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Utica12.org

## DeKeyser Elementary

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Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2015-2016 education progress for DeKeyser Elementary 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/iyGle0> or you may review a copy in the principal's office at your child's school.

### **School Improvement Plan**

#### DeKeyser Elementary School Objectives:

- 85% of Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth grade students will demonstrate a proficiency in Mathematical Concepts in Mathematics as measured by the spring 2024 state assessment.
- 85% of Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth grade students will demonstrate a proficiency in Writing in English Language Arts as measured by the spring 2024 state assessment.
- 85% of Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth grade students will demonstrate a proficiency in Reading in English Language Arts 4 as measured by the spring 2024 state assessment.
- 85% of Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth grade students will demonstrate a proficiency in concepts in Social Studies 4 as measured by the spring 2024 state assessment.
- 85% of Pre-K, Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth grade students will demonstrate a proficiency in Science concepts in Science as measured by the spring 2024 state assessment.

DeKeyser Elementary had a successful 2015-2016 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.

DeKeyser Elementary 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.

While we have many strengths in student growth and achievement, we also have areas we can improve. Last year's data brought to light that we can make improvements instructing our students with disabilities. We are always improving our Mathematics and Reading instruction.

## **Student Enrollment**

Students attend DeKeyser Elementary 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 the opportunity to have equitable access to Specialty Programs through an open and accessible process. Please see Policy 6275 posted on [www.uticak12.org](http://www.uticak12.org) under the Board of Education tab for further information.

### 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 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> 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 follow the Michigan Academic Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics and are transitioning to the Michigan Science Standards. All other content areas continue to follow the Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE). These standards can be accessed at [www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) under the Career and College Ready tab – Graduation Requirements and Standards – Standards. The district's vision and mission statements can be accessed at [www.uticak12.org](http://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**

Number: 533

Percentage: 98%

## **State of Michigan Rankings**

The State of Michigan has adopted an accountability system that places public schools in three categories based on state standardized assessment data:

- A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap between the highest performing students and the combined results of 30 percent of those students needing additional assistance.
- A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state.
- A Reward school is one that has achieved one or more of the following distinctions: top 5% of schools on the Top-to-Bottom School Rankings, top 5% of schools making the greatest gains in achievement (improvement metric), or “Beating the Odds” by outperforming the school’s predicted ranking and/or similar schools.

Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases no label is given. Our school has not been labeled as a “focus,” “priority,” or a “reward” school.

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.

DeKeyser Elementary 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,

*Mary E. Merlo*

Mary Beth Merlo  
Principal