



HOME BULLETIN

January 3, 2018

1. **GREETINGS TO OUR NEW READERS!** With the January issue of the Home Bulletin, circulation of the Home Bulletin expands to the homes of 8th graders.

This is one of our steps welcoming prospective freshmen families into the Unity community. If you have not had a child attend Unity before (or in a while), you may discover that reading the monthly Home Bulletin helps you be informed of high school activities.

The next step in orienting 8th graders and parents to Unity will be the upcoming New Student Orientation Nights. These evenings are designed for both parents and students and will be held from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Monday, January 14; Monday, January 21; and Wednesday, January 23. An invitation was mailed at the end of December to all 8th grade homes and Unity teachers will follow-up by calling to determine which evening you plan to attend. If you did not receive a packet, please call the school office at 669-1820.

2. **2019-2020 TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** “Seeking to ensure that no family desiring Christian education for their children is denied for financial reasons.”

For the coming 2019-2020 school year, Unity will be continuing to utilize FACTS, an online web-based application program.

Many Unity families are members of churches which provide some type of tuition assistance through a Covenant Plan (CCEP), a Benevolent Plan, or Tuition Assistance Fund. For those families who have little or no church assistance available, Unity has a Tuition Assistance Fund to provide help with the annual tuition costs.

- ◆ Families applying for tuition assistance need to access the FACTS web site at www.FACTStuitionaid.com as a “Returning” or “New User.”

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The required application information is easily accessible data from the 2017 tax return along with other basic financial information. Copies of confirming tax documents will be required to be sent to the FACTS center. The \$30 application fee will be paid by the schools. Parents who have students in Unity and in a participating elementary school need only to fill out the application one time—the data will be processed for each of the member schools.

The FACTS organization will analyze the information submitted by each applicant and will provide Unity with a recommended tuition assistance amount based on the need for that family and the available tuition assistance funds.

- ◆ Church Assistance: If your church participates in FACTS to provide tuition assistance, you will need to enter the church as the student school. You will need to call FACTS (1-866-315-9262) and request that your application information be provided to the school as well.

If your church provides tuition assistance, the church may request that Unity provide them with the FACTS recommendation grant amount for your family. We will do this in order for you to obtain the assistance available from your church.

- ◆ All parents requesting tuition assistance are required to participate in the FACTS program to receive Unity tuition assistance. The FACTS application must be completed by the **March 31, 2019, deadline.** Confirming documents can be submitted later. Unity will inform its applicants of their tuition assistance amounts by May 1.

Please contact the FACTS organization at their toll-free number (1-866-315-9262) should you have any issues or questions with the online application.

For additional information on the process, please call Mary Overweg, Unity's Financial Manager, at 616-669-1820.

3. **CHOIR NEWS**: Students in Choral Ensemble and various soloists and small ensembles will be performing in the MSVMA District Solo and Ensemble on Saturday, February 2, 2019, at Grand Valley State University. Each student/ensemble will be assigned a performance time.
4. **BAND NEWS**: For students who sign up, Solo & Ensemble Festival will be held on Saturday, February 9, at Zeeland High School.
5. **ORCHESTRA NEWS**:
Concert Orchestra: Please join us for a combined concert with South Christian at their new auditorium on February 13. We will be performing a side by side concert with the South Christian Orchestra. The concert will be held at 7979 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Byron Center and will be at 7:30 p.m.

Solo and Ensemble: **Saturday, February 9, 2018**, at Zeeland HS. Please note that students who are signed up for Solo and Ensemble should be working on their pieces. Please encourage your student to continue working on them so they don't leave it for the last minute.

6. **SAVE THE DATES! February 21, 22, 23**

Unity Christian is proud to present *Robin Hood and the Adventures of Sherwood Forest* under the direction of Dan Sanders. Performances are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on February 21 and 22, and at 5:00 p.m. on February 23 in the Allendale High School Ceglarek Auditorium.

Ticket Sales: Ticket sales will now be sold online. Please go to Unity's website (www.unitychristian.org), and click on *Theatre Tickets* under the "News and Events" tab. You will be able to pick your own seats and pay online. At the final ticket payment section, you will be given the opportunity to sponsor the play with your additional donation. Those who donate \$10.00 or more will be listed as a Theater sponsor on the program.

There are two ticket release dates:

- February 1 - Early release tickets on sale for \$12 each
- February 11 – General tickets go on sale for \$8

For handicap seating, please call the Unity office at 669-1820.

7. **UNITY DIRECTIONS – AND DUE DATES FROM THE GUIDANCE STAFF:**

Mr. Bill Postma - Director of Instruction
Mrs. Julie Essebaggers – Middle Schools; International Students
Mr. Randy Heethuis – Counselor (A - K)
Mr. Dan Sanders – Counselor (L - Z)
Mrs. Cyndi Post - Specialist in learning disabilities

FRESHMEN:

- 9th grade students will begin selecting classes for the 2019/2020 school year on January 22. Counselors will provide them with information and materials so they can make a preliminary selection of classes. These preliminary selections are confirmed or changed during a conference with their counselor during second semester. Copies of schedules will be emailed home for parental approval.

SOPHOMORES:

- 10th graders will begin selecting classes for the 2019/2020 school year on January 17. Students will select classes and then confirm or change the selections during a 2nd semester conference with a counselor. The schedule created during that conference will be emailed home for parental approval.
- On January 11, a representative from the Careerline Tech Center will be in the guidance office to meet with students who want to know about Tech Center programs. On January 29, Mr. Sanders and Mr. Lutke will take interested students on a Tech Center visit. Students will have the opportunity to visit three programs of their choice. Parents and students can go to www.oaisd.org/ctc to check out the many programs the Tech Center offers.

JUNIORS:

- Course selections for the 2019/2020 school year will be January 15. Following a 2nd semester conference between student and counselor, a schedule will be emailed home for final approval.

- 11th graders interested in taking a course at the Careerline Tech Center should attend the informational meeting on January 11 with a Tech Center representative in Unity's guidance office. On January 29, Mr. Sanders and Mr. Lutke will take students to the Tech Center where they will visit three programs of their choice.
- 11th graders will be taking the SAT test as part of the MME (Michigan Merit Exam) at Unity on April 9. MME testing will continue April 10 with additional testing times to be determined. **Students will sign up for the April 9 SAT at school.**

It is very important that juniors be in school these two days. Make-up testing requires students to miss a considerable amount of class time.

- SAT or ACT?

Traditionally, Michigan high school students have taken the ACT for college admission and scholarship purposes. The ACT and ACT Writing have been part of the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). Starting last year, the State of Michigan switched from the ACT to the SAT. The new SAT covers less material but requires students to show mastery of material at a higher level. All Unity juniors will take the SAT in April and can use these scores for college admission and scholarship purposes. In addition, juniors may also choose to take the ACT. Colleges will accept either test. Counselors will be talking with juniors about the differences between the two tests. Juniors wanting to improve their scores can retake the SAT or try the ACT. Counselors will help juniors with this decision.

Future Test Dates:

SAT	<u>SAT Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Date</u>
	March 9, 2019	February 8, 2019
	May 4, 2019	April 5, 2019
	June 1, 2019	May 3, 2019
ACT	<u>ACT Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Date</u>
	February 9, 2019	January 11, 2019
	April 13, 2019	March 8, 2019
	June 8, 2019	May 3, 2019
	July 13, 2019	June 14, 2019

SENIORS:

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): This is the form that students and parents are encouraged to fill out by February 15 to apply for financial aid. This can be done at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Parents and students will need a FSA ID before filling out the FAFSA. You can register for a FSA ID at www.fsaaid.ed.gov. The sooner this is done the better as the closer it gets to the filing deadline, the longer it may take to process your FSA ID. Some colleges may have an additional or supplemental form in addition to the FAFSA. Please check with the college of your choice or with Mr. Heethuis to see that all necessary financial aid forms are completed by the February 15, 2019, deadline.

Calvin College Theodore Peters Scholarship. To be eligible for the Theodore Peters Scholarship, students must be accepted for admission to Calvin College by February 1. A Unity faculty committee will select applicants from eligible students. The selection of the candidate will be based upon academic achievement, leadership, Christian character, and non-athletic extracurricular activities. To qualify for consideration, applicants must have a 3.50 or higher GPA, an ACT composite score of 25 or higher, or SAT score of 1200 or higher.

Additional Scholarship Possibilities

- Calvin College - Howard Hughes Medical Scholarship – February 1 deadline
- Calvin College – Donor Funded Scholarships – February 1 deadline
- Community Choice Credit Union Scholarship – February 28 deadline
- DeWent Redi-Mix Business Scholarship for Women – January 31 deadline
- Lake Michigan Credit Union Hutt Scholarship – January 31 deadline
- University of Michigan Club Scholarship – early February deadline
- Michigan Society of Professional Engineers – early February deadline
- SAE Engineering Scholarship – March 15 deadline
- Tom & Rea Winkle Family Memorial Education Scholarship for Calvin, Dordt, or Trinity – February 1 deadline
- Unity Alumni Fine Arts Scholarship – February 1 deadline

8. **END OF SEASON FALL SPORTS UPDATE** through December 27, 2018

Football – Congratulations to these athletes on the awards they recently received:

Associated Press All State – Honorable Mention: Caleb Heyboer

Detroit Free Press All State – Offense: Max Buikema

Detroit Free Press All State – Defense: TJ VanKoevering

Detroit Free Press All State – Honorable Mention: Troy Kunnen, Hayden Large

MHSFCA Academic All State Team – Honorable Mention

MHSFCA Academic All State: Isaiah Heun

MHSFCA Academic All State – Honorable Mention: Colin Dral, Caleb Heyboer

Congratulations to Coach Craig Tibbe who was recently named Associated Press Division 5-6 Coach of the Year, and MHSFCA Division 5 Coach of the Year. We also congratulate Coach Jerry DeGroot on being named a MHSFCA Assistant Coach of the Year.

Soccer – Congratulations to Coach Randy Heethuis on being named to the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame on November 17. Coach Heethuis also reached the 1,000-win mark in his career as the boys and girls soccer coach at Unity Christian this fall season!

9. **UNITY ATHLETICS UPDATE AS OF December 27, 2018**

Basketball – Girls – Freshman 4-0
Basketball – Girls – JV 3-1
Basketball – Girls – Varsity 2-2

Basketball – Boys – Freshman 3-3
Basketball – Boys – JV 3-3
Basketball – Boys – Varsity 4-2

Bowling – Girls 4-1-1

Bowling – Boys 4-2

Swimming – Boys
(co-op with Hudsonville H.S.)

Wrestling 4-9

10. **WINTER FRIDAY NIGHT EVENTS:** (more information available on www.unitychristianathletics.org)

Friday, February 8 (Winterfest/Games against Holland High School)

- **Chick-fil-A Night** -- A special treat! A limited number of Chick-fil-A sandwiches will be available for purchase at concessions this night.
- **UC Suite Night #2** -- Support the Athletic Boosters by watching the games in the UC Suite (on the UC track, 2nd floor) sponsored by Colonial Builders. The menu will include delicious Chick-fil-A sandwiches with an assortment of sides, desserts, and beverages. Sign up [HERE](#) or on our athletic website. The cost is \$25 a person, and registration is limited.

Friday, February 15 (Games against Zeeland East High School)

- **UC Suite Night #3** – Our last UC Suite Night in support of the Athletic Boosters will be sponsored by Lakewood Construction. The menu will include food from Wing Doozy plus an assortment of sides, desserts, and beverages. Sign up [HERE](#) or on our athletic website. The cost is \$25 a person, and registration is limited.

11. **ASSISTANT VARSITY SOFTBALL COACH OPENING:**

Unity Christian has an Assistant Coach vacancy in Varsity Softball. We are searching for someone that has a passion for the Lord, enjoys working with high school students, and can successfully assist a head coach in running a softball program. If you have any interest or know of someone who might have interest, please contact Unity Christian Athletic Director Jeff Engbers at 669-1820 or jengbers@unitychristian.org. Click [HERE](#) for an application.

12. **REQUIREMENTS FOR SPRING SPORT TRYOUTS:**

- Physical dated after April 15, 2018 turned in to the Athletic Office and Final Forms information filled out and signed by parents. Click [HERE](#) to access the Final Forms site where you will input your information. If you completed this in the fall or winter, you don't need to do it again, but are able to update your information. You do have to choose the spring sport your son or daughter plans to try out for.
- Final Forms documents signed by student (only needs to be signed once per year).
- ImPact Baseline Concussion Testing (Baseball, Softball, Girls Soccer, Lacrosse must have an up to date baseline within the last two school years). Please check Final Forms for when your test expires. Sign up [HERE](#) to take an ImPact Test.

Dates available for the ImPact Test:

February 20:	7:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
March 5:	7:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
March 8:	7:00 a.m. (last chance testing only; see Ms. Felton)

CRU Card Availability/ Tryout Dates:

CRU Cards will be available to students for pick up the week of March 4. More information will be available as that date approaches.

Spring sports begin March 11. Those without a CRU Card will not be able to try out until the requirements have been met.

Unity requires that all athletes have primary insurance. Unity offers secondary insurance. Students whose family does not have insurance or has "My Child" insurance must contact the Athletic Director who will provide information about temporary insurance during the athlete's sport season

More information about the CRU Card is available online at:

<https://unitychristianathletics.org/main/adnews/id/48224335>

13. **SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE:**

A schedule of Unity Summer Sports Camps will be available starting January 9 at this [link](#). Registration for summer camps will open on April 15.

14. **UC CELEBRATION BANQUET FOR 2019 – SAVE THE DATE!** Please plan now to attend the UC Celebration Banquet 2019 that will be held on Monday, April 29, in Unity's multipurpose gymnasium. This year our Banquet entertainment will be Unity's own "home-grown" talent, the UC Bands, Choirs and Orchestra!

An Invitation and details will be sent out in March. Be sure to RSVP early so we can save you a seat at this wonderful celebration! Invite your family and friends to join you and fill a table.

Call or email the Development Office at 616.662.4011, or development@unitychristian.org.

15. **AMAZONSMILE:** Support Unity every time you shop Amazon.com. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Unity, at no cost to you. When you do your shopping at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates .5% of the purchase price to Unity. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1443397> and support us every time you shop!
16. **UC COMMUNITY BUSINESS DIRECTORY:** As a business, organization, and/or a parent of a Unity Christian High School student, you support Unity – either through sponsoring events or scholarships, or as a UC patron of the Education Foundation, *PACE* or the *Building Unity* campaign, or through tuition – and we want *YOU* to be included in the UC Business Directory – at no cost to you! This directory is available on the UC website at www.unitychristian.org. We encourage Unity families to support and utilize the local businesses and services listed. (Printed copies are available upon request.)

If you would like your business or organization listed, please contact the Development Office at development@unitychristian.org or call 662-4011 **BY January 31**. (If you are already listed, please visit the website to view your current listing to make sure it is still correct.)

UC Business Directory Listing Information – Here’s what we need from you:

- ✓ The **name of your business/organization, address, business phone/fax numbers**
- ✓ A **contact name & phone number**
- ✓ **Website information**
- ✓ The **category & type of business or tagline that describes your services**

17. **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **Formal Dress Sale:** Zeeland West Senior Party is holding a formal dress sale on Saturday, January 12, 2019, from 10am to 2pm. There are a variety of sizes, colors, and styles. All dresses are \$15. You may email jennifersanp2019@gmail.com with any questions.
- **Jenison Christian School 8th Grade Class** is performing the play *Fairy Tale Misfits* on Thursday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 26, at 2:00 p.m. General ticket sales begin Wednesday, January 9, for \$5.00 each.

18. **CALENDAR FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY, & MARCH:**

January 12	Winter Dance, The Pinnacle Center, 6:30 – 10:30 p.m.
January 14, 21, 23	New Student Nights, 7:00 p.m.
January 25	Blood Drive
February 7	EOCS Band Concert, 7:00 p.m., Fair Haven Ministries
February 8	Winterfest, 1:15 p.m. dismissal
February 21, 22, 23	Winter Play
February 22, 25	Winter Break
February 26, 27	Parent/Teacher Conferences, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
March 1	12:25 Dismissal Parent/Teacher Conference, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
March 29-April 7	Spring Break