



Where Little Learners Expect Great Things!



Safety Night was a Cold Hit!!

Elementary Families (and some older kids and alums!) braved the windy, chilly temps to celebrate Safety Night again. Thank you to the Student Council, and especially Mr. Brown and all the volunteers for what they do each year to raise awareness for child safety.



Math Corps

Thank you to Mr. Trent Rasmussen for his work in likely securing an additional two Math Corps Tutoring Positions for our school through Ampact next year. Thank you as well to Mrs. Chell for her help in this process, as well as the entire Math and Elementary Team for the aligned schedule work to support the integration of more math supports across the board in '26-'27.

School Updates

- School Enrollment is at 369 students. This is an increase of 5 students.
- Elementary Teachers are almost 100% done with their Reading Training!
- We are in active recruitment for our 2 Reading Corps Tutors! We are also hopeful for the awarding of 2 Math Corps Tutors as well for ES and MS next year!
- Completing final STAR, QPS, and Main unit testing for the year - full reports in June at the June Board Meeting
- Completed the UW -Milwaukee study portions. Will provide copies of UW-River Falls and this one when published for review.
- Summer and Next year planning underway - schedules, staffing, enrollments, etc!

Spring Events!

- Monday, May 11- 2nd Grade Field Trip to Pioneer Village
- Thursday, May 21 - K Field Trip to the Zoo
- Tuesday, May 26 - Grade 3 and 4 Metric Meet and Field Day
- Wednesday, May 27 - Grade 1 and 2 Metric Meet and Field Day
- Wednesday, May 27- Grade 3 Field Trip to Theatre
- Thursday, May 28 - Hunter Pinke (Luck)
- Friday, May 29 - PK Ice Cream Social - 10 am (Last day of school is June 2)
- Monday, June 1 - Elementary Carnival! (Students Only)
- Tuesday, June 2 - Last Day of School!
- Tuesday, June 2 - Kindergarten Graduation 1 pm PAC



Middle School Board Report

May 2026

BEGINNING BAND FESTIVAL

On Tuesday, April 28th, Unity hosted several local area bands for the Annual Beginning Band Festival. Students had the opportunity to perform with their own school band, followed by a full concert collaboration with all schools. Guest Clinician, Carolyn Haase, spent the morning conducting the students and together they made great music!



MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK SEASON UNDERWAY!

Students in grades 7 & 8 have officially begun the Spring Track season! With over 30 students participating, it has been fun to watch them compete. Unity will host a home Track Meet on May 12th.



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

	5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	E Team
April 1	 Mya Halverson	 Colton Strilzuk	 Sophia Young	 Jorry Olson	 Lola Pouliot
April 8	 Brysen Jones	 Eleanor Olson	 Elliott Towle	 Austin Donalds	 Reina Busby
April 15	 Addison Gudim	 Jubilee Hikel	 Kaia Nelson	 Kinley Filip	 Phoenix Bruss
April 22	 Elsie Broch	 Valerie Leisch	 Colton Luther	 Mason Koch	 Clara Shalander
April 29	 Emma Johnson	 Layla Walker	 Kedgenal Tenold-Edstrm	 Phoenix Bruss	 McKenna Spofford

SCIENCE OLYMPIADS AT STATE

The Middle School Varsity Science Olympiad team competed at the state level on April 18th. As a team, they placed 6th overall in the small school division and many students revied individual medals! Congratulations to these students on a tremendous season!!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 12th: MS Track Meet at Unity
- May 13th: 8th Grade Career Day
- May 14th: MS Spring Concert (Grades 5-8) 7pm, PAC
- May 22nd: Early Release
- May 25th: Memorial Day - No School
- May 27-28: 5th Grade Camping Trip
- June 1st: MS Reward Trip (Grades 6-8)
- June 2nd: Last Day of School

GO EAGLES!



Unity High School: May, 2026 Principal's Report



2026 Prom Court

Prom

Unity High School held its 2026 Prom at Celebration at the Gables with the theme "Under the Lantern Sky." The event provided students with a memorable and well-attended evening.

Prom Royalty:

King: Haze Larson

Queen: Ella Johnson

Prom Court:

Joshua Pouliot, Dominic Fox, Oliver Gariepy, Jaimeson Schuur (2025 Prom King), Elizabeth Jerrick (2025 Prom Queen), Katelyn Kahler, Wendy Rosas-Perez, and

Kendra Bantz

Junior Royalty:

Penelopie P. and Trey N.

Student Awards:

Best Dressed: Jaimeson Schuur & Katelyn Kahler

Best Hair: Eli Paulhe & Wendy Rosas-Perez

Most On Theme: Neil Martin & Natasha Tait

Best Grand March Entrance: Brian Bantz & Madelyn Schleusner

The evening was a success, with strong student participation and positive feedback. Appreciation is extended to staff, chaperones, and organizers who contributed to a safe, engaging, and memorable experience for all attendees.

Unity High School hosted its second and final Reward Trip of the school year, with over 100 students participating. Students had the opportunity to choose from a variety of engaging experiences, including paintball, attending a Minnesota Twins vs. Boston Red Sox game, or participating in a workshop at the Festival Theatre.

Students earned this opportunity by meeting established criteria: maintaining no failing grades, fewer than four unexcused absences, and fewer than two major behavioral infractions.

The day was a great success, providing students with a fun and meaningful way to celebrate their hard work, positive behavior, and commitment to their academic success.





**High School Building Update
Enrollment by Grade Level:**

Freshmen: 56

Sophomores: 62

Juniors: 76

Seniors: 62

Total High School Enrollment: 256 students

**Additionally, we serve 13 students through
our Alternative Diploma Program (ADP).**

Ag. on the Lawn



Unity High School hosted its annual “Ag on the Lawn” event, providing a unique opportunity for high school students to showcase their farm animals and agricultural projects. Elementary and middle school students were invited to attend, allowing them to walk through the exhibits, interact with the animals, and learn more about agriculture. The event was a tremendous success, featuring a record-breaking number of exhibits. It offered an engaging, hands-on experience for younger students while highlighting the hard work and dedication of our high school participants.



Academic Success

Unity High School proudly celebrates and congratulates Violet Hill as she concludes her senior year with an extraordinary accomplishment.

Out of more than 61,000 applicants nationwide, Violet has been selected as one of just 750 recipients of the highly prestigious Gates Scholarship. This distinguished honor recognizes the nation's top graduating seniors for their academic excellence, leadership, and perseverance.

The Gates Scholarship is a last-dollar award that will cover the full cost of Violet's four-year college attendance beyond other financial aid, including tuition, housing, meals, books, and associated expenses. This support provides Violet with the opportunity to fully focus on her academic and professional future.

Following graduation, Violet will attend University of Minnesota Duluth to pursue a degree in Graphic Design.

The Gates Scholarship recognizes students who:

- Rank among the top of their class
- Demonstrate leadership in their school and community
- Exhibit resilience, determination, and a strong drive to succeed.

Violet exemplifies each of these qualities. Unity High School is proud of her accomplishments and looks forward to the creativity and impact she will bring to her future endeavors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **May 9: Bus Races**
- **May 11: Softball Staff Appreciation Dinner & ADP Graduation**
- **May 13: Senior Awards Night**
- **May 15: SkillsUSA Recognition Night**
- **May 19: Freshmen & Sophomore Capstone Gallery Walk**
- **May 22: Graduation (Class of 2026)**
- **May 28: Guest Speaker at Luck School District**
- **June 2: Last Day of School**

Unity Special Education Board Report



May 2026



Hospitality Foundations Program at Northwood Technical College



Alex Owens



Justin Spafford



Zoey Carlson

This May, three students from Unity High School will graduate from the Hospitality Foundations program offered through Northwood Technical College in New Richmond—an important milestone in their transition from school to the workforce.

Hospitality Foundations is a 16-week, skills-based program designed to prepare students for entry-level employment in hospitality and customer service settings. The program supports students with disabilities or other barriers by providing structured, hands-on learning experiences that build independence, confidence, and career readiness. Through interactive coursework and community-based training, students develop essential employability skills, including communication, teamwork, and professionalism. They learn to identify their personal strengths and transferable skills, apply functional abilities in hospitality settings, and recognize and address workplace safety concerns.

A key highlight of the program is the real-world experience students gain through internships at businesses. These placements allow students to apply their learning in authentic environments while building connections with employers in high-demand industries such as hotels, restaurants, event centers, and environmental services.

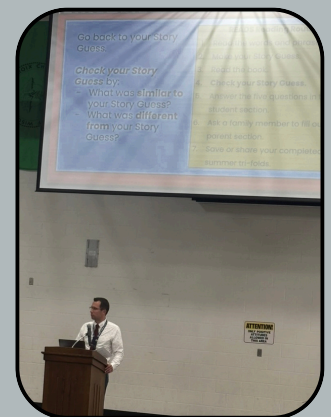
Coursework includes Hospitality Applications, Guest Relations Fundamentals, and a Hospitality Internship, all of which contribute to a personalized transition plan for continued education or employment.

We are proud to celebrate Alex Owens, Justin Spafford, and Zoey Carlson from Unity High School and commend their dedication and growth. Their success reflects the value of strong partnerships with Northwood Technical College and the impact of hands-on programming that prepares students for meaningful employment and greater independence.

READS for Summer Learning

The READS for Summer Learning Program will support 30 students in grades 3–5 in strengthening their reading skills and preventing summer learning loss. This evidence-based program provides targeted literacy support while fostering student engagement in reading over the summer months.

A recent Parent Night, held the evening of Parent–Teacher Conferences, provided families with an overview of the program, expectations, and ways to support reading at home. Dinner was provided, creating a welcoming opportunity for families to connect with staff and learn more about the program. Students have already completed a reading interest questionnaire, which—along with district assessment data—will be used to provide each student with 10 customized books at no cost. Students will also participate in six literacy lessons in May focused on comprehension strategies and will have access to optional reading activities over the summer, with incentives for completion. The READS program continues to emphasize strong school–family partnerships, helping ensure students are supported and prepared for continued literacy growth.





DOTL Board Report

May 2026

NEW TEACHER INDUCTION AND MENTORING PROGRAM

The 2025-26 New Teacher Induction and Mentoring program wrapped up the year with much to celebrate. On average, each new teacher in our district received 128 minutes per month of mentoring support from the Director of Teaching and Learning (DOTL) and experienced teacher mentors. This included monthly New Teacher Mentoring Seminars, one-on-one mentor meetings, and observation, coaching, and curricular support from the DOTL.

Next year, Unity will further develop this system by replicating this mentoring model for any year 1 teachers in the district and will implement a new structure for year 2 mentoring model.

This new year 2 structure will include an 'Evidence-Informed Teaching' summer PD session, three topics facilitated in a professional learning system by trimester, and ongoing informal observations and coaching by the DOTL.

The district has also written a grant application through the DPI for additional funding to strengthen the New Teacher Induction and Mentoring Program. We are excited to strengthen our new staff and work towards retention of impactful educators.

GIFTED & TALENTED / ACCELERATION

Unity's DOTL has been working with teachers, admin team, and CESA 11 GT Network to evaluate gifted and talented programming in the district. We are seeking additional funding through the DPI GT Grant. In addition to the grant, the district is in process of developing a GT Handbook to specify program functions, services, and student qualifications. Part of this work is also strengthening our acceleration systems. One of the main changes is refining the criteria for students to qualify for skipping 8th grade math. We are effectively reducing the acceleration to ensure higher success rates in Algebra I.

RICE CREEK STUDY - EARTH DAY



Students from Mr. Collins' HS Biology class and the 7th grade science class run by Mr. Perkins and Mr. Kern administered the 20th annual Rice Creek Index Survey to assess the health of an important waterway in our school forest. It was a beautiful day of learning in many, many ways!

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY STUDY

A PhD candidate from Marquette University reached out to Unity Elementary to do a study on principal leadership because Unity's literacy outcomes in 2023-24 "beat the odds". This means that literacy outcomes far surpassed expectations based on the percentage of students who are/were economically disadvantaged. Unity Elementary qualified for a pool of 11 high quality schools out of 1,000+ elementary schools in the state. The research is expected to be published by the end of the calendar year.

SPRING MATH IMPLEMENTATION

The elementary schedule for 2026-27 has been designed to include a 20 minute daily block of math fluency instruction, intervention, and/or enrichment to compliment the great work already happening in the core Math class. SpringMath will enable our teachers to provide additional support on the math skills that are of greatest significance to overall math success. Teachers will be trained and supported with the implementation of this new system that also will provide us a weekly data snapshot of math learning progress.

EXPECT GREAT THINGS!