

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2014-2015 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://goo.gl/WPLH0k> or you may review a copy in the principal's office at your child's school.

School Improvement Plan

Eppler Junior High School Tier I Objectives:

- 85% of All Students will demonstrate a proficiency in all standards in Social Studies by 06/15/2022 as measured by spring state assessment.
- 85% of All Students will demonstrate a proficiency across all strands in Science by 06/15/2022 as measured by spring state assessment.
- 85% of All Students will demonstrate a proficiency in all focal points in Mathematics by 06/15/2022 as measured by spring state assessment.
- 85% of All Students will demonstrate a proficiency across all domains in English Language Arts by 06/15/2022 as measured by spring state assessment.

Eppler Junior High School had a successful 2014-2015 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 Tier I objectives.

Eppler Junior High School data teams utilized a variety of assessments to analyze data including MEAP (2013-2014), M-Step (2014-2015), EXPLORE, end of course and unit assessments and MISD genre unit tests. Teachers meet on a regular basis in subject area data teams to analyze data and collaborate in planning classroom lessons and intervention strategies. District assessments are administered and analyzed and instructional changes are made based on the results.

The key challenges at Eppler Junior High School is for all student subgroups to meet the annual measurable objectives. After reviewing data from the 2012--2013 (baseline) to 2014-2015 state assessments, our school currently has a 15%-20% gap for the English Learners and Students with Disabilities subgroups when compared to the rest of our student population in all tested subjects. In order to close this achievement gap, the staff is progress monitoring students' growth through the use of shared common assessments in the areas of English, Social Studies, Mathematics and Science. Administrators and teachers are offering after school homework club opportunities, as well as an at-risk lunchtime tutoring program. Other key strategies highlighted in our school improvement plan to address this achievement gap include Close and Critical Reading strategies, one-to-one tutoring, and the incorporation of AVID WICOR (Writing Inquiry Collaboration Organization Reading) as part of daily instructional practice. These practices will continue throughout the year and will be adjusted as needed based on assessment data.

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.

Specialized Programs

All students have the opportunity to have equitable access to Specialty Programs through an open and accessible process. Please see Policy 6000 and 6275 posted on www.uticak12.org under the Board of Education tab for further information.

Utica Center for Math, Science and Technology

The Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology is a half day shared time program that 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 Academy for International Studies

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 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 cutting-edge 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.

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 have transitioned to the Michigan Academic Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics and continue to follow the Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) and High School Content Expectations (HSCE) in all other content areas. These standards can be accessed on www.uticak12.org under the instruction

tab. The district's vision and mission document, entitled Reaching Higher, can be accessed at reachinghigher.uticak12.org.

District Assessments

Utica Community Schools not only looks at state assessments but we go above and beyond in monitoring the progress of our students. In 2014-2015, the following assessments were given at each of the different levels to follow each student's academic progress.

Practice EXPLORE

The practice EXPLORE test is a preliminary ACT assessment given to all 8th grade students in Utica Community Schools to help students prepare for high school coursework, higher education and ACT success. It assesses students' skills in English, reading, mathematics and science.

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)

The PSAT/NMSQT is a standardized test given to all 10th graders in Utica Community Schools. It measures a student's skills in the areas of critical reading, math problem-solving and writing skills. It also gives the student a chance as an 11th grader to take the test and possibly qualify for the National Merit Scholarship program.

Parent/Teacher Conference Attendance

Number: 2794

Percentage: 63.9%

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