Union Senior High School
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Administration

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Gerry Benaquista, Assist. Superintendent
Dr. Gretel Perez, Assist. Superintendent
Althea Bossard, Interim Principal
Cheryl Fiske, Vice Principal
Terrell Rutty, Vice Principal
Dr. Donovan Smalls, Vice Principal
Delfin Santiago, Vice Principal

Counseling Department

Nicole Ahern, Counseling Supervisor
Christina Birstler
Megan Bohse
Patricia Bridges
Romario Diaz
Linda DeGeorge
Thomas Demetriou
Michael Mayes
Diana Prieto
Rebecca Richardson
Ingrid Soares
Narisa Svetvilas

Community

Union Township is a suburban community situated in Union County and located approximately 18 miles southwest of New York City. It borders on the cities of Elizabeth, Hillside, Maplewood, Roselle Park, and Springfield. Many of Union’s 56,000 ethnically diverse residents commute to Newark and New York for employment. The socio-economic level is average. The annual operating budget for the district is approximately one hundred and forty-six million dollars and is dedicated to providing a quality education that meets the needs of a diverse student population.

School

Union Senior High School is a comprehensive four-year public high school situated in residential Central Union with approximately 2200 students. The graduating class of 2022 consisted of 582 students. Union Senior High School has a strong academic program and an outstanding co-curricular program, encompassing athletics, drama, forensics, student government, music, the fine arts, and several volunteer and service organizations. A full academic program is offered with honors and advanced placement courses in Art, English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, World Languages, Visual/Performing Arts, and Business. The Union High School Media Center contains over 27,000 volumes, plus 22 hard copy periodicals and a database with thousands more. One certified librarian teaches and assists students and staff during regular hours five days a week and extended hours four days a week.

Union Senior High School was built in the late 1960’s with subsequent additions to the school to accommodate a growing student body and performing arts program. The average class size is 23. The faculty and staff consist of 189 members, 67% of who hold Bachelors Degrees, 30% hold a Masters Degree or above. There are five school administrators, a team of eleven counselors and six supervisors all holding Masters level degrees, and a special services team. The faculty is quite experienced, well-traveled and takes advantage of living in a large metropolitan area. They participate in evening and summer study programs, in-service courses, and professional meetings.

Accreditation

Union Senior High School is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges & Secondary Schools and the New Jersey Department of Education.

Curriculum/Course and Credit Requirements

Union Township students are required to successfully complete four years of English and Physical Education, three years of Mathematics, History, and Science, as well as one year of World Language, one year of Visual and Performing Arts and one year of Career Education and Consumer, Family and Life Skills. Students are required to complete a course in Financial Literacy. There is a community service requirement for graduation participation.
The following Grading Scale is used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Scale</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93-96</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-64</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Honors (+1) and Advanced Placement (+2) courses are given additional weight and a dual rank appears on the transcript.

**Post High School Plans**

Approximately 60% of Union High School graduates go on to pursue higher education at four year colleges and 28% start at two year colleges. Among our recent graduates are students attending such prestigious institutions as Boston College, Boston University, Colgate, Cornell, Drexel University, Duke, Georgetown, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Notre Dame, N.Y.U., Penn State, Princeton University, University of Virginia, University of Pennsylvania, U.S. Military Academy, Villanova University, Vanderbilt, and Yale.

However, the majority of our graduates remain in New Jersey, with approximately 30% of Union High School graduates attending Rutgers University, The College of New Jersey, Montclair State University or NJIT.

**Aptitude Tests**

Union High School students generally score in the average range for aptitude tests such as the SAT. Union High School is a center for the SAT I, and PSAT/NMSQT.

**Advanced Placement**

In 2019-2020, Union High School students completed 236 Advanced Placement Exams. Of those exams, 80% received a score of 3 or better. There were 34 AP Scholars.

**Extracurricular & Co-curricular Activities**

Union High School excels equally in academic and nonacademic extracurricular areas. More than twenty varsity sports are offered and Union’s teams are consistently strong contenders. More than forty-five academic, special interest, and service related clubs provide students with an opportunity to develop their talents and leadership ability. Students compete successfully on the regional, state and national levels in oratory contests, competitive exams, academic, scientific, musical, and technical competitions.

Union’s Army Junior R.O.T.C. unit is ranked in the top 5% nationwide and is designated as an Army Junior R.O.T.C. "Honor Unit with Distinction" for 2020-2021 school year for the twentieth consecutive year. The Army Junior R.O.T.C. Drill Team ranked first in New Jersey, first in the East Coast and first in the nation for 2018-2019. The Color Guard ranks first in the state, second in the East Coast and fourth in the nation.

Union High School offers exceptional programs in music and art. The Union High School Performing Arts Company (UHSPAC) is one of the strongest arts training programs in New Jersey, the U.S. and Canada. The UHSPAC is inclusive of an award winning theatre department, a nationally rated instrumental music program, and a top notch choral music group. For several years the District has been named a national Best Communities for Music Education. Yearly musicals and performances of original plays highlight the Theater Arts programs. The theater arts program has been a Paper Mill Rising Star Award winner in numerous categories: Best Musical; Best Actor; Best Actress; Best Orchestra; Best Choreography; Best Direction and Best Musical Direction. The Marching Band has had many successful seasons with several first place finishes. Union’s Jazz Ensemble and Wind Ensemble have consistently won Heritage Festival awards with individual solo award winners most years. Show/Swing Choir has received Gold/Superior ratings and over the past twenty years has placed in the top 5% of all shows entered.