

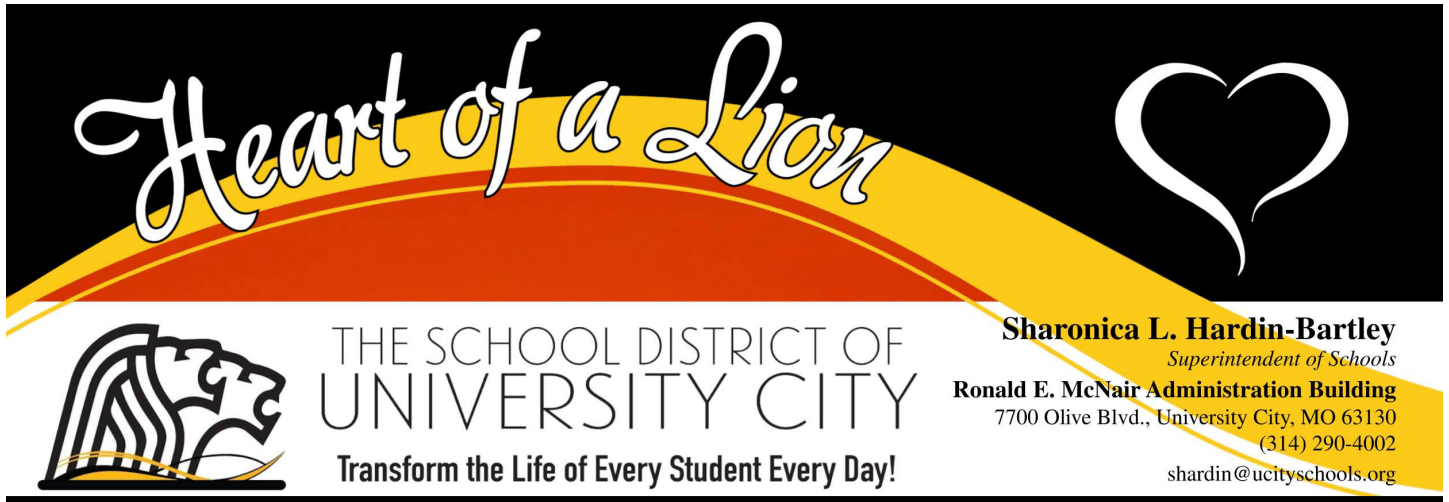


Monthly SDUC News from Superintendent Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley

1 message

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September 29, 2023

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

Fall is my favorite season for many reasons. It is nice to be outdoors to enjoy the milder weather and beautiful autumn colors that signal change. The first full month of school has been similar. Our students and staff are adjusting to being back in school, and the world continues to change around us in bright but sometimes challenging ways. Our teachers are navigating new curricular resources in math, social-emotional learning and social studies. We've had some challenges, and yet we are seeing tremendous progress. In our district, we understand the importance of meaningful relationships, and I applaud our staff for prioritizing small moments to build bonds and bridge gaps with students.

I also applaud parents and caregivers for being present in so many ways. One U City's first event on September 12 truly showed "this is what community looks like." More than 700 parents, caregivers, grandparents, students, and U. City School supporters gathered at Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School to kick off the school year. Their intention that night to build an inclusive, loving, and equitable community among all of our schools was crystal clear... ([Read my September blog](#))



News and Updates

Homecoming!

Join us tomorrow to celebrate the spirit of University City at our annual homecoming celebration. The theme is "Hometown Showdown: I'm from the 'U' and I'm Proud!" The annual parade begins at 10 a.m. at the west end of the Delmar Loop. Parade-goers will march west on Delmar and then north on Hanley Road to the high school. Our community really shows up and shows out during this parade, so you don't want to miss it. The football team kicks off against Affton at 1 p.m. Remember: only clear bags are allowed in the stadium; students in elementary and middle school must be accompanied by an adult; and all high school students must bring their student IDs.

Hall of Fame

In just a few hours we will host the University City High School Hall of Fame at the high school. Tickets are sold out! We are honoring 20 prestigious graduates who have made a tremendous mark on the world. They include professional athletes, judges and lawyers, civil rights advocates, an inventor, a maternal health advocate, a Hollywood and Broadway Actor, musicians and composers, a U.S. Naval Officer, a legendary comic book artist, a journalist and more! We are so excited that our Senior Class Co-President Ahress Peoples will be welcoming our guests this evening!

Financial Resources Available: Close the Gap Program

Parents and caregivers, I am pleased to announce an exciting opportunity to help our families afford tutoring, camps, computer learning programs, before- and after-school programs, textbooks and more. Applications are being taken now for the Close the Gap program which provides a one-time grant of up to \$1,500 for parents and caregivers to use for allowable educational expenses for their K-12 public school district or charter school students. Applications are being accepted now through October 25. The program is arranged through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Dese is using the vendor Odyssey to administer the grant. Please visit missouri.withodyssey.com for eligibility requirements and to sign up. You may also call 573-691-5876 for more information.

Raising Cane's

We are excited that the new Raising Cane's on Olive Boulevard near Highway 170 has become a partner with the district and is making a \$1,000 contribution to our Athletics Department as part of its grand opening celebration on Tuesday, October 3. The check will be awarded at the restaurant at 4 p.m. that day. The University City High School Drumline, Dance and Cheer squads and Steppers Team will be present at that time as well as Louie from the St. Louis Blues and Fredbird from the St. Louis Cardinals. Please stop by to celebrate with our students. Additionally, if you come to the restaurant between 7:30 and 9 a.m., you can enter a drawing in which 20 people will win free Cane's for a year. [You can see the full details here.](#)

Middle School Sixth Grade Parents and Caregivers: Mark Your Calendars

Sixth grade parents: Please join Principal Justin Davis, Assistant Principal Darrin Young and me in the Brittany Woods Middle School library on October 24 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for a session discussing "Learning Reimagined: The Middle Years." We will base the discussion on principles in the book "The Successful Middle School: This We Believe," by Penny Bishop and Lisa Harrison. You don't need to have read the book to attend.

Thank you for your participation!

We are completing a strong sequence of school-based parent/caregiver engagement events, curriculum nights, class-level meetings at the high school and middle school, Zoom math curriculum workshops, and many individualized meetings within the schools. I thank you for participating and being a part of these dynamic partnerships.

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.

Sept. 30 - Homecoming Parade: Hometown Showdown, 10 a.m. The parade starts on the west end of the Delmar Loop, proceeds west on Delmar Blvd. to Hanley Road, and then north on Hanley to the high school.

Oct. 1 - U City In Bloom Garden Tour/Reception and Plein Air Art Festival 2023, 1 to 5 p.m. The event features SDUC high schools competing in the Plein Air festival. [Click here for full details.](#)

Oct. 3 - Grand Opening Celebration featuring UCHS students, 4 p.m., Raising Cane's, [8610 Olive Blvd, 63102](#)

Oct. 5 - College and Career Fair, 9 to 11 a.m., UCHS library

Oct. 11 - National Honor Society Pins and Letters Ceremony, 6 to 7:30 p.m. UCHS auditorium, by invitation only

Oct. 12 - Board of Education work session, 5:45 p.m., McNair Administration Building, 7700 Olive, 63130

Oct. 17 - Parent Cafes for Pershing and BCJ Parents/Caregivers, check for emails from the school principals for times and registration

Oct. 19 - Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., McNair Administration Building, [7700 Olive Blvd., 63130](#)

Oct. 20 - Early Release Day for Students

Oct. 24 - For Sixth Grade Parents/Caregivers, Learning Reimagined: The Middle Years, 5:30 p.m., Brittany Woods Middle School library

Oct. 25 - Deadline for Parents/Caregivers to apply for Close the Gap assistance, [Click here to learn more.](#)

Oct. 25 - Parent/Caregiver-Teacher Conferences, evening, check for emails from your school principals

Oct. 26 - Parent/Caregiver-Teacher Conferences, evening, check for emails from your school principals

Oct. 27 - No School for Students, teacher comp day for conferences

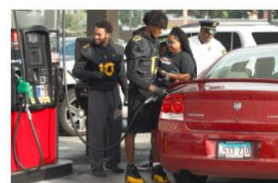
Oct. 28 - One U City Trunk or Treat and Pumpkin Carving and Stroll, 2 to 4:30 p.m., free pumpkin carving at UCHS; 6 to 7:30 p.m., Trunk or Treat at JP and Pumpkin Stroll across the street in UCHS stadium

In Closing

Again, I extend my deepest gratitude to the entire University City Schools community for rallying for our students. I am excited to see you in October at many of our events. 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



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