



From the Desk of Sharonica Hardin-Bartley: Blog, SSD news and more

1 message

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley <news@ucityschools.org>

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Heart of a Lion

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
UNIVERSITY CITY

Transform the Life of Every Student Every Day!

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July 14, 2023

From the Desk of
Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley

Hello University City families and community:

Summer is in full swing. I hope you are enjoying time with family and friends and doing whatever brings you joy. I know earlier this month was very trying for those of you dealing with extended power outages, and it is my hope that things are getting back to normal.



In the District, we recently concluded Camp U, a rich representation of the creative spirit of our scholars, teachers and school leaders. Student experiences included exploration of our solar system, understanding the importance of healthy lifestyles, entrepreneurship, artistic expression and much more. Our incoming ninth grade scholars engaged in transition activities to help prepare them for the high school experience. High school students at various grade levels participated in a rich internship with Fresh Harvest 365, an innovative urban agriculture partnership based in Cool Valley. These types of experiences make our school district so unique. We understand and embrace equity and diversity in all that we do. Kudos to our summer school leaders, staff, students and our amazing partners.

As we finished Camp U, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down affirmative action and removed racial reference from the college admission process. Since the ruling, I have closely watched universities swiftly alter policies related to the ruling..... [\(Read my July blog\)](#)

News and Updates

Welcome Wendy Gilliam, Our New SSD Partner District Director

The St. Louis County Special School District has hired Wendy Gilliam as the new SSD partner district director for our school district. We are excited to welcome Ms. Gilliam to University City. She is replacing Dr. Artondria Bentley, who has begun a new position with the District as Director of Special Programs in Support of MTSS (multi-tiered systems of support). Gilliam joins us after serving for 10 years as the principal at Gateway Science Academy in St. Louis. Prior to this, Gilliam served in several special education roles, including as the education/student services coordinator for St. Louis Charter School System. [You can read more about Ms. Gilliam here.](#)

One U City Updates

Please note these updates from One U City, the parent-community group supporting our elementary and middle schools:

- If you are a Barbara C. Jordan parent or caregiver, [please fill out this very brief survey](#) on how you might like to participate in the school's community collaborative this upcoming school year.
- [First Lego League programs](#) (FLL) are an amazing way to expose our elementary school students to fun STEM experiences. We are seeking coaches and participants for these programs now! [Click here to sign up.](#)
- One U City will be sponsoring a Witnessing Whiteness cohort this fall for individuals who identify as white and are interested in exploring white privilege and identity and building proactive anti-racist communities. Meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings via Zoom beginning in August. Email oneucity@ucityschools.org by July 15 for more information or to sign up.
- Fall Soccer for grades 1-6 is organizing now! [Click here to sign up.](#)
- We hope to see you at our Back to School Kickback event at Pershing Elementary School on August 12 from 2 to 4 p.m.
- Follow us on Facebook to find upcoming events and information at <https://www.facebook.com/oneucity>.

Magic House Summer Scholarships Available

The Magic House Made for Kids is offering a few last minute summer camp registration scholarships for our students. [Here is the flier on how to apply.](#)

Back to School Rally

Mark your calendar for August 1, 5 to 7 p.m., for our annual Back to School Rally/National Night Out celebration outside of Jackson Park Elementary School. This is a wonderful way to reconnect with students, parents and staff in a carnival-like setting hosted by both the District and the University City Police Department. As always, we'll have free food and beverages, including Fitz's Root Beer. There will be entertainment, music, face painting, a bubble bus, balloon art, free school supplies, an immunization clinic and a variety of service organizations present to provide you with information and resources to thrive. See you there!

Immunizations

Now is the time to make sure your student has obtained [required immunizations](#). Please make your appointments now so your child is ready to start the school year. The District is hosting a free immunization clinic at the McNair Administration Building, 7700 Olive Blvd., on Friday, August 18, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Re-Enrollment

Please make sure to re-enroll your student by updating the Parent Portal. This ensures we have the most up-to-date immunization records and contact information. The process can be done online by going to www.ucityschools.org/EnrollExistingFamily. If you have any questions or need assistance with this process, go to www.ucityschools.org/EnrollmentHelp.

Summer Hours for the District

In the month of July, the District utilizes a flex schedule for full-year employees. District offices will be closed on Fridays, July 14, 21 and 28. Our District leaders will conclude a weeklong retreat on Friday, July 28.

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 about special socials prior to the first day of school.

- July 14 - District Closed**, summer flex schedule
- July 21 - District Closed**, summer flex schedule
- July 28 - District Closed**, summer flex schedule
- July 31 and Aug. 1 - Enrollment Days Walk-In sessions**, Jackson Park Elementary School
- July 31 to Aug. 2 - Jump Start to Kindergarten** (Register at www.ucityschools.org/JumpStart2023)
- Aug. 1 - National Night Out and Back to School Rally**, 5 to 7 p.m., Jackson Park Elementary School
- Aug. 3 - Board of Education Work Session**, 5:45 p.m., McNair building, 7700 Olive Blvd.
- Aug. 12 - One U City Back to School Kickback**, 2 to 4 p.m., Pershing Elementary School
- Aug. 17 - Board of Education Regular Meeting**, 7 p.m., McNair building, 7700 Olive Blvd.
- Aug. 18 - Student Immunization Clinic**, 9 to 11 a.m., McNair building, 7700 Olive Blvd.
- Aug. 18 - Freshmen Orientation / Kickback**, 5 to 8 p.m. at University City High School
- Aug. 18 - Freshmen Kickback**, 5 to 7 p.m. in the University City High School stadium
- Aug. 21 - First day of classes for all students**

In Closing

I hope you are enjoying your summer and getting time outside and with loved ones. Remember to encourage your student to read every day, both for enjoyment and practice. As always, you may contact me at shardin@ucityschools.org or by cell phone at 314-399-0941.

In Service of Our Children,

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



Wendy Gilliam
SSD Partner District Director

