



UTICA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FOCUS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Fall 2024

A PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF UTICA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



From the Superintendent...
Robert S. Monroe
How UCS Legacy Inspires Change

Utica Community Schools is spending its year celebrating our legacy of excellence and the people who helped lay the foundation for our current successes.

But even as we celebrate our legacy, it is important that we embrace another theme – how we must honor this legacy by reimagining our schools to meet the changing needs of our students.

As the district builds for the future, we recognize that if we don't change, we will fail to respect our history and the sacrifices others made to make our achievements up until now possible. We would prevent the innovation and growth that has left a legacy of learning and student achievement. A history of innovation has led to a tradition of excellence.

The roadmap for the future of our school district is our UCS Empowered Strategic Plan. This document will guide the improvements we will make through the cultures of empowerment, caring and transformation.

Over the past years, we have initiated significant changes to our programs, facilities and mental health services. We have looked at enrollment patterns and building usage to understand how we can better support neighborhood schools.

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Utica Community Schools is proud to announce the 13 individuals who will be honored with the inaugural Legacy of Excellence Award.

"Legacy of Excellence honors the champions of education who led by example for our students and staff to positively transform their future and the world," Superintendent Robert S. Monroe said.



- The inaugural group of honorees are:**
- Donald Bemis** – Utica Community Schools and Michigan Superintendent
 - Sharon Coil** – Elementary Principal
 - Lillian Demas** – Secondary Principal
 - Steven Domke** – High School Advanced Placement (AP) Social Studies Teacher and Coach for Quiz Bowl and Citizen Bee
 - Cass Franks** – Administrative Assistant for School-Community Relations
 - Bill Harris** – Junior High School Head Custodian
 - Carol Klenow, Ed.D.** – Board of Education President
 - Gene L. Klida** – Board of Education President
 - Ray Lope** – Founding Member of the UCS Foundation for Educational Excellence
 - Susan Meyer** – Director of Secondary Education
 - Jacqueline K. Noonan** – Secondary French and Social Studies Teacher and Mayor of the City of Utica
 - Nancy Searing** – Assistant Director of Secondary Education
 - Robert Van Camp** – Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
- This inaugural group will be further celebrated through a "Wall of Fame" installation at the Administrative Services Center. UCS will seek nominations for the Legacy of Excellence award every two years.

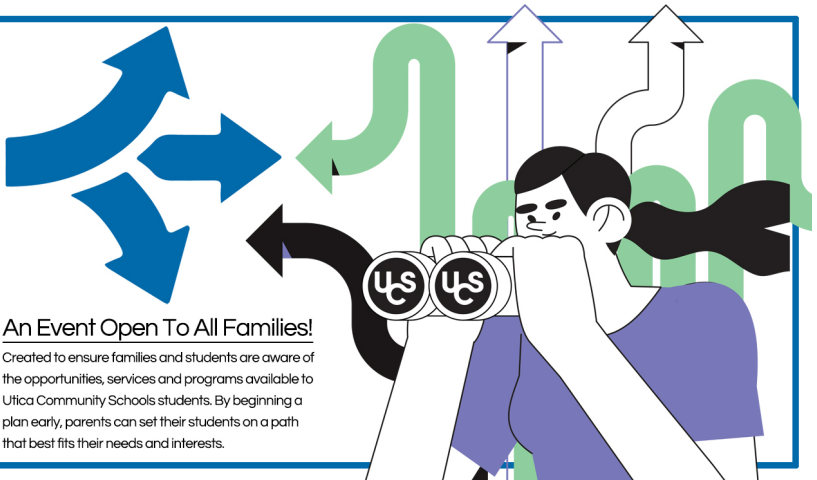
uticaK12.org/pathways

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

PERSONALIZE YOUR JOURNEY FORWARD

THURSDAY, DEC 5, 2024
FROM 6:00-8:30PM
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.



Bond issue projects increase safety, transform future

The largest and most transformational set of building projects in UCS history is officially under way!

The projects were set into motion with voter approval of a \$550 million bond issue by a nearly 70 percent majority on May 2, 2023.

The first phase of the bond issue – \$130 million – began this summer with improvements at sites throughout the district.

Safety remains the priority for this initial work, with projects that included walls and doors at facilities which formerly had “open concept” designs, several parking lots, and replacement of doors and hardware as needed.

The projects also included the reconstruction of DeKeyser Elementary as a first step towards reimagining how the school



Rendering of DeKeyser Elementary classroom.

facility will inspire remarkable achievement for our students.

While the work is being completed through this school year, DeKeyser Elementary has been relocated to Rose Kidd, a former elementary in Sterling Heights that was closed in 2010.

Work will begin this year on a series of athletic facility improvements. The improvements, which include significant upgrades to fields and stadiums, will be scheduled in stages over the next several years.

During the school year, UCS will share information on the second phase of the building program.

For more information on the bond issue, visit:

www.uticak12.org/safetyandsuccess.



Formerly referred to as an “Open Concept” school, walls were installed at Schuchard Elementary to create an additional layer of safety for students and staff.

A strong foundation for our students

Every year, the UCS Foundation for Educational Excellence supports Utica Community Schools by awarding thousands in scholarships for graduating seniors, provide teachers and staff with resources to support innovative learning, and give 6th grade students a real-life experience to remember at the annual Career Focus Luncheon.

Donations from UCS alumni, parents, community members, and businesses are what make these incredible opportunities possible.

The work of the UCS Foundation directly benefits Utica Community Schools students and staff. If you are interested in making a contribution, please visit www.ucsfoundation.org.

How the UCS Foundation supports Utica Community Schools:



Superintendent's Scholarships

Scholarships awarded annually to Utica Community Schools graduating seniors



Chelsea Bemis Teacher Grants

Grants are awarded annually to UCS educators to support school and classroom initiatives



Career Focus Luncheon

Business and community members help introduce 6th graders to a variety of career options

Together We Make an Impact
www.ucsfoundation.org



UHS grad earns entry into 2024 Paris Olympics

UHS track standout is now U.S. Olympic Standout

Former Utica High School track athlete, Freddie Crittenden III, finished sixth in the 110-meter hurdles at the 2024 Paris Olympics, reaching the final in his Olympic debut.

Crittenden crossed the line in 13.32 seconds in the final.

Crittenden III was the 2013 Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 1 state champion at Utica High School.



Freddie Crittenden III, pictured here at a UHS track meet, graduated in 1013.

UCS high schools recognized among nation's best

All UCS high schools have once again been named among the best in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

Eisenhower, Henry Ford II, Stevenson and Utica high schools have placed among the top 11 percent of 33,300 public high schools, according to the annual ranking.

Six factors determine the schools' ranking based on their performance on state assessments and how well they prepare students for college.

Points of Pride

UCS team is Michigan Quiz Bowl Champion



The Gene L. Klida Utica Academy for International Studies (GLK-UAIS) quiz bowl team was named Michigan champions and two students received all-state honors at a statewide competition.

The team earned the Class B state title with Class of 2024 graduate, Brendan Pawlicki, and junior, Benjamin Edmunds, named all-state at the Michigan championship, held at Michigan State University.

Henry Ford II student artist honored nationally for photography



A 2024 Henry Ford II graduate has been honored nationally for photography as being among the top eight percent of the entries in this year's Scholastic Arts and Writing competition.

Jaden Rosenberg earned a silver medal for his work "Fenced," which also earned a top award at a regional competition.

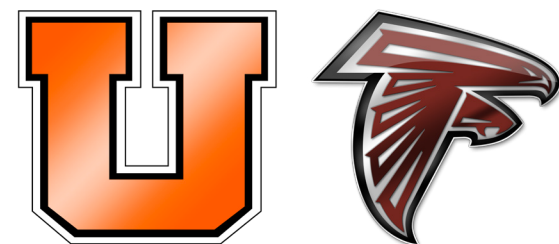
FCCLA at Eisenhower named "Outstanding Chapter" at state conference



This spring, Eisenhower High School's FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) chapter attended the State Leadership Conference in Dearborn. The Career and Technical Education (CTE) organization focuses on family and consumer science education, early childhood education and teacher cadet programs in Michigan.

During the two-day event, students met and competed with other Michigan FCCLA students and benefited from career development workshops. Eisenhower High School was recognized with the "Outstanding Chapter" award and the "Gimme Five" membership award, recognizing the chapter for growing their membership by at least five members.

Two UCS schools earn top international business honors



Two Utica Community Schools marketing programs earned top honors at DECA's annual International Career Development Conference.

Utica High School's team earned second place in the School Based Enterprise Retail competition and placed three students among the top 20 finalists for their innovation plan.

UHS Class of 2024 graduates earning second place internationally were Kendall Bassy and Blake Larsen. This is the second straight year a UHS team has earned second place internationally.

Sarah Fromm, Angelina Williams and Hadley Briske, UHS Class of 2024 graduates, placed among the top 20 internationally for the category "Innovation Plan."

The Henry Ford II team of Camila Rios, Lauren Taylor, and Emily Yousif placed among the top 20 finalists for Financial Literacy.

For more UCS Points of Pride, visit www.uticak12.org/headlines.

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How UCS Legacy Inspires Change

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These initiatives will continue as we empower our students for their future.

The importance of this path is reflected again and again in our history, where leaders and community members came together in a moment of time to foster this culture of excellence.

For future students, that moment in time is now. Today, we have an opportunity to come together and foster the legacy of excellence that will serve our next generation of UCS students.



Building on our Legacy of Excellence



Building Relationships

"UCS has always been a school community where people help each other and lift each other up."

Ava Spear
Class of 2024



Empowering Students

"Dual enrollment helped give me the opportunity to earn credits toward my major while still in high school, as well as being a fantastic early college experience. It helped give me a head start at college that many other students didn't have."

Ethan Gastmeier
Class of 2022



Multiple Pathways to Success

"Having UCS opportunities such as an IB school or marching band have always helped me find where I want to go next."

Niya Reeves
Class of 2024



Changing The Future

"UCS has opportunities for every student. I would not be where I am now without this school district."

Delani Bruno
Class of 2024



Inspiring Remarkable Achievement

"I have really been inspired from courses I have taken and the projects we have built. I would say the course rigor here has definitely propelled me into majoring in what I want to do."

Melanija Ilijevski
Class of 2024

Translation Assistance

Persons seeking or needing district-related language assistance, please contact translations@uticak12.org, or:
• For Albanian: (586) 797-6946
• For Arabic: (586) 797-6906
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Personat që kanë nevojë ose kërkojnë ndihmë gjuhësore (përkthim ose interpretim të çështjeve në lidhje me Qarkun shkollor), mund të kontaktojnë:
Për gjuhën Shqipe:
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Las personas que buscan o necesitan asistencia con el idioma inglés para asuntos relacionados a las escuelas de nuestro distrito escolar, por favor comuníquese con:
Para español:
(586) 797-6986
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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 Utica Community Schools Human Resources at 11303 Greendale, Sterling Heights, MI 48312 or call (586) 797-1000.



**UTICA
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**

WWW.UTICAK12.ORG

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Utica Community Schools on:



WWW.UTICAK12.ORG/SOCIAL

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**FOCUS for the
Community**

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