

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 24 & DECEMBER 1

BEMIS BULLETIN  
BOARD (B3).

Bemis Jr. High School's Newsletter for Parents



*In All Things  
Give Thanks*



# Spartan of the Month

Students were recognized for displaying one, or more, of the four pillars of the Spartan Way:

*Integrity, Responsibility, Kindness and/or Grit.*

Rakela C, Isabella U, Sophia K, Meeyah A, Isaac K, Odessa N,  
Rebecca O, Leo H, Abigail D, Jaclyn D, Angelina C, Patryk A,  
Madeleine B, Alexis K, Paxton K, Riley W, Larry A

Spartan Stars of the Month will receive the following:

- Pizza Lunch during “A Lunch”.
- A Spartan Way Pin representing the characteristic displayed.
- A single use Front of the Lunch Line Pass.
- A Pit Stop Gift Card.
- An individualized Spartan Star of the Month Certificate.

## Upcoming Dates

**11/26-28 No School (Thanksgiving Break)**

**11/27: Happy Thanksgiving**

12/5: Spirit Day (Crazy Hair/Hat day)

12/12: Spirit Day (Black Out, Friday the 13th)

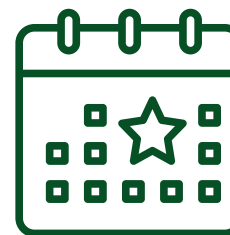
12/15-20 Holiday Spirit Week

12/17: Half Day (Exams Hours 1 & 2)

12/18: Half Day (Exams Hours 3 & 4)

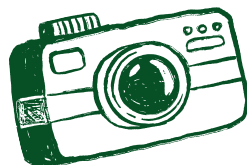
12/19: Half Day (Exams Hours 5 & 6)

**12/22-1/2: No School (Winter Holiday Break)**



**ORDER YOUR BEMIS YEARBOOK TODAY!**

Order online at: [jostensyearbooks.com](http://jostensyearbooks.com)



Make checks payable to: Bemis Jr. High

Price starting @ \$38.00 + tax

**School ID Code: 2526BEMISJR**

Click [HERE](#) to order online



## Upcoming Spirit Days – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

**Friday 11/7** ~~Pajama Day~~

**Friday 11/14** ~~Teachers dress like students/students dress like teachers~~

**Friday 11/21** ~~Anything but a backpack day~~

**Friday 12/5** Crazy Hair/Hat Day

**Friday 12/12** Black out – Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>!

**Monday 12/15 - Friday 12/20 Holiday Spirit Week**

**Monday 12/15:** Holiday Pajamas

**Tuesday 12/16:** Grinch Day

**Wednesday 12/17:** Holiday T-Shirt

**Thursday 12/18:** Holiday Headwear

**Friday 12/19:** Holiday/Ugly Sweater

All clothing during spirit days **MUST** be school appropriate and follow the school dress code including no pajamas or hats.

# SPARTAN SPORTS

*\*Students must be accompanied by their parent or guardian for both home and away athletic events.*

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## WINTER SPORTS

All students that intend to play any sport at Bemis during the 25/26 school year must complete Big Teams in its entirety and have an MHSAA Physical uploaded on Big Teams dated on or after 4/15/25 before trying out for a team.



Bemis Spirit Wear



1. pick item you love  
2. click on **Choose Design**  
3. optional add name/#

CHANGE TO BULK ORDER

Gildan Softstyle CVC Tee  
\$13.50

Choose Design\*

Choose Design\*

FULL FRONT LOGO - CHEER  
FULL FRONT LOGO - FOOTBALL  
FULL FRONT LOGO - BEMIS  
FULL FRONT LOGO - TRACK & FIELD  
FULL FRONT LOGO - BASKETBALL  
FULL FRONT LOGO - VOLLEYBALL

NAME (\$7.00)

NUMBER (\$7.00)



# Spartans

Blanket (\$20) &  
Back Pack (\$20)



(50 x 60 in)

limited supply  
available in the  
Pit Stop & Main Office





Many computer issues are solved by a simple update. Follow these steps and keep your computer healthy.

## HOW TO UPDATE WINDOWS



1



OPEN SETTINGS

2



GO TO  
'UPDATE & SECURITY'

3

CLICK

Check for updates

4



INSTALL UPDATES

5



ENABLE AUTO-UPDATE



A poster for the 'Pathway to Medicine' program. At the top left is a logo featuring a red heart with a white stethoscope around it. To the right of the logo, the title 'PATHWAY TO MEDICINE' is written in large, bold, white and teal letters. Below the title, a paragraph of text describes the program. Further down, the meeting location and dates are listed. At the bottom, there is a 'CONTACT US' section with an email address. The bottom of the poster features an illustration of three medical professionals: an older woman with glasses and a stethoscope, a man in a white lab coat and surgical mask, and a woman in a teal lab coat and surgical mask.

**PATHWAY  
TO MEDICINE**

Are you passionate about healthcare and curious about how the body works? Join Pathway to Medicine and explore exciting careers in the medical field while gaining knowledge in multiple topics! Expand your skills, meet professionals, and dive into the world of healthcare. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity!

MEETING LOCATION: ROOM 10

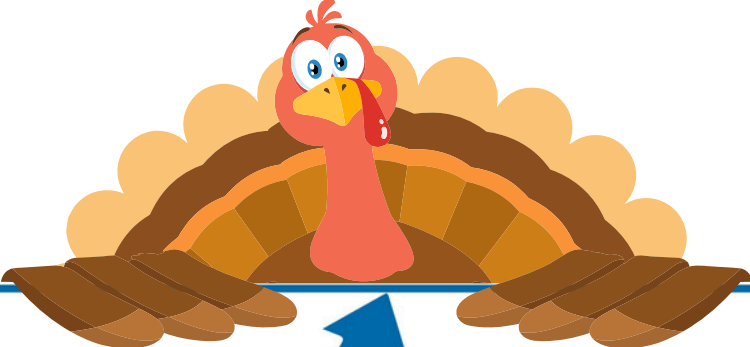
FIRST MEETING: October 7th, 2025 from 3pm-4pm.  
LAST DAY TO JOIN: October 21st, 2025 from 3pm-4pm.

**CONTACT US:** [medicalclub.antonio@gmail.com](mailto:medicalclub.antonio@gmail.com)

See meeting dates below (meetings are 3pm-4pm unless stated below):

- Tuesday, October 7th, 2025
- Tuesday, October 14th, 2025
- Tuesday, October 21st, 2025
- Wednesday, November 5th, 2025
- Tuesday, November 18th, 2025
- Tuesday, December 8th, 2025
- Tuesday, January 13th, 2026
- Tuesday, January 27th, 2026 (from 3pm-4:30pm)
- Tuesday, February 10th, 2026
- Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026 (from 3pm-4:30pm)
- Tuesday, March 17th, 2026
- Tuesday, April 7th, 2026 (from 3pm-4:30pm)
- Tuesday, April 21st, 2026 (from 3pm-4:30pm)
- Tuesday, May 12th, 2026
- Tuesday, May 26th, 2026 (from 3pm-4:30pm)


Save the Date



**PATHWAYS  
TO SUCCESS**  
PERSONALIZE YOUR JOURNEY FORWARD

**TUESDAY, DEC 9, 2025**  
FROM 6:00-8:00PM  
AT HENRY FORD II HIGH SCHOOL  
11911 CLINTON RIVER RD.  
STERLING HEIGHTS, MI 48313

An Event Open To All Families!  
Created to ensure families and students are aware of the opportunities, services and programs available to Utica Community Schools students. By beginning a plan early, parents can set their students on a path that best fits their needs and interests.



**UTICA  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOLS**

**Afterschool Enrichment**



Bemis Junior High School  
12500 19 Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48313  
(586) 797-2500  
www.UticaK12.org/Bemis

## Bemis Junior High School 2025-2026 Homework Club

### Parent and Student Permission form

My child: \_\_\_\_\_, grade \_\_\_\_\_, has my permission to participate in The Bemis Homework Club. I understand that it is my responsibility to provide transportation for my child. My child understands that it is his/her responsibility to arrive on time, bring all necessary materials to the Bemis Junior High School Media Center and be prepared to work. My child also understands that all Bemis Junior High School rules apply, and he/she will follow them or face removal from The Bemis Homework Club.

Students will sit quietly at a table and begin homework assignments. When in need of help with the assignment, students will raise their hand. At times the students can quietly work together on common assignments. All students must have a book to read quietly if they finish their work prior to the time of dismissal. Students must remain in the Homework Club location for the entire session.

Parent Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### STUDENT

*I understand that I am expected to bring all my supplies to The Bemis Homework Club and work in a quiet and respectful manner from 2:55 – 3:55.*

Student Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Bemis Junior High School Homework Club

### 2025-2026 Sessions\*

Homework Club Dates
Monday 10/27/25
Tuesday 10/28/25
Wednesday 10/29/25
Monday 11/3/25
Wednesday 11/5/25
Monday 11/10/25
Tuesday 11/11/25
Wednesday 11/12/25
Monday 11/17/25
Tuesday 11/18/25
Wednesday 11/19/25
Monday 11/24/25
Tuesday 11/25/25
Monday 12/1/25
Tuesday 12/2/25
Wednesday 12/3/25
Monday 12/8/25
Tuesday 12/9/25
Wednesday 12/10/25
Monday 12/15/25
Tuesday 12/16/25
Monday 1/5/26
Tuesday 1/6/26
Wednesday 1/7/26
Monday 1/12/26
Tuesday 1/13/26

Homework Club Dates
Tuesday 1/20/26
Wednesday 1/21/26
Monday 1/26/26
Tuesday 1/27/26
Wednesday 1/28/26
Monday 2/2/26
Tuesday 2/3/26
Wednesday 2/4/26
Monday 2/9/26
Tuesday 2/10/26
Wednesday 2/11/26
Monday 2/23/26
Tuesday 2/24/26
Wednesday 2/25/26
Monday 3/2/26
Tuesday 3/3/26
Wednesday 3/4/26
Monday 3/9/26
Tuesday 3/10/26
Wednesday 3/11/26
Monday 3/16/26
Tuesday 3/17/26
Wednesday 3/18/26
Monday 3/23/26
Tuesday 3/24/26
Wednesday 3/25/26

Homework Club Dates
Monday 4/6/26
Tuesday 4/7/26
Wednesday 4/8/26
Monday 4/13/26
Tuesday 4/14/26
Wednesday 4/15/26
Monday 4/20/26
Tuesday 4/21/26
Wednesday 4/22/26
Monday 4/27/26
Tuesday 4/28/26
Wednesday 4/29/26
Monday 5/4/26
Tuesday 5/5/26
Wednesday 5/6/26
Monday 5/11/26
Tuesday 5/12/26
Wednesday 5/13/26
Monday 5/18/26
Tuesday 5/19/26
Wednesday 5/20/26
Tuesday 5/26/26
Wednesday 5/27/26
Monday 6/1/26
Tuesday 6/2/26
Wednesday 6/3/26

\* Homework Club sessions may be cancelled due to unplanned reasons. All cancelled Homework Club sessions will be announced prior to dismissal that day.

**Your Support  
Helps Us Make  
Dreams Come True**

**Donate Today  
UCSFoundation.Org**



**Give Our Kids a Strong Foundation  
Now Through December 2**

- ✓ Made possible by alumni, parents, community and business donations
- ✓ Supporting our community for nearly 40 years!
- ✓ All funds go directly to UCS students and staff

**Chelsea Bemis  
Teacher Grants**



**More than \$30,000 annually  
in student scholarships**



**Sixth-Grade Career  
Focus Event**



**Together We Make an Impact**  
[www.ucsfoundation.org](http://www.ucsfoundation.org)



6:30 TH DEC 4<sup>TH</sup> • 6:30 TH DEC 5<sup>TH</sup> • 3:00 TH DEC 6<sup>TH</sup>

11911 Clinton River Road, Sterling Heights, 48313

HF2 Theatre presents...

**The HOLIDAY CHANNEL**

Christmas Movie Wonderthon!

By Don Zolidis

credit card fees apply\*

\$10: NOV 5-30    \$12: DEC 1-7  
\$15: AT THE DOOR

PLEASE DIRECT QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCE CASH/CHECK SALES OR WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE SEATING TO KIRSTIN.CAROLIN@UTICAK12.ORG.

The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon is produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc (www.playscripts.com)



**HENRY FORD II ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB**

NEXT MEETING DATE  
**November 10** 7PM ECC ROOM

SATURDAY 11/29  
SUNDAY 11/30

 **SAINT NICK'S WAREHOUSE** est. 1980 

**VOLUNTEER**

**TUESDAY 11/25**    **WEDNESDAY 11/26**    **FRIDAY 11/28**

**SATURDAY 11/29**    **SUNDAY 11/30** 

Our annual Henry Ford II High School Saint Nick's Warehouse Craft Show is just around the corner and it takes all of us to make it shine! This event is our largest fundraiser of the year, with every dollar directly supporting our student-athletes and sports teams. Volunteering is a fun, rewarding way to connect with fellow parents, students, and community members while helping our athletes thrive. We are asking that every athlete and parent sign up for one shift per sport played.

DOWNLOAD THE APP

 **FORD.BOOSTERHUB.COM** 



### **Walk-In Wednesdays:**

Join us for walk-in interviews every Wednesday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.!  
Auxiliary Services Facility: 6600 18 Mile Rd, Sterling Heights, MI 48314

🚌 Not able to join for walk-in hours? Call (586) 797-7113 or email  
Monique.Potts@Uticak12.org to schedule an interview outside this  
time frame!

**Click [HERE](#) to See Postings for all  
available UCS Jobs.**

# FORD II Youth Basketball Camp

Take your game to the next level! This camp is designed to help girls ages 5<sup>th</sup> grade to 8<sup>th</sup> grade improve their shooting mechanics through focused training on scoring. We will do ball handling, finishing moves, footwork, and offensive decision-making. Athletes will gain confidence, sharpen their skills, and learn techniques they can use right away in any game situations. This camp will be tailored to every player's ability level. From the beginner to the advanced player.

2025 MHSAA  
Quarterfinalist

\$65  
(INCLUDES T-SHIRT)

Time: 9am - 12:30pm

Location: Ford II High School

When: November 22nd

TO REGISTER SCAN THE QR CODE, VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE, OR BY PHONE WITH A VISA, MASTER CARD, DISCOVER OR AMERICAN EXPRESS, PLEASE CALL UCS, COMMUNITY EDUCATION

<https://ucsccommunityeducation.ce.eleyo.com/>

(586)797-6900




## UPCOMING Events

### WEEKLY CLEANUPS

LOCATIONS VARY

### RIVERSAFE/LAKESAFE PROGRAM

For links to weekly cleanups and more volunteer opportunities, go to [www.crw.org/events](http://www.crw.org/events)

The Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing and celebrating the Clinton River, its watershed and Lake St. Clair. They provide residents, schools, governments, businesses and other community groups with wide-ranging programs and events to ensure a healthy Clinton River Watershed for us all.

Participation in the watershed survey would also be greatly appreciated.

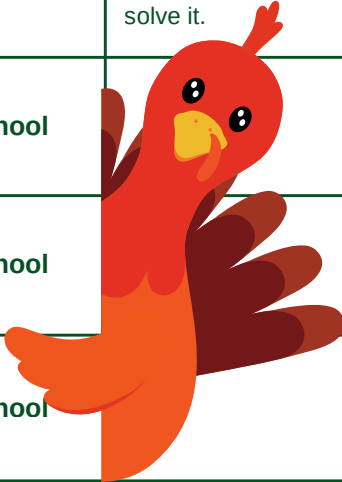


The [UCS Wellness podcast](#) is a resource created by Utica Community Schools, a K-12 school district located within Macomb County, Michigan. With a focus on physical, mental and social health, UCS Wellness serves as a health hub for students and their families, as well as the community as a whole.



# Turkey Time

- The first Turkey Trot dates back to the 1890s.
- Thanksgiving was originally celebrated in mid-October.
- Pumpkin pie isn't actually Thanksgiving's favorite pie.
- Female turkeys don't gobble.
- The tradition of football on Thanksgiving was started by college teams.
- Each year, about 46 million turkeys are cooked.
- The turkey's tryptophan *doesn't* actually make you tired.

Monday	Precise	stated in a clear way and with details. Because of the precise directions, we were able to find the park.
Tuesday	Analyze	to separate into parts for close study; examine and explain. If we analyze the problem, perhaps we can solve it.
Wednesday	No School	
Thursday	No School	
Friday	No School	



Check us out and like us on FB, IG & YT to stay up to date on happenings at Bemis Junior High School. Click the pic to be taken to our pages.



Keep up to date with all Bemis events on our website **CALENDAR**. Club meetings, sporting events, spirit days, days off, conferences... As soon as information is available it is updated on the website calendar.



The Lost and Found is located in the cafeteria near the PitStop. Please take a moment to look for your lost items.



2025-2026 District Calendar	
August 25	Elementary Building "Meet the Teacher" 5:00-6:30 p.m.
August 26	First Day of School All K-12 Students - Elementary Student Half Day
August 29	No School for K-12 Students
September 1	No School for K-12 Students - Labor Day
September 17	No School for K-12 Students - Teacher Full Day DPPD
October 2	Secondary Student Half Day - Parent Teacher Conferences
October 15	Elementary Student Half Day - Parent Teacher Conferences
October 22	No School for K-12 Students - Teacher Full Day DPPD
October 31	Elementary Half Day - End of Marking Period
November 4	No School for K-12 Students - Election Day
November 26-28	No School for K-12 Students - Thanksgiving Break
December 17	Secondary Student Half Day - Exams
December 18	Secondary Student Half Day - Exams
December 19	All Students K-12 Half Day - End of Marking Period
December 22 - January 2, 2026	No School for K-12 Students - Winter Holiday Break
January 14	No School Teacher Full Day DPPD Day
January 19	No School for K-12 Students - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 16-20	No School for K-12 Students - Mid-Winter Break
March 20	Elementary Student Half Day - End of Marking Period
March 27	Elementary Student Half Day
March 30 - April 3	No School for K-12 Students - Spring Break
May 22-25	No School for K-12 Students - Memorial Day
June 8	Secondary Student Half Day - Exams
June 9	All Students K-12 Half Day
June 10	All Students K-12 Half Day - Last Day of School
<i>*Additional dates for the calendar will be released following formal approval of a negotiated agreement between the Utica Education Association and Utica Community Schools.*</i>	

## *How can I find out what's going on?*



- Emails/Texts from Mr. Yaw (the principal)
- The weekly newsletter (B3 you're reading it now)
- The website (our website & the district website)
- Facebook Page
- Instagram
- Your student (we do both morning & afternoon announcements)



BELL SCHEDULE

*Doors open 7:30am*  
*Breakfast 7:30 - 7:45am*  
*Students to lockers 7:45 - 7:55am*

- 1st Hour 7:55am – 8:53am
- 2nd Hour 8:59am – 9:55am
- 3rd Hour 10:01am – 10:57am
- 4th Hour 11:03am – 12:42pm
- 5th Hour 12:48pm – 1:44pm
- 6th Hour 1:50pm – 2:46pm

*End of the day buses depart 7 minutes after the dismissal bell.*

LUNCHES

Bemis runs 3 lunches a day, all which occur during 4th hour. This means that you'll go to lunch with your 4th hour teacher. So, if your 4th hour teacher has A lunch, you'll go to lunch first and then go to class. If your teacher has B lunch, your lunch will split up class. So, you'll go to class first, then eat, and then go back to class. If your teacher has C lunch, you'll go to all of your 4th hour first, and then go to lunch.

BEMIS LUNCH SCHEDULE

A Lunch

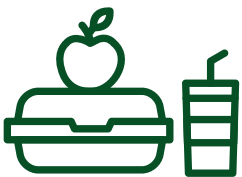
Lunch from 11:03am – 11:34am  
Class from 11:40am – 12:42pm

B Lunch

Class from 11:03am – 11:34am  
Lunch from 11:40am – 12:05pm  
Class from 12:11pm – 12:42pm



**\*\*Students are not able have Fast Food  
dropped off for lunch. It will need to be  
eaten in the office or in the car with  
parent/guardian.**



C Lunch

Class from 11:03am – 12:05pm  
Lunch from 12:11pm – 12:42pm



## **ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES**

**Please call the Attendance Line  
and NOT the Main Office number.**

**Please call 586-797-2599 for:**

**Early Dismissals Late Arrival All Day Absences**

**Clearly state and spell your child's first & last name when leaving a message.**

**Please note that it MUST be a parent/guardian that calls in and not a student or sibling.**

### **EARLY DISMISSALS**

**When an Early Dismissal is necessary please call the attendance line  
before the start of the school day.**

**Students who become ill at school and require an early dismissal  
must report to the Main Office before calling home.**

### **ATTENDANCE IN POWERSCHOOL**

**Attendance is recorded in PowerSchool late in the school day. Our goal is to have  
call-ins recorded before the office closes for the day. However, if you have any  
questions regarding your students attendance, please wait 24 hours to ensure that all  
records are complete and up to date.**

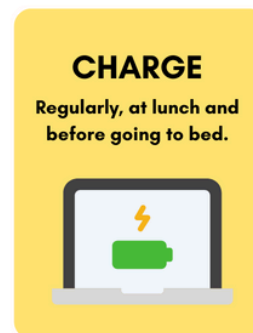
**PowerSchool is now generating automated phone calls to parents informing them  
of any absences for their students on a daily basis. Please use your Parent Portal to  
view your student's attendance. If you have any concerns, email the individual  
teacher directly through the staff tab of the school's web site:**

**<http://bemis.uticak12.org> or through the PowerSchool access.**

**If a correction is warranted, the teacher will request one.**

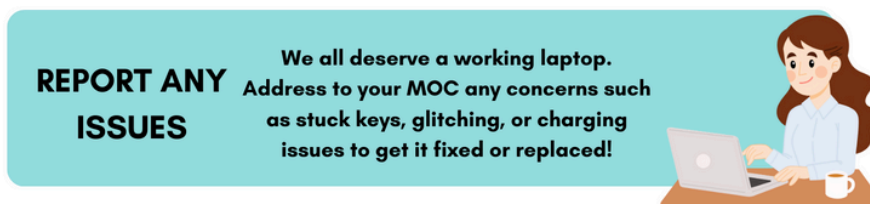
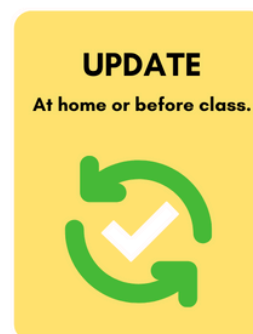


If your charger has  
white label...  
that's for your  
name!



## LAPTOP CARE

IMPORANT ROUTINES TO TAKE BETTER CARE  
OF YOUR SCHOOL LAPTOP.



### ITEMS NOT COVERED BY THIS OPTIONAL PLAN:

#### ACCESSORIES ARE NOT COVERED BY INSURANCE

- Accessories include, but are not limited to, a USB power adapter, charging cable and/or protective iPad case.
- Replacement of lost or damaged accessories is the responsibility of the student. Utica Community Schools recommends Original Equipment Manufacturer replacements.

#### DAMAGE DUE TO REMOVAL OF THE PROTECTIVE CASE IS NOT COVERED BY INSURANCE

- If the assigned laptop is provided with a protective case, students must NEVER remove the case.
- Any damage that occurs due to the removal of an iPad case or a laptop protective case is considered INTENTIONAL DAMAGE and is not covered by insurance.

#### LOST OR STOLEN DEVICE

- Lost devices are NOT COVERED under this optional insurance policy.
- In the case of theft of an iPad or laptop, a copy of a completed police report MUST BE RETURNED to Utica Community Schools. A stolen device IS COVERED by the purchased insurance ONLY IF a police report is filed and a copy provided to the district.

You are to read Student Responsible Use agreement that appears when you log on to the laptop.

THIS LAPTOP DEPLOYED TO YOU IS FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY  
DO NOT USE IT FOR PERSONAL COMMUNICATION OR PERSONAL USE  
DO NOT LET ANYONE ELSE USE OR LOG ON TO THIS LAPTOP!  
DO NOT USE TEAMS OR ANY APP TO CHAT OR CALL ANY FAMILY MEMBERS OR  
OTHER STUDENTS  
IF YOU ARE NOT USING IT FOR SCHOOL WORK, THEN YOU ARE NOT USING IT AT ALL.

DO NOT USE SCHOOLOGY OR EMAIL TO SEND PERSONAL MESSAGES -THESE TOOLS  
ARE FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY  
DO NOT ADD ANY APPS, VPN'S, GAMES, EXTENSIONS, ETC.  
DO NOT ACCESS YOUR PERSONAL SOCIAL MEDIA ON THIS LAPTOP  
DO NOT ADD ANY APP OR TOOL UNLESS APPROVED BY ONE OF YOUR TEACHERS  
This means no games, no ZOOM, no Discord, no private chat accounts, ETC.  
DO NOT USE ANY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE APP OR ACCESS ANY SITE TO ACCESS AI  
CHAT GPT, ELSA, GOOGLE ASSISTANT, AMAZON ALEXA, LENSEA, ASK AI, YOU CHAT,  
ETC.  
ARE NOT USED FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES AND SHOULD NOT BE ACCESSED

PLEASE REMOVE ALL PROFILE PICTURES  
You have 6 teachers and they do not want to see anime, celebrities, characters,  
cars, pets, objects, etc.  
You do not need a profile picture but if you do want one, it MUST be of your face  
only.

DO NOT CHANGE ANY SETTINGS -VERY IMPORTANT!  
The laptop is set up accordingly for you to use for schoolwork only.  
Charge your laptop EVERY night so it is ready for the next day.  
IF YOU FORGET TO CHARGE IT OVER NIGHT, BRING YOUR CHARGER WITH YOU.  
DO NOT LOAN OUT YOUR CHARGER, IF IT GOES MISSING, YOU HAVE TO PAY \$38 TO  
REPLACE IT.

You only receive one at no cost as that has to be returned when you leave Bemis.

IMPORTANT IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES AT ANY TIME WITH THE LAPTOP OR YOUR  
CHARGER,  
PLEASE ASK TO SEE MRS. BROWN AS SOON AS YOU NOTICE AN PROBLEM  
Her office is in the Media Center (8:00-2:30 daily).  
You can reach her by email at [nicole.brown@uticak12.org](mailto:nicole.brown@uticak12.org) Or send a message in  
Schoolology.



# Parental Guide to OK2SAY



## WHAT IS OK2SAY?

OK2SAY is a state-wide program that allows students, parents or guardians, and other community members to report confidential tips on criminal activities or potential harm directed at students, school employees, or schools. The purpose of OK2SAY is to stop harmful behavior before it occurs.

## EASY TIP SUBMISSION

Tips can be submitted 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

A key feature of the OK2SAY tipline is that the identity of the tipster must be kept confidential by law. The confidentiality of OK2SAY allows students to push back on any pressure they may feel about being the one to speak up about a concerning or threatening behavior.

## How do I talk to my child about OK2SAY?

Please remind your child to immediately talk to a trusted adult or contact OK2SAY if they are worried about their safety or the well-being of another. Immediate action on a tipster's part can help prevent potential harm or minimize the impact of a dangerous situation.

Assure your child that if they submit a tip to OK2SAY, their identity is protected by law. They do not have to worry about retaliation or rejection from their peers. We want students to be advocates for themselves, their peers, and their classmates by speaking up when they know about a potentially dangerous situation.

Remind your child that OK2SAY encourages reporting even if they don't have all the details. Regardless of how small or insignificant they may seem; all tips are valuable in creating a safe environment for everyone. OK2SAY would rather get tips that are "no big deal" or a misunderstanding than miss a tip that could have prevented a lot of pain but was never submitted due to student's hesitation.

Emphasize the importance of using the OK2SAY program responsibly. Filing a false tip is not only dishonest but can divert resources and attention away from genuine concerns. *Students who maliciously file false tips may face serious consequences.*

Remember, open and ongoing conversations with your child about their safety and well-being are essential for building trust and ensuring they understand the importance of reporting concerns.



## HELPFUL INFORMATION:

- Adults can submit an OK2SAY tip if they have concerns about their own child or another student. Like all OK2SAY reports, the tipster's identity will remain confidential.
- The tipster will not be updated on the outcome of their report. Any information contained in an Outcome Report will be kept confidential, as required by law.
- OK2SAY is unable to enforce a specific outcome, even if an individual is unsatisfied with the resolution of a previously reported situation to their school. They should contact the appropriate person within their school or district to address these concerns.
- OK2SAY acts as an intermediary and forwards tip information to the school and law enforcement. Any relay of safety information to parents would come from the school or law enforcement, not OK2SAY.
- Any OK2SAY reports will not be included in a student's academic record.
- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) mandates that schools protect student records. Disciplinary information is very sensitive and private and includes behavior problems, reprimands, and misconduct occurrences. As a result, schools are required to keep these details private and are not allowed to share them with outside parties without the parent's express permission.

## What if a report is made about my child?

If an OK2SAY tip is made about your child, it is important to approach the situation with understanding and support. Most often the individual who submitted the tip has noticed a concerning behavior and has a genuine interest to help. Instead of viewing it as a negative thing, see it as an opportunity to address any difficulties your child may be facing.

It is important to communicate openly with your child. Let them know about the report and reassure them that it is not a punishment, but rather a sign that someone cares about their well-being. Encourage them to talk about what may be going on and offer a safe space for them to share their thoughts and feelings.

Remember, the goal is to ensure the well-being and safety of your child. By embracing the report as an opportunity to provide additional assistance and support, you can help your child navigate any challenges they may be facing and promote their overall well-being.



## What are the top issues reported to OK2SAY?

OK2SAY tracks tips by categories. The top ten tips include:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Suicide Threats                                       | 6. Cyberbullying                              |
| 2. Bullying  | 7. Threats                                    |
| 3. Drugs   | 8. Sexual Assault / Misconduct / Exploitation |
| 4. Other (e.g., anxiety, stress, depression, harassment) | 9. Self-Harm                                  |
| 5. Planned School Attack                                 | 10. Child Abuse                               |

Tip statistics can be found at [www.ok2say.com](http://www.ok2say.com).



- 1.) An individual observes or is made aware of a safety concern and submits a tip to OK2SAY.
- 2.) A highly trained OK2SAY technician promptly receives and analyzes the tip.
- 3.) The technician may establish an open dialogue with the tipster to gather all crucial information.
- 4.) Once all relevant details are obtained, OK2SAY promptly forwards the tip to the most suitable responding agency such as a school or law enforcement.
- 5.) The responding agency investigates the tip and provides any needed interventions.
- 6.) After completed the investigation, an Outcome Report is sent to OK2SAY by the responding agency.



To learn more about OK2SAY, go to [www.ok2say.com](http://www.ok2say.com).

**The UCS Legacy of Learning**  
**Pursue Excellence**  
**Live Your Passion**  
**Be Where You Belong**



## Building Configurations

### Questions & Answers

#### What is being considered?

Currently, Utica Community Schools grade configurations are elementary schools that include early childhood, kindergarten and young fives through 6th grade, junior high schools 7th through 9th grade, and 10th through 12th grade being taught at our high schools. The only exception is Henry Ford II High School covering 9th through 12th grade and Bemis Junior High School teaching 7th and 8th grade.

The district is initiating a process that will consider elementary schools with early childhood, kindergarten and young fives through 5th grade, middle schools with 6th through 8th grade, and high schools 9th through 12th grade.

#### Why is a change being considered?

The current grade configurations were originally created based on the district's capacity to meet its enrollment needs. With changes to its enrollment, Utica Community Schools now has the overall capacity to consider a change.

There are a number of compelling reasons why this is the right time to consider changing grade configurations:

- UCS and Michigan curriculum and assessment standards are organized in a K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 format. This change would better align our schools to successfully meet those expectations.
- We can increase the rigor and course offerings to 6th and 9th grade students and their access to co-curricular activities by changing grade configurations.
- We would have an opportunity to reimagine how a middle school experience can support the unique needs of students in 6th through 8th grade and support a successful transition to high school in the 9th grade.
- The timing is consistent with the current work of our Enrollment Distribution Advisory Committee (EDAC), which is engaged in long-range planning and review of our attendance areas.

## Building Configurations Q & A

#### What is the process being used to consider this change?

The district will be supported by Hanover Research, which also served as a resource for the development of the UCS Empowered Strategic Plan. The process will include consideration of best practices and research, current UCS building utilization, the academic and mental health needs of students, and timeline.

#### How would a change impact capacity and class sizes?

The district's Enrollment Distribution Advisory Committee (EDAC) is currently involved in a districtwide review of attendance areas. Through this process, the capacity levels of schools would be identified for all levels for a possible grade configuration change. The process will include recent and projected student population declines and their impact on future enrollment at each school.

For our high schools, the additional grade would mean a return to the enrollment that they had about 15 years ago prior to the declines in student enrollment. At the junior high level, all schools would maintain a similar enrollment with the exception of Bemis Junior High which would inherit a third grade level, a change that UCS would need to investigate further. Class sizes would not change; the adjustment would be to the amount of classes being run at any one time in a building.

#### What is the timeline for implementation?

The timeline will be determined as this process moves forward. Given the amount of planning that would be required for a possible change, implementation would not occur **at least** until the 2027-28 school year. It is possible to go beyond that date based on the level of planning involved for a successful transition.

#### How will the mental health needs of students be considered?

Utica Community Schools is committed to meeting the needs of the whole child. Through the Culture of Caring in our UCS Empowered Strategic Plan, resources are made available to support the safety and security, social, emotional and nutritional needs of students. A consideration of building changes will prioritize the resources, research and structures that would support a successful transition for students.

This includes proactive outreach to families, student engagement opportunities, and a continued focus on creating school environments that address unique developmental and emotional needs.

#### Where can I get more information?

Updates will be posted regularly at this site:  
[www.uticak12.org/buildingforthefuture](http://www.uticak12.org/buildingforthefuture).



Have questions or concerns, just ask UCS!  
<https://bit.ly/3W6LbPP>



**JUST ASK US**

**QUESTION**

I have been reading about layoffs in other communities as a result of the loss of COVID Relief funds. Will Utica Community Schools be laying off any employees this spring?

**ANSWER** →

**UCS** **UTICA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**



**JUST ASK US**

**ANSWER**

No. The COVID relief funds were used to add a number of needed support positions in our district, including increasing the number of social worker positions in UCS. Through strategic financial management, and despite the reduction of one-time only COVID funding, the district will retain all positions and there are no layoffs for any employee group for the 2024-25 school year.

**UCS** **UTICA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

## Download the UCS App



UCS is pleased to introduce its new mobile App. Simply download it from the App Store <https://apple.co/3OQx6St> or Google Play <https://bit.ly/3qiygNv> to get all the latest updates from UCS and your favorite school!

## **Dress Code**

Bemis follows the dress code located in the [Parent and Student Handbook](#). This dress code does differ from the elementary school dress code. Student conduct is affected by student dress. Bemis strives to maintain a comfortable learning environment and our staff appreciates parental support in guiding appropriated dress for school. Students not conforming to the district code will have to call home for a change of clothing or wear a clean t-shirt and/or sweatpants provided by the school for the day.

## **Junior High School Parent and Student Handbook**

The Utica Community Schools Parent-Student Handbook serves as quick references for families seeking answers to school policies, procedures and district activities. UCS Handbooks are published for elementary, junior high and senior high schools. Each handbook is created with student learning and parent partnership in mind. You are encouraged to download a copy and find the answers you seek at your leisure. Save a copy for future reference or go back and visit again. Remember: Handbooks are updated each year. Please click here to find the [2024-2025 Handbook](#).

## **PowerSchool**

Parents and students can view their student's schedules, attendance and grades. [Click here](#) to access the PowerSchool Portal. Parents with multiple UCS students can now create an account to access all of their data with a single login. Parents will need the access ID and access password for each student. [Click here](#) for helpful instructional guides. Access IDs and passwords follow students from year to year. Please contact the main office with any questions.

## **Bemis Attendance Line**

Parents are reminded to call the school attendance line, **586-797-2599**, to report their child's absence or tardiness. In order to be excused, all late/tardy students must be called in by a parent. A doctor's note must be provided to excuse late/tardy arrivals. Bemis Attendance line is available 24 hours a day. All late arrival/tardy students must report to the Main Office upon arrival to receive a late pass. If your child is absent and we have not received notification, we will call the parents.

## **Early Dismissal**

Students who need to be excused during the school day should bring a signed note from their parents to the Main Office before school begins that morning. The note should include the date, time, and reason for dismissal as well as who will be picking the child up. By doing this, we keep classroom disruptions to a minimum as well as have your child waiting for you in the Main Office when you arrive. **PLEASE NOTE: Anyone signing a student out, must show identification and that person must also be on the students' contact list.** Students will not be released to anyone that is not listed on the contact list.

## **Homework Requests**

Homework requests are not accepted until the third consecutive day of absence. You may request your child's homework on that third day by emailing your child's teacher. You can find a list of email addresses by clicking [here](#).

## **Use of Electronic Communication Devices is Prohibited**

The personal use of cell phones or other electronic communications devices (ECD) by students is prohibited at any time while in school or in a district vehicle. Students may carry ECDs during the school day, but they cannot be displayed or used without permission from a teacher or administrator for educational purposes. Personal use of the device shall be limited to the time before and after the school day and only when students are outside the building. ECDs shall not be used during instructional time, lunch, passing time between classes or on any school bus without permission of a school official. The use of an ECD's picture-taking or internet connection capability is not permitted without permission of a teacher or administrator. Utica Community Schools will not be responsible for the theft, loss or damage of any ECD. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against students who violate the policy regulating ECDs.

**If a student's ECD rings/vibrates during the school day, the ECD will be confiscated and must be picked up in the main office by the student's parent.** Should this occur a second time, the student will receive a one-day suspension. If a student uses an ECD anytime inside the school, the ECD will be confiscated and the student will receive a one-day suspension.

All school meal menus are digitally accessible on all devices allowing for personalized viewing options. Users can select to view nutritional and allergen information, as well as customize print and language settings. Menus can be viewed at <https://uticak12.nutrislice.com>

### **Concussion Awareness**

As part of a new state law, all UCS and Michigan parents will receive information about concussions, their symptoms and what to do if you suspect a concussion. All athletes are required to have this form completed and on file in the Main Office prior to participating on any sports teams. Click [HERE](#) for the concussion form.

### **Body Spray**

Bemis Junior High has several students and staff members who have allergic reactions to strong perfumes, after-shave and men's cologne. The reactions range from mild to severe headaches that can result in nausea and being sent home from school. In addition, strong perfume smells can trigger asthma attacks. Junior high is filled with a variety of smells ranging from strawberries to old spice. When those smells dominate the hallways, problems do occur. We are asking students to put on your favorite fragrance once in the morning before school. Please do not bring in bottles and sprays of cologne, after-shave and perfume to re-apply throughout the day.

### **Recycle for Charity at Bemis**

Look for the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Donation Bin, located in the receiving driveway on the east side of Bemis Junior High. All items will go to the Disabled American Veterans, a non-profit organization located in Westland. Tax receipts can be found in the office. Donate your gently used clothes, shoes, toys, and small house appliances. [DAVThriftMichigan.com](http://DAVThriftMichigan.com)

### **Kroger Plus card**

Did you know that you can not only earn points for yourself, but you can also earn points for our school? How? It is easy! Just shop at Kroger and link your Plus Card to Bemis Jr.High. Click on link for more information [Kroger Community Rewards](#)

