



The gift of gratitude: letter, blog video

1 message

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley <news@ucityschools.org>
Reply-To: communications@ucityschools.org

Tue, Nov 21, 2023 at 3:30 PM

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November 21, 2023

From the Desk of Dr. Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley

Good afternoon School District of University City Community:

The leaves are blowing. Morning frost dusts our lawns in silver. A golden twilight sinks low into darkness early in our evenings. Yes, the winter season is approaching. Next week, many of us will gather to give thanks and enjoy fellowship with family and friends. Whether you celebrate the traditional Thanksgiving holiday or engage in other meaningful activities during our extended break, gratitude is always appropriate....
([Read my October/November blog](#))



Video Message

[Click here to see my Fall Break video message!](#)

News and Updates

Brittany Woods See Our Schools Event on November 30

I want to personally invite all of our fifth grade students and their parents and caregivers to Brittany Woods Middle School's "Believe in their Greatness" event on Thursday, Nov. 30 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. This is one of our annual See Our Schools events, and is intended to give an up-close look at student life in middle school. There will be hot cocoa. Student ambassadors will be on hand to talk about their middle school experiences. Staff and students will host tables on middle school academics, electives and activities. Principal Justin Davis and his leadership team will also give a short presentation in the library starting at 5:40 p.m. I encourage our community to invite families with middle school students who are considering joining the District. Please pre-register at www.ucityschools.org/BW113023.

Book Fair Next Monday

Save a little of your Black Friday shopping for our Book Fair on Monday! This is a great way to socialize while shopping for books, toys and gifts. A portion of proceeds benefit the District. We'll even have a performance by our strings musicians. The Book Fair takes place from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble in [Ladue Crossing, 8871 Ladue Road, 63124](#). Find more details and our purchasing ID at www.ucityschools.org/112723Books.

'Tis the Season for Winter Performances

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss our student music and dance performances in celebration of the winter season. Our Barbara C. Jordan students led off the season last week with a spectacular concert. Our next concert is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30 at Brittany Woods Middle School featuring the middle

school band and orchestra. The concert follows the middle school's "Believe in their Greatness" event on the same night. All of the concerts are listed in the Key Dates section below. [You can also see the full concert schedule here.](#)

Dolly's Imagination Library

Dolly Parton continues to wow us! I encourage parents and caregivers with children under five to sign up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The program is open to all Missouri children, birth to five, and mails a free children's book to your address every month. [Click here for more information and a QR Code to sign up on your cell phone.](#)

STEAM Expo and Trunk or Treat Successes

Congratulations to the students, staff, partners and friends who contributed their time and expertise to produce yet another spectacular STEAM Expo earlier this month at Brittany Woods Middle School. This is my favorite event of the year because it exemplifies the magic of student hands-on learning in partnership with parents, caregivers and other loved ones. This year did not disappoint. I am so grateful to the 35 partners who hosted tables, the students who put their hearts – and their homemade honey – into running the Brittany Brand Boutique, and the 350 guests who made the night such a success! [You can see a video slideshow of the event here.](#)

I also want to thank the always dynamic One U City team for putting on a spirited and successful Trunk or Treat, Pumpkin Glow and Pumpkin Carving event on October 28. It was a brisk day with a haunting possibility of rain, but we were brave, and it did not stop our students and families from having a very good time.

Key Dates

[Click here for the full list of Key Dates for the 2023-24 school year.](#)

Remember to check your emails for information from your school principal for additional school events.

Nov. 22-24 – District closed, Thanksgiving break

Nov. 27 – PreK-12 Barnes & Noble Bookfair (featuring District student-musicians), 5-7 p.m., Ladue Crossing, [8871 Ladue Road, 63124](#). Details & ID at www.ucityschools.org/112723Books.

Nov. 30 – See Our Schools for Brittany Woods Middle School (for all prospective middle school families, including current District fifth graders), 5:30-6:30 p.m., Brittany Woods Middle School, [8125 Groby Road](#). Register: www.ucityschools.org/BW113023.

Nov. 30 – Brittany Woods Band and Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m., Brittany Woods Middle School, [8125 Groby Road](#)

Dec. 1 – Last day to donate gift cards to District Holiday Appeal, contact Christine Woodward at cwoodward@ucityschools.org for more information

Dec. 1 – UCHS and Brittany Woods Choir Concert, 6:30 p.m., University City High School Auditorium, [7401 Balson Ave.](#)

Dec. 2 – UCHS Winter Dance Concert, 7 p.m., University City High School Auditorium, [7401 Balson Ave.](#), Admission \$5 cash at door / Children ages 5 and under are free

Dec. 5 – All Elementary Strings Concert, 6:30 p.m., University City High School Auditorium, [7401 Balson Ave.](#)

Dec. 8 – Brittany Woods Winter Dance Concert, 6:30 p.m., Brittany Woods Middle School, [8125 Groby Road](#), Admission \$5 cash at door / Children ages 5 and under are free

Dec. 12 – Barbara C. Jordan Grades 3-5 Music Concert, 6:30 p.m., Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School Gym





Dec. 12 – Pershing Music Concert, 6:30 p.m., Pershing Elementary School

Dec 13-15 – UCHS Exams

Dec. 13 – UCHS Band/Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m., University City High School Auditorium, [7401 Balson Ave.](#)

Dec. 14 – Board of Education Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., McNair Administration Building, [7700 Olive Blvd.](#)

Dec. 18-29 – District Closed for Winter Break

Jan. 2, 2024 – No classes, Teacher Work Day

Jan. 3, 2024 – Classes resume

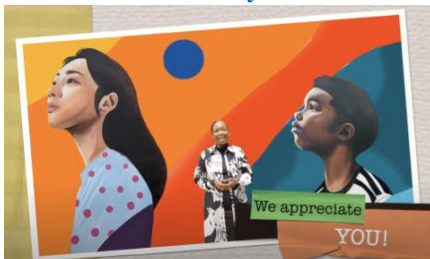
In Closing

I wish you a lovely fall break and uplifting time with your loved ones. Remember to let the gift of gratitude light your way. If you have any questions or concerns, you can reach me at shardin@ucityschools.org or on my cell phone at 314-399-0941.

In Service of Our Children,

Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley, Ph.D., PHR
Superintendent

[Click here to see my video.](#)



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