



Union Community School District

200 Adams St.

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#UKnighted

“Education to Meet Tomorrow’s Challenges”

Greetings from the Union Community School District! Please find below the September 2023 stakeholder communication.

Start of School

We have had an excellent start to the school year. Each day, I am so impressed and pleased with the efforts of our students and staff. Our motto for this year is “Be a Difference Maker.” It is our responsibility, as employees of the Union Community School District, to make a difference in the lives of our students. It could be simply saying, “Good Morning”, writing a positive e-mail, making a congratulatory phone call, praising one or some students for success in the classroom or on the court, field, stage, etc, or being comforting and empathetic in a time of need. Whatever the action, we need to do it. For it only takes one interaction to change a student’s life forever.

District Needs Assessment

Per Iowa Code, each public school district is required to have a periodic needs assessment. The goal of this assessment is to “ensure involvement of and communication with the local communities regarding its expectations for adequate preparation for all students.” Our district has not had an assessment for quite some time, so the board of education approved moving forward with one in October. We ask that you fill out the quick survey once you receive it. Your input is vital in continuing our positive momentum.

ISASP Scores

In the August stakeholder communication I mentioned a couple of tremendous statistics from last spring’s ISASP scores. Well, I have some more great news to share. I am so proud of our students and staff.

- ★ The biggest improvements (from the previous year) were 7th graders in Math (+18%) and 11th grade students also in Math (+14%).
- ★ Of the 14 total assessments given to our 3rd-5th grade students (in both La Porte and Dysart), students scored 80% proficiency or better on 12.
- ★ Our 5th grade science scores were some of the best in the entire state of Iowa with a proficiency rate of over 80%.
- ★ Our current 9th and 12th grade students improved the most from spring 2022 to spring 2023 with double digit increases in proficiency in both English and Math.
- ★ And most importantly... **Every building (DG, LPC, UMS and UHS) improved their scores in English and Math from spring 2022.**

Revenue Purpose Statement

On November 7, 2023, the voters of the Union Community School District will have an opportunity to vote on a new Revenue Purpose Statement to direct the district’s spending of the school infrastructures sales, services, and use tax revenues, commonly known as the “Statewide Penny”. **This vote does not impact your sales taxes or increase property taxes.**

The state of Iowa collects the Statewide Penny and distributes it to all school districts in the state. In 2019, the Legislature extended the collection of the Statewide Penny from December 31, 2029 to January 1, 2051. As part of that extension, the Iowa Legislature requires all school districts receiving Statewide Penny revenues to state how they will use the Statewide Penny revenues through January 1, 2051 and ask the voters to approve those uses. The Legislature limits the purposes for which Statewide Penny revenues may be used. The authorized purposes are



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construction, reconstruction, demolition, repair, purchase of equipment, technology, buses, school safety equipment, and other infrastructure purposes and property tax relief. The statement of how the Statewide Penny will be used is called a Revenue Purpose Statement. The voters are being asked to approve the district's Revenue Purpose Statement at the election to be held on November 7, 2023. The Union Community School District has effectively and efficiently utilized Statewide Penny revenues over the last year for significant improvements in infrastructure and in better meeting student needs. We can continue this momentum, both now and long into the future with a renewal of the Statewide Penny on November 7, 2023. Please vote YES.

Enrollment

This time of year I get a lot of questions about student enrollment. The "official" count date is October 2nd, so we don't know, for sure, at this time. Based on preliminary data, our student enrollment will be down a little compared to fall 2022.

Early Out/No School Reminder

- 1:00 p.m. dismissal on Wednesday, September 27th.
- No School on Monday, October 9th.
- 1:00 p.m. dismissal on Wednesday, Oct. 25th.

Fall Activities

I want to wish all our fall activities continued good luck. If you are able to do so, please get out and support all Union activities.

Thank you, as usual, for your support of the Union Community School District! Go Knights!

John Howard, Superintendent