



Welcome to the United School District!

🌟 "Comets, it's time to shine!" 🌟

www.unitedcomets.org

👍 Like us on Facebook: United Community Schools
& United Community School PTO



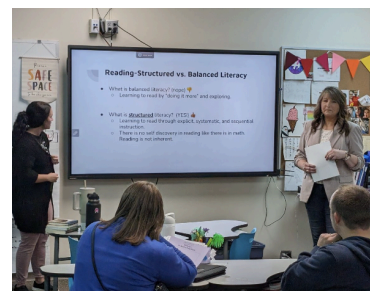
The **United Community School District** serves approximately 350 students in Preschool-6th Grade living in the communities of Boone, west Ames, and Luther, Iowa. Our phenomenal staff includes administrators, teachers, paraeducator/associates, office and health office staff, technology specialists, building and grounds and nutrition services teammates, bus drivers - and so many more! - who are passionate about our school and teaching the early childhood and elementary-level learners. There are many things that make our school special, but our favorites include our genuine and caring staff, small class-sizes, outdoor learning spaces, and the *united* family-like feel of our school.

United Community CARES! At United Community, we are continually focused on being a school community where students are learning, thriving, and feel a strong sense of belonging! We are committed to five social and emotional competencies that form our CARES framework, they are: **Cooperation, Assertiveness, Responsibility, Empathy, and Self-regulation.**



Structured Literacy: We believe in an explicit, systemic, and sequential approach to teaching reading that touches on all the areas of literacy: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and the ultimate goal of comprehension. To achieve our goal, United is a school-wide LETRS building! Preschool through 6th Grade teachers are placed in cohorts to accomplish this learning. LETRS teaches the skills needed to master the foundational and fundamentals of reading and writing instruction: phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and written language.

Math: Our math instruction is moving to completely student centered and problem based in grades Preschool through 6th. In a mathematics class, students should not just learn *about* mathematics, they should *do* mathematics. This can be defined as engaging in the mathematical practices: making sense of problems, reasoning abstractly and quantitatively, making arguments and critiquing the reasoning of others, modeling with mathematics, making appropriate use of tools, attending to precision in their use of language, looking for and making use of structure, and expressing regularity in repeated reasoning. To ensure all students are reaching their fullest potential in math, we believe in students exploring problems and finding the most efficient way to solve them. Similar to Literacy, United teachers are lifelong learners and we all strive to learn through continuous professional development.



Join us! Enroll today! Visit: www.unitedcomets.org Call: (515) 432-5319



United Community Early Learning: United offers a wide range of programming opportunities for our youngest students, including 3-year-old and 4-year-old ½ day Preschool Classrooms with a wrap-around option called Preschool Plus. New for the 2024-25 school year, United is thrilled and excited to offer a full-day Developmental Kindergarten classroom, in addition to our traditional Kindergarten classroom!

Our **Preschool** classrooms utilize the Creative Curriculum and GOLD Teaching Strategies programs to ensure a developmentally appropriate and research-based approach to your child learning and growing during their early years! **NEW!**

Developmental Kindergarten is based on the Iowa Core Kindergarten Standards, including focused instruction in literacy and numeracy with a strong emphasis on self-regulation and social engagement, just at a more relaxed pace. Developmental Kindergarten is a great option for children who need additional time and preparation to develop academic and social skills for the rigor of Kindergarten.

5th & 6th Grades at United: Families of students in our upper grades share that they appreciate United being able to offer an experience that feels like elementary and middle school merged together. Our teachers and staff who serve these grades are passionate about the middle-level learner and helping each individual student grow into who they will become in future years. We offer additional learning, field trips, and club/activity opportunities geared towards our upper grades students being student leaders across our school campus and into the community.



Related Arts, Kindergarten-6th Grade: At United Community students get the opportunity to participate in Related Arts classes! These include General Music, Physical Education (PE), Art, Classroom Guidance, Library, Computer Science, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) offerings. Additionally, we offer Instrumental Music (Band) for students in 5th and 6th Grade. Our Related Arts teachers are

passionate about the content area that they teach and look forward to having your child(ren) in their classrooms this school year!

Outdoor Programming: United Community is home to a school prairie, arboretum, and outdoor classroom. Your child will have the opportunity to experience robust outdoor learning experiences throughout the school year, including our annual old-fashioned “Harvest Day” in the fall, as well as our annual “Prairie Day” in the spring!

