Richard Storm
Union Alternative School Principal

Richard Storm is a native Oklahoman who graduated from Collinsville High School in 1967. Following a four-year enlistment in the U.S. Air Force, during which he achieved the rank of sergeant, he attended Northeastern State University on the GI Bill and received his Bachelor of Arts in Education in 1974.

Storm then began a 23-year long career as an English and journalism teacher at Caruthersville (Mo.) High School and Cleveland (Okla.) High School before joining the staff at Union Middle School, where he taught from 1977 to 1991. During this time, he earned a Master of Education degree and school administration certificate from NSU. Having developed an interest in alternative education, he then took a position as Academic Supervisor at Street School in Tulsa for four years before returning to Union to start the Union Alternative Program in 1995. He has served as the principal of Union Alternative School since that school was built in 1997. With his leadership, Union Alternative School won the Oklahoma Medal for Excellence in Alternative Education in 2003 and the Crystal Star Award from the National Dropout Prevention Network in 2005.

Storm was the recipient of the Class Act Teacher Award for Excellence in 1993, and he received the Janice Updike Walker Award from the Oklahoma Alternative Education Association in 2004 in recognition of his longtime achievement as a leader in the state’s alternative education movement.

Storm has two daughters, Marsha and Heather, who graduated from Union High School, and he is the stepfather of five. His greatest pleasures in life are spending time with his wife and twenty-one grandchildren, and rooting for the New York Yankees. Two of his grandchildren, Kali and Tempest Cartwright, attend Union 8th Grade Center and UIHS, and grandson Berkley Brown graduated from UHS in 2010. He is also an active member of the Memorial Drive Church of Christ.