

Union Street Charter

Union Street Charter | 470 Union Street, Arcata, California 95521

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General information

Union Street Charter Offers:

- A unique and welcoming facility.
- Small class sizes with a maximum of 17 students.
- Experienced teachers with California teaching credentials.
- Art, music and Spanish classes.
- A free public charter school that requires no inter-district transfers.

Why Choose Union Street Charter?

Union Street Charter has a rich and diverse curriculum. Our highly qualified classroom teachers emphasize an interactive approach to language arts, social studies, science, and math. Supplementing the core curriculum are music, drama, physical education, computer literacy, positive social skills and cultural events. Camping and backpacking help to build the class culture. We believe in the unique value of each student, family, and teacher - both as individuals and as members of the school community. We work together to create an environment that minimizes the pressures of popular culture and the use of academic competition as motivation. Our ultimate aim is to turn a child's natural curiosity and desire to explore into a lifelong love of learning.

School Hours

Kindergarten: 8:30-1:45; Grades 1-3: 8:30-3:00; Grades 4-5: 8:20-3:00.

Mondays are early release at 1:45.

Extended Hours

The extended daycare program enables students to be on campus until 5:30 p.m. Afterschool daycare rates are currently \$4.00 per hour. Parents are billed each month for extended daycare fees based on usage. Afterschool daycare is free for qualifying families.

Lunch & Snack Programs

School lunch and morning snack are available to all students at no cost through the California Universal Free School Meals Program. Sunny Brae Middle School kitchen prepares our lunches and snacks under the nutritional guidelines of the National School Lunch Program. Afterschool snacks are available for \$1 and prepared on site by the Equinox Center for Education. Parents are billed for afterschool snacks. Reduced-price afterschool snacks are available for qualifying families.

Union Street Charter does not discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, national origin, race, color, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation and/or association with individuals with one or more of the above actual or perceived characteristics.

Parent & Student Responsibilities

You will be asked to sign this if your child is given a space in Union Street Charter. The vision of Union Street Charter is to offer an effective and supportive learning experience created by high quality curriculum, access to staff, regular reports and collaboration of students, parents, and teachers. Families of Union Street Charter students agree to contribute to the vision by becoming involved in the following ways.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES – In order for your child to be a Union Street Charter student, for continuing enrollment during the school year, and for re-enrollment in following years, we expect parents to agree to do the following:

- 1) Bring your student to school regularly and on time.
- 2) Participate in scheduled parent/teacher conferences and any special student intervention meetings requested by child's teacher.
- 3) Follow through with all plans made during conferences and special meetings.
- 4) Support the homework policies of the school.
- 5) Support your child in following the school's student conduct policies (see pg. 6).
- 6) Read the weekly classroom and school news.
- 7) Follow the rules and procedures described in the Parent Handbook.
- 8) Allow your student to take state tests.
- 9) Interact with staff in a calm and courteous manner.
- 10) Know that we do not have a bus. Parents drive on fieldtrips & camping trips.

PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- 1) Contribute talents and skills as a volunteer for classroom activities, field trips, camping trips, family social events, building projects, and/or donations to the ECE and school fundraising.
- 2) Participate in monthly Board of Directors meetings as a member or visitor.
- 3) Attend school family events and celebrations.
- 4) Attend parent education programs presented at the school.

Immunization Requirements

Union Street Charter adheres to California school immunization law regarding immunization requirements for school entry. Current immunization records must be provided to the school prior to school attendance. The following immunizations are required for kindergarten entry.

1. **Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP, DTP, or Tdap or Td): 5 doses** (4 doses OK if one was given on or after 4th birthday. 3 doses OK if one was given on or after 7th birthday)
2. **Polio (OPV or IPV): 4 doses** (3 doses OK if one was given on or after 4th birthday)
3. **Hepatitis B (Hep B or HBV): 3 doses**
4. **Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR): 2 doses** (Both given on or after 1st birthday)
5. **Varicella (Chickenpox): 2 doses**

For more information about school immunization requirements and resources, please visit the California Department of Public Health's website at www.shotsforschool.org, or contact your local health department or county office of education.

School Trips

All children must have a signed and completed liability waiver and consent to treat form on file in order to participate in field trips and camping trips. School trips outside the immediate campus area require parent volunteers or transportation. All drivers and chaperones are required to be live-scanned for the Arcata School District. Live scan forms are available in the school office. Drivers must also complete the field trip by private vehicle form and provide a copy of their driver's license and insurance card. Students and parents will be notified in advance of any field trip outside the Arcata area. Occasionally, unannounced walking trips within the Arcata city limits (park, library, etc.) do occur. No pets or sibling on fieldtrips.

Car / Booster Seats

Due to state law and the requirements of the school's liability insurance, students less than 8 years old or shorter than 4'9" must ride in a child car seat or booster seat provided by the parent on all field trips and camping trips. The school will not provide or store car seats. For school trips, students must ride in the back seat of the car (unless it is the child of the driver being placed in the front seat). Drivers will take all personal car seats, except for the one for their child, out of the car before coming to drive on field or camping trips. *Students whose parents do not provide a car seat for the child will stay at school, in another classroom, or in the office.*

California Car Seat Law <https://www.chp.ca.gov/programs-services/programs/child-safety-seats>

Camping Trips

Union Street Charter camping trips provide important, positive experiences for children. Trips allow children to bond with classmates and develop group cohesiveness and a class identity.

1. Children develop trust for teachers and adults outside their own family. School camping without a child's own parent sends powerful messages to the child: 1) My parents trust that I will be nurtured and cared for by other adults. 2) I can ask for, and get, what I need from other adults and teachers.
2. Children see and experience teachers and adults in a unique context on camping trips.
3. Camping provides novel situations and everyone learns from adapting and developing responses.
4. Camping provides nature experiences. Students gain confidence and build self-reliance.
5. Camping trips throughout the grades empower children!

School camping trips are different than family camping trips. Directing a group of 17 or more children and adults is a challenging task. Teachers have deeply considered the needs of children and parents while developing the camping guidelines below. Experience has shown us that these guidelines are necessary to creating the best possible school camping trips. We want you to understand the need for having parents stay for the entire trip. Parents who come and go during the trip most often increase anxiety for their own child and also disrupt the flow of the group experience. It is difficult for children to say good-bye early. It is difficult for other students in the class to see parents coming and going during the trip. We want to keep the rules simple and the trip cohesive. Please help achieve our camping goals by supporting these guidelines.

Camping / Field Trip Adult Guidelines

- 1) Adults will communicate a request to attend trips 5 or more days before the start of the trip & make a commitment not to withdraw more than 5 days before the trip. No changes in the last 5 days!
- 2) Adults will attend the entire trip from start to finish (Please do not arrive late or leave early).
- 3) One parent per family can attend one camping trip per year, either the fall or the spring trip.
 - a. One fifth grade parent from each family is invited to attend the last camping trip with their child.
 - b. One parent from each K and 1st grade family is allowed on the spring camping trip, the only K and 1st grade camp trip.
- 4) The teachers will define the necessary number of adults needed for the trip and decline to take parents beyond that number for any but extreme and compelling reasons.
- 5) Siblings of students & pets may not join the trip.
- 6) Adults will facilitate group activities under the direction of the teacher rather than creating separate activities with their own child.
- 7) No tents on camping trips. If you bring a tent for rain emergency, it may only be set up at the request of the teacher.
- 8) No alcohol or marijuana on school trips.
- 9) Emotional Needs Waiver for grades 2 - 3: If the emotional needs of the child or parent make it necessary for one parent to attend a camping trip (regardless of the number of other parents going), that parent, with the permission of the teacher, may do so in accordance with guidelines #1 through #8 above. Teachers take this request seriously; in fairness to other parents, please don't use it lightly.

Camping / Field Trip Costs

- 1) Student Cost: A suggested donation amount to cover the student cost associated with camping/fieldtrips will be added to parent's monthly ECE bill. The donation amount may include food, camp fees & activity costs per student. If you would like to opt out of the donation or change the amount of the donation, please email the office at office.unionstreet@gmail.com. The Equinox Center for Education provides scholarships for camping and fieldtrips.
- 2) Adult Cost: Driver's and chaperones will be billed for their food costs associated with camping trips on their ECE bill. Scholarships are not available for parents.

Student Conduct and Suspension Policy

The following behavior guidelines are intended to create an environment that is emotionally safe and academically supportive. Behavior guidelines are for the classroom, playground, field trips, and school events. Behavior guidelines apply to all programs on the campus including extended daycare. Teachers and other staff will give instruction, guidance, direction and counsel students regarding appropriate and safe behavior.

Students attending Union Street Charter have several basic responsibilities:

1. To accept staff guidance, direction, and authority.
2. To demonstrate cooperative, appropriate, respectful behavior toward other people.
3. To be willing to attempt and finish assigned work.
4. To demonstrate the growing ability to work independently and take responsibility for one's own actions.

Union Street Charter Playground Rules:

1. Use swings, slides and other playground equipment the way its meant to be used
2. Play chase games on the lower playground
3. No pushing, pulling or hanging on others while they climb
4. Welcome others into your game; be inclusive
5. Put away playground equipment when done
6. No pretend weapons or fighting at anytime

Any adult on yard duty may deem any activity unsafe or inappropriate regardless of prior approval.

The following behavior may result in intervention/suspension/expulsion:

1. Destruction/theft of school property or the belongings of other people.
2. Emotional, physical or verbal abuse of other people: students, staff, or parent. *Bullying or verbal abuse includes: put-downs, teasing, name calling, language or behaviors that excludes, hurts or belittles other people. This includes cyber-bullying in, or out, of school.*
3. See Ed code section 48900 for additional reasons for suspension or expulsion.

Intervention/Suspension/Expulsion Process:

1. Students will receive a consequence. Teacher, parent and principal meet to seek positive solutions and an action plan to address the problem and clearly delineate needed changes, including a time frame.
2. Suspension will result from violations of ed code section 48900.
 - a. Teacher/principal meet with the student and inform them of the reason for suspension and prior means of correction (such as 2nd step lessons, meeting with parents, counseling, etc.). If the pupil denies the charges, an explanation of the evidence that supports the charges and an opportunity for the pupil to present the pupil's side of the story.
 - b. Families may meet with the teacher/principal to review the incident.
3. Student repeats behavior: the consequence is suspension of one to three days. Parent and child will be informed if expulsion is a possible consequence for behavior. Student is recommended for expulsion as a result due of a serious violation of ed code section 48900. Expulsion means involuntary disenrollment from the charter school.

For suspensions of 10 days or more and all other expulsions for disciplinary reasons, USC will:

- Provide timely, written notice of the charges against the pupil and an explanation of the pupil's basic rights.
- Provide a hearing adjudicated by a neutral officer within a reasonable number of days at which the pupil has a fair opportunity to present testimony, evidence, and witnesses and confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, and at which the pupil has the right to bring legal counsel or an advocate.
- Ensure that no pupil shall be involuntarily removed by the charter school for any reason unless the parent or guardian of the pupil has been provided written notice of intent to remove the pupil no less than five schooldays before the effective date of the action. The written notice shall be in the native language of the pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian or, if the pupil is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the pupil's educational rights holder, and shall inform the pupil, the pupil's parent or guardian, or the pupil's educational rights holder of the right to initiate the procedures before the effective date of the action. If the pupil's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder initiates the procedures specified in clause (ii), the pupil shall remain enrolled and shall not be removed until the charter school issues a final decision. For purposes of this clause, "involuntarily removed" includes disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated, but does not include suspensions.
- For student with disabilities, hold an IEP team meeting within 10 days of the decision of disciplinary action to determine whether the child's misconduct is caused by the disability. Continue to provide FAPE in any alternative educational setting resulting from the suspension.