2005-2006 Annual Report
Union Public Schools

Overview

Union Public Schools, Independent District #9, Tulsa County, is a premiere Oklahoma school district with a strong sense of community pride. In fact, Union is its own community. Its 28-square-mile-boundary does not reside within one particular city.

Instead, it encompasses both southeast Tulsa and a portion of the neighboring city of Broken Arrow, and the schools act as a unifying force for area residents. At the center of the community—our Main Street, if you will—is the school system with its more than 14,000 students, PreK-12.

Parents choose the Union district for its all-around excellence—wide-ranging academic programs, varied school-related activities, strong emphasis on character development, outstanding teachers, respected elected and administrative leaders and remarkable facilities.

Each year the district has an impressive number of National Merit Scholars, and its graduating classes receive millions of dollars in scholarship offers to colleges and universities throughout the country. Nearly 94 percent of the 2006 graduating class planned to pursue post-secondary education. Union is one of the leading districts in Oklahoma in the number of teachers earning prestigious national certification and its “Character Counts!” program is considered a statewide model.

When Union was founded in 1919, it combined four small, rural communities - Boles, McCollough, Mayo and Alsuma - and had only four students in its graduating class. In 2005-2006, the district had eleven elementary schools, a Sixth/Seventh Grade Center, an Eighth Grade Center, an Intermediate High School, an Alternative School and a High School.

Union’s innovative curriculum features programs that provide exemplary educational experiences for students at all elementary and secondary levels. Instructional technology offers students state-of-the-art tools to enhance reading, language, math, science and writing skills. Art, music and physical education enrich the traditional curriculum. Professionals in remedial reading, speech therapy and special education are assigned to the schools along with library media specialists, nurses and counselors. Courses for gifted students are offered at all levels, as are programs for English Language Learners.

The comprehensive secondary curriculum serves both college-bound and non-college-bound students. Core curriculum classes of varying levels of difficulty are offered to meet individual student needs. In addition to 20 Pre-AP classes, Union offers 26 Advanced Placement classes which allow students to earn college credit while learning about a subject in greater depth and developing study and analytical skills that are important to success in college. In partnership with Tulsa Community College, Union offers a Concurrent Enrollment Program, enabling students to earn both high school and college credits at the same time. Students interested in vocational programs are transported to the appropriate Tulsa Technology Center campus for the curriculum they desire.
Union’s award-winning Alternative School helps students stay in school or return to school, giving them a chance to get back on track to graduate. The same curriculum offered in the traditional classroom is approached through innovative teaching techniques and block scheduling.

Union’s strong sense of tradition and pride is underscored in its theme, “Working to Form a More Perfect Union.”

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**Mission & Goals**

**Mission**

It is our Mission to provide our community of learners with educational opportunities to acquire and develop the best possible academic, vocational, recreational, social and participatory skills, enabling them to become valued, contributing members of a changing global society.

**Our Goals**

- Academic excellence for all students
- Preparation of students for positive citizenship
- A positive educational environment in which students, parents, community and staff assume responsibility for their role in the learning process
- District excellence for all employees
- Expanded opportunities for learning
- Increased use of technology
- Enhanced Union pride
- Support base to include patrons, partnerships and community resources

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**Community Service**

The Union football team, Booster Club and the High School adopted the Pass Christian, Mississippi, football team and subsequently its high school and district after learning of its devastation in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Union donated football equipment to the team and the district collected items to donate. Showing their gratitude, the Mississippi team traveled to Tulsa to cheer for Union in the state championship.

In a partnership between Drug-Free Youth (D-FY) and the Character Counts program, the “I Care” Project distributed holiday gifts to more than 460 families including 1,140 children. Union students also distributed food packages for 320 families. According to project coordinator Danny Williams, director of the Student Assistance Program, Union collected about $38,000 in gifts and donations during the 2005 holiday season.

The Union Education Service Center and all 16 of the district’s schools came up with creative ways to raise money or collect items for the Katrina relief effort. They thought of everything from selling passes allowing kids to chew bubble gum and teachers to wear jeans, to donating blood and adopting a school that was damaged by the storm.
Alternative students offered face painting during lunch, Jarman students filled the school’s foyer with supplies for Operation Hope and Briarglen students raised $492 for the relief effort in just two days! Peters’ nurse organized a blood drive and the school community collected canned food, toiletries and other necessities for the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. Cedar Ridge adopted a damaged elementary school in Alabama, and 8th grade teachers volunteered at Camp Gruber while students collected school supplies for evacuees enrolling at the 8th Grade Center.

Union raised more than $138,000 for the United Way campaign, a more than 21 percent increase over last year. Contributions came through employee payroll contributions and special fund-raising efforts at each of the school sites such as penny drives, silent auctions and luncheons. Union also added 11 Key Club members (donors of $500 or more) for a total of 66.

Employee Information

Christi Johnson, an English and journalism teacher at the High School, was named the 2005-2006 Teacher of the Year. Building-level honorees were Judy Cairl, Andersen; Pearl Watson, Boevers; Stacy Pierce, Briarglen; Jodi Benton, Cedar Ridge; Angela Sanders, Clark; Becky Freeman, Darnaby; Gary Pereschuk, Grove; Jeanine Cory, Jarman; Merry Lahti, McAuliffe; Dixie Highberger, Moore; Brenda Hillhouse, Peters; Ken Anderson, 6th Grade; Nancy LeGrange, 7th Grade; Linda McGinnis, 8th Grade; Rose Lambert, Intermediate High; and Harriet Chenault, Alternative School.

Seven Union teachers earned National Board Certification, including Kathy Paige and Linda Snowbarger from Andersen; Kendall Roberts from Grove; Jeanine Cory and Jill Fitts from Jarman; Linda McGinnis from the 8th Grade Center and Christine Ford from the High School. Union currently has 31 teachers with National Board Certification, and four others who received certification are no longer in the district.

Lisa Witcher, academic assistant principal for the Intermediate High School, was named the Oklahoma Assistant Principal of the Year by the Oklahoma Association of Secondary School Principals.

High School Assistant Principal Denise Vaniadis was honored with the creation of the Denise Vaniadis Mentor Award by the Oklahoma Association of Student Councils. She was cited influencing thousands of students and adults during their time working in student councils and student leadership conventions.

AP psychology teacher Shirley Collins was named the chairperson/coordinator for the AP Psychology program for Oklahoma. Collins met with other state and regional AP coordinators to discuss ways to improve the AP program.

Betsy Glad from Cedar Ridge and Denise Thomas from Jarman were selected to represent Oklahoma in the 2006 Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching competition - Betsy in mathematics and Denise in science. This is a major honor for one district teacher and almost unheard of to have two recognized in one year.

Thanks to High School teachers Jennifer Kneafsey and Brad Cast, Union’s AP biology and chemistry classes were recognized as among the strongest college Advanced
Placement programs in the state by the College Board’s Advanced Placement Report to the Nation.

Parents as Teachers instructor Toni Lingo was awarded a scholarship to attend the Parents as Teachers National Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. The scholarship award was given to only eight parent educators internationally this year.

Assistant Director of Athletics Steve Dunlap received the “Lifetime Service to Wrestling” award from the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Chapter. He will be permanently recognized at the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum in Stillwater.

Region 7 Coach of the Year honors went to Mike Stanton (cross country), Kevin Gannon (tennis) and Tom Stockton (track). Wrestling coach Corey Clayton received Region 7 honors and was named All-State wrestling coach, while football coach and athletic director Bill Blankenship took Region 7 coach of the year and Frontier Conference Athletic Director of the Year.

Information Technology Help Desk Specialist Sherrie Barnes was appointed to the Teacher’s Retirement System Board. Barnes was named to the Board after Gov. Brad Henry’s recommendation and approval by the state Senate.

Executive Director of Communications Gretchen Haas-Bethell was appointed by Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor to the Mayor’s Commission on the Status of Women. The three-year appointment was confirmed by the city council.

Chief Financial Officer Debbie Jacoby, CPA; Cathy Smart, CPA; Gail Easterling, CPA; and Union’s Finance Division won the state Award of Achievement for excellence in annual financial reporting, one of the most prestigious honors a public school’s finance department can receive. Each year, the Oklahoma State Department of Education honors a school district with an average daily attendance of more than 10,000 that achieves the highest standards in timely submission and accurate financial accounting/OCAS (Oklahoma Cost Accounting System) reporting.

Purchasing and Supply Management Director David Young was given the W.L. (Bill) James Annual Outstanding Member award by the National Association of Purchasing Management in Tulsa.

Kathy Dodd, Director of Student Achievement, received her Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma. Union was named one of Oklahoma’s Certified Healthy Businesses by the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals, the Oklahoma Turning Point Council, the State Chamber and the Oklahoma Department of Health. Union earned the designation because of the healthy choice opportunities it provides to its employees, such as discounts for becoming members at the SouthCrest Wellness and Sports Medicine Center at the UMAC.

Union earned the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Employer of the Year award for being a leader in advancing disability rights and providing enhanced opportunities for employees with MS.

The Union Schools Education Foundation awarded 52 grants totaling $19,253.43 to 44 different teachers at six of the district’s 16 schools. The projects funded ranged from
$87.78 to the maximum amount of $500. Two proposals were awarded two grants each which amounted to just under $1,000 for the projects.

Lead Mechanic Mike Hall was named the Union Support Services Employee of the Year. Hall, who has worked for Union since 1997, has a work ethic that will not accept anything less than the best for the students who depend on the district for transportation, the Team Awards Committee explained. Hall continually goes above and beyond when it concerns Union’s transportation fleet, and he has added numerous duties to his list of responsibilities for the sole purpose of helping someone else.

Five teachers won grants from Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group, Inc., through its Neighbors Together for Schools. They ranged from $75 to $500. The program was created to enrich the educational experience of the children of parents who work for Dollar Thrifty by offering supplemental grants to their teachers for special classroom projects. Winners were Sixth/Seventh Grade teachers Julie Stanford, Alycia Daniels, Mary Langford and Linda Vanderboegh, and Jarman teacher Julie Wilcox.

Clark teacher Peggy Brissey received a $500 grant from AEP/PSO (Public Service Company of Oklahoma). Brissey shared the grant with reading specialist Mary Watson to purchase reading materials for access via computer.

Intermediate teacher Judy Rowell received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to attend a seminar in Lowell, Massachusetts, to learn about inventions and the Industrial Revolution and how those history lessons can be applied today.

Seven Jarman teachers also received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Holly Anderson, Lynne Hosey, Jessica Hilton, Gina Andrews and Sheri McElroy traveled to Washington, D.C., to learn about and observe many National Monuments and gather history of our nation to build curriculum units around our media services for students in grades 1 and 2. Barbara Smith and Jill Fitts received $12,000 to travel to Las Vegas to attend the National Differentiated Conference and bring back ideas for the classroom.

Awards of $250 from the Higher Education Cultural Roundtable were given to Angela Sallee (Boevers), Shelly Rick (Briarglen), Shelly Eulenfeld (Clark), Kren Bennett (Grove), Julie Wilcox (Jarman) and Carrie Soward (8th Grade).

Moore Elementary was awarded $5,000 from the Williams Companies Foundation for Reading Readiness materials, and Janet Purinton (High School) received $395 from the Oklahoma Humanities Council. The Oklahoma Arts Council awarded three grants ranging from $275 to $3,900 to Peters teacher Kathy Harding.

Three Union teachers were awarded scholarships from the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence to participate in the 2005-06 Colonial Williamsburg Electronic Field Trips. Darnaby’s Amie Bacon, Katrina Philpot of Cedar Ridge and Dixie Tate from Jarman will benefit from unique field trips that transport students back to 18th-century Virginia, where they can interact with slaves, tradesmen, Continental Army soldiers and other American colonists.

Three Peters teachers received “Funds for Teachers” grants from the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. Media specialist Kay Leslie and third grade teacher Debbie Steen were awarded $7,468 to tour Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and Colonial
Williamsburg. They had a web site that allowed students and others to log on and follow their adventures as they worked their way through many of the historical places. Peters first grade teacher Kathy Harding was awarded a $5,000 grant to tour Costa Rica and learn more about the different types of Rain Forests that exist.

Peters media specialist Kay Leslie was awarded a $1,500 grant from the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence to attend the National Renaissance Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Bill Polson, an AP U.S. history teacher at Union Intermediate High School, was accepted for a five-week seminar at the University of Nottingham in Great Britain.

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**Support Services**

**Facilities**

To accommodate growth in student population, the district maintains over 2.5 million square feet of facilities; including eleven elementary schools (grades PreK-5), a Sixth/Seventh Grade Center, an Eighth Grade Center, an Intermediate High School (grades 9-10), an Alternative School, a High School (grades 11-12), and an Education Service Center. The district’s newest construction includes the $21-million Union Multipurpose Activity Center (UMAC), which features an arena seating approximately 5,800 and a wellness center for students, employees and patrons; a twelfth elementary school scheduled to open in the 2006-2007 school year; and a remodeled Education Service Center.

**Transportation**

The Union Transportation Department picked up approximately 5,500 students at 1,500 bus stops and transported them to and from school each day during 2005-2006. We were able to achieve this with a total fleet size of 92 buses and a department staff of 93 which included drivers, assistants, mechanics and office staff. Our buses traveled over 820,000 miles which is the equivalent of driving from Tulsa to Seattle, WA, and back each school day.

Summer was no holiday in transportation with the preventative maintenance and inspections that were done on the buses by the mechanics. Summer programs at Clark, Jarman and the High School made it necessary to employ 15 regular route drivers and two special education drivers and assistants. Union’s fuel costs for 2005-2006 were $322,493.81, an amount which has increased each of the last three years.

**Food Services**

During the 2005-2006 school year, a staff of 114 cafeteria workers served 111,701 breakfasts and 1,148,763 lunches for a total of 1,260,464 meals. The Early Childhood program served 317 breakfasts and 303 lunches.

In June 2005, the summer nutrition program at Clark Elementary served 3,495 breakfasts and 3,603 lunches. In June of 2006, the program served 7,366 breakfasts and 7,321 lunches.
Breakfast in a Bag was implemented at Clark, Briarglen, Grove, Boevers and McAuliffe, serving 224,282 breakfasts during 2005-2006.

Plans to adopt a district Wellness Policy brought about changes in the child nutrition program, including low-fat tacos and hamburgers, sugar-free and fat-free offerings at the secondary sites, and cakes and brownies made with whole grain flour.

**Maintenance Services**

Thirteen maintenance technicians processed 5,611 work orders ranging from electrical and plumbing to telecommunications and welding.

Two employees in charge of scheduling booked 11,852 events at Union facilities and attendance at those events totaled 1,201,803. Approximately $494,538 was generated in facility rental revenue.

Thirteen grounds staff each maintained an average of 32.7 acres of school property including the baseball and soccer fields. During 2005-2006, the grounds staff set up and cleaned up after 167 major events. There were 211 work orders processed requiring 9,129 hours of labor.

The district’s 122 custodial employees and 87 night custodians each cleaned or maintained an average of 30,000 square feet of floor space every evening. The district provided ongoing building engineer certification classes and English classes for its staff, among whom eleven different languages were spoken.

**Union Multipurpose Activity Center**

During 2005-2006, the UMAC hosted 1,007 scheduled events, 77 of which were outside rental events, with the remaining 930 scheduled for student, staff or patron-related activities. The UMAC management team consisted of three employees: a Marketing Director, an Event Coordinator and an Event Assistant. District operations staff provided event service assistance as required for each event type.

Also at the UMAC there was one full-time manager and a part-time employee in the UWear Store, which is the district-approved source for Union logo-wear. Union High School student aides were given the opportunity to gain retail experience by working in the store each school day. The store manager was in charge of the Union trademarked logo use within the district and worked closely with student groups, booster clubs and PTA/PTSA organizations.

**Construction**

Roof replacement and repair was completed at Peters Elementary and the Intermediate High, and additional student lockers were installed at the Intermediate. New VoiceOver IP systems were implemented at Boevers, Briarglen and the 8th Grade Center. Digital clocks were installed at Andersen, Boevers, Briarglen, Cedar Ridge, Clark, Darnaby, Grove, Jarman, McAuliffe, Peters and the 6th/7th Grade Center; and security cameras were added at Clark, Darnaby, Moore and the 8th Grade Center. A technology equipment safe room was added at the Education Service Center.
The remodel at the 8th Grade Center included new commons construction of 3,200 square feet and remodel construction of 80,000 square feet. The exterior was painted and the parking lot was seal-coated. Also at the 8th Grade, the soccer complex added 4,000 square feet, complete with girls’ and boys’ locker rooms and a weight room.

Construction continued on the district’s twelfth elementary school, Rosa Parks, with 72,298 square feet incorporating thirty regular and four specialty classrooms and a full-size gymnasium. Targeted opening was August 2006.

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**Parents**

Whether it is attending back-to-school night or a ball game; passing a bond issue or serving on a planning committee, parents in the Union district are known for their active involvement.

During the 2005-2006 school year, parents supported their children through 27 different booster clubs ranging from band and orchestra, to dance, pom and cheer to aquatics, golf and soccer.

The PTA Council awarded more than 35 scholarships to graduating seniors for $500 each, making 2005-2006 a record-breaking year for the organization.

The Union Schools Education Foundation sponsored a Walk-a-Thon for elementary-age children during the Health & Fitness Expo at the UMAC Jan. 7, then hosted a Spring Luncheon and Style Show at the UMAC March 15. Its final event for 2005-2006 was the second annual USEF golf tournament at Battle Creek golf course. All were fun-filled money makers aimed at funding teacher grants for innovative classroom projects. (Also see USEF under “Employee Achievement.”)

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**Professional Development**

About 88 percent of PreK-12th grade teachers successfully completed required technology competencies.

Fourteen of Union’s 16 school sites participated in Professional Learning Communities, (collaborative workgroups) involving 40 percent of the certified teachers in the district.

During 2005-2006, Union’s online database noted 73 district-sponsored professional development opportunities offering teachers 15,477.5 hours of core curriculum training; 16 district-sponsored opportunities offering 1,035 hours of resident and National Board Certification support and; and 197 site-sponsored opportunities for training. Professional Development opportunities included training in language arts, math, science, social studies, technology and information for English Language Learners.

Assistant Transportation Director James McNabb developed the Foundations of Leadership class for Support Services supervisors. Approximately 20 assistants, supervisors and building engineers participated. The program helped emerging managers
with the tools needed to successfully perform well in leadership roles while encouraging networking among their peers.

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**Student Statistics**

Growth remains a constant factor at Union. Union served 14,101 students during the 2005-2006 school year. Of those, 6,661 were elementary age and 7,440 were in our secondary schools; 51.4 percent (7,256) were male and 48.6 percent (6,845) were female. In terms of ethnic origin, 11 percent were Native American, 13.8 percent were Hispanic, 12 percent were African-American, 5.7 percent were Asian and 57.5 percent were Caucasian.

12 percent or 1,669 of our students were enrolled in special education.

In 2005-2006, approximately 2,400 students throughout the district were bilingual or lived in a home where a language other than English was spoken, compared to 206 in 1995. The total bilingual count included 60 different languages.

More than 37 percent of our students reported that they live with just one of their biological parents – 4,473 (31.7 percent) living with their mothers and 695 (4.9 percent) with their fathers.

The number of students identified for Union’s Gifted and Talented Program, first through twelfth grades, totaled 3,091.

The number of High School students in Advanced Placement (AP) courses was 1,167, while there were 2,427 students, grades 9-12, enrolled in Pre-AP courses.

Nearly 10,000 Union students were involved in at least one arts class, including all 5,500 elementary students who took both art and music. At the secondary level, 840 were in band; 303 in orchestra; 817 in vocal music; 879 in drama; 215 in competitive speech and 1,439 in a wide variety of visual arts disciplines.

During 2005-2006 there were approximately 1,620 participants--790 girls and 830 boys--in Union’s 24 competitive sports programs, including cheer, dance and pom. There were 1,864 student participants in its Intramural Sports Programs, K-12. Intramurals had 304 teams; more than 1,200 games played at Union; over 6,000 practices held in Union facilities; and over 104,000 student hours spent on Intramural sports activities at Union facilities.

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**Student Achievement**

Each year Union has an impressive number of National Merit Finalists. In 2005-2006 there were eight High School seniors. Named were Stephen Carradini, Kaitlin Nicholas, Colin Paul, Andrea Jordan, Rachael Arrington, Nathan Hoyt, Kyle Dunn and Jacob Lambert.
Chet Dodrill and Drew E. Sahli were named Commended Students, and Spencer T. Kusi was recognized as an Outstanding Participant in the 2006 National Achievement Scholarship Program.

Senior Jacob Lambert was one of 100 public high school seniors named as 2006 All-State Award recipients by The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. Lambert was named a Robert C. Byrd Scholar as well. As a Byrd scholar, Lambert receives a federally funded scholarship of $1,500 for his first year of undergraduate work at a higher education institution of his choice and can qualify to renew his scholarship for up to three additional years.

Sixth grader Malcolm Brown won gold in three events at the 2005 Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Junior Olympic Games in New Orleans. Malcolm, who runs in the sub-midget division, won the 100-meter dash (12.96 seconds), the 200-meter dash (25.66) and the 400-meter dash (57.85) events.

The Highsteppers took first place in Lyrical Dance at the national Contest of Champions in Orlando, Florida. They also won first in Jazz, Varsity Kick and Senior Ensemble at OSDTDA (Oklahoma State Dance Team Directors Association) State competition. The team swept the awards at the Crowd Pleasers Competition in Keller, Texas, as well. Shining Stars Drill Team took numerous top awards at the Kansas Spectacular in Olathe, Kansas, as well as at the Crowd Pleasers Competition in Dallas, and Union Elite (8th grade) won first in Jazz and Kick at state and Best in Class in Novelty and Kick during the Crowd Pleasers competition in Keller, Texas.

Varsity cheerleaders took second place at the NCA National Cheer Competition in Dallas and third place in the OSSAA state championship in Choctaw. JV cheer took second place at the Oklahoma Cheer Challenge. Ninth cheer took first at the Oklahoma Cheer Challenge, and 8th grade won first and highest overall score at the New Orleans/OKC Hornets Cheer & Dance Classic.

Varsity pom won first in Hip-Hop and second in Pom at OSDTDA (OK State Dance Team Directors Association) state competition at Oklahoma City University; first in Pom and Hip-Hop at UDA (Universal Dance Association) Oklahoma Dance Team championship, and JV pom won first at OSDTDA state competition at OCU. Ninth grade pom took first in Pom and Hip-Hop at OSDTDA state, and 8th grade received a Superior rating at OSDTDA.

Union student athletes garnered five OSSAA state championships during 2005-2006. The football team finished 13-1 and won their second consecutive state championship, the third in the last four years.

Girls’ cross country won their first state championship since 1981, and it was their 7th state championship overall. Girls’ track continued to dominate as they won their third state championship in four years.

Union freshman Andrea Alonso ran cross country for both Union Public Schools and Peru, where she is also a citizen, and won Peru’s national title in both the 800m and 2000m races.
The boys’ tennis team won their second consecutive state championship and the baseball team took their second consecutive state title, fifth overall, pulling off an exciting win against Owasso, the then top-ranked team in the nation.

Five Union High students and one Union Intermediate High student were named to the All-State Choir. Junior Nicole Schultz and senior Christina Terry were selected to the All-OMEA (Oklahoma Music Educators Assoc.) Honor Chorus. Junior Michelle Reynolds and senior Whitney Walters were named to the All-OCDA (Oklahoma Choral Music Directors Assoc.) Women’s Honor Chorus, and Michelle Reynolds and Desmond Dansby were selected from more than 600 students for the 24-voice All-OCDA Jazz Honor Chorus. Freshman Justin Petron was also selected for the All-OCDA Junior High Honor Choir.

Five students won top awards in the University of Science and Arts invitational high school art exhibit, “Innovations.” Juniors Elyse Holmes, Daniela Seim and Amanda Zurita as well as seniors Shelbi Allen and Kacper Nowaki received honors. Zurita and Allen were medal finalists in the state Scholastic Arts competition, and Zurita’s work showed in New York City for the national finals.

Senior Kyle Dunn won first place in Humorous Interpretation at the state competitive speech tournament at the University of Oklahoma. Dunn qualified for regional competition in seven events, one short of tying an all-time record, and his win at state was Union’s second individual state championship ever and the first since 1998.

Nearly 1,600 Student Council leaders from throughout the state converged on Union High School for the 65th Annual Oklahoma Association of Student Councils Conference. Union High School was selected to host the event years earlier.

Intermediate student Hannah Hensel was awarded a Heroes of Hope award from the Heroes of Hope Living with Cystic Fibrosis Program. Hensel, who has cystic fibrosis, was chosen from a nationwide pool of candidates for her ability to inspire others with CF through her positive attitude, commitment to proactively manage her health, determination, community outreach and achievement.

A group of Union eighth graders had their eyes opened to the dangers of the Internet, and won an award in doing so. Linda Kincaid’s advanced government class entry, “Caught in the Net,” earned first place honors in the statewide “We the People: Project Citizen Program” sponsored by the Oklahoma Bar Association. The students’ work, judged on the state level by members of the state legislature, legislative staff, educators and attorneys, represented Oklahoma at the national Project Citizen competition in Nashville, Tennessee.

Darnaby first grader Sarah Parrack was one of 250 people whose pictures were shown on the NBC Astrovision screen in New York City in honor of National Down Syndrome Awareness Month.

Peters second grader James Funk won a National Award of Merit in Visual Arts in the annual PTA Reflections contest. He was one of four students from Oklahoma to win a national award. Funk’s entry, which depicted Hurricane Katrina, won the state’s Award of Excellence in Visual Arts.
Peters fourth grader Aubrey Moller won the state art contest sponsored by Scotts Miracle Gro. Her art was placed in the National Botanical Garden in Washington, D.C.

Darnaby third grader Scott van Egmond appeared in his first Off-Broadway production, “Merrily, We Roll Along.” He played the part of Frank Jr.

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**Teaching and Learning**

Union’s **curriculum** provided exemplary educational experiences for students at all elementary and secondary levels. Instructional technology offered students state-of-the-art tools to enhance reading, language, math, science and writing skills. Art, music and physical education enriched the traditional curriculum. Professionals in remedial reading, speech therapy and special education were assigned to the schools along with library media specialists, nurses and counselors. Courses for gifted students were offered at all levels, as were programs for English Language Learners.

Union’s **pre-school program** proved popular again in 2005-2006. There were 555 students enrolled in Union’s Four-Year-Old program, a total of 28 different classes.

At the other end students having trouble staying in school were helped as well. Eighty students graduated from Union **Alternative High School**, a new record for Oklahoma Alternative education programs and a record for Union Public Schools.

The Eighth Grade Center’s after-school tutoring program was re-named **The Homework Club** - a subtle change with a big impact on perception. It assisted more than 1,200 students.

The **chemistry and biology** programs at Union Public Schools were recognized among the strongest college Advanced Placement programs in the state of Oklahoma by the College Board’s Advanced Placement Report to the Nation. They were among the 26 AP and 20 Pre-AP classes the district offered.

The number of High School students in **Advanced Placement** (AP) courses was 1,167, while there were 2,427 students, grades 9-12, enrolled in Pre-AP courses.

Nearly 10,000 Union students were involved in at least one arts class, including all 5,500 elementary students who took both **art and music**. At the secondary level, 840 were in band; 303 in orchestra; 817 in vocal music; 879 in drama; 215 in competitive speech and 1,439 in a wide variety of visual arts disciplines.

During 2005-2006 there were approximately 1,620 participants--790 girls and 830 boys--in Union’s 24 competitive **sports** programs, including cheer, dance and pom. There were 1,864 student participants in its intramural sports programs, K-12.

**Intramurals** had 304 teams; more than 1,200 games played at Union; over 6,000 practices held in Union facilities; and over 104,000 student hours spent on intramural sports activities at Union facilities.
**Special Services** assisted students diagnosed with autism, deaf-blindness, deafness or hearing impairment, developmental delays, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, or visual impairment.

Union High School implemented the concept of home rooms in an attempt to improve the academic and social skills of its students. The purpose of “**Union Time**” was to provide students with an atmosphere where at least one teacher got to know the interests, requirements and goals of each student well. The teacher also had a chance to closely monitor students’ progress and provide the academic and other support they need.

There were 323 students (grades K-5) enrolled in Union’s **Extended Day Program** for 2005-2006, of whom 64 attended the morning program, 158 attended just the afternoon program and 101 students attended both programs. The EDP summer camp was held at Grove, offering weekly themes over nine weeks, attracting 100 campers.

**Summer school** was held at Jarman and Clark where programs were offered free of charge thanks to five grants. There were 372 first and second grade students enrolled under the Reading Sufficiency Act (RSA); 123 third grade enrolled in the RSA Academy; 90 first-through-fifth graders under the Native American grant; 137 fourth- and fifth-graders under Title I; and 97 first-through-fifth graders enrolled under an ELL (English Language Learners) grant. In addition, there were 290 students who paid tuition and took advantage of 31 classes offered in June and July.

During the regular school year 1,181 students participated in tutoring through the **Reading Sufficiency Act** in 2005-2006. The program served students in first through third grades. There were 413 first graders, 451 second graders and 317 third graders.

There were 3,091 students enrolled in Union’s **gifted and talented** program. The exceptionally challenging program is offered to students in grades one through twelve.

The annual **Union/Jenks Math Conference** drew about 600 third and fourth graders from the Union and Jenks school districts to engage in a series of fun math activities including Math in Flight, Making Flight Happen and Birds in Flight.

There were 300 students who participated in the All-District Elementary **Chess Tournament** at Clark. The all-day event was sponsored and supervised by Union’s enrichment specialists.

There were 160 children and 142 parents participating in the **Parents as Teachers** program. PAT serves families with children from birth to pre-school.

For the 2005-2006 school year, 82 groups or 2,311 participants took the **Union Challenge Adventure Ropes Course**, including three outside groups. There were 125 faculty members and 647 freshmen who went through the course. In addition, 998 elementary students participated in experiential programs, such as trust games, associated with the course at their school sites.

Union sponsored 25 different **Student Assistance Programs** for the year, including ropes courses, weekly support groups for 140 students, Drug-Free Youth programs for more than 3,000 students in grades 7-12, Community Out-Reach programs for 3,200
students and 400 parents, School Resource Officers programs, Red Ribbon Week and Character Counts education programs.

Union joined the National Character Counts Coalition in the 2005-2006 school year. District representatives for each school site were chosen and goals for Character Counts were reestablished and new flags were distributed. A Character Counts committee was established at each site; the Character Counts manual was updated and staff underwent specialized one-day training sessions involving more than 100 participants. Each school site also hosted yearlong activities.

Union began laying the foundation for the creation of multiple Community Schools. Announced in the summer of 2006, the initiative was an effort to bring in community and agency partners to lower socio-economic level students to provide greater equity. Staff at Clark and the soon-to-be-built Rosa Parks prepared for programs -- such as the expanding Oklahoma Bedlam Alliance for Health clinics and mobile dental programs -- to offer families comprehensive health care in school-based clinics to ensure children can thrive in school.

Union also hoped to add counseling services from mental health agencies and improve upon after-school and summer programs to provide structure and exposure to academics and activities that will provide students a chance to develop skills, abilities and interests that might carry over to engagement in school.

Beginning in the summer of 2005, Grove Elementary School started helping young mothers graduate from Union High School by providing a room for their babies in an infant care program. Under the program, High School students drop their babies off at 7 a.m. and pick them up around 3 p.m. This arrangement enables students to attend classes and get their degree and graduate with their class. Community Action Project runs this program and rents a classroom from Union. A certified teacher and two assistants tend to the infants while their mothers are in class. The program runs on the same calendar program as Union Public Schools.

Union administrators continued working on plans to eventually provide full-day 4-year-old program options in all the elementary schools by 2008. Part of the planning was boosted when voters approved a bond issue which included funds for the planning phase of Elementary #13 between 81st and 91st and Garnett and Highway 169. The new school will enable the district to provide more space for the 4-year-old program districtwide.

Union Schools launched a new initiative called Professional Learning Communities in which peers worked in small, collaborative groups of about 10 members to discuss, plan and assess their methods for teaching students. Under the program, teachers learned from other teachers about effective professional practices, creative ideas and deeper understandings of effective teaching strategies. Some schools such as Clark, Boevers, Briarglen and Peters even built time into their school day to allow teachers to meet and discuss teaching methods and tools to help teachers meet goals for their students.

Hispanic Fair at the Sixth/Seventh Grade Center brought in 25 community agencies to serve as a bridge between the school and the Hispanic community.

Enrollment
Union has experienced significant growth in student enrollment. During the 2000-2001 school year, the district recorded total enrollment of 13,054. In 2005-2006, enrollment reached 14,101.

The administration projects enrollment in the 2006-2007 school year to reach approximately 14,350 students with the implementation of an all-day kindergarten program. A continued steady yet moderate growth is forecast through 2009.

For additional statistics, please visit the **Statistics Section** of the Union web site.

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**Economic Outlook**

Union Public Schools is located within the Tulsa Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Tulsa MSA’s major industries are aerospace, transportation and logistics, advanced manufacturing and services, health care, Information Technology (IT) and telecommunications, petroleum and natural gas, financial and business services, and education and knowledge creation. The Tulsa Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce reports that many of these industries are prominently ranked nationally based on employment including: aerospace engines, ranked seventh; oil and gas, ranked seventh; production technology, ranked 18th; and aerospace vehicles and components, ranked 19th.

Qualities that attract new growth are Tulsa’s sound infrastructure, low cost of living and a low cost of doing business. The Chamber reports that Tulsa’s cost of doing business is 15 percent less than the national average, making Tulsa the third least expensive area in the country for industry prospects to relocate or expand. The economic decline that Tulsa experienced from 2002 through 2004 has yielded to a sustained growth throughout 2005 and is predicted to continue in 2006. Employment growth is forecast by the Chamber to increase by 1.3 percent in 2006, primarily in business and professional services, health and education services, and construction services. Real personal income is projected to grow in 2006 by 2.4 percent.

The unemployment rate in the Tulsa MSA reached 6.5 percent in 2003 then began a decline to its 2005 level of 4.3 percent. The Chamber projects that this rate will remain relatively stable through 2009 due to increased hiring with new industry expansion. Employment in the educational services area experienced a 1.3 percent gain in 2005. Union Public Schools contributes to Tulsa’s workplace initiatives by offering community programs for both adults and children such as:

- Adult Basic Education – classes for adults who need basic instruction in reading, writing, math and life skills;
- Workplace Education – instruction linking education goals to the employer’s desire for high performance work and product quality;
- G.E.D. Preparation – instruction to prepare adults to take the Tests of General Educational Development (G.E.D.) tests;
- English as a Second Language – instruction to non-English speaking adults to help them be productive citizens of our community.

Economic Condition and Outlook
Three of Tulsa’s top five employers are major healthcare systems that continue to expand. A joint effort between Bedlam Community Health Partnerships and Union Public Schools has produced cutting-edge services for the Union community. The Union Public Schools Bedlam School-Based Health Clinic initially opened its doors at Roy Clark Elementary School and will expand in the 2006-2007 school year to Rosa Parks Elementary, Union’s newest elementary school. These clinics provide a convenient way for students to receive a wide range of health care services. They operate at no cost to the District. The primary goal of the clinics is to serve the families of all children in each of the schools, including those who qualify for Medicaid or have no health insurance. The clinics provide at least one full-time physician assistant or a resident physician. In addition, a pediatrician visits each clinic as part of a rotating schedule. The health care providers work with and assist school nurses.

Vision 2025, a one-penny 13-year increase in the Tulsa County sales tax for regional economic development and capital improvements, continues to fund projects throughout the Tulsa area, including instructional materials for common education. Union Public Schools collected $471,825.09 in fiscal year 2005-2006 from Vision 2025 reimbursements for classroom-related expenses.

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**Bond Funds & Millage History**

On Feb. 14, 2006, district voters approved a $15.2 -million bond proposal, which included funds for construction of approximately eight new classrooms at the Intermediate High School, preconstruction services for a thirteenth elementary school, expansion and remodeling of the Alternative School, development of a recreational facility at the Sixth/Seventh Grade Center, and acquisition of school buses. Other equally crucial items on the ballot included: textbooks and classroom materials, library books, instructional equipment, technology, building repairs, and renovations to sites districtwide.

**Millage History**

2005-06 ...... bonded capacity:

- General Obligation Indebtedness..............$53,950,000 $53,050,000
- Sinking Fund Balance.................................(2,127,650) ($8,584,730.36)
- Net General Obligation Indebtedness.........$51,822,350 $44,465,269.64

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**Communications**

The Union Communications Department, which consisted of an Executive Director, a Communications/ Board of Education Secretary, a Desktop Publisher and a Webmaster/Communications Specialist during the 2005-2006 school year, provided a
planned two-way communication system with internal and external audiences to meet the needs of the district and its students.

A network of 45 communications representatives from all sites, departments and various parent groups submitted news tips, photos and story ideas to our staff throughout the year. Their input helped generate approximately 400 news releases and photos which were sent to the media and/or posted on our web site.

Our records indicate Union-related news (not counting regular sports stories) appeared on television news 169 times during 2005-2006 and in 312 stories in Tulsa area newspapers. About 27,000 copies of the Communicator were printed and distributed to our schools, mailed to the media, lawmakers and district residents every two months.

Hundreds of local “news briefs” were posted on each school site’s web news bulletin page and on the Communications page. There were approximately 27,400 hits on the Union website’s “District Information” page for calendar year 2005, and the Communications bulletin alone registered more than 5,500 hits for the same period. New web pages were added throughout the year including the employee United Way Campaign and the PTA “U Choose” Supplies for Teachers Program, which also had an information campaign associated with it.

Other major information campaigns either spearheaded or assisted by the Communications Department netted the following results:

- Passage of the $15.2 Million February 14, 2006, Bond Election by more than 77 percent
- Elementary attendance boundary re-alignment to populate Rosa Parks Elementary and make other changes necessary in the southern part of the district to offer all-day kindergarten districtwide starting in 2006-2007
- Successful fund raisers for the Union Schools Education Foundation—Walk-a-Thon for elementary-age students at the UMAC January 7, 2005; a March 15 Luncheon and Style Show at the UMAC; and the second annual USEF Golf Tournament at Battle Creek in June
- Special event planning included the 2005-2006 back-to-school kickoff celebration and the dedication of the new wing of the Eighth Grade Center.
- More than 40 publications were printed and included everything from handbooks, course offerings and report cards, to brochures, programs and annual reports.
- Audio/video productions included a Feb. 14, 2006, Bond Issue video, a Teacher of the Year slide show, a Teacher of the Year video, an Eighth Grade Center Dedication music montage; and assistance with a back-to-school slide show.
- Laying groundwork for the district’s expansion into broadcasting, the Communications Department mapped out plans with Athletics and the High School to produce the coach’s show in-house to be aired on Cox television during the 2006-2007 football season. Plans were also made to begin producing videos in-house rather than outsourcing them.
Grants

During the 2005-2006 school year, Union received $4,798,363 in federal grant money. Grants were used to fund such programs as drug education, special education, professional development, remedial programs, enrichment programs in math and reading, and supplies and materials.

The district’s child nutrition program received $1,754,080 in federal and state money. Approximately 33 percent of Union’s students took advantage of free or reduced meals.

Revenue

The State Department of Education requires Union Public Schools to report all revenue and expenditures on a modified cash basis when reporting monthly and yearly management information. This data is presented to the Board of Education and the patrons annually in August during a public meeting.

Union Public School’s 2005-2006 general fund revenue was $73.9 million. As always, the primary source came from state aid, 39.2 percent ($30.0 million). More than 29.4 percent ($21.7 million) came from ad valorem tax revenue, reflecting new housing and the area’s commercial growth, especially along the 71st Street corridor. The remaining collections come from:

- Federal sources – includes grants received from federal agencies
- Other state sources – includes auto license tax, state land earnings, state flexible benefit allowance, state grants and fees
- County sources – includes county 4-mill ad valorem, mortgage tax, Vision 2025
- Local sources – includes building rental fees, extended day fees, interest earnings, night school and summer school tuition

The district has continued its contractual exclusive vendor relationship with Great Plains Coca-Cola Bottling Company. The contract has provided Union with $3,830,319.77 over the last six and one-half years, as well as free product, promotional goods and services to help fund site and district activities.

Spending

General Fund expenditures in 2005-2006 totaled $72,469,600. At least 58.8 percent of every dollar spent was used for teacher salaries, benefits and student instructional needs. More than 10.7 percent was spent on operations and maintenance. Another 6.2 percent was spent for student services which would include counselors, nurses and other student support services. Transporting the students used 3.3 percent, and the remainder of the budget was spent for general administration, school administration, including principals and their office staff; other instructional staff services such as media specialists at each school site; and staff development.
Message from the Superintendent

Dear Union Patrons,

The consensus is in – Union Public Schools is an excellent learning environment for students of all ages.

Union children have opportunities to begin at age four in developmentally appropriate programs that focus on language development and academic readiness. Caring teachers in eleven neighborhood elementary schools work to see that all students get a strong foundation in literacy skills, mathematics, inquiry-based science, social studies, art, music and physical education. At the middle school level, all district sixth graders come together to form a class that will stay together until graduation. The middle school program at the Sixth and Seventh Grade Center helps students explore their interests within the security of a team approach. At the Eighth Grade Center students begin to earn high school credit in their newly remodeled facility. Rigorous academic courses and a wide array of co-curricular activities at the Intermediate and Senior High School prepare students to be successful in higher education and jobs in the 21st century workforce. Ninety-two percent of this year’s Union graduates report that they intend to attend college, many qualifying for a share of the almost $8-million dollars of scholarship money awarded in 2006. Nationally recognized programs in alternative education and for English Language Learners add to other special education programs to offer quality education opportunities for all students.

In 2005-06 the pride in Union schools was also affirmed by patrons in the community through their support for the annual bond issue. More than 77 percent of the voters approved Union’s growth plan for a new elementary school, Central Park at Union, classrooms at the Intermediate High School, and numerous remodeling projects. This support for Union’s bond issue has persisted for 16 years, demonstrating continuous positive support from the community.

2005-06 has been a good year for Union Public Schools. Five athletic championships, awards for financial reporting, teacher recognition and student achievement have all set the standard high. This annual report is a synopsis of some of the accomplishments and changes providing a snapshot of the district’s priorities. For more information, feel free to check out our website at www.unionps.org or better yet, become a volunteer at one of our schools. Mentors and volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Cathy Burden, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Report Card with API Index

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to provide the Oklahoma District/School Report Card, detailing educational information important for administrators, teachers, parents and the public. Included in this report is the Academic Performance Index (API), established by Title 70 O.S. § 3-
150, along with additional factors that contribute to a school’s or district’s success. This information is provided not only as a snapshot of current performance, but also as a map leading to the continued progress and success of Oklahoma schools and our children.

--Sandy Garrett, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

This report contains data for all sites. Mathematics and reading scores are based on students’ performance on state-mandated Criterion-Referenced Tests (CRTs). Tests are administered to students in grades 3-8, and those students currently enrolled in Algebra I, Biology, English II, and US History. Performance targets have been set for mathematics and reading at 648 and 622, respectively. Each student group is required to meet or exceed the performance targets determined by the state. Completion data are based on all students’ attendance rate. The API Scale encompassed scores in a range of 0-1500.

The 2006 Oklahoma District Report Card

Technology

There were many technology projects for students and teachers at all sites. Six elementary schools (Andersen, Briarglen, Cedar Ridge, Clark, Moore and Peters) had their computer labs upgraded. The 6th & 7th Grade Center had two keyboarding labs and one general curriculum computer lab installed. The 8th Grade Center had three computer application labs upgraded and a new media center research lab installed. The Intermediate had one business computer lab upgraded and a new wireless mobile lab for science and social studies installed. The High School had one business computer lab upgraded.

More than 300 teachers received upgrades with new Dell GX620 computers, 17-inch monitors, color inkjet printers and a UPS. Each teacher’s computer came loaded with Windows XP Professional, Office XP Professional, Publisher, Picture IT and Inspiration. An extended warranty of four years was purchased with every teacher computer. Teacher computers are upgraded based on when their warranty expires.

The Professional Development Center (PDC) at the Education Service Center received a new wireless mobile computer lab. Twenty-eight Dell laptops and two security carts were purchased and set up in the PDC.

Renaissance Place online software was purchased and installed for districtwide use. Renaissance Place has several different modules that students and teachers use. Those modules include Accelerated Reader, Accelerated Math, STAR Early Literacy, STAR Reading and STAR Math. Assessment of student progress is a large part of the Renaissance Place program.

Moore Elementary expanded its Waterford Computer program to help English Language Learners and other students with their reading skills.

Anti-virus software was purchased for districtwide use in order to protect all computers from computer virus infections.
Valor Telecom presented an e-rate check for $58,512 to the district as part of the Universal Service Application for Schools and Libraries program administered through the Federal Communications Commission.