

# TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**Kimberly Scott-Hayden**  
President



**Michael Cohan**  
Vice President



**Dicxiana Carbonell**  
Member



**Elsie Conteh-Mackey**  
Member



**Guida Faria**  
Member



**Nancy Minneci**  
Member



**Ronnie McDowell**  
Member

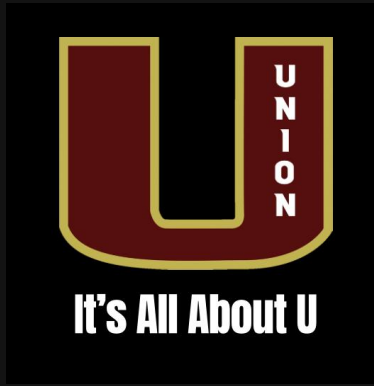


**Gregory Nasta**  
Member



**Chastity Santana**  
Member





# Board Meeting Superintendent's Report

May 19, 2026

*The mission of the Township of Union Public Schools (TUPS) is to empower and inspire Every Student, Every Day.*

# TUPS Talking Points



## Enrollment (Including Out of District Students)

- 2024 - 2025 Enrollment (June 30th): 7,966
- 2025 - 2026 Enrollment (October 15th): 7,671
- 2025 - 2026 Enrollment (November 15th): 7,688
- 2025 - 2026 Enrollment (December 15th): 7,711
- 2025 - 2026 Enrollment (January 15th): 7,739
- 2025 - 2026 Enrollment (February 15th): 7,760
- 2025 - 2026 Enrollment (March 15th): 7770
- 2025 - 2026 Enrollment (April 30th): 7761

# TUPS Teachers of the Year



TOWNSHIP OF UNION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-2026  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS



**VERONICA AMBROSE**

BATTLE HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Every Student, Every day.



TOWNSHIP OF UNION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-2026  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS



**JENNA NIOTIS**

CONNECTICUT FARMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Every Student, Every day.



TOWNSHIP OF UNION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-2026  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS



**STACY SANCHEZ**

FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Every Student, Every day.



TOWNSHIP OF UNION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-2026  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS



**JANINE GUERRA-DA SILVA**

HANNAH CALDWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Every Student, Every day.



TOWNSHIP OF UNION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-2026  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS



**HEATHER SHANLEY**

LIVINGSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Every Student, Every day.



TOWNSHIP OF UNION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-2026  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS



**MICHELLE SANTOS**

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Every Student, Every day.



TOWNSHIP OF UNION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-2026  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS



**GILLIAN PILONE**

JEFFERSON SCHOOL

Every Student, Every day.



TOWNSHIP OF UNION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-2026  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS



**BRENDAN ROBERTS**

BURNET MIDDLE SCHOOL

Every Student, Every day.



TOWNSHIP OF UNION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-2026  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS



**MARIA GRILLIAS**

KAWAMEEH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Every Student, Every day.



TOWNSHIP OF UNION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025-2026  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS



**NICHOLAS FERRONI**

UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Every Student, Every day.

♡ Please join us for a ♡  
**CANDLELIGHT  
VIGIL**

for  
*The Belloso Family*

♡  
LET US COME TOGETHER IN PRAYER,  
LOVE, AND SUPPORT DURING  
THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

♡  
*Together, we lift them up  
with love, strength, and hope.*

📅 DATE:  
May 21st, 2026

🕒 GATHERING STARTS:  
7:00 PM

🕒 VIGIL STARTS:  
8:00 PM

📍 LOCATION:  
In Front of  
1251 Magnolia Place,  
Union, NJ 07083

♡  
YOUR PRESENCE, PRAYERS,  
AND SUPPORT MEAN MORE  
THAN WORDS CAN SAY.

*Thank you.* ♡



♡ **TUPS DRESS DOWN** ♡

with a donation to *support the Belloso family*



DRESS DOWN  
DAYS:  
**May 26, 27, 28**



ALL DONATIONS WILL  
GO DIRECTLY TO  
THE BELLOSO  
FAMILY.



*Thank you for helping  
us make a difference!*



*We are TUPS. We are FAMILY. We care.*



# Top 25 of the Class of '26 at UHS

Jacklyn Cassandra  
Valedictorian



It's All About U

The following are listed in alphabetical order.



Ava Soares  
Salutatorian



Eli Matthieu Abaya



Xavier Aro



Mikayla Astudillo



Temitoluwa Bamigbe



Markens Desir



Charlotte Garland



Michael Gialmo



Kellyn Gomez Ozuna



Hannah Hipolito



Talia Johnson



Jacqueline Martinez



Giuliana Muscavage



Sean Nnoli



Toluwanimi Ojo



Dubem Okafor



Emily Pasiecznik



Jochebed Quaye



Anaisa Rodriguez



Ethan Sumiquiab



Kacper Tarnowski



Elvin Teixeira



Kauri Townes



Dylan Yeager

Inside  
The

U  
N  
I  
O  
N

# TUPS BOE Student Liaison Ava Soares



# A Brief Introduction

- I'm a current senior at UHS and will be graduating as our class Salutatorian
- I will be attending University of Delaware as a kinesiology major
- I am captain of the UHS Dance Team
- I'm involved in NHS, NSHS, All In, EmpowerHER, and Farmer Fam
- I'm a senior class officer



# A Cup of Joe Show

Meet the 2026 Valedictorian & Salutatorian as they talk with Senator Cryan!

<https://youtu.be/9bJA2RvWS2c?si=FaH0xyaHm5ZmgOzC>



# Spring Track- State Sectional Champions

100 Meter- Liyanna Muscat

200 Meter- Liyanna Muscat

200 Meter- Rondell Caines

400 Meter- Rondell Caines



# Spring Sports

Our Unified Flag Football Team has done an amazing job throughout their first ever season with a 5-1 season finish!



In the First Round of the Union County Tournament the Baseball team defeated Scotch Plains 6-5. Scotch Plains was the third ranked team in Union County.

# State Playoffs

Baseball, Softball, Girls Flag Football and Volleyball all made the NJSIAA State Playoffs that start next week.

The Boys volleyball team is currently the number 1 seed in the NJSIAA State Playoffs. Their record is currently 17-8



# Spring Sports

The softball team is working hard to end their season on a high note led by their Senior Captain Alessandra Silvestre.



Girls Flag Football is currently 7-2

# Spring Sports

The boys tennis team has 9 wins, and last week they beat both Kearny and Dunellen



Golf team recently won the Union County Conference Valley Division Championship, captain Colby Palacio was the individual champion shooting a 79.

# Events at UHS!

## Senior Events

- Senior Day
- Prom coming up on June 4th
- Hershey Park Trip this Thursday  
May 21st
- Pool Party, Tuesday, May 26th

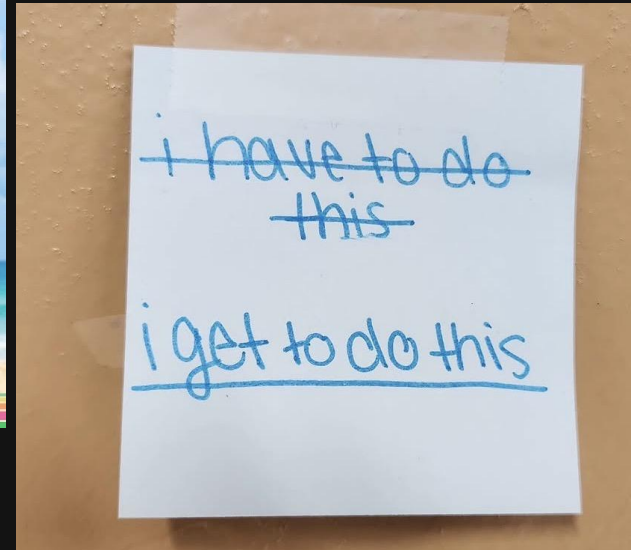


## School Events

- Ms. UHS
- Spring Concert
- UHSPAC WorldStrides Trip to  
Boston
- Student Faculty Football Game this  
Friday
- Club Unified Field Day
- All in Affirmation Monday



# Events at UHS- Photos



**Heritage Festival Boston**  
2026 COMPETITION RESULTS

- Swing Choir** ★ GOLD RATING ★
- Concert Choir** ★ SILVER RATING ★
- Concert Band** ★ SILVER RATING ★
- Marching Band** ★ SILVER RATING ★
- Dance Team** ★ GOLD RATING ★


**Jaxxon Golden**  
MAESTRO AWARD WINNER

**UHS PAC**



empowerment CLUB  
**missuhs**  
2026

**May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**  
Show starts at 7 pm  
Doors open at 6:30 pm



# Senior Awards

Last night over 100 seniors were recognized for outstanding achievements in and out of school, an approximate amount of \$90,000 was given in scholarships!



# AP Testing

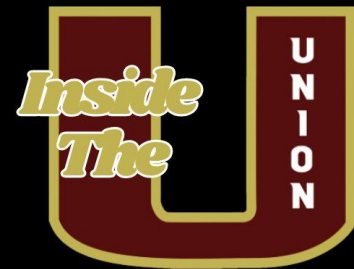
Our AP testing is over after two weeks! 20 different subject areas were administered by our school counselors and 463 - 11th & 12th graders registered to take an AP exam.

2025-2026 SY 567 exams were taken

2024-2025 SY 469 exams were taken

**21% increase from the prior school year of exams taken.**





Thank you  
Ava Soares  
Class of 2026



## 🌱 Union High School Receives \$30,500 Climate Literacy Grant 🌱

NJDOE representatives visited Union High School to see these impactful initiatives firsthand.

This achievement reflects the leadership and dedication of Union High School educator and Environmental Club advisor **Dana Meixner**, whose vision for environmental sustainability, student engagement, and school beautification helped bring this opportunity to life for students and staff.

Under Dana Meixner's leadership, students are actively involved in greenhouse restoration, sustainable gardens, recycling initiatives, outdoor learning spaces, and schoolwide sustainability campaigns.

The grant also supports initiatives outlined in student Anaisa Rodriguez's "Rebound and Restart" proposal, which focuses on increasing environmental awareness, sustainability efforts, student engagement, and community-centered environmental stewardship throughout the school.

In partnership with these efforts, Union High School's S.T.A.R.T. Program supports student mental health and emotional wellness through calming and therapeutic spaces that promote mindfulness and reflection. TUPS is proud of Dana Meixner, our student leaders, and the entire Union High School community!



# Union County District Highlights

## UNION COUNTY DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Daryl Palmieri  
Interim Executive County Superintendent  
Union County



3/9/2026

Welcome to the **Union County Highlights Newsletter** — a quick, upbeat look at the great work happening across our schools.

Each edition celebrates learning, leadership, and community, reflecting our shared commitment to helping every student grow.

Thank you to our educators, students, families, and partners for the everyday excellence and kindness you bring to our classrooms.

Have a highlight to share for a future issue? We'd love to include it.



## TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS



TUPS was proud to welcome New Jersey Commissioner of Education, Dr. Lily Laux! Joined by Senator Joseph Cryan, Assemblyman Ed Rodriguez, Union County Interim Executive Superintendent Daryl Palmieri, Chris Williams, Chief of Staff to the Commissioner, and Mary Bennett, State Board of Education member, this visit allowed us to showcase what makes the Township of Union Public Schools so special! From the moment they arrived, our guests experienced the heart of TUPS in action...

## Franklin School-

Classrooms were alive with learning as students and staff shined! From a capitalization lesson with Ms. McEwen, to math with Mr. Penny, to a reading comprehension lesson in our Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Sanchez's class, along with an overview of the school's reading program presented by Mrs. Santo.



## Union High School-



The tour continued with a look at our new LED screen and a visit to our in-house mental health program, showcasing our commitment to supporting the whole child.

**Farmer's Café**  
The visit wrapped up with one of our most exciting programs, where students are gaining real-world experience through hands-on learning in food service, hospitality, and customer service.

"As reflected in our TUPS motto, 'It's All About U,' it was truly an honor to welcome Commissioner Laux and our distinguished guests

to TUPS. We were proud to showcase the meaningful work taking place in our classrooms and to introduce the incredible staff across departments who make it possible," said Superintendent Dr. Gerry Benaquista. Even in challenging times, our mission remains the same... empower & inspire every student, every day.

We are incredibly grateful to our staff and students who made this visit so special.

## UHS Flag Football is now 6-0!

The team had a big week competing at the **Jets' practice facility**, and Amiyah Louis Jiles delivered a game-changing moment! Amiyah sealed the win with a clutch **pick-six** and earned **Gatorade Player of the Game** honors.

She was presented with a **\$1,000 check** by Jets' Harrison Phillips, received a swag bag, and will be recognized during halftime at an upcoming Jets game this season.



## AN EVENING OF JAZZ

Join us for an unforgettable night of live jazz featuring the Union High School Bow-Tie Big Band under the direction of Dr. Richard Grennor and special guest artists, the Simon Crosby-Arreaza Trio!

Thursday, May 21, 2026

7:00 PM

Michael Douglas Krueger (DMK) Theater  
1980 Morris Ave., Union, NJ 07083

### FREE ADMISSION

The evening will showcase outstanding student musicians from Union High School alongside acclaimed jazz artists:

- Simon Crosby-Arreaza – Saxophone
- Graham Kozak – Bass
- Maria Marmarou – Drums

We are especially proud to welcome [Simon Crosby-Arreaza](#) back to the Township Union Public Schools as a distinguished alumnus and guest artist. His return to perform with our students is a celebration of the rich musical tradition and excellence fostered within our schools.

Come experience an evening of swing, improvisation, and extraordinary musicianship as our students share the stage with professional jazz performers in a concert that celebrates music, artistry, and community.

We look forward to seeing you there!

AN EVENING OF  
**JAZZ**

Featuring the  
**UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
BOW-TIE BIG BAND**

— Under the Direction of —  
Dr. Richard Grennor

AND  
the **SIMON CROSBY-ARREAZA  
TRIO**

 <b>SIMON CROSBY ARREAZA</b> Saxophone	 <b>GRAHAM KOZAK</b> Bass	 <b>MARIA MARMAROU</b> Drums
--	-------------------------------------	--

EVENT DETAILS

**DATE:** May 21, 2026  
 **TIME:** 7:00 PM  
 **LOCATION:**  
Michael Douglas Krueger (DMK) Theater  
1980 Morris Ave, Union, NJ 07083

**FREE ADMISSION**





## Hannah Caldwell Multicultural Night

On May 15, 2026, Hannah Caldwell School celebrated another amazing Multicultural Night organized by Mrs. DaSilva and Mrs. Matos, who have proudly run this special event every year since 2019 with the support of the Hannah Caldwell staff.

Families came together to represent cultures and countries from around the world by sharing information, fun facts, cultural traditions, and delicious foods for everyone to enjoy. Students, families, teachers, and staff members celebrated diversity, learned about different cultures, and enjoyed a wonderful evening together as a community. We were also honored to have the support of our mayor and local police department during this special event.

A special thank you to the high school step team for their exciting performance that helped celebrate culture, tradition, and school spirit.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event such a great success!



# School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades - 2024-2025

School	School Grade
Battle Hill Elementary	74 out of 78
Burnet Middle School	72 out of 78
Connecticut Farms Elementary	68 out of 78
Franklin Elementary	74 out of 78
Hannah Caldwell Elementary	74 out of 78
Jefferson Elementary	73 out of 78
Kawameeh Middle School	76 out of 78
Livingston Elementary	73 out of 78
Union High School	72 out of 78
Washington Elementary	74 out of 78
District Grade:	73 out of 78

[View the full report here.](#)

Jacklyn Cassandra  
Ava Soares  
Alexa Cruz  
Emma Amorim  
Mikayla Astudillo  
Charlotte Garland  
Angela Mae Junio  
Shara-Gaye Able  
Xavier Aro  
Fredrich Jefferson Tan  
Anaisa Rodriguez  
Andrew Manata  
Angelina Baquero  
Abigail Sheridan  
Temiloluwa Bamigbe  
Jacqueline Martinez  
Eli Matthieu Abaya  
Michael Esquivel  
Mikalah Wilson  
Isabella Ramos  
Chizaraekpere Nduka  
Naima Belfleur  
Obreight Ingram III  
Nick Bertolotti  
Erika Nowinski  
Hannah De Souza  
Giuliana Muscavage  
Taylor Demas

Henry Michael Solares  
Sofia Pestana Munoz  
Yadier Yi  
Juliana Lopes  
Markens Desir  
Jelani St. Louis  
Wislandy Esther Prophete  
Sophia Ceballos  
Nicholas Rosero  
Jochebed Quaye  
Colby Jacques Palacio  
Aiden Vazquez  
Michelle Dwamena  
Amiyah Louis Jiles  
Isabella Giorgio  
Ashley Gonzalez  
Areeba Ali  
Ciara Jones  
Kacper Tarnowski  
Rafaela Cevallos Benalcazar  
Elvin Teixeira  
Jade Gelin-Pierre  
Hanifa Azindow  
Destiny Reid-Joe  
Adiki Teye-Noah  
Diara Collantes

Iriani Diaz  
Emily Pasiecznik  
Toluwanimi Ojo  
Madison Castro  
Nathaniel de Guzman  
Jacob Johnson  
Gabriela Garcia  
Malachi Frazier  
Nichole Silverio  
Kauri Townes  
Stephen Laborde  
Arianna Lauren Co  
Julian Felix  
Keilyn Gomez-Ozuna  
Christian Ashie  
Andres Calderone  
Jaslyn Serrano  
Dilvon Adekoya  
Anaiah Ansah  
Isis Brown  
Hadassah Trindade  
Justin Adu-Gyamfi  
Jaidyn McMillian-Williams  
Thomas Valente  
Boluwatife Richard Akinbehinje  
Esther Amadi  
Alina Vanoni  
Brandon Gadsden  
Delilah Halley

Renee Royal  
Eduardo Solano  
Jeremy Elias Medina Vargas  
Alpha Camara  
Jonathan Cordova  
Bryan C Okoye  
Gavin Alfonso  
Jazmyn Alverna  
Talia Johnson  
AdaUgo Ikwu  
Hannah Hipolito  
Morgan Covington  
Tyrron Walker  
Jordan Brady  
Quinn Powers  
Sophie Volpe  
Ethan Beaumont  
Luis Bermudez  
Domenick Nuzzo  
Jonathan Alfano  
Dubem Okafor  
Alessandra Silvestre  
Jayden Walton  
Zachary Orriss  
Ashley Haug  
Bea Ascalon

Julia Laverty  
Penelope Ezekiel  
Kyle Vanbeek  
Valerie Lopez  
Amelia Koczon  
Mairead Kidd  
Violet Kelly  
Noah Dougard  
Justin Erath  
Steven Jean-Baptiste  
Christopher Labrew





There are **120 scholarship and award winners** listed in the 2026 UHS Senior Awards Program. Winning close to \$90,000



# TUPS Attendance Initiative



## Update for April 2026 District Average K-12th 93.856

**Attendance Award**  
 FOR THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ATTENDING FOR  
 THE MONTH OF APRIL WITH A  
**96.873%**  
**The 3rd Graders at  
 FRANKLIN SCHOOL**  
**We Are Proud of U!**



**TUPS**  
 TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Attendance Award**  
 FOR THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ATTENDING FOR  
 THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER WITH A  
**98.839%**  
**the 6th graders at Kawameek**  
 We Are Proud of U!



**TUPS**  
 TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Attendance Award**  
 FOR THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ATTENDING FOR  
 THE MONTH OF OCTOBER WITH A  
**96.61%**  
**the 1st Graders at  
 Connecticut Farms**  
 We Are Proud of U!



**TUPS**  
 TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Attendance Award**  
 FOR THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ATTENDING FOR  
 THE MONTH OF OCTOBER WITH A  
**97.834%**  
**the 6th graders at Kawameek**  
 We Are Proud of U!



**TUPS**  
 TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Attendance Award**  
 FOR THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ATTENDING FOR  
 THE MONTH OF DECEMBER WITH A  
**95.293%**  
**the 3rd Graders at  
 Connecticut Farms**  
 We Are Proud of U!



**TUPS**  
 TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Attendance Award**  
 FOR THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ATTENDING FOR  
 THE MONTH OF JANUARY WITH A  
**97.24%**  
**the 7th graders at Kawameek**  
 We Are Proud of U!



**TUPS**  
 TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Attendance Award**  
 FOR THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ATTENDING FOR  
 THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY WITH A  
**95.96%**  
**The 3rd Graders at  
 Hannah Caldwell**  
 We Are Proud of U!

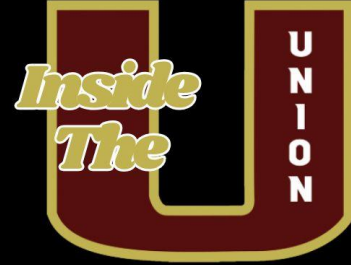
**TUPS**  
 TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Attendance Award**  
 FOR THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ATTENDING FOR  
 THE MONTH OF MARCH WITH A  
**96.97%**  
**The 4th Graders at  
 Hannah Caldwell**  
 We Are Proud of U!

**TUPS**  
 TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying (HIB)



## Incidents to Report

Period May 13th - May 19th

Met the Criteria - 0

Unfounded - 0

Inconclusive - 0

# Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying (HIB)



## Incidents to Affirm


Period May 1st - May 12th

**Met the Criteria - 5**  
HCES 2 KMS 2 BMS 1  
**Unfounded - 2**  
UHS 2  
**Inconclusive - 2**  
LES 1 UHS 1




**It's All About U**

 [www.tups.org](http://www.tups.org)

 ParentSquare




 Township of Union Public Schools


 StudentSquare  
6-12 Grade



 Tupschools

 Unionhs\_athletics

@ communication@tups.org

 Tupschools

# TUPS Board of Education



**Kimberly Scott-Hayden**  
President



**Michael Cohan**  
Vice President



**Dixiana Carbonell**



**Elsie Conteh-Mackey**



**Guida Faria**



**Ronnie McDowell**



**Nancy Minneci**



**Greg Nasta**



**Chastity Santana**