ask that this is done prior to 8:10 on the day of the absence. Office voicemail will be available to leave a message any time prior to 7:30am, or you may use the JMC app. If you do not report the absence, it will be considered unexcused until we receive the report. Parents have three days to report the absence, if it is not reported within those three days, students will have six hours of detention to make up.

Phone Number: 319-476-5100

Email: Amy Crawford a_crawford@union.k12.ia.us Mindy Ollendieck m_ollendieck@union.k12.ia.us

Academics

What courses will my student be taking?

Each student will take the following for each grade level. Students do not get an elective choice with the exception of band. 6th grade students are all required to take choir up through the first concert, following this, they can decide to continue or not.

Math

Advanced Math (need to meet requirements)

English Language Arts

Reading

Social Studies

Science

Computer

Leadworthy

Exploratories- four per year; all different per grade level those include Art, FCS, FFA, Robotics, Multimedia.

What is our grading policy?

Your students grade will be reflective of their performance on assessments. Practice(homework) is not graded. As a district we are moving towards Standards Based Grading(more on will come on this , which this is a key component of.

Why should practice(homework) be completed if students are not receiving points?

Students are able to recognize what they need more practice on and take more ownership of their learning. Students have the opportunity to learn from their mistakes rather than receive a score and move on.

What is the process when students hand in practice if there are no points given?

Teachers will still look at the practice and provide feedback to students. Students will then have the opportunity to go back and redo the practice following teacher feedback to gain a better understanding before an assessment is given.

What is considered an assessment?

Any quiz, test, paper, or project where students prove their understanding after doing the practice.

If the grade is only reflective of assessments, do they get only one shot to earn their grade?

No, students will have a two week window to reassess on areas of the assessment they were not successful on. Students may need to reassess more than once to demonstrate learning.

Will there be a requirement in order to reassess?

Teachers will require students to complete some practice prior to reassessing to show understanding of the material. Each teacher will explain to students the expectations in their classrooms.

How do I view my student's grade/practice/assessments?

All of this can be done through JMC online or the app. If you do not know how to access this, please contact the office for assistance.

Who do I contact if I have a question about my student's course work?

Parent's first point of contact should be the classroom teacher via email or phone call. If the question is not resolved school administration should be the next contact. All email addresses are located on the schools website. www.union.k12.ia.us

How does my student receive academic support?

Teachers are available from 7:30-8:00 and 3:10-3:30 for support before or after school. WIN is set aside from 10:25-10:53 on days 1,2,4, and 5 for academic support. This time can be used for reassessments, extra practice, or extra teaching. Students will either select a teacher or have a teacher select them for WIN through JMC.

General Handbook Questions

Who determines whether or not an absence is excused or unexcused?

School administration makes the decision in regards to whether or not the reason is excused or unexcused. Parents always have the right to remove their child from school. But, if the reason given is deemed to be unexcused, detention time will be made up for the time that is missed.

What happens if my student receives a detention?

Parents and students will be notified via email, face to face w/ students, possibly phone call to the parent depending on severity. Students will have 48 hours to serve the detention, if it is not served they cannot participate in extracurricular activities or activity days until the time has been completed.

Is my student able to have a cell phone during school hours?

Yes, but only during specific times. Students are allowed to be on their phones during passing periods, lunch, and the last ten minutes of WIN Study Hall. Phones are not allowed to be used during class. If a student is on their phone during class, the following will take place:

1st Time-Cell phone will be taken to the office, student will receive one hour of detention

2nd Time-Cell phone will be taken to the office, the student will need to leave the cell phone in the office for one month upon arriving at school. The phone will be picked up at the end of the day.

3rd Time-Parent meeting, possible suspension.

What do I do if I need to get a hold of my student during the school day?

Call the office, if it is an emergency we will pull the student from class. If it is not an emergency, we will relay a message to them. Reading a message from mom or dad during class time is not a reasonable excuse to have the phone out....

What do I or my child need to do if they are having issues with another student?

Students will need to inform building administration or school counselor about the alleged incident. If the parents and the student feel they are being bullied, they will be asked to fill out a bullying complaint form, following this, an investigation will take place. After the investigation administration will determine whether or not the alleged incident was founded or not founded. If founded, consequences will follow.

[*Bullying vs Conflict-Iowa Department of Education*](#)

What constitutes receiving a suspension?

Physical fighting, abusive language, founded bullying, alcohol, tobacco, vaping, drug use or possession. Repeated behavior that is detrimental to the learning environment.

What is the process if my student needs to take certain medications throughout the day?

*All medications need to be turned into the nurses office, students will report there to take medication. Students **are not** allowed to carry over the counter medications with them during the school day. We have Tylenol, IBprofen, etc...in the office.*

Activities

What activities are available to my student?

6th Grade-Dance

7th and 8th Grade-Volleyball, XC, Football, Boys and Girls Basketball, Wrestling, Track, Baseball, Softball, Dance, Jazz Band

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Are there eligibility requirements?

Yes, students will need to be passing all courses to be able to participate. Grades will be pulled once every three weeks. Students with one or more F's when grades are pulled will be out for a three week period, with the chance of coming off of the list after the first of the three weeks. Students can be removed from the ineligible list after the first week if their grades improve.

What other requirements are there to participate?

Each student must have an updated physical, insurance, and concussion form on file. Physicals are good for 13 months following the original date. All forms can be found on the [UCSD website](#).

Who do I contact in regards to activities?

General questions will be directed to Mr. Hogan, Activities Director: p_hogan@union.k12.ia.us . All questions about the specific sport will need to be directed to that activities head coach or sponsor.

Where do I find the schedules?

All schedules are located on the schools website under activities by using this link. [Activities](#).