



## JEANNETTE Junior High School

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Robyne Thompson, 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 Jeannette JHS

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

**Education YES! Grades —**  
2005-06: B 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 Jeannette 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.

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

At Jeannette Junior High School we are proud of our continued academic growth due to several initiatives during the course of the 2006-2007 school year.

#### *Parent Involvement:*

There were a total of 830 conferences held this spring. We have seen an increase in the number of parents who attend the fall parent teacher conferences that points to the commitment of our school community.

#### *Staff Development:*

Fifty-five percent of the teaching staff has been trained on the Reading Apprenticeship strategies. Teachers have begun to use the RA strategies as a regular part of their

instruction. Jeannette participated in Diversity training this year that was presented by the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, formally known as NCCJ.

Staff members have also participated in training for the new literacy support class that will be offered in the 2007-2008 school year.

Vertical teaming in ELA and social studies continues to be a focus. Administrators within our cluster have met to discuss how teachers at the various levels can connect for better understanding of the curriculum at all levels.

#### *Data Driven Decision-Making:*

Data analysis has been ongoing this year. The staff performed an item analysis of their final exams this year and will continue this process for the 2007-2008 school year. This information will allow for teachers to assess their students, as well as re-teach material as needed.

A homework club was established for students who had one or more failing grades at the five-week marking period. This provided students with the opportunity to strengthen academic skill and was strongly attended.

MEAP scores were analyzed to adequately prepare ELA and math support classes. All incoming sixth graders were assessed to determine their potential placement into Project Math.

#### **Our School’s Points of Pride**

- Sage English student awarded certificate of merit from the Veterans of Foreign Wars and awarded a \$100 check from the VFW local Post 6250.
- Robotics team finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the regional competition and qualified for the state competition.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade S.A.G.E. student participated in the annual Utica Community Schools Battle of the Books and earned ribbons in the Animated Literature category.
- More than 55% of the staff is trained in Reading Apprenticeship strategies and we have seen a significant increase in the number of students visiting the library and checking out books as a result of the teachers’ hard work.
- The Life Centered Career Education classes planted a flower garden and have nurtured it throughout the year.
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade students in Global Issues participated in a screening of the “Lost Boys of Sudan.” This venue is to heighten student awareness of the plight of refugees from Darfur.
- Two students from Jeannette, Ameer Bhatt and Issac Boehnelein, earned the privilege of being placed in the Wind Ensemble, the top performing band at Stevenson High School.
- Band students participated in the MSBOA High School and Solo Ensemble, with nine students earning an I and one earning an II.
- Social Studies Olympiad Team competed with teams from across the state. Nicolette Lojewski, Ahmeer Bhatt, Rebecca Pace, Kathryn Wright, Siyu He and Megan Seavoy earning silver medals, Shruti Jha earning a bronze medal.