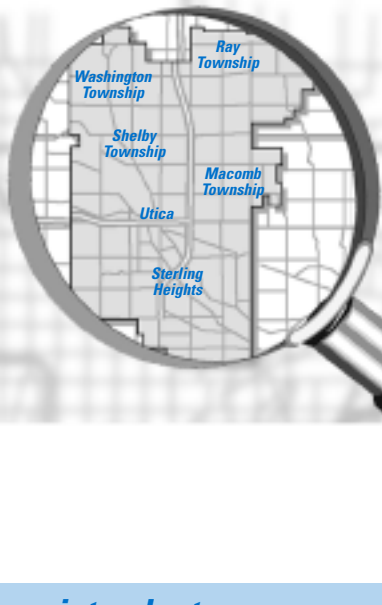


# FOCUS for the community

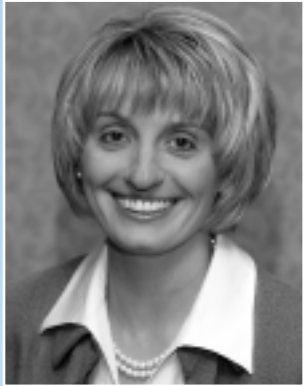


A Publication for the Residents of Utica Community Schools

## From the Superintendent...

### UCS academic successes continue despite Michigan's grim school funding forecast

As we move into Spring, I remain encouraged and enthusiastic that our goal of full academic proficiency for our students will be reached. Even as Spring brings new growth and renewed vigor, our efforts are resulting in measurable academic growth and staff members energized by such positive results.



by Christine M. Johns, Ed.D.

### More UCS schools honored for excellence

In the past two months, seven more of our schools have been declared Blue Ribbon Exemplary Schools by the State Board of Education. In addition, the standardized test scores of our elementary and junior high school students have made steady and marked improvement.

These outstanding accomplishments have been achieved through a real partnership among teachers, principals, parents and students. They see the increasingly rigorous standards as set by the federal No Child Left Behind Act not as insurmountable, but as achievable benchmarks to be met on behalf of our students' future.

With the recent announcement naming Crissman, DeKeyser, Flickinger, Harvey, Schuchard, Schwarzkoff and West Utica as Michigan Blue Ribbon Schools, more than one-half of our buildings have now achieved this prestigious designation.

The Blue Ribbon process provides an independent opinion that we are successful in meeting our district goal: *Every Child Achieves.*

Independent assessment such as this is also key to accomplishing our district's seventh Indicator of Excellence: *Data Will Drive Our Decision Making.*

Our Curriculum Department will document and share the best practices identified in the Blue Ribbon process with our other schools to improve academic achievement district-wide. Of particular interest will be those activities that are positively impacting teaching and learning beyond test scores.

### MEAP results underline student achievement

Of note are our elementary and junior high students' test results on the most recent annual Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), which are good.

The hard work of our teachers, students, principals and Curriculum Department has resulted in steady and consistent increases throughout our district classrooms for all students, with significant improvements particularly among special education, English Language Learners (ELL) and minority students.

Elementary level students in grades three through sixth are tested in reading, writing and mathematics. Fifth graders are also tested in science and sixth graders are additionally tested in social studies.

In junior high, seventh and eighth graders are tested in reading, writing and mathematics. Eighth graders also take a science test, while ninth graders are tested in social studies only.

continued on page 4

## Seven UCS schools earn state's Blue Ribbon

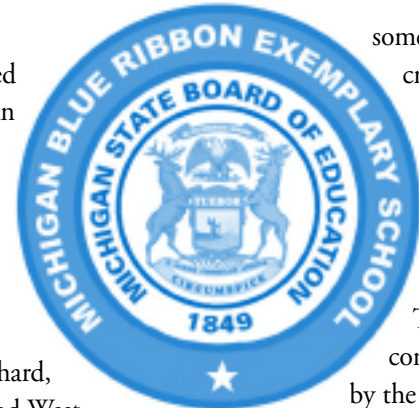
Crissman, DeKeyser, Flickinger, Harvey, Schuchard, Schwarzkoff and West Utica are the latest UCS schools to meet the State Board of Education's tough criteria for delivering quality education to students.

It is not unusual for a building in the Utica Community Schools district to be designated as a Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School. In fact, this is the tenth year in a row that at least one district school has been selected.

What is different and even more notable this year is that of the

23 elementary schools honored across Michigan in 2007, a total of seven UCS schools – Crissman, DeKeyser, Flickinger, Harvey, Schuchard, Schwarzkoff and West Utica – earned the Blue Ribbon.

What comprises a Blue Ribbon School? According to State Board of Education president, Kathleen N. Straus, "The Blue Ribbon selection committee chose these schools as meeting



some very tough criteria in delivering quality education to their students."

To be considered by the selection committee, a school must demonstrate a strong commitment to educational excellence and significant academic improvement over five years. Comprehensive data that confirms the effectiveness

continued on page 2

## MEAP achievement in elementary and junior high continues positive trend

### Duncan, Harvey, Havel, Messmore, Monfort and Plumbrook Elementary schools achieved 100 percent student proficiency in one or more grades or subject areas

In October, all public school students statewide in grades three through nine were tested on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) exams.

With the scores now in, Utica Community Schools once again has many reasons to be proud. The comparative grade level data from 2005 and 2006 indicates many positive trends in achievement.

As a district, UCS continues to score above state averages in all subject areas and grade levels. English Language Arts (or ELA, which combines reading and writing) and mathematics scores maintained or increased in proficiency.

The performance of students with disabilities and those in other subgroups is a factor in whether a school makes Adequate Yearly Progress

(AYP) as required by the federal No Child Left Behind legislation. The news here is encouraging, as well.

In particular, UCS students with disabilities made significant gains in ELA at all grade levels. This group also made good progress in mathematics in grades three, four, six and eight. Subgroups identifying students by ethnic

continued on page 5

### In this issue...

- Funding shortfalls threaten budget ..... 3
- Career Focus Luncheon ... 3
- Volunteers honored ..... 4
- MEAP scores ..... 5
- Michigan Merit Exam .... 5
- Board of Education election – May 8 ..... 6
- Michigan math prize ..... 6
- College Fair ..... 6
- District calendar ..... 6

**Utica Community Schools**  
11303 Greendale  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312  
586.797.1000  
www.uticak12.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
STERLING HGTS, MI  
PERMIT NO. 24

Resident  
Utica Community Schools

## Seven UCS schools earn state's Blue Ribbon

continued from page 1

of its educational programs and a peer review and on-site evaluation by educators from established Blue Ribbon schools are also part of the assessment.

Additionally, schools must have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), as required by the federal No Child Left Behind law, and

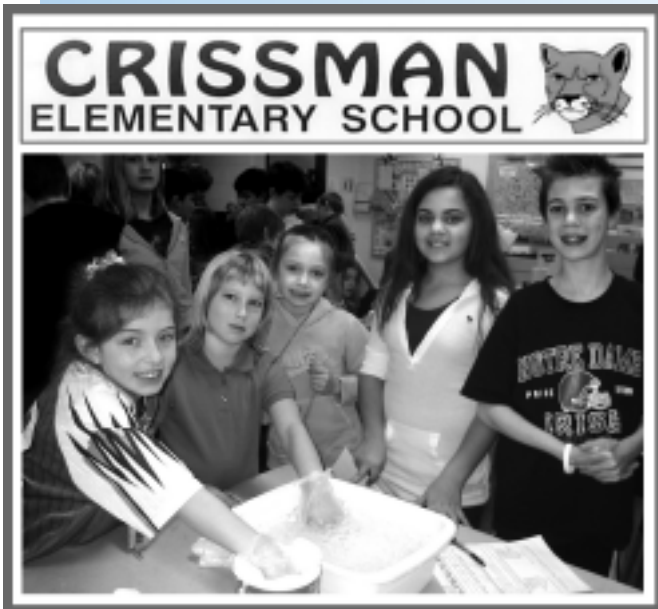
received a Michigan Education YES! School Report Card grade of A or B.

The addition of these latest seven to the Utica Community Schools Blue Ribbon roster means that more than half of the district's schools—21—have achieved the state's seal of excellence.

The others are Browning, Ewell, Graebner, Havel, Magahay, Messmore, Monfort, Roberts and Walsh Elementary schools; Bemis and Shelby Junior High schools and Eisenhower, Ford II and Stevenson High schools.

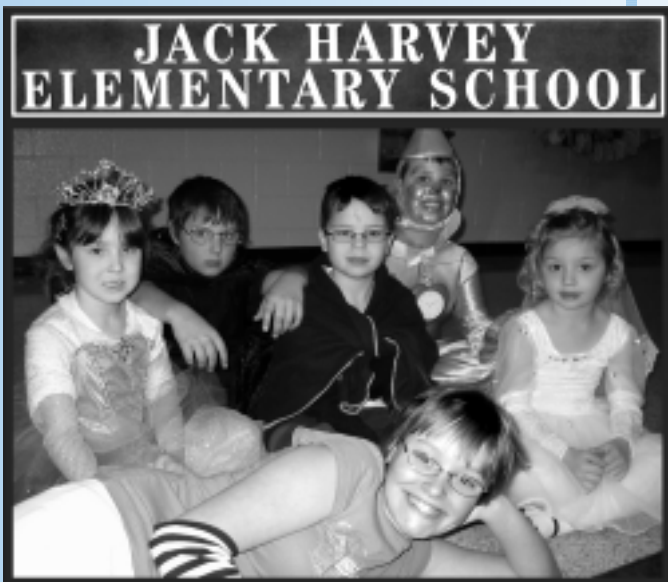
## The 2007 Blue Ribbon Schools

As it is in every school across the Utica Community Schools district, student learning and achievement is the first priority of its newest Blue Ribbon schools. It is fitting that students, happily engaged in everyday learning activities, best represent this year's recipients of the prestigious state award. Congratulations, all!



Crissman Elementary School second graders **Madylen Zweng, Kirstin Hickock and Breanna Zilli** engage in a classroom experiment assisted by sixth graders **Alexandra Roselli and Derek Jones**. The younger students each coated one of their hands with shortening, then plunged both hands into ice water to experience the insulating properties of blubber and how it aids the survival of arctic animals. The older students enhanced the lesson by recording temperature differences using temperature probes.

At Harvey Elementary School, students celebrated "March is Reading Month" by dressing as their favorite character in children's literature. Fifth grader **Rachael Montpetit** (foreground) dressed as Silly Sally. Behind her are first grader **Rita Kleehammer** as Ariel from *The Little Mermaid*; fourth grader **Lance Wilson** as Harry Potter; first grader **Matthew Zaleski** also as Harry Potter; third grader **Carter Jacobs** as the Tin Man from *The Wizard of Oz* and **Karysma David** as Cinderella.



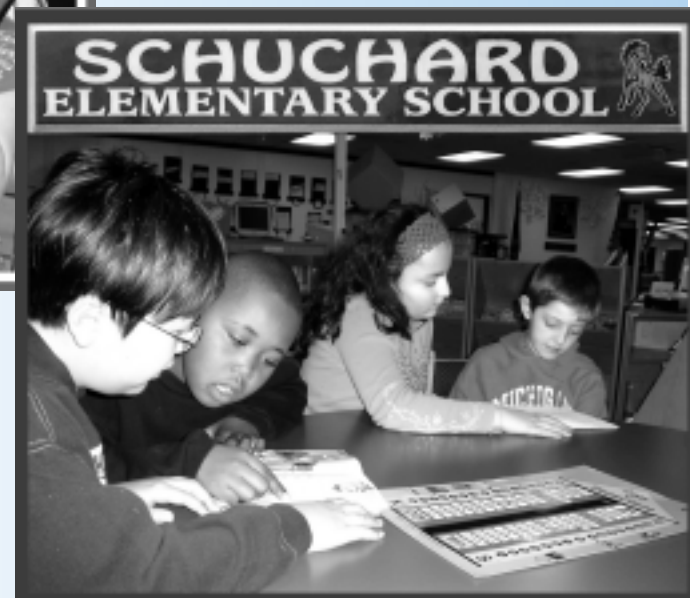
Schwarzkoﬀ second grade teacher **Kristen Sherrill** leads students (l-r) **Abigail Stacey, Frank Lombardo, Dylan Karbousky and Skylar Motley** in composing acrostic poems, in which the letters of a topic word begin each line. After brainstorming words having to do with springtime, the class wrote a sample poem together. The children then chose topics and wrote and edited their own poems using laptop computers.



Members of the Flickinger fifth and sixth grade band perform for students and staff at a dress rehearsal in preparation for their Spring Concert. Working hard to perfect every note in an arrangement of "Turbo Rock" are fifth graders **Ashlee Freeman, Devin Aebi, Ryan Kohlmann and Peyton Lombardo**. U.S. Department of Education data indicates that students who are consistently involved in instrumental music instruction through high school show significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency.



DeKeyser first graders **Alex Schurig, Nicholas Kinnaird, Gabrielle Davidson and Tiffany Adams** each read aloud their own published books at a student-led assembly. By sharing their works with a real audience, even the youngest writers are empowered as authors with ideas to share. Students at all grade-levels took part, both at the microphone and as attentive listeners. Student-led assemblies are a regular activity at all district schools, helping to develop creativity and confidence, as well as reading, writing, speaking and listening skills.



Schuchard Elementary School's Student Council mentoring program pairs younger students with older students who assist them with academics and other skills. Shown are fifth grader **Samuel Hwang**, second grader **T. J. Burks**, fifth grader **Lonea Seitlari** and second grader **Dustin Stanaj** together reviewing the younger students' reading assignments.



The day comes to a close at West Utica Elementary School with sixth graders **Sukhwinder Singh, Tyler Sykes and Evan Vallis** respectfully taking down and folding the American flag.

## State funding shortfalls, threat of mid-year cuts continue to threaten district's operating budget

The State of Michigan has informed the public of a \$377 million shortfall in its 2006-2007 funding for schools.

All Michigan school districts, including Utica Community Schools, were also told—eight months into the fiscal year—that the state may take back as much as \$224 per pupil from the funding it promised schools last July.

In Utica Community Schools, with nearly 30,000 students, a \$224 per pupil reduction would mean losses approaching \$7 million this current school year alone.

The state has enacted mid-year reductions twice before – taking back \$43 per pupil in 2003 and \$74 per pupil in 2004. Taking money back from the schools this late in the year is especially onerous because state law requires districts to adopt a balanced budget for the coming school year before the fiscal year begins on July 1.

This far into the school year, student programs that were budgeted for last June are going at full tilt.

Michigan school funding, which is mainly dependent on the state sales and income taxes and thus tied directly to the economy, has been in deficit by millions of dollars every year since 2003.

The worsening shortfall reinforces the very real need for

the governor and state legislators to enact a more stable funding source for K-12 education.

While the legislature has done little to halt its growing deficit, Utica Community Schools, on the other hand, has worked to reduce its spending by more than \$28 million.

The district has eliminated 215 employee positions, including 66 teachers and 12 administrators.

UCS sold property and closed buildings. UCS employees accepted health care options that reduce costs to the district.

UCS has implemented an energy conservation program and moved to “just in time” ordering of supplies.

Class sizes have been increased and the high school schedule was reduced to six periods. Textbook purchases were suspended for a year and budgets for instructional materials have been reduced or kept flat.

In addition, the district conducts aggressive county-wide student recruitment as a means to increase its revenue and sustain student programming.

Through its schools of choice program, UCS has attracted more than 400 new students, each of whom brings state funding of roughly \$7,500 per pupil into the district every year they attend.

Governor Jennifer Granholm has offered a proposal to maintain promised funding this year and preserve future education funding. At press time, state legislators were debating this and other possible solutions.

Some legislators propose that school districts spend their fund equity, or rainy day savings, as a one time fix for the state shortfalls.

Districts are reluctant to do so for good reason. Every year, the state delays releasing funding to

the districts until four months into the fiscal year. Any savings districts retain from their own prudent fiscal management is needed to operate the schools without having to borrow money and pay interest until the state's first funding payment arrives in October.

In addition, UCS has had to draw on its fund equity mid-year in the past because of state shortfalls and may have to do so again this year in order to sustain student programs.

If the fund equity is depleted,

there would be no safety net for the future.

The time for one time fixes is long past. What is needed now is action from our legislative leaders to restore and stabilize school funding now and for the years ahead.

Education is the key to improving and diversifying Michigan's economy. The state's future and that of its children can only be decided by the elected governor and legislature.

### Citizens can make their opinions on school funding heard in Lansing by contacting their local legislators:

#### MICHIGAN STATE SENATORS —

##### 10th District – Michael Switalski (D)

28311 Utica Road  
Roseville, MI 48066  
Phone: 586-774-2430; 586-373-7315;  
866-303-0010;  
Fax: 517-373-3126  
E-mail: [senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov)

##### 11th District – Alan Sanborn (R)

48945 Van Dyke, Suite 6  
Shelby Township, MI 48317  
Phone: 586-493-5792; 888-353-ALAN;  
Fax: 517-373-5958  
E-mail: [senasanborn@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senasanborn@senate.michigan.gov)

#### MICHIGAN STATE REPRESENTATIVES —

Mailing address for all:  
State Capitol, P. O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

##### 30th District – Tory Rocca (R)

Phone: 517-373-7768; Fax: 517-373-5903  
E-mail: [trocce@house.mi.gov](mailto:trocce@house.mi.gov)

##### 31st District – Fred Miller (D)

Phone/Fax: 586-468-4241  
E-mail: [fredmiller@house.mi.gov](mailto:fredmiller@house.mi.gov)

##### 32nd District – Daniel Acciavatti (R)

Phone: 517-373-8931; 866-DIST-032;  
Fax: 517-373-8637  
E-mail: [danielacciavatti@house.mi.gov](mailto:danielacciavatti@house.mi.gov)

##### 33rd District – Kim Meltzer

Phone: 517-373-0820; Fax: 517-373-5974  
E-mail: [kimmeltzer@house.mi.gov](mailto:kimmeltzer@house.mi.gov)

##### 36th District – Brian Palmer (R)

Phone: 517-373-0843; 866-531-0007;  
Fax: 517-373-5892  
E-mail: [repbrianpalmer@house.mi.gov](mailto:repbrianpalmer@house.mi.gov)

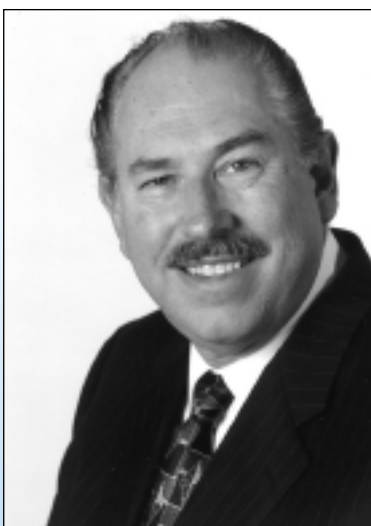
## UCS sixth graders get a “taste” of the work world at the Career Focus Luncheon

Each year, the Career Focus Luncheon offers a unique, real-world learning experience for Utica Community Schools sixth graders.

The event takes place at Penna's of Sterling Heights, where some 2,000 students enjoy lunch while seated with volunteer business people who graciously offer them their professional expertise and encouragement.

In turn, the students have the opportunity to learn from these workplace role models and come away with a better idea of the skills they will need as 21st Century adults.

This year's event on May 2 and 3 will feature Big Boy Restaurants owner Robert G. Liggett, Jr. as the keynote speaker. He joins the list of noted community, sports and government leaders who have



Utica High School graduate and successful business owner **Robert G. Liggett, Jr.**, is this year's Career Focus keynote speaker.

addressed UCS students over the luncheon's 13 year history—many of whom themselves graduates of the school district.

Liggett is a Utica High School graduate who started out his career in local radio and

television broadcasting. Following graduation in 1970 from Wayne State University Law School, he founded Liggett Broadcast Group and went on to own radio stations across the country.

Since acquiring the Big Boy chain in 2000, Liggett has enhanced all phases of operations and developed concept restaurants that are franchised nationwide. In 2001, he founded Speed NET, a wireless high speed modem service provider that was recently awarded rights to build a wireless system for the Metro Detroit market.

The Career Focus Luncheon is co-sponsored by the Utica Community Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence, the Advisor & Source Newspapers and the Sterling Heights Area Chamber of Commerce, in

cooperation with Utica Community Schools. Luncheon proceeds benefit the Foundation's work on behalf of UCS students and their education.

Adult sponsors are always needed and very much appreciated at the Career Focus Luncheon. To sponsor a table at this year's event, please call 586.797.6953.

*continued on page 4*



As sixth graders at Flickinger Elementary School last year, students **Kaitlyn Chaney, Marisa Lombardo and Lisa Latouf** eagerly took part in the Career Focus Luncheon in May 2006.

By the time students take their seats at this year's event, they will have completed weeks of classroom preparation, including exploring career pathways, learning to write a resume and composing thoughtful questions to ask the adult sponsors at their tables.

## Volunteers Honored

More than 4,500 community volunteers donate their talents and time—roughly 100,000 hours each year—to enhance the educational experience of UCS students.

They perform many tasks in the classrooms and media centers, participate in fund raising, assist at performing arts and athletic events and in general make our schools better places of learning.

The Board of Education this spring recognized the efforts of all volunteers and, in particular, honored the 20-year volunteer “careers” of two individuals: Ben Ancona and David Lemaux.

Ancona’s involvement began when his three now grown daughters were attending Collins Elementary School. He has served on district Bond Issue Committees, the Enrollment Distribution Advisory Committee, the Stevenson High School Athletic Boosters and as an assistant softball coach. He has been the “Voice” of Stevenson Titan athletics for the past eleven years. When asked why he volunteers, Ancona responded, “There is no better place to be than here, supporting the kids.”

Lemaux started helping at Schwarzkoff Elementary School when his children, now Stevenson High School graduates, attended there. He continues to be an active Stevenson Athletic Booster, often manning the “Titan Cart.” He has also served on UCS Bond Issue committees. One of his biggest contributions is as a problem solver working with district personnel to condition and maintain sports equipment purchased by the Boosters. Lemaux said he continues to give so much of his time, because “I do it for the kids; I do it for the teachers.”



Twenty-year UCS volunteers **Ben Ancona** and **Dave Lemaux** display the “Volunteer Hall of Fame” plaque that hangs in the Administrative Service Center lobby. It contains their names and those of 46 others who over time have given 20 or more years of volunteer service to the district.

### Career Focus Luncheon

continued from page 3

#### About the Foundation

*The Utica Community Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence has begun its third decade as a non-profit fundraising organization led by a volunteer board of trustees comprised of local business and community leaders. The group has raised tens of thousands of dollars for its mission to make available meaningful educational experiences and resources for UCS students beyond what the district’s budget can provide.*

*Proceeds from the Career Focus Luncheon directly benefit the Foundation’s Classroom Instructional Grant Program, which offers UCS teachers the opportunity to apply for up to \$500 for supplemental learning materials or programs for their students.*

*The Foundation helps UCS students in many other ways. For example, it offers scholarships to UCS Career and Technical Education students so they may pursue further schooling in their career field following high school graduation. It helps offset after school programming for junior high students and underwrites the participation of needy elementary students in the instrumental music program. It supports at-risk students with tutoring in the secondary grades and partial scholarships for targeted elementary students to attend Camp Literacy, an intensive summer reading and writing program operated by Utica Community Schools.*

*The Foundation’s operating expenses are covered by donations from its Century Club members, freeing more resources for student programs. Private donations, memorial gifts, the UCS employee payroll deduction plan and the Foundation’s annual golf outing – scheduled this year on September 17 at Boulder Lakes Golf Club – all go to support its mission for education.*

*To learn how you can help further the Foundation’s mission, please call 586.797.6900.*

### From the Superintendent... continued from page 1

Within the scoring scale, there are four levels of performance: Exceed Standards, Meet Standards, Basic and Apprentice. The first two levels indicate high levels of performance, while Basic indicates that the student meets expectations. Apprentice level does not meet expectations.

MEAP testing allows all students to be assessed using grade level or course content expectations in order to determine their progress in each of the tested subjects. Educators use test results to track the progress of individual students, all students in grade-levels and specific groups – such as special education, ethnic and non-English speaking students—to determine the success of their learning and where adjustments or supports are necessary.

Our elementary and junior high students’ test scores have outpaced both Macomb County and state averages. While significant overall gains have been attained, I am also encouraged by the way our students are moving up within the four levels of achievement.

Even our schools that have already posted scores in the 90th percentile are moving toward 100 percent proficiency.

I am so proud of the strides our schools have made toward 100 percent proficiency and I invite you to look inside this edition of “Focus for the Community” for specific testing information.

In March, for the first time, all high school juniors took the ACT exam as part of the new Michigan Merit Exam (MME), the test that replaced the MEAP as Michigan’s primary standardized test for students.

Our high school principals and teachers worked hard to prepare for the new MME. As the baseline data from this first year becomes available, we will focus our efforts to make sure all students meet Michigan’s more rigorous new graduation requirements and improve their academic performance in subsequent years.

Taking the MME gives students a college-reportable score and allows them to participate in the Michigan Promise Scholarship, which could qualify them for up to \$4,000 in tuition at a state college or university.

The MME and ACT test scores will also be indicators of the quality of our school district—an important factor to new residents and businesses when considering relocation. Housing values and quality of life choices can be impacted by our district’s reputation for quality.

#### Creating a college culture

Our students’ academic success sets the stage for the creation of a “college culture” in Utica Community Schools. Whether a student is already dreaming of college or planning to pursue a career discovered in our comprehensive Career and Technical Education programming, thinking about a future beyond high school can only be enhanced by this new culture.

By increasing opportunities for all students to enroll in rigorous Advanced Placement courses and meet the state’s new graduation requirements, we are preparing our students for post-secondary educational opportunities. From technical schools to a two or four-year college, the academic foundation provided for our students will prepare them for future success.

As an educational community, the achievement of our students remains our primary objective.

Our next step in this process will be to review in detail the success stories taking place in classrooms and schools throughout our great school district. With that information, we will further refine our strategies to address areas where we can improve student performance.

#### Budget forecast remains grim; lack of funding could impact classroom programming

I only wish the school funding news from Lansing was as promising as our students’ achievement.

While Governor Jennifer Granholm’s State of the State message clearly stated her unwillingness to cut funding to Michigan’s school children, the fact remains that the state’s school aid fund is more than \$300 million in deficit.

Initial indications that a funding reduction of up to \$224 per student could take place yet this school year may be premature, but it is by no means a dead issue.

If this reduction is made, Utica Community Schools would lose approximately \$7 million in budgeted funds for 2006-2007.

Before any funding reduction can be approved by the state, a procedure must fully outline how to address the shortfall. First, the state treasurer must send a letter to the governor’s budget director, as an official announcement of the shortfall. The governor would then direct that the two houses of the legislature be notified. Those elected representatives then have 30 days to resolve the shortfall, either in part or in whole.

Whatever portion of the shortfall not resolved within the 30 days automatically becomes a reduction in state funding for schools.

This discussion will likely continue as the state legislature grapples with calls to increase—or cut—taxes in order to fund schools, prisons and social welfare programs.

Our Board of Education has taken no action to reduce the district’s 2006-2007 operating budget until the issues are decided in Lansing. But I can clearly state that the 2007-2008 operating budget will be reviewed thoroughly for solutions to our budget crisis.

Those of you who have been in the district family for the past few years must realize that the “quick” cuts are long past. Our school district—and others across the state—are rapidly reaching a funding crisis that will result in compromised classroom programs.

At end of the day, it is not an award like the Blue Ribbon or improved MEAP scores that have made our schools outstanding. Nor is it our thoughtful and conservative management of our district budget over time.

What characterizes the Utica Community Schools as an educational leader in Michigan is the commitment our staff has for students, the leadership of our principals and the support our parents have for the powerful role of public education in this community that marks our school district as an outstanding learning community.

And it is a learning community I look forward to leading for many seasons to come.

## MEAP achievement continues positive trend

continued from page 1

origin posted improved scores in many areas, as well.

While student scores in general continue to be good across the district, several schools performed particularly well. For example, Duncan, Harvey, Havel, Monfort and Plumbrook attained 100 percent proficiency in reading or mathematics at one or more grade levels. Messmore posted 100 percent proficiency in third grade English Language Arts and mathematics, fourth grade reading and mathematics and sixth grade reading and English Language Arts.

As the charts indicate, all students were tested in mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA). Fifth and eighth graders were also tested in science, while sixth graders also took a social studies test. Ninth graders were tested only in social studies. Students who scored in the top two levels met or exceeded the state standard for proficiency.

The charts show the percentage of Utica Community Schools students in each grade in fall 2006, as well as the year before, who achieved proficiency as a whole and broken out into the subgroups of gender, ethnic origin, economically

disadvantaged, English language learners or students with disabilities. The comparative data from the previous year indicates a district wide trend of growth in ELA and mathematics. Statewide scores are also shown.



The columns indicate the percentage of students performing at the proficient level in each year.

MEAP Grades 3 and 4	Grade 3				Grade 4			
	English Language Arts		Mathematics		English Language Arts		Mathematics	
	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2005	Fall 2006
All UCS Students	84	87	90	92	81	85	86	88
Males	82	84	90	93	78	84	86	89
Females	87	91	90	92	85	87	85	88
Amer. Indian/Alaskan Native	<10	<10	<10	<10	0	<10	0	<10
Asian/Pacific Islander	83	90	94	96	86	81	93	80
Black/Not of Hispanic Origin	69	75	75	75	56	65	57	74
Hispanic	66	78	68	79	62	77	69	72
White, Not of Hispanic Origin	85	88	91	93	82	86	87	89
Multiracial	<10	82	<10	83	<10	73	<10	87
Economically Disadvantaged	70	76	79	84	63	70	71	75
English Language Learners	46	51	68	72	38	46	45	47
Students with Disabilities	63	68	76	82	46	56	60	73
All Students Statewide	78	79	87	88	76	78	82	85

MEAP Grades 5 and 6	Grade 5						Grade 6					
	English Language Arts		Mathematics		Science		English Language Arts		Mathematics		Social Studies	
	Fall '05	Fall '06	Fall '05	Fall '06	Fall '05	Fall '06	Fall '05	Fall '06	Fall '05	Fall '06	Fall '05	Fall '06
All UCS	82	83	79	78	82	88	86	88	75	79	87	85
Males	79	79	81	79	84	87	81	86	74	81	85	85
Females	86	87	77	76	81	88	91	90	76	77	90	84
Amer. In./Alas. Nat.	<10	0	<10	0	<10	0	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Asian/Pac. Islander	86	91	91	95	85	97	93	93	84	93	90	88
Black/Not Hispanic	63	64	52	53	75	76	72	75	54	47	78	62
Hispanic	54	56	64	56	60	69	66	62	69	56	80	66
White, Not Hispanic	83	84	80	78	83	88	86	89	75	80	87	86
Multiracial	55	100	40	75	36	82	<10	55	<10	64	<10	67
Econ. Disadv.	68	67	60	58	65	75	67	75	54	63	72	70
English Lang. Learn.	48	23	47	28	37	38	50	29	40	41	50	33
Students w/Disabilities	47	49	50	45	61	73	46	56	34	49	60	62
All Students Statewide	75	78	73	76	77	83	73	78	65	69	78	74

MEAP Grades 7, 8 and 9	Grade 7				Grade 8				Grade 9			
	English Language Arts		Mathematics		English Language Arts		Mathematics		Science		Social Studies	
	Fall '05	Fall '06	Fall '05	Fall '06	Fall '05	Fall '06	Fall '05	Fall '06	Fall '05	Fall '06	Fall '05	Fall '06
All UCS	81	83	75	77	81	80	79	82	89	84	86	86
Males	76	79	76	75	76	76	80	82	90	85	83	86
Females	85	88	74	80	86	84	78	81	88	84	88	87
Amer. In./Alas. Nat.	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Asian/Pac. Islander	85	93	89	87	81	81	90	80	92	82	92	86
Black/Not Hispanic	68	74	41	54	59	66	45	56	73	61	67	65
Hispanic	59	63	54	53	62	53	54	71	64	68	82	68
White, Not Hispanic	81	84	76	78	82	81	81	83	90	86	86	87
Multiracial	69	64	63	36	<10	89	<10	89	<10	89	<10	<10
Econ. Disadv.	65	69	50	61	63	62	58	64	74	67	67	71
English Lang. Learn.	5	9	30	31	18	5	36	52	36	40	19	23
Students w/Disabilities	35	36	26	25	32	33	33	40	53	49	50	58
All Students Statewide	73	76	60	64	69	71	63	68	77	75	75	74

Note: Subgroups with fewer than ten students are indicated by <10. Their scores, while included in the totals, are not reported by the state.

## All eleventh graders took the ACT in March as part of the new Michigan Merit Exam

The State of Michigan has replaced the high school MEAP assessments with the new Michigan Merit Exam, or MME, which was administered in March to all eleventh graders in the state's public high

schools. The state will release the MME scores later this year.

One major change brought by the rigorous new exam is that it includes the American College Test, or ACT, which is the

accepted college entrance exam used in Michigan and other states.

Where previously the ACT was taken primarily by college-bound students, it is now required of every student.

This change gives all students the opportunity to take the ACT free of charge and receive college-reportable scores, which may encourage more to consider college or other post secondary education.

Taking the MME also enables students to become eligible for the Michigan Promise Scholarship program, where they may qualify for a college scholarship of up to \$4,000.

## Board of Education Election scheduled for May 8

Fred L. Gibson, Daniel J. Meyers and Jennifer L. Prybys are candidates for two available positions on the Utica Community Schools Board of Education. Both terms are for four years, lasting from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2011.

The election will be held on Tuesday, May 8. Polling places will be open to voters from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. All voting inquiries should be directed to the municipal or county office conducting the election in your community:

- City of Sterling Heights . . . . .586.446.2420
- City of Utica . . . . .586.739.1600
- Macomb Township . . . . .586.992.0710
- Ray Township . . . . .586.749.5171
- Shelby Township . . . . .586.731.5100
- Washington Township . . . . .586.786.0010
- Macomb County Clerk . . . . .586.469.5120

### The candidates provided the following information about themselves:

**Fred L. Gibson** of Sterling Heights is a graduate of Saginaw Valley State University and holds a Juris Doctor degree from the Michigan State University College of Law.

He is an attorney with the F. L. Gibson Group, P.C. and a member of both the Michigan and Macomb County Bar Associations and the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association.

Gibson has lived in the school district for 23 years. He and his wife, Annemarie, are the parents of three children: Gabrielle, who attends the University of Michigan; Garrett, who attends Western Michigan University; and Jordyn, an eleventh grader at Henry Ford II High School.

**Daniel J. Meyers** resides in Macomb Township with his wife, Gabriella, and their children, Jacob and Kaitlyn, who both attend Beacon Tree Elementary School.

A district resident for 13 years, he attended Wayne State University and Walsh College and is employed by Credit Union ONE as Regional Manager, Metro Detroit.

Meyers belongs to the Macomb and Sterling/Utica/Shelby Chambers of Commerce. He is on the Board of Trustees of the Utica Community Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence, the district's Accountability Advisory Committee and facilitates a financial literacy program for UCS high school students.

**Jennifer L. Prybys** is employed by Behr America Incorporated as a purchasing specialist. She is a graduate of Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in marketing and master's degree in international administration.

A district resident since 2001, Prybys lives in Sterling Heights with her husband, Marc. Their children, Stephen and Morgan, are students at Schwarzkoff Elementary School.

Prybys is active in the Schwarzkoff Volunteer Group and coaches in the Sterling Heights Cheer Club. She was appointed to the Board of Education in October 2006 to fill a vacancy created by Stephen Truman's resignation.

### NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act and the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act, it is the policy of Utica Community Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any instructional opportunities, programs, services, job placement assistance, employment or in policies governing student conduct and attendance. Any person suspecting a discriminatory practice should contact the Executive Director of Human Resources at Utica Community Schools, 11303 Greendale, Sterling Heights, MI 48312 or call (586) 797-1000.

## Eight UCS students distinguish themselves in challenging statewide math contest

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America annually offers the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition to encourage students to develop their mathematics abilities. The top 1,000 of some 14,000 participants in Part I of the competition are invited to take

Part II, which requires students to tackle five challenging problems and provide written solutions and full justification and proof of their answers.

Eight Utica Community Schools students finished in the top 200 of Part II this year. They are seniors Joshua Bails, Douglas Rottmann and Kevin

Surzyn of Stevenson High School; Charles Machi, Samuel Machi and Andrew Cipa of Eisenhower High School; Michael Ross of Ford II High School and junior Christopher Sigler of Utica High School. All also attend the Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology (UCMST).



Pictured in attendance at a Board of Education meeting where the eight were honored are **Bails, Rottman, C. Machi, S. Machi and Sigler**. They are flanked by **Janet Kent**, UCMST Dean of Students (far left) and UCMST math teachers **Tom VanHouten** (left) and **Jennifer Rasel** (right). Rottmann ranked 29th in the state and earned a \$250 scholarship. Sigler ranked 53rd.

Utica Community Schools presents

## University and Highly Selective College Fair

At Henry Ford II High School  
11911 Clinton River Road • Sterling Heights, MI 48313  
May 2, 2007 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.



### featuring

- |                              |                                   |                                     |                                    |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Adrian                       | Hillsdale                         | Michigan State                      | Saginaw Valley State               |
| Albion                       | Hope                              | Michigan Tech                       | University of Detroit Mercy        |
| Alma                         | Illinois Institute of Technology  | Neumont                             | University of Michigan – Ann Arbor |
| Aquinas                      | Iowa State                        | Northern Michigan                   | University of Michigan – Dearborn  |
| Bowling Green State          | Kalamazoo College                 | Northwood                           | University of Michigan – Flint     |
| Calvin                       | Kendall College of Art and Design | Notre Dame                          | University of Rochester, NY        |
| Carnegie Mellon              | Kettering                         | Oakland                             | Walsh College                      |
| Central Michigan             | Lake Superior State               | Ohio State                          | Wayne State                        |
| College for Creative Studies | Lawrence Technological            | Olin College of Engineering         | Western Michigan University        |
| Drexel                       | Macomb University Center          | Pennsylvania State                  |                                    |
| Eastern Michigan             | Miami of Ohio                     | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute    |                                    |
| Grand Valley State           | Michigan State Honors College     | Rochester College                   |                                    |
| Harvard                      |                                   | Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology |                                    |

CO-SPONSORED BY UTICA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AND THE UCS FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

## 2006-2007 District Calendar

- May 25** No school – Staff Professional Development
- May 28** No school – Memorial Day
- June 14** Half day – Secondary schools
- June 15** Half day – All schools
- June 18** Summer recess begins



Accredited K-12 by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

586.797.1000

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
Carol Klenow, Ed.D., *President*  
Kevin Lohmeier, *Vice President*  
Gene Klida, *Secretary*  
Carl Territo, *Treasurer*  
Robert A. Ross, Ph.D., *Trustee*  
Michele Templeton, *Trustee*  
Jennifer L. Prybys, *Trustee*

**FOCUS for the Community**  
Editors: Hildy Corbett  
Fran Schokora

**MSPRA** **NSRA**  
**2006 Commended Award** Michigan School Public Relations Association  
**2006 Award of Merit** National School Public Relations Association

Christine M. Johns, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent*

Visit [www.uticak12.org](http://www.uticak12.org) for information on programs and curriculum, school news, district calendar, annual reports and employment opportunities.

Information about the district is also available on UCS Television, which broadcasts on cable channels 15 and 22.