



Superintendent's Report
State of the Schools January
23, 2024

The background features a large, faint watermark of the word "UNION" in a serif font, oriented vertically on the right side of the page. The text is centered and reads:

Impact Employee Recognition/Student Recognition

A Small Glimpse

HIB Report for January 10, 2024 - January 23, 2024, Reported

HIB Report for December 20, 2024 - January 9, 2024, Affirmed

Bi-Annual Report September 2023 to December 2023 Reporting Period 1

Student Liaisons – Neissa Filias & Gia Patel

IMPACT EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Aims to acknowledge administrators, educators, and staff members who, through their actions, dedication, and achievements, have profoundly influenced the lives of our students.

Michaela Whiteman-Land: UHS Certified School Psychologist

John Boyd: TUPS Maintenance Department

Student Recognition

UHS Student Farmer Frontline...

What's Up With TUPS!

Michaela Whiteman-Land

She truly advocates for all her special education students, which I have seen first-hand on many occasions.

Her student's parents say she is outstanding in what she does. She always responds promptly, even on weekends and at night. She is dedicated & has tremendous pride in her work.

When Mrs. Whiteman-Land replies to her student's parents she always makes recommendations in the best interest of her students.

When she receives questions outside of her scope of responsibility, she informs other personnel and connects them with the parent(s) so no time is lost.

John Boyd

John has volunteered his time for over 20 years (Since 2002) to the Little League Challenger Division as a coach for children ages 7 to 21 with challenging needs.

The Challenger League helps children with social and communication skills, as well as physical skills and emotional needs.

John started getting involved when his son Jelen was involved and has continued all these years helping many other children. Now Jelen has teamed up with his father to become his assistant coach.

The Challenge Leagues are created to provide safe environments for individuals with special needs.

Student Farmer Frontline

What's up with TUPS?

A team of passionate individuals to share positive news stories about the Township of Union Public Schools.

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UHSPAC Presents...

Mean girls

at Kean's Wilkins Theater!

Student Farmer Frontline | Promo Edition | What's Up With TUPS?

written by Denae Johnson and Angelyn Anshah

UHSPAC presents Mean Girls at Wilkins Theater, Kean University!

Get ready for a spectacular high school production that promises laughter, talent, and a dash of high school drama! UHSPAC proudly presents 'Mean Girls,' featuring a stellar cast of talented young performers at Kean University's Wilkins Theater.

Show Dates and Times:

Friday, January 19 at 7:30pm

Saturday, January 20 at 7:30pm

Sunday, January 21 at 1:00pm

Meet some of the cast!

Jaxxon said, 'My first UHSPAC experience was fun. I had a lot of fun working with my upperclassmen. I am excited about performing my first UHSPAC production in a college theater.' Jaxxon Golden, a talented freshman who previously wowed audiences as the Donkey in his middle school's production of Shrek Jr., takes on the supporting role of Kevin G, head of the Mathletes. Don't miss his remarkable performance!



Photo Credits: Andrew David (@flics.by.andrea)

Isabella described her final performance saying, 'It's bittersweet, but I am beyond excited for this opportunity!' UHS Senior, Isabella Beaumont, who plays the main character Cady Heron, brings her acting prowess to the stage once again. With previous roles as Martha Cox in 'High School Musical' and Rosie in last year's production of 'Mamma Mia,' Isabella is set to deliver an unforgettable performance.



Photo Credits: Andrew David (@flics.by.andrea)

Talk With the Director

Bridget Sloan, a science teacher at Burnet Middle School, brings her directing expertise to UHS after successful stints with three middle school shows. She talked about how this year's experience was "a unique challenge having to transport our show to a new location", but despite roadblocks, "the students, both cast and crew, have done an incredible job! Their professionalism has allowed the transition to go smoothly and has made the experience fun!" Witness the hard work of the students and celebrate their talent under Bridget's guidance.

Don't Miss Out!

Join us for an unforgettable night of theater, laughter, and high school nostalgia. Purchase your tickets now and support these rising stars at Kean University's Wilkins Theater. Let's make this UHSPAC production of 'Mean Girls' a memorable experience for all! Visit uhspac.org or scan the QR Code to buy tickets now! Tickets will also be available for purchase at the Box Office in Wilkins Theater. See you there!





THANK YOU!

Chastity Santana, Board President
Dixiana Carbonell, Vice President
Ronnie McDowell
Kimberly Scott-Hayden
Nancy Minneci
Elsie Conteh-Mackey
Michael Cohan
Mary Lynn Williams

https://youtu.be/yqiAFZ_Wd4

A Small Glimpse

Tomorrow's Teachers UHS Teacher: Joseph Daly

- The students of Tomorrow's Teachers attended the Fall NJFEA Conference at William Patterson on October 13th. It is an opportunity for them to network and attend workshops with students enrolled in the Tomorrow's Teachers program throughout the state.
- Every month, the students complete a bulletin board project upstairs related to the time of the year. This project aims for students to show off their creativity while also positively decorating the hallway.
- The students are completing their required fieldwork for Kean University. They have attended Jefferson, Burnet, and Kawameeh so far, and next month, they will be heading to Hannah Caldwell and Livingston. Each student needs to complete 50 observation hours for the program.
- The students have also helped at events throughout the year when organizations reach out! In December, the students attended the SEPAG holiday party.



A Small Glimpse

Muslim Heritage Month

School	Grade	Subject	Who is engaging in this activity?	Short Description of Activity
FES	p-4	Muslim Heritage Month	whole building activity	Media Specialist put together prominent individuals who practice Islam for teachers to review with their class. The individuals will be posted to the Google Classroom. In addition, Dr. B's Book Club will highlight books by Muslim authors and/or about the Muslim religion.
WES	P- 4	Muslim Heritage Month	whole building activity	Morning announcements will include quotes from accomplished American Muslims. Library & classroom instruction: There will be books available in our media center to support Muslim Heritage Month.
CFES	P-4	Muslim Heritage Month	whole building activity	Morning announcements as well as activities such as read-alouds, and books to support Muslim Heritage Month
LES	P-4	Muslim Heritage Month	whole building activity	Morning announcements will highlight accomplished American Muslims
JES	5	Muslim Heritage Month	whole building activity	We will have a virtual "Hall of Fame" featuring the remarkable personal stories of diverse individuals who have uniquely captured America's conscience. It will be posted in the Computer Google Classroom to review with each class and posted on the bulletin board. Also, in the lesson, students can watch a video and learn about "Who are Muslim Americans."
CFS	p-4	Muslim Heritage Month		Library lesson on Muslim contributions to society
BMS	6-8	Muslim Heritage Month	whole building activity	Library Media Center presentation and books to support Muslim Heritage month
KMS	6-8	Muslim Heritage Month	whole building activity	Library Media Center presentation and books to support Muslim Heritage month
UHS	9-12	Muslim Heritage Month	whole building activity	Library Media Center books on display and @uhslib social media postings of Muslim contributions to the world, athletics, cuisine, inventions, and authors.
FES	p-4	Muslim Heritage Month	whole building activity	Library Media Center - read aloud Muslim author book to students that introduced culture and cuisine, including a video on dance at a wedding.
LES	p-4	Muslim Heritage Month	whole building activity	Library Media Center books on display.
UHS	10	Muslim Heritage Month	a few teachers	Students will read an article about African Muslims in Early America/Answer questions pertaining to the article.
BMS	7	Muslim Heritage Month	a few teachers	Study of Ancient African Kingdoms and Muslim Kings
KMS	7	Muslim Heritage Month	just one teacher	Students will be alerted that January is Muslim Heritage Month. Websites & videos shared with students

A Small Glimpse

2023-2024 District-Wide
Curriculum Pilots

Elementary ELA

IntoReading

Ian Penny - Grade 4
with Gail Richardson (ICS teacher)
Franklin Elementary

Stephanie Branco - Grade 2 Self-
Contained
Battle Hill Elementary

Cindy Attanasi - Grade K
Washington Elementary School

ToniAnn Melillo - Grade 1
Battle Hill Elementary School

Kelly Higgins - Grade 3
Connecticut
Farms Elementary School

MyView

Donna Cassidy - Grade 4
Livingston Elementary
School

Christina Digioia - Grade 1
Hannah Caldwell
Elementary School

Kayla Gunther - Grade 4
(upon return from leave)

Franklin Elementary School

Middle School Math

Big Ideas

A pilot has taken place in the following
classes and schools:

6th grade: KMS - Cathy Jakovitz &
Katie Alvino and BMS - Vittoria
Bravette

7th Grade: KMS - Maria Grillias

8th Grade: BMS - Dimitri Eugene

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) January 10, 2024 - January 23, 2024 Reported

	Founded	Unfounded	Inconclusive
January 10, 2024, to January 23, 2024	2	0	0

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB)

January 10, 2024 - January 23, 2024

Reported

	Founded	Unfounded	Inconclusive		Founded	Unfounded	Inconclusive
Battle Hill Elementary				Jefferson Elementary			
Burnet Middle	1			Kawameeh Middle			
Connecticut Farms Elementary				Livingston Elementary			
Franklin Elementary				Washington Elementary			
Hannah Caldwell Elementary				Union High	1		

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB)

December 20, 2023 - January 9, 2024

Affirmed

	Founded	Unfounded	Inconclusive
December 20, 2023, to January 9, 2024	6	5	1

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB)

December 20, 2023 - January 9, 2024
Affirmed

	Founded	Unfounded	Inconclusive		Founded	Unfounded	Inconclusive
Battle Hill Elementary	1			Jefferson Elementary			
Burnet Middle	2			Kawameeh Middle	1		
Connecticut Farms Elementary				Livingston Elementary		1	
Franklin Elementary		3		Washington Elementary			
Hannah Caldwell Elementary		1		Union High	2		1

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Bi-Annual Report

September 2023 to December 2023 Reporting Period 1

Total Completed Reports: 88

Status of investigations:

Founded (met the criteria for HIB): 44

Unfounded/Inconclusive: 44

Total Reports by building:

SCHOOL	FOUNDED HIB	UNFOUNDED & INCONCLUSIVE	TOTAL
Battle Hill	1	1	2
Burnet	17	1	18
Connecticut Farms	5	0	5
Franklin	0	9	9
Hannah Caldwell	0	2	2
Jefferson	1	2	3
Kawameeh	6	4	10
Livingston	0	3	3
Washington	0	1	1
Union High	14	21	35
Total	44	44	88

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Bi-Annual Report

September 2023 to December 2023 Reporting Period 1

Nature of **Founded HIB** based on protected categories:

*some cases meet criteria for more than one category

Race	9	Origin	0	Gender Identity	5
Color	4	Gender	7	Mental, Physical, or Sensory Disability	4
Religion	1	Sexual Orientation	4	Other Distinguishing Characteristics	23
Ancestry	2				

Type and Nature of Support Services and/or Discipline Imposed

	HIB	Non-HIB	Total		HIB	Non-HIB	Total
Change of Environment	7	2	9	Out-of-School Suspension	2	2	4
Counseling Services	41	50	91	Parent Conference	1	3	4
Detention	8	3	11	Police Notification	1	0	1
Educated	16	2	18	Warning	0	0	0
Group Counseling	5	2	7	Monitored	17	0	17
In-School Suspension	2	0	2	Other	1	2	3
Mediated	18	2	20				

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Bi-Annual Report

September 2023 to December 2023
Reporting Period 1

List of Anti-Bullying Specialists by building

Battle Hill	Erin Jackson	Hannah Caldwell	Janette Tramuta	Washington	Kim Marano
Burnet	Tara Colandrea	Jefferson	Fatima DeCorte	Union High (Lead)	Lucille Williams
Connecticut Farms	Gihann Elshiekh	Kawameeh	Madeline Yatsko	Union High/District	Jill Hall
Franklin	Alicia Rodroquez	Livingston	Leane Brink		

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Bi-Annual Report

September 2023 to December 2023
Reporting Period 1

Programs: Districtwide & Building Based

Assemblies

UHS: Powerback program: A partnership for Change, dating abuse outreach for Grade 11 and follow-up sessions (11/20/23)

BMS: vaping Assembly grades 7 and 8 (11/6/23)

JEFF: Being a Good Digital Citizen (10/27/23)

FR/HC: Box Out Bullying (12/6 and 11/17)

Multiple schools: Secret Service Assembly: 10/6/23 & 11/15/23

HC: Respect Spells Hip Hop Assembly 10/6/23

HC: Prismatic Laser Show: Bullying Prevention

Various Schools: PBIS Expectations assemblies

Student and Parent Support

Small groups

New Students

Grief

Self-management/anger management

Self-esteem

Anti-bullying

Mindfulness/meditation

Lunch Bunches

Family Changes

Body Image

Girls Connection

Social Skills

Parent/Family Communications:

- Newsletters/Chat with the Counselor topics/social media and school messenger notifications
- Parent Lounge development with Google Sites
- Counselor's Corner digital resources
- Surveys (school-based)

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB)

Bi-Annual Report

September 2023 to December 2023

Reporting Period 1

Integration into classrooms

Monthly Advisory/Classroom/Homeroom lessons
Elementary monthly: HIB, SEL, Social skills, mindfulness, calming techniques, upstander, digital citizenship, feelings and emotions, positive choices, personal values, conflict resolution, belonging and inclusion

Daily Announcements/Quote of the Day

Freshman class meetings UHS

Saturday Detention/SEL Restorative Talk Circles (UHS)

Health Class integration/SAC KMS

Programming/resource

ALL IN UHS” student focus group

UHS mentoring Grade 12 with Grade 9

School Counselor Virtual Office

Mindfulness Check-Ins

Counselor Google Classroom activities

School Counseling PLCs

Morning Meeting Slides

Spirit Weeks

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Bi-Annual Report September 2023 to December 2023 Reporting Period 1

District Wide Events

Start with Hello week- (9/18-9/22) activities to create a culture of inclusion

Week Of Respect (10/2-10/6)

- Dissolving Stereotypes
- Locker affirmations
- Kindness challenges

Red Ribbon Week (10/3-10/10): Programs educating students about the dangers of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco by creating an understanding of the consequences of poor decisions and the importance of good health.

Operation Gratitude: 11/13-11/22: Students wrote letters of gratitude and support of the military, veterans, and first responders.

School Violence Awareness Week (10/16-10/20): programs included daily goals to help make schools safe, peaceful places for all students and staff.

Unity Day (10/18)

- Wearing orange to promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion with activities.

International Day of Tolerance (11/16/23)

Building Activities

UHS: Appreciation Station with PTA, notes of appreciation building-wide

Student Recognition Programs

Blue Knight Nickels, PBSIS various schools, Washington Wages, BMS School Store & Newspaper, Battle Hill

Bucks, Student of the Month, Spirit weeks, pride Awards

Peer leadership: KMS, WES

Friends of Rachel Club: KMS

BMS: Vaping Prevention GC and group

KMS: Letters to 6th grade from former 8th grade

BMS PBIS Store

CF: Girls on the Run Program

FR: The Social Conscience Project

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB)

Bi-Annual Report

September 2023 to December 2023

Reporting Period 1

Trainings Districtwide/ Building Based

Trainings

- Individual School Staff Trainings at faculty meetings (dates from ABS)
 - Individual School Student and Parent presentations (dates from ABS)
 - District new employee specific training: August 30, 2023
- HIB Specialist Trainings: 8/30/23, 9/5/23
- Administrator HIB Update Trainings: Dates in September
 - Union County Anti-Bullying Coordinator Meetings: 11/2/23
 - Behavioral Threat Assessment Trainings and meetings (11/20)

School Safety/Culture and Climate Committee Meetings per individual school

- Mandated by the HIB Anti-Bullying Code
- ABS have the specific dates for Reporting Period 1 meetings
- **Professional Development Opportunities:**
 - Use of SILAS platform for SEL screeners and resources
 - Counseling PLCs
 - PBIS Committee planning meetings to formulate school-wide positive behavior supports (taking place in PBIS schools)
 - NJ State Bar Association: Trauma Sensitive Schools, Elementary Conflict Resolution, Restorative Justice, Elementary Peer Mediation
 - HIB Intervention and Remediation 9/29/23
 - Educators Resistance and Well-Being (10/9)
 - High Impact Instructional Practices (10/9)
 - Counselor PD for family resources (10/20/23)
 - L.E.A.R.N.: (9/5/23)
 - District Security Updates (9/5/23)

A LOOK FORWARD

American Heart Association GO RED FOR WOMAN February 2nd, 2024, Cardiac arrest

is a leading cause of death in the world. Each year, more than 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States. Almost 3 out of 4 of those happen at home. Only 39% of women receive CPR from bystanders in public compared to 45% of men. This Wear **Red** Day, the American Heart Association is specifically focused on learning the life-saving skill of CPR, and we want every family and home to have someone who knows CPR.

<https://www.goredforwomen.org/en/get-involved/give/wear-red-and-give>

JOB/ Internship Board: The Greater Union Township Chamber of Commerce, Township of Union, & the Township of Union Public Schools

TUPS BUMPER STICKER DESIGN CONTEST

Impact Recognition



TUIPS Student Liaisons

Neissa Filias

&

Gia Patel

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1OY_u6NtwghWxhwxlOTcH58Rgri928cr2MaGsDh330A/edit?usp=sharing)

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**Thank You
TUPS Community**

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