



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 June 2024.

Class of 2024

Congratulations and thank you to the Class of 2024! These individuals provided all of us with terrific memories in the classroom as well as on the courts, field, stage, etc. I am so proud of them!

Spring Activities

We had an outstanding spring in terms of our activities. From FFA to solo/ensemble contests; to Math and Spelling Bees; from high school sports to Academic Decathlon, and virtually everything in between our students and staff did some tremendous work over the last month or two. Their attitudes, commitment and efforts were exceptional, and the results speak for themselves.

Individual Accolades

To further emphasize how well our students have done, here is a short list of individual accomplishments:

- Adam Brehm- National Merit Scholarship (Top 1% of all students who took the PSAT)
- Danson Moody- All-State Band (percussion)
- Colton Gardner- 7th Place at the Regional Spelling Bee
- Grant Johnson- 1st Place at **Both** the Regional and the State Spelling Bee
- 6th Grade Math Team– 1st Place out of 40 teams at the Math Bee
- Paige . Wenzell- 1st place out of 192 students at the Math Bee
- Brandon Frush, Tyler Gates, Jillian Hanson, Lily Schmitz, and Melanie Yuska– Named Borlaug Scholars
- Tyler Gates & Olivia Hanson- Iowa FFA Degree Recipients

I am sure this is not a comprehensive list of all the great things our students have done recently, but these do highlight some great ones!

National Academic Decathlon

Congratulations to Mrs. Michael and the students who participated in the National Academic Decathlon in Pittsburgh, PA. We had some students who did very well. Please find that list below:

- Daniel Gray - 2nd Place in Interview & 7th Place in Literature
- Andrew Kline - 4th Place in Speech & 6th Place in Interview
- Adam Brehm - 6th Place in Economics, 8th Place in Art & Music, 10th Place in Social Science
- Hayden Hemsath - 9th Place in Music
- Ian Grimm - 10th Place in Essay & Music
- Stratton Wood - 8th Place in Economics & 9th Place in Literature
- Dominic Huisman - 10th Place in Speech
- Matthew Medina - 7th in Essay

SIAC

Last month, I mentioned the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) and the work these individuals have done to help formulate building goals for 2024-2025. Here is a list of some of the general objectives that our staff will work on going forward:

- Increase the number of students who are academically successful
- Strengthen core instruction and student intervention options
- Enhance ISASP and FAST scores
- Promote social and emotional learning
- Improve student attendance rates

Table Top Exercise

Earlier this month, school administration, other staff and one board member participated in a table top safety exercise with local emergency personnel and law enforcement. As stated previously, this activity, organized and led by Black Hawk and Tama Counties' Emergency Management teams, directly aligns with the board's goal of promoting/enhancing safety and security in the district. The exercise proved very valuable in terms of immediate action steps, which we have completed, as well as some "think abouts" for future trainings. Honestly, we hope we never have to experience an emergency, such as these, but knowing what to do and how to do it in case of an incident is vital.

Thank you for your continued support of our district. Have a great summer! Go Knights!

John Howard, Superintendent