



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.
- **Tier II Indicators** — These are school-based indicators established during the 2007-2008 school year by each UCS

Michigan Report Card for Heritage JHS

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) —
2006-07: Yes 2007-2008: Yes

Education YES! Grade —
2006-07: B 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.

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 seven junior high schools are as follows:

Indicator 1.8: All junior high students will meet or exceed standards and be identified as proficient on the MEAP tests in reading, writing, math, science and social studies.

Indicator 1.9: Seventh and eighth graders who receive special education services will show specified growth on the MI-Access test in reading, writing and mathematics.

Indicator 1.10: Seventh through ninth graders who receive English Language Learners (ELL) services will show specified growth on the English Language Proficiency Assessment.

Indicator 1.11: All ninth graders will take the Pre-ACT test that will be used as a predictor of success for college-level work on the required ACT test.

Indicator 1.12: All seventh through ninth graders will demonstrate proficiency on the district writing test.

Indicator 1.13: All seventh through ninth graders will demonstrate proficiency on the district math, science and social studies tests.

Indicator 1.14: The number of seventh and eighth graders who take and pass Algebra I will increase annually.

Indicator 1.15: All secondary students enrolled in performance-based fine arts courses will present their work to a public audience.

Heritage Junior High School's Tier II Indicator:

Increase the number of students who score a one or two on the MEAP writing assessment

Heritage Junior High School's Tier III Indicator:

Heritage continues to show improvements on the MEAP assessments. Eighth graders showed 13% - 16% proficiency gains in mathematics, science and writing. Our special education subgroup displayed gains in Level I and II (the proficient levels on the MEAP) in the areas of reading, mathematics and English Language Arts. Level II writing scores rose from 40% to 59%.

This year, Heritage and the other schools in the Stevenson attendance cluster (Cluster IV) focused on the writing goal, strengthening vertical teaming in grades K-12. Junior high teachers visited and hosted elementary staff, building a better line of communication and curriculum alignment. As a school, our staff addressed the Tier II goal of increasing writing skills. Monthly faculty meetings were dedicated to the data teams and their writing strategies.

The social studies staff used formative assessments that checked for understanding in three areas: position statements, data as support and Core Democratic Values. Prior knowledge was also noted. The summative assessments showed 88% proficiency in using a position statement, 66% proficiency in using supportive data and 61% proficiency in using a Core Democratic Value.

The mathematics department used the SOLVE method with story problems to measure student success in writing. After teaching and working with the SOLVE method this year, the number of proficient students rose 26%.

The English department set goals based on the grade level. The seventh grade goal was to use supportive evidence from the text. The students practiced using graphic organizers to help visualize concepts throughout the year. The post tests indicated an 8% gain in cross-text writing. The other grades

focused on the mechanics of writing. The post tests showed a 19% increase in the number of students reaching proficiency.

The science department focused on interpreting data. The rubric identified four main items: using the title, having accurate data, making comparisons of the data and an opinion about the information being addressed. Summative assessments showed an increase of 17% proficiency.

Heritage will continue to focus on the writing goal utilizing every faculty meeting to the fullest. The Cluster IV vertical teaming that began this year will continue next year.

Our School's Points of Pride

- Student wins second place in the state of Michigan for "My American Hero" essay sponsored by State Farm Insurance
- Science Olympiad takes second place in the state and goes to nationals
- Science Olympiad takes medals in three events at the National Science Olympiad Competition in Washington, DC
- First time Stock Market Game participants take second place in the state of Michigan
- Concert Band takes all division I ratings at the MSBOA festival
- Honor Roll students comprise 51 - 54 percent of the student body for this year
- Eighth grade cheerleaders take first place in district competition for the first time in Heritage history
- Seventh grade boys track team has an undefeated season
- Ninth grade boys football won the Swinehart Championship
- Students earn honorable mention in the district-wide Art Logo Contest
- Student Council participates in the Kiwanis Food Drive, Toys for Tots, American Red Cross Blood Drive, Pasta for Pennies and numerous other charities
- Orchestra plays at Career Focus Luncheon
- Ninth Grade students present "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz"