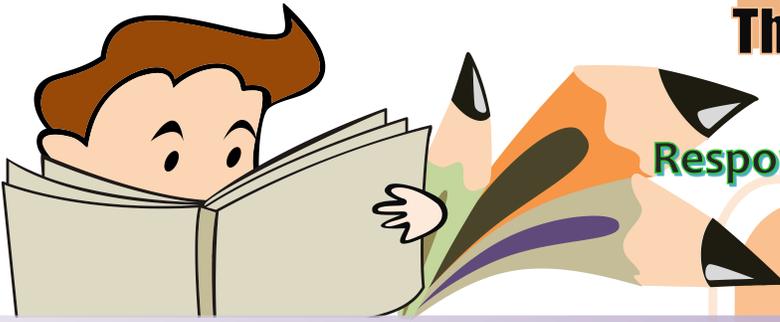


Thomas Jefferson Elementary

Fall 2017 Newsletter

Responsible Citizens ~ Lifelong Learners



Dear Families,

I enjoyed the opportunity to visit with many of you at our recent Open House. It is exciting to be starting off what I am sure will be another great year at Jefferson School. This year we will be working toward meeting the following school comprehensive education goals (SCEP) and will continue to welcome your input on how we can help all students to succeed. Thomas Jefferson will...

- Create and maintain a data wall for all grades which will enable school leaders, teachers, parents, and students to monitor student progress.
- Support student engagement in curriculum and across the arts through interdisciplinary lesson planning
- Identify and measure tiers and levels of instruction
- Target top infraction categories
- Increase families responding favorably to surveys indicating they are prepared to assist with learning at home

Continuing to help your student maintain GREAT punctuality and attendance is also instrumental in developing positive work habits and ensuring success in school. Planning family vacations during the summer break, holiday vacations, and/or over spring break is greatly appreciated. This will help eliminate the possibility of your student/s developing gaps in their education and assist in student achievement.

I-ready (diagnostic and instruction on-line program) data indicates we are starting out with 54% of students on, above or emerging grade level in reading and math. Our school-wide identified areas in need of improvement are in math numbers and operations and reading high frequency words. We are working to develop strategies to address these needs and will target these areas moving forward. You can help at home by practicing basic math facts with your child, reviewing high frequency words, vocabulary and, ensuring he/she is reading at least 20 minutes a day. Students can also log into i-ready at home. Students that spend 45 minutes on reading and 45 minutes on math a week show up to a 20% increase in overall proficiency. Fall parent/teacher conferences are right around the corner, and we hope to continue our traditional high attendance with our families. Your Jefferson teachers are eager to share details about their classrooms and your child's performance, along with setting goals for individual student achievement. Teachers will be sending home information regarding scheduling a time that works best for you, and we'll see you here later this month!

Please contact me at 368-6700 or via email at vrejr@uticaschools.org, if you should have any questions.

Thank you.

V. Rejrat
Vanessa Rejrat
Principal



Jefferson Vision

We at Jefferson, are committed to meeting and exceeding state and national academic standards. Additionally, we will encourage our students to strive to become kind, caring, and compassionate, and productive members of society.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Mrs. Rejrat - Principal
792-2163

Mrs. Rolchigo-Secretary
792-2163

Mr. Jalonack – Security
368-6712

Ms. Januszewski–Nurse
368-6702

School Fax Number
732-5902

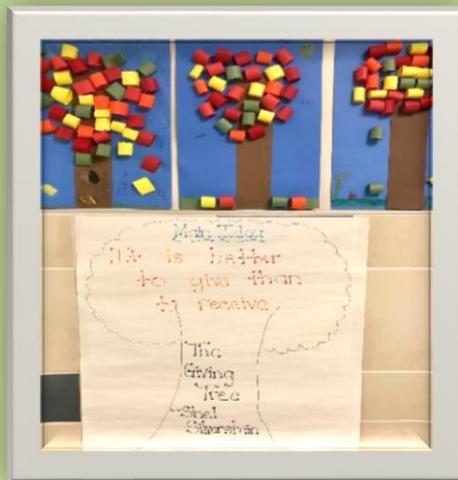
Main Office Hours
8:30 – 3:30



Kindergarten



The kindergartners have been working very hard for the last few months getting adjusted to school, routines, procedures, learning letters, sounds, and numbers. They are also making friends with our 6th grade literacy buddies. For our first project, the groups worked on finding the main idea of a story, and then completed a project based on that story and its' main idea. Mrs. Bonfardeci and Ms. Mazzara's classes read the Itsy Bitsy Spider. Mrs. Rivera and Mrs. Lawruk's classes read The Giving Tree. Mrs. Lauer and Mrs. Simon's classes read Chrysanthemum. The classes really enjoyed meeting each other, and get excited when they see their "buddy" in the hallway or on the bus. We are all looking forward to our next get together, and another fun project.



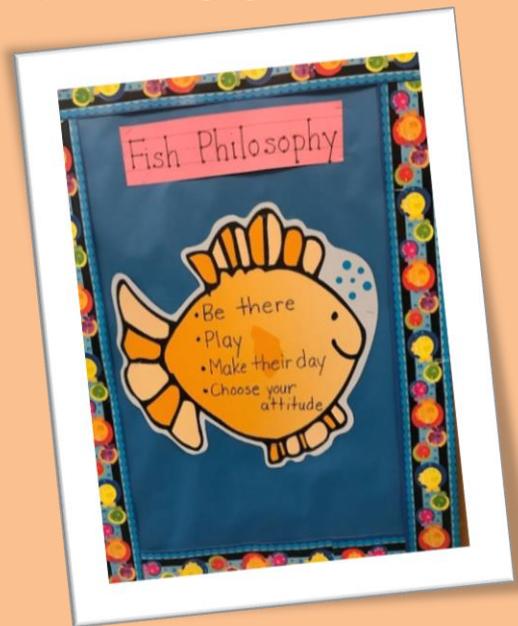
1st Grade

First graders have learned a lot since the beginning of school. During Unit 1 of the Wonders Reading program, we discovered ways in which we are all special. Our skills focused on short vowel sounds and letter blends. In Unit 2 of Wonders, we will be exploring what makes a community and our skills will introduce long vowels, contractions, plural nouns and proper nouns. In math, we have been working hard on our addition strategies and soon will be working on subtraction too. As always, please continue to practice high frequency words and math facts at home.

2nd Grade



The second graders have adopted the Fish Philosophy to compliment the Lifeskills and PBIS program to learn to work together as a community. Students have been excited about being able to "put a fish in the fish bowl" when they are caught being there for someone, choosing a great attitude making someone's day, and being lighthearted. We can't wait to celebrate being super citizens!!



3rd Grade

This has been a busy fall for the third graders! Our ELA focus question is "What can stories teach you?" We are reading and writing about different types of stories including fantasies, folktales and biographies. We are learning that good readers visualize and ask/answer questions as they read. We are also working on character traits, sequencing and identifying cause and effect. In math we are focusing on multiplication/division concepts and strategies as well as problem solving. Please continue to encourage your third grader to read at home daily and to work on multiplication facts for mastery! Thank you for supporting academic growth and achievement at home by monitoring homework, practicing multiplication facts (0-10) and encouraging independent reading time!

4th Grade



We are off to a great start! Students have adjusted to the rules and procedures and know what is expected of them. We are very busy learning lots of new things. In math, we have been working on addition and subtraction and have started to work on multiplication. It would be awesome if students would continue to practice their multiplication facts daily, at home! We have also been reading an exciting novel, "Wonder" and working together with our Literacy Buddies. Ask your child for all the details!

5th Grade

Fifth grade students learn about global awareness and multicultural inclusiveness by helping to create the Around the World bulletin board. Check out the bulletin board that exposes students to world languages that encourage global thinking! This display is a reminder that Jefferson School is accepting of students regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or native language. School hall displays can help to create the overall feeling of inclusiveness in a school.



6th Grade

Our sixth grade classes have settled into our routines and schedules nicely! We have been working hard at finding main idea, supporting details, and using textual evidence in ELA as well as ratios and proportions in math. We recently met with our kindergarten buddies for our literacy projects! We encourage you to practice your child's math facts with them each night and read with them as much as possible! We look forward to meeting with you soon for parent teacher conferences!



Ms. Czepiel's 1st Grade Class

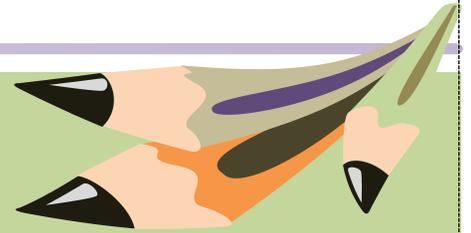
Ms. Czepiel's first grade class learned all about apples and Johnny Appleseed. The class ended the unit by making cinnamon applesauce in the classroom. This was a fun activity where the students had to recall the steps of the recipe. Another fun activity was retelling the story of Johnny Appleseed. We discussed the characters, setting, and plot. This is something you can practice at home. While reading, talk with your child, ask about the characters, setting, plot and conflict of the stories. Please continue to read to your child each day and have them read to you. The best way to end the day is with some warm homemade applesauce and a bedtime story.



How to Help Your Children at Home

1. Set up a homework- friendly area
2. Keep distractions to a minimum
3. Be a motivator and monitor
4. Set a good example
5. Make a plan to:
 - Read with them or to them for 15 min a day
 - Work on the essential math for 15 min a day

PARP



Thomas Jefferson's PARP theme this year was, "Fall Into A Good Book". Students participated in PARP from Monday, October 2, 2017 through Monday, October 23, 2017 and had a blast reading. Students were encouraged to FALL INTO a book and snuggle under a warm blanket to READ! They did an AWESOME job creating a Fall Leaf with a picture or photograph showing him/her reading their favorite book. The leaves were displayed in the hallways of the school! Phenomenal job to all students that participated! Remember to keep reading!!!



D.E.A.R.

Jefferson is pleased to be participating in D.E.A.R. as a school-wide initiative to support our Literacy Campaign this year. D.E.A.R. stands for "Drop Everything and Read," a national celebration of reading designed to remind families to make reading a priority in their lives. National D.E.A.R. Day is celebrated every year on April 12th. That's the birthday of beloved author Beverly Cleary, whose characters Ramona and older sister Beezus are now favorites of a new generation of readers. On this day, families are encouraged to take at least 30 minutes to put aside all distractions and enjoy books together. What will you be reading? We at Jefferson will be reading many different genres, some with our teachers, some with our Literacy Buddies and some independently. We have already officially kicked off D.E.A.R. time at Jefferson with our PARP program - we are off to a great start and will keep it going! READ ~ READ ~ READ!!!

PTO NEWS



Popsicle Sale

This year, Jefferson's PTO will be sponsoring monthly fundraisers. Our first one was a Popsicle Sale, and it was held on Friday, September 22, 2017. Over 400 popsicles were delivered to classrooms, and were appreciated by our students as a celebration of a successful beginning of the school year.

Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser Night

On October 17, 2017 Texas Roadhouse hosted a Thomas Jefferson Elementary fundraiser night. 10% of the total purchases made by Jefferson families and friends was donated back to our PTO. Thank you to all of you who could join us.

Popcorn Sale

The halls of Jefferson smelled great as our PTO and many teachers were busy popping popcorn for our October popcorn fundraiser sale on Friday, October 20, 2017. More than 500 bags of popcorn were delivered to classrooms and were enjoyed by our students and staff. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming PTO meetings. Proceeds from this fundraiser will enable us to provide educational opportunities and supplies for our students.

Papa John's Fundraiser

We are excited to announce that Papa John's Pizza in New Hartford, NY is partnering with Thomas Jefferson Elementary PTO and offering a Buy One Get One Fundraiser Card for only \$10. This card entitles you to a FREE Large or Extra Large Pizza with the purchase of any Large or Extra Large at the regular menu price at the New Hartford Papa John's location. This card can be used six times throughout the school year. (That's an approximate savings of \$75 if you use the card six times!)

Papa John's uses fresh ingredients and they pile them high on their fresh, never-frozen original dough.

Papa John's Pizza is located at 8411 Seneca Turnpike. New Hartford, NY 13413.



SICK DAY OR SCHOOL DAY?

Should she stay or should she go? This cold symptom guide from Zarbee's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Zak Zarbock, can help parents make the sick day judgment call.

RED LIGHT

Keep kids home and consider seeing your pediatrician

- Fever of 101 degrees or higher
- Wheezing or shortness of breath
- Disruptive cough
- Constant runny nose with a yellow/green tint
- Excessive fatigue

YELLOW LIGHT

Kids can resume most regular activities

- Fever-free for 24 hrs.
- Sporadic cough
- Minimal green/yellow runny nose

GREEN LIGHT

Okay to send kids to school

- Mild, infrequent cough
- Clear runny nose
- Active, playful, and rested



Anytime your child sees a doctor for immunizations or a physical, please send a copy to the nurse. If your child is going to be out longer than 3 days please call the nurse @ 315-368-6702.

1st & 5th Grade Literacy Buddies

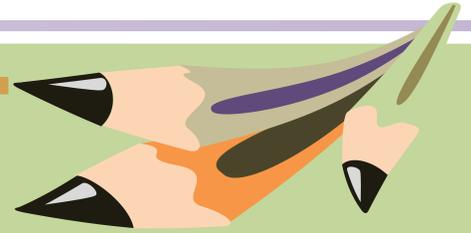
Mrs. Brown's 1st grade class and Mr. Green's 5th grade class worked together on sequencing "How to Carve a Pumpkin." Students worked together in groups to determine steps as to how they were going to carve their pumpkins. They had to scoop out the pumpkins, work together to come up with a face to have carved by a teacher, write out their steps with their buddies and finally show off their hard work! This was a great opportunity to work with our Literacy Buddies!



CRAZY HAT DAY



MATH FAMILY FUN NIGHT



Jefferson School's PTO sponsored a Math Night on Thursday, November 2 from 6-7. Over 50 families joined us for a night of full of math fun. Math Night included make and takes, an estimation jar, math games and math trivia and treat stations. Our students and their families had a lot of fun reviewing math facts and making math games to play at home. Our estimation station was very popular, with all those in attendance trying to estimate the number of gumballs in a jar. Scott Yourdon from Ms. Marsden's room AND Herman Pike from Mrs. Stalker's room were our winners. They BOTH estimated that there were 600 gumballs in the jar, and their guesses were the closest to the actual amount of 601 gumballs. Great job Scott and Herman. Thank you to all those who attended.

Special thanks to our parent volunteers Angela Tiffany, Matthew Gentile, Semira Muheljic, Julie Delia, Nick and Dana Bridenbecker. We really appreciate your willingness to help us.



Parent Survey Results



Thank you parents for the feedback you provided through completing the parent surveys and for participating in parent/student feedback sessions. We will use the survey results to make adjustments to our school comprehensive education plan (SCEP) and to plan future programs and activities.

Thank you again for being partners in your child's education! Check out what you had to say...

Title 1 Parent Survey Data Spring 2017	Yes	No
1. Are you familiar with the school's vision and mission statements?	61%	39%
2. Do you use the school website?	45%	55%
3. Do you feel that by attending school events, you are able to help with your child/children's learning needs?	84%	16%
4. Do you feel that you understand how your child/children's academic grades are used to address specific learning needs?	80%	20%



Jefferson is pleased to announce our school-wide implementation of our PBIS Paw Program that encourages students to go "ABOVE AND BEYOND" to be RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE and SAFE at all times. Teachers and staff will recognize those individuals, which demonstrate these exemplar behaviors. Students will redeem tokens monthly for a prize(s) and will be recognized by the principal.

PARENT RESOURCE ROOM

Jefferson is very proud to share that the Parent Resource Room is open for educational use for parents/guardians. It is located in the front office corridor, room 122. There is a plethora of materials available for the parents/guardians of our students to help foster the growth of their child's learning. The materials help to support each grade level in the common core for all subject areas. There are also resources for bullying, character education and games to make learning fun. The room is available during the school day for parents/guardians. You will need to sign in/out with security. We are excited to have our parents stop in and utilize the many wonderful resources that are readily available.



Beginning Edition

Math+Science Connection

Building excitement and success for young children

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School

TOOLS & TIDBITS

Name that shape

Build your child's geometry skills by having her label household items. She can draw and cut shapes out of construction paper, name them with markers, and tape the labels to the objects. *Examples:* "rectangle" for refrigerator door, "cylinder" for peanut butter jar.

Make a hurricane

Let your youngster stir around the sides of a large bowl of water until the water moves in a fast circle. Then, have him quickly add food coloring to the center. The color will form bands (spirals), just like the "rainbands" of a real hurricane.



Book picks

▣ Reading *Jack the Builder* by Stuart Murphy is like one big math lesson. Your child will learn addition as she sees what Jack can build with just one more block.



▣ *Eye Wonder: Space* (Carole Stott) is a terrific introduction to stars, planets, galaxies, and more. The photographs and detailed information are sure to hook your youngster on space!

Worth quoting

"The best way to have a good idea is to have lots of ideas." *Linus Pauling*

Just for fun

Teacher: How fast does light travel?

Benji: I don't know, but it sure gets here early in the morning!



Count on it!

Bryan loves to count everything he sees. "Look, Mommy. There are three birds. Now I see four trees." Bryan doesn't know it, but he's getting ready for addition, multiplication, and other math skills. Help your child practice counting with these ideas.



Number sense

Get your youngster used to thinking about numbers and what they mean.

- ✦ Have him count objects regularly. How many computers are in the library? How many books are in his room?
- ✦ Give directions involving numbers. *Examples:* "Please put three plates on the table." "Take four steps to get into bed."

the numbers that remain, he will have counted by 2s!

- ✦ Encourage him to count to 50 while bouncing a ball. He can swing his leg over the ball on every 5th number (5, 10, 15) to get the rhythm of counting by 5s. 🦋

- ✦ Ask your child to count to 10 by finding numbers around the house. *Examples:* "1" on a clock, "2" on a remote control, "3" on a board game spinner, and so on.

Skip counting

2, 4, 6, 8... Learning to "skip count" will help your child count faster and with more confidence.

- ✦ While walking up the block, have him read the house numbers. Point out how they increase by 2 or 4.

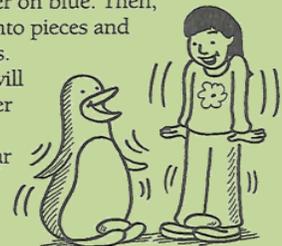
- ✦ Ask him to number 20 craft sticks (1–20) and lay them down side by side. If he removes every other one and says

Polar play

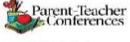
Walk like a penguin. Make a polar bear disappear. With these activities, your youngster will learn habits of two favorite animals:

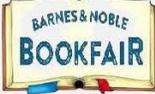
- Have her form an egg out of play dough. Can she walk across a room balancing the "egg" on top of her feet like father emperor penguins do in the Antarctic? Tell her it's the dad's job to keep the egg warm for two months before it hatches.

- Ask your child to draw two polar bear outlines, one on white paper and another on blue. Then, have her tear white paper into pieces and glue them into the outlines. What happens? Her bear will stand out on the blue paper but disappear against the white—showing how polar bears' white fur provides camouflage against snow in the Arctic. 🦋



November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Happy Thanksgiving</p>		<h2>Jefferson Elementary School</h2>				
			1  <p>BOOK FAIR</p>	2 Family Math Night 6 - 7 pm Family Night at Book Fair 6-7:30 pm	3  <p>BOOK FAIR</p>	4
5	6	7 NO SCHOOL Supt. Conf. Day	8	9	10 Veterans Day Observed NO SCHOOL	11  <p>VETERAN'S DAY</p>
12	13	14	15 1/2 Day In-Service Dismissal @ 12:05	16	17  <p>Candy Bar Sale World's Finest</p>	18
19	20 Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast	21 Go Home Early Drill Dismissal @ 2:50  <p>SUPER HERO DAY!</p>	22 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Recess	23  <p>Thanksgiving Day</p>	24 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Recess	25
26	27	28	29  Parent-Teacher Conferences Picture Re-Takes 1/2 Day In-Service Dismissal @ 12:05	30  <p>Students of the Month</p>		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		<h1>December</h1>				1	2
3  <p>BARNES & NOBLE BOOK FAIR</p>	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13 1st Day Hanukkah	14  <p>Winter Concert</p> 6:00 pm @ JFK	15 Reindeer Lollypop Sale Sale	16	
17	18	19	20 Last Day Hanukkah	21 Student of the Month Month	22	23	
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day  <p>WINTER BREAK</p>	26 Kwanzaa  <p>WINTER BREAK</p>	27  <p>WINTER BREAK</p>	28  <p>WINTER BREAK</p>	29  <p>WINTER BREAK</p>	30	
31 New Years Eve	1 January  <p>WINTER BREAK</p>	2 Back to School					



September Student of the Month



Grade K – 3 Students



Grade 4 – 6 Students



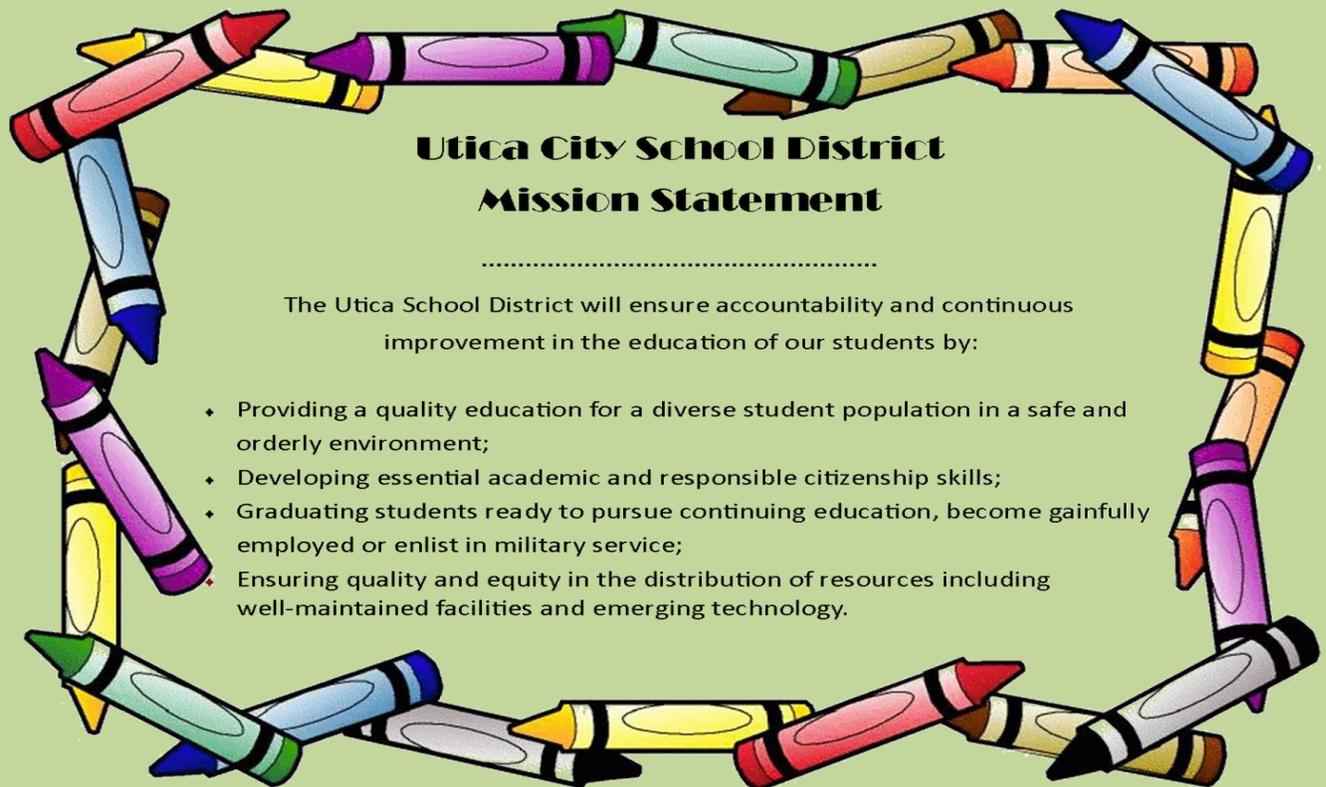
October Student of the Month



Grade K-3 Students



Grade 4-6 Students



Utica City School District Mission Statement

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The Utica School District will ensure accountability and continuous improvement in the education of our students by:

- ♦ Providing a quality education for a diverse student population in a safe and orderly environment;
- ♦ Developing essential academic and responsible citizenship skills;
- ♦ Graduating students ready to pursue continuing education, become gainfully employed or enlist in military service;
- ♦ Ensuring quality and equity in the distribution of resources including well-maintained facilities and emerging technology.