



UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Home of the Golden Knights and Damsels"

354 Baker Street
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High School Principal

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July 31, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to welcome you and your child(ren) to the 2024-25 school year at Union High School. We are excited to see the smiling faces of our students as they return for the upcoming school year. Our maintenance staff has been working incredibly hard to have our facilities ready for the upcoming school year. We want to welcome you all to another great school year at Union.

As you know a new school year is about to begin. School will start for all students in the Union School District on **Wednesday, August 21, 2024**. Student schedules are available via FOCUS. Remember, all schedule changes must be completed prior to the start of the school year. Contact Mrs. Rupp in the guidance office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sixth Grade Orientation and Open House will be held on Tuesday, August 20th, 2024. All sixth-grade students and their parents/guardians are invited to attend a presentation in the cafeteria beginning at 2:00. Doors open at 1:30. Students in grades 7-12 and their parents/guardians are invited to attend an open house beginning at 2:30 to meet their teachers and tour the building. The open house ends at 3:00.

Students should be in their classroom by 7:43 each day or they will be marked "tardy." Students who are absent must provide a legal excuse within 3 days upon their return to school or it will be counted as an illegal absence. Excuses can be given to the School Police Officer, turned in to the attendance secretary, or emailed to hsexcuses@unionsd.net. After ten (10) parent/guardian absence excuses all other excuses must be provided by medical personnel to be considered legal.

Upon arrival at school, all students will enter the school via the main entrance. *The loop in front of the building is for buses only.* Parents/Guardians who are dropping off their students should proceed to the back parking lot, turn around, and drop their students off on the sidewalk prior to the loop. Students will take out their bookbag's belongings that may set off the detectors and proceed through the metal detectors. Once cleared by the SPOs students who wish to eat breakfast will proceed to the cafeteria. Those students who are not eating breakfast will proceed to the main gym. Students are not to loiter in the main lobby during the morning. All students are dismissed at 2:55 each day.

I ask you to please familiarize yourself with the High School Disciplinary Matrix in the Student Handbook. Students are expected to follow the rules and norms of the building. If students do not follow these guidelines they are subject to disciplinary action.

The District also sees the importance of continuing to reward students for correct behavior through a Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports Program. The High School plans on quarterly rewards and activities that students will earn based on meeting expectations. These expectations may change for each marking period based on the latest data. The PBIS team will

make your students aware of the expectations prior to the start of each marking period.

The Student Handbook is on the district website at unionsd.net for your review. Please take the time to review the handbook with your child and then sign the form that acknowledges you have reviewed the handbook. The handbook is a vital resource that every student and parent/guardian should familiarize themselves with. **Acknowledgment of the Student Handbook must be completed on the Parent Portal by Friday, September 6, 2024.**

The 2024-25 school year will have some significant changes that I would like to address. Due to continuing issues related to the misuse of cell phones students in **grades 6-8 will not be allowed to have cell phones at any point of the day between 7:40 and 2:55.** This includes lunch periods. To improve academic outcomes the district will be providing a number of academic interventions during the school year to students in grades 6-8. A WIN intervention period (25 minutes) has been added to provide direct intervention to students as needed based on available data. Students in grades 9-12 will be able to complete their Careers assignments during this time.

The district also understands that a major area that needs to be addressed is peer relationships. Our students need to treat each other better and to support this need the high school has purchased a Social and Emotional Learning program called Squabbles. Squabbles is designed to teach students to identify aggression, manage their emotions, and resolve social conflicts. The Squabbles program will be rolled out as the 2024-25 school year progresses.

For the first time, students in grade 6 will be issued their own Chromebooks. This will allow for students to learn responsibility while also having consistent access in all classes and at home. Students in all grades should invest in a backpack or case that will protect their devices from damage. Students are responsible for any damage to their Chromebooks. Students and families may purchase insurance for 35 dollars.

I have no doubt that the 2024-25 school year will be memorable for all students and their families. We are looking forward to seeing you all so very soon. I hope that you all have had a restful and relaxing summer and that you are ready for the upcoming school year.

Yours in education,

Mr. Carlson