

Every Child
Achieves



HAVEL Elementary School

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Kathleen Chuminatto, Principal



Havel 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 Havel Elementary

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

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

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.

During 2007-2008, the Vertical Team in place at Havel 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 areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics.

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

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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.

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

Havel has a business partnership with the Sterling Inn focusing on careers where sixth grade students write resumes, are interviewed by the Sterling Inn Management Team and assume job assignments at the Sterling Inn for an evening function attended by Havel Staff and families.

Havel implemented a school-wide writing plan to create a common language between Kindergarten through sixth grade utilizing Grade Level Content Expectations, Writer’s Workshop and curriculum mapping within each grade level.

Teacher Book Study Group meets monthly, focusing on books about literacy work stations and writing traits and skills.

Early Intervention Program is designed to meet the needs of first grade students experiencing difficulties in the language arts areas. Students work on guided reading, phonemic awareness, letter-sound identification and early concepts of print.

Havel’s school-wide ACES (Academics, Citizenship, Effort and Success Skills) Program rewards students who depict high academics, show effort, use good citizenship and embrace the Success Skills (respect, responsibility, integrity, personal best and positive communication).

Havel rewards students for using the Success Skills at school by giving students Havel Hawks that can be used to purchase items at the school store.

Ninety-nine percent parent/guardian attendance at fall conferences.

Havel fourth grade teachers, parents and St. Joseph’s School Health Network have a partnership to promote and teach healthy living for fourth grade students.

Children’s Hospital of Michigan does a monthly presentation for students in grades Kindergarten through 3rd grade on safety (examples: water, bike, personal).

Havel staff developed a plan for at-risk students to improve math proficiency.

Morning announcements are student-facilitated to provide opportunities for 6th grade students to gain awareness in public speaking.

Havel’s Math Activity Night was a huge success. Parents were given the opportunity to engage in math activities (primarily problem solving activities) with their children and many of the activities were given to families to have at their homes.

Havel’s Art and Science Expo on May 17, 2007 - projects highlighted students’ artistic ability and their knowledge of the scientific method.

Havel’s MEAP scores were well above state average in all academic areas.

Our School’s Points of Pride

- National and State Board Blue Ribbon School
- Business Partnership with Sterling Inn focusing on careers
- Partnership with St. Joseph’s School Health Network promoting and teaching healthy living for fourth grade students
- Early Intervention Program designed to meet the needs of first grade students in reading and writing
- Havel’s ACES Awards to honor students in the areas of academics, citizenship, effort and the Success Skills
- Lawyer-Teacher Partnership Program with Judge Mark Switalski
- Havel Volunteer League