



UNITY... FAITH, EXCELLENCE, SERVICE

HOME BULLETIN

March 1, 2019

1. UNITY'S OFFICE HOURS DURING SPRING BREAK:

Unity's office will have limited hours during spring break. Please call before you come in.

2. GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE: RAISING GENERATION Z:

The mission of Unity Christian is developing followers of Christ to be leaders; preparing students to be agents of change and transformation in God's world. Unity, in partnership with all EOCS schools, works to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate a world in desperate need of redemption and the love of Jesus.

The task of preparing well this generation of students is increasingly challenging. Twenty-first century culture sweeps over both young and old, like waves pounding rocks on the shore. Dan Landstra, Unity's Director for Spiritual Life and Leadership, trains students to live effectively as disciples of Christ in the world. In addition to teaching at Unity, he travels the Midwest equipping both adults and students; bringing awareness, creating understanding, and teaching discernment to live as agents of change and transformation.

Unity Christian welcomes parents of all ages to join us on **Thursday, March 14, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** at Unity Christian for a special presentation, "Growing Up in the Digital Age: Raising Generation Z." Dan Landstra will give a "front row" look at the world of Gen Z by creating a greater understanding of the most pressing issues teenagers confront, providing tools and resources for better parental awareness, and why, more than ever, adults matter in the lives of teenagers.

3. FINAL FORMS & ENROLLMENT:

Unity will be switching over to online enrollment for the 2019-20 school year. In order for this to be successful, all families must register their child in Final Forms, an online forms and data management system. If you have not yet registered your child(ren) on Final Forms, please do so as soon as possible. You can register at <https://unitychristian-mi.finalforms.com>. After you register, we ask that you complete the health assessment form for each child. You will receive notification following your completion. Please call Krista Bosscher at 669-1820 if you have any questions regarding Final Forms.

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4. **2019-20 TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** For the coming 2019-20 school year, Unity will be continuing to utilize FACTS, an online web-based application program.
- ◆ 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 in May.

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.

5. **WINTERFEST FUNDRAISER:** During the two weeks of Winterfest, student council held a fundraiser to support Helen Devos Children's Hospital. We want to thank all our students for their incredible participation in this fundraiser, as the student body raised \$1,816.

6. **PARENTS OF PROM-GOERS:**

Please take note of the dress code for all semiformal/formal wear at Unity events. It can be a bit challenging to meet ALL criteria, but it can be done.

A copy of the "Dance and Dress Code" is enclosed with this Home Bulletin. Please note the three options a student will be given if his/her attire does not meet the dress code.

Parents, we ask you to help your student meet the dress code. We are very willing again this year to look at attire in advance to make sure it meets the dress code. If you have any questions, please call Laura Brinks 669-4680.

Prom 2019 (April 12):

- For Unity's juniors and seniors
- Tickets are \$25 for juniors, \$20 for seniors, \$25 for guests, and will be on sale **March 19, 20, and 21.**
- Held at: Van Andel Museum, from 8:00 – 11:00 p.m.

7. **CHOIR NEWS:** Last month, all the Unity choirs (except Chamber Singers) performed at District Choral Festival. All choirs received a 1 rating. Chamber Singers and Choral Ensemble will perform March 2 at GVSU Haas Performing Arts Center for District Solo and Ensemble.

Choral Ensemble, Chamber Singers, Chamber Strings, and soloists will perform several pieces from Handel's Messiah on Sunday, March 10, at St. Cecilia Music Center (24 Ransom, Grand Rapids). This concert is free of charge.

On Saturday, April 13, Chamber Singers and Choral Ensemble, as well as soloists and duets will perform at State Solo and Ensemble at Allendale High School. Performance times will be announced. There will be a recital for these choirs and soloists before State. The time and date are to be determined.

8. **ORCHESTRA NEWS:** Please join the Chamber Strings and Choirs for a concert featuring the many works of Handel's Messiah Oratorio. This special evening will be held on Sunday, March 10, at St. Cecilia Music Society at 7:30 p.m. This is an amazing opportunity for our students and you won't want to miss this special night.

Senior Solo and Ensemble is Saturday, March 16, at Portage Northern in Kalamazoo. Times should be coming home soon. Best wishes at State to Megan Velzen, Sydney Freerksen, Micah Huisman, Sarah Huizinga, Madeline Bronson, and Alaina Bronson.

Senior Solo Night is **Sunday, April 21, at St. Cecilia Music Society.** The concert will be at 7:30pm. This will involve only the Chamber Strings.

Spring Concerts for the orchestra are as following:

Chamber Strings and Symphonic Band: May 7 at 7:30, Fair Haven.

Concert Orchestra and Concert Band: May 16 at 7:30, Unity Christian High School.

9. **BAND NEWS:** Congratulations to the individual students and small ensembles for excellent performances at the recent Solo & Ensemble Festival. These include Sam Kuipers (trombone), Morgan Ridder (flute), Grace Kuipers (saxophone), James Scharphorn (baritone), Ryan Johnson (saxophone), Franklin Cook (tuba), Stephanie Tebben (flute), Johanna Boelema (flute), Sydney Steen (flute), Chase Rozeveld (percussion), Zach VanDyke (percussion), Brianna Becksvoort (flute), Emma Baker (flute), Jessica Fish (flute), Emily Boeve (flute), Joshua Rotman (trombone), and Sydney Jeurink (clarinet).

Concert Band will be participating in a Band Clinic held at Hope College on Wednesday, March 6. This performance is during the school day and students will be bused to and from this event.

Symphonic Band will be performing for District Band Festival on Thursday, March 7, at 11:05 in the Grandville High School auditorium. Students will need their black & white concert uniforms for this event. Students will be bused to and from this event.

We look forward to our Spring Concerts (Symphonic Band/Chamber Orchestra on May 7 at Fair Haven and Concert Band/Orchestra on May 16 at Unity) and the Tulip Parade on May 8.

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

Mr. Bill Postma - Director of Instruction

Mrs. Julie Essebaggers – Counselor (Middle Schools; International Students)

Mr. Randy Heethuis – Counselor, (A - K)

Mr. Dan Sanders – Counselor, (L - Z)

Mrs. Cyndi Post - Specialist in learning disabilities

FRESHMEN

- ◆ On April 9, all freshmen will be taking the PSAT 8/9 in the morning at Unity.
- ◆ Each student will meet with his/her counselor during April and May to make plans for next year and beyond. Parents will receive a copy of the schedule for final approval via email.

SOPHOMORES

- ◆ On April 9, all sophomores will be taking the PSAT 10 in the morning at Unity.
- ◆ Counselors meet with each sophomore to ensure that class choices fit career goals and to adjust the plans developed during the freshman year. Parents will be emailed a letter and a copy of their student’s schedule after this meeting.

JUNIORS

- ◆ Juniors are currently meeting with counselors regarding course choices for next year and plans for after high school. Parents can expect an email when this conference is completed.
- ◆ Juniors 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. **It is important that juniors be in school these two days.** Make-up testing requires students to miss a considerable amount of class time.
- ◆ Other dates for the SAT which students sign up for on their own are May 4 and June 1. Test dates for the ACT (Academic Collegiate Test) are April 13, June 8, and July 13.

SENIORS

- ◆ On April 9, seniors are not required to be at school.
- ◆ College and student aid applications should have been submitted by now. Various deadlines exist for scholarship applications. For details on organizations still accepting applications, see Mr. Heethuis, Counselor.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE:

Allendale Area Chamber of Commerce – Allendale resident going to GVSU – March 31

Community West Credit Union – Vern Hyde Scholarship – March 21

Grandville-Jenison Chamber of Commerce Ted TerHaar Memorial Scholarship – March 18

Grand Rapids Community College Scholarships – March 15

Holland Hospital RN Scholarship Program – March 18

Michigan Retailers Association Scholarship – April 1

Ottawa County Bar Association Frantz Scholarship – mid April

Spectrum Health Zeeland Community Hospital Service League Healthcare
Scholarship – March 31

Tech Center (Sophomores and Juniors): A number of Unity sophomores and juniors have applied for various programs at the Careerline Tech Center. Since there will not be enough openings at Careerline Tech Center to accommodate everyone’s application, the following process will be used:

- a. Each high school in the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District is allotted space in each Tech Center program according to school enrollment.
- b. Any student who is attending the Tech Center as a junior and wants to stay in the same program automatically gets one of the slots. Students who want to change programs must reapply for the new program.
- c. Unity counselor, Dan Sanders, meets with the applicants to evaluate their level of interest in the program and to assess possible problems (for example, a history of excessive absences).
 - If all students qualify, numbers are drawn to determine their position.
 - “Wait-listed” students are enrolled in slots as they open. This may occur as late as Labor Day of the new school year.

Be assured Unity and Dan Sanders will do all they can to get a Unity student into the program of his/her choice. If you have questions about Tech Center enrollment procedures, call Dan Sanders. On March 22, Mr. Sanders will be informed if any of our waitlisted students have been placed. Placements will occur through the summer as spots open in different programs.

11. **WINTER SPORTS UPDATE** (as of February 28, 2019)

Basketball – Girls	Freshman 18 – 1 JV 16 – 4 Varsity 6 – 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varsity tied for 5th in OK Green Conference • All-Conference Athletes to be named in April Home Bulletin • District game Monday, March 4 at 5:30 home against Hopkins
Basketball – Boys	Freshman 10 - 10 JV 16 - 5 Varsity 20 – 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varsity OK Green Conference Champions • All-Conference Athletes to be named in April Home Bulletin • District final game Friday, March 1 at 6:00 against Hamilton at Allegan High School
Bowling – Girls	17-2-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st in the OK Green/Gold Conference • 2nd at the Regional Team Tournament • Team qualified for the State Team Tournament held March 1 at Northway Lanes in Muskegon. • Aliyah Stanton and Rylee Bond qualified for the State Individual Tournament held March 2. • <i>All-Conference:</i> Rylee Bond, Sydney Jeurink • <i>Honorable Mention All-Conference:</i> Jenna Levering, Aliyah Stanton

Bowling – Boys	10 - 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th at the Regional Team Tournament • Kurtis Montsma was Regional Champion. • Kurtis Montsma and Harrison VandenHeuvel qualified for the State Individual Tournament held March 2. • <i>All-Conference:</i> Kurtis Montsma, Jacob Piechocki • <i>Honorable Mention All-Conference:</i> Harrison VandenHeuvel
Swimming – Boys	Co-op w/ Hudsonville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd in OK Red Conference
Wrestling	2 - 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seth Konynenbelt, Lucas VanderPloeg, and Levi Walters qualified for Regional Tournament. • Seth Konynenbelt finished 1st and Lucas VanderPloeg finished 2nd at Regional and qualified for the State Tournament held March 1 & 2 at Ford Field. • <i>All-Conference:</i> Seth Konynenbelt, Lucas VanderPloeg

12. **CONCESSIONS:** A huge thank you to the many who worked in Unity's concession stand during the winter sports season. Over 200 people either helped with admissions or served at concessions, and their work raised funds for the athletic program.

13. **SPRING SPORTS AND COACHES:**

Baseball – Varsity	Mr. Bill Lutke
Baseball – JV	Mr. Joe Baillargeon
Baseball – Freshman	Mr. Bob Bakker
Golf – Boys – Varsity	Mr. Dave DeMey
Golf – Boys – JV	Mr. Mark TeSlaa
Soccer – Girls – Varsity	Mr. Randy Heethuis
Soccer – Girls – JV	Mrs. Noëll Engbers
Softball – Varsity	Mr. Mark Meinzer
Softball – JV	Ms. Amanda Felton
Tennis – Girls – Varsity	Mr. Mark Brink
Tennis – Girls – JV	Mrs. Erika Doorn
Track – Girls	Mr. Rob Bosma
Track – Boys	Mr. Dan Landstra
Lacrosse-	
Girls (Co-op with Hudsonville)	Mr. Rex Holliday
Boys (Co-op with Holland Christian)	Mr. Cody Zoerhof

14. **SPRING SPORT TRYOUT INFORMATION:** The following is a list of requirements that need to be completed before March 11 if your child would like to participate in a spring sport. Spring sports begin March 11. Those without a CRU card will not be able to try out until the requirements have been met.

- 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:

March 5: 7:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

March 8: 7:00 a.m. (Last chance testing only if March 5 slots are full; see Ms. Felton)

CRU Card Availability - CRU Cards will be available to students for pick up beginning Tuesday, March 5 in the Athletic Office. Those without a CRU Card will not be able to try out until the requirements have been met. More information about the CRU Card is available online at: <https://unitychristianathletics.org/main/adnews/id/48224335>

Spring Sport Tryout Schedule - The schedule for spring sport tryouts the week of March 11 is in the process of being finalized. It will be emailed to parents/students who signed up for a spring sport early next week and will also be placed under announcements at <http://www.unitychristianathletics.org>.

Insurance - 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

15. **SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES:** Spring schedules can change daily. You are encouraged to check the up-to-date schedules and scores which are updated daily on Unity's athletic website (www.unitychristianathletics.org). You can sign up for alerts (text or email) for individual teams for the most up to date information. Cancellations of athletic events are typically made after 2:00 p.m. A full copy of Unity spring sports can be found on our website at this [link](#).

16. **SPRING SPORTS PARENT MEETING:** If your son/daughter is trying out for a spring sport, put **Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m.** on your calendar for the spring sports parent meeting. More information will be emailed to you after tryouts have been completed.

17. **UNITY CHRISTIAN CO-CURRICULAR NIGHT FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN AND NEW STUDENTS:** Students entering Unity Christian for the first time in the fall of 2019 are invited to join us at our Co-curricular Night being held on **Monday, April 22 starting at 7:00 p.m.** Students and parents will have the opportunity to meet with the coaches and organizers of Unity athletic teams and activities such as student council, Science Olympiad, the play, the musical, and more to learn about areas where they might like to become involved as a Unity student. Please mark this date on your calendar and look for more information coming in the near future.

18. **SPORTS PHYSICALS FOR 2019/2020:** Unity is offering sports physicals to its students as well as middle school students for a cost of \$15. Dr. Steven Verkaik, along with several other doctors and assistants, will sponsor this sports physical evening on **Tuesday, May 7 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** Details will be available next month.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT PHYSICALS FOR 2019/20: Every physical MUST be on the approved MHSAA form (updated for 2017/18). Physicals not on this form will not be accepted. All signatures are required - no incomplete forms will be accepted. You can find a copy of the blank form in the high school office online at <http://www.unitychristianathletics.org/main/otherad/contentID/39776006>

19. **MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORT OPPORTUNITIES:** The following are two opportunities to get middle school aged children involved in bowling and tennis.

Middle School Bowling begins March 5 for boys and girls in 7th or 8th grade. More information can be found on our website at this [link](#). Click [HERE](#) to register.

Middle School Tennis will begin after spring break for boys and girls in 7th or 8th grade. More information can be found at this [link](#). Click [HERE](#) to register.

20. **SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE:** A schedule of Unity Summer Sports Camps is available at this [link](#). Registration for summer camps will open on April 15.

21. **UNITY CHRISTIAN GOLF OUTING:** Registration is now open for the Unity Christian Golf Outing being held on Monday, June 3 at Sunnybrook Country Club in Grandville! There will be a morning and afternoon flight along with many great prizes and food. We invite you to join us as a golfer, sponsor, or both! Click on this [link](#) to sign up as a golfer or sponsor. We will have a Chinese Auction again this year, and you can participate even if you can't join us for golf. The following prizes will be available soon in a Chinese Auction: a Chicago weekend, a Silver Lake getaway, and a Mackinaw Island Grand Hotel package. For any questions please contact Jeff Engbers, Athletic Director, at jengbers@unitychristian.org or at 616/669-1820. We hope you can join us at this fun and worthwhile event!

22. **UC CELEBRATION BANQUET 2019:** Plan now to attend the UC Celebration Banquet that will be held on Monday, April 29, in Unity's multipurpose gymnasium. This year our guests will be treated to special entertainment by Unity's own "home-grown" talent, the **UC Bands, Choirs, and Orchestra!** A variety of music and skits will be offered – presented by the students – showcasing the eras of Unity, from the 50s, 60s, and 70s.

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 662-4011, or development@unitychristian.org.

23. **REVIVE:** Revive will be CLOSED Saturday & Monday, March 2 & 4, to change the store over to SPRING merchandise. Don't miss the **BIG REOPENING on Tuesday, March 5, at 10:00 a.m.** and be the first to shop spring clothing, shoes, accessories, home goods, furniture, floral arrangements, and more!

24. **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- The **Hudsonville Christian 8th graders** will be presenting the play, *Lucky Hudson and the 12th Street Gang* by Tim Kelly on March 8 and 9 at 7:00 p.m. and on March 10 at 2:00 p.m. in the middle school south gym. A comedy in which a young crime writer discovers danger and excitement as he lives the 'rough, raw world of the gangster.' Ticket prices are \$4.00 each. All seats are reserved. Please stop by the Hudsonville Christian Middle School office or call 669-7487 for ticket availability.
- **Difference Maker: A Women's Night Out:** Discover how you can be a Difference Maker in your everyday life! Lynn Cowell of Proverbs 31 Ministries is coming to Grand Rapids to empower women of all ages at an exciting evening filled with worship, inspiration, and fellowship. Difference Maker: A Women's Night Out, presented by Mission India and hosted by WOOD TV8's Terri DeBoer, will take place at Fair Haven Church on Thursday, March 7, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Find more details and register for \$8.00 at www.missionindia.org/difference.
- **Jenison Christian School's Parent Club** will be hosting their annual auction on Saturday, March 9. This event will be held in the school gymnasium. Doors will open at 4:00 p.m. with dinner catered by On the Border. Silent auctions begin at 4:00 p.m. and the Live auction begins at 7:00 p.m. Come out and help the children of JCS. Any questions, please contact Jodi Mitchell at auction@jenisonchristian.org. Hope to see you there!
- **Women of All Ages** – Please join us in spending a day with Sharon Garlough Brown, author of the *Sensible Shoes* book series. Her topic will be *Breathe: Finding Rest for Your Soul*. Come away for a day to slow down and practice disciplines that help us keep in step with the unhurried rhythm of Jesus. We will meet at Ridgewood CRC (1571 Baldwin Street, Jenison) on April 27. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with the retreat from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$15.00 which includes snack and lunch. Advance registration required. Contact: Vicki at vickistreek@yahoo.com (616) 457-9405 or Deb at mikevmde@gmail.com (616) 669-1252 for more information.

25. **PRAYER CALENDAR:** The Prayer Calendar is located on our website or by clicking [HERE](#).

26. **UNITY'S CALENDAR FOR MARCH, APRIL, AND MAY:**

March 10	Messiah, Choral Ensemble and Chamber Strings, St. Cecilia Music Society, 7:30 p.m.
March 20	Spring Sports Parent Meetings, 7:00 p.m.
March 29-April 7	Spring Break
April 9	State Standardized Testing (grades 9-11; no school for grade 12)
April 10	Standardized Testing resumes for grade 11
April 12	Prom, 12:25 dismissal
April 15	Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Room 121
April 22	8 th Grade Co-Curricular Night, 7:00 p.m.
April 25 & 26	Spring Play, 7:00 p.m.
April 26	Blood Drive
April 29	Celebration Banquet, dinner at 6:30 p.m., Unity Christian multipurpose gymnasium
May 2	Choir Concert, 7:30 p.m., Fair Haven Ministries
May 7	Physical Night, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Symphonic Band/Chamber Strings Concert, 7:30 p.m., Fair Haven Ministries
May 8	Bands – Tulip Parade
May 9	Seniors Last Day Senior Dinner (7:15 p.m.) and Awards Night (8:00 p.m.), Unity's multipurpose gymnasium
May 13	Senior Class Trip
May 15	Late Start
May 16	Concert Band/Concert Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m., Unity Christian multipurpose gymnasium
May 20	Graduation, 7:30 p.m.
May 22, 23, 24	Finals



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DANCE AND DRESS CODE

A. DANCE BEHAVIOR (CONDUCT CODE):

- No body surfing
- No moshing (note: up and down is permissible, but no sideways slamming into bodies)
- NO GRINDING: leg between leg, front to front, back to front.
- Any other behavior deemed inappropriate by chaperones working the dance floor.

Students who choose to break these rules will be given a verbal warning. If a second incident occurs at the same dance, the parents will be notified and the student will be asked to leave the dance.

If in the judgment of the chaperones the behavior is a blatant disregard of the rules and/or if the student's attitude is one of disrespect or defiance, parents will be notified and students sent home without a 1st warning.

B. DRESS CODE FOR WINTER DANCE AND PROM:

This dress code must be met to be admitted to the dance. It is not written to restrict personal preferences in student dress, but rather to ensure a wholesome social activity. WE believe, with parental help and guidance in the formal/semiformal wear selections, our dress and behavior can reflect our values, and the Christian school we are and to whom we ultimately belong.

Semi-formal/Formal Dress Code:

- No jeans or t-shirts
 - Shirts must remain on and buttoned
 - Shoes must be worn except when on the dance floor
 - Dresses must extend to mid-thigh
 - No breasts or cleavage visible from any angle – top or side
 - Open backs must be natural waistline or higher (note: this is natural *waist* line, not hip line)
 - Strapless and halter style dresses will be acceptable as long as coverage is complete and still passes dress code while dance.
- Those students deemed inappropriately dressed will be given four choices: 1) fix it, 2) call their parents to bring them an appropriate cover-up, 3) wear a supplied shirt over or under their outfit, or 4) leave the function, in which case their parents will be notified.
 - We are very willing to take a look at your dinner dance wear in advance to make sure that it meets the dress code.

If you have any questions, call Laura Brinks (669-4680).