



Eppler Junior High School
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www.UticaK12.org/Eppler

January 24, 2025

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2023-2024 education progress for Eppler Junior High School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, accountability, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact the building principal for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site:

https://www.mischooldata.org/annual-education-report-1?Common_Locations=1-S,7214,1619,95 or you may review a copy in the principal's office at your child's school.

State of Michigan Rankings

For the 2023-2024 school year, schools were identified based on previous years' performance using definitions and labels as required in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that has at least one underperforming student subgroup in 2023-2024. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state in 2021-2022. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance was in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or had a graduation rate at or below 67% in 2021-2022. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Eppler Junior High School has not been given one of these labels.

School Improvement Plan

Goal and Objectives:

- All students will develop the necessary academic, wellness, and behavioral skills for success in education, career, family, and community life. We accomplish this through an educational experience centered around a multi-tiered system of supports with enriched Tier I practices.
- Staff and students will acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making through the Utica Community Schools recipe of Supportive Environments, Health Relationships, Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning, Empowering Experiences, Family and Community Engagement, and Appropriate Timely Equitable Access to Intervention.
- 56.31% of all students will be proficient in English Language Arts as measured by the College Board PSAT 8 and the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) assessment by 2031-2032.
- 43.94% of all students will be proficient in mathematics as measured by the College Board PSAT 8 and the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) assessment by 2031-2032.

Eppler Junior High School had a successful 2023-2024 school year. Students showed measurable growth in meeting the rigorous goals that staff set for student achievement, based on the School Improvement Plan and our school's objectives.

Eppler Junior High School data teams utilized a variety of assessments to analyze data including M-STEP, Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) and classroom assessments. Teachers meet on a regular basis with the principal to analyze data and collaborate in planning classroom lessons and intervention strategies.

Key Challenges

Eppler Junior High School continues to monitor student attendance to confirm that all students have equitable access to high quality daily learning experiences. Emphasizing student wellness and sense of belonging within the school environment is a key challenge to make certain all students feel safe, secure, supported, and engaged in their classroom and school community. We continue to evaluate student progress in all academic areas, particularly English Language Arts and mathematics, to ensure students are successful for the college, military, workforce, or career of their choosing and for life.

Student Enrollment

Students attend Eppler Junior High School based on the attendance area serviced within our school boundary. A number of Utica Community Schools' students in other attendance areas enroll in our school based on the district's open enrollment process and nonresident students may attend through the Schools of Choice program.

Specialty Programs

All students have equitable access to Specialty Programs through an open and accessible process. Please see Polity 6275 posted on www.uticak12.org under the Board of Education tab for further information.

Gene L Klida Utica Academy for International Studies

The Gene L Klida Utica Academy for International Studies is a four-year, full-immersion specialty program designed for all students to have the opportunity to earn the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma in addition to their state of Michigan high school diploma. Classes in 9th and 10th grade prepare students for the rigors of the IB classes that begin at the start of junior year, where all students are required to register for seven IB courses, complete the 4,000-word Extended Essay on a topic of their choice, and complete at least 150 hours of creativity, activity, and service hours. This rigorous and internationally minded curriculum encourages students to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who value intercultural understanding and respect for others.

Utica Center for Math, Science and Technology

The Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology is designed to bring advanced students with special talents and interests together with leading-edge technology. The Center utilizes an advanced curriculum for grades 9-12 which serves to inspire, challenge, and prepare students to pursue careers in mathematics and science. The Center follows the Utica tradition of providing the finest instruction and innovation.

Utica Center for Science and Industry

The Center for Science and Industry is a half day shared time program that provides 9th through 12th grade students with a variety of innovative Career and Technology Education taught in an integrated manner. Along with core math and English classes, students select from electives, which will support one of three career strands: 1) Engineering and Technology, 2) Mechatronics, or 3) Multi-Media Technology. The CSI is project based and provides students with a wide array of experiences with professionals from business and industrial partners.

Stevenson Manufacturing, Automation, and Design Engineering Academy

The Stevenson Manufacturing, Automation, and Design Engineering (MADE) Academy blends rigorous academic content with relevant, real world applications by making use of strong business relationships and post-secondary partners in the field of Advanced Manufacturing. All course work has project-based learning with design thinking and problem solving at the core. This four-year program is open to all UCS and non-UCS students.

Utica High School Academy of Health and Human Services

The Utica High Academy of Health and Human Services (HHS) will utilize therapeutic medical, public safety, and rehabilitation services themes to help students develop technical and critical thinking skills while exposing students to in-depth industry related challenges through a medical lens. All course work has project-based learning with problem solving at the core. This four-year program is open to *all UCS and non-UCS students*.

Core Curriculum

All the schools in Utica Community Schools offer students a comprehensive and rigorous academic program that meets and exceeds all state and federal standards. Our schools follow the Michigan Academic Standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. These standards can be accessed at <https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/academic-standards>. The district's vision and mission statements can be accessed at www.uticak12.org.

District Assessments

Utica Community Schools not only looks at state assessments, but we also monitor the progress of our students through the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA). NWEA is used to monitor and assess students in English Language Arts and mathematics using computer adaptive testing. NWEA aggregate student achievement can be requested from the school.

Parent/Teacher Conference Attendance 2022-2023

Number: 1415 (Fall = 1087, Spring = 328)
Percentage: 60%

Parent/Teacher Conference Attendance 2023-2024

Number: 1241 (Fall = 1026, Spring = 215)
Percentage: 54%

We are pleased to provide this annual education report to our school community. The information that is contained in this report demonstrates our continued efforts to ensure every student achieves in our school. This report, however, only tells a small part of our success story. Every day our staff is continually finding new ways to enhance teaching and learning and engage our students in their education. We invite you to continue to be active participants in your child's education by volunteering in the classrooms, serving on our parent groups, and working closely at home with your students on their assignments.

Eppler Junior High School is fortunate to be serviced by a community that cares so deeply about education. Thank you again for your continued support of our students and the Utica Community Schools.

Sincerely,

Jerry Pantano
Principal