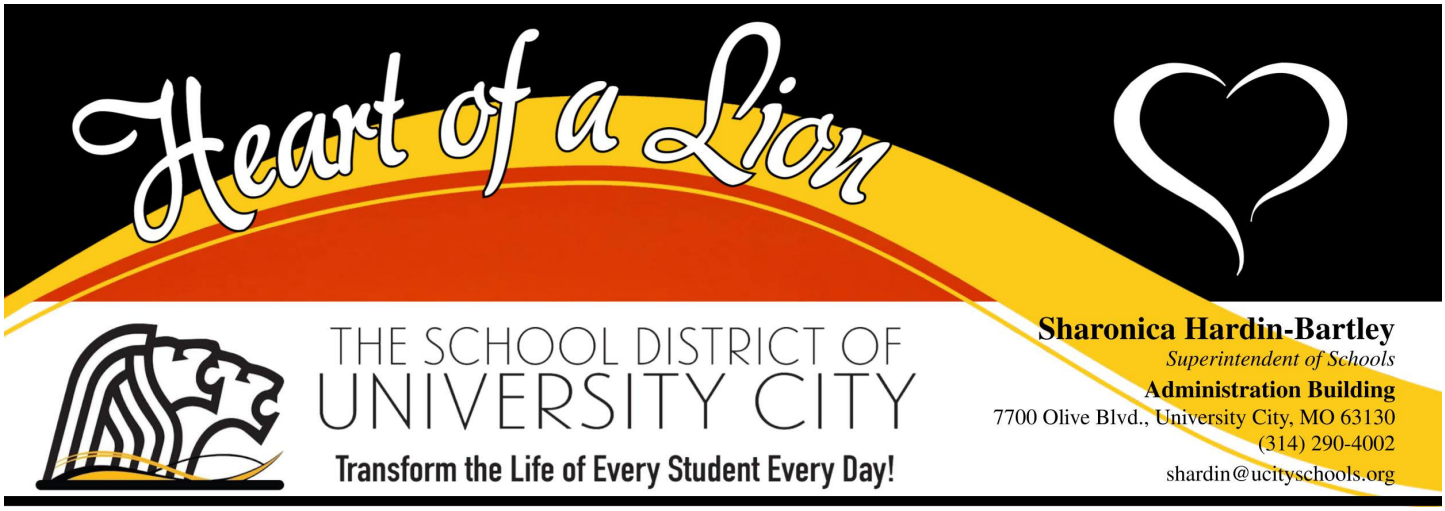
From the Desk of Sharonica Hardin-Bartley: SDUC Updates and More

1 message

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

Fri, Mar 10, 2023 at 5:30 PM



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March 10, 2023

From the Desk of Sharonica Hardin-Bartley

Greetings School District of University City Community:

Spring is in the air. It is a time for new beginnings. It is also an apt time to pause, reflect and show appreciation for the things that we have been through and the pride that we share.

Three years ago, on March 15, 2020, I gathered with other superintendents in St. Louis County Executive Dr. Sam Page's office to discuss what we thought would be a very temporary and short closure of schools due to COVID-19. We, of course, know that was not what happened next. This year, we've gratefully seen the cases of COVID-19 in our schools dwindle to just a few, if any, on a given week. We are not dealing with sudden, large numbers of our students, nor do we have to test whole classes for the virus, nor cancel treasured school events. It is nice that things are calmer, and also a relief to know that our children are in school every day with the added protective factor of loving staff and modern, rigorous and relevant experiences that accelerate learning lost during the brunt of the pandemic.

We just finished an amazing month of celebrations of Black history. Still, these are very trying times in education.... (read more in the Superintendent's Blog)

News and Updates

APR Results

If you missed it, please see my March 7 correspondence this week regarding the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's release of its 2022 APR scores. We have put together a Frequently Asked Questions sheet here. The APR will also be discussed at next Thursday's regular board of education meeting at 7 p.m. in the McNair Administration Building.

School-Based Community Engagement Meetings Continue

We are excited to continue our ongoing efforts to hear reflections from our community on our vision of Learning Reimagined and our individual schools' strategic plans. Several schools have already had their meetings. We invite you to upcoming meetings for Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School, Pershing Elementary School, Brittany Woods Middle School and University City High School. See the key dates below and please register to attend.

Tomorrow: One U City Hosts New World Tour Event at Brittany Woods Middle School

One U City just keeps going and going in its efforts to bring equity-based enrichment to our students, families and greater community. Join them on Saturday, March 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Brittany Woods gym for delicious food, dance, art and storytelling highlighting the many cultures that make up University City and the region. Admission is free. You can prepay for a meal pass to sample five ethnic cuisines or other meal packages by clicking here.

Coming soon: Dudes, Dads and Donuts on April 1

I invite our district's boys and young men and their dads, male caregivers or special male adults to attend this free event at University City High School on Saturday, April 1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event, created by University City High School coach Arneil Brooks through his organization Project Lyfe 3, is meant to empower Black youth with strategies for success through providing positive role models and meaningful connections to males making a difference in the regional community. Other partners in the event are Washington University's Home Grown STL, the group Strength and Honor, and the District.

The event will feature music, panel discussions, age-appropriate breakout sessions, and yes, donuts. Youth and their guests will hear speakers on establishing a business, mental and physical health, law enforcement, resources, healthy conflict resolution, financial literacy, academic strategies, networking, dressing for success and more. Special guests include University City High School Principal Dr. Michael Peoples, DJ Bowtie, Gary Boyd of Them Yo People, Rene Knott from KSDK News, University City Mayor Terry Crow, University City City Manager Gregory Rose, Missouri State Representative Del Taylor, businessman Tom Bommarito and more. There will be door prizes and other surprises. I will be there, and I hope you will be there, too. Please register in advance here.

Key Dates

March 11 - One U City World Tour, 6-8 p.m., Brittany Woods Middle School gym. Volunteers needed.
March 12 - Daylight Savings Time, set your clocks ahead one hour, 2 a.m.
March 15 - Music in Our School Concert, 6:30 p.m., University City High School auditorium
March 16 - SDUC Board of Education Regular Meeting, 7 p.m., McNair Administration Building
March 17 - Early Release Day
March 20-24 - Spring Break, no classes
March 24 - District closed
March 27 - Students return to school
March 28 - Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School Community Engagement Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Register to attend.
March 28 - Pershing Elementary School Community Engagement Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Register to attend.
March 28 - SDUC Board of Education Candidate Forum sponsored by One U City, 7 p.m., Brittany Woods Middle School
March 29-30 - Parent Teacher Conferences, evenings only, look for emails from your principals
March 31 - No School: Teacher Comp Day
April 1 - Dudes, Dads and Donuts, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. University City High School. For dads, male caregivers and children, grades K-12. Register to attend.

In Closing

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour overnight Saturday for Daylight Savings Time. We have one more week until a well-deserved spring break. I hope to see you at Music In Our Schools next Wednesday! As always, you may contact me at shardin@ucityschools.org or by cell phone at 314-399-0941.

In Service of Our Children,

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, PHD, PHR
Superintendent

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