



**UTICA
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**

Robert S. Monroe
Superintendent of Schools
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October 23, 2024

Dear UCS Staff and Families,

Our community is joining others across the nation to recognize October 21-25 as Safe Schools Week. In our community, we have a year-round commitment to partnering with you to proactively support safe schools and neighborhoods.

Utica Community Schools and our law enforcement partners work hand in hand to provide training, share best practices, discuss facility improvements, and establish proven protocols and effective programs – such as our School Resource Officers – to keep our schools safe and immediately respond to situations. Many of our initiatives are listed on the [UCS website](#).

Essential to this work is our partnership with the community. We have great kids in Utica Community Schools. We are proud of the work they do to stay focused on their academic performance and school activities. However, there have been students this year in our area who are making unfortunate decisions to threaten school and community safety.

We take every threat seriously. Investigations not only include the student's behavior, but often include members of the family or the homes of the individual making a threat. Please join us in speaking to your children about the serious and life-changing ramifications of their decisions. This is a message that cannot be reinforced enough.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. We encourage families who exercise their right to gun ownership to ensure a safe home environment. Michigan's safe storage law requires homeowners to safely store a weapon when a minor is likely to be present. Our police departments are supporting this law by providing safety kits to gun owners free of charge. Please contact your local police department to receive a free gun safety kit.

We are proud to serve a community that has such high expectations for student success. By continuing to work together, we will provide UCS students with a safe community where they can grow and are empowered to transform their lives and the future.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Monroe
Superintendent of Schools

Anthony Wickersham
Macomb County Sheriff

Dale Dwojakowski
Sterling Heights Chief of Police

Robert Shelide
Shelby Township Chief of Police

Matthew R. Kaluzny
Utica Chief of Police

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