



# UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S THE RAIDER REVIEW

WWW.UTICASCHOOLS.ORG | SPRING 2025



**ANGELINA LE**  
VALEDICTORIAN

## *Class* of 2025 **TOP 10**



**KAITLYN TRUONG**  
SALUTATORIAN



**TESSA  
ROEMER**



**ANTHONY  
BRINDISI**



**NEJLA  
MIRVIC**



**NATALIE  
PARSASO**



**PYO PA  
PA**



**ALISON  
VEN**



**JOANNA  
LASHCHUK**



**TATIYANA  
FOSU**

**#UTICAUNITED**



## Superintendent's Message

### Dear Utica City School District Families,

As I reflect on my first full year as Superintendent of the Utica City School District, I am filled with both pride and gratitude for the remarkable journey we've shared together. This year has demonstrated the true meaning of #UticaUnited—far more than just a hashtag, it has been a movement that strengthened our culture, expanded opportunities, and raised student achievement across our district.

This year marked several significant milestones in our district's growth. We successfully launched the Raiders Extended Day Learning Program (RED), providing more than 800 students with a safe and enriching environment Monday through Thursday from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. This initiative, driven by community feedback from our town halls and data showing the need for extended learning opportunities, exemplifies what happens when we put students first.

Throughout my building visits this year, I've had the privilege of witnessing first-hand the exceptional teaching and learning happening within our classrooms each day. I've been consistently inspired by the creativity, technical skills, and determination our students have displayed across all grade levels and programs. The energy, curiosity, and thoughtful questions from our students have been truly refreshing.

Our commitment to literacy took center stage with the launch of "Utica Reads," a community-wide initiative featuring free-standing book boxes installed throughout the city. In partnership with the City of Utica, these boxes have created barrier-free access to books for families across our neighborhoods. As I've often said, literacy is not just about books, it's about planting the seeds of curiosity, imagination, and lifelong learning.

We've strengthened vital partnerships this year, from our collaboration with state and local governments to our work with faith leaders, workforce development organizations, and education institutions. These strategic partnerships are expanding the opportunity structure for all our students, ensuring they graduate with options to pursue collegiate aspirations or enter the workforce with valuable skills.

I'm particularly excited that we will open the doors to our new Career and Technical Education wing at Proctor High School this fall. This structural investment represents our commitment to ensuring students are well-prepared for success beyond high school, whether in college, career, or other post-secondary pursuits. This state-of-the-art facility will offer our students advanced manufacturing opportunities with cutting-edge equipment, truly investing in the future leaders of our city.

The success of our Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program highlights the impact of these partnerships in action. Made possible through collaboration with the New York State Department of Transportation, Mohawk Valley Community College, and the HMO Workforce Development Board, this program has provided our seniors with hands-on training in basic carpentry and masonry while creating meaningful pathways to employment opportunities.

Communication and transparency remain priorities through initiatives like "Wednesdays with Dr. Spence," creating opportunities for direct conversations with parents, students, staff, and community members. Our Utica GEMS program has highlighted the incredible achievements happening every day in our schools, recognizing the students, faculty, and staff who make our district shine.

To our parents and families, your engagement and support throughout this year have been invaluable. Your partnership in town halls, participation in family events, and commitment to your children's education have strengthened our entire school community.

As we look ahead to the 2025-2026 school year, I encourage our students to continue reading and exploring over the summer months. The foundation of literacy we've built together this year will serve as a launching pad for future success.



To our graduating seniors, congratulations on your remarkable achievements! You have navigated your educational journey with determination and resilience, and I couldn't be more proud of each of you. As you embark on your next chapter, remember that the skills, knowledge, and relationships you've developed here will continue to serve you well. The Raider pride you've embodied throughout your time here will remain with you wherever you go. Once a Raider, always a Raider!

This year has shown me the incredible power of what we can accomplish when we come together as a community. From our town halls to our literacy initiatives, from our extended day programs to our career pathways, every success we've celebrated has been the result of true collaboration. Our strength as a district lies in our unity—teachers, staff, families, students, and community partners all working toward a common goal. As we move forward, I am confident that this foundation of cooperation and mutual support will continue to propel us to new heights. #UticaUnited isn't just our hashtag—it's who we are and how we succeed, together.

Warmest regards,

Sincerely,  
**Dr. Christopher Spence**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**STAY IN THE KNOW WITH DR. SPENCE**

Scan the QR to follow Dr. Spence on X to stay updated on UCSD news, student success stories, and what's ahead for Utica schools!



# BOE President's Message

## To Our Utica City School District Community,

As we mark the end of another school year at the Utica City School District, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable progress, challenges, and achievements that have defined this past year. Above all, I'm inspired not only by the strength, perseverance, and growth we've shown but also by how we accomplished it through collaboration, resilience, and the increasingly powerful voices of our students.

This year, I've been profoundly moved by our students' willingness to step forward, speak up, and participate in the Board of Education process. Witnessing our students articulate their thoughts, challenge assumptions, and advocate for their vision of education has been nothing short of inspirational. These voices — your voices — are not just important; they are essential to shaping the future we're building together. When you speak up and seek to understand others, you're practicing the very skills that will transform our world.

Leadership has manifested in many forms across the UCSD, from students advocating for positive change to teachers creating innovative learning environments, to staff members anticipating and solving problems with care and dedication. True leadership is not simply about who holds a title, but about the character, courage, and decisive action we take in support of one another. Every student, every teacher, every staff member — each of you has the capacity to lead, whether through your example, service, or by standing up for what's right. These qualities will carry you forward, long after graduation, and beyond.

To our graduating seniors: as you walk across the stage and accept your diplomas, remember that your achievement represents not just academic success but personal triumph. The perseverance, resilience, and determination you've demonstrated will serve you well in all your future endeavors. Whether continuing your education, entering the workforce, or serving your country, you leave our halls having added to the rich tapestry of our district's history.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to my fellow Board members for their extraordinary commitment throughout the year:

- Danielle N. Padula, Vice-President
- Jason Cooper
- Donald Dawes
- Tennille Knoop
- Braedon Nanna
- James Paul

These remarkable individuals volunteer countless hours with a singular focus — doing what's best for our students, staff, and community. Their selfless service and thoughtful governance exemplify civic responsibility at its finest.

Finally, to everyone who makes up our extended UCSD family — staff, families, community partners, and supporters — thank you for your unwavering dedication to educational excellence. The strength of our district lies in our unity of purpose.

May your summer be filled with rest, joy, and new discoveries. We look forward to building on our momentum and achieving even greater heights together when we return in the fall.

With deepest gratitude,

**Joseph H. Hobika, Jr.**

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF EDUCATION  
UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



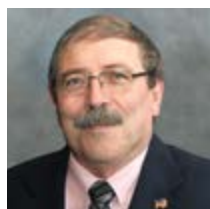
## UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Danielle N. Padula**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**Jason Cooper**



**Donald Dawes**



**Tennille Knoop**



**Braedon Nanna**



**James Paul**





## Curriculum Corner

**Steven A. Falchi, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

As the school year comes to a close, we want to take a moment to celebrate YOU—our incredible UCSD students!

Your dedication, growth, and perseverance have made this a year to remember. From showing up each day ready to learn and grow to tackling challenges with resilience to giving your all on state exams and classroom projects, you've shown us what it truly means to have Raider pride.

We see your effort. We see your progress. And we are so proud of all you've accomplished.

Whether this year brought personal bests, new friendships, or lessons learned, know that your hard work mattered—and it made a difference. Take pride in all you've achieved, and carry that confidence with you into the summer and beyond.

I would also like to thank our administrative team, school building leadership, teachers and instructional staff for all of their hard work as well as their dedication to our students. Together, we have achieved key successes during the 2024-2025 school year which will enhance student performance outcomes. These successes include but are not limited to: the redesign of the school district's K-6 Mathematics program; institution of Math Interventionists at each elementary school; alignment of our Pre K-3 literary program with the Science of Reading; implementation of literacy tasks for K-3 students; development of standards-based elementary report cards; revision and alignment of elementary curriculum and assessments to the New York State standards; creation and implementation of the Raiders Extended Day (RED) program; expanded use of Arts in Education funding to provide additional enrichment opportunities for students in grades K-12; expansion of drama programming at the elementary schools; increased field trip opportunities for students; implementation of the new Individual Arts Assessment Pathway (IAAP) and Seal of Civic Readiness; launch of the public facing side of Curriculum Atlas; groundbreaking and construction of the new Career and Technical Education (CTE) wing at the high school, including lab design and equipment purchase; as well as the implementation of new Career and Technical Education (CTE) instructional modules at the middle schools.

We certainly have a lot to celebrate as we close the 2024-2025 school year and we thank all of our parents and community partners for their support!

#UticaUnited

## DISTRICT ART SHOW



## Utica City School District UNIVERSAL PRE-K PROGRAM



Download the  
UPK Registration  
Packet by scanning  
the QR Code!



## PLEASE JOIN US FOR OPEN HOUSE/REGISTRATION

**Wednesday, August 20, 2025 | Kernan Elementary | 2PM-4PM**

Families will have a chance to meet directors, teachers, and learn about community resources. There will also be fun activities for children! We look forward to seeing you!

Families may stop by to complete a registration packet if they have not yet done so.

*\*Child must be four years old by December 1, 2025 and a resident of the Utica City School District.*

For more info contact: (315) 792-2216 or scan the QR code.



# GRIFFISS SUMMER CAMP

## JULY 2025

The Griffiss Institute is offering free, hands-on summer camps for students entering grades 3–6, held at Albany Elementary from July 7 to August 1. Campers will explore exciting topics like Coding, Aerospace and Drones, Chemistry, and Biology—all in a small-group setting with only 25 spots available. Camps run Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and lunch and transportation is provided daily.



## CTE Exploratory Courses for all 9th Graders at Proctor High School

Starting this fall, all 9th-grade students at Proctor High School will have the opportunity to take part in Career and Technical Education (CTE) Exploratory Courses as part of their regular schedule. Students will select two of three career clusters—Skilled Trades, Business Administration, and Human Services—and explore a total of eight CTE pathways. These hands-on courses will help students build real-world skills, learn about in-demand careers, and gain experience in brand-new, state-of-the-art CTE labs located in the new addition at Proctor High School.



## Pre-Apprenticeship in Review

This year, students at Proctor High School had the unique opportunity to take part in pre-apprenticeship programs designed to prepare them for in-demand careers. These hands-on experiences allowed students to explore career paths they may not have previously considered while building technical skills, discovering their interests, and developing essential career-readiness competencies.

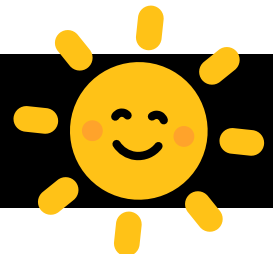
Pre-apprenticeship programs were offered in Advanced Manufacturing, Business Finance, Clean Energy, Construction and Masonry, Health Professions and Skilled Trades through the Young Entrepreneurs Academy.

These opportunities would not be possible without the invaluable support of our business and community partners. We extend our deepest thanks to Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC), the HMO Workforce Development Board, and the many local businesses, agencies, and higher education institutions who invest their time and expertise to support our students.

Together, we are opening doors and creating meaningful career pathways for our students. A sincere thank you from the Utica City School District to all involved in the pre-apprenticeships and development of the CTE Department.

## Summer Programs

Check out our website for a complete list of our summer programs, including System of Care events!  
[www.uticaschools.org/summer-programs](http://www.uticaschools.org/summer-programs)







# SCHOOL UPDATES

## Albany Elementary

### COMMUNITY READERS 2025

Albany Elementary hosted their annual Community Readers Day on March 21. Albany Jr. Raiders enjoyed hearing community members read some of their favorite stories. Afterward, students asked our readers' questions about their careers and hobbies. It was a great day of community connection and learning!



## Columbus Elementary

### K-CLUB'S "PENNIES FOR PETS" FUNDRAISER

Columbus Elementary School's K-Club demonstrated the power of compassion and community spirit through their "Pennies for Pets" fundraiser in partnership with Anita's Stevens Swan Humane Society. The student-led initiative brought the entire school together for a common cause—helping our furry friends in need!

Through their dedication and generous hearts, Columbus students raised an impressive \$750 to benefit local animals! This remarkable achievement shows how even our youngest Raiders can make a significant impact in our community when they work together.

The Utica City School District is proud of Columbus Elementary's commitment to kindness and service.



## Conkling Elementary

### SCIENCE FAIR 2025

Conkling Elementary hosted its annual Science Fair, and it did not disappoint!

Conkling Jr. Raiders showcased their creativity with unique displays and experiments, and knocked it out of the park. Each year our Junior Raiders amaze us, and this year was no different.

Thank you to all of the teachers, parents, and administrators who continue to support our Jr. Raiders in their pursuit of learning and new discoveries.



## Donovan Middle

### DONOVAN MIDDLE SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

On March 12, members of the Donovan Middle School community showed off their hard work at the annual International Night, held in the Donovan Cafeteria.

Teachers, staff, students and family members enjoyed presentations, crafts, music and food from varying countries that represent and celebrate the diversity of our school community.

Students represented Afghanistan, Africa, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Italy, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Thailand and Ukraine. Music from around the world accompanied the afternoon.

Thanks to all of the participants for making the event a huge success!



# SCHOOL UPDATES



## General Herkimer

### GENERAL HERKIMER KINDNESS CREW!

"Try and leave this world a little better than you found it." -Robert Baden-Powell

The General Herkimer Kindness Crew operates on the motto "Kind to self, kind to others, kind to Earth."

The primary purpose of the General Herkimer Kindness Crew is recycling throughout the building and gardening when the weather allows.

Kindness Crew members have previously donated their time to making blankets for the Linus Project and dog treats to donate to the Humane Society.

Let's hear it for the General Herkimer Kindness Crew!

## Hughes Elementary

### RED PROGRAM PICKLEBALL 2025

Hughes Elementary Students Pick Up Pickleball in RED Program.

Students in the Hughes Elementary RED program are getting active and having fun through a variety of rotating activities! Recently, a group of 12 students took part in the Pickleball Club, where they learned the basics of the game, from rules and scoring to strategy and teamwork.

Beyond developing new skills, students had the chance to make new friends and enjoy friendly competition. The RED program at Hughes offers different sports and activities every two weeks based on student interest, and Pickleball remains a favorite in the rotation!



## Jefferson Elementary

### CELEBRATION DAY 2025

On March 26, Jefferson Elementary opened its doors for an unforgettable evening of celebration, learning, and community connection. The Jefferson Celebration welcomed students and their families to explore the incredible work happening in classrooms and beyond.

Throughout the hallways and auditorium, student projects were proudly on display—many inspired by culturally relevant lessons students explored this year. The evening was packed with hands-on STEM activities, a lively book fair, exciting raffles, a photo booth, and more. It was a joyful showcase of student creativity, academic growth, and school spirit.

Jefferson Elementary is already looking forward to making this celebration an annual tradition that continues to highlight the vibrant learning community they've built.







# SCHOOL UPDATES

## JFK Middle

### MORNING SHOW AT JFK TV STUDIO

Lights! Camera! Action!

JFK Studios is bringing the media world to our school with a student-led morning show, sharing building-wide announcements and fun special segments. JFK Studios currently has a roster of eight to ten students rotating roles—there's a spot for everyone to learn and shine!

From news anchors and weather reporters to camera operators and teleprompter pros, students are gaining hands-on experience. We are so fortunate at JFK to be home to three amazing teachers with broadcasting and production backgrounds willing to guide the way for our Raiders.

JFK Studios has had incredible support from our faculty, staff, and student body. Moving from traditional P.A. announcements to our own TV broadcast, we're all about starting the day with positivity, energy, and a little humor!

The studio has been an awesome addition to our school, teaching students teamwork and collaboration, and sparking creativity.



## Jones Elementary

### STUDENTS REACH NEW HEIGHTS ON INDOOR CLIMBING WALL

Jones Elementary Jr. Raiders spent the spring conquering a thrilling new challenge—indoor rock climbing!

Students were introduced to the school's climbing wall with reactions ranging from nervousness to excitement as they faced this new physical and mental test. Many students who began with apprehension quickly transformed into confident climbers, learning valuable lessons about perseverance, determination, and goal-setting that extend far beyond physical education.

The entire Jones student body deserves congratulations for their participation and growth, with special recognition to four outstanding 5th and 6th-grade students who demonstrated exceptional determination. Marciano Curley, Giordano Giruzzi, Gianna Holt, and Ariana Johnson conquered the most challenging course on the rock wall, showcasing the incredible potential within every Junior Raider.



## Kernan Elementary

### MVP PEP RALLY

At Kernan Elementary, students showed up for each other in a big way during state testing this year.

To help build confidence and create a positive atmosphere, Kindergarten through 2nd grade students lined the hallways to cheer on their peers in grades 3-6 as they made their way to a special testing pep rally in the auditorium.

The rally was filled with energy, encouragement, and fun. Students enjoyed trivia, games, and exciting incentives designed to motivate them to do their best.

The event was a great reminder that success starts with support and school spirit. At Kernan, students are not just prepared—they are confident, motivated, and ready to shine.





# SCHOOL UPDATES

## MLK Elementary

### APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS!

Our fabulous MLK 6th grade students came back to kindergarten to assist with a math "craftivity." The students used cubes and ten frames to solve addition and subtraction problems on raindrops. They then colored and cut pieces to make a dachshund wearing a raincoat and hat. Last, they put it all together to create a picture to display for April.



## Proctor High

### NYS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR IS EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION!

Proctor High School students had an incredible opportunity to sit down with NYS Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon for a roundtable discussion.

Students got an inside look at Commissioner Reardon's journey to becoming Labor Commissioner, the impact of her role, and her favorite part of the job. Students asked important and engaging questions about career opportunities, state initiatives, and how the Department of Labor supports young people like them.

One exciting topic that Commissioner Reardon shared? Digital working papers! A new proposal that will make it easier for students entering the workforce (and guardians too)!

The Department of Labor is all about:

- Creating job opportunities
- Transforming the workplace
- Empowering youth

The Utica City School District cannot thank Commissioner Reardon and the Utica Department of Labor team enough for taking the time to visit Proctor and engage with our students. We can't wait for your next visit!



## Watson Elementary

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH INFO FASHION SHOW

Watson Williams Elementary hosted a Black History Month Info Fashion Show on February 28!

The showcase was a vibrant and inspiring celebration of Black excellence, creativity and legacy. Students took the stage dressed as prominent historical figures, bringing each historical figure's story to life with confidence. By stepping into the shoes of history, students at Watson Williams gained a deeper understanding of these influential figures.

The showcase was an interactive and fun way to learn Black History, and students are already looking forward to next year's event.

Thank you to our Ms. Lockhart and Ms. Burke for all of your hard work and planning to make this event a success.



## RED Program Roundup



## Summer Meal Sites

Summer lunches will be served at the following locations Monday, July 7 through Friday, August 22 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### CORNHILL

- Hope Chapel Church
- MLK Elementary
- Munson
- Watson Williams Elementary

### DOWNTOWN

- Kennedy Plaza

### EAST UTICA

- Adrean Terrace
- Columbus Elementary
- Rebuilding the Village - Community Center

### NORTH UTICA

- Humphrey Gardens
- Jefferson Elementary
- Parkedge Townhouses

### SOUTH UTICA

- Gillmore Village
- Hughes Elementary

### WEST UTICA

- Kernan Elementary
- Lincoln Park (served by Tabernacle Church of Deliverance of Christ)

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally funded, state-administered program. USDA reimburses program operators who serve no-cost, healthy meals and snacks to children and teens. Meals are completely free of charge for any children 18 years of age and under. Students must be present to receive the meal, parents are not allowed to pick up meals for their children.

## Summer PROGRAMS

### Summer Extended Learning Time (ELT)

June 30-July 3 (no program on Fri., July 4) and July 7-11 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

### Special Education Extended School Year (Summer School)

July 7-August 15 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Monday-Friday at Jefferson Elementary

### ENL Summer Program & Refugee Academy

July 28 - August 8 | 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Columbus Elementary

### Orientations

#### District Wide Kindergarten Orientation

Thursday, August 28 | 2:00-3:00 p.m. at each building

#### Walkthroughs for incoming students

Donovan: August 20 - 22 | 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
JFK: August 25-26 | 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

#### Orientation for 7th Graders

JFK: July 9 | 9:00 a.m.  
Donovan: July 9 | 9:00 a.m.





# STAY CONNECTED!

## BUSZONE and FIRSTVIEW APPS

BusZone and FirstView are user-friendly, mobile apps designed to let you check on your school bus anytime, anywhere. The apps prioritize user security, ensuring that all parent, guardian and student information remains secure.

Available for both smartphones and tablets, BusZone and FirstView will make staying informed about your school bus easier than ever.

To download the proper app for your child's building, check out the link below:  
<https://www.uticaschools.org/departments/transportation/bus-tracking-apps>

## STAY UP TO DATE: PARENTSQUARE

- Receive District, School Alerts by Email, Phone, Text, App
- View School and Classroom Calendars
- Supports Translation and Accessibility Functionality
- Stay Up to Date on What's Happening Throughout the District

For more information, please scan the QR code or visit: [www.uticaschools.org/families/parent-square](http://www.uticaschools.org/families/parent-square)



## WEATHER & EMERGENCY CLOSURES & DELAYS COMMUNITY GROUP

If you are not a ParentSquare user but would like to be notified of weather delays, closures, and cancellations, visit the link below to sign up for our ParentSquare Weather Closures and Delays Community Group:

[https://www.parentsquare.com/community\\_signups/1435c37a-ba7e-430c-a0ca-572b13458e45/new](https://www.parentsquare.com/community_signups/1435c37a-ba7e-430c-a0ca-572b13458e45/new)

DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK! /UTICACITYSCHOOLDISTRICT /UCSDRAIDERSNATION

# FREE SPORTS SUMMER CAMPS

## FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 5-12

Starting in July 2025, UCSD is proud to provide a summer packed with activities aimed at extending engagement through athletics and reaching students beyond the conventional school year and the standard education curriculum. With camps running throughout July and August from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., students will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of sports, including:

**Baseball | Basketball | Cheerleading | Cross Country | Football | Golf | Lacrosse  
Soccer | Softball | Swimming | Tennis | Volleyball | Wrestling | Track & Field**

Registrations for the summer sports camps will open on Monday, June 2, 2025. Families are encouraged to register their children early as sports are expected to fill up quickly. For registration details and more information about the specific sports camps, please visit [uticaschools.org/departments/athletics/index](http://uticaschools.org/departments/athletics/index) or contact Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics at (315) 368-6950 or [epatterson@uticaschools.org](mailto:epatterson@uticaschools.org).

# Summer Regents

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 19**

**8:30 a.m.**

Algebra I  
English Language Arts

**12:30 p.m.**

Global History & Geography II  
Algebra II

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20**

**8:30 a.m.**

U.S. History & Government  
Physical Setting/Earth Science  
Physical Setting/Chemistry  
Earth and Space Sciences

**12:30 p.m.**

Geometry  
Living Environment  
Life Science: Biology



**Utica City School District**  
929 York Street  
Utica, NY 13502

**Nonprofit Org.**  
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**Utica, NY**

## Grades 7-12 Regional Summer School Program

Summer school for Utica City School District students in grades 7-12 will be operated by Oneida-Herkimer-Madison (OHM) BOCES. Students are currently being registered by their current school guidance counselor based on their performance during the 2024-2025 school year.

The regional summer school program will operate Monday through Thursday from Monday, July 7, 2025 to Thursday, August 14, 2025. Information is as follows:

Grades 6-9 will be located at Sauquoit Valley Middle School from 8:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Grades 10-12 will be located at Sauquoit Valley High School from 8:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

In addition, counselors will be signing students up for any required August Regents exam along with a Regents tutorial program that will also be held at Sauquoit Valley High School from Wednesday, July 30, 2025 to Wednesday, August 14, 2025. Regents Examinations will be offered on Tuesday, August 19 and Wednesday, August 20.

If you have any questions about Summer School, please feel free to reach out to your child's school guidance counselor.

## Shining a Light on Excellence in Our Schools

Welcome to Utica Gems, a special weekly spotlight dedicated to celebrating the students, faculty, and staff who make the Utica City School District shine. Each Monday and Friday, the Utica City School District will be highlighting individuals whose dedication, talent, and hard work inspire those around them.

Through Utica Gems, UCSD aims to showcase the incredible achievements happening every day in our schools and recognize the people who make our district a place of learning, leadership, and community. Check back regularly to discover the latest gems making an impact!

Check out the Utica GEMs gallery at: <https://www.uticaschools.org/families/highlights-page>

**Utica**  
**GEMS**



### Office Numbers

**General Information** 315.792.2210  
**Transportation Office** 315.792.2212  
**Building & Grounds Office** 315.792.2231

### Thomas R. Proctor High School

**Ann Marie Palladino, Acting Principal**  
315.368.6404 | 1203 Hilton Avenue, Utica, NY 13501-4193

### Senator James H. Donovan Middle School

**Deanna Zegarelli, Acting Principal**  
315.368.6541 | 1701 Noyes Street, Utica, NY 13502-3895

### John F. Kennedy Middle School

**Colin Clark, Principal**  
315.368.6641 | 500 Deerfield Drive East, Utica, NY 13502-1899

### Albany Elementary

**Brent Dodge, Principal**  
315.368.6500 | 1151 Albany Street, Utica, NY 13501-3300

### Christopher Columbus Elementary

**Jaymes White, Principal**  
315.368.6520 | 934 Armory Drive, Utica, NY 13501-5362

### Roscoe Conkling Elementary

**Heather Galinski, Principal**  
315.368.6815 | 1115 Mohawk Street, Utica, New York 13501-3700

### General Herkimer Elementary

**William Smith, Principal**  
315.368.6600 | 420 Keyes Road, Utica, NY 13502-2056

### John F. Hughes Elementary

**Mary Belden, Principal**  
315.368.6620 | 24 Prospect Street, Utica, NY 13501-5994

### Thomas Jefferson Elementary

**Kimberly VanDuren, Principal**  
315.368.6700 | 190 Booth Street, Utica, NY 13502-1500

### Hugh R. Jones Elementary

**Rebecca Guerrero, Principal**  
315.368.6740 | 2630 Remington Road, Utica, NY 13501-6397

### Kernan Elementary

**Dominick Timpano, Principal**  
315.368.6760 | 929 York Street, Utica, NY 13502-3999

### Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary

**Jennie Sikora, Principal**  
315.368.6720 | 211 Square Street, Utica, NY 13501-4599

### Watson Williams Elementary

**Dr. Cheryl B. Minor, Principal**  
315.368.6780 | 107 Elmwood Place, Utica, NY 13501-4999