

Superintendent Report
June 2021

- **Pledge of Allegiance**

- Mrs. Meyers @ Livingston Elementary School - Pre-K Class
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1udNJ6mM6zg__Pbnqh4lqZA6POxgsXE-S/view?usp=sharing

- **Student Liaisons**

- 9th-Gabriella Guido
- 10th Joshua Tidwell
- 11th Pedro Torres
- 12th Faith Olayinka (in person)

- **Union High School JROTC:**

- We are proud to announce that our JROTC program achieved a perfect inspection score on the JROTC program of accreditation. This program is a triennial formal, comprehensive Army inspection of each JROTC program. Despite the challenges related to the pandemic, the Department of the Army has formally designated the Union HS Army JROTC Program as an Honor Unit with Distinction. The Honor Unit with Distinction designation is the highest award an Army JROTC program can receive. Only those JROTC units that maintain an exceptionally high standard of performance are presented with this award. This status represents a significant achievement as it upholds Union HS JROTC in elite status. The Honor Unit with Distinction designation is granted to only 10% of 1700 nationwide Army JROTC Programs.
- We are incredibly proud and honored that this group of students represent Union High School, our district, and our community as a whole. On behalf of all of the members of the Township of Union Board of Education, I want to congratulate each member of our JROTC program and their instructors Col. Walter Alvarado and 1st Sgt Gerald Schemel.
- Mark Hoyt, Linda Ionta & Vinny Rettino who is here tonight
- **Ask SGT Schmell and COL. Alvarado to speak**
- [HUD Certificate](#)

- [HUD Letter](#)

- **Union High School - Once on This Island**
 - Invite up Ron Rago & Patrick Phillips and Students to present
 - Last month, UHSPAC presented the Tony Award-winning musical *Once on This Island* in two ways: live in-person on the Union High School Football Field and live-streamed to homes. It was incredibly successful and the students and staff worked hard to make it happen.

The production was nominated for the prestigious Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards, receiving nominations for Outstanding Large Ensemble Performance, Outstanding Small Ensemble Performance, and Outstanding Performance by a Solo Actress for graduating senior Khadija Sankoh. Khadija also was awarded the Douglas Michael Krueger Memorial Scholarship from the Paper Mill Playhouse which will go towards her education in her pursuit of the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre degree at Ithaca College.

We have Mr. Phillips and a few students here from the production who have put together a brief slideshow detailing their experience as student performers.
 - https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1PVnHWTKJ2y_P9LNy3UsKEN-4j61sRQFaisMFCGnoQOE/edit?usp=sharing

- **Union High School - Unsung Hero**
 - The Unsung Hero award is sponsored by the NJ School Boards Association. Each High School in Union County selects one senior student for the award who has made a difference.
 - For UHS this year, the recipient is Skylar Walter.
 - Skylar has a business called “Skylar Shop” where she works in cooperation with Global Giving, and is set up for Covid relief so a portion of her profits are donated to the cause. In addition she also has a business selling glass music plaques through social media.
 - Skylar also leads as President of the Feminist Club at UHS. Her role is to coordinate meetings and fundraising. The club hopes to bring

awareness to the public on a variety of current social issues affecting our youth.

- Skylar also has managed to take on numerous community service projects such as volunteering at the middle school and high school shows. Some of the responsibilities include being in the pit and stage crew. When the curtain opens, she is playing not one but 5 instruments.
- Congratulations to Skylar!

- **Union High School - Athletic Program 2020-2021 Signings summary**

- A number of our Union Athletes have signed to colleges and universities and I would like to just share some of these signings.
- <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1vwzZA1bo1JjhflKaNLjEtJaqAUeOGRSu5BfPA1tJHjQ/edit?usp=sharing>

- **Union High School - Post-Graduation plans**

- The post-graduation plans of our students represent colleges and universities, the military, careers, and technical schools. This slideshow put together by our school counselors highlights some of the post-graduation plans of our students, and the list keeps growing!
- <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1NvlzLeKhm3nQtKVHVHkvEgf98z--3sSxArnqlm6uZ4c/edit?usp=sharing>

- **Union High School - Union County Scholars Breakfast**

- I would like to recognize this year's valedictorian and salutatorian. I was fortunate enough to have breakfast with these students a few weeks ago at the Union Count Scholars Breakfast and I was truly impressed by them.
- Valedictorian - Dylan DeFelipe - Will be attending Cornell University. He will be on the pre-med track with a Health Care Policy major. He will also be in the Dyson Business school where he will be getting his Life Science minor.
- Salutatorian - Nicholas Vasquez - Will be Attending Harvard University. He will be studying neuroscience on the pre-med track with a secondary degree in Latinx studies.

- **Union High School - Senior Awards**

- I would also like to congratulate all of the students who received a scholarship on Senior Awards night. 145 scholarships were awarded, totalling \$64,575.00.
- I would especially like to recognize some students who received high-amount scholarships including Ivana Brito who received a \$2500 scholarship to be given to a student who demonstrates perseverance, charity, and potential to succeed and
- Detrah Bowman who received \$4000 for a student continuing their education at Montclair State.

- **Start Strong Assessment 2020**

- Last week the Board requested more information about the 2020 administration of Start Strong. Mrs. Moran put together a short presentation on the district's summary data.

- **Call Randi up.**

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1sbaqS2MTR9PkeRrouO2Xnv8LbQaeNZRfMZ_7OECol/edit?usp=sharing

Report on HIB for the period June 9, 2021, to June 15, 2021

1 HIB # 3 KMS was founded

Attendance For the Month of May:

Students 95.7%

Staff 93.3%

- **Thank You**

As this is my last board meeting as Acting Superintendent, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the entire Union Schools community for your support and understanding over the last six months. When appointed, I had two goals. One was to increase the amount of communication between the district and its staff and families. The second was to reopen schools safely for in-person learning. Without everyone in the school community working together, achieving those two

goals would not have been possible. I would like to just take a few moments to thank a few people for their support.

I would most importantly like to thank all of the families and students of the district for their ongoing dedication to ensuring that our students receive the best education they can and for continuing to share their values and needs with me. Without you, our students would not have achieved nearly as much as they did this year.

I would like to thank the PTA for welcoming me to their meetings and for working collaboratively with me to ensure that our families' voices are heard and the students are supported.

Thank you to all the teachers and staff in the buildings who worked so hard to learn all new platforms, to embrace new strategies to engage students, and dedicated countless hours to changing so much about how they did things, all for our students.

Thank you to the maintenance and custodial staff. Without you, the reopening of schools and the ongoing maintenance and cleaning of schools, allowing us to stay open, would not have been possible.

Thank you to the administrators and all Central Office personnel. You were understanding when things were tough and pushed me when things weren't going right. You work so hard to make sure that our staff and students get everything they need and I am truly honored to have each of you on the team.

And thank you to the Board of Education for giving me the opportunity to lead this amazing district.

As I move back into my role as Assistant Superintendent, I look forward to working with Dr. Taylor to continue the district's progression forward. Again, thank you for all your support.