



**UTICA  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOLS**

**Robert S. Monroe**  
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September 5, 2023

Dear UCS community,

And we are off! We had a great opening week in Utica Community Schools! Our entire UCS staff welcomed students to the new school year, got them settled in a positive way and moved very quickly into teaching and learning. I want to thank our amazing team for positioning us for success in this first week.

Utica Community Schools is well positioned for the coming year. The adoption of our UCS Empowered Strategic Plan and the strong community support for the Safety and Success election have demonstrated the power of collaboration and clarity of direction. Together, we are ready to serve today's 26,000 students and future generations to come and we will not be distracted from the critical work of helping our students succeed.

The theme that you will hear over and over this year will be *Inspiring Remarkable Achievement*. Our students achieve remarkable things because they are inspired to learn and adapt. We are a successful school district because we continuously learn, improve, and adapt. This is found within the UCS Empowered Strategic Plan. This year you will hear more about the work being done on the priorities within the plan: A culture of empowerment, a culture of caring, and a culture of transformation.

We will prepare to begin the first phase of the 2023 bond issue project. The first series of bonds will be sold in the spring with improvements beginning in the summer of 2024. In addition, the bond issue has given us the opportunity to look at our enrollment patterns, and how we can more effectively use our resources to give students further options and create efficiencies that redirect resources back to our classrooms. Over the next few months, you will see crews at different sites gathering information that will allow us to hit the ground running when it comes to improving our facilities.

Thanks to your and our community's support, we have the ability to achieve success for both our students and our district. During a recent professional development activity, I shared with staff what I believe is a representative image of this year ahead. The image is on a billboard at the corner of Dodge Park and 16 Mile Road and shows four of our graduates celebrating their new UCS diploma.

Behind each of these graduates is a unique success story that brought them to this moment. Their story was shaped through the relationships they had with staff members at each level of their development – elementary school, junior high school, and high school. These relationships allowed the graduates to pursue their passion on a road that best suits their interests and dreams – whether that is the military, trade, college, university or directly into the work force. Every student has a unique path that is best suited for them; our work will position graduates to be successful where their dreams take them.

Thank you again for your continued partnership. I wish you and your family a successful 2023-24 school year!

Sincerely,

Robert S. Monroe  
Superintendent of Schools

**Utica Community Schools Board of Education**

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