

Union Street Charter
A K-5 public school



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Philosophy

- ▶ We believe a child's educational attitudes and future success in learning are grounded in the primary years.
- ▶ Our teachers are empowered to design lessons that peak a child's natural curiosity.
- ▶ We provide a nurturing environment which fosters high self-esteem and confidence.
- ▶ We minimize the influence of popular culture and the use of academic competition as motivation for learning.
- ▶ We have small class size (17 or less) to ensure an individualized education.

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We believe a balanced arts program builds skills for academics: creativity, focus, organization, observation, self-expression and perseverance.




Twice Weekly Special Program Teachers for:
Art, Music, & Spanish

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Language Arts

- ▶ Phonics and whole language reading in K - 2
- ▶ Literature based reading program 3-5
- ▶ Writing emphasized
 - ▶ Meaningful assignments based on Lucy Calkins
 - ▶ Annual Yearbook publication of student writing
 - ▶ Class student author celebrations and presentations



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Science



Experiment Based Activities

- Making Observations
- Recording Results
- Testing Hypothesis

- ▶ Units include: Bees & Ladybugs, Light and Sound, Habitats, Soil Science, Watersheds/Salmon, Animal Adaptation, Energy & Engineering, Human growth, and Planets
- ▶ Amplify-Seeds of Science, Roots of Reading-proven to increase reading skills

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Math Is Hands On

All grades:

University of Chicago Everyday Mathematics Program


- Hands on games and projects to build conceptual foundations
- Balance of CA Standards & developmental needs



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Social Studies


- ▶ Foster an expanding awareness of the world around us and our place in it. Humboldt County history
 - ▶ The globe and geography
 - ▶ Native American culture
 - ▶ Diversity and Equity
 - ▶ Family history
- ▶ Learning about the human experience studying a variety of peoples' history and culture.



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Physical Education

- ▶ Emphasize usual games: soccer, basketball, 4 square, tetherball, kickball, and tag games.
- ▶ Emphasize skills for playing these games & skills-based P.E. lessons.
- ▶ Encourage positive attitude toward competition.
- ▶ Encourage cooperation and caring.
- ▶ Cal-Poly students teaching diverse set of games this year.



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School Hours

Students may be dropped off starting at 8:10

- ▶ Kindergarten 8:30 a.m. to 1:45
- ▶ Grades 1 - 3 8:30 a.m. to 3:00
- ▶ Grades 4 & 5 8:20 a.m. to 3:00
- ▶ Minimum Mondays: all grades end at 1:45



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Extended Childcare Hours

- ▶ Before School 7:45 - 8:10 (\$1 per day)
- ▶ Kindergarten After School 2:00 – 3:15
- ▶ After School (all grades) 3:15 - 5:30
- ▶ After School on Minimum Mondays: 2:00 – 5:30
- ▶ Parents are billed monthly at a rate of \$4.00/hour. After 5:30 the rate is \$1/minute.
- ▶ Free childcare is available to those who qualify.
- ▶ Billing is processed through Equinox Center for Education (ECE), our foundation.
- ▶ After School Program snack: tortilla chips, popcorn, or crackers, cheese, fruit/veggies and milk-\$1 per snack (or 60 cents for those that qualify).

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School Snack & Lunch Program

- ▶ Breakfast/Snack and Lunches are from Arcata School District and free for all students
- ▶ Both meals meet USDA nutritional guidelines.
- ▶ The school still gathers income eligibility for free & reduced meals, which qualifies the school for additional funding
- ▶ This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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Drama



- ▶ Yearly classroom plays or poetry performance
- ▶ Large production for 4th & 5th grade at the Playhouse this year
- ▶ Students develop performance skills in all grades

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Camping Trips & Field Trips

- ▶ Fall day trip and Spring camping trip in K & 1st
- ▶ Twice yearly camping trips in 2nd - 5th
- ▶ Field trips to center arts performances
- ▶ Service project-Ivy pull at Sunny Brae Park
- ▶ Surfing with Center Activities-4th
- ▶ Wolf Creek science camp-5th
- ▶ Ashland Shakespeare play-5th grade



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5th Grade Trip to Ashland



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Artists visit the School- Musicians, storytellers, Quack and Wabbit, art docents, and Author in the Schools




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Systems of Support

- ▶ Small family atmosphere
- ▶ Clear expectations
- ▶ Problem solving with parents
- ▶ Restorative practices with students
- ▶ Second Step social-emotional curriculum
- ▶ Mindfulness
- ▶ Student Support/counseling staff
- ▶ Guidelines for behavior in the handbook and posted on the website

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Positive behavior comes from Teamwork:
students, staff, and parents



Teachers are empowered at Union Street Charter to be innovative, develop new curricular materials, work collaboratively with parents and community volunteers, and take responsibility for the school as a whole.

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Buddy Activities:



- Build skills in language arts
- Create a family-like atmosphere
- Foster positive self-esteem

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Services

- ▶ Resource teacher and speech services
- ▶ Health and special education testing through HCOE
- ▶ Reading and math support


Reports & Assessment

- ❖ Two parent teacher conferences are held each year. Parents receive an individualized report.
- ❖ All students in grades 3 – 5 take state tests.
- ❖ Overall, USC students tend to perform well on standardized tests.

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Sustainability



Union Street Charter makes an effort to reduce our use of natural resources in the following ways:


- Solar panels installed in 2005 and 2022.
- 100% renewable energy provided by Redwood Coast Energy Authority.
- Energy efficient electric heating system installed in 2018.
- Energy efficient LED lamps, installed in all classrooms (Prop 39 clean energy funds).
- Rain water collection for plant watering.
- Food scraps diverted to a local farmer
- Recycling collected from all classrooms, offices and lunch areas (reusable containers encouraged).
- Families are encouraged to bike or walk to school.
- We teach children not to waste and reduce the amount of plastic in use.
- Families are encouraged to bring their own plates to potluck events.

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Parent Opportunities

- ▶ Volunteer in the classroom and for the Ivy pull service project
- ▶ Drive for field trips
- ▶ Attend board meetings, Local Control Accountability Plan council
- ▶ Fund raising-Donate to Equinox Center for Education
- ▶ Volunteer to set up and take down at family events
- ▶ Opportunities for family involvement are the Family Fun night, Spring Sing, End of Year potluck and camping.




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Parent Responsibilities

- ▶ Attend parent conferences
- ▶ Bring and pick-up students on time
- ▶ Adhere to the policies of the school
- ▶ Read the school news, classroom news, and parent handbook.



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Non Discrimination Statement

▶ Union Street Charter does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, ethnicity, culture, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, achievement level, English learners, neglected or delinquent pupils, homeless pupils or pupils who are economically disadvantaged as determined by eligibility for any free or reduced-price meal program, or foster youth.

We welcome all!

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Lottery Preferences

- ▶ Children of employees of Union Street Charter have lottery preference.
- ▶ Siblings of currently enrolled students have lottery preference.
- ▶ Residents of Arcata School District have lottery preference for 5 of the K lottery spots (must provide proof).
- ▶ Once students have a place in the school, they do not need to reapply.

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Kindergarten Entry Age

- ▶ Students must be 5 years old on or by September 1st to enter Union Street Kindergarten. Proof of birth required.
- ▶ Arcata Elementary School offers transitional kindergarten. This is the district option for T.K.
- ▶ Is your child ready for Kindergarten? Talk with your preschool teacher(s), Jenny or Rea.

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Immunization Requirements

- ▶ Required immunizations must be current prior to school attendance.
- ▶ Immunization records must be provided to the school prior to school attendance.
- ▶ For more information on immunization law and required immunizations visit our website or www.shotsforschool.org.

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Admission Process

- ▶ Admission application is now online.
- ▶ Turn in paperwork by February 9th through email, in person, mail or the office drop box.
- ▶ Paperwork-Admissions form, Proof of age (K only), residence form and proof of residence (utility bills, loan, leases, etc. that includes name and address).
- ▶ Lottery: February 15th in Kindergarten room
- ▶ Parents are notified of lottery results and offered a place in the class or a place on the wait list on or after 2/17.
- ▶ If we offer you a spot and you accept, do NOT accept admission to another school. If you want another school, do not accept admission or notify us immediately if you change schools.

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Visiting In The Classroom

- ▶ School Tours are Feb 1st and 3rd at 9 am and 10:10 am-Limited space, Sign up
- ▶ Visit our website for a virtual school tour



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Union Street Charter School is a
California Distinguished School and
Exemplary Arts School



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For more information:



For more information on charter schools visit
CCSA California Charter Schools Association
<https://www.ccsa.org/charters-up-close>

Visit our website: www.unionstreetcharter.org

Email us at office.unionstreet@gmail.com
or call 707 822-4845

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