

Superintendent Report  
April 27, 2021

- Student Liaisons
  - a. 9th-Gabriella Guido \*she may not be able to attend
  - b. 10th Joshua Tidwell -Attending Via Zoom
  - c. 11th Pedro Torres-Attending Via Zoom
  - d. 12th Faith Olayinka-Attending Via Zoom
- Superintendent's Report of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying
- Summary of Return to Hybrid Learning Survey
- ESports at Burnet Middle School - Eric Churus
- Teachers of the Year
  - a. The 2021 Virtual Union County Teacher Recognition Program recognizes teachers that go above and beyond their regular duties to truly make an impact on their school, district, or community.
  - b. Union County Teachers of the Year
    - Susan Lisanti, Battle Hill Elementary School
    - Christina Lam, Connecticut Farms Elementary School
    - Courtney McCarthy, Franklin Elementary School
    - Alexia Moriello, Hannah Caldwell Elementary School
    - Elise Iovine, Livingston Elementary School
    - Cheryl Calabrese, Washington Elementary School
    - Samantha Formica, Jefferson School
    - Kim Villane, Burnet Middle School
    - Amanda Maxwell, Kawameeh Middle School
    - William Eichert, Union High School
- Updates on graduation and prom
  - a. UHS Graduation will be on June 26, 2021, A letter regarding this was sent yesterday to senior students, parents & caregivers. If there is someone who has not received the letter, reach out to Union High School.
  - b. Results of survey to students regarding graduation - 78% of UHS Students would prefer graduation being held on one day vs. being held over several days.
  - c. 93% of UHS Students preferred an inperson graduation compared to a virtual graduation.
  - d. 73% of UHS Students stated a Saturday Graduation would help elevate planning issues for families to attend.
  - e. Prom will be held at Costa Del Sole on Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

- f. Costa Del Sole has the facilities to accommodate our students in an outdoor event.
- Marking Period Honor Roll students
  - a. Article recognizing the Union High School students next week.
- 2020-2021 Thirty-Sixth Annual Outstanding Scholars Breakfast
  - a. Friday, May 21, 2021
  - b. Valedictorian - Dylan DeFelipe
  - c. Salutatorian - Nicholas Vasquez
- Overlook/Atlantic Health Covid-19 Vaccinations
  - a. Clelia Biamonti reached out on behalf of Overlook Medical Center, after I made a request to help our district employees, to see if the Union public school employees (administrators, teachers, maintenance, etc.) would be interested in receiving COVID-19 vaccinations through Overlook Medical Center / Atlantic Health System. I would like to personally thank *Clelia Biamonti*, Executive Director Overlook Foundation Overlook Medical Center for helping the district in getting vaccinations.
- ESSER II Grant Money usage and future grant monies update
  - a. **ESSER funds- \$2,973,652**

Allowable uses- in addition to the 12 authorized uses in the CARES ESSER I with a distinct emphasis on the following additional uses:

Addressing student learning loss, to include administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable to accurately assess students' academic progress;

School facility repairs and improvement to enable operations of schools to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards; and

Projects to improve indoor air quality in school facilities, including HVAC, window, and door repair, replacement, and/or upgrading.

**b. Learning Acceleration- \$190,834**

Seventy-five percent of those funds will be used to support research-based academic enrichment activities such as summer learning academies, school year learning acceleration academies, and 1:1 tutoring. Of the portion dedicated to academic enrichment for students districts will be required to spend 75% on STEM related activities and experiences, as well as spend 25% on activities related to literacy and the arts. The remaining twenty-five percent of the Learning Acceleration Grant funds will be used for activities that support the broader learning ecosystem, such as

evidence-based strategies to cultivate a growth mindset in students, professional learning for educators in the use of formative assessments and the use of extended instructional time to effectively scaffold students' learning, as well integrate parents and educators into a multi-tiered system of supports.

### **Mental Health Supports & Services -\$45,000**

These funds will support schools in building or enhancing a continuum of school-based mental health services for students, in coordination with existing county and local services, and supports for educators.

More information can be found at: CRRSA Act webpage

C. American Rescue Plan ESSER funds- will be forthcoming sometime in May. NJ has received the funds from the Federal Government but has yet to distribute.

- Attendance Report for March
  - a. Students 96.5%
  - b. Staff 95.7%
  
- UHS Senior Awards
  - a. May 24
  - b. virtual event
  
- National Decision Day
  - a. May 1
  - b. Celebrating UHS students who have committed to post-high school plans
  - c. Selfie station set up at UHS on 4/30 and 5/3
  - d. Information about when and where to share those photos will be announced soon on the Counselling and Senior social media pages.
  - e. The district will also highlight where our students are attending colleges and Universities in an artistic visual display. More Information to come.
  
- Update on Pre-K facilities
  - a. Partnering with the YMCA for the 2021-2022 School Year
  - b. We will continue to look at partnering with other Providers for the 2022-2023 school year.
  
- Update on Summer Programs
  - a. Camp Invention - Camp Invention uses our facilities if you need further information Contact: Mary Ellen Patricco
  - b. [Bridge for Accelerated Learning / Title I Program Descriptions](#)
  - c. ESY

- April's Newsletter came out a few weeks ago, highlighting activities going on in our classrooms and major instruction and assessment updates. The May newsletter should be coming out in the next two weeks. [PDF](#)
- Assessment Updates
  - a. 2019-2020 School Performance Report Highlights
  - b. Assessment Updates
  - c. [Presentation](#)
- UHS Key Club in honoring World Autism Awareness Day had their members/students bring about awareness for those with autism and also educated others on Instagram posts.
- PLEASE SUPPORT OUR KIDS!! UHSPAC May 20 – 23 🎫 Tickets On Sale Now! UHSPAC <https://www.showtix4u.com/events/21130>
- Three Young Artists from Union Receive Awards from NJ PTA Reflections Program In the High School Division, an Award of Excellence was won by Jared Suggs for his 'Midnight Blur' photo, and Michael Cross received an Award of Merit for his photo entitled 'End of Season'. Livingston School student Sydney Webb won Honorable Mention in the Intermediate Division for her photo, 'I Matter'.
- CALLING ALL CARS!!! THE UHS MARCHING BAND CAR WASH!!!! Rescheduled for 5/23/21 DON'T WASH YOUR CAR UNTIL THEN!
- Please let the BOE know that the **Relay for Life scheduled for June 5th has been postponed**. Due to the current environment, the American Cancer Society has recommended that we postpone our June 5th Relay for Life Event. We will be working with the Township Committee to establish a new date in the fall.
- [Department of Education April 26, 2021 End of the Year Activities Guidance](#)
  - effective May 10, 2021. The outdoor gathering limit will increase to 500 persons and the capacity limit for large venues with fixed seating for 1,000 or more people is increased to 50%. Additionally, Governor Murphy announced increased limits for indoor catered events, such as proms, to 50% of room capacity and with a maximum of 250 people

## Public Questions

Jill Hall - May Mental health awareness month - Conversations around Mental Health



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

**Date:** April 26, 2021  
**To:** Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, Administrators of Nonpublic Schools  
**Route To:** School Principals and School Staff  
**From:** Daryl Minus-Vincent, Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Field Services

## Release of End-of-Year Activities Guidance

Today, April 26, 2021, Governor Murphy announced an increase in gathering limits for outdoor and indoor end-of-year events, effective May 10, 2021. The outdoor gathering limit will increase to 500 persons and the capacity limit for large venues with fixed seating for 1,000 or more people is increased to 50%. Additionally, Governor Murphy announced increased limits for indoor catered events, such as proms, to 50% of room capacity and with a maximum of 250 people, and the ability of outdoor and indoor venues to open dance floors at these private catered events. An Executive Order effectuating these changes is forthcoming.

In anticipation of these changes, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is releasing guidance to assist Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in the planning of end-of-year activities that meet applicable New Jersey health and safety standards. This guidance addresses various types of activities, including but not limited to graduation and promotional ceremonies, student recognition ceremonies, and proms.

### Contact Information

Please contact your NJDOE County Office of Education with any questions.

c: Members, State Board of Education  
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group





**NJ SCHOOL  
PERFORMANCE  
REPORT**

**2019-2020 District-Level Summary**

## Highlights from the 2019-2020 NJSPR

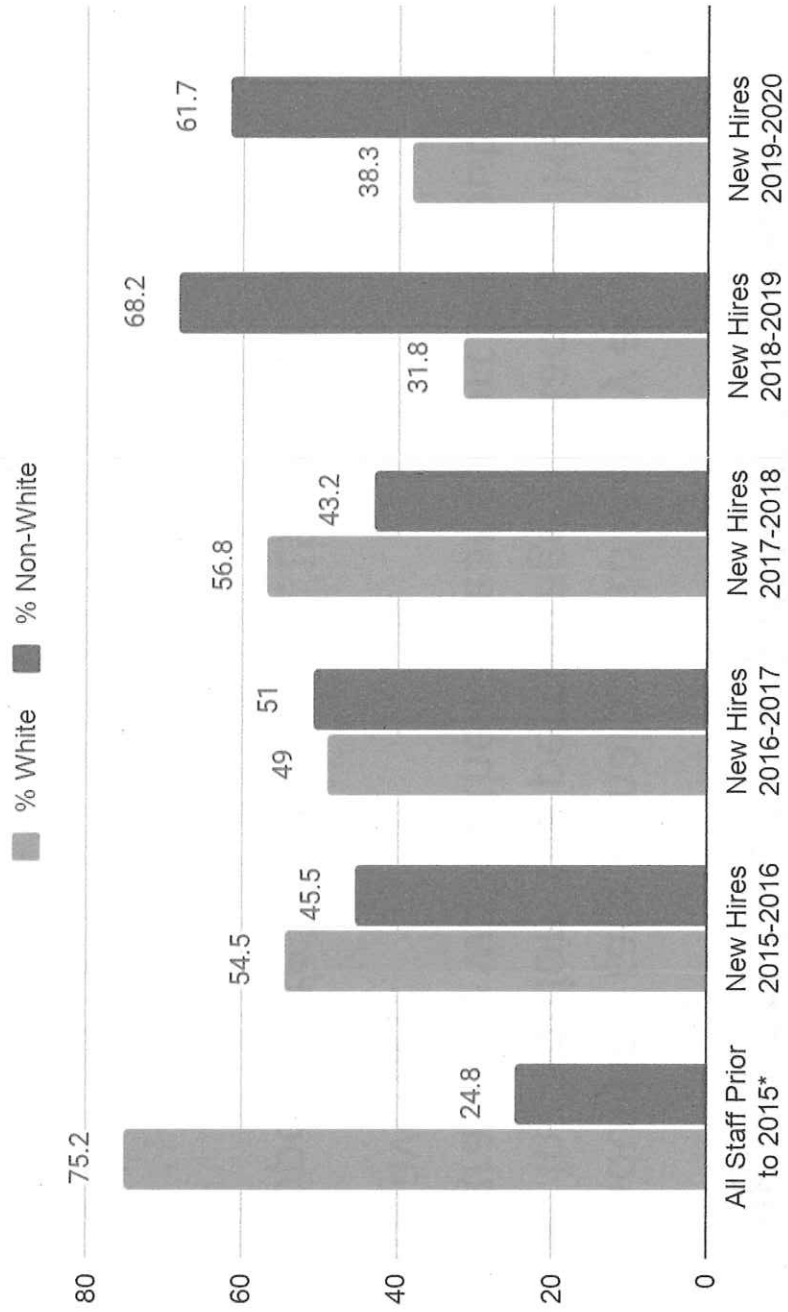
- Many data points related to student growth were unable to be reported because of the cancellation of the NJSLA and other state standardized assessments.
- The participation rates for 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> grade students taking the PSAT and the participation rate for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students taking the SAT were higher than the state average.
- The number of students who have scores that meet the state College Readiness Benchmark in both the PSAT and SAT fall within 10% of the state average
- The number of AP students taking an AP test and the number scoring a 3 or more increased.
- The percentage of students taking CTE courses is over 4X the state average.
- The number of students taking Calculus almost doubled.

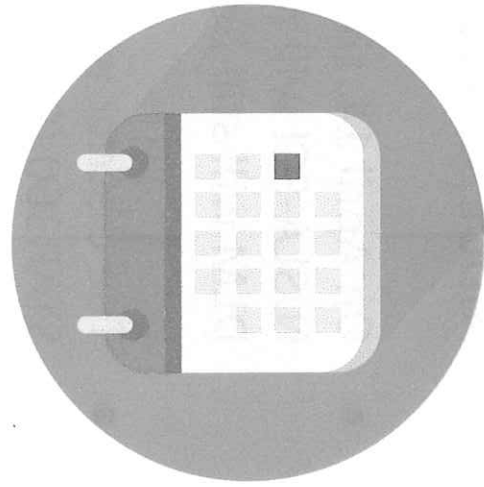


## Highlights from the 2019-2020 NJSPR

- Our overall graduation rate remains both steady and higher than the state average. In addition, the percentage of Black and Hispanic students that graduate within their 4 year cohort is about 6% higher than the state average.
- We cut our dropout rate in half, from 1.1% in 2018-2019 to .5% in 2019-2020.
- The district-wide suspension rate went down 2.6%.
- Although we did minimally increase the percentage of staff who represent the global majority, we recognize work still needs to be done in ensuring that our staff better represents our student population.

# New Hires 2015-2016 through 2019-2020 by Demographic





# Assessment Updates

## Close of SY2020-2021 Testing Updates

- At the start of April, the district submitted local testing data as required by the NJDOE. The testing data identified numbers of students scoring below, at, and above grade level in ELA, Math, and Science based on i-Ready, STAR360, and NJDOE Start Strong Assessment results.
- On April 14, the NJDOE announced that the NJSLA-ELA, NJSLA-MATH, and NJSLA-SCI will not be administered in Spring 2021, however the ACCESS and DLM will still be administered.
- The district will be administering the third diagnostic test in i-Ready (K-8) and STAR360 (9-12) during MP4.
- No formal final exams will be given; standards-focused assessments will continue to be given at the classroom level.

## September/October 2021 Testing Updates

- The district will be administering the first diagnostic test in i-Ready (K-8) and STAR360 (9-12) in September/October.
- NJDOE is requiring Fall administration of the Start Strong Assessment in ELA grades 3-10, Math grades 4-8, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Science grades 6, 9, and 12.
- We will continue to offer the PSAT for 10th and 11th grade students in October at no cost to students.
  - We opt to administer the PSAT to all students, providing them with exposure to the SAT format,. As a result, they will also receive a personalized SAT Prep plan and complimentary SAT Prep resources from College Board, which are great resources for all students in district who may decide to take the SAT.

## September/October 2021 Testing Updates - SAT

- We also plan to serve as a host school for the SAT again (date TBD), allowing students to take the SAT in district on a Saturday, usually in October and again in May. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch are able to receive a fee waiver form to offset cost.
- UHS Admin have been looking into hosting an SAT School Day. At this time, an SAT School Day is not planned, however we are committed to ongoing review of the needs of the students in this area.
  - The number of students opting out of the SAT has risen over the last school year due to the increasing number of schools going “test optional” / “test blind” and revising their admissions criteria.
  - We do offer the SAT in district twice each school year and fee waiver forms are available for students who qualify.

# LEARNING AT THE U

an interactive newsletter highlighting instruction and assessment in Union

## IN APRIL, WE CELEBRATE...

[click for more information!](#)

[National Poetry Month](#)

[Arab American Heritage Month](#)

[World Autism Month](#)

[Jazz Appreciation Month](#)

[Maths Appreciation Month](#)

[School Library Month](#)

[National Volunteer Month](#)

[Earth Day](#)

[Yom HaShoah](#)

[Armenian Remembrance Day](#)

[Ramadan](#)

[Easter](#)

[Passover](#)

[National Kindergarten Day](#)

and more!

## NJDOE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORTS

The New Jersey Department of Education has released the District and School Performance Reports for SY 2019-2020. The public can access these reports by visiting <https://rc.doe.state.nj.us> and searching by district or school. *The Township of Union Public Schools was **not** classified as a district needing comprehensive or targeted support.* To view the district-level summary, [click here](#).



NJ SCHOOL  
PERFORMANCE  
REPORT

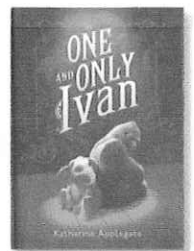


## APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

The TUPS community is encouraged to celebrate National Poetry Month in April! To participate in Poetry Madness or see other ways to celebrate, click the image to [see the National Poetry Month celebration sheet!](#)

## FRIENDSHIP, HOPE, AND THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ANIMALS AND HUMANS

Students in Grade 4 at Connecticut Farms are reading *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate, a story about a wild gorilla held in captivity for 30 years. Students are learning about how Ivan must have felt, developing empathy for others, and how friendship can develop even when there are differences. The novel helps students strengthen their understanding of fictional narrative writing.



**COMING UP IN MAY AND JUNE!**

AP Testing

i-Ready Diagnostic 3 (K-8)

STAR Diagnostics (9-12)

UHSPAC's *Once on This Island*

Teacher Appreciate Week

...and more!





# LEARNING AT THE U

## 4TH GRADE STUDENTS AT LIVINGSTON TRY TO KEEP DRY

Students in Mrs. Moore's class at Livingston Elementary School engaged in a unique STEM activity - trying to keep an action figure dry using an umbrella! Sounds easy right? It's not so easy when you have to create the umbrella from scratch! Check out how one student did by clicking on the video below!



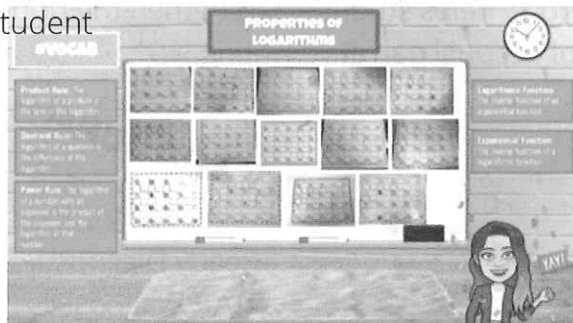
## IS YOUR PRE-K 4 STUDENT ASKING FOR A PET? HERE'S WHY!

Pre-K 4 students in Mrs. Remelgado's class will be investigating everything they can about pets in April! They will be finding answers to questions including: what kind of animals can be pets? what kinds of food do different pets eat? and where do different kinds of pets live? They will be learning about new vocabulary like *habitat*, *interact*, *carnivore*, and *herbivore*!

## EXPONENTIAL AND LOGARITHMIC FUNCTIONS

At UHS, Mrs. Fiske and Ms. Menders engaged students in exploring expanding and condensing logarithmic functions by completing a maze activity and then displayed student work virtually using bitmoji!

To learn more about logarithms - and many other topics in most subjects and grades - [check out Khan Academy by clicking here!](#)



## NJDOE ANNOUNCES NJSLA WILL NOT BE ADMINISTERED IN SPRING 2021

In response to NJDOE's request for a waiver for NJSLA testing this Spring, the United States Department of Education determined, due to the impact of COVID-19, that the Start Strong assessments that Union administered in December of 2020 in ELA, Math, and Science meets the federal testing requirement for the 2020-2021 school year.

As a result, the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) Spring Administration will be canceled. The Start Strong assessments in ELA, Math, and Science will be administered in fall 2021.

Please note that the United States Department of Education did not waive requirements to administer the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) and the ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessments. Therefore, DLM and ACCESS administration will continue with an administration window from April 5 to June 11, 2021.





# **ESSER II/Title I Summer Programs 2021**

**MAUREEN GUILFOYLE**

**DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION AND FUNDED PROGRAMS**

# ***Summer Bridge to Accelerate Learning***

The Summer Bridge to Accelerate Learning program includes enrichment opportunities for students to support their social, emotional, and academic development. Students who attend can expect to be engaged in project-based learning activities in ELA (English Language Arts), Mathematics, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Students will work collaboratively using creativity and problem-solving skills to engage with tasks designed to engage students in foundational prerequisite skills needed for success at the next grade level. The goal of the program is to build on what students already know as a way to engage with new learning and to provide instruction in academic prerequisite skills that help students be more successful in their next grade level.

# *Connecticut Farms Elementary*

Connecticut Farms Elementary School receives Federal Title I Targeted Assistance Funds to support the Title I Program. Funds are being utilized to hold a summer learning program at Connecticut Farms for the 2020-2021 school year.

In planning the Title I Summer Learning Program, consideration was given to the following:

- Remediating Learning Loss due to the Covid-19 Pandemic
- Extending learning time
- Providing high-quality programs determined by need
- Providing instruction by highly qualified staff
- Upgrading staff skills through additional training
- Coordinating and supporting students who fall below minimum standards
- Providing an engaging hands on learning experience

The Connecticut Farms Elementary School Title I Summer Program is designed to meet educational needs of those students identified as scoring below the district's minimum standards in all major subject areas and who have increased gaps in learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is our goal to have as many students attend the summer program in person as possible, but a virtual option will be offered to those who do not feel comfortable attending in person.

Students will work in small groups that will focus on fundamental reading and math skills as well as STEM and SEL. Students will be exposed to the Engineering is Elementary curriculum, and will work on projects and activities based around environmental sustainability.

**We will run an extended school year program at Connecticut Farms that will work with our current 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students. The program will run from July 6-July 23 from 8:30am-12:30pm.**

# **Franklin Elementary**

## **"Jumpstart" Summer School Program**

The program is for students who will be entering Grades K-4 in the 2021-2022 school year.

Students entering Kindergarten will receive instruction focused on social emotional development and foundational literacy skills. This pre-kindergarten transitional program is designed to help incoming kindergarten students feel confident and ready for success in school. Students will have a chance to get familiar with our school and their classroom as well as get to know their classmates before school officially starts. Children will be involved in typical kindergarten classroom activities, tour the school and experience outdoor play just like they will at recess. This fun, positive experience helps our kindergarten students become familiar with school before school begins. It supports students and families for a positive transition into kindergarten

Students entering grades 1-4 who participate in the program will receive instruction emphasizing social and emotional development, cross-curricular learning in math and reading, as well as problem solving and critical thinking skills. In addition, there will be instruction focused on improving grade level skills in ELA and Mathematics. The Summer learning program will provide students with additional learning opportunities filled with rigorous and relevant instruction, as well as student-centered learning and enrichment experiences.

**The program will be held from Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
This program will begin on Wednesday JULY 7th, 2021, and run through Friday, July 30th, 2021**

\*\*Courses will be scheduled, and teachers will deliver content in-person.  
Virtual options will be offered for students who request it. \*\*

# ***Jefferson Elementary***

Jefferson Elementary School will use Title I funds to provide a summer learning program. The program provides students with enhanced learning opportunities in the areas of mathematics, ELA, and cross-curricular project-based learning activities through STEM instruction. Students will receive small group instruction in the areas of ELA, mathematics, STEM, and physical education, all infused with SEL. The prerequisite skills from 4th grade will be taught in math and ELA. Small group and targeted instruction are utilized by all teachers to improve student's ELA and mathematics skills needed to meet the state's rigorous academic standards.

**The program will be in-person with a virtual option and run from July 6th - July 16th from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm.**

# ***Burnet Middle School***

Students with a Goal (S.W.A.G)

Burnet Middle School is proud to announce will be offering the Summer Accelerated S.W.A.G. program. The program will be offered to all Burnet Middle School students who are enrolled in 6th, 7th and 8th grade for the 2021-2022 academic school year. The program will offer courses in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA), Math, STEM, and Social Emotional Learning. Courses will focus on the identified essential standard as determined by grade level department staff and supervisors to ensure standards mastery. Staff will use a variety of strategies to monitor, assess, and provide feedback to students about their learning throughout the program.

There will be two sessions: July 6<sup>th</sup>- July 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:30-12 (Tentative)

July 27<sup>th</sup>-Aug 13<sup>th</sup> 8:30-12

# ***Union High School***

## **8th - 9th Grade Transition Program:**

Students transitioning from 8th to 9th grade will be given the opportunity to participate in a High School preparatory program. Interested students will be invited to the high school to partake in a two week in-person experience covering a range of topics aimed to best prepare our incoming freshmen. These topics may include:

- Study skills
- Organizational skills
- Time management
- UHS Code of Conduct
- Building Tour
- Conflict resolution/ social skills
- Advocating for yourself - both in conversation and in email
- G-suite tutorial
- Outline of graduation requirements
- Clubs, activities, etc
- UHS FAQ



# ***Union High School***

**Credit Recovery:** This program will allow students to earn credit for a class they failed during the 2019-2020 school year. Students must complete 60 hours of coursework to receive credit as mandated by the state of New Jersey. **ATTENTION SENIORS** - this is especially important if you need credit(s) to graduate. On the registration form, a summer contract will be provided, and the 5-week program will begin at the conclusion of the regular school year. This will be offered in a hybrid format where students will attend in-person classes two days per week and will work both synchronously and asynchronously on the other three days. The courses being offered for Summer School Credit Recovery are:

- **English 9**
- **English 10**
- **English 11**
- **English 12**
- **Biology**
- **Algebra 1**
- **Geometry**

July 1-July 29 9am-11:30am



# ***Union High School***

Advancement: This program allows students to earn ORIGINAL credit in a course of interest. 120 hours of seat time must be completed for credit to be awarded as per the NJ State Law. Students enrolled in these advancement courses will be required to take proctored midterm and final exams that mirror the traditional exam. The classes being offered for this program are:

- Financial Literacy
- Physics
- Algebra 2
- Pre-Calculus
- Probability and Statistics
- Accounting 1

Mon-Fri July 1- July 29

# ***Union High School***

**AP/Honors Bootcamp:** The AP/Honors boot-camp is designed for students entering upper level science and math courses to be best prepared for the coursework they will be undertaking in the coming school year. There will be time designated to review the following information:

- Prior knowledge that students should know entering the course.
- Challenging topics that students will encounter in the course.
- Best practices and study skills that will allow the students enrolled in these challenging courses to be best prepared to succeed.
- The bootcamp will take place in-person.

July 1-July 15 10am-11:30am

## Return to Hybrid Learning Survey

- 932 parents, 303 students, and 218 teachers responded

### Hybrid Parents

- 93.3% reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the communication from the district.
- 89.7% reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of instruction their students were receiving.
- 97.% reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the safety of their students while in the buildings.
- 48.6% of parents felt that the quality of instruction had increased since the return to hybrid.

### Virtual Parents

- 87.7% reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the communication from the district.
- 83.9% reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of instruction their students were receiving.
- 10.7% of parents felt that the quality of instruction had *worsened* since the return to hybrid.

### Hybrid Students

- 87.3% reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the communication from the district.
- 90.1% reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of instruction they were receiving.
- 94.6% reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the safety while in the buildings.
- 59.5% of students felt that the quality of instruction had increased since the return to hybrid.
- 38.7% of students reported participating in break out groups 3 or more times a week.
- Zoom, Nearpod, and Clever are the most popular platforms being used.

### Virtual Students

- 77.6% reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the communication from the district.
- 75.5% reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of instruction they were receiving.
- 9.9% of students felt that the quality of instruction had worsened since the return to hybrid.
- 38.1% of students reported participating in break out groups 3 or more times a week.
- Zoom, Nearpod, and Clever are the most popular platforms being used.

#### Hybrid Staff

- 82.2% reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the communication from the district.
- 85.6% reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with safety in the buildings.
- 71.1% reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the training the district provided related to hybrid instruction.
- Zoom, GoGuardian Teacher, and Google Suite were the most popular platforms.

#### Virtual Staff

- 90.4% reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the communication from the district.
- 76.7% reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the training the district provided related to hybrid instruction.
- Zoom, GoGuardian Teacher, and Google Suite were the most popular platforms.

# *Township of Union*

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## *Public Schools*

**Gerry Benaquista**  
**Acting Superintendent**

March 26, 2021

To the TUPS Community,

I am extremely honored to present to you the building-level winners of the 2021 Virtual Union County Teacher Recognition Program. With all that our teachers are doing to educate our students during these unprecedented times, we know that many of our teachers are doing great things and should be recognized for their all their hard work.

The 2021 Virtual Union County Teacher Recognition Program recognizes teachers that go above and beyond their regular duties to truly make an impact on their school, district, or community. These teachers find creative ways to make material accessible to their students, stay up to date with best practices, and serves as a role model for their students. Nominating Committees at each building gathered all nominations from the building staff and are proud to announce this year's winners:

Susan Lisanti, Battle Hill Elementary School  
Christina Lam, Connecticut Farms Elementary School  
Courtney McCarthy, Franklin Elementary School  
Alexia Moriello, Hannah Caldwell Elementary School  
Elise Iovine, Livingston Elementary School  
Cheryl Calabrese, Washington Elementary School  
Samantha Formica, Jefferson School  
Kim Villane, Burnet Middle School  
Amanda Maxwell, Kawameeh Middle School  
William Eichert, Union High School

Please join me in congratulating these outstanding teachers by sharing with them your appreciation for their continued dedication to our students and their school communities!

We will be coordinating with other districts in Union County to create a Virtual Union County Teacher Recognition Program that can be viewed on any day of the week of May 24, 2021. This virtual celebration will be organized with a local videography specialist to share congratulatory messages and special guest messages.

Sincerely,

*Township of Union*

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*Public Schools*

**Gerry Benaquista**  
**Acting Superintendent**



Gerry Benaquista  
Acting Superintendent



# Burnet MS Barbarians

Mr. Churus, Taylor Hodges-Freeland, Donovan Jimenez, Darian Cancel

Board of Education: 04/27/2021







# GSE Rocket League Champions

- Experience
- Games done in Conquest Format
- Hard work paying off
- It was an unbelievable experience



# Non-Player Roles

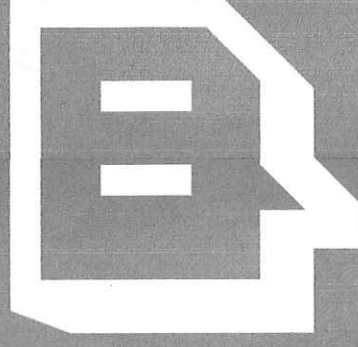
Esports is not just about playing games, we are planning on bringing in several non-player roles next year. Such as:

- Commentators
- Social Media Managers
- Artists
- Video Editors



## Twitch and streaming.

- Challenges of having spectators remotely
- Rise of streaming
- Finding a home on Twitch
  - <https://www.twitch.tv/burnetmsbarbarians>





# Beyond Middle School

As esports has risen in popularity it has also started growing in schools and colleges. There are several colleges that offer scholarships for esports players and esport related programs.

Some professions that are connected to esports can include:

- Team management
- Content Creators
- Financial Management
- Game Developer

