



Mission Statement — The Beacon Tree staff, in partnership with parents and community, will guide, support and encourage all students to reach their maximum potential as lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

Beacon Tree Elementary

ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

55885 Schoenherr • Shelby Township, MI 48315 • 586.797.7300
Principal Gail L. Clor • Average Daily Attendance 98%

Our school has begun the NCA accreditation process

Beacon Tree Elementary School is a participant in the North Central Association (NCA) Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. Our staff is in the process of developing important school improvement goals that are specific to the needs of the students in our building.

We initiated our NCA process in the 2005-2006 school year and will begin the creation of our school profile in 2006-2007. This profile will report and analyze student achievement scores, which will guide us in determining our building goals.

NCA is a regional agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education that establishes demanding standards for public and non-public schools.

Michigan public schools are also accredited under Education YES!, the state's report card accreditation system. Schools are assigned letter grades based largely on their long-term performance on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and other indicators.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), a standard set by the federal No Child Left Behind legislation, is also part of the report card. Whether a school makes AYP is based on these factors:

- MEAP scores of all students in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics
- MEAP ELA and Mathematics scores of student subgroups
- 95 percent participation of all students on the MEAP tests
- student attendance or graduation rate.

As a new school, Beacon Tree Elementary did not receive a letter grade from the state or an AYP status report for the 2005-2006 school year. However, Beacon Tree students in grades three through six were tested on the MEAP last year, and a summary of those scores appears on page three.

All UCS teachers meet the Highly Qualified standard

As mandated by the federal No Child Left Behind legislation, all Utica Community Schools teachers in core academic subject areas, such as English, reading, language arts, science (physics, chemistry, biology, earth science or physical science), mathematics, government and civics, history, economics, geography, foreign languages, fine arts or elementary education, have met the law's Highly Qualified requirements.

In addition, all UCS teachers possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. All have also met State of Michigan certification requirements and successfully completed the district's own rigorous selection process.

Three-quarters of UCS teachers possess master's degrees and many have also completed course work or degrees beyond the master's level.

Newly hired teachers are assigned an experienced mentor teacher, and all teachers, new and experienced, are regularly observed and evaluated by their building administrators as they work with students. UCS teachers are required to participate in continuous professional development programming, and all new teachers must meet additional professional development requirements.

Our points of pride

Special Recognition —

In our first year, the Beacon Tree All-Stars achieved great success as a new community:

- Two Science Olympiad medal teams and five teams in the top ten
- Destination Imagination Team took a fifth place award
- Chess tournament medalist
- Three UCS Honors Choir members
- One Superintendent's Choice and two Best of Show Ribbons at the UCS district Art Fair
- Social Studies Olympiad Gold and Bronze medalists and four honorable mentions
- Presidential Fitness Awards
- Student Participation in our Tree Planting Ceremony
- Student Participation in the Beacon Tree Dedication Ceremony

Community Involvement

and Support —

Partnerships with our parent group, classroom volunteers, and many area businesses contribute to an enriched learning environment for our students:

- Fundraising - Morley Candy, Hungry Howie's Coupons, Flower Sale, Cookie Dough, Pennies for Playground, Santa Shop, Bagel Days, Beacon Tree Spirit Wear, Achatz Pies, School CD Recording, Spring Basket Raffle
- Community Business Support - Bellacino's Night, Diegel Farms, Rio Wraps, Quiznos, Romeo Theatre, World in Motion with General

continued on page 4...

School improvement boosts student achievement

Utica Community Schools continually works to strengthen its educational programs by implementing proven school improvement initiatives designed to increase all aspects of student learning and achievement. Following is an update of ongoing district-wide school improvement initiatives, all of which impact our school:

State and Federal Legislation

- Monitor progress of State of Michigan Education YES! accreditation and North Central Association (NCA) accreditation processes.
- Implement new high school graduation requirements, known as the Michigan Merit Curriculum in effect for the 2011 graduating class.*
- Implement the Reading First initiatives at Burr, Dresden and Wiley Elem. schools.

Curriculum Design

- Monitor alignment of grades K-12 core content areas of English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science and Social Studies with revised state standards.
- Facilitate and support co-curricular programs.
- Differentiate instruction so that all students can achieve and meet state standards.
- Implement and monitor the state-mandated high school content expectations.*
- Monitor secondary English Language Learners curriculum reform.*

Instructional Practices

- Monitor and adjust alignment of math, science, foreign language, physical education, fine arts and career and technology education curricula with national and state standards.
- Facilitate technology use in the teaching and learning process at all levels.
- Support interdisciplinary instruction at all levels.
- Support auxiliary instructional programs such as alternative education and adult education.
- Continue implementation of Best Practices across the curriculum incorporating 21st Century skills.
- Implement and evaluate intervention programs targeting a range of student needs.
- Monitor implementation and progress of the schools' plans to improve student writing for grades K-6.
- Implement and monitor secondary level Reading Apprenticeship initiatives.*

Assessment

- Analyze and communicate standardized test data.
- Monitor the implementation of common assessments and common course outlines for grades 9-12.
- Evaluate current ELL program design in grades K-9.*

Staff Development

- Facilitate staff development aligned with the North Central Association school improvement process, the federal No Child Left Behind law and Michigan's Education YES! legislation.

Behavioral Initiatives

- Monitor implementation of a comprehensive, standards-based guidance and counseling program in grades K-12.
- Monitor and continue implementation of anti-drug, alcohol and tobacco initiatives at all grade levels.
- Continue communicating updated UCS safety and security procedures to staff, students, parents and community.
- Continue promoting the Success Skills program in all grades.

Parent/Community Involvement

- Continue parent, business and community involvement initiatives.

*New initiatives in the 2006-2007 school year.

UCS graduation rate remains high

Estimated data from the Michigan Department of Education indicates an average annual dropout rate of less than two percent at the district's four high schools.

The percentage of ninth graders who will graduate within four years if they remain in Utica Community Schools for their high school experience, is shown below.

Latest estimated data from the Michigan Dept. of Education

	2004	2005
UCS Dropout Rate	1.86%	.93%
Retention Rate	98.14	99.07
Graduation Rate**	92.66	96.22

** UCS students who graduate in four years. Data does not include students who remain in school and graduate at a later date.

UCS curriculum is standards-based

In Utica Community Schools, the core curriculum is based on national, state and district standards.

As indicated by the district-wide school improvement initiatives (at left), the curriculum is constantly reviewed and updated to assure that every student has the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the 21st Century workplace.

The UCS *Learning Links*, a district publication available on our website www.uticak12.org, clearly defines the learning standards UCS students can be expected to achieve in each area of study at each grade level. By reviewing the *Learning Links*, parents/guardians can track their child's progress throughout the school year

In addition, UCS curriculum and scheduling procedures are designed to ensure that every student is enrolled in core academic classes each year and remain challenged and encouraged to achieve at higher levels.

MEAP scores

All public school students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11 took the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests during the 2005-2006 school year. MEAP is a criterion referenced test, meaning it measures a student's achievement on state-defined learning standards in each grade.

The following charts indicate the state target scores for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA - reading and writing), and the percentage of Beacon Tree Elementary students who met or exceeded MEAP proficiency standards.

Under the national No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law, all students, including those in the identified subgroups, must meet the target scores in order for the school to make AYP.

Schools also must meet attendance or graduation requirements and 95 percent of all students must take the MEAP tests. The scores of subgroups with fewer than 10 students were not reported by the state, but were included in the total scores for all students.

Overall MEAP Science and Social Studies scores are reported below, but are not factored into AYP.

	ELA - Gr. 3 State Target - 48		Math - Gr. 3 State Target - 56		ELA - Gr. 4 State Target - 48		Math - Gr. 4 State Target - 56	
	>95% participation Number Tested	Percent Proficient	>95% participation Number Tested	Percent Proficient	>95% participation Number Tested	Percent Proficient	>95% participation Number Tested	Percent Proficient
All Students	66	94	66	94	66	83	66	85
Males	28	93	28	93	38	76	38	82
Females	38	95	38	95	28	93	28	89
American Indian/Alaskan Native								
Asian/Pacific Islander					<10		<10	
Black/Not of Hispanic Origin	<10		<10					
Hispanic								
White, Not of Hispanic Origin	65	94	65	94	65	83	65	85
Multiracial								
Economically Disadvantaged	<10		<10		<10		<10	
English Language Learners								
Students with Disabilities	<10		<10		<10		<10	
District	2,092	84	2,106	90	2,226	81	2,242	86
State	116,892	78	117,848	87	117,272	76	118,193	82

	ELA - Gr. 5 State Target - 48		Math - Gr. 5 State Target - 56		ELA - Gr. 6 State Target - 48		Math - Gr. 6 State Target - 56	
	>95% participation Number Tested	Percent Proficient	>95% participation Number Tested	Percent Proficient	>95% participation Number Tested	Percent Proficient	>95% participation Number Tested	Percent Proficient
All Students	64	83	64	77	46	89	46	74
Males	36	72	36	75	18	78	18	61
Females	28	96	28	79	28	96	28	82
American Indian/Alaskan Native								
Asian/Pacific Islander								
Black/Not of Hispanic Origin	<10		<10		<10		<10	
Hispanic								
White, Not of Hispanic Origin	63	83	63	76	45	91	45	76
Multiracial								
Economically Disadvantaged	<10		<10		<10		<10	
English Language Learners								
Students with Disabilities	14	57	14	43	<10		<10	
District	2,172	82	2,180	79	2,234	86	2,241	75
State	119,992	75	120,726	73	123,444	73	124,297	65

	Science Gr. 5 Percent Proficient	Soc. Studies Gr. 6 Percent Proficient
	All Students	83
District	82	87
State	77	78

Special Education

Utica Community Schools provides a full range of services for students in these special education categories:

- Autistic Impaired
- Hearing Impaired
- Learning Disabled
- Emotionally Impaired
- Speech and Language Impaired
- Cognitively Impaired
- Early Childhood Development Delay
- Visually Impaired
- Physically or Otherwise Health Impaired

Approximately 3,800 students are enrolled in the district's special education programs.

Placement of a student into special education programming is based on the recommendation of the Individual Educational Planning (IEP) team, which is comprised of appropriate school district staff members and the student's parents/guardians.

In general, students requiring special education are well served by district programs. However, in certain cases, a student's needs may be better met by one of the programs provided by the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD). In the 2005-2006 school year, 264 students from the Utica Community Schools district attended MISD school sites.

Parent-teacher conferences

Participation in Parent-Teacher Conferences is one of the best ways for parents to monitor their child's academic progress. Parent/guardian participation in the fall conferences at Beacon Tree Elementary was 100 percent in 2005!

Points of pride *continued...*

Motors Volunteers, Chuck E. Cheese,

Meijer, Target, Square One Art

- Academic Support - Classroom Reading Parents, Science Olympiad Coaches, Destination Imagination Coaches, Party Helpers, Field Trip Volunteers, Media Center Volunteers, All-A Breakfast, Donations for Curriculum Activities, Sixth Grade Graduation, Book Fair Volunteers, Field Day Volunteers
- Social Events - Opening Day Welcome, Beacon Tree Dedication, Halloween Boo Bash, Family Bingo Night, Talent Show, Mother-Son Karate, Daddy-Daughter Dance, Ice Cream Social, Scrapbook Night, Family Movie Night

Extended Learning Opportunities — Beacon Tree students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom. These learning experiences help to develop academic, social and character-building skills through community service projects, assemblies and off-site learning experiences, as well as a variety of extra-curricular opportunities:

- Forgotten Harvest Donations
- Kiwanis Canned Food Drive
- Toys for Tots
- Macomb Family Independence Agency Adopt-a-Family
- St. Jude Children's Hospital Math-a-thon
- Fun Run and Jump Rope for Heart to support the American Heart Association
- Penny Drive for Hurricane Victims
- Science Fair
- Chess Club
- D.A.R.E. Drug Abuse Resistance Education
- Destination Imagination
- Science Olympiad and Social Studies Olympiad Teams
- School Broadcast Team
- Safety and Service Squad

- Band and Orchestra
- Enrichment Classes
- Field Day and A.C.E.S. (All Children Exercising Simultaneously)
- Sixth Grade Career Focus Luncheon
- Cross-Grade Learning Buddies
- Music Performances and Informances
- Hand Chimes
- Art Fair
- Gifted and Talented program
- Wireless laptops throughout the building
- Portable Videoconference and Projection Carts
- March is Reading Month Olympic Ceremonies and Activities
- Water Conservation Presentation
- Shelby Township Fire Department visits
- Author visits
- Civil War Guest Speaker
- Videoconference to Connor Prairie Museum - Underground Railroad, COSI, NASA, author Janie Lynn Panagopoulos
- Videoconferences between UCS buildings
- Journey Back in Time hands-on assembly
- Harriet Tubman storyteller, Rosie Chapman
- State Capitol and Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing
- Macomb Center for the Performing Arts
- Warren Symphony Orchestra
- COSI Hands-on Science Museum
- Greenfield Village
- Sixth Grade Camp
- Wolcott Mill
- Field trips to the UCS Instructional Resource Center



Thank you for taking time to read this Annual Report, which is also available on the UCS website, www.uticak12.org. Additional information about any part of this report may be obtained by calling the school principal.