



UTICA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

FOCUS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Winter 2025

A PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF UTICA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



From the Superintendent...

Robert S. Monroe
Our focus on remarkable achievement

The past few years have represented a period of change for our school district.

By working collaboratively, we have achieved significant milestones that have put our schools on a path that continues our legacy of excellence:

- A new strategic plan with updated vision and mission which focuses on creating cultures of caring, transformation and empowerment
- The most transformative bond issue in the history of Utica Community Schools
- The first steps to evaluate attendance areas to create stronger neighborhood ties and give more students access to updated facilities
- The most extensive growth to our curriculum and programs over the past 20 years

For Utica Community Schools, these continuous advancements are a natural part of our tradition of excellence.

As the district builds for the future, we recognize that without change, we would not respect our history by preventing innovation and growth.

Across the country, Utica Community Schools students are making a difference because of our collaborative work to build achievement and student success.

Future facility vision supports growth and achievement



Rendering of DeKeyser Elementary, scheduled to open fall of 2025.

Utica Community Schools has begun the transformation of elementary buildings to better support growth and achievement.

The reconstruction of elementary schools, beginning with DeKeyser Elementary this school year, follows our UCS Empowered Strategic Plan and creates a long-range vision to:

- » Create additional layers of safety and security
- » Support achievement through an environment that fosters engaged learning

- » Provide teachers with the flexibility and technology for large and small group instruction
- » Offer a modern look that will foster community pride and enhance the desirability and quality of life in neighborhoods

Positive changes for UCS facilities encourage innovation and growth. The safe and welcoming schools taking shape in UCS will better prepare students to be competitive and positioned for success in college and career.

EDUCATION IS LIMITLESS



Limitless Potential recognizes success for all students

Utica Community Schools is proud to begin a journey that will celebrate special education in Utica Community Schools.

Our district views special needs students as having limitless potential. Inspired by our students, the Limitless Potential program will celebrate the team behind our special services program and how they make a difference in our community.

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Attendance area study focuses on neighborhood schools, greater student access to updated facilities

The 2023 bond issue provides an opportunity for UCS to begin a transformation of its school facilities.

As reconstruction and replacement plans move forward, it also provides an opportunity to evaluate long-standing

issues with attendance areas and foster a stronger sense of community by developing and encouraging neighborhood schools.

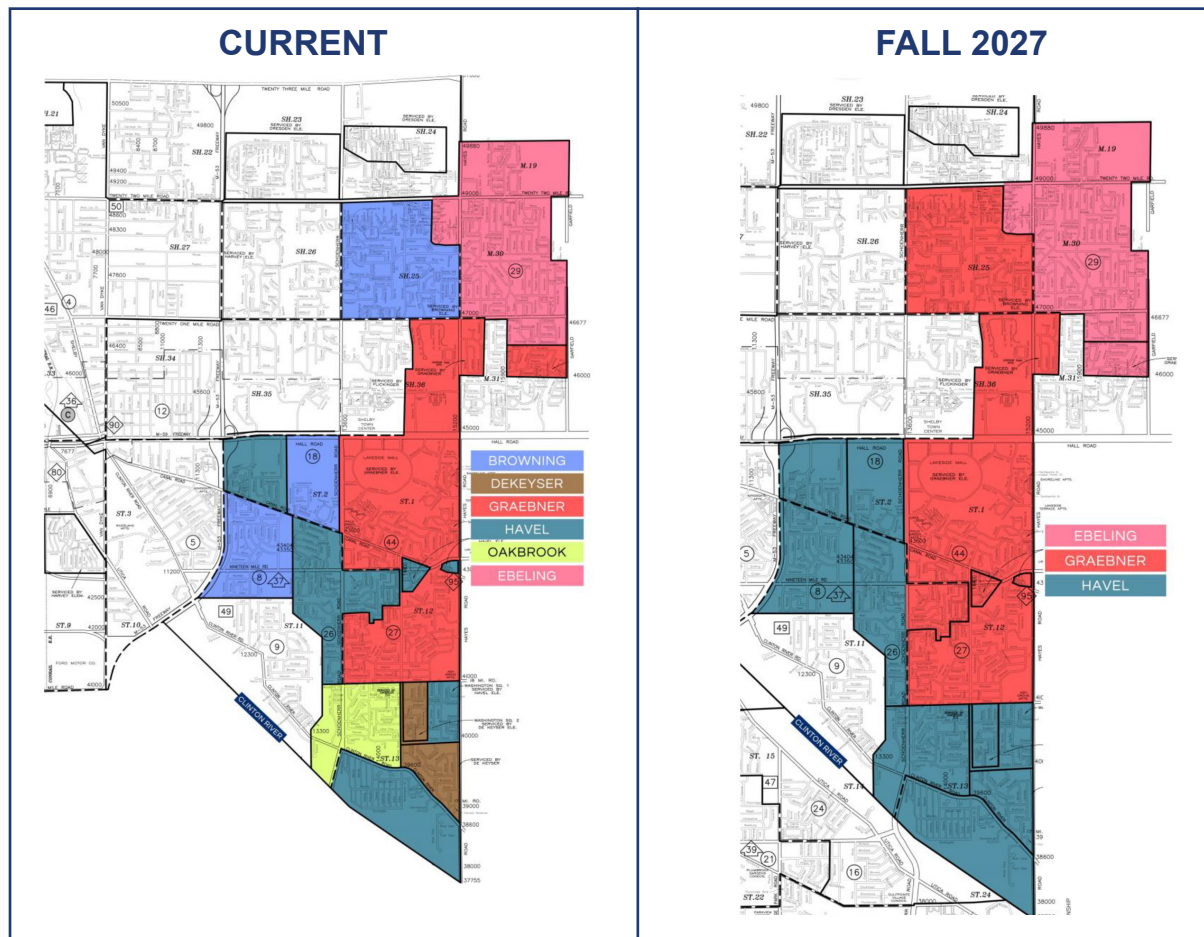
By building, renovating and innovating, UCS is able to give more students access to facilities that are being redesigned

with a vision that encourages growth and achievement.

The district works closely with the Enrollment Distribution Advisory Committee (EDAC), comprised of parents from each school. EDAC's purpose is to review enrollment projections and facility utilization within UCS and provide the district with feedback regarding potential amendments to existing educational programs and pathways.

After a review of the attendance area for Henry Ford II feeder elementary schools, new attendance areas were developed, taking effect in fall of 2027. The new attendance areas coincide with the reconstruction of Havel Elementary and Graebner Elementary.

For more information, visit www.uticak12.org/buildingforthefuture.



Attendance area boundaries for elementaries feeding into Henry Ford II. LEFT: Effective through the 2026-2027 school year. RIGHT: Effective beginning the 2027-2028 school year.

Limitless Potential recognizes success for all students

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The work of this special education team – students, staff, parents and families – makes the difference. In UCS, our offerings begin with early childhood special education and extends through programs for autism spectrum disorder, learning disabilities, cognitive and emotional impairments and more, including post-high school options. We are excited to be strengthening our community connections, including partnerships with local businesses and the City of Sterling Heights.

Profiles will be featured in our school and district newsletters, websites, TV stations and through our social media sites.

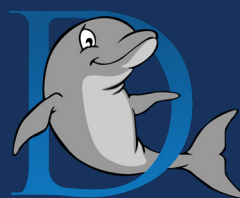
More information is available at: www.uticak12.org/limitlesspotential.

Special education has the power to transform lives and unlock everyone's limitless potential. Together, our community can create an environment where every child thrives!

Celebrate our future...

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE/ RIBBON CUTTING

DeKeyser Elementary School
Sunday, August 24, 2025 at 2 p.m.



Student earns perfect M-STEP scores

Schwarzkoﬀ Elementary fourth grader Andrian Popovski has achieved a rare accomplishment with perfect mathematics and English Language Arts scores on the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) program.

What makes the accomplishment even more rare is that Popovski earned the perfect score for a test he took last year

as a third grader – the first year that the standardized test was administered to Michigan students.

“It makes me feel awesome in the way I know I will be successful. I know that I will be good in life.”

- Andrian Popovski

M-STEP is a standardized exam administered to all Michigan students which is used each year to measure academic progress. Students are evaluated from 3rd to 8th grade, and again in 11th grade.



Points of Pride

Ike Show Choir chosen as top state ensemble

The Eisenhower Show Choir was chosen as the top ensemble from the MSVMA (Michigan School Vocal Music Association) Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble Festival in November 2024.

The group received a perfect score for their performance of “Something About This Night” from *Finding Neverland* and “Louder Than Words” from *Tick, Tick... BOOM!*



UCS administrator recognized as Michigan’s Communicator of the Year



The Michigan School Public Relations Association (MSPRA) has awarded Tim McAvoy, UCS Director of School-Community Relations, with the 2024 Gerri Allen School Communicator of the Year Award.

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According to MSPRA, the Gerri Allen School Communicator of the Year Award was designed to recognize the outstanding leadership and contributions of the recipient and reflects the highest award a school communicator can receive at the state level.

Theatre students earn top honors, more than \$5.3 million in scholarships

Top honors and more than \$5.3 million in scholarships were handed out to Utica Community Schools theatre students at the Michigan Thespian Festival, held in December 2024 in Lansing.



In addition, Utica High School student Jaelyn Kaczmarczyk was named among the top ten of the more than 1,600 students participating in the festival, earning a \$500 thespian scholarship. Kaczmarczyk alone earned nearly \$500,000 in total from participating colleges and universities.

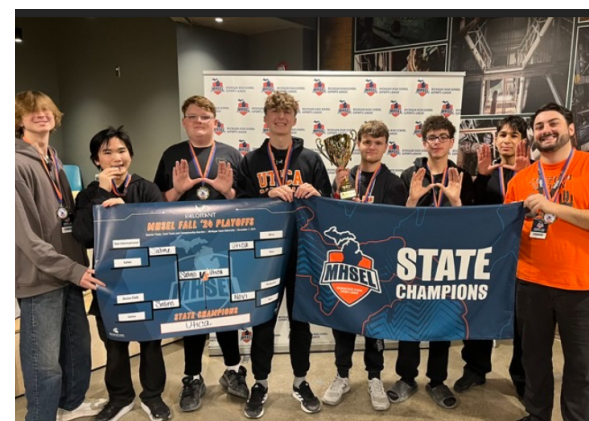
Students from more than 80 schools across Michigan took part in the annual festival, which featured nearly 100 workshops as well as keynote speakers.

Game on! The Utica High Esports team is the state champion, two players received all-state honors

In their second season competing in the Michigan High School Esports League (MHSEL), Utica High School’s Valorant team is already on top.

The Chieftains went into the playoffs ranked second in the state with both their Overwatch 2 and Valorant teams. The round of 32 was played at home, while the quarters, semifinals and finals were played at Michigan State University.

The Valorant team took on Saline in the finals and became 2024 Fall State Champions after winning 2-1 (14-12 OT, 8-13, 13-6).



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

**UTICA
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**

uticaK12.org/kindergarten

**DISCOVER
Excellence**

Registration NOW OPEN!

2025-2026

Kindergarten and Young Fives

FREE PreK is here!

Math Science Reading Parent Engagement

**Pre-register for the
2025-2026 school year**

**PreK
for ALL**

UCS PreK for All: (586) 797-6930 | PreKforAll@uticak12.org | ucscommunityeducation.org

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
- For Spanish: (586) 797-6986

Personat që kanë nevojë ose kërkojnë ndihmë gjuhësore (përkthim ose interpretim të çështjeve në lidhje me Qarkun shkollor), mund të kontaktojnë:

Për gjuhën Shqipe:
(586) 797-6946
translations@uticak12.org

الأشخاص الذين يطلبون أو يحتاجون إلى مساعدة لغوية متعلقة بالمنطقة التعليمية، يرجى التواصل عبر:

اللغة العربية:
(586) 797-6906
translations@uticak12.org

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
translations@uticak12.org

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 Utica Community Schools Human Resources at 11303 Greendale, Sterling Heights, MI 48312 or call (586) 797-1000.

WWW.UTICAK12.ORG

Find updates from
Utica Community Schools on:



WWW.UTICAK12.ORG/SOCIAL

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(586) 797-1000

**FOCUS for the
Community**

**Editors: Tim McAvoy
Jennifer Kane**