

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM

DR. KATHLEEN DAVIS, INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



DISTRICT NEWS:

To Our Utica City School District Community,

As we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day today, I am filled with deep reflection and reverence for Dr. King's profound impact and legacy. This day is not just a moment for remembrance but a beacon of hope and a call to action towards a more equitable and just society.

Dr. King's legacy is particularly significant for our diverse Utica community. His unwavering commitment to equality, justice, and peace mirrors our own dedication to these values within our school district. We are a tapestry of diverse backgrounds and beliefs, and Dr. King's vision of a beloved community resonates deeply with us. His dream of a world where individuals are judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character is a guiding principle in our ongoing efforts to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

As we celebrate this important day, let us carry the spirit of Dr. King's message with us throughout the year. Let it be a reminder of our collective responsibility to foster a community that uplifts every voice, respects every individual, and works tirelessly towards the dream of equality and justice for all.

Let us continue to draw inspiration from Dr. King's vision and work together to create a future that honors his legacy—a future where every member of our community has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to our shared success.

With respect and hope,

Dr. Kathleen Davis
Interim Superintendent
Utica City School District

ELEMENTARY NEWS:
INTRO TO DASH ROBOTS

Students at Martin Luther King Elementary School are learning to use Dash Robots. Students are learning to code and will be able to get a visual representation of their personal code by watching the robot follow the instructions provided.

MONTHLY PARENT EDUCATION SERIES

The UCSD is excited to partner with ICAN to host

monthly parent education presentations designed to both educate and inspire parents to support their children's success more effectively in school. All presentations are open to **ALL PARENTS in the District**. This month's will be held on January 17, 2024 at Conkling Elementary School in the Auditorium at 4:00pm. The topic is "Student Wellness" - understanding the importance of supporting the whole child, the importance of nutrition/sleep/activity/connection and strategies and resources for improving emotional wellness.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS:
JFK GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

JFK volleyball has started off their season

strong with their 4th consecutive shutout to begin the season 5-0. JFK has won 24 straight games in each match to kickoff the season. In each match, every player has scored at least one point and contributed defensively to the victories. Rahma Al Farhood, Diana Abuzamaq, Marijah Savery, Kaylee Sim, Camila Salce Delila Mack and Raythoo Kyet lead JFK in scoring. JFK volleyball has also been undefeated in the two previous seasons. Way to go Raiders!



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS:
PHS GIRLS BOWLING

Congratulations to Abby Lewis! At our match against Holland Patent on January 04, 2024, at King Pin Lanes, Abby Lewis shot games of 190-235-255 for an impressive series of 680.

SEAL OF BILITERACY (NYSSB)

The New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) was established to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages, in addition to English. Many Proctor High School Seniors have begun their journey as candidates working with their teacher mentors in achieving the New York State Seal of Biliteracy. Mrs. Fielteau (ENL Department Chair) and Mr. Nicholas-Hahn (World Languages Department Chair) work closely with both candidates and teacher mentors to make sure that the students are working to their utmost potential. This year, all students enrolled in French 5/MVCC, Italian 5/MVCC, and Spanish 5/MVCC in the World Languages Department will be working toward earning the NYSSB. In the ENL Department, select Seniors will earn their NYSSB in Arabic, Bosnian, Burmese, Malay, and Urdu. Presentations will be taking place before Spring Break in front of panels that are fluent in the target language. This year, we have the highest number of candidates working toward achieving the Seal, 54 students! Good luck to all the candidates. Proctor High School and the Utica City School District are so proud of your efforts!



Please continue to check **ParentSquare**, our **website** and **social media** for important updates. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. www.uticaschools.org

