



Blue Ribbon School

*Mission Statement — The W. B. Browning staff, with the support of our parents and the community, will encourage all students to attain their academic potential and enable them to become productive members of society by providing programs of academic excellence.*

# Browning Elementary

## ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

12400 Nineteen Mile Road • Sterling Heights, MI 48313 • 586.797.4000  
Principal Craig L. Christensen • Average Daily Attendance 95.73%

### Our school is state and nationally accredited

Browning Elementary School is accredited by both the North Central Association (NCA) Commission on School Accreditation and Improvement and Michigan's Education YES! legislation – as are all 40 schools in the Utica Community Schools district. Accreditation certifies that our schools meet recommended standards for quality education for all students.

NCA is a regional agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education that establishes demanding standards for public and non-public schools. As a participant school, we have undertaken a rigorous NCA-monitored process for continuous school improvement. Our staff works together within the process to identify goals for improving student achievement, implement strategies to meet our goals and utilize recommended assessments to accurately measure progress.

Education YES! is the state's report card accreditation system for public schools. 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.

\*Student subgroups include Ethnic Origin, Economically Disadvantaged, English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities.

#### Browning Report Card

AYP 2005: Yes  
AYP 2006: Yes

Education YES! Grades:  
2005 - A  
2006 - A

MEAP summary on page 3

### 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

- The students at W. B. Browning Elementary participate in Student Council, Service Squad and Safety Patrol. Student Aides help in the kindergarten and first grade rooms at lunchtime and after school.
- Students also participated in the Social Studies Olympiad, Science Olympiad, MCTM Math Competitions, DARE, Saturday Scholars, Star of the Month, the Sterling Heights Library Bookmark contest, Sixth Grade Camp Tamarack, the School-wide German Language Program, Art Show/Ice Cream Social, Tech Team and Accelerated Reader.
- Our Browning parents continue to support the school in many ways. Parents help with classroom projects and parties, listen to students read, tutor students in reading and reinforce math skills, take care of special requests and chaperone off-site learning experiences.
- The Browning PTA provides extra resources and sponsors many fun-filled activities, including special assemblies, on- and off-site learning experiences, Octoberfest, Santa Shop, roller skating parties, Fun Fair, Accelerated Reader, Muffins with Mom, Doughnuts with Dad, Staff Appreciation, Family Reading Night, Family Dance, Sixth Grade Activities, Field Day, Box Tops for Education, off-site learning experiences and special treats.

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## 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](http://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 Browning 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	72	93	73	92	59	80	59	81
Males	42	93	43	91	33	70	33	82
Females	30	93	30	93	26	92	26	81
American Indian/Alaskan Native								
Asian/Pacific Islander	<10		<10		<10		<10	
Black/Not of Hispanic Origin	<10		<10		<10		<10	
Hispanic								
White, Not of Hispanic Origin	64	94	65	92	53	79	53	81
Multiracial								
Economically Disadvantaged	<10		<10		<10		<10	
English Language Learners								
Students with Disabilities	<10		<10		11	36	11	55
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	70	81	70	81	67	84	67	76
Males	38	79	38	82	29	76	29	79
Females	32	84	32	81	38	89	38	74
American Indian/Alaskan Native								
Asian/Pacific Islander	<10		<10		<10		<10	
Black/Not of Hispanic Origin	<10		<10		<10		<10	
Hispanic	<10		<10					
White, Not of Hispanic Origin	60	83	60	80	59	83	59	76
Multiracial								
Economically Disadvantaged	11	64	11	55	10	70	10	60
English Language Learners								
Students with Disabilities	<10		<10		<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	Soc. Studies
	Gr. 5 Percent Proficient	Gr. 6 Percent Proficient
All Students	79	84
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.

## Browning Elementary's NCA school improvement goals

As a participant school in the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, our staff has developed important school improvement goals that are specific to the needs of the students in our building. The goals, implementation status and assessment measures are as follows:

- **Goal: All students will demonstrate improvement in reading comprehension across the curriculum.**  
Status: In progress - NCA  
We will evaluate through MEAP scores, survey results, Stanford 10 scores and Houghton Mifflin Reading Benchmark test scores in grade 6.
- **Goal: All students will increase proficiency in mathematical problem solving within written context.**  
Status: In progress - NCA  
We will evaluate through MEAP scores, End-of-Year Assessment in grade 5 and Stanford 10 scores in grades 3 and 6.
- **Goal: All students will improve their level of proficiency in written expression across the curriculum.**  
Status: In progress - NCA  
We will evaluate through MEAP scores in grade 4, Stanford 10 in grades 3 and 4 and Michigan Literacy Progress Profile (MLPP) grade 5 writing rubric.

## Points of pride *continued...*

- Browning families donated to the Christmas to the Canned Food Drive, Toys for Tots, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and a Fundraiser for Katrina Relief.
  - Three Browning students participated in the UCS Honors Choir while 35 students joined in our instrumental music program.
  - Honors Choir: Kimberly Szarama, Nicole Szarama and Haley Mosser
  - Kaleidoscope Author Winner: Brittany Vaughan
  - Sterling Heights Public Library Book Mark Contest Winner: Vivian Nguyen
- Achievement Awards:**
- Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School
  - Social Studies Olympiad Gold Medal Winner: Christian Perosky
  - Science Olympiad Sixth Place Medalists: Amanda Beauchamp and Ravnik Sing



## Parent-teacher conference participation

Utica Community Schools encourages parents/guardians to take an active role in their child's education and to become involved with school activities. 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 Browning Elementary was 99 percent in 2004 and 100 percent in 2005.

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