



The mission of Heritage Junior High is to prepare individuals academically, encourage social awareness and promote responsibility with optimism towards the future.

# Heritage Junior High

## ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

37400 Dodge Park • Sterling Heights, MI 48312 • 586.797.3100  
Principal Linda S. Hall • Average Daily Attendance 95.24%

### Our school is state and nationally accredited

Heritage Junior High 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.

#### Heritage 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

- Heritage instrumental music teacher Gaye Hofer is the Utica Community Schools Junior High Teacher of the Year
- Heritage student musicians earned State of Michigan first place awards at Solo and Ensemble State Festival
- Heritage student won first place in the VFW essay contest, "Who are today's patriots?"
- Michigan School Band and Orchestra Festival – all "A" ratings
- Third place in the Regional Science Olympiad competition, advanced to State Science Olympiad competition, placing eleventh
- Seventh grade volleyball team is UCS district champion
- More than 50 percent of the student body achieved the Honor Roll for first three card marking periods.
- Poster contest winner in UCS district Celebration of the Books
- Heritage Student Council collected for Sterling Heights Kiwanis Club Food Drive, Marine Toys for Tots, Red Cross Blanket Drive and other local charities

## 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 Heritage Junior High School students who met or exceeded MEAP proficiency standards.

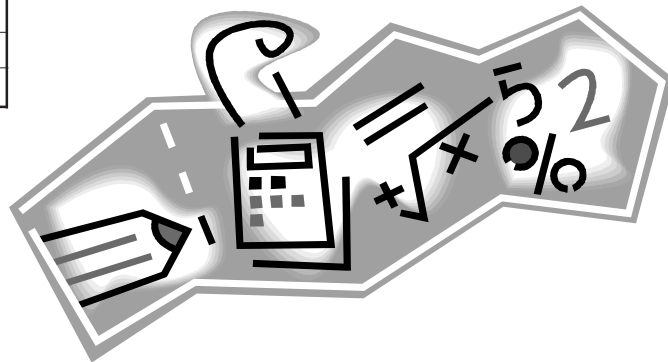
Under the national No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law, all students, including those in the identified subgroups, must meet the target scores in order for the school to make AYP.

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. 7 State Target - 43		Math - Gr. 7 State Target - 43		ELA - Gr. 8 State Target - 43		Math - Gr. 8 State Target - 43	
	Number Tested	Percent Proficient	Number Tested	Percent Proficient	Number Tested	Percent Proficient	Number Tested	Percent Proficient
All Students	174	80	175	68	218	79	219	75
Males	98	77	98	66	108	73	108	80
Females	76	84	77	70	110	85	111	71
American Indian/Alaskan Native	<10		<10					
Asian/Pacific Islander	<10		<10		<10		<10	
Black/Not of Hispanic Origin	10	90	10	40	20	55	20	40
Hispanic	<10		<10					
White, Not of Hispanic Origin	154	79	155	71	190	82	191	79
Multiracial	<10		<10					
Economically Disadvantaged	17	94	17	53	17	82	17	53
English Language Learners			<10					
Students with Disabilities	27	48	27	22	33	42	34	38
District	2,275	81	2,285	75	2,385	81	2,398	79
State	128,074	73	128,830	60	129,000	69	129,646	63

	Science Gr. 8 Percent Proficient	Social Studies Gr. 9 Percent Proficient
All Students	88	88
District	89	86
State	77	75



## 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.

## Heritage Junior High'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 strategies and assessment measures are as follows:

- **Goal: All students will demonstrate improved writing across the curriculum.**

Students will be able to write effective thesis, support and conclusion sentences using universal vocabulary.

Students will be assessed by participating in school-wide writing prompts and by taking the MEAP tests

- **Goal: All students will demonstrate improvement in informational reading comprehension across the curriculum.**

Students will use guided reading, pre-reading and post-reading strategies to improve reading literacy skills.

Students will be assessed by participating in a school-wide reading comprehension test, by taking the MEAP tests and by taking the Stanford10 test (ninth grade only).

- **Goal: All students will improve problem-solving skills across the curriculum.**

Students will identify and clarify a problem, identify the options and choose the best one, and evaluate the effectiveness of their choice.

Students will be assessed using classroom behavior tallies and questions and by taking the Stanford 10 test (ninth grade only).



### 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. At Heritage Junior High School, the total number of fall conferences attended by parents/guardians was 1,803 in 2004 and 1,695 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.*