Updates and a new blog, In Service of Our Children

1 message

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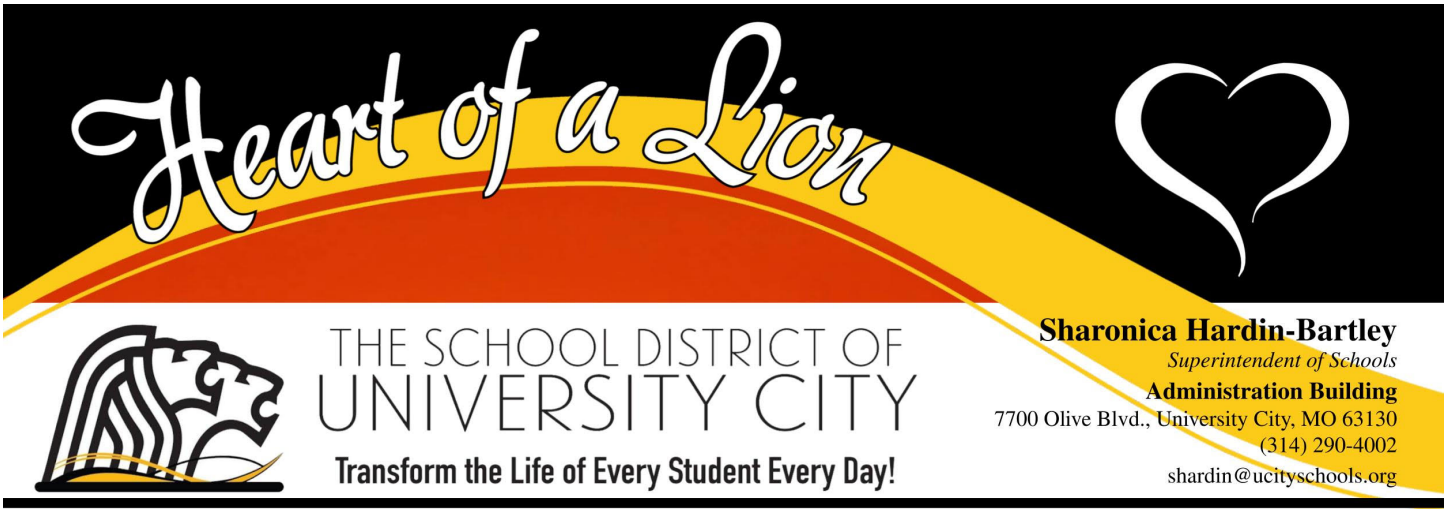

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September 13, 2022

From the Desk of Sharonica Hardin-Bartley

This weekend our country paused to remember the almost 3,000 lives lost on September 11, 2001. Our hearts continue to be with their loved ones and family. As I write this note, I'm reminded again of my start in University City seven years ago. When I started, my daughter was a preschooler. The District's current sixth graders had just started kindergarten. And, our most recent graduates were sixth graders. The changes I have seen in these amazing human beings have been profound. As they grew as thinkers and citizens and activists for positive change, the world around them changed dramatically.

In August, we welcomed more than 2,550 students - your beautiful, remarkable and distinctive children - to the 2022-23 school year. On that day, I saw: Smiles. Hugs. Awe. Tears. Anxiety. Handholding. Pride. Confidence. Fear. Relief. Dreams. Hope. And so much Love. What a joy it is to live in the moment with children!

And yet, I can't stop reflecting on these past seven years... (Read more)

News & Updates

Monthly superintendent communication

Since the start of COVID-19, you have granted me the grace of over-communicating with you via emails. Now it is time for me to grace you by sending less of them. This year, I plan to send my superintendent email to families and staff once a month, with just a few exceptions when appropriate. I pledge to you, my communication will remain transparent, timely and full of important information to ensure that our community is connected and informed.

You may have noticed that we have a new format for this letter. Each monthly superintendent email will start with a few sentences from my new blog, “In Service of Our Children.” I hope you click the link and read the whole blog posted on the District website. In it, I plan to write about our ongoing journey of Learning Reimagined. And, yes, you can expect reflections on race, equity, education, well-being, current events and, of course, the educational journey of our students. My next regularly scheduled Friday email will arrive in your inboxes mid-October. In the meantime, you can expect regular emails from your children’s school principals and others updating you on news, events and other information.

Learning Reimagined: Strategic planning

Save a date! It’s been seven years since we first started envisioning the District’s strategic plan, Learning Reimagined. My blog recounts what’s happened in the world since that time and looks ahead. Given the passage of time and our quickly changing world, we will give Learning Reimagined a fine-tuning. We need your input. Please save one of the following dates to attend a special meeting devoted to your insights on refreshing and updating Learning Reimagined, so we remain innovative, responsive, and good stewards to our students during their years at U. City Schools.

- The morning of Saturday, Oct. 22, time and place TBD
- The evening of Tuesday, Oct. 25, time and place TBD

Redbirds Magic: University City Night at the Ballpark

The St. Louis Cardinals are making history! Albert Pujols is on a remarkable tear to score his 700th home run. The District is lucky to have about 70 seats left to sell for a Night at the Ballpark this Friday, September 16 at 7:15 p.m. when the Cards take on the Cincinnati Reds. The University City High School JROTC will be on the field to help open the game just before the first pitch. Tickets are $20 per person and include a jumbo hotdog and a soda. Tickets are on sale by cash or check at the McNair Administration Building, 7700 Olive Boulevard, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. until they sell out. Let communications@ucityschools.org know when you will be stopping by to purchase the tickets.

Key Dates

- **Sept. 15 - University City Board of Education regular meeting,** 7:30 p.m. McNair Administration Building, 7700 Olive. Register to attend or make a comment: www.ucityschools.org/BOE091522
- **Sept. 16 - Early release day**
- **Oct. 6 - University City Board of Education work session,** 5:45 p.m., on Zoom. To register for a link and a password: www.ucityschools.org/BOE100622
- **Oct. 14 - University City High School Hall of Fame** celebration, 5:30 p.m. at University City High School. To purchase tickets: uchshof2022.eventbrite.com
- **Oct. 15 - University City High School Homecoming:** Parade starts at 10 a.m. at the west end of The Loop and proceeds down Delmar to the High School. Football game against Clayton High School starts at 1 p.m. at University

City High School. Online ticket purchase only.

In Closing

Thank you for your continued support. I can be reached at shardin@ucityschools.org or on my cell phone at 314-399-0941 with any questions or concerns.

In Service of Our Children,

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, PhD, PHR
Superintendent

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