

## Union Senior High School

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### Counseling Department

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### 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 twenty-five 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 2019 consisted of 540 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. Two certified librarians teach and assist 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 ten counselors and five 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:

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

Honors (+1) and Advanced Placement (+2) courses are given additional weight and a dual rank appears on the transcript. Prior to 2016-2017 a full year course received ten (10) credits. Beginning with 2016-2017 a full year course receives five (5) credits.

### Post High School Plans

Approximately 55% 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, and Vanderbilt.

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. In 2016-2017, for example, the average score for the top 25% was 520 on the critical reading and 540 on the math. Union High School is a center for the SAT I, SAT II and PSAT/NMSQT.

### Advanced Placement

In 2018-2019, Union High School students completed 178 Advanced Placement Exams. Of those exams, 73% received a score of 3 or better. There were 18 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 the 2015- 2016 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 2015-2016. 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 placed first in the 2012-13 Yamaha Cup; 1<sup>st</sup> in 2014-2015 Group 3A New Jersey State Championships and 1<sup>st</sup> in Group 3A National Championships. 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 seventeen years has placed in the top 5% of all shows entered.