

TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

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2026-2027

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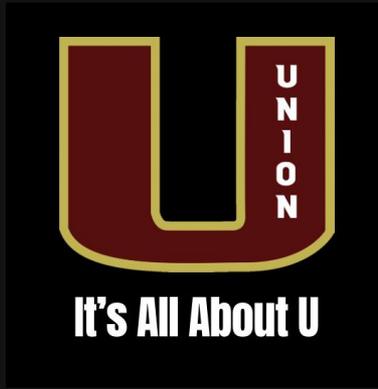


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Member



Chastity Santana
Member





Board Meeting Superintendent's Report

February 24, 2026

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



TUPS BOE Student Liaison Ethan Beaumont

Ethan Beaumont

I am a Senior at Union High School

Student-Athlete - Soccer & Baseball

Club & Honors - Winter student athletic trainer

National Honor Society & the Farmer Fam

Featured in a TikTok for the Attendance Campaign

Had the most views... until Dr. Benaquista danced with Olaf

Special shout-out to my Mom and Dad, who are here tonight, it's my mom's birthday, and she is a paraprofessional at Hannah Caldwell.

I am the middle child. My sister graduated from UHS and now goes to Rutgers, and my brother Gavin is a Junior at UHS.



Football

The New York Giants made a donation of \$10,000 to the Union High School football program last week during a visit by several members of the organization.

The New York Giants have been awarding the Lou Rettino High School Football Coach of the Week award since 1996. Named in memory of the former Union High School coach to promote youth football, the award recognizes tri-state area coaches for their commitment to the game, community, and athletes.





UHS Girls are the North 2 Group 4 State Track Champions!

Ali Silvestre represented Union High School at the National Girls and Women in Sports Day at Rutgers University. New Jersey female athletes were acknowledged at the Rutgers Women's Basketball game.



JANAURY
ATHLETES OF THE MONTH



JULIA LAVERTY
SWIMMING



KIZIAH MORGAN
GIRLS BASKETBALL





JAYDON ROBLES
WRESTLING



JAVY OCASIO
BOYS BASKETBALL



Athletes of the Month for January

UHS WRESTLING

- Senior **Aidan Cross** earned his 100th career win this month!
- UHS Wrestling and Coach DiBellonia brought the **Jack DeBarbieri Memorial Cup** back to Union.
- Jack DeBarbieri coached football and wrestling in Union for over 30 years, so bringing this trophy home in his honor makes it even more special.
- The team finished the dual meet season with an impressive 22–5 record
- We wish the team good luck this Saturday at Districts.
- Union High School will also be hosting:
 - Boys Regionals on March 6 & 7
 - Girls Regionals on March 8



Boys Basketball

The Union High School boys basketball team has put together an impressive 2025–26 season, highlighted by an 18–4 overall record heading into the heart of February and a convincing 63–41 win over Dayton in the Union County Tournament preliminary round.



Girls Basketball

The Union High School girls basketball team has also put together a winning 2025–26 season, posting a 12–9 overall record behind a core that defends, rebounds, and shares the ball.

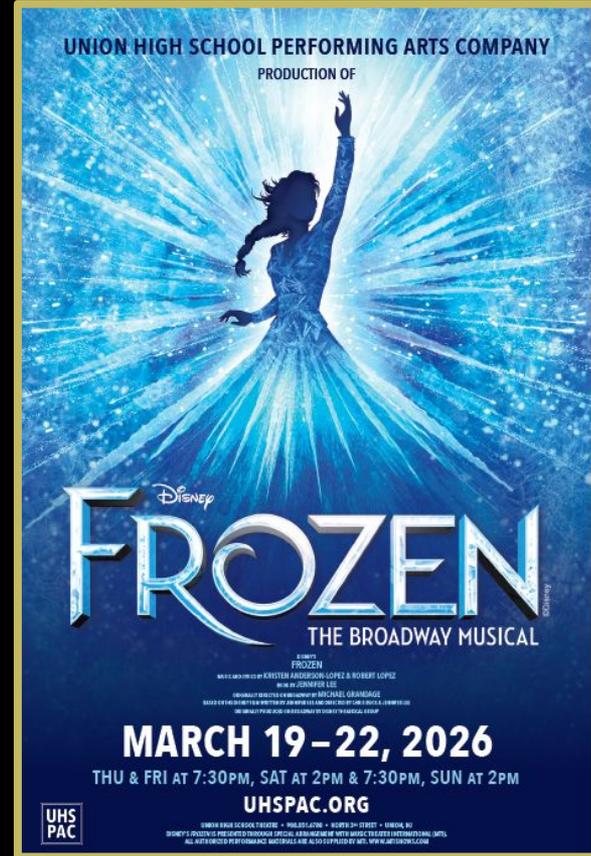
UHS Swimming & UHS Bowling Celebrated Senior Nights



UHS PAC

Our spring musical this year
will be Frozen: The
Broadway Musical.

We are excited to bring this
production to the stage in
March 19-22nd.





Thank you
Ethan Beaumont
Class of 2026

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

Doorman

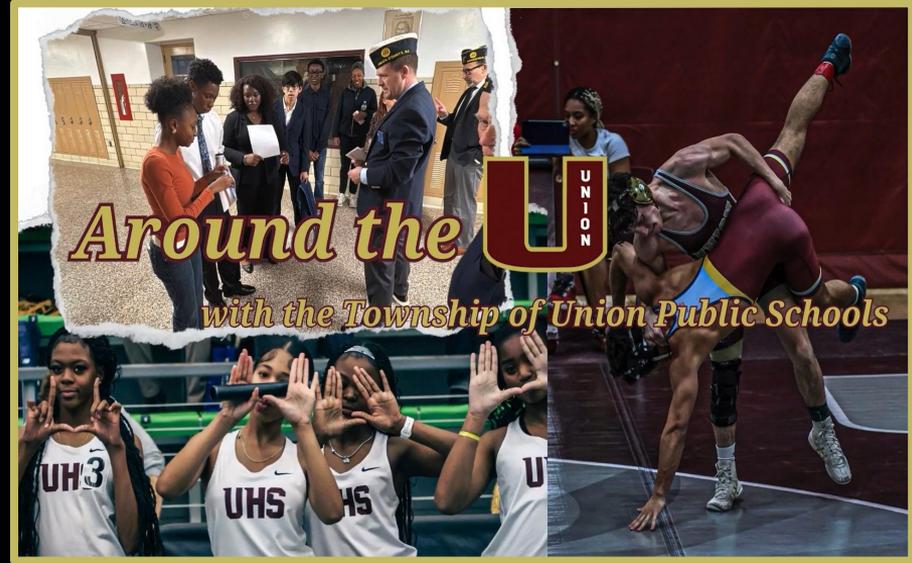
Interview with Mr. John Sousa & Dr. Benaquista



We're excited to share that Burnet Middle School is piloting Doorman, an innovative cell phone management app making us the FIRST school in New Jersey to launch this forward-thinking program!

This pilot also aligns with New Jersey's new school cell phone law, which takes effect July 1, reinforcing statewide efforts to reduce distractions, improve focus, and support student mental health during the school day.

This is an exciting first step with the potential to grow, as we continue putting students first and embracing smart, innovative solutions.



U-CARE TEAM

Interview with Dr. Rodriguez



Dr. Rodriguez sat down with Union TV34 and Edess to discuss our U-Care Teams and give us an update on our Attendance throughout the district.



TUPS 2026 Hall of Fame Inductees

May 7th, 2026



Christine A. Amalfe
 David Arminio
 Michael T. Bono
 Nija Charles
 Douglas DeLuca
 Elizabeth Duffy
 Grace Durling
 Steven Edwards
 Samuel Fortunato

Glenn A. Grant
 Dr. Theodore Jakubowski
 Dr. Michael Lodato
 Ronald Manzella
 Donald Ralph Marangi
 Andrew Meltzoff
 Linda Simensky
 Dr. Amy Simon
 Lawrence Edward Roberts

TUPS HALL OF FAME

HONORING THE PAST, INSPIRING THE FUTURE

Invites you to the
Induction Ceremony
 for the
Class of 2026

Thursday, May 7th 2026
 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
 Union Arts Center - DMK Theater
 1980 Morris Avenue
 Union, NJ 07083

We are thrilled to announce the revival of the TUPS Hall of Fame, after several years, honoring the remarkable individuals whose lasting impact continues to define our TUPS community.

Inductees

Christine A. Amalfe	Glenn A. Grant
David Arminio	Dr. Theodore Jakubowski
Michael T. Bono	Dr. Michael Lodato
Nija Charles	Ronald Manzella
Douglas DeLuca	Donald Ralph Marangi
Elizabeth Duffy	Andrew Meltzoff
Grace Durling	Linda Simensky
Steven Edwards	Dr. Amy Simon
Samuel Fortunato	Lawrence Edward Roberts

RSVP by April 7, 2026
 Donation: \$50 per person
 Checks payable to:
 FUPL c/o Hall of Fame
 Honorees are free, plus 1 guest.

Please note that we can accommodate only 130 guests.

Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, so we encourage you to submit your RSVP early.

We kindly ask that you keep this in mind when responding so that we may welcome as many honorees and supporters as possible.

PLEASE RETURN PAYMENT TO:
 TOWNSHIP OF UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION
 C/O KRISTIN NUNES
 855 LEHIGH AVENUE, SUITE 2
 UNION, NJ 07083
 CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FUPL C/O HALL OF FAME
 PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED WITH THE FORM BY APRIL 7, 2026

A COMMEMORATIVE JOURNAL WILL BE PUBLISHED FOR THE TUPS HALL OF FAME.
 PLACE YOUR CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE OR AD BELOW, OR EMAIL IT TO
 KRISTIN NUNES AT COMMUNICATION@TUPS.ORG

TUPS HALL OF FAME

HONORING THE PAST, INSPIRING THE FUTURE

	INSIDE/BACK COVERS	\$250 EACH	
FULL PAGE	\$100	HALF PAGE	\$75
QUARTER PAGE	\$50	2-LINE LISTING (BUSINESS CARD)	\$25

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 CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FUPL C/O HALL OF FAME

PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED WITH THE FORM BY APRIL 7, 2026.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

National School Counselors' Week



TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS



EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM
DR. GERRY BENAQUISTA, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
MARISSA MCKENZIE, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS
DR. JOSE RODRIGUEZ, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF STUDENT SERVICES
YOLANDA KOON, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY
JOHN SOUSA, CHIEF INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Dear TUPS School Counselors,

As we celebrate National School Counseling Week, February 2-6, 2026, we want to share our sincere appreciation for the work you do every day. This year's theme, "School Counselors Amplify Student Success," truly reflects the way you support our students academically, socially, and emotionally, carrying out our TUPS mission to empower and inspire every student every day.

You are often the steady, trusted employee students turn to in moments of uncertainty, stress, or excitement about their future endeavors. Whether you are helping a student navigate a personal challenge, plan for college or a career, or simply feel seen and heard, your care and professionalism make a lasting impact. You remind our students, and all of us, that it's all about UI!

You work closely with families, teachers, and administrators to ensure every TUPS student has what they need to move forward. You notice when someone is struggling, you celebrate their progress, and you help them recognize possibilities they may not yet see in themselves. Because of you, our schools are stronger, more compassionate, and more student-centered.

On behalf of our Board of Education, our leadership team, and our entire school community, thank you for your dedication and commitment to the TUPS students. I hope you take a moment this week to reflect on the difference you make; you are truly appreciated.

With gratitude for your continued dedication to our students' success,

The Executive Leadership Team

855 LEHIGH AVENUE | UNION, NJ 07083 | 908.851.6400
IT'S ALL ABOUT U

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

AMERICAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION

FEB. 2-6 2026

School Counselors Amplify Student Success

Transportation Day - February 11th



TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MARISSA C. MCKENZIE
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS



Dear Township of Union Public Schools Community,

February is Love the Bus Month, and we invite everyone in the Township of Union Public Schools to join us in showing appreciation for our dedicated school bus drivers, aides, and transportation staff. Each day, these professionals arrive early, brave all kinds of weather, and take on the tremendous responsibility of safely transporting our students to and from school.

Our bus drivers and aides do far more than simply drive a route. They greet students with a smile, build trusting relationships, and help set a positive tone for the school day. Behind the scenes, transportation office staff and mechanics work tirelessly to ensure that buses are safe, routes are efficient, and every run operates as smoothly as possible.

As we celebrate Love the Bus Month, this is a friendly reminder to take a moment to say "thank you" to your bus drivers, aides, and transportation staff. A simple word of appreciation, a quick note, or a kind comment at the bus stop can go a long way in recognizing the important work they do for our students and families.

We also invite staff and students to wear yellow on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, to show support for our student transportation teams and the iconic yellow school bus. This visible gesture, along with your words of thanks, helps honor the people who help keep our students safe every day.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating and appreciating our bus drivers, aides, and transportation professionals. Their commitment and care make a tremendous difference in the lives of our students and families.

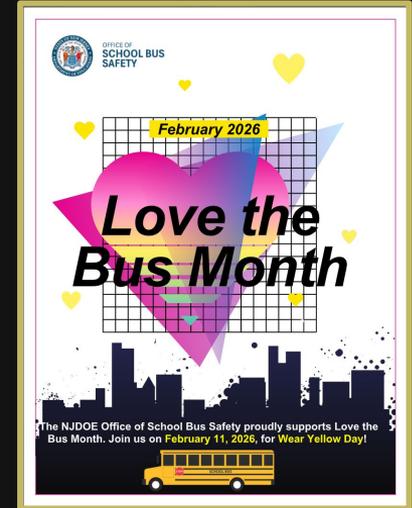
Marissa McKenzie

Marissa McKenzie

Assistant Superintendent of Business Operations

855 LEHIGH AVENUE | UNION, NJ 07083 | 862.438.0913 | MMCKENZIE@TUPS.ORG

IT'S ALL ABOUT U



Multilingual Parent Advisory Committee (MPAC)



Before the storm on Sunday, this was planned for Monday night with our multilingual families. They were invited to enjoy hot chocolate and conversation while learning, sharing, and connecting. This meeting was supposed to be at the Union Public Library we will notify everyone when it is **rescheduled**.

UNION
 أب/أم متعدد اللغات
 اللجنة الاستشارية

انضم إلينا!
 لتناول بعض الشوكولاتة الساخنة والدردشة
 أنت مدعوون لحضور اجتماعنا الشخصي في لجنة العمل السياسي متعددة الأطراف (MPAC)
 سيحدث الاجتماع في مكتبة الاتحاد العامة.
 يرجى استخدام رمز الاستجابة السريعة أو الرابطة لتأكيد مساهمتك.
 (الأطفال مرحوب بهم)
 رابط التأكيد: [هنا](#)

UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY
 CONNECT EXPLORE DISCOVER

UNION
 Paron ki gen plizyè lang
 Komite Konsiltatif

LENDI
FEVRIÈ
23
 6:00-7:00 PM

VIN JWENN NOU!
POU YOJ TI CHOKOLA CHÈ
AK YOJ KONVÈSASYON
 Ou envite pou batise nan reyinyon MPAC nou an an pèsòn.
 Reyinyon an ap fèt nan Bibliyotèk Piblik Inyon an.
 Tanpri tilize Kòd QR a oswa liyen an pou konfirme asistans ou.
 (remoun yo akèy)
 Klike la → [Iten Form Google](#)

UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY
 CONNECT EXPLORE DISCOVER

UNION
 Multilingual Parent
 Advisory Committee

MONDAY
FEBRUARY
23RD
 6:00-7:00PM

COME JOIN US!
FOR SOME HOT CHOCOLATE & CONVERSATION

You are invited to attend our in-person MPAC meeting.

Meeting will take place at Union Public Library.

Please use the QRC Code or link to confirm your assistance.
 (children welcome)

Click here → [Google Form Link](#)

UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY
 CONNECT EXPLORE DISCOVER

UNION
 Padres multilingües
 Comité Asesor

LUNES
FEBRERO
23
 6:00-7:00 P. M.

VEN Y ÚNETE A NOSOTROS!
PARA TOMAR UN CHOCOLATE CALIENTE Y CONVERSAR

Estás invitado a asistir a nuestra reunión en persona del MPAC.
 La reunión se llevará a cabo en la Biblioteca Pública de la Unión.
 Utilice el código QR o el enlace para confirmar su asistencia.
 (niños bienvenidos)

haga clic → [Enlace de Formulario de Google](#)

UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY
 CONNECT EXPLORE DISCOVER

UNION
 Pai/Mãe multilingue
 Comitê Consultivo

SEGUNDA-FEIRA
23
FEBREIRO
 18:00-19:00

VENHA SE JUNTAR A NÓS!
PARA UM CHOCOLATE QUENTE E UMA BOA CONVERSA.

Você está convidado(a) a participar na nossa reunião presencial do MPAC.
 A reunião acontecerá na Biblioteca Pública de União.
 Por favor, utilize o código QR ou o link para confirmar sua presença.
 (Crianças são bem-vindas)

Clique aqui → [link para formulário de Google](#)

UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY
 CONNECT EXPLORE DISCOVER

Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying (HIB)



Incidents to Affirm

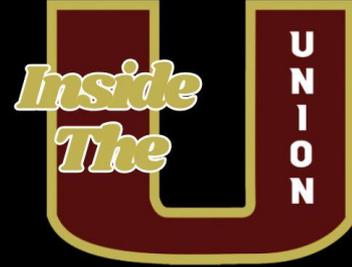
Period January 21st - February 10th

Met the Criteria - 8

Unfounded - 2

Inconclusive - 1

Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying (HIB)



Incidents to Report

Period February 11th - February 24th

Met the Criteria - 3

Unfounded - 1

Inconclusive - 3

Student Safety Data System (SSDS)



Reporting Period September 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Report Period 1 (September 1 - December 31, 2025)

School Name	Incidents*	Other Incidents Leading to Removal	Restraint/Seclusion	HIB Alleged	HIB Trainings	HIB Programs
050-Union High School	40	182	0	0	9	5
060-Burnet Middle School	24	38	0	0	7	13
070-Kawameeh Middle School	8	0	0	2	5	7
080-Battle Hill Elementary	0	0	0	0	10	12
083-Hannah Caldwell Elementary	0	0	0	2	6	9
085-Jefferson Elementary	1	0	0	1	9	17
090-Connecticut Farms Elementary	0	0	0	2	8	15
100-Franklin Elementary	0	1	1	0	7	5
130-Livingston Elementary	0	0	0	0	14	16
140-Washington Elementary	0	5	0	0	18	30
District-Wide					3	0

TUPS Attendance Initiative

Update for January 2026 District Average K-12th 95.15



Attendance Award

FOR THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ATTENDING FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY WITH A

97.24%

the 7th graders at Kawameech

We Are Proud of U!



TUPS
TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Mrs. Magda

Attendance Award

FOR THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ATTENDING FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER WITH A

98.839%

the 6th graders at Kawameech

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 NOVEMBER WITH A

97.834%

the 6th graders at Kawameech

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 Campaign with Dr. Rodriguez
Coming soon: Spanish

All for free!

INTRODUCING
MATH MATTERS
A HOMEWORK HELP PROGRAM
for K-5 math students & families

REDUCING MATH STRESS & BUILDING COMMUNITY
Get a one-on-one tutoring session for the student while the guardian attends a hands-on workshop helping them understand the "new math" taught in schools!

- ✓ Tuesday, February 3
6PM at the Main Library
- ✓ Saturday, March 14
10AM at the Vauxhall Branch Library
- ✓ Tuesday, March 17
6PM at the Main Library
- ✓ Saturday, April 25
10AM at the Vauxhall Branch Library
- ✓ Tuesday, April 28
6PM at the Main Library

Tutoring the children:
UPL Teen Volunteers
Instructing the adults:
LaToya Nelson
TUPS K-5 Math Coach (and staff)

Due to space constraints, sessions at Vauxhall will only include the parents & guardians, no tutoring.

Space is limited.
Please register in advance at upls.nj.org/events



Math Matters
with our own
TUPS Math Coach
Ms. LaToya Nelson

Township of Union Public Schools
PRESCHOOL LOTTERY
2026-2027

Lottery Registration Opens: February 23, 2026 at 9:00 am
Lottery Registration Closes: March 27, 2026 at 4:00 pm

REQUIREMENTS:

- Children must be 3 or 4 years old by October 1, 2026.
- Union Township Residents Only

PROGRAM DETAILS:

- Applicants not selected in the lottery will be placed on the waiting list.
- Applications submitted after March 27, 2026 will only be placed on the waiting list.
- Limited seats available
- Free full-day program
- New Jersey state approved curriculum



For More Information:
www.tups.org/preschool



Preschool Lottery is open information is on the website.

IT'S ALL ABOUT U!
NEWSLETTER

Township of Union Public Schools (February 2026)

Mission: To Empower and Inspire Every Student, Every Day.
Check out our new website: www.tups.org

Spirit of UNION NJ FREE
UNION'S HOME TOWN NEWSPAPER
Volume 182 • February 2026

Published by: [Annmaria.com](http://www.annmaria.com) • 908-247-1295

Township of Union Public Schools

STUDENT ORATORS IN AMER LEGION CONTEST CELEBRATED



Students participating in the Amer Legion Contest celebration.

BUILD YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE:
Squeeze in time to grow your business online presence? We can help you with that. Our experts will help you create a professional-looking website that also has quality lead generation built in.

POST A FREE BOMBSHOT PROFILE VISIT LOCALINFO.COM

MIND YOUR OWN LOCAL BUSINESS
Scan for 6th Episode of Mind Your Own Local Business on YouTube.

200,000 Newspapers
JUST IMAGINE: This ad that everyone is reading could be promoting your business.

Mailed to every home and business in 30 towns!
Call Joe Renna 908-247-1295 • Visit RennaMedia.com

Inside The

UNION

ParentSquare Update



It's All About U



The ParentSquare app is available in both iOS or Android stores. Downloading the mobile app is the easiest way to receive all Posts, Events, Sign Up Requests, Photos and Files.

[iOS App - Apple Store](#)

[Android App - Google Play Store](#)



ParentSquare Campaign in Portuguese with Cristina Goncalves
Burnet Administrative Assistant
Coming soon: Spanish



We have 46% of Parents/Guardians that have downloaded the App to date.
As a district we have 100% contactability on ParentSquare at all of our schools.

Congratulations



It's All About U



Jacklyn Cassandra
Valedictorian



Ava Soares
Salutatorian

.... to be honored at an upcoming Board of Education meeting.

THANK



**TUPS Building & Grounds,
TUPS Transportation Department,
and the Township of Union DPW**

A huge thank you to Anthony Cirella, Manager of Buildings & Grounds, the TUPS Building & Grounds team, the TUPS Transportation department, and the Township of Union DPW for their hard work and dedication during Sunday's storm.

We are grateful for your commitment, responsiveness, and pride in keeping our schools running smoothly, often behind the scenes and in tough conditions.

Your work does not go unnoticed.
Thank you for all that you do to support our
TUPS community!



It's All About U

 www.tups.org



ParentSquare



StudentSquare

6-12 Grade



communication@tups.org



Township of Union Public Schools



Tupschools



Unionhs_athletics



Tupschools