



# UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Home of the Golden Knights and Damsels"

354 Baker Street  
Suite 1

Dr. Elena B. Steidinger, Ed.D.  
Special Education Director  
Interim HS Principal

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August 3, 2022

Greetings Union Families,

It is a pleasure and honor to introduce myself as the Interim Principal at Union High School for the 2022-2023 school year. I will continue to serve the district as the Director of Special Education and 504 Coordinator. Joining me in service to the parents, students and community of Union High School are Mrs. Lisa Hummel as the Dean of Students and Dr. John Kimmel as the Head of Athletics.

This is the start of my 20<sup>th</sup> year in education, my 10<sup>th</sup> year as a district administrator. Like you, I am a parent too. I have three adult children, Ben, Jacob and Josephine. Both having graduated from Penn State University, Ben and Jacob are working in the field of agriculture, and Josey, a graduate of NC State is continuing her studies at Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

I believe that learning is a life-long process, and I am a testament to that having received my doctoral degree this past May. It is my belief that students are at the center of all school-related decisions, and ALL students should be educated to their highest potential.

Some of the initiatives that I look forward to this year include:

- School Wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (SWPBIS) program in grades six through twelve
- Botvin LifeSkills training for sixth grade students
- Responsive Classroom morning meetings in grades six through eight
- Monthly Listen and Learn remote Google meetings for all families

Additionally, there are several important items that I would like to share with you.

1. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate our new student information system, FOCUS. We are aware of and are working diligently to resolve student scheduling errors.
2. Due to my numerous roles, it is imperative that you email me **to schedule a meeting** to discuss your concerns. My email address is steidingereb@unionsd.net.
3. Picture Day is scheduled for **Friday, October 7**, make-up day November 22.
4. Current students picture IDs can be used to scan for cafeteria lunch payment. They will be distributed in homeroom the first day of school.
5. Cell Phones **are not** permitted in classrooms, study halls, hallways, bathrooms, or offices without direct teacher permission for educational use. Please refer to page 14 of the Student Handbook.
6. The dress code will remain the same as the 2021-2022 school year (see pg. 37 of Student Handbook).
7. There is a new **Tardy** Policy for the 2022-2023 school year (see pg. 11 of Student Handbook).

While the high school will be moving forward with research-based programs and initiatives, our commitment to you and your student remains the same. To provide your student with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to compete locally as well as globally towards meaningful, productive lives. I welcome the opportunity to partner with you and your student this school year.

Sincerely,

Elena B. Steidinger, Ed.D.  
Director of Special Education/504 Coordinator  
Union High School Principal