



## *Administrative Service Center*

11303 Greendale  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312  
Phone: (586) 797-1000  
Fax: (586) 797-1101  
www.uticak12.org

Christine M. Johns, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Parents and Guardians:

When it comes to educational practices that improve student achievement, Utica Community Schools has a tradition of leading the way. Recently, we have been made aware of compelling research that seems to indicate a correlation between later start times and educational achievement for K-12 students. Many UCS parents have indicated an interest in exploring this research to determine its impact on students, families, staff and funding.

We have shared a research summary regarding late start times on our website at this link: <http://www.uticak12.org/latestart>. We want to keep parents, staff and community members informed as we engage this discussion; please feel free to regularly visit this page as we provide updates and information about the process and the ongoing work of the committee. In addition, **all parents will receive a survey link next week** asking for their input on this issue. The e-mail will come from Utica Community Schools and will contain the message "Utica Community Schools Wants Your Feedback" with a return email of HanoverResearch@qualtrics.com. Parents who are interested in participating in the late start study advisory committee may complete an application through the district website.

You may wonder if this approach has provided the district with positive results in the past. In fact, our partnership with parents in the past has created multiple new opportunities for our students. Our leadership in computer science and robotics, expanded Career and Technical Education opportunities, and specialty programs like the Utica Academy of International Studies and Utica Center for Science and Industry are rooted in the district working collaboratively with parents to explore new initiatives that impact learning.

Utica Community Schools has a long commitment to excellence in all that we do. This initiative is reflective of our mission and vision to work collaboratively with our community to increase academic success. Thank you for your interest, involvement and words of affirmation. If you have any questions regarding this study or other areas of interest, I encourage you to contact your school principal or call my office directly at 586-797-1104. Together, we are leading the way in achievement and education!

Sincerely,

Christine M. Johns, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

### **Utica Community Schools Board of Education**

Robert A. Ross, Ph.D., *President*   Mary K. Thomas, Ph.D., *Vice President*   Michele Templeton, *Treasurer*   Denyeal Nesovski, *Secretary*  
Jennifer Prybys, *Trustee*   Kimberly Becker, *Trustee*   Kelli Rankin, *Trustee*