



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 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

Michigan Report Card for Jeannette JHS

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

Education YES! Grade —
2006-07: **B** 2007-2008: **B**

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.

(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.

Jeannette Junior High School's Tier II Indicator:

Increase the number of students who score proficient or higher on the MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program) writing rubric (standard scoring tool) utilizing the school-wide writing prompt.

Jeannette Junior High School's Tier III Indicator:

Increase the number of students who score proficient or higher on the eighth grade Writing MEAP.

As it relates to our Tier II Indicator, the 2007-2008 school year showed an increase in student performance. Jeannette's eighth grade students demonstrated a 2% increase in their writing scores, as compared to the 2006-2007 eighth grade group. Seventy-four percent of the students scored proficient this year, as compared to 72% the year before.

2007-2008 Interventions

The data teams determined that improving student writing would be our Tier II goal. As a group, they developed a twenty-point writing rubric that is being used across all curricular areas.

Last November, a school-wide writing prompt was administered to all students. Another prompt was given during the third quarter and one during the fourth quarter.

Subject area departments are working together to collect and disaggregate the student proficiency data from these writing prompts. Teachers are using strategies from Reading Apprenticeship as well as Strategic Writing Instruction for Teachers (SWIFT) training.

Plan for Continued Success:

We implemented a school-wide cross-curricular writing plan. For students who are at-risk but do not qualify for special education services, we introduced a Literacy Support class to supplement the English Language Arts curriculum.

Meeting Our Challenge

The staff will continue attending SWIFT training and working to implement the six-point writing rubric for the 2008-09 school year. We also have the additional challenge of instructing students who are not yet proficient in their native language while trying to learn English.

Our School's Points of Pride

- Students raised \$500 in pennies for breast cancer research. Teacher Patricia Murray and Amy Kuhlman, wife of teacher Chris Kuhlman, walked 60 miles in the Breast Cancer Three-Day fundraising event.
- Jeannette Lego Robotics team members Navjot Batra, Mauricio Guzman, Brendan Riley and Olivia Sargent took first place in programming and second place overall.
- Spanish II students, led by teacher Jodi Ruiz, collected toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign.
- Megan Caruso danced at Disney's Magic Kingdom with the Pointe Repertory Dancers.
- Jeannette's Life Skill class collected \$453 for the American Red Cross and purchased 55 blankets for the homeless.
- SAGE program (Students Academically Gifted Education).
- Student Vanessa Verstrate's "Buckle Up" poster won the AAA state and national contests and \$1,500 cash prize.

- Our Forensics team participated in the Middle Level Tournament at Birch Run, where ninth grader Nabia Khan took second place for Poetry Interpretation and ninth graders Danielle Kewish and Andrea Trevino received third place for Duo Interpretation. Students Shurti Jha, Nicolette Lojewski, Ashley Singh, Hope Scovoronski, Lexi Ramsey and Marisa Riddle also had strong performances.
- Jeannette and Stevenson High School hosted the Abuakwa African Music and Dance Ensemble.
- Jeannette's band performed at Utica High School's Homecoming parade and pre-game, Stevenson High School's Homecoming parade and pre-game, the UCS Band-a-Rama, MSBOA (Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association) Solo and Ensemble Band Festival and the Sterling Heights Memorial Day parade.
- Patriots of the Month – each month, deserving students were nominated for the award and received a Patriot of the Month tee-shirt
- Our eighth grade Competitive Cheer team took third place at the Cousino High School competition and second at the Northville High School competition. Cheer team members are Alexis Aghos, Chanel Dickow, Tiffany Earls, Dana Frost, Jennifer Gmerek, Lara Hanna, Victoria Hohnson, Cassidy Langley, Rachel Lockett, Cecelia Resendez, Alicia Saragosa and Victoria Thompson.
- The Jeannette Student Council sponsored our Freshman Dinner Dance, held charity drives for Muscular Dystrophy and the American Red Cross, purchased six lapel microphones for the school with fundraisers and contributed more than 500 hours of service this year.
- Jeannette students collected 101 Easter baskets for children in foster care through the Macomb County Department of Human Development.
- Jeannette's Science Olympiad team finished fourth at the Macomb Regional Science Olympiad, earning a spot at the Michigan Science Olympiad State Tournament. On the team were ninth graders Kailyn Angelakos, Nathan Deluca, Amanda Schummer and Adam Smigielski; eighth graders Navjot Batra, Mauricio Guzman, Sherine Jacob, Shruti Jha, Bilal Qazi, Tony Singh, Christine Starkley and James Walsh and seventh graders Brandon Narodzonek, Dhir Patwa and Ashley Singh.
- Jeannette's Social Studies Olympiad team competed in the Michigan Council for Social Studies in Romulus this year. Shruti Jha took third place in Economic Powerpoint and second in Poetry; Nicolette Lojewski finished second in Investment; Harjot Sandhu took third in Poster Collage and Ashlee Gorshe took third in Quiltathon.
- "Behavior Counts" – all students with outstanding citizenship marks were rewarded with a movie and popcorn celebration.
- Collections for our troops
- Outstanding Citizenship Awards
- Staff vs. Freshmen basketball game
- Staff vs. Students dodge ball competition
- All-A recognition and pancake breakfast
- Washington D.C. trip
- Jeannette's first Multicultural Night
- Honors Night
- Chess Club
- Fine Arts Festival
- Principal's Advisory Committee