



## ***Extended Learning Program Grades K-12***

**Union Local School District**

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**Purpose:** Due to the COVID pandemic, Union Local School District realizes the importance of providing our students with extended learning opportunities to help students advance and make up for any learning that may have been lost or delayed because of the coronavirus pandemic. We understand that students have missed out on many educational opportunities they would have otherwise been given during a traditional school year. For this reason, Union Local will offer all students, grades K-12, additional opportunities to learn through its newly-created after school programs.

The Jets After School Program will provide students with extra opportunities to feed their curiosity and grow their imagination. This will be done through the use of activities and resources that require critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration. While the program will offer tutoring and assistance with homework, the primary goals of the program will be to ignite a passion for learning and close academic gaps. Teachers will work hard to identify individual student needs so that they can address areas of concerns and close academic achievement gaps. Students will also be given the opportunity to creatively think, explore and produce projects and products that capture their interests and demonstrate their potential.

The Jets After School Program will evolve into an 8 week summer camp program. The program will be available to all students and transportation will be provided.

### **Impacted Students:**

Union Local School District believes that ALL students have been impacted by the pandemic academically, socially and emotionally. Therefore, the program will be offered to ALL students. Classroom teachers will collaborate with the teachers and paraprofessionals who will be instructing students in the after school program and/or summer camps.



## ***Extended Learning Program Grades K-12***

**STRUCTURE: “Circles of Opportunity”** The after school program will offer several “rings” of learning opportunities to address academic gaps as well as provide :

- Homework Help and assistance catching up with missing assignments
- Tutoring as requested by classroom teachers, parents and students
- Enrichment activities through learning centers and Makerspace
- Problem-Based Learning
- Study table for those who would like a quiet, after-school area, to include student athletes
- Student-Centered Clubs at the elementary level

### **Identifying Academic Needs: Individual Learning Paths**

Our elementary programs will use data derived from Dibels, IReady, and Teacher input to determine the academic priorities for each student who participates in the after school program as well as the summer camps.

For grades 6-12, academic needs will be based off of student performance, observations and teacher recommendations. Teachers will use data from formative and summative assessments to identify priority needs in the areas of ELA and Math. Student and family input will also be gathered and used to determine individual learning paths for our students. The goal of the after school program and summer school camps will be to identify the individual needs of our students in order to provide targeted instruction, reteaching and enrichment opportunities.

### **Addressing Academic Gaps:**

Union Local will address academic gaps through a variety of instructional practices based on Renzulli’s Schoolwide Enrichment Model, SEM. SEM is centered on an asset model where the focus is on students’ strengths: what they know, want to know, and do well; what they enjoy; and how to use meaningful, enriching learning to help students improve their academic performance.

Bloom’s Taxonomy will be a core component of our teacher training as well as for the implementation of instructional practices, lesson development, etc. We will strive to work beyond knowledge, comprehension and application. Research strongly suggests that when students do more with the knowledge provided to



## ***Extended Learning Program Grades K-12***

them, students learn more. They retain more and become more engaged in the learning process. With this in mind, we will concentrate on the top of Bloom's pyramid where students are provided opportunities to analyze, evaluate and create. We understand that knowledge can be obtained within seconds from either a computer or a smartphone. However, what we do with that knowledge is what will define and determine the success of our students. Hence, we will strive to ignite a passion for learning and an eagerness to think creatively, problem solve and develop a product or solution that contributes to the betterment of the world in which we live.

Students NEED to be given opportunities to develop the soft skills required to be successful beyond the classroom. They need to leave the K-12 setting knowing how to effectively communicate, problem solve, manage projects, hold leadership roles, and work with others and overcome challenges. Unfortunately, state testing has significantly hindered the development of these skills. Teachers continue to teach in the traditional "factory model" style to ensure that they are covering ALL the standards and preparing the students to take the end of year state standardized assessments. The focus has become heavily centered around the state report cards and state-level rankings rather than the development of strong individuals who can creatively solve problems and invent solutions, products and ideas that go beyond the one piece of data that will determine the effectiveness of the teachers and educational process of a school district.

We believe that the extended learning plans of our after school program and summer school camps will provide the Union Local School District with the opportunity to create a learning environment that our teachers and administrators know to be right and crucial for the success of our students. With the above information in mind, ULSD will embed the following components into our extended learning opportunities for our students:

- A district cultural blueprint that strives to develop world-class communication, world-class empathy and world-class effort
- Renzulli's Schoolwide Enrichment Model
- ALL levels of Bloom's Taxonomy:



## ***Extended Learning Program Grades K-12***

- Remember, understand, apply (Required for the success/achievement for state assessment)
- **ANALYZE, EVALUATE AND CREATE** (Required for success beyond high school)
  - Learning Centers/Workshop Way
  - Genius Hour
  - Makerspaces
  - Problem-based learning
  - Project-based learning
  - The Whole Child: Soft Skills
  - Quality Interactions

Union Local After School and Summer School Camps will monitor progress through the following forms of data:

- Formative and Summative Assessments
- IReady
- Dibels
- Attendance
- Behavior Referrals/Discipline
- Student grades

### **Identifying Social & Emotional Needs:**

The Union Local School District understands the importance and value of addressing the needs of the whole child. We understand that the social and emotional health of our students impacts their academic achievement, increases prosocial behaviors (such as kindness, sharing, and empathy), improves student attitudes toward school, and reduces depression and stress among students (Durlak et al., 2011). We have many students who are struggling and need additional support to learn, grow, and feel like they are safe and valued.

ULSD has many practices and programs in places to foster and nurture the social and emotional well-being of our students. Our district offers mental health service by licensed credential providers for grades preK-12. These service providers offer both individual student and family counseling. We also contract with Student Services who are licensed mental health care providers who present programs to our students that



## ***Extended Learning Program Grades K-12***

address self-awareness, self-management/care, social awareness, relationship skills and decision making skills.

### **Addressing Social & Emotional Needs:**

Union Local School District will address the social and emotional needs of our students by extending the counseling and social/emotional based programs to our students who attend the after school and summer programs. Our contracted social workers and counselors will work with our students on programs that include information that promotes safe dating, making good choices and taking care of their mental, emotional and social health.

### **Financial Aspects:**

Funding that will be used to support the afterschool program and the summer school camps will come from various sources including ESSER (CARES Act) money, grant money from the Mental Health Recovery Board and Title 1 Expanding Opportunities for Each Child.