



Union Community School District

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#UKnighted

“Education to Meet Tomorrow’s Challenges”

Greetings from the Union Community School District! Please find below the stakeholder communication for February 2024.

Congratulations Corner

To start this month’s newsletter, I wanted to further highlight some great accomplishments from our high school students.

- CONGRATULATIONS to our Academic Decathlon students and their sponsor (Mrs. Michael) for earning Small School Champion and Super Quiz Champion titles at their regional. By doing so, the group secured a spot at the State Academic Decathlon Competition on March 1st and 2nd. Hopefully, the team will advance to the national level after state like last year.
- CONGRATULATIONS to our musical theater group– Young Frankenstein- for earning All-State honors.
- CONGRATULATIONS to our jazz bands for their outstanding performances at the recent IHSMA Jazz Festival.
- CONGRATULATIONS to Jillian Worthen for placing 5th at the IGHSAU State Wrestling Championship.
- CONGRATULATIONS to those members of the band who were selected to participate in this year’s Meistersinger Honor Band Festival.
- CONGRATULATIONS to the boys who participated in the IAHSAA State Wrestling Championship.

This is certainly not an exhaustive list, but these six “shout outs” are representative of the tremendous success our students and staff have had recently. Thanks to Mr. Toenges for providing us with most of the information.

Academic Achievement

If you remember, FAST is a testing screener for our K-6 students in Math and Literacy. Once again, I am happy to report that our students and staff did another outstanding job. Take a look at these three stats:

- Our percent proficient rates for **both Literacy and Math increased** between Fall 2023 and Winter 2024.
- Our percent proficient rate for Literacy was 7% **higher** than the AEA and state of Iowa.
- Our percent proficient rate for Math was 11% **higher** than the AEA and 13% **higher** than the state of Iowa.

As the superintendent, I am definitely pleased with the results, and I am proud of our students and staff for this achievement.

Thank You

Thank you to all the seniors who participated in an extra-curricular activity during the fall and winter. In my opinion, due to your actions, attitudes and efforts, you provided all of us with some outstanding memories. Further, there is no question you represented yourselves, the group/team, school district and

our communities very well. I am exceptionally proud of all of you!

Donkey Basketball

The annual Donkey Basketball game, sponsored by La Porte-Dysart FFA, is approaching. Come for the fun on Friday, March 1, 2024 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Union High School. A free will donation meal precedes the game from 5:30 p.m.- 6:45 p.m. Tickets are on sale at Union High School and Union Middle School for \$7. Tickets at the door will be \$10. Get your tickets now to watch local “celebrity” jockeys ride live donkeys.

Musical

UHS will be presenting Seussical the Musical Friday, March 8th and Saturday, March 9, 2024. Join the Cat in the Hat as he and other beloved characters from your favorite Dr. Seuss books take you to the Jungle of Nool, Circus McGurkus, and Whoville. You will hear the story of Horton, an elephant who is trying to save the Whos, including Jojo, a Who child that has too many "thinks." Horton must protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, while guarding an abandoned egg, left in his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird. Although Horton faces ridicule, danger, kidnapping and a trial, the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him. Ultimately, as only Dr. Seuss can do, we are reminded of the power of friendship, loyalty, family and community. Seussical is fun for the whole family! Tickets will be \$8, all seats are reserved, activity tickets will not be accepted. Tickets are available online or in person at the high school office during school hours beginning on Monday, February 19th.

Concession Stands

For those of you that attend high school games, customers now have the opportunity to pay for concession items with a debit card. Currently, this option is only available for high school contests, but we are working on having this choice at our middle school events as well. Thanks to all who made this very positive and needed change possible.

Important Dates

Feb. 28th- 1:00 p.m. Dismissal- Professional Development

March 11th-15th- No School- Spring Break

March 27th- 1:00 p.m. Dismissal- Professional Development

Thank you for your continued support of our district. Go Knights!

John Howard, Superintendent