



UNION CSD SPRING NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Musical

March 14 | 7:00 PM

March 15 | 2:00 PM

Spring Break

No School

March 16-20

ISASP Testing

April 13-May 1

Commencement

May 17 | 2:00 PM

Last Day of School

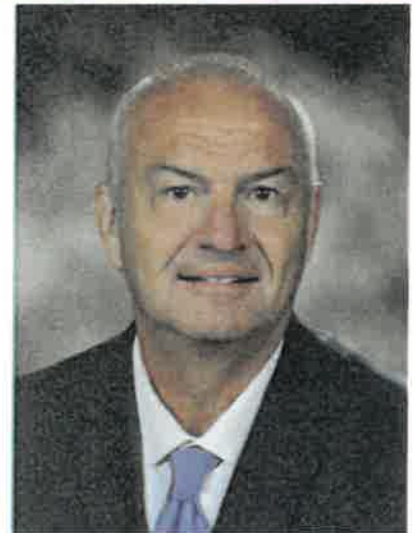
May 29

11:00 AM Dismissal

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to the Union Community School District Spring 2026 Newsletter! This correspondence is an effort to strengthen communication across the district. We recognize that not all of our families and community members regularly use social media, and it is our responsibility to ensure information is shared in ways that are timely, accessible, and inclusive for everyone. This quarterly newsletter, hopefully, provides this for everyone. In addition, this newsletter offers the opportunity for families and others to read about the positive happenings in our district and in our buildings. I hope you enjoy the newsletter.

As the superintendent, I am incredibly proud of our students and staff for the dedication, enthusiasm, and professionalism they demonstrate each day. From outstanding academic growth and impressive performances in fine arts and athletics to the countless acts of kindness and leadership displayed in our classrooms and hallways, there is much to celebrate.



Our staff remains committed to continuous improvement, using data to guide instruction and creating supportive environments where every student can thrive. As we look ahead to the remainder of the school year, I am excited about the opportunities still to come—spring and summer activities, celebrations of achievement, and the strong finish our students are capable of achieving. Thank you for your continued partnership and pride in our schools. Together, we will make the remaining days for our district both productive and memorable. Go Knights!

Mr. John Howard
Union CSD
Superintendent



LPC ELEMENTARY UPDATES

We have a great second semester planned for our students at La Porte City Elementary. In January we focused on getting back into routines and instruction after our winter break. Teachers and students worked on refreshing our expectations and setting new goals for the rest of the school year. Students took our mid year screeners and we had a lot to celebrate. Our literacy scores grew 3% over the course of the year now at 77% of our students reaching the mid year benchmark. Our math scores are holding strong with 82% of students reaching the mid year benchmark. We celebrated our students with a great assembly handing out many attendance, literacy, and math awards.



February has been a month full of fun events. We kicked the month off by celebrating our 100th day of school. Students worked together to find 100 rubber ducks hidden across the whole building and earned a school wide pajama day. We celebrated Kindness Week and had a Change War to raise funds to buy shirts for Field Day. We also hosted another great book fair during the week of Parent/Teacher Conferences. We ended the month with our Parent/Teacher conferences, getting the opportunity to just talk about the students we serve.



We look forward to finishing the school year out strong with continued purposeful instruction and reaching those academic goals. In March, we will have our 2nd annual Staff Vs Student basketball game where 5th graders will defend their title and go against the staff. In April, our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will prepare and take the ISASP (our state wide assessment). May will be the busiest month full of field trips, fun activities like the 5th grade Mixer and our K-2 and 3-5 Field Days.

DG ELEMENTARY UPDATES

DG Elementary has had a busy and exciting winter! Our students recently participated in a schoolwide Change War, raising money for our PTO to purchase Field Day shirts for every student. It was fun to see the enthusiasm from students as they brought in coins and cheered on their teams. The event not only built excitement in the building but also showed how our school community can work together to support something fun for everyone.



We also appreciated the strong turnout for our recent Family Learning Session, where families discussed ways to help children recognize and manage their emotions. Opportunities like this help strengthen the connection between school and home while giving families practical strategies they can use every day. Parent-teacher conferences were another great opportunity to celebrate student progress and collaborate on ways to support continued growth.

There are several fun events coming up at DG Elementary as well. One of the favorites each year is our March Madness basketball game, where our 5th grade students will take on the staff in a friendly basketball game. It's always a great way to build school spirit and create lasting memories for our students.

As we move further into the spring semester, students will also begin preparing for the ISASP assessments. In addition, we are looking forward to hosting Family Literacy Night and our Pastries with Parents event, both of which give families another opportunity to spend time in the building and celebrate learning together. We appreciate the continued support from our DG Elementary families and community!





UMS UPDATES

It has been a great winter at UMS! Our students have been excelling in the classroom, on the mat, court, and in the arts.

Academically, we have continued to meet our building goal, 95%, of students passing all of their courses. The 1st quarter, we had 96% of our students pass all courses and 95% during the 2nd quarter. Out of those students, over 50% of them have been recognized as honor roll students for excelling in the classroom. This is a tribute to the hard work our staff and students have put in throughout the first half of the year. That success has continued and grown as we have started our 2nd semester.

We continue to have a large majority of our students participating in activities, whether the arts or athletics, our students continue to excel and improve. We are just finishing up our winter activities, with spring on the horizon, track season is just around the corner. We encourage all students to get involved as much as they can, being involved has a direct impact on academic success!

Union Middle School has once again been nominated as a National Showcase School by Capturing Kids' Hearts. UMS received the award for the 2024-2025 school year and hopes to again be recognized this year. Winner should be announced sometime in April.



The annual Lip Off has just begun which allows us to kickoff our week in exciting fashion. This year, UMS is raising money through the Lip Off for the Tunnel 2 Towers organization. Over the past four years, we have donated almost \$10,000 to this organization who assist wounded veterans and service personnel.

UHS UPDATES

Musical: Honk!

We are excited for you to join us on March 14 and 15 when Union High School presents Honk! This musical is based upon the story of "The Ugly Duckling". Join our folks down on the farm in this story about finding the beauty in things others don't see. Our protagonist, Ugly, is born different and is picked on for his looks. His journey of self acceptance takes us beyond the farm where he meets other animals who see him for his true self. Admission to the musical will be \$10 and sold through Bound. More information about purchasing tickets will be found on Facebook and Bound.



Extracurricular Activity Success!

Union High School has seen a rush of amazing results recently.

Academic Decathlon qualified for state competition on March 5-6.

Coy Mehlert, 113, is a state champion wrestler! Kaydin Jones, 138, finished fifth.

Musical theatre group, Seussical, was selected as a non-performing group for All-State Speech!

Boys' Basketball won the district championship for the second consecutive year and earned another berth in the IAHSAA state tournament. This team also has set the record for most wins in a season (so far) at 22.



UPCOMING SPORTS SCHEDULES

Dates and times are subject to change

BOYS TRACK & FIELD

- 3/9 - Wartburg - 2:00 PM
- 3/13 - ISU - TBD
- 3/24 - Wartburg - TBD
- 3/30 - Benton - 4:30 PM
- 3/31 - V-S - 4:30 PM
- 4/2 - Union - 4:30 PM
- 4/7 - Grundy Center - 4:30 PM
- 4/9 - Hudson - 4:30 PM
- 4/14 - Jesup - 4:30 PM
- 4/16 - Hudson - 4:30 PM
- 4/17 - AP - 4:30 PM
- 4/21 - Oelwein - 4:30 PM
- 4/23-4/24 - Drake Relays - TBD
- 4/28 - V-S - 4:30 PM
- 5/1 - Union - 4:30 PM
- 5/4 - Independence - 4:30 PM
- 5/7 - East Marshall - 3:00 PM
- 5/11 - AP - 4:30 PM
- 5/14 - TBD - 4:00 PM

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

- 3/9 - Wartburg - 2:00 PM
- 3/10 - UNI - 9:00 AM
- 3/24 - Wartburg - TBD
- 3/30 - Benton - 4:30 PM
- 4/2 - Union - 4:30 PM
- 4/7 - Jesup - 4:30 PM
- 4/9 - Independence - 4:30 PM
- 4/14 - Hudson - 4:30 PM
- 4/16 - East Marshall - 4:30 PM
- 4/20 - Hudson - 4:30 PM
- 4/23-4/24 - Drake Relays - TBD
- 4/28 - DNH - 4:45 PM
- 5/1 - Union - 4:30 PM
- 5/4 - AP - 4:30 PM
- 5/7 - East Marshall - 3:00 PM
- 5/11 - Denver - 4:30 PM
- 5/14 - TBD - 4:00 PM

GIRLS SOCCER

- 4/2 - AP - 5:30 PM
- 4/7 - Hudson - 5:00 PM
- 4/9 - Union - 5:30 PM
- 4/10 - Cedar Rapids Jeff - 4:15 PM
- 4/14 - Union - 5:30 PM
- 4/16 - Union - 5:30 PM
- 4/17 - Decorah - 5:00 PM
- 4/20 - Vinton-Shellsburg - 5:00 PM
- 4/21 - Dike - 5:30 PM
- 4/23 - Union - 5:30 PM
- 4/28 - Gladbrook - 5:30 PM
- 4/30 - Denver - 5:30 PM
- 5/4 - Union - 5:30 PM
- 5/8 - Columbus - 5:30 PM
- 5/14 - Union - 5:30 PM
- 5/15 - Union - 5:30 PM
- 5/18 - Union - 5:30 PM
- 5/26 - Regional Soccer - 7:00 PM
- 5/28 - Regional Soccer - 7:00 PM
- 6/2 - Regional Soccer - 7:00 PM
- 6/4 - Regional Soccer - 7:00 PM
- 6/8-6/13 - State Soccer - TBD





UPCOMING SPORTS SCHEDULES

Dates and times are subject to change

BOYS SOCCER

- 3/30.- CV Complex- 4:00 PM
- 4/7- Independence- 6:45 PM
- 4/9- Benton- 6:45 PM
- 4/11- Hudson- 9:00 AM
- 4/13- Independence- 6:30 PM
- 4/14- Independence- 6:45 PM
- 4/16- Independence- 6:45 PM
- 4/21- Independence- 6:45 PM
- 4/23- South Tama- 6:45 PM
- 4/27- Independence- 6:45 PM
- 4/30 - CPH- 6:45 PM
- 5/1- Independence- 5:00 PM
- 5/5- Independence- 6:45 PM
- 5/7- West Delaware- 6:45 PM
- 5/8- Postville- 5:00 PM
- 5/11- Marion- 6:45 PM

Note: Union shares with Independence

BOYS TENNIS

- 4/7 - Union - 4:15 PM
- 4/9 - Union - 4:15 PM
- 4/13 - Union - 4:15 PM
- 4/17 - Oelwein - 4:15 PM
- 4/20 - Union - 4:15 PM
- 4/21 - Columbus - 4:15 PM
- 4/27 - South Tama - 4:00 PM
- 4/30 - Grundy Center - 4:15 PM
- 5/4 - AP - 4:15 PM
- 5/5 - Waterloo- Bryrnes Park-8:00 AM
- 5/7 - Independence - 4:15 PM
- 5/16 - District Meet - TBD
- 5/20 - Substate - TBD
- 5/27 - State - TBD
- 6/3 - State - TBD

BOYS GOLF

- 4/8 - Anamosa - 9:00 AM
- 4/9 - East Marshall - 4:15 PM
- 4/13 - Union - 4:15 PM
- 4/15 - Union - 9:00 AM
- 4/16 - Union - 4:15 PM
- 4/21 - Sumner-Fred - 4:15 PM
- 4/23 - Union - 4:15 PM
- 4/25 - Grundy Center - 4:15 PM
- 4/27 - Jesup - 4:15 PM
- 4/28 - Jesup - 3:15 PM (JV)
- 5/4 - BCLUW - 1:00 PM
- 5/5 - Grundy Center - 1:00 PM
- 5/7 - Cedar Falls-Pheasant Ridge 10:00 AM
- 5/13 - Sectionals - TBD
- 5/18 - Districts - TBD
- 5/26 - State - TBD
- 5/27 - State - TBD

GIRLS GOLF

- 4/6 - Union - 4:00 PM
- 4/8 - Anamosa - 9:00 AM
- 4/9 - East Marsaall- 4:15 PM
- 4/13- Union- 4:15 PM
- 4/15 - LPC / Dysart - 9:00 AM
- 4/16 - Union - 4:15 PM
- 4/21 - Sumner-Fred - 4:15 PM
- 4/27 - Jesup - 4:15 PM
- 4/28 - Jesup - 3:15 PM (JV)
- 5/1 - Union - 4:15 PM
- 5/4 - BCLUW - 1:00 PM
- 5/5 - Grundy Center - 1:00 PM
- 5/11 - Waterloo-Irv Warren - 10:00 AM
- 5/15 - Districts - TBD
- 5/20 - Regionals - TBD
- 5/28 - State - TBD
- 5/29 - State - TBD

