



HERITAGE Junior High School

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Linda Hall, Principal

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 Heritage JHS

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.

During 2007-2008, the Vertical Team in place at Heritage Junior High 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 Science.

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.

Heritage Junior High School’s Tier III narrative for 2006-2007 is as follows:

Challenging Course Offerings

Heritage continues to offer a rigorous science program including biology. As a result teachers have found that student achievement has been raised across the Heritage student body.

More students have been encouraged and accepted into advanced level courses including advanced track mathematics, English SAGE programs.

Parental Involvement

The Heritage Sounding Board has representatives from each feeder elementary school as well as from the School of Choice and transfer groups.

Parents utilize e-mail and teacher web sites for grade updates and homework assignments.

Parents work as lunchroom supervisors and paraprofessionals. These parents have created an additional positive link with our neighborhoods and families.

Safe and Supportive Learning Environment

Heritage established a Homework Club where honor students work with students who need assistance with their class work. This has provided a marked increase in student work completion and improved student grades.

The Student Council continues to provide fundraising activities throughout the school year to assist charitable organizations and school groups.

Increase Proficiency in the Core Areas

The math and special education departments have been working collaboratively to ensure all students are exposed to the state benchmarks. The new Algebra I GLCE’s have been used this year with both the eighth and ninth grade Algebra I students.

Heritage has been following the new science state benchmarks for two years. All special education students have a general education co-taught science class.

Opportunities for Improvement

Heritage will continue to focus on two goals, reading and writing, and specific Indicators will be developed and the work will be carefully monitored and reported to the community. Staff will increase the amount of informational writing students will be given for the upcoming school year. Pre-AP classes will be expanded to include all core areas and grade levels. Semester classes of Content Literacy will be offered to seventh and eighth graders. Algebraic Thinking will be introduced for struggling mathematics students in seventh and eighth graders.

Our School’s Points of Pride

- Freshman girls’ basketball team was district champion.
- MEAP scores rose in ELA, reading and math for 7th and 8th grade.
- Students participated in the VFW and American Hero writing contests.
- Student Council collected for these charities: American Red Cross, Cancer Society, Toys for Tots, Kiwanis Canned Food Drive, Leukemia and Lymphoma Drive, Muscular Dystrophy, Leader Dog for the Blind, and Michigan Humane Society.
- Science Olympiad teams have competed at the state level for the last seven years.
- Concert Band earned “A” ratings at the MSBOA Festival and students took first place division ratings at the Solo and Ensemble Festival.