

Every Child  
Achieves



## FLICKINGER Elementary School

45400 Vanker, Utica, MI 48317

586.797.4900

James Steere, Principal



Flickinger Elem. is a  
Michigan Blue Ribbon  
Exemplary School

# Annual Report of School Year 2006-2007

### Seven Indicators of Excellence identified in 2006-07

Utica Community Schools has always operated under district goals adopted by the Board of Education aimed at improving student achievement.

Our current district goal – EVERY CHILD ACHIEVES – is a simple, powerful statement that captures the reason for what we do and why we do it. It is our assurance to you that the work of every UCS employee centers on creating, improving and maintaining a high performing learning culture where every child, regardless of his or her ability, can and will achieve.

At the start of the 2006-2007 school year, the Board of Education adopted the Indicators of Excellence, which are the following seven guideposts for raising the academic bar for our students:

We believe that Every Child Achieves when...

- All children are proficient in English Language Arts, mathematics, science and social studies
- The Class of 2011 meets graduation requirements as defined by the Michigan Merit Curriculum (the state's new graduation requirements)
- Advanced Placement opportunities are expanded for all students
- The number of seventh and eighth graders who take and pass Algebra I increases
- A safe and supportive learning environment is maintained
- Parental involvement is celebrated
- Data is used to guide our decision-making

### Through Vertical Teaming, UCS teachers and administrators are working together to align what is taught from one grade level to the next

To better prepare our students to achieve higher levels of proficiency in challenging course work, Vertical Teaming was implemented districtwide in 2006-2007.

Vertical Teaming brings together Utica Community Schools elementary, junior high and senior high school teachers who teach within a common core curricular area to build upon existing programming and develop effective, research-based instructional strategies that benefit all students.

Vertical Teaming is designed to close any gaps in student learning, eliminate unnecessary re-teaching year-to-year of material already learned and enable teachers and administrators to pinpoint the unique needs of the students in a particular K-12 attendance sequence.

### Michigan Report Card for Flickinger Elem.

**Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) —**  
2005-06: Yes 2006-07: Yes

**Education YES! Grades —**  
2005-06: A 2006-07: B

**A complete data report of MEAP achievement, AYP, teacher qualifications, attendance or graduation rates, dual enrollment, accreditation, parent-teacher conference attendance and school improvement programs is posted on the district website, [www.uticak12.org](http://www.uticak12.org).**

During 2007-2008, the Vertical Team in place at Flickinger Elementary School will meet with Vertical Teams from other schools in our feeder pattern to work together to improve grade-to-grade instruction in the area of English Language Arts.

### *Advanced Placement is the goal for all UCS students*

Utica Community Schools has begun its campaign to encourage and expect every student to enroll in Advanced Placement (AP) courses in high school. One of the goals of vertical teaming is to better prepare students in the earlier grades by introducing more of the higher level learning concepts and thinking skills they will need for success in accelerated classes when they reach high school.

### UCS launches “Indicators of Excellence — Reaching Higher,” a data driven plan to improve student achievement

To further advance student achievement toward 100 percent proficiency by 2014, as required by No Child Left Behind, and to continue exceeding state standards established by the MEAP assessments and the state's Education YES! program, the Board of Education approved in August 2007 a series of new Indicators of Excellence that will be implemented in the 2007-2008 school year.

The new Indicators are drawn from a recommendation to the Board of Education by the Accountability Advisory Committee. This was a group of district parents, employees and residents who worked together at the direction of the

*continued...*

Superintendent of Schools to develop a more structured process for ensuring that UCS students continue to excel.

Progress toward reaching the new Indicators of Excellence will be measured through regular analysis of student performance data specific to each Indicator.

The Indicators of Excellence — Reaching Higher initiative is based on these three districtwide goals that set our course for the future:

- **District Goal 1 —**  
*By 2014 all students in the Utica Community Schools will meet or exceed proficiency standards in English language arts (reading and writing), math, science, social studies, fine arts and career and technical education, as identified by national, state and UCS standards.*
- **District Goal 2 —**  
*The school district will implement a world-class instructional program.*
- **District Goal 3 —**  
*Parent, business and community partnerships will be an integral part of student learning.*

The plan is structured upon three “tiers,” or levels of responsibility:

- **Tier I Indicators** apply district-wide and are designed to assess whether federal, state and district requirements are being met. For example, one Indicator of Excellence stipulates that, beginning with the graduating class of 2011, all students will meet or exceed state standards and qualify for the Michigan Promise Scholarship, based on qualifying scores on the Michigan Merit Exam.
- **Tier II Indicators** will be established by all schools and departments in the 2007-2008 school year. Tier II Indicators will be school or department specific, designed as the basis for targeted improvement in support of the Indicators of Excellence.
- **Tier III Indicators** consist of a written narrative from each school outlining both what has been done to improve student achievement and the plans and challenges specific to that building.

**Flickinger Elementary School’s Tier III narrative for 2006-2007 is as follows:**

Flickinger Elementary was named a Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School in February 2007 by the Michigan State Board of Education.

Our academic performance based upon 2006 MEAP indicates:

- All grade levels reported an increase in reading scores; we are approaching 90% proficiency for grades 3 – 6.
- We have seen improvement in grades 3 and 5 proficiency levels and all grade levels are above the state proficiency average.

- The ELA is composed of reading and writing scores and as such reflects the trends identified above. Proficiency levels rose in all grade levels except 4th and all grade levels are above state proficiency averages.
- The proficiency level for grade 3 increased significantly and all grade levels are above state proficiency averages.
- 5th Grade Science scores and 6th grade Social Studies showed improvement in proficiency levels which are well above state proficiency levels.

Reading intervention programs based on Read Naturally were implemented in Kindergarten and 1st grade. All grades are involved in cross-age tutoring programs for reading and writing.

Flickinger is part of a district-wide Research Center pilot designed to improve literacy skills in all grade levels.

Collaborative planning time is built into the daily schedule for all grade levels and Special Education teachers.

All Special Education teachers have received Differentiated Instruction and Response to Intervention Training (RtI). The staff has individualized the RtI model for implementation in the fall of 2007, which will make significant changes to instructional delivery for all students.

Flickinger teachers have participated in Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Training and developed a comprehensive program which includes a broad range of systemic and individualized strategies for achieving social and learning outcomes while preventing problem behavior.

Flickinger continues to develop a data-driven culture. Our staff has received training in MLPP, LETRS, DIBELS, and data analysis. All of this training and the data generated by these assessments is used by classroom teachers to support instruction and improve student performance.

### **Our School’s Points of Pride**

- Flickinger Elementary was named a Michigan Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in February 2007 by the Michigan State Board of Education.
- Flickinger’s LEGO Robotics team received a 2nd place trophy for Team Work in the ThunderQuest 2006 competition.
- The Flickinger Read-a-Thon donated enough money to the Wheel Chair Foundation to supply 26 children around the world with wheelchairs.
- The Michigan Reading Association selected a Flickinger 5<sup>th</sup> grade student to be included in the Kaleidoscope 2007 publication, which is designed to celebrate the talents of Michigan’s young authors.
- Flickinger’s Academically Talented and Gifted Program participated in Mathematics Olympiad along with many other education-enhancing activities designed to challenge our gifted students.