

Every Child  
Achieves



## ROBERTS Elementary School

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Christine Ferber, Principal



Roberts 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 Roberts 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](http://www.uticak12.org).**

During 2007-2008, the Vertical Team in place at Roberts 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.

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

Roberts Elementary recently completed a 5-year school improvement plan that resulted in:

- More than 90% of all students in grades 3-6 are meeting or exceeding state standards for reading as measured on the MEAP tests.
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade students’ English Language Arts scores jumped in 2006 from 83% meeting or exceeding state standards to 95% as measured on the MEAP tests.
- More than 93% of students in grades 3 & 4 are meeting or exceeding state standards for mathematics as measured on the MEAP tests.
- More than 88% of students in grade 6 met or exceeded state standards for writing as measured on the MEAP tests. This far exceeds state and county averages.

Writers Workshop was implemented in all classrooms, grades Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup>. The mini-lessons taught in the workshops were aligned with state and district curriculum.

Staff professional development has focused on differentiating instruction for student needs, improved writing skills and making sure all students were competent readers by grade 3.

Student author was published in Michigan Reading Association journal, “Kaleidoscope.”

Roberts had the largest Chess Club in Michigan (and 3 times State Champions!) with more than 125 students participating on a weekly basis.

“Roberts Kids Helping Kids” program raised more than \$3,500 for Children’s Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House with its annual Walk-a-Thon. Last year more than \$6,700 was raised for the Children’s Leukemia Foundation of Michigan. Books were also written by our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders and shipped to refugee children in Uganda.

Parent participation was high at Roberts, with more than 75 active volunteers and a 98% attendance rate at Parent-Teacher conferences.

Morning announcements are student-facilitated to provide opportunities for all students in grades 4-6 to gain experience with public speaking.

More than 450 students were recognized for “Caught Being Good.” The program rewarded students who received a ticket when demonstrating positive behaviors on the bus, playground, hallways or classrooms.

### **Our School’s Points of Pride**

Recently completed 5-year school improvement plan:

- Goals included reading improvements. More than 90% of all students in grades 3-6 are meeting or exceeding state standards for reading as measured on the MEAP tests.
- Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students English Language Arts scores jumped in 2006 from 83% meeting or exceeding state standards to 95% as measured on the MEAP tests.
- Mathematical gains in student achievement: more than 93% of students in grades 3 & 4 are meeting or exceeding state standards for mathematics as measured on the MEAP tests.
- Writing scores climbing: more than 88% of students in grade 6 met or exceeded state standards for writing as measured on the MEAP tests. This far exceeds state and county averages.
- Student author published in Michigan Reading Association journal, “Kaleidoscope.”
- Largest Chess Club in Michigan (and 3 times State Champions!).
- “Roberts Kids Helping Kids” program raised more than \$3,500 for Children’s Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House with its annual Walk-a-Thon. Last year more than \$6,700 was raised for the Children’s Leukemia Foundation of Michigan. This is in honor of two Roberts students suffering from Leukemia.