



TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

April 29, 2025



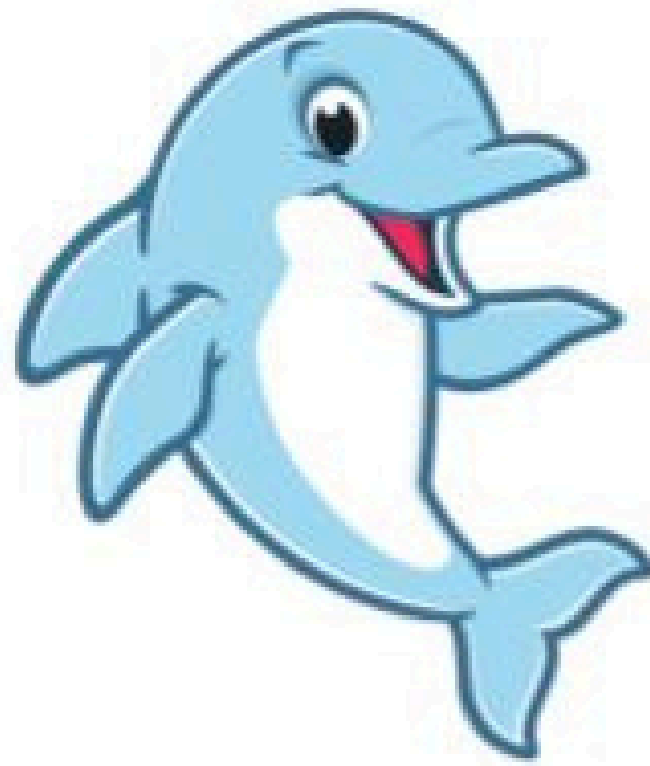
SCHOOL PRESENTATION

David Shaw
Hannah Caldwell Elementary School
Principal



Adriana Teixeira
PTA President

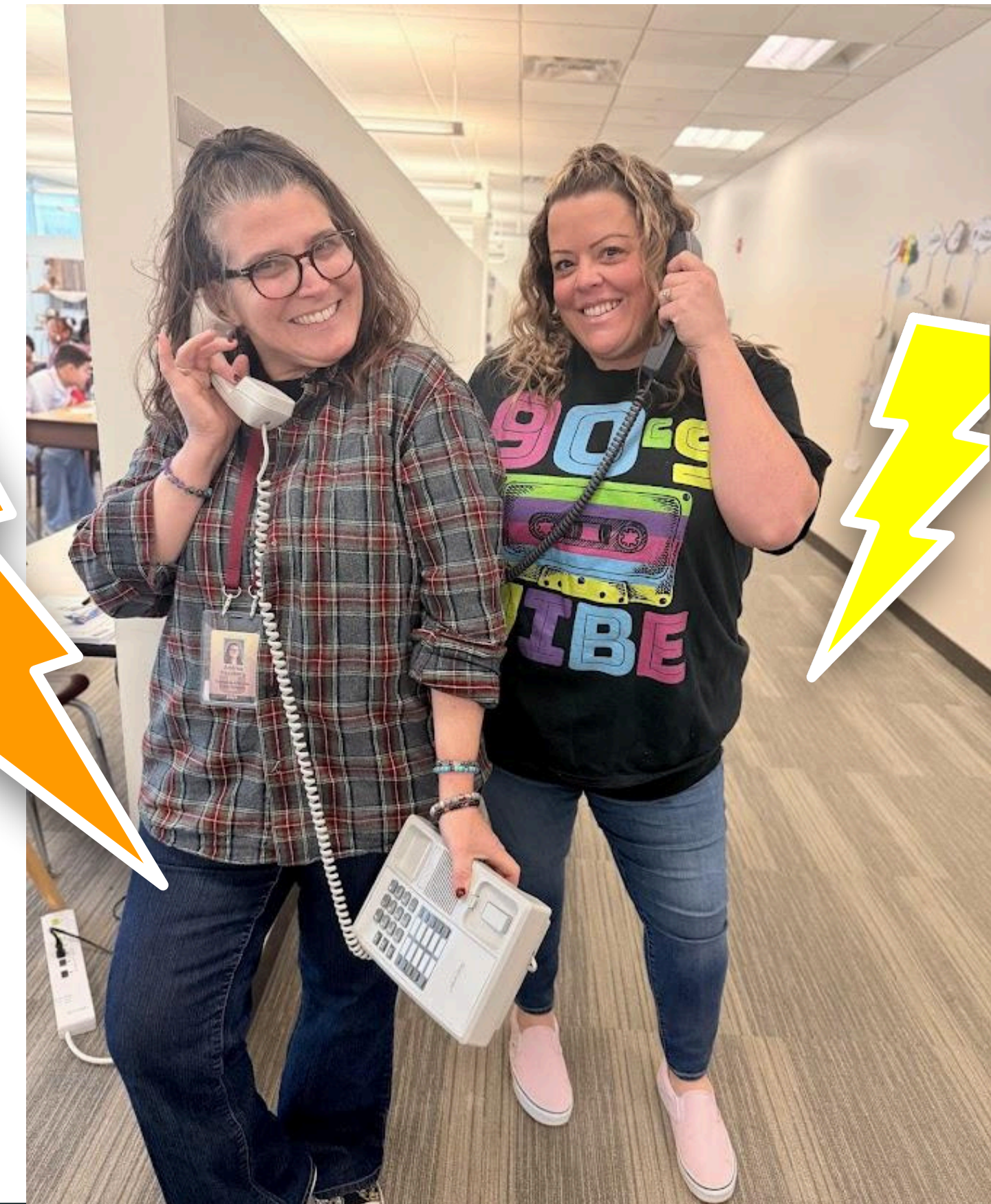
Hannah Caldwell Elementary School



**A YEAR OF GROWTH IN
RESILIENCE
COMMUNITY
&
SPIRIT**



4th Grade 90's Day

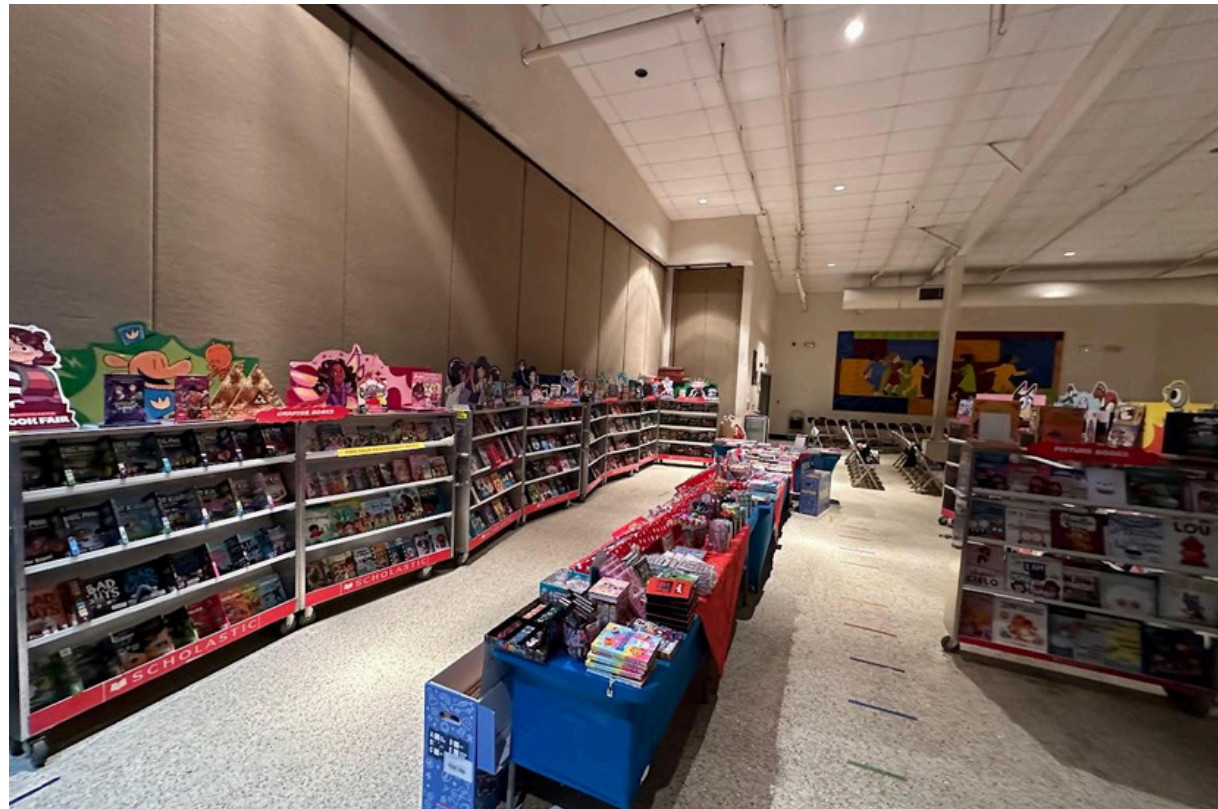


4th Grade Walk A Thon Fundraiser



Welcome
Back -
Teacher
Snack
Treats

PTA Event



Scholastic
Book Fair -
Fundraiser

PTA Event

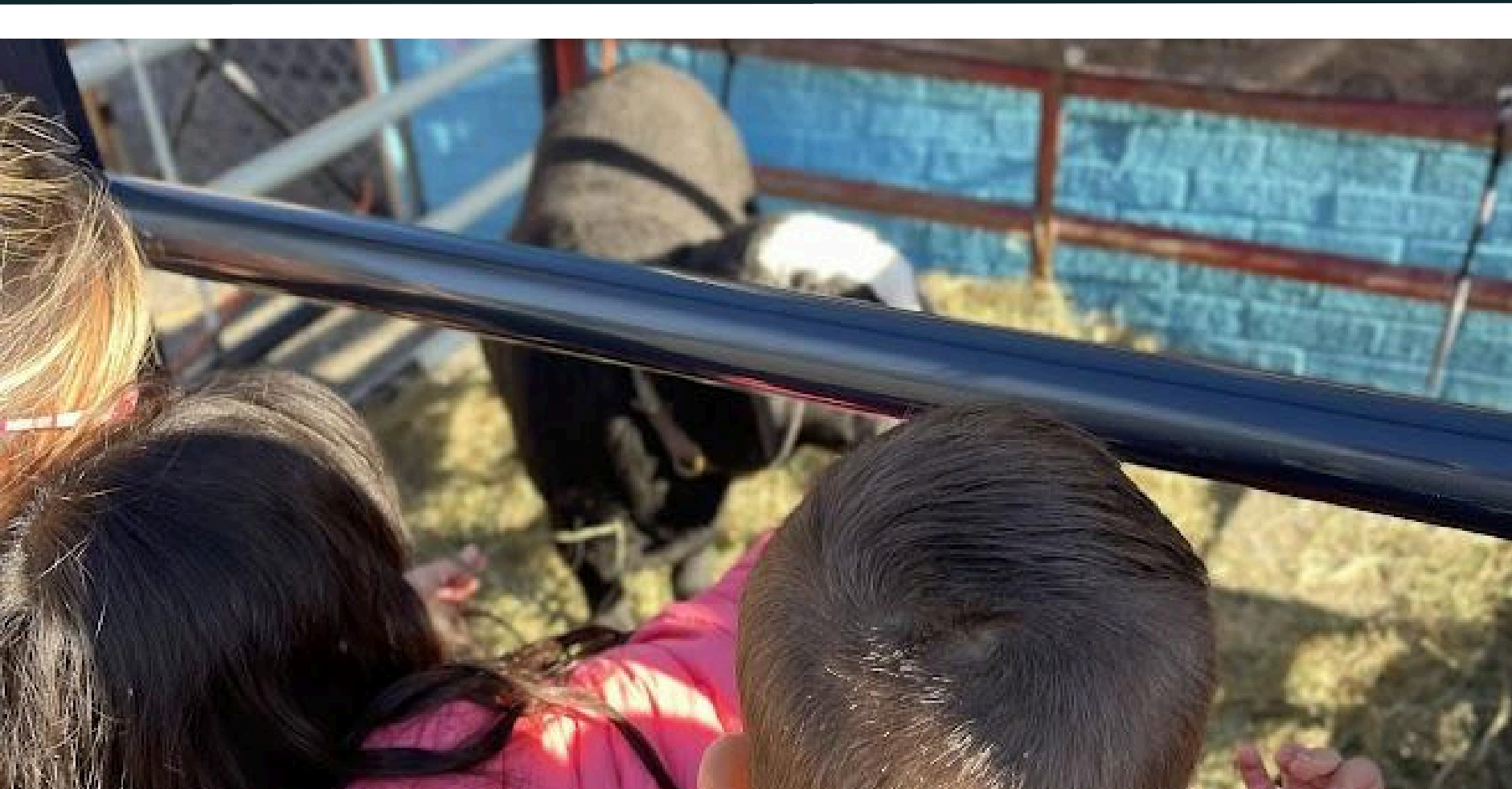


3rd & 4th
Grade Winter
Concert at
Washington
School



Fall Festival - Pumpkin Patch & Petting Zoo

PTA Event





Family Fun Night - Halloween Dance at UHS

PTA Event



Hannah Caldwell - Field Day



Halloween Parade with UPD



**Holiday
Teacher
Breakfast

PTA Event**



**Hop Into
Spring -
Teacher
Lunch**

PTA Event

4th Grade Basketball Game Fundraiser at UHS

Parent Vs.
Students





Family Fun
Night -
Lucky To Have
You Dance

PTA Event

Family Fun
Night -
Karaoke
Night

PTA Event



Family Fun
Night - Movie
Night

PTA Event

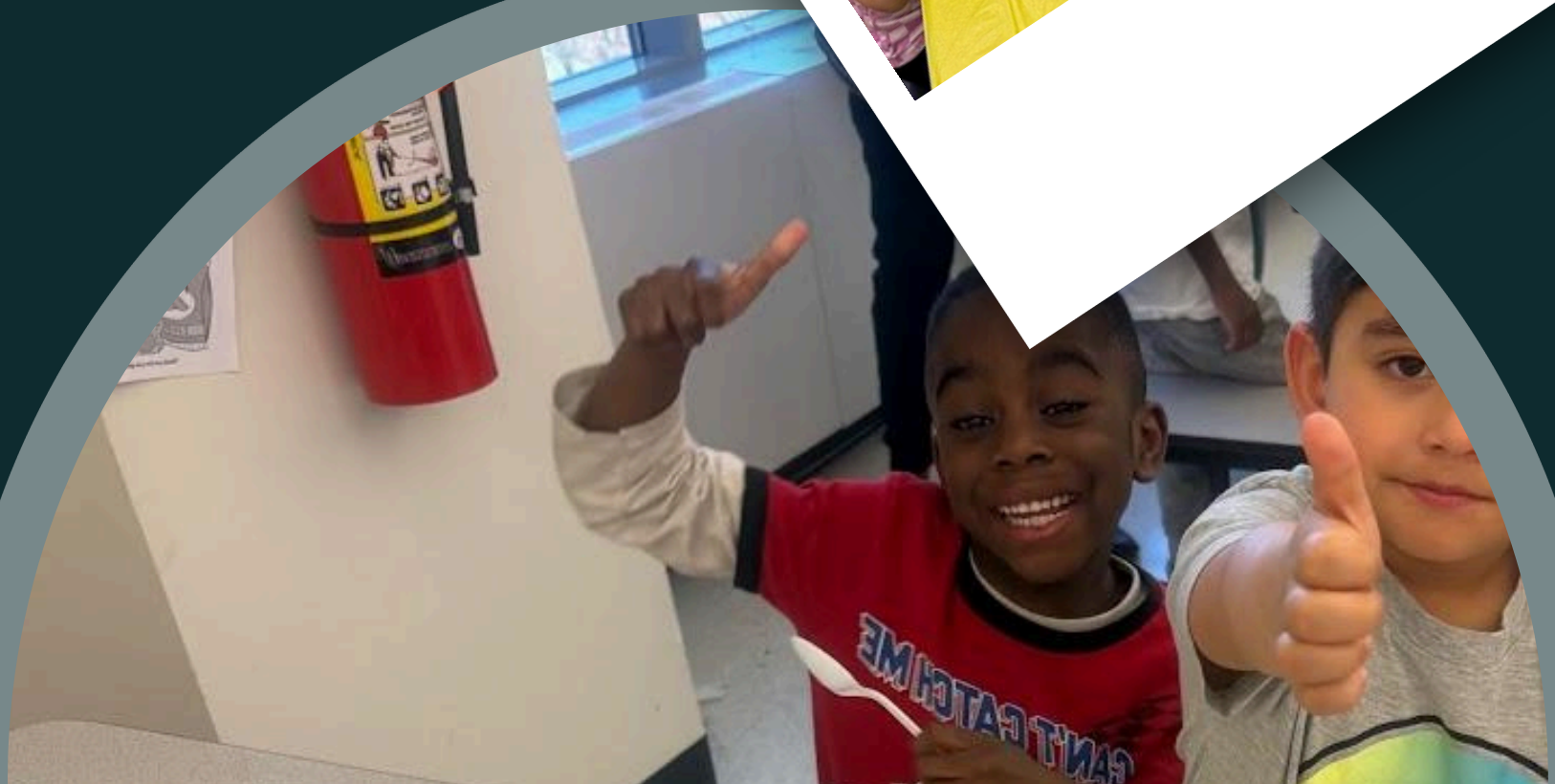


Chuck E Cheese Fundraiser



**Ice Cream
Social -
In House**

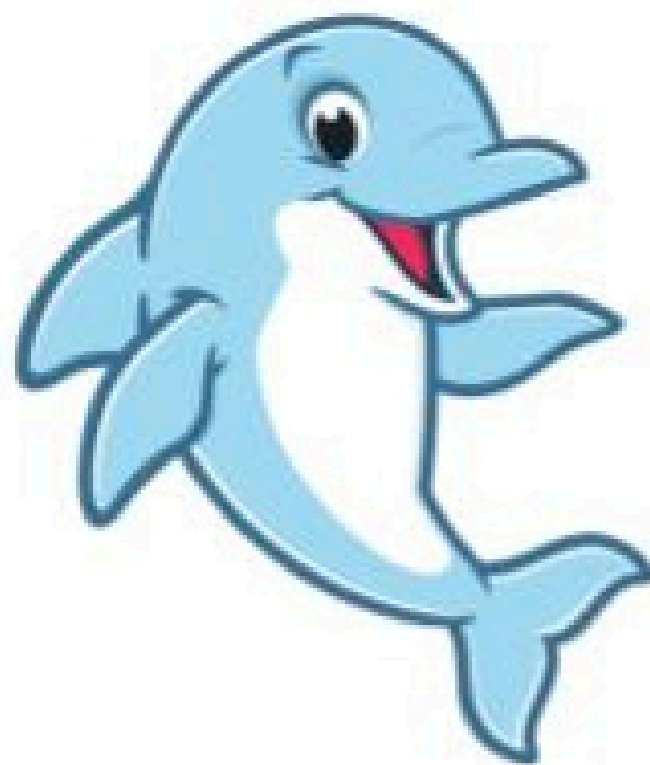
PTA Event



**A day at the
Liberty Hall
Museum
@ Kean
University**



Hannah Caldwell Elementary School



**A YEAR OF GROWTH IN
RESILIENCE
COMMUNITY
&
SPIRIT**



SCHOOL PRESENTATION



Althea Bossard

Union High School, Principal

William Eichert, Vice Principal

Cheryl Fiske, Vice Principal

Shawn Paterno, Vice Principal

Desmond Stapleton, Vice Principal

Lori Montoya

PTA President



It's All About U

UNION HIGH SCHOOL





MTSS Peer Tutoring

- **Peer Tutoring- Marking Period 3**

- Student Selection Process of Peer Tutors
- Application Process for Tutee Requesting Services in ELA/Math
- Development/Implementation of Schedule- AM/Lunch/After-school
- Monitoring of Tutoring Sessions

- Vice Principals
- Admin Interns
- Teachers

Tutor Incentive	Tutee (Student) Incentive
Community Service Hours	Personalized/Individualized Instruction- academic improvement

Honor Roll Winners

Criteria:

Principal's Honor Roll - Straight A's

High Honor Roll - All A's and one B

Honor Roll - All A's, B's, and one C+

MP1-

HIGH - 683

HONOR - 117

PRINCIPAL - 216

MP2 -

HIGH - 580

HONOR - 121

PRINCIPAL - 209

Honors/Advanced Courses

- Honors Biology
- Honors Chemistry
- English 9 Honors
- English 10 Honors
- English 11 Honors
- English 12 Honors
- Honors Geometry
- Honors Pre-Calculus
- Honors Algebra II
- Honors French (multiple levels)
- Honors Spanish (multiple levels)
- Honors German (multiple levels)
- Honors Humanities
- Statistics
- Calculus
- Honors Spanish IV (Project Acceleration)
- Honors World History
- Honors United States History I & II
- Advanced Musical Theater
- Advanced Drawing
- Advanced Ceramics
- Advanced Painting

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses (CollegeBoard)

- Advanced Placement Biology
- Advanced Placement Chemistry
- Advanced Placement Physics I
- Advanced Placement Literature and Composition
- Advanced Placement Language and Composition
- AP Pre-Calculus
- AP Calculus
- AP Statistics
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Computer Science Principles
- Advanced Placement Psychology
- Advanced Placement United States History I and II
- AP African American History
- AP Government and Politics
- Advanced Placement Art Studio
- AP Music Theory
- Advanced Placement Photography

Certification Programs & College Credits

- **Cosmetology-** At the successful completion of this course, students will have the opportunity to take the Cosmetology State Board Licensing exams (practical and written) for certification and licensing as a professional cosmetologist.
- **CAD- AutoCAD CERTIFICATION-** The AutoCAD Certification include both academic and industry requirements designed to confirm that Autodesk AutoCAD software users have the skills necessary to continue their design careers whether they attend college, enter the workforce, or work toward additional levels of industry certification.

Certification Programs & College Credits

- **JROTC-Students** will have the opportunity for four-year college scholarships offered by ROTC programs of the Army, Navy and Air Force. This JROTC program also provides nominations to the United States Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy. For students who wish to take advantage of the GI Bill for college, JROTC provides highschool graduates with advanced promotion and higher pay when enlisting in the active U.S. Armed Services, Reserves or National Guard. A student who participates in JROTC has absolutely no obligation to serve in the Armed Services of the United States.
- **TOMORROW'S TEACHERS-** A program to encourage students with exemplary interpersonal skills to consider teaching as a career. This program develops future community leaders who will become civic advocates for public education. The course is for Junior and Senior students. Students receive three credits from Kean University after completing the course. Students complete fifty observation hours at schools all across Union!

JROTC Accomplishments

- Maintained designation of Honor Unit with Distinction (HUD) ranking Union HS JROTC in the Top 10% out of 1700 JROTC programs nationwide.
- Won State of New Jersey Drill Championship for 25th consecutive year.
- Nominated by the Army to represent New Jersey at the National High School Drill Championship in Daytona Beach, Florida where it will be defending the National Championship Title captured in May 2024.
- 120 out of 128 cadets participated in the Union County St Patrick's Day Parade.
- Conducted a fundraiser which raised \$36,560 for the program.

Certification Programs & College Credits

TOMORROW'S TEACHERS: On Tuesday April 29th, we had our first ever educator signing day in the UHS Library. This event was for graduates of the Tomorrow's Teachers Program at UHS who are committed to study education next year at the postsecondary level and plan on one day entering the field of education, hopefully back in Union!

Victoria Adebisi	Montclair State University	Elementary Education
Victoria Butter	UCNJ (Union College of NJ)	Early Childhood Education
Katelyn Cunha	The College of New Jersey	Katelyn- Art Education
Kayla Cunha	The College of New Jersey	Kayla- Elementary Education with a Concentration in Special Education
Kailey Houston	Rider University	Elementary Education
Jamiya Jones	Norfolk State University	Mathematics/Teacher Cert
Grace Lescano	UCNJ (Union College of NJ)	General Education
Tacara Russ	Rutgers University- New Brunswick	Education - 5 year (B.A./B.S. M.Ed option)

Colleges and Universities Students have Attended

- Boston College
- Colgate
- Cornell
- Drexel University
- Duke
- Georgetown
- Harvard
- Johns Hopkins
- Notre Dame
- NYU
- Penn State
- Pitt
- Princeton
- University of Virginia
- USC
- University of Pennsylvania
- US Military Academy
- Villanova
- Vanderbilt
- Kean
- William Paterson
- NJIT
- Rutgers
- Montclair
- Caldwell
- UTI
- Lincoln Tech
- UCC
- TCNJ
- Hampton
- Howard
- Morgan State
- North Carolina A&T
- Florida A&M
- Bethune Cookman
- Armed Forces
- Stockton
- UNC Chapel Hill
- American
- Misericordia
- Rowan
- Rider
- Ramapo
- West Point

Athletic Accomplishments 2024 - 2025 School Year

Fall Athletics

Gymnastics: Lailah Willis 1st Place vault at Counties, 1st Team All County for vault, beam and all round, 2nd Team all-County for bars and floor. Advanced to individual state finals on Vault and Bars

Girls Soccer: Courtney Lamadieu and Gabriella Romero – First Team All-Conference
Isabella Runa and Sophia Couto – Second Team All-Conference
Emily Filian and Kayla Rodriguez – Honorable Mention All-Conference

Boys Soccer: George Asante and Matheus Lopes – First Team All-Conference
Gabriel McGee –Honorable Mention All Conference
George Asante – First Team All-County
Matheus Lopes – Second Team All-County
Tyler Monteiro, Kayden Grave, Jon Genao, Paula Ferreira, George Asante – All State

Athletic Accomplishments 2024-25 School Year

Girls Volleyball: Samantha Haug- First Team All-Conference

Kaitlyn DeJesus, Marissa Jean Baptiste – Honorable Mention All Conference

Football: Dallas Tullis, Kervin Desir and Bryan Accinot - First Team All-Conference

Dakari Dugger and Babadara Olowe – Second Team All-Conference

Cross Country: Markus Hernandez, Paul Oyem, Lucas Sena, Alpha Camara – First Team All-Conference

Dubem Okafor, Samantha Dinicolas– All Conference Honorable Mention

Field Hockey: Elena Jensen – First Team All Conference

Sarah Cervendieu – 2nd Second Team All Conference

Grace Fisher , Amarachi Egbutu, Charlotte Garland – Honorable Mention All- Conference

Athletic Accomplishments 2024-25 School Year

WINTER

Wrestling: Ariel Azeredo (35-8) 1st
Place County Champion

1st Place District Champion
3rd Place in North 2 Region
Mark Belfleur (24-14) 2nd Place in
District

Aaron Acevedo (9-16) 3rd Place in
Districts

Aidan Cross (27-7) Par-Hills Tournament
Champion

Gabe Hargrove (34-9) 1st Place Dover
Tournament

3rd Place in UCT/2nd Place in Districts
Par Hills Tournament Champion

Obreight Ingram (31-9)

Par-Hills Champion

2nd Place in Districts

Jaydon Robles (20-17) 3rd
Place in UCT

Nick Bertolotti (29-13)
2nd Place in Districts

Winter Track:

Caleb Duvelson State Champion

Mikarla Portuondo State Champion

Babadara Olowe State Champion

Sharagaye Able State Champion

Eshy Christian State Champion

Liyanna Muscat State Champion

J'Nay Camara State Champion

Student Academic & Athletic Accomplishments

- Peter Nyangweso made it to states for the American Legion Oratorical Contest
- Numerous scholarship winners celebrated at our annual Senior Awards Night
- Damian Koziol: Unsung Hero for Union County
- Rotary Club Speech Award winner yearly
- Boys State - 11 candidates, as of right now 6 will definitely
- NJSIAA Scholar Athlete - Candice Otoo - Cheerleading, Flag football, Volleyball.
- Gabriel Hargrove - Wrestling

UNION HIGH SCHOOL





DIVERSITY





LOVE



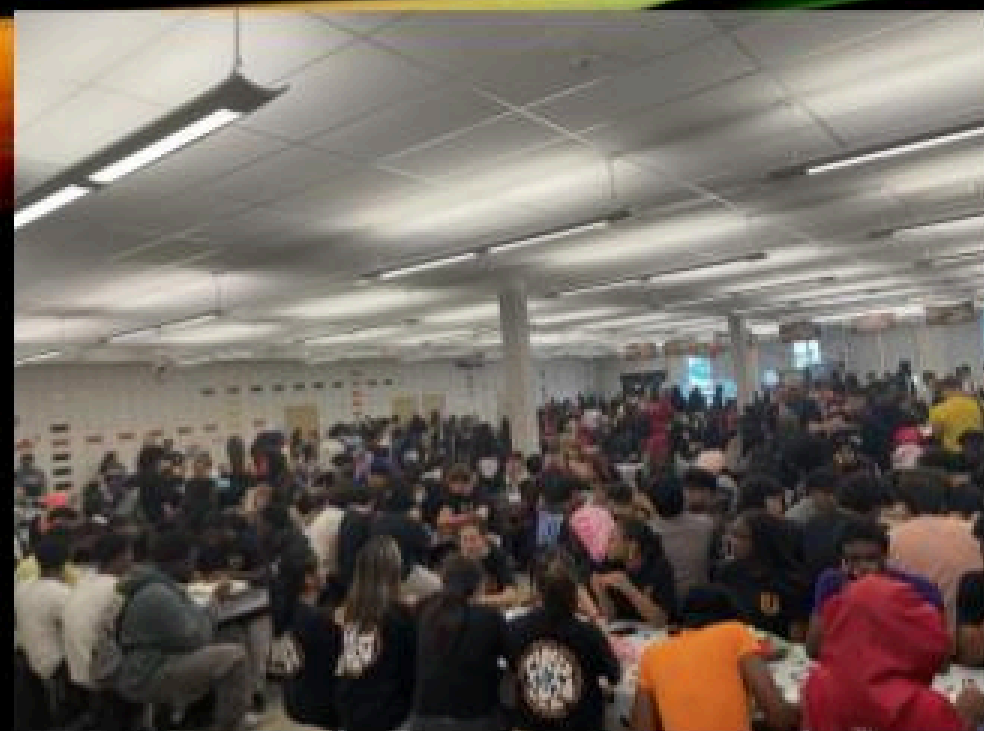


FRIENDSHIPS





Helping the 5th
Quarter Club



Senior
Activities



Ice Cream
Social



Partnerships



Freshman
Orientation



Sophomore
Party



Junior Bonfire

UNITY

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
FY26
PROPOSED BUDGET**

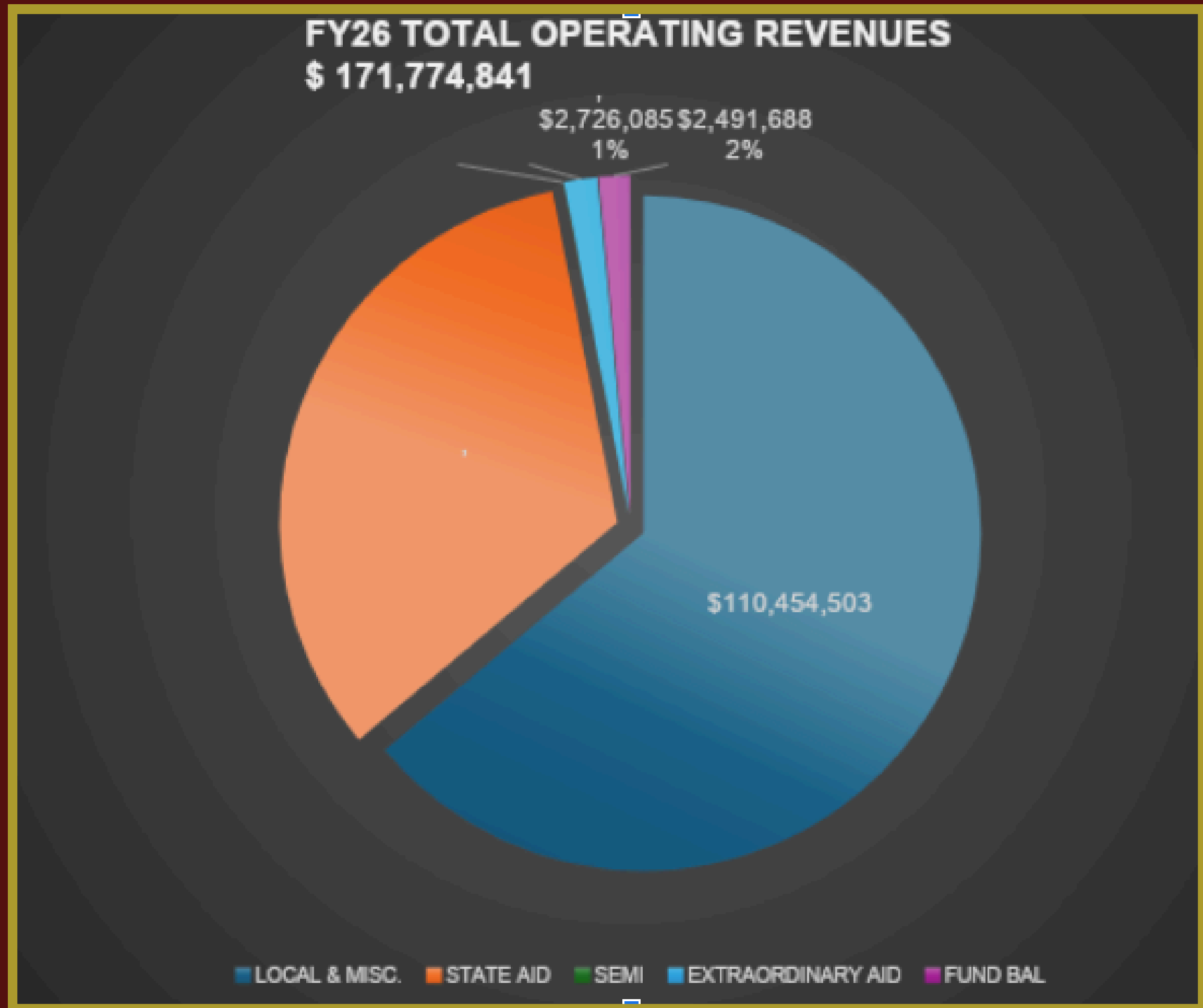
**\$186,923,489 MILLION
(ALL FUNDS)**

**DECREASE OF \$1,314,528
(OVER LAST YEAR BUDGET)**

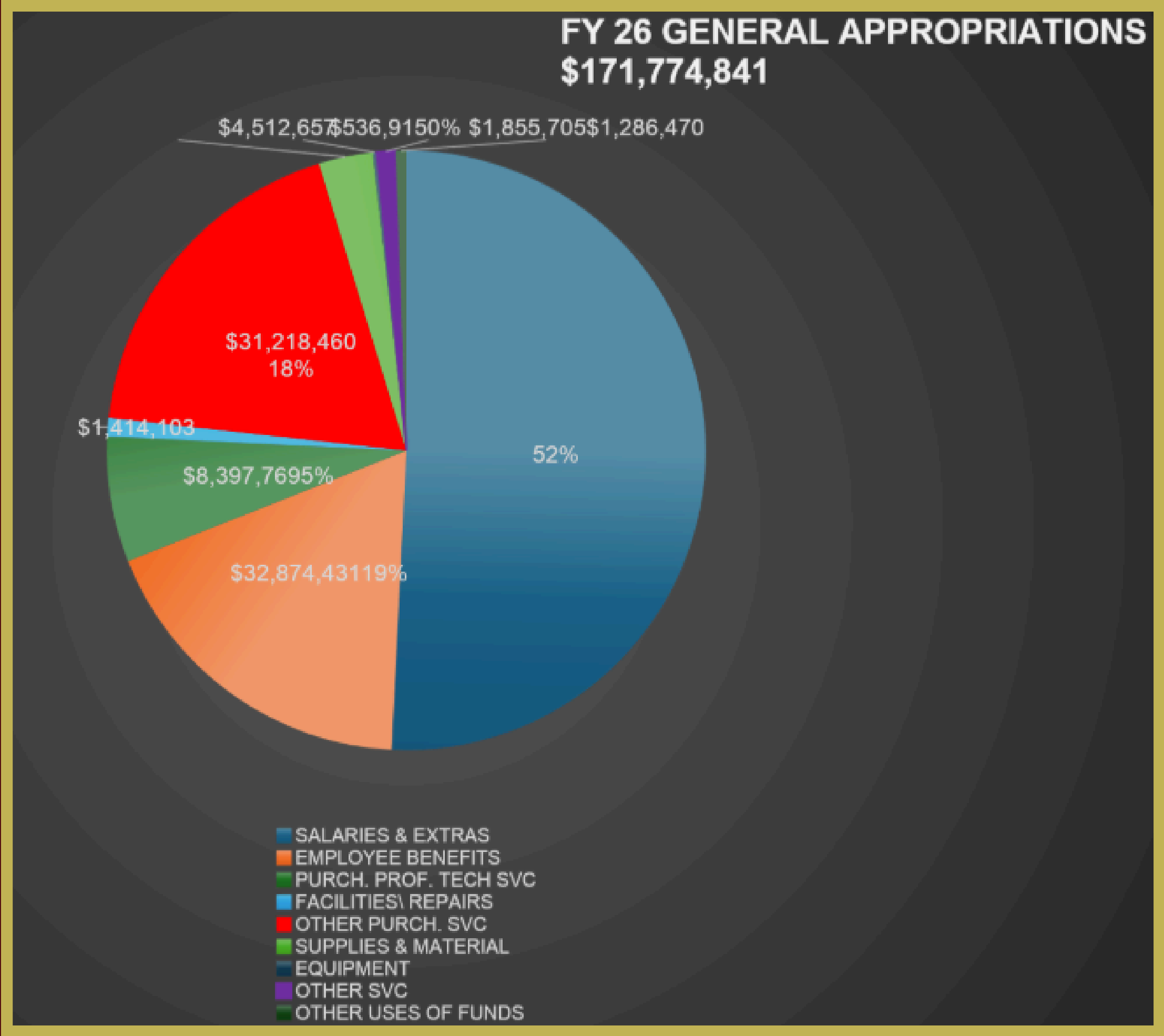
(.70)% DECREASE(ROUNDED)



FY26 REVENUE SOURCES



PROJECTED
FY26
APPROPRIATIONS



By Alan Mowle

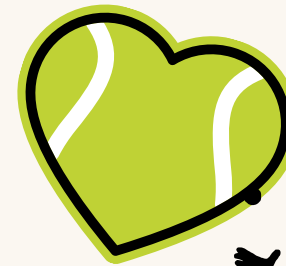
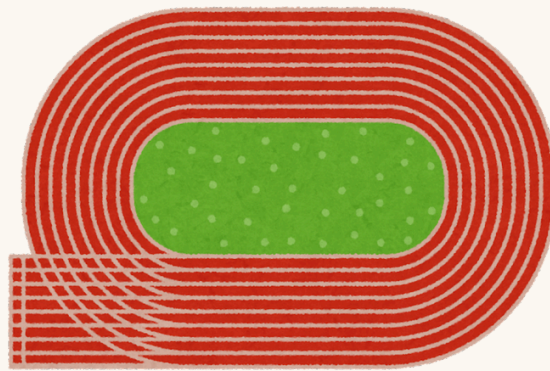


Events around the TUPS



SPORTS

**we have over 400 student athletes
throughout the district!**





UPCOMING DATES



NJSLA TESTING

NJSLA Testing for grades 9 and 11 began yesterday and will last until friday, grades 10 and 12 are to come in on a delayed schedule.

AP TESTING

Students are finalizing preperation for their AP Tests. The tests will start to commence next monday, May 5th, and last for about two weeks.

DECISION DAY

Decision day for UHS seniors is this thursday, May 1st. Seniors have the choice to come in wearing merchandise from the college or university that they have decided to attend.

**UHS Girls Flag
football
currently has
an incredible
record of 4
wins 0 losses
and 1 tie**



**The JV Boys
Volleyball
Team placed
third at their
Livingston
invitational
tournament.**



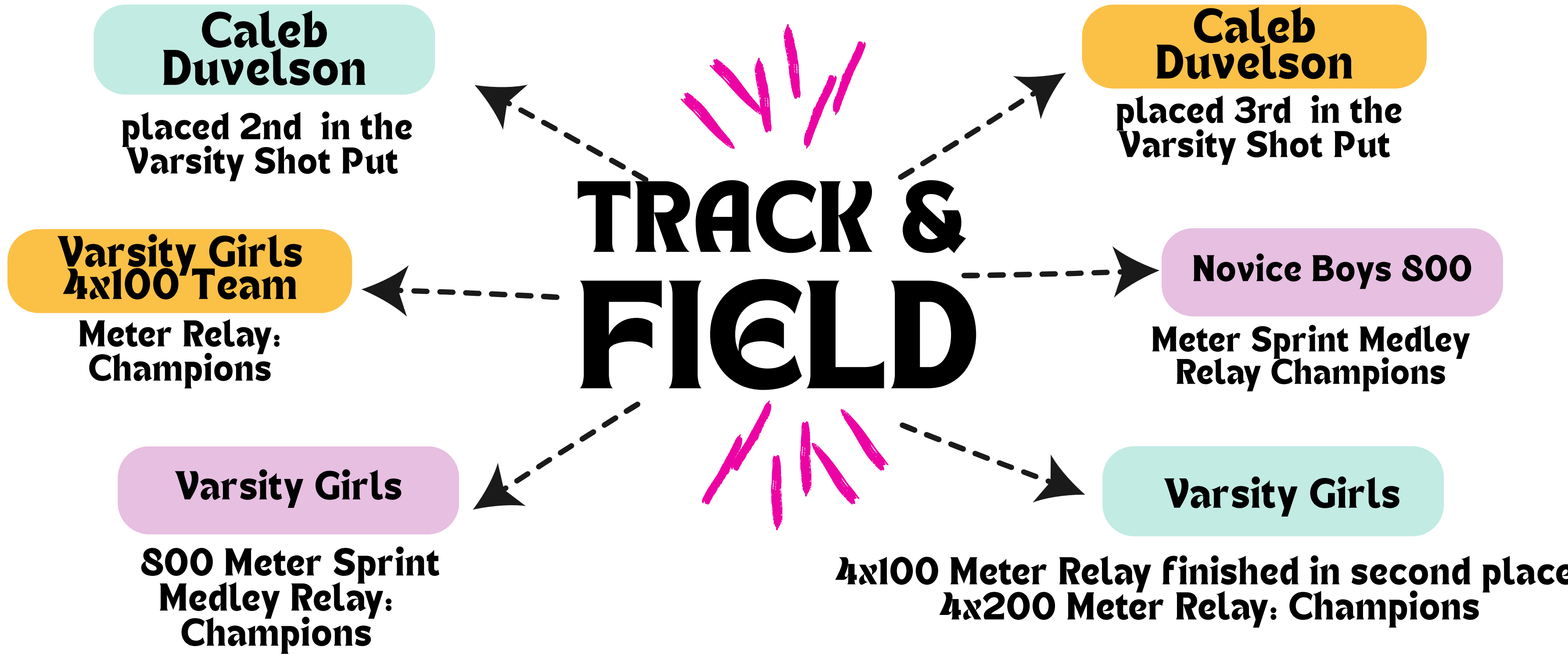
**The Freshman Boys Volleyball Team
won the Livingston Freshman
Invitational, finishing with 8 wins and a
single loss**

**This past week the UHS softball team
defeated Caldwell High School 11-7
and Union Catholic 11-7.**

**This past weekend qualifying members
of our boys and girls track meet
competed in the Penn Relays held at the
University of Pennsylvania's historic
Franklin Field.**

Summit Relays April 5th

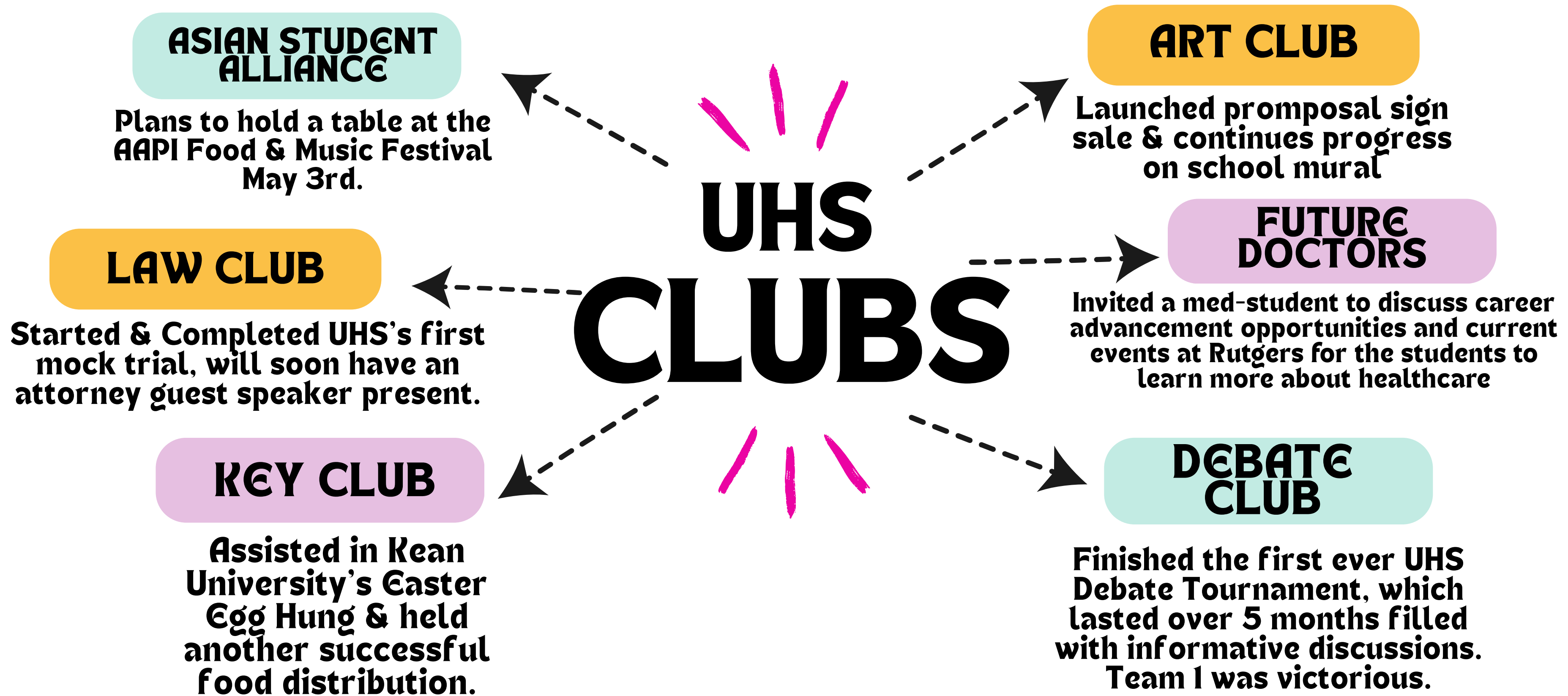
Morris Hills Relays April 19th



UHS BOYS BASEBALL

The UHS Baseball team attended the lemonade stand to support Washington School student Camryn Dudek and sister of our baseball manager Donovan Ressinger. The team is pictured with the Union Police Department who also attended the lemonade stand.







Take Your Kids to Work Day

The kids were able to visit the UPD, UFD, the new theater & studio, and schools. They learned lessons on public safety & community service



Annual Black History Month Essay Contest

The Vauxhall Historical Society honored winners at Jefferson School, recognizing enthusiastic student teams from multiple classrooms, with first place awarded to classes taught by Ms. Jasmine, Ms. Mcalmont, and Mrs. Gabriel.



Union Rotary Club Honors Students for Exemplary Citizenship

The Rotary Club of Union honored fourth-graders Michael Mwaniki and Brian Trotman with the Herb Singe Sr. Good Citizenship Student Award for exemplifying kindness, leadership, and the values of Rotary's four-way test.

HIGHLIGHTING THE FUTURE

Recognizing Excellence in
our Union Community

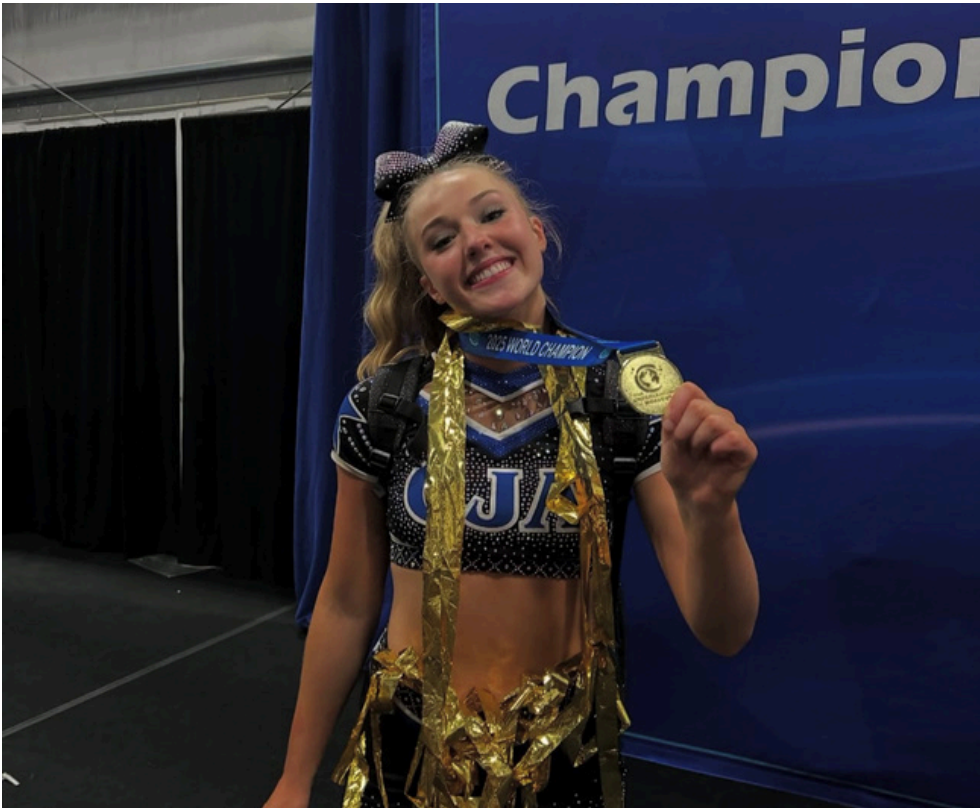
Gabriel Hargrove

Allison Zeiser

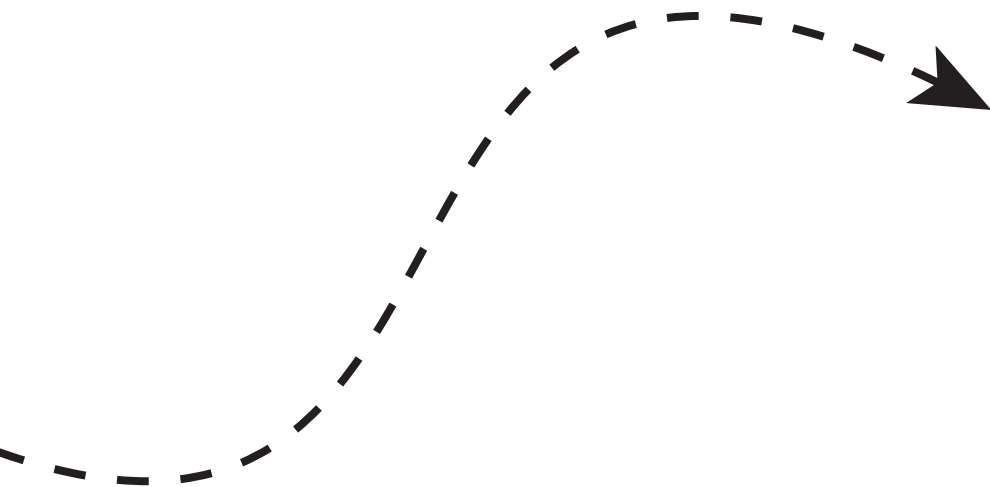
Desmond Igbinoson

Raymond Reily

Jeremiah Desormes



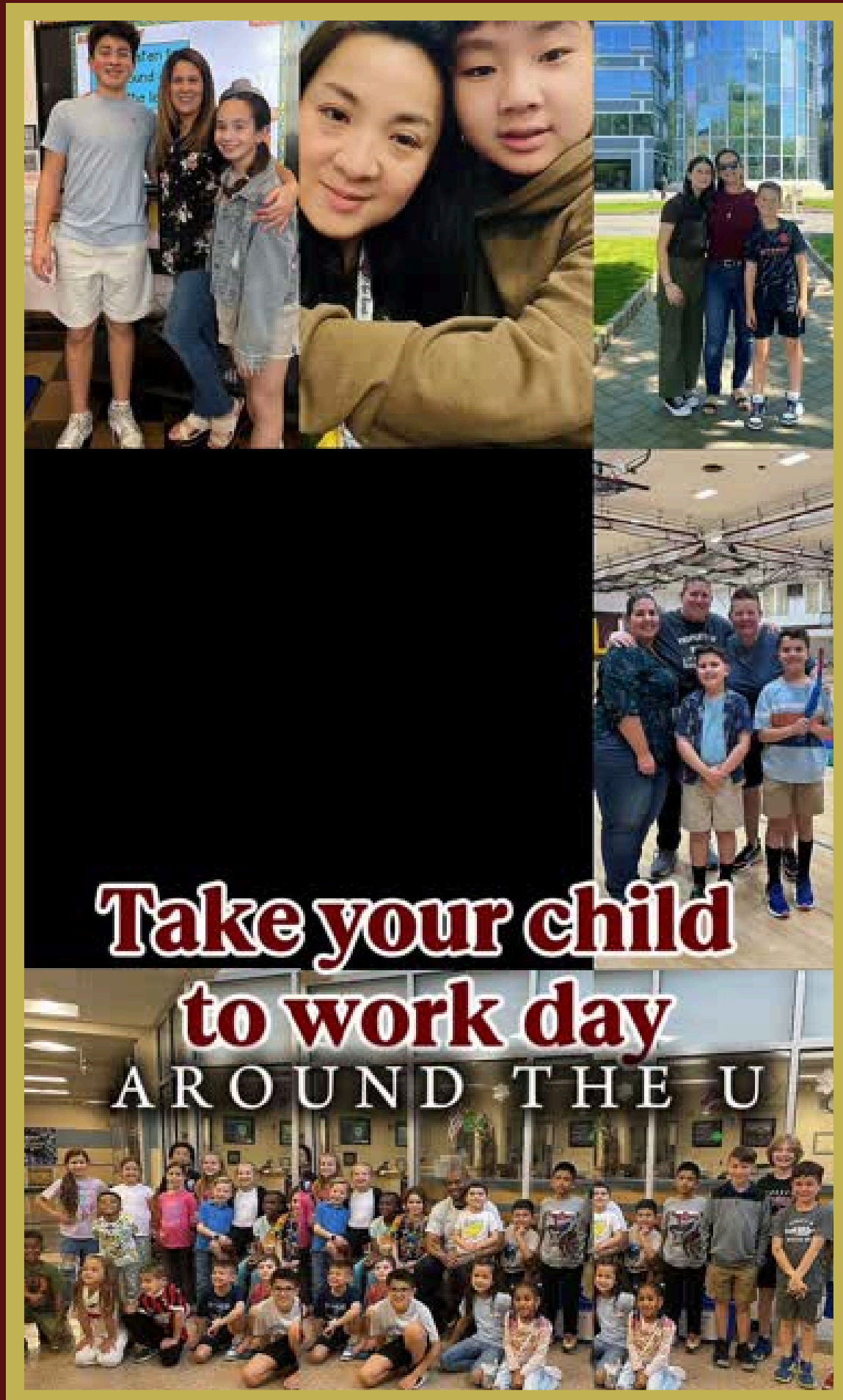
THANK
YOU!



IN THE U - HIGHLIGHTS

Take Your Child to Work Day 2025

This video showcases the special moments from Take Your Child to Work Day. Our students had the opportunity to experience a day at work with their parents, while our staff shared their workplaces — our schools — with their own children. It was a wonderful day filled with learning, connection, and family pride!



Women's History Month

Franklin School

- Daily announcements about important women in history.
- Research and biography projects on influential women, including digital slides.

Union High School

- NASA alum video for Women's History Month.
- African American and Women's History lessons (videos, Bingo, "Freedom, Protest, and Change" unit).
- Study of Latina American heroines.

Washington School

- First grade projects honoring women like Dr. Wangari Maathai, Frida Kahlo, and Maya Angelou.

Livingston School

- 4th grade research projects on women in history and women in music.

Connecticut Farms School

- Bulletin boards, read-alouds, and research on influential women.
- Virtual field trips (Ireland & Greece) and Irish American Heritage Month activities.
- STEAM, writing, and cultural projects (Women's history, Limericks, Ramadan).
- Music, movement activities, and SEL focus.

Jefferson School

- Pixel art inspired by Frida Kahlo using Google Sheets using conditional formatting

IN THE U - HIGHLIGHTS

Township of Union Public Schools

Celebrating Women's History Month Shout Outs!

Anita Lavery from UHS

Mrs. Bodga from Battle Hill

Mrs. Melillo from Battle Hill

Mrs. Watson from Administration Building

Mrs. Loguidice from Hannah U

Mrs. Novoa from UHS

Mrs. Mobley from Franklin



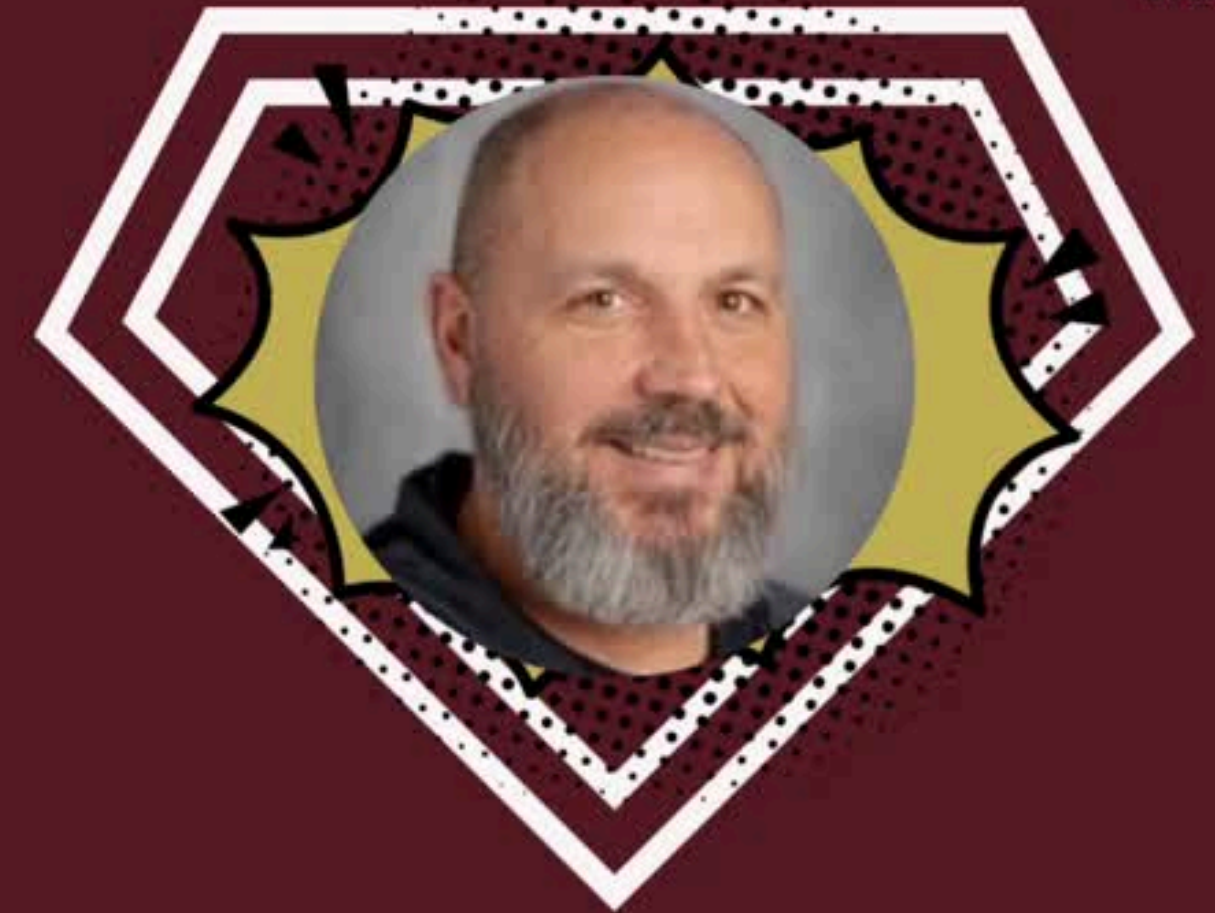
IN THE U - HIGHLIGHTS

Ray Reilly

The Mayor and Committeewoman Patricia Guerra Frazier visited Burnet to recognize Ray's heroic actions with an official proclamation. Also in attendance were Board President Dixiana Carbonel, Board Members Greg Nasta and Nancy Minneci, Superintendent Dr. Gerry Benequista, and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jose Rodriguez, Director of Security Bill Spekhardt, and Director of HR Vincent Rettino.

Ray, your selflessness embodies the true spirit of a hero. Thank you for your service and bravery!

**TUPS SECURITY GUARD & RETIRED
UNION**



HERO AMONG US:

RAY REILLY

**SELFLESSLY RUSHED TO SAVE
A LIFE FROM A BURNING CAR. WE**

IN THE U - HIGHLIGHTS

APEX Awards

On April 10th, we celebrated 483 students from our district who achieved Advanced Proficiency scores on last year's NJSLA for ELA and MAT.

These students have demonstrated exceptional achievement on the NJSLA testing, and we couldn't be prouder.



IN THE U - HIGHLIGHTS

Township of Union Public Schools

SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY BOARD (SPAB)

Information Update
from April 2, 2025



The Superintendent's Parent Advisory Board (SPAB) is strengthening communication between parents & administration.

📢 TUPS SPAB Meeting Recap 📢

◆ Strategic Plan Update:

2,000+ responses collected; summary coming soon.

Strategic Planning Live Event Location:

UHS Library - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Tuesday, May 6 - Curriculum & Instruction

Tuesday, May 13 - Fiscal, Operations/Personnel & Facilities

- ◆ Information & Forms for Feedback: website upgrades, mission statements
- ◆ Parental Involvement: Newsletters, ULearn resources, & report card possible mailings, parent training for Genesis
- ◆ District Realignment: Updates on committees & boundary studies.

BOARD STUDENT LIASONS

ALAN MOWLE
(APRIL)

MARIELLA GARCIA
(MAY)



ALAN



MARIELLA

IN THE U - Winter Sports

Listed below are the 2024-2025 Winter Season Individual Honors.

Winter Track State Champions

CALEB DUVELSON

MIKARLA PORTUONDO

BABADARA OLOWE

SHARAGAYE ABLE

ESHY CHRISTIAN

LIYANNA MUSCAT

J'NAY CAMARA

Wrestling

ARIEL AZEREDO (35-8) 1ST PLACE COUNTY CHAMPION
1ST PLACE DISTRICT CHAMPION
3RD PLACE IN NORTH 2 REGION

MARK BELFLEUR (24-14) 2ND PLACE IN DISTRICT

AARON ACEVEDO (9-16) 3RD PLACE IN DISTRICTS

AIDAN CROSS (27-7) PAR-HILLS TOURNAMENT CHAMPION

GABE HARGROVE (34-9) 1ST PLACE DOVER TOURNAMENT
3RD PLACE IN UCT
2ND PLACE IN DISTRICTS

PAR HILLS TOURNAMENT CHAMPION
OBREIGHT INGRAM (31-9) PAR-HILLS CHAMPION

2ND PLACE IN DISTRICTS

JAYDON ROBLES (20-17) 3RD PLACE IN UCT

NICK BERTOLOTTI (29-13) 2ND PLACE IN DISTRICTS

IN THE NEWS WITH THE U!

VOLUME 7

APRIL 2025

IT'S ALL ABOUT U!

Our Monthly Newsletter Focusing on the School Community



KAWAMEEH MIDDLE SCHOOL CLIMATE CHANGE

Kawameeh Middle School coordinated the first annual KMS Climate Convention on Friday, March 28, 2025 at the Jack DeBarbieri Gymnasium.

This event is the culmination of a cross-curricular project between our 8th grade Science and English teams, inspired by the book *The 21* by Elizabeth Rusch, which explores the landmark climate lawsuit against the U.S. government. Through a generous grant from the Education Foundation, the participating teachers were able to provide copies of the book to the students, sparking thoughtful discussions on climate change and empowering students to take action.

For the project, students researched climate solutions and developed presentations focused on key environmental issues such as solar panels, electric cars, plastic recycling, wind farms, and ocean cleanup. During the Climate Convention, students displayed their projects in a gallery walk format, where visiting students from 6th and 7th grades had the opportunity to view presentations, ask questions, and vote on the most impactful solutions.



STAY IN TOUCH

[TUPS Website](#)

[TUPS Instagram](#)

[District Athletic Schedule](#)

[TUPS High Impact Tutoring Site](#)



Would you like to have your department/school featured in our next issue? Click here to submit or email iscocozza@twunionschools.org

P. 1

FAFSA Workshop



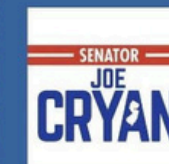
Date: May 7th, 2025

Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm

Location:

Union High School Library
2350 N 3rd St, Union, NJ
07083

In Partnership with:



Calling high school students, parents and guardians!

Join us for a workshop providing an overview of the importance of FAFSA completion and address the questions of Who? Why? And how?

After the workshop, stay for a support session where HESAA staff will assist student with their FAFSA completion.

Participants are encouraged to bring their laptops, chromebooks, tablets, or other digital devices.

Registration required
for more info contact 908-624-0880

This event is presented by the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) in partnership with Senat



It's All About U

NEW HIRES SINCE JANUARY

Caroline Arreaga
Mental Health Clinician

Tynia Lewis
English Teacher

Jennifer Scott
Paraprofessional

William Garner
Paraprofessional

Paola Tezna
Paraprofessional

La Shella Eversley
Paraprofessional

Alvaro Diaz
Head Custodian

Charles James
2nd Shift Custodian

Tyler Barnes
2nd Shift Custodian

Graciete Sobrosa
Acting Head Custodian

Kaylen Lane
Leave Replacement 2nd Grade Teacher

Velma Brown
Cafeteria/Playground Aide

JamelyMcalmont
Leave Replacement Special

Education Teacher

Philip Polchinski
Leave Replacement Science
Teacher

Matthew Morrow
Paraprofessional

Miyoshi Jones-Acevedo
Leave Replacement School
Social Worker

Victoria Paradela
Leave Replacement 1st Shift
Custodian

Regina Caruso
Art Teacher

Anita Laverty
10-Month Secretary

TejalSanghavi
Behavior Technician

Bernard Buniak
Leave Replacement English Teacher

Wyatt Hunter
Paraprofessional

Miyoshi Jones-Acevedo
Leave Replacement School Social
Worker

Catresa Moorman-Robinson
Leave Replacement School Nurse
indy Bryant

Preschool Social Worker
Patricia Mikolajczyk

Preschool Relief Teacher
Andrea Korb

Vice Principal
Jamely Mcalmont

Leave Replacement Special
Education Teacher

Lashae Jones
Special Education Teacher

STRATEGIC PLAN

Township of Union Public Schools

STRATEGIC PLAN

Information Update

April 3, 2025



🚀 TUPS is shaping the future! 🚀

We're developing a Strategic Plan to set goals and priorities for Union Schools. Your voice matters! 🎤

Join us at our Strategic Planning Live Events to:

- ✓ Get insights into our early progress
- ✓ Explore key focus areas like academics & school culture
- ✓ Share YOUR ideas & vision for the future

Let's build the future together! 💡✨

STRATEGIC PLANNING LIVE EVENTS RSVP FORM
TIME/LOCATION

LOCATION: UHS LIBRARY - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
TUESDAY, MAY 6 - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION
THURSDAY, MAY 15 - FISCAL,
OPERATIONS/PERSONNEL, AND FACILITIES



[Link In Bio](#)



HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING (HIB)

HIB INCIDENTS AFFIRMED CASES

REPORTING ON HIB CASES
FOR THE PERIOD
APRIL 8, 2025 TO APRIL 29, 2025

FOUNDED 5	NOT FOUNDED/ INCONCLUSIVE 2
(3) BMS	UHS
(2) KMS	

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING (HIB)

HIB INCIDENTS TO REPORT

AFFIRMING HIB CASES
FOR THE PERIOD
MARCH 18, 2025 TO APRIL 8, 2025

FOUNDED 5		NOT FOUNDED/ INCONCLUSIVE 1
(2) KMS		(1) UHS
(2) BMS		
(1) HCES		



It's All About U



TUPSchools



TUPS



TUPSchools



**Township of Union
Public Schools**