



Union Community School District

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#UKnighted

**“Education to Meet Tomorrow’s Challenges”**

Greetings from the Union Community School District. I hope everyone had a tremendous New Year. Please find below the stakeholder communication for January 2026.

### **Congratulations and Thank You**

- Congratulations to Garrett Gingrich as well as Rex and Judy Raub for being nominated and selected to the Union Community School District Hall of Fame. Very well deserved!
- Congratulations to our varsity boys’ basketball team for being ranked in the top 10.
- Thank you to all the parents/guardians, other family and community members for attending all our co-curricular and extra-curricular events. There have been some “packed” facilities. There is no doubt that the support is appreciated.
- Congratulations to C. Mehlert and K. Jones for being ranked in the top 5 at their respective weight classes in boys’ wrestling.
- Thank you to all our school and youth coaches/sponsors. We have tremendous success in multiple areas due to your commitment, enthusiasm, organization and willingness to do what is best for our students.
- A huge Thank you to all the groups/organizations who work the concession stands during all our home events throughout the course of the year. Without these individuals, we would not have the possibility for snacks and drinks at the contests/games/match/etc.

### **School Calendar 2026-2027**

The district calendar committee met for the second time this month to begin formulating the 2026-2027 calendar. The board has scheduled a public hearing for the calendar prior to the February meeting.

### **District Ranking**

Last month, I explained the new district ranking system and stated that Union is a High Performing District. Well, if you have not seen additional information, **Union is ranked in the top 10% of all districts in the state of Iowa.** Thanks to the students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members for this achievement. I am extremely proud!

### **Calendar Update– Winter Weather**

The approved 2025-2026 calendar (this year) had 45 more instructional hours than required by law. We use these “extra hours” to offset any missed time for state events, inclement weather, emergencies, etc. As of this writing, we have missed a total of just over 29 hours due to inclement weather and have just over 15 hours left. If we miss more than those hours, we will have to look at some school make-up days. Let’s hope for good weather the rest of the winter!

### **Winter Activities**

The winter activity season continues to be a successful one. All our middle school and high school activities are doing well in terms of wins/losses. I am also extremely proud of their efforts and sportsmanship. They represent themselves and our district well.

**Future No School/Early Out Days**

February 16, 2026- No School– Professional Development

March 9, 2026- No School- Professional Development

March 16-20, 2026- No School- Spring Break

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

John Howard, Superintendent