



**UTICA
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS**

Robert S. Monroe
Superintendent of Schools
11303 Greendale
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November 15, 2023

Dear UCS Community,

The UCS Empowered Strategic Plan was developed to guide the future success of Utica Community Schools. We are committed to sharing important updates with you as we implement key aspects of this planning process.

As we have previously shared, an area of focus over the past few months was the shared use of Heritage Junior High School and the Gene L. Klida Utica Academy for International Studies. Secondary attendance boundaries in this area were also included in this assessment.

The district will pursue a long-term plan based on input from the Enrollment Distribution Advisory Committee (EDAC). This group, composed of parents from each school, reviewed the building needs assessments from our Auxiliary Services Department, student access to programs and experiences, and attendance patterns. District leadership has considered options based upon the UCS vision of providing students with a range of opportunities.

Based upon the data and discussions to date, the district plans to move forward with adjustments to its junior high school attendance areas. Under these changes, students at Heritage Junior High School will begin attending other area secondary schools next school year. This change will ensure that current Heritage Junior High School students have access to the same opportunities available to students in schools with greater enrollment.

The new attendance areas will follow the major boundaries of Van Dyke and the Clinton River. These adjustments to the attendance areas will help balance junior high school enrollment. In addition, it will address long-term instances where subdivisions are geographically separated from the neighboring communities or families have to travel great distances to attend their assigned school.

Our focus is to make this transition as seamless as possible and work to minimize the impact of this change. We are committed to helping families and our staff by personally addressing questions that may arise. In the long-term, these modifications will increase opportunities for students while using resources and facilities more effectively. We have provided additional information on our website. In addition, there is an online form on this site that you may use to share feedback or ask questions.

At UCS, our priority is providing our students with safe, secure and educationally vibrant schools. We want every student to have opportunities to grow, develop and ultimately pursue their educational passion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert S. Monroe".

Robert S. Monroe
Superintendent of Schools

Utica Community Schools Board of Education

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