



TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dicxiana Carbonell
President



May 20, 2025

Kimberly Scott-Hayden
Vice President



Michael Cohan
Member



Elsie Conteh-Mackey
Member



Guida Faria
Member



Nancy Minneci
Member



Ronnie McDowell
Member



Gregory Nasta
Member



Chastity Santana
Member



Union High School Army JROTC Drill Team has captured 2nd consecutive National Championship!



HISTORY MADE!
The Union High School Army
JROTC Drill Team has
captured its 2nd consecutive
national championship at
the 2025 All Services
National High School Drill
Team Championship!



IN THE U - STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNION HIGH SCHOOL ARMY JROTC DRILL TEAM HAS CAPTURED ITS SECOND CONSECUTIVE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE 2025 ALL SERVICES NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DRILL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP IN DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA!

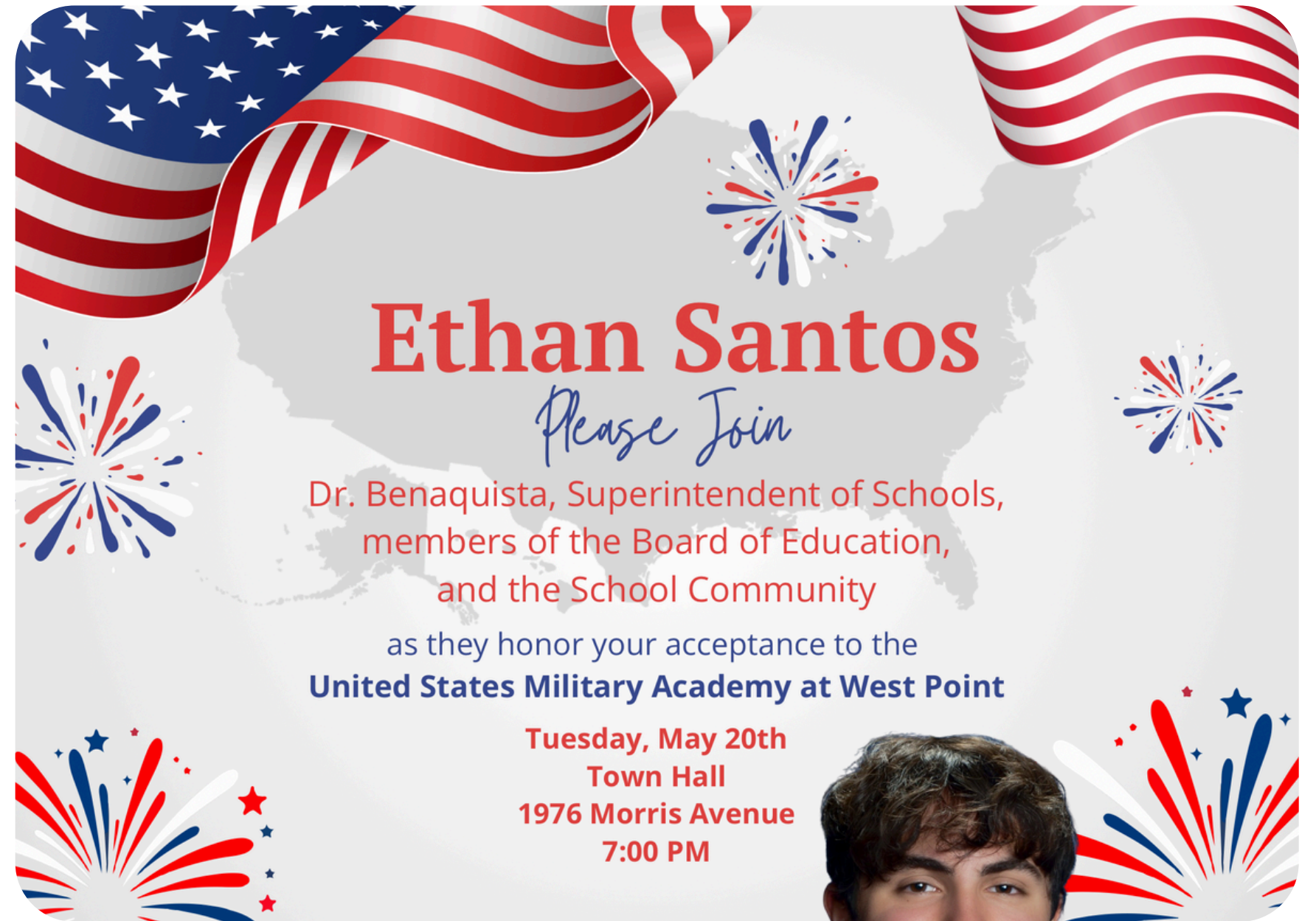
COMPETING AGAINST OVER 100 ELITE TEAMS FROM THE ARMY, NAVY, MARINES, AND AIR FORCE, OUR CADETS TOOK HOME THE DIVISION 2 ARMED CHAMPIONSHIP. THEY PLACED 2ND IN THE UNARMED CHAMPIONSHIP—DEFEATING TOP PROGRAMS INCLUDING THE USMC NATIONAL CHAMPIONS FROM READING, PA, AND THE US ARMY NATIONAL CHAMPIONS FROM MANSFIELD, TX.

TOP 5 FINISHES: • ARMED INSPECTION – 1ST PLACE | C/LTC GENESIS MUNOZ • UNARMED INSPECTION – 1ST PLACE | C/1SG STACEY CHARLES • ARMED EXHIBITION – 1ST PLACE | C/CPT JEFFERSON ISME • ARMED REGULATION – 3RD PLACE | C/SFC KERVENS PIERRE • ARMED COLOR GUARD – 5TH PLACE | C/SSG ANDREW LOPES • UNARMED COLOR GUARD – 2ND PLACE | C/CPT KIMBERLY CANO

THIS MARKS THE FIRST TIME IN SCHOOL HISTORY UNION JROTC HAS WON BACK-TO-BACK NATIONAL TITLES, BUILDING ON THEIR 2024 DIVISION 3 WIN—AND ADDING TO AN ALREADY LEGENDARY LEGACY OF THREE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (2014, 2024, 2025) AND 24 STRAIGHT STATE TITLES

Colonel Walter Alvarado

Sergeant Gerald Schemel



It's All About U

IN THE U - HIGHLIGHTS

BOARD STUDENT LIASON
MARIELLA GARCIA
(MAY)



TOP 25 OF UHS 2025
STUDENT COUNCIL (PRESIDENT)
ASIAN STUDENT ALLIANCE (VICE PRESIDENT)
PEER AMBASSADORS (EMISSARY)
FARMERFRONTLINE (EDITOR)
KEY CLUB (HISTORIAN)
INTERACT CLUB (MEMBER)

MY MAJOR WILL BE POLITICAL SCIENCE, AND
MINORING IN SUSTAINABILITY AND KOREAN



BURNET MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENTS PERFORMANCE OF
SISTER ACT!



Conneticut Farms School
held a "Pie a Teacher"
event. They raised over
\$13,000 through the Read-
A-Thon, and to celebrate,
the top student readers
were given the chance to
pie a teacher of their
choicel





THE HAPPENINGS AT UNION H.S.!

Mariella Garcia

Dream

UPCOMING DATES



May 29 - Senior Class Trip

HERSHEY PARK!



May 30 - Senior Pool Party

SWIMMING TIME!



May 23 - Football Game

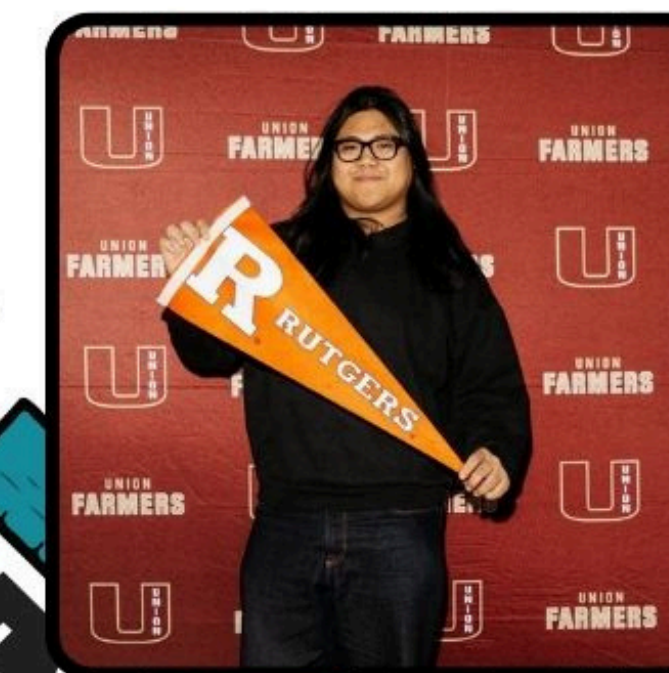
STUDENTS V TEACHERS!



June 5 - An unforgettable night..

SENIOR PROM!

COMMIT DAY





HOW'S THE
SPORTS?

SPORTS!

COMMITTS!

FLAG FOOTBALL!

PLAYOFFS BOUND!

- Overall: 7-0-1
- League: 5-0
- #5 in NJ
- Big Central Conference Player of the Week:
 - Amiyah Louis-Jiles

DAY OF SERVICE!

May 9, 2025

- 15 UHS Student Athletes
- Cleaned and organized a local VFS
- Organized by Athletic Director:
 - Ron Zieser

- Caleb Duvelson
 - NJIT
 - Throws (XCTF)
- Maireyls Tavares
 - La Salle University
 - Acro Tumbling
- Woodley Auciel
 - Union College
 - Wrestling
- Babadara Olowe
 - Delaware State University
 - Shot Put (XCTF)





SPORTS!

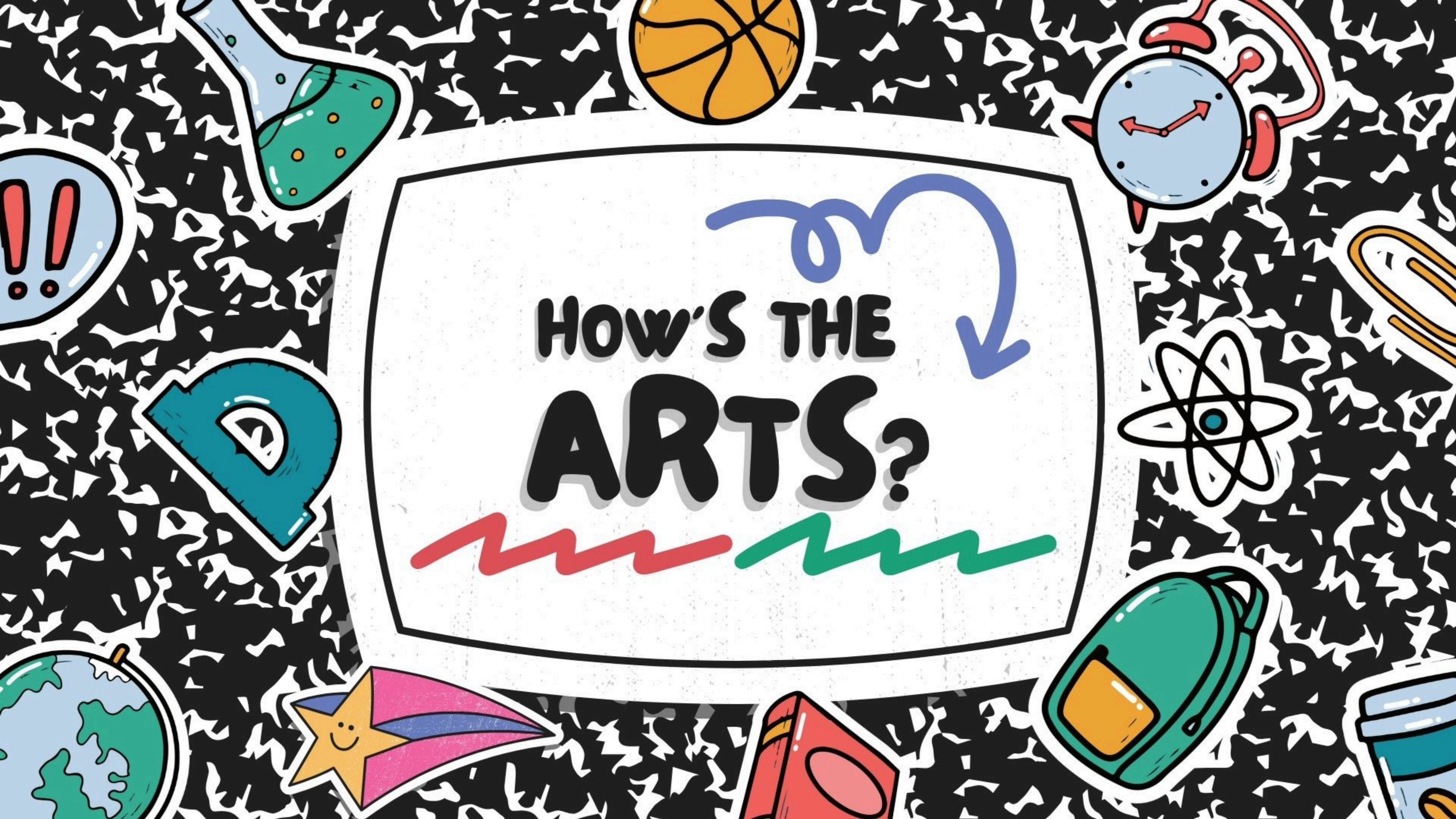


ROTC!

Earlier this May, The Union High School Army JROTC Drill teams attended the 2025 National High School Drill Championship in Daytona Beach, Florida - where they made history its second onsec championship And achieving multiple awards.

- Armed Inspection - 1st Place | C/LTC Genesis Munoz
- Unarmed Inspection - 1st Place | C/ISG Stacey Charles
- Armed Exhibition - 1st Place | C/CPT Jefferson Isme
- Armed Regulation - 3rd Place | C/SFC Kervens Pierre
- Armed Color Guard - 5th Place | C/SSG Andrew Lopes
- Unarmed Color Guard - 2nd Place | C/CPT Kimberly Cano





HOW'S THE
ARTS?



ARTS!



ORLANDOFEST!

Students of the UHSPAC performed and competed at OrlandoFest Music Competition in Disney World, Florida from May 1st - 5th, winning multiple awards!

- UHS Concert Band - 2nd Place, Excellent rating
- UHS String Orchestra - 1st Place, Excellent rating
- UHS Dance team - 1st Place, Superior rating
- UHS Concert Choir - 2nd Place, Superior rating
- UHS Swing Choir - 1st Place, Superior rating
- Outstanding Soloist - Grace Lescano





HOW'S THE
CLUBS?



CLUBS!



KEY CLUB!

In addition to their growing service in our community, UHS Key Club attended NJ Key Club's District Education Conference at the Berkeley Hotel in Asbury Beach, NJ - where they competed and won multiple awards!

- Elena Jensen - 1st Place, T-Shirt Design
- Hannah Hipolito - 1st Place, Club Website
- Talia Johnson, Kristolyn Koduah, Sophia Inahauzo, Kauri Townes, Veronica Koziol, & Hannah Hipolito - 3rd Place, Major Emphasis Award
- Tracy Tran & Eli Abaya - 1st Place, Club Digital Poster
- Ndbuisi "JC" Ejike - 1st Place, Club Bulletin
- Mariella Garcia, Adaugo Ikwu, & Media Committee - 2nd Place, Social Media
- Leo Benedict Panes - Platinum Single Service Award
- Hadassah Trindade - International Distinguished Club
- And more..!



A decorative border surrounds the central text, featuring various icons related to science and art. At the top, there is a blue microscope, a globe, a blue and red DNA helix, and a blue atom symbol. At the bottom, there is a blue atom symbol, a blue and red DNA helix, a blue microscope, a blue and red DNA helix, and a blue atom symbol. The background is white with a black and white pattern of small, stylized figures.

CLUBS!

RED CROSS CLUB!

Making cards
for kids
in hospitals
all over
the United States!

LAW CLUB!

May 27, 2025

A guest speaker
will be coming to
the Law Club's
next meeting!
They are an
attorney!

ART CLUB!

Working well
with painting their mural!
The mural takes artistic
inspiration from:

- Keith Haring
- Takashi Murakami
- & more!



THE END.

THANK YOU!

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

LIVINGSTON
INTERIM PRINCIPAL
YVONNE LORENZO

PTA PRESIDENT
DAWN CASALE



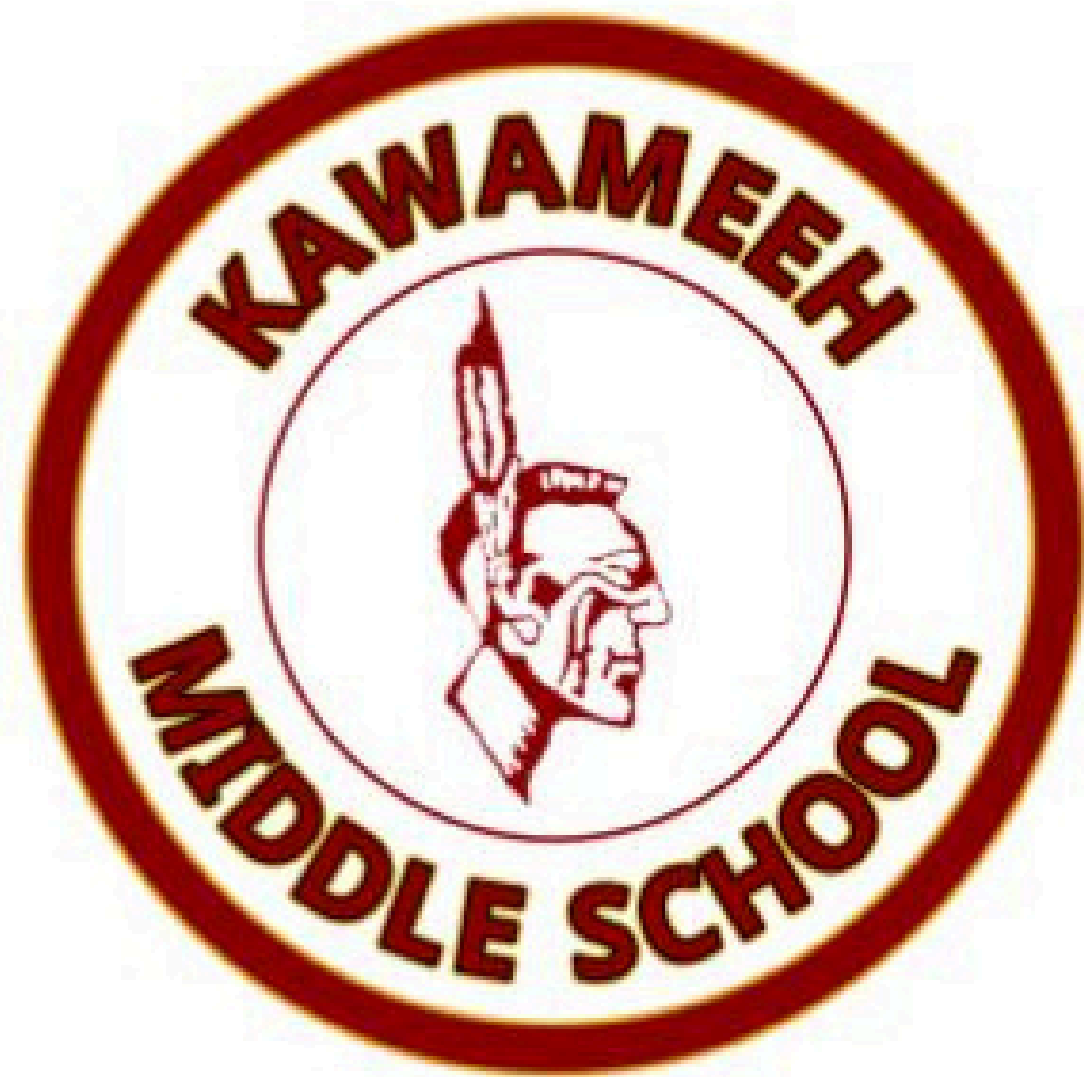
SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

**KAWAMEEH
PRINCIPAL
JASON MALANDA**

**PTA PRESIDENT
NICOLE AHERN**



KAWAMEEH MIDDLE SCHOOL

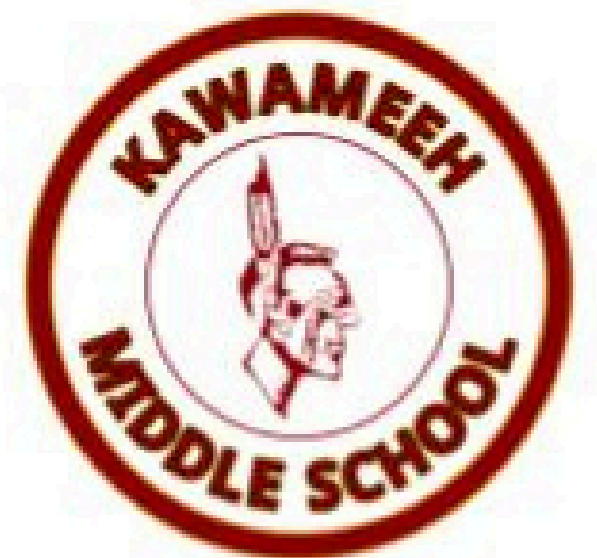


**Events, Programs,
Collaborations &
what makes KMS
special!**

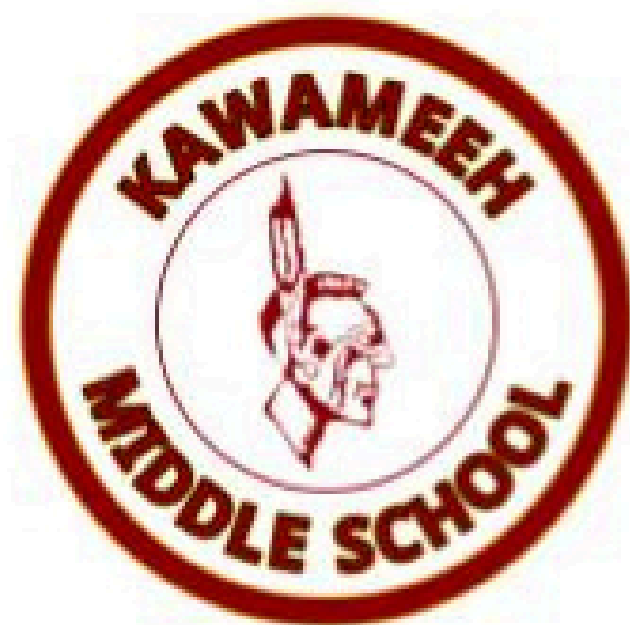
2024-2025 AT A GLANCE

ELA & MATH COACHES

This year, the ELA and Math coaches at KMS collaborated closely with 6–8 teachers to support data-driven instruction and enhance student learning outcomes. Through co-planning, modeling, and targeted professional development, they helped implement effective strategies aligned with curriculum goals. Their partnership fostered a culture of continuous growth and instructional excellence across all grade levels.



READY, SET, READ!



Each Friday during extended homeroom, the entire KMS community participated in our *Ready, Set, Read!* initiative—dedicated time for students and staff to enjoy a book of their choice. To spark excitement, the vice principal or media specialist often hosted read-alouds featuring engaging selections from different genres. This school-wide effort helped foster a love of reading and built a positive reading culture across all grade levels!

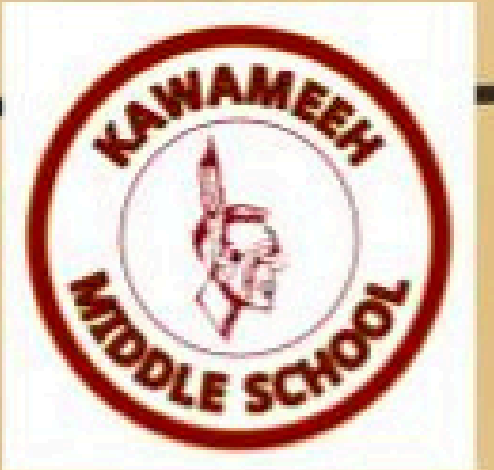
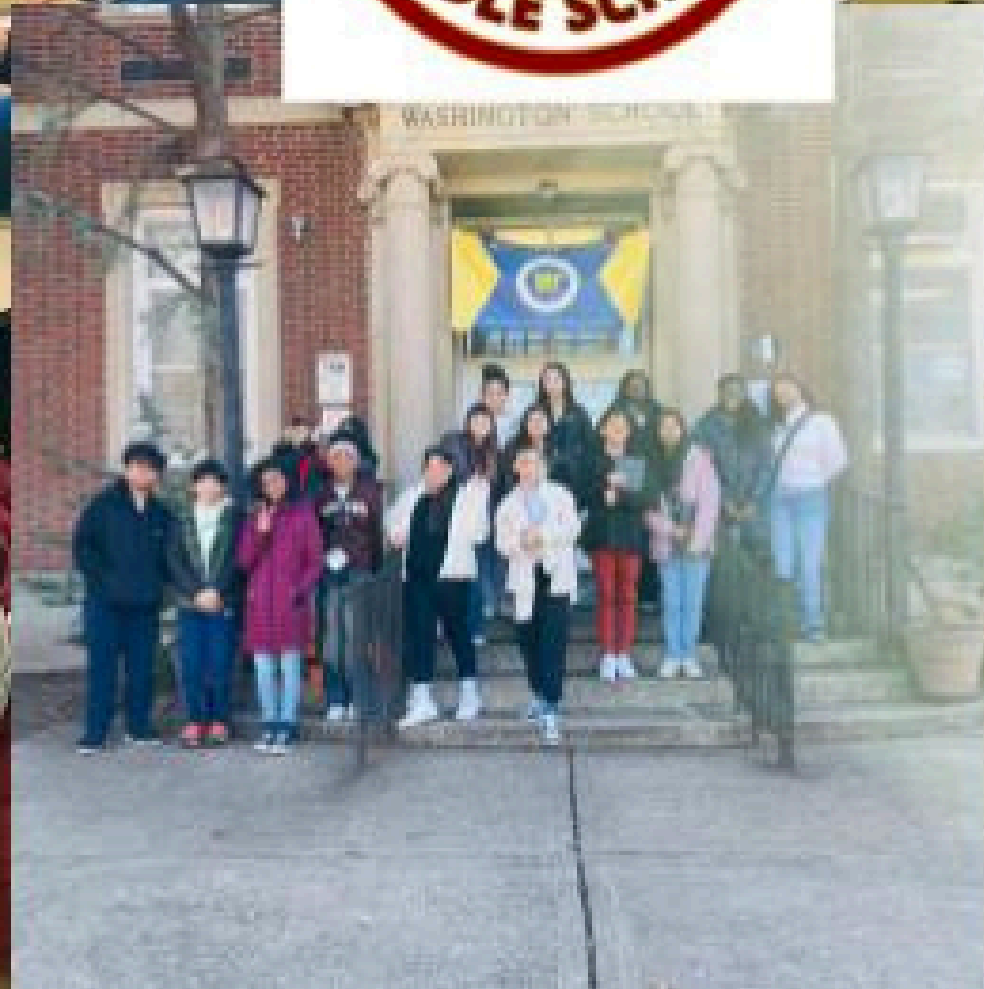
1ST ANNUAL KMS CLIMATE CONVENTION



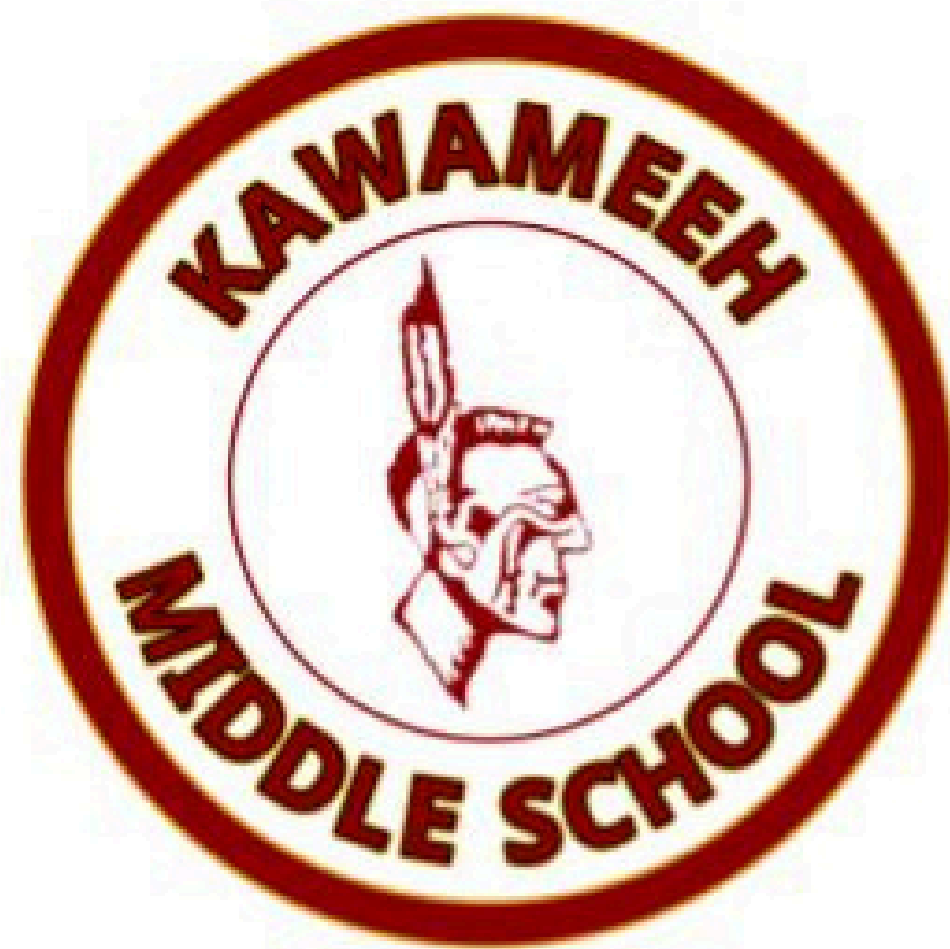
DAFFODIL PROJECT



PEER LEADERSHIP



EVENTS & COLLABORATIONS



This year, the KMS PTA partnered with school admin to host fun and impactful events like a school wide assembly, bowling party, clothing drive, Dine to Donate fundraisers, skating party, staff appreciation luncheons, and the KMS vs. BMS staff volleyball game—bringing our school community closer together!

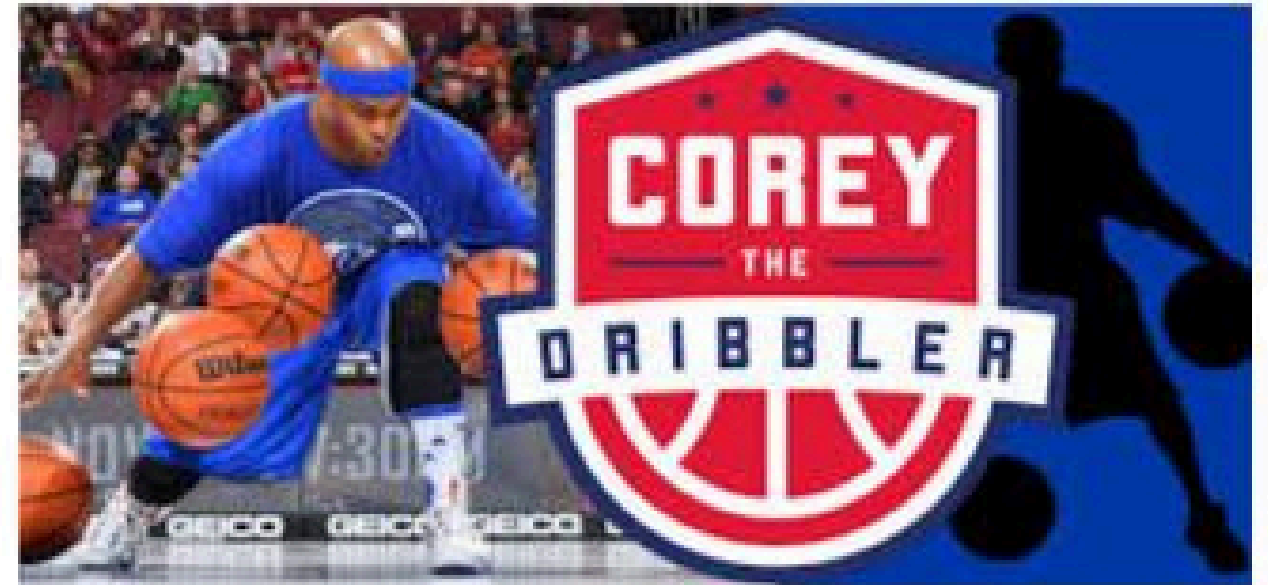
KMS VS BMS STAFF VOLLEYBALL GAME!



COREY THE DRIBBLER: ADVOCACY

This year the PTA provided funds for all students to attend an assembly related to motivation, self-esteem, setting goals with Corey the Dribbler, a former

Harlem Globetrotter turned motivational speaker with his message to inspire kids: "R.E.A.D." message (Respect, Education, Attitude/Activity, and Don't Bully or Do Drugs).



DINE TO DONATE & CLOTHING DRIVE FUNDRAISERS




Save the Date

DONATION DRIVE

NOVEMBER 16, 2024
9 AM - 12 PM
KMS PARKING LOT

check your email for more details
or email
kmspta@twunionschools.org

The poster features a dark red background with various clothing items like jackets, hats, and shoes scattered around the text.



WE CAN DO THIS!! FOOD WITH INTEGRITY
COMMUNITY STARTS HERE

**DO GOOD
WITH CHIPOTLE**

CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR
KAWAMEEH MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA

25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12TH | 4-8PM
1101 MORRIS AVE, UNION, NJ, 07083

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE 88LAZNG
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT

CHIPOTLE

For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$750 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

The poster has a white background with faint, repeating text in the background that reads "WE CAN DO THIS!! FOOD WITH INTEGRITY" and "COMMUNITY STARTS HERE".



**FEEL-GOOD
FOOD FOR
A CAUSE.**

JOIN HABIT BURGER & GRILL IN SUPPORT OF
KAWAMEEH MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 | 4:00PM - 9:00PM

Enter code **GIVEBACK** when placing your order at the
in-restaurant kiosk, the Habit Burger & Grill Mobile app, or habitburger.com.

Or, simply present this printed flyer or show this offer on your smart phone to the
cashier upon ordering. Habit Burger & Grill will donate
20% OF NET SALES from this event to benefit your organization.

Habit
BURGER & GRILL

1011 E. Morris Ave., Suite B3-C
Union, NJ 07083

Donation code: 88LAZNG

For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$750 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

The poster features a large, appetizing image of a burger on the right side.

ANNUAL 8TH GRADE DANCE

kawameeh
midnight dreams
8th grade dance 2025

TIME: 6:00 PM

DATE: APRIL 10TH, 2025
LOCATION: KMS GYMNASIUM



STAFF APPRECIATION DAYS



STUDENT AWARDS & RECOGNITION

KAWAMEEH CHIEFS

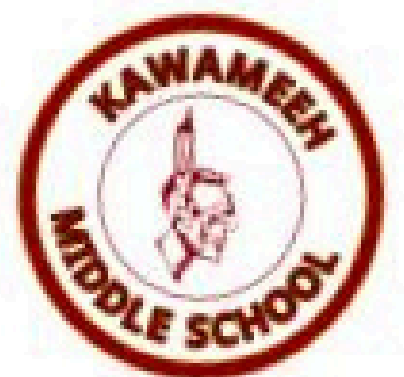
Our PTA proudly sponsors the annual Kawameeh Chief Awards, celebrating students who excel in academics, athletics, motivation, perseverance, leadership, and community service. Staff members nominate recipients in each category, recognizing those who embody the values and spirit of Kawameeh. These awards highlight the well-rounded achievements of our students and the supportive community behind them!



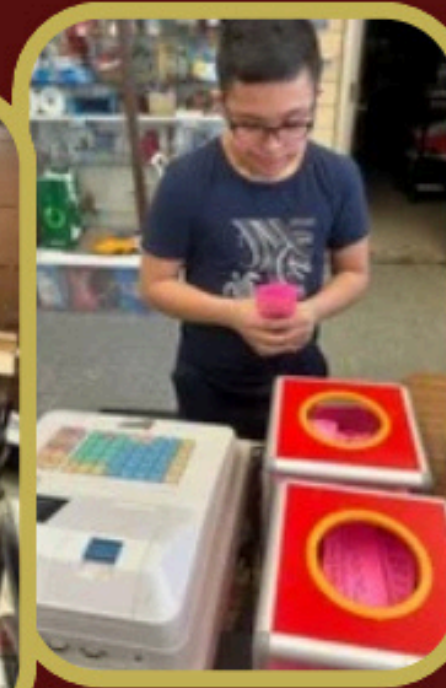
THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR!

As we close out this school year, we're proud to reflect on the growth, resilience, and collaboration that defined our work. From academic achievements to community-building initiatives, every success was a team effort. We look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead!

THANK
YOU



IN THE U - HIGHLIGHTS



THE (TUPS) FOR BEING HONORED AT THE BRONZE LEVEL BY NORTHEAST PBIS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING IMPLEMENTATION OF TIER 1!

ONLY FOUR NJ SCHOOLS RECEIVED THIS RECOGNITION — AND WE'RE ONE OF THEM!

FROM CLEAR EXPECTATIONS TO POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT, TUPS IS CREATING SUPPORTIVE, SAFE, AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS. SPECIAL THANKS TO MRS. KIM CONTI, OUR INCREDIBLE STAFF, AND DEDICATED PBSIS TEAMS IN ALL OF OUR SCHOOLS FOR MAKING THIS ACHIEVEMENT POSSIBLE!



It's All About U

IN THE U - HIGHLIGHTS

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR 2024-2025





JENNIFER CHAMBERLAIN
Battle Hill



MARIA FIORDILINO
Burnet



YVONNE BROWN
Connecticut Farms



GAIL RICHARDSON
Franklin



BRITTANY SCHILL
Jefferson



JENNIFER REGUINHO
Hannah Caldwell



JOY SHAW
Kawameeh



CARA MOORE
Livingston



CYNTHIA FERRETTI
Washington



LAUREN KOHN
Union High

TOWNSHIP OF UNION
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teacher of the Year
2024-2025
Congratulations!



It's All About U

UHS SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT 2025



108 Recipients
187 Scholarships
\$91,250 Total amount



IN THE U - SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

FLAG FOOTBALL

UNDEFEATED & DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS



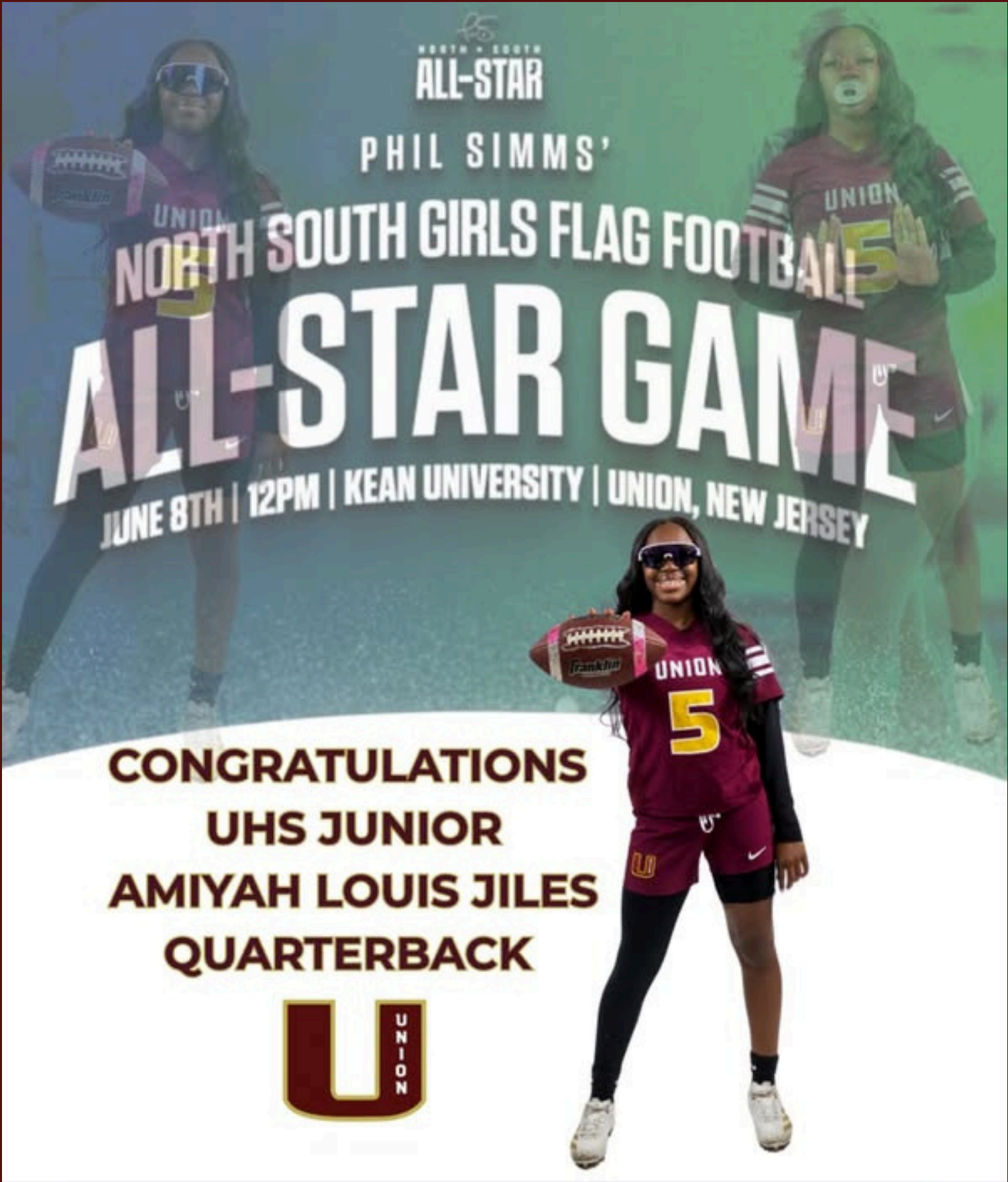
FIRST PLAYOFF GAME IS

THURSDAY, MAY 22 HOME AT 4:30 PM

IN THE U - HIGHLIGHTS

PHIL SIMMS' NORTH SOUTH GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL ALL-STAR GAME
JUNE 8TH | 12PM | KEAN UNIVERSITY | UNION, NEW JERSEY

CONGRATULATIONS UHS JUNIOR AMIYAH LOUIS JILES QUARTERBACK



FLAG FOOTBALL 2025



It's All About U



IN THE U - HIGHLIGHTS



It's All About U



It's All About U



It's All About U

IN THE U - STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

ORLANDOFEST

**OUR STUDENTS REPRESENTED UHS WITH INCREDIBLE TALENT,
PROFESSIONALISM, AND SCHOOL PRIDE**

UHS CONCERT BAND – 2ND PLACE, EXCELLENT RATING

UHS STRING ORCHESTRA – 2ND PLACE, EXCELLENT RATING

UHS DANCE TEAM – 1ST PLACE, SUPERIOR RATING

UHS CONCERT CHOIR – 2ND PLACE, SUPERIOR RATING

UHS SWING CHOIR – 1ST PLACE, SUPERIOR RATING

OUTSTANDING SOLOIST - GRACE LESCANO (UHS SENIOR, CONCERT CHOIR)

**“WE ARE SO PROUD OF ALL OF OUR STUDENTS—NOT JUST FOR THEIR AWARDS, BUT FOR THEIR DEDICATION, TEAMWORK,
AND POSITIVE SPIRIT THROUGHOUT THE TRIP. THESE ACHIEVEMENTS REFLECT THE HARD WORK OF OUR STUDENTS AND
THE UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF OUR STAFF, ADMINISTRATION, AND PARENT COMMUNITY.”**

MELISSA HANNON

VOCAL/CHORAL MUSIC, THEATRE

PATHWAYS LIAISON - VISUAL/CREATIVE ARTS & PERFORMING (VCAP)

PRODUCER, MUSIC DIRECTOR - UNION HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY



IT'S ALL ABOUT U!

Our Monthly Newsletter Focusing on the School Community



UNION HONORS OUR STUDENTS AT THE FIRST ANNUAL APEX AWARDS

The Township of Union Public Schools coordinated a recognition event to acknowledge our deserving students who received a high placement on the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) statewide assessments that assess students' progress toward the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. The district awarded so many students that they coordinated two recognition assemblies. A variety of speeches were given to the students from Senator Cryan, Mayor Bowser, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and the Board President and Vice President. Union High School's 2024-2025 salutatorian, Nubuisi Ejike spoke to the students and provided encouragement as they continue another school year. Each recipient was awarded a certificate and a proclamation. Congratulations to all of our hard working students and we are so very proud of U!



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](mailto:iscocozza@twpunionschools.org) or email iscocozza@twpunionschools.org

P. 1

PARENT SURVEY 2025

FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

as part of the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report

SURVEYS ARE OUT NOW!

- Each year a sampling of LEAs participate in the parent survey (i.e. a "Mini NJ"). This year 108 LEAs are participating. See the website below for more details.
- Surveys are available via email and mail. Virtual surveys are translated into 11 different languages.
- Parents have the opportunity to evaluate how their schools support involvement in their student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- This year, the Office of Special Education (OSE), is including a supplemental survey for parents to provide anecdotal feedback regarding the services and supports they receive.



<https://www.nj.gov/education/special/monitor/parentsurvey.shtml>
OSEinfo@doe.nj.gov

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR
MORE INFORMATION.



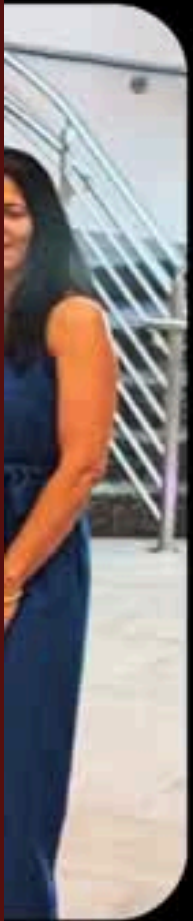
On Friday, May 9th,
Athletic Director Ron
Zieser and 15 UHS
student-athletes gave
back during an amazing
day of service!



It's All About U



It's All About U



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Township of Union Public Schools

STRATEGIC PLAN

Information Update

May 7, 2025



It's All About U

Last night, we proudly hosted our first Strategic Planning Live Event centered on Teaching & Learning

- Families, staff & community showed up
- Small groups discussed what great learning looks like, supporting all students & future readiness
- This feedback will directly guide our district's Strategic Plan

Thank you for your participation.

**Dr. Gerry Benaquista
Superintendent of Schools &
The Township of Union Board of Education**

Township of Union Public Schools

STRATEGIC PLAN

Information Update

May 15, 2025



It's All About U

Last night, we hosted our second Strategic Planning Live Event centered on Fiscal, Operations/Personnel, and Facilities.

- Families, staff & community came together
- Small groups discussed how we can design schools that work for everyone and build a culture where staff succeed and stay
- This feedback will directly guide our district's Strategic Plan

**Thank you for your participation.
We will keep you updated with further information.**

**Dr. Gerry Benaquista
Superintendent of Schools &
The Township of Union Board of Education**



It's All About U

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING (HIB)

HIB INCIDENTS AFFIRMED CASES

AFFRIM HIB FOR THE PERIOD
APRIL 30TH TO MAY 13TH

FOUNDED 1	NOT FOUNDED/ INCONCLUSIVE 4
UHS 1	UHS 3
	FES 1

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING (HIB)

HIB INCIDENTS TO REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD
MAY 14TH TO MAY 20TH

FOUNDED 3		NOT FOUNDED/ INCONCLUSIVE 1
UHS 2		HCES 1
BMS 1		

BOE RESOLUTION HIGHLIGHTS

E6 APPROVE TO ACCEPT FUNDS – NJDOE ESPORTS INDUSTRY CAREER EXPLORATION COMPETITIVE GRANT AWARD

APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FOR THE NJDOE ESPORTS INDUSTRY CAREER EXPLORATION COMPETITIVE GRANT AWARD FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 TO SUPPORT BOTH BURNET AND KAWAMEEH MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

E14 APPROVE APPLICATION FOR GRANTS

APPROVE APPLICATION FOR THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE COURSE EXPANSION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000.00 AND THE FUNDING FOR OPTIMAL COMPREHENSIVE UNIVERSAL SCREENERS (FOCUS) GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,930.00 FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.





It's All About U

