

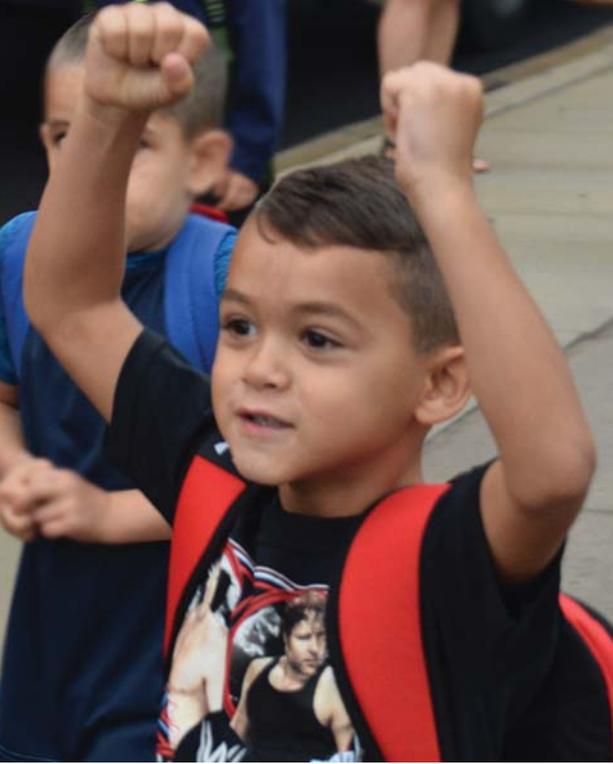
U N I O N E N D I C O T T TIGER TRENDS

www.uek12.org

September 2017

Welcome back U-E Tigers!

U-E Tigers are ready for another fantastic year!



XQ awards Tiger Ventures \$2.5 million!

Being a Tiger in Tiger Ventures has never been more rewarding! After its first year, with the ups and downs of starting a new program, the district steamed along, working out the kinks, renovating classrooms, hiring staff and working with students who needed an environment more conducive to their learning style. The district did all this, despite not receiving one of the initial \$10 million in grant money XQ Institute donated last year.

Fast forward to the end of the 2016-17 school year, when in May, the district received a phone call from XQ that they were a recipient of \$2.5 million to be given over a five-year period. During a celebration in July at the school, XQ Institute President Matt Lorin publicly announced the donation in an auditorium filled with teachers, students and community members. The announcement was followed by a mini-carnival with food, music and the XQ Super School Bus set up at the LWW parking lot. The following day, at UEHS, a Super School Event was held for



Emotions ran high, when, during a conference call with XQ Institute, staff learned about the \$2.5 million donation in May. The donation was made public during an XQ Super School celebration hosted in July at Tiger Ventures-LWW.

See "Ventures," page 2.

Tiger Pride-Rich Traditions & Boundless Opportunities

A message from

Superintendent Dr. Suzanne McLeod



Hello to all and happy new school year!

As our students return, they will find schools where much has been accomplished over the summer: extensive capital project work has been completed at many of our buildings and each building has been cleaned so that they literally shine, thanks to our dedicated facilities team.

Teachers and administrators have put in many hours working on curriculum, professional development and setting up their classrooms and building plans. Our transportation staff has thoroughly cleaned and tuned up our buses, and routes have been established. Our cafeteria teams have thoroughly cleaned each kitchen and are ready and waiting to serve our students. All other support personnel – clerical, aides, monitors – have been hard at work this summer ensuring that our students' return is smooth so that they can hit the ground running.

You may have heard over the summer that U-E was recognized by the XQ Foundation for our innovative Tiger Ventures program at LWW School. We were awarded a \$2.5 million grant that, over five years, will be used to enhance all aspects of the educational program at LWW.

In addition, this summer, after studying the district's data at their board retreat, our Board of Education developed a set of goals for the 2017-18 school year. It is the mission of the U-E School District to develop responsible, self-directed, lifelong learners, and we have enjoyed great success with huge increases in student achievement – notably our 94% graduation rate last year. Our goals are listed in the box below:

1. Increase the graduation rate to 88% (UECSD) and 92% (UEHS)
2. Increase grades 6-12 course passing rate to 95%
3. Increase grades K-2 literacy to 80%
4. Increase grades 3-8 NYS assessment proficiency levels to 35% ELA and 41% math
5. Increase advanced placement exam proficiency levels to 8/14, exceeding national average
6. Decrease the number of chronically absent students to 378

These goals can be achieved only if we all work together as a team – with all stakeholders focused on our students maximizing their achievement.

Thank you all for your support, and have a great school year. ^{UE}

“Ventures,” from page 1.

the U-E community to see what rethinking high school and the XQ Institute is all about.

As the new school year gets underway, plans are forming for upgraded technology, revamping curriculum, adding new staff, and making improvements to Tiger Ventures classrooms and incubator spaces. By 2020, the district hopes to have up to 250 students in grades eight through 12 in the program; a program that rethinks high school. ^{UE}



Senator Fred Akshar, left, with Tiger Ventures student Mauricio Mendez, center, and his family in front of the XQ Super School Bus.



Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, Sen. Fred Akshar, U-E board members and staff during the ribbon-cutting ceremony held in July.

Senior named semifinalist

Senior Jeffrey Yu has been named a semifinalist in the National Merit® Scholarship (NMSC) program. He is one of six students in Broome County who received this designation.

Jeffrey is one of 16,000 students nationally to be named a semifinalist and is among the highest scoring entrants in each state in last year's PSAT/NMSQT tests, scoring in the top one percent.

He now has the chance to receive one of 7,500 scholarships that will be awarded this spring. Awards are given based on a student's abilities, skills and accomplishments, as well as written recommendations and the finalist's own essay. ^{UE}



Programs introduce students to school

The transition to both kindergarten and then, six years later, to middle school, can be overwhelming. But at UE, our youngest Tigers and our Tigers in the middle have the opportunity to visit their schools before the first day and, hopefully, alleviate any worries.

With Kindergarten Jump Start and Sixth-Grade Prep Academy, students spend four half days at their respective schools to get an idea of what school will be like.

All students ride the bus to their new schools. Kindergarten students meet their teacher, go to their classroom, eat breakfast and tour the school. Sixth graders go through the cafeteria line and eat breakfast, meet teachers, guidance counselors and administrators, open their lockers and walk through their schedule.

At Tiger Ventures-LWW, students also had the opportunity to work on projects, participate in community building activities, and learn about the basic concepts of restorative practices.

AGM Kindergarten parent Christie Schuhert said, "Kindergarten Jump Start exposed our daughter to the wonderful teachers and staff at AGM while acclimating her to a new school. She came home excited to tell us about what she did and the new friends she made." ^{UE}



Sixth-grade teacher Jessica Calice helps a student open her locker.



Principal Alicia Boyce, left, and teacher Jessica Carl greet a new kindergartner to CFJ.

Endicott on the move

Endicott is on the move as the entire community looks to shift from big manufacturing businesses to small, privately-owned businesses, service industry, education and health care.

The UE School District is partnering with Endicott and the Greater Binghamton area on this endeavor, starting with Tiger Ventures at the LWW School in which innovative entrepreneurs start their business at the school while mentoring students (see article on page 1 & 2.)

Another group, The Endicott Proud Team, includes members from the Village of Endicott and Town of Union; local business owners; law enforcement officials; and representatives from the U-E school district, Binghamton University & SUNY Broome. Its vision is to make Endicott the premier destination for professionals to live, work, and play, while enhancing the quality of life for residents.

In addition, Endicott has been a recipient of grant money. The Old Village of Union Historical Society received \$100,000

toward an ongoing expansion of the Endicott History and Heritage Center on Washington Avenue. Also, Endicott was recently named one of three 'iDistricts' as Governor Andrew Cuomo committed \$20 million to be shared with Endicott, Binghamton and Johnson City. The fund is meant to target urban centers - 'iDistricts' - into "communities where the next generation of workers want to live, work and play." ^{UE}



UE is one of three 'iDistricts' to share \$20 million to help improve communities in upstate NY.

Audit Response

Periodically, the district receives audit reports from the External (Independent) Auditor and/or the Office of the New York State (NYS) Comptroller. The U-E Board of Education will review all audit recommendations in consultation with the audit committee and respond appropriately.

Independent and comptroller audit reports and the accompanying management letters will be made available for public inspection. Notice of the availability of independent and comptroller audit reports will be published in the district's official newspaper or one having general circulation in the district. If there is no

newspaper, notice must be placed in ten (10) public places within the district. Additionally, final audit reports from the Office of the NYS Comptroller should be posted on the district website, if one is available, for a period of five (5) years.

If you have any questions, please call the office of the assistant superintendent for business at 757-2114. ^{UE}

Union-Endicott Central School District
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Construction work nears completion

This summer, many of our facilities were under construction with buildings closed for renovations and offices relocated to JFS. This construction was the result of a referendum approved by U-E voters on December 8, 2015, and addressed needs such as facility, technology and safety improvements. Work started during the April spring break, with removal and installation of new windows at the high school. Windows at AGM, TJW, and the bus garage were also installed this summer. Updated playgrounds were a priority at GFJ, CFJ and AGM. Each playground has similar pieces of equipment so our students have similar experiences regardless of the school they attend.

In addition, the district tennis courts have been moved from UEHS to the West Corners Campus at LWW. The high school now houses a new fitness room and a weight room expansion area for our athletes. A new phone system and cabling for technology infrastructure was installed, the cafeteria was renovated, including new tile floor and serving stations, and the auditorium has a new sound and lighting system that will be used for school performances.



New windows were install at UEHS.

Finally, a priority for the district was to install secure vestibules at the four elementary schools. Parents and visitors will now enter main offices through a set of double doors, where they will be offered entry into the building in a safe and secure manner.

We would like to thank our team of contractors, construction managers, architects, and district staff in working together to get the project completed. A special thank you to the members of our community for your patience and understanding throughout the construction season. ^{UE}

The Jennie F. Snapp Music Department presents

Disney's
MULAN JR.

November 17 at 7 p.m.
November 18 at 2 & 7 p.m.
UEHS Auditorium

Doors will open 30 minutes prior to showtime.

NCLB Parents "Right to Know"

Our district is required to inform you of certain information that you have the right to know, according to The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110). Upon your request, our district is required to provide to you in a timely manner, the following information:

- ◆ Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- ◆ Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- ◆ What baccalaureate degree major the teacher has and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification.
- ◆ Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Please call the office of the assistant superintendent for business at 757-2114 with any questions. ^{UE}