



Havel is a
Michigan Blue Ribbon
Exemplary School

Annual Report of School Year 2007-2008

Reaching Higher — Indicators of Excellence successfully launched in 2007-2008 to increase student achievement

It is our expectation in Utica Community Schools that every student will achieve academically to his/her potential and prepare for and pursue some level of higher education or career training following high school graduation.

Utica Community Schools is also required to meet by 2014 the federal No Child Left Behind requirement that 100 percent of our students and student subgroups achieve proficiency on the state MEAP assessments in grades 3 - 9 and the Michigan Merit Exam in high school. In addition, each of our 40 schools is required to annually achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) based on the state standards.

To meet these expectations, *Reaching Higher — Indicators of Excellence*, a data-driven school improvement initiative, was launched in 2007-2008 in Utica Community Schools. It is our guide for increasing student achievement in all academic areas by means of a series of clear, measurable Indicators that are to be met within a specified time.

Reaching Higher is based on three district-wide goals:

- **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.

Stemming from the district goals are three tiers of Indicators — I, II and III — that define how and when the established student achievement targets will be met:

- **Tier I Indicators** — These are the district-wide *Indicators of Excellence* (seven at the elementary level and eight each at the junior and senior high levels - 30 total) designed to assess whether federal, state and district academic requirements are being met within a given time frame.

Michigan Report Card for Havel Elementary

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) —

2006-07: Yes 2007-2008: Yes

Education YES! Grade —

2006-07: A 2007-2008: A

All UCS schools are accredited by the Michigan Department of Education. In addition, the four UCS high schools are accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).

A building report of student achievement on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) is available on-line at www.uticak12.org. Under the Information heading, click on MEAP/MME scores to find our school. The on-line report also includes information on teacher qualifications, parent-teacher conference attendance and the district retention rate.

- **Tier II Indicators** — These are school-based indicators established during the 2007-2008 school year by each UCS school. Tier II Indicators are specific to the student needs in that building and designed as the basis for targeted improvement in support of the *Indicators of Excellence*. The Tier II Indicators are supported by SMART goals (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely) for each grade level established by the building staff.
- **Tier III Indicators** — These are the schools' narrative reports on their progress in 2007-2008 toward meeting their Tier II Indicator(s). Our school's Tier II and Tier III Indicators are printed on the back of this page.

The district's Tier I Indicators for its 29 elementary schools are as follows:

Indicator 1.1: All students in kindergarten through second grade will meet or exceed district benchmarks.

Indicator 1.2: All students in third through sixth grades will meet or exceed standards and be identified as proficient on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests in reading, writing, math, science and social studies.

Indicator 1.3: Third through sixth graders who receive special education services will show specified growth on the MI-Access test in reading, writing and mathematics.

Indicator 1.4: Third through sixth graders who are part of the district's English Language Learners (ELL) program will show specified growth on the English Language Proficiency Assessment in reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Indicator 1.5: All students in second through sixth grade will demonstrate proficiency on the district writing test in the areas of persuasive, informative and cause/effect writing.

Indicator 1.6: All students in kindergarten through sixth grade will demonstrate proficiency on the district math test.

Indicator 1.7: All students in third through sixth grade will demonstrate proficiency on the district science and social studies tests.

Havel Elementary School's Tier II Indicator:

Increase the number of students scoring at proficiency (grades K-1 levels 3 or 4 and grades 2-6 levels 4, 5 or 6) on the district writing benchmark assessment in the area of content and ideas.

Havel Elementary School's Tier III Indicator:

Havel's staff and students worked hard during the 2007-2008 school year. Our staff began the year by participating in Utica's Data Team Training. After reviewing data from MEAP scores and writing assessments, our staff identified our Tier II Goal for the school year: Increase the number of students scoring at proficiency level on the district writing benchmark assessment in the area of content and ideas.

We centered our professional development for teachers around improving writing instruction at all grade levels. Havel staff brainstormed and discussed strategies to improve student writing. They were in-serviced on how to score writing papers, how to use Quick Writes to develop fluency in writing and given time to revise Havel's Writing Plan. Our Literacy Consultant worked with all staff members and their students on helping them to improve their writing skills.

Havel's staff is using the 6 + 1 Writing Traits model to instruct children in writing in their classrooms. The 6 + 1 Writing Traits Book along with many other teaching materials using the 6 + 1 Writing Traits have been purchased for each grade level and our staff has found them to be extremely helpful in teaching writing skills. Parents have also been informed of the 6 + 1 Writing Traits model through our monthly newsletter and given ideas on how to encourage their children to write at home.

Using MEAP and other assessment data, teachers have identified students "at risk" in the area of writing. These students receive additional interventions by the classroom teacher and school literacy consultant.

Student writing is assessed quarterly and we are showing improvement throughout the grade levels in the number of students in the proficient range. Writing is still a challenge for some of our students and we will continue to work on this for the next school year.

Havel's students are becoming better writers and seem to enjoy writing more. Our fourth grade students have formed a Writing Club, third and sixth grade students have developed classroom newspapers and several of our students have won writing awards through the Michigan Reading Association and Law Day Essay competition.

Our goal continues that all Havel students will become proficient at writing and learn to enjoy writing during this process.

Our School's Points of Pride

- National and State Blue Ribbon School
- School-wide writing plan creating a common language K-6, utilizing Grade Level Content Expectations
- Partnership with Henry Ford Hospital Health Network promoting and teaching healthy living habits for fourth grade students
- Early Intervention Program designed to meet the needs of kindergarten and first grade students in reading and writing
- Havel's ACES Awards honor students in the areas of academics, citizenship, effort and the Success Skills
- Lawyer-Teacher Partnership Program with Judge Mark Switalski
- Havel's Math and Language Arts Activity Nights
- Havel teachers reward students for using Success Skills at school by giving students Havel Hawks to purchase items at school store and having lunch with the principal
- Fourth Grade Writing Club
- Math, Science and Social Studies Olympiad Teams
- Drumming Ensemble
- Havel's Art and Science Expo
- Havel Volunteer League