



KENTUCKY SCHOOLS TO WATCH SCHOOL PROFILE

Union County Middle School



Designated: 2017

Union County Middle School

- Union County Public Schools, Kentucky
- Principal: Jeremy Roach
- School Address: 4465 Highway 60 W
Morganfield, KY 42437
- Phone: 270-389-0224
- E-mail: jeremy.roach@union.kyschools.us
- Web site: <http://union.kyschools.us/Domain/9>

School Statistics

Community: Small community in western Kentucky

Enrollment: 455

Grade Levels: 6-8

School Schedule: 5 periods + 30 minutes small tribe time daily

Student Demographics

1.5%	Latino/Hispanic
84.6%	White
9.2%	African American
4.7%	Other
58%	Free/Reduced Lunch
0%	English Learners

YEAR	OVERALL SCORE	CLASSIFI-CATION	CATEGORY
2015-16	66.3	Proficient/Progressing	Focus School
2014-15	56.6	Needs Improvement	Focus School
2013-14	62.7	Needs Improvement	Focus School

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Group work and projects are used to engage students and extend learning experiences.
- Teachers collaborate with content area colleagues to develop common assessments, analyze data, and plan strategies for meeting student needs.
- Teachers and administrators use PLC meetings to analyze student data, discuss student progress, and plan strategies for increasing student achievement.

- A school-wide writing program has been implemented with teachers receiving professional development on how to teach writing in all content areas.
- Technology was seen being used in many classrooms (e.g., projectors, videos, iPads) in a variety of ways (e.g., access reading selections, play Kahoot, create and present PowerPoints) by both teachers and students.
- A variety of methods are used to assess students' academic progress.
- Concept maps, instructional units, and assessments are housed on Google drive so all have access.
- Students receive academic assistance through before and after school ESS.
- Week-at-a-glance lesson plans are posted by classroom doors.
- Teachers participate in instructional rounds and use the experience to enhance their instructional practice.
- Data from multiple sources is used to assess student performance in meeting standards.
- Some teachers have been involved in regional standards committees and network trainings for Kentucky Core Academic Standards in their content area.

Developmental Responsiveness

- Time is built into the schedule for all students to meet in small tribes which are multi-grade. Students stay with the same tribe leader for their three years at the middle school developing closer relationships. The staff uses the small tribes structure to personalize the school experience, get to know students, and develop rapport with students.
- Through the *Leader in Me* program students are provided opportunities to develop and show leadership (e.g., classroom jobs, school greeters, lead in Tribe activities). An application process is used for identifying students to assume positions.
- Students have a voice through Chief Chats and small tribe time in decision-making within the school program.
- The bottom line is everybody at Union County Middle School has somebody. Students are known by the adults in the buildings and made to feel special.
- The birthday bulletin board and the in memory plaques located in the hallway reflect the value given to students at Union County Middle School.
- Break time is built into lunch time providing students time to socialize and at times they are able to go to the gym.
- The halls and cafeteria are visually appealing. Posted material is relevant to young adolescents and often is motivating for students. Banners in the cafeteria represent each eighth grade class by year.
- Clubs, extra-curricular activities and related arts classes (e.g., dance team, academic team, yearbook staff, sports, band, cheerleading, green team, art club, FISH club, chess club, robotics, chess club, media, health, physical education, technology, art, music) provide structured time for students to develop talents and explore interests.
- Activity and dress up days (e.g., Be Successful, superhero day, camo, spirit, rock star, educate, tribe t-shirt, red/white/blue) allow students to express their individuality, show school spirit, and participate in a school activity.

- Through Operation Preparation, Reality Store, and Career Day students learn about real-world opportunities, careers, and the realities of life.
- The classified staff reaches out to students and has developed meaningful relationships with them.

Social Equity

- Parents and families are communicated with in a variety of ways (e.g., Remind 101, One Call, Monday e-mail, teacher calls and e-mails, Infinite Campus, parent-teacher conferences, e-mails through point system).
- Students are transported to the high school to take advanced and AP classes in all core subjects.
- The Youth Service Center is an integral part of the school and plays a critical role in reducing the barriers to learning for students. The director cannot be present in the school at all times as she is also responsible for working with the high school; however, she has made provisions for addressing student needs even when she is not present. The Center sponsors a number of programs/activities (e.g., volunteer program for parents, School Smiles, Happy Feet, Happy Packs, Red Ribbon Week, Reality Store).
- School rules are communicated to parents and students, and are clear, fair and consistently enforced.
- A full time nurse provides assistance to students with health issues.
- Black History Month was celebrated with a bulletin board recognizing contributions of noted African-Americans and through small tribe activities.
- A point system is used to track behavior and students are allowed to earn back points through various activities.
- The tribe structure is multi-layered and has built a spirit of community within the school and involves all students and staff.
- Displays and bulletin boards in the hallway help build an awareness of post-secondary options in students.
- Students with special needs are accepted by all and most collaboration observed was effective in helping students.
- The front office staff offers a friendly welcome to all those entering the school.

Organizational Support

- The principal shows appreciation for the staff by hosting pancake breakfasts. Teachers are recognized with the Teacher-of-the-Week Parking.
- Administration works with university contacts and the Green River and Western Kentucky Educational Cooperatives to recruit potential teachers.
- Technology resources (e.g., Read 180, Brain Pop, Edgenuity, System 44, Chromebooks, iPads) are available for all teachers.

- The cafeteria provides choices for students within their lunches. Students were complimentary of the cafeteria food.
- The grade level teams provide an effective and efficient organizational structure for students and teachers.
- The mission and vision statements are re-visited every summer in order to keep a relevant focus and evolve as needed. All staff have individualized mission statements that support the efforts of the school. Students also develop personal mission statements.
- The school and district provide adequate resources to support and sustain a positive learning environment.
- Teachers and students are provided with opportunities for learning, leading and experimentation.
- The SAM provides support for the principal and assistant principal in handling the day-to-day operations in the school.
- The room greeters are effective and efficient allowing the teacher to continue instruction while the door greeter takes care of the interruption.
- Lamps in some rooms provide for softer lighting creating a calmer conducive learning environment.
- The principal and assistant principal meet with grade level teams weekly.