

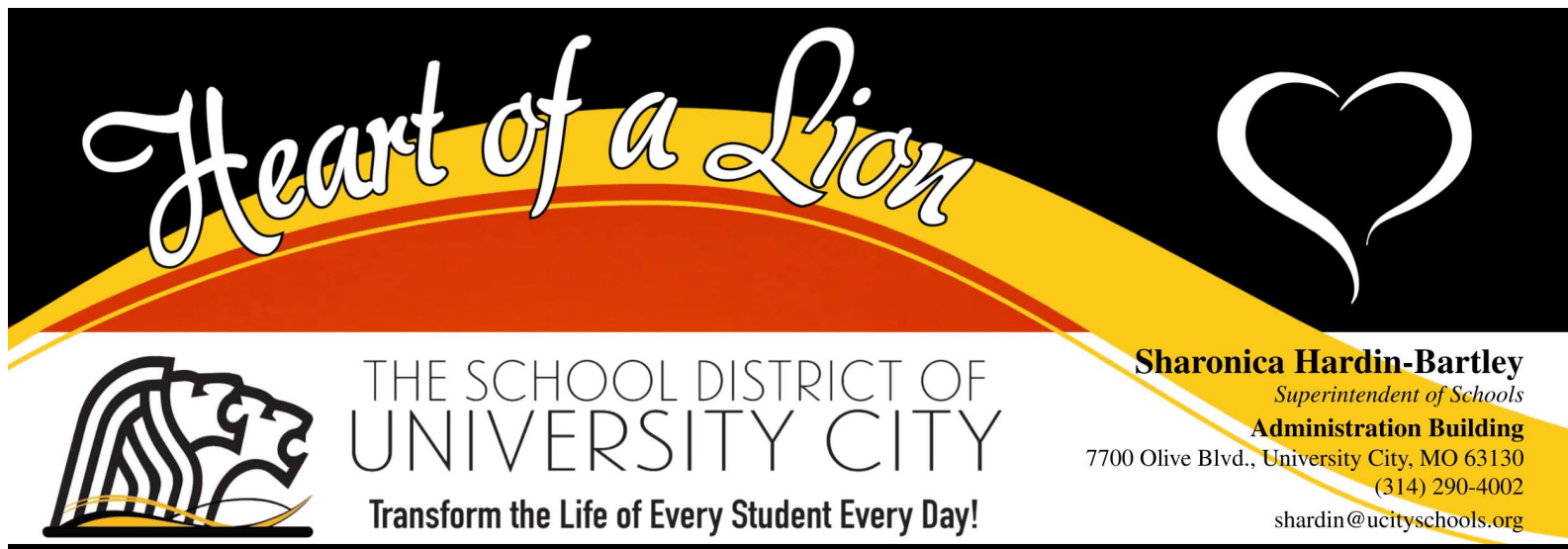


Welcome video & new masking information

1 message

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

Fri, Aug 19, 2022 at 10:05 AM



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Dear University City Schools Community:

The first day of the 2022-23 school year is almost here! We have been very busy planning and preparing for your students. We will welcome them this Monday with hugs, smiles and genuine anticipation of a great year ahead. [Please view my welcome to the school year video here](#).

COVID-19 Plan: Transitioning to “mask recommended”

Many thanks to those of you who joined me this past Wednesday in Zoom with the Superintendent. We focused on the issue of COVID-19 remediation. You can see a [full recording of the meeting here](#).

A global pandemic remains with us. St. Louis County is currently ranked “yellow,” meaning there is a medium risk for the transmission of COVID-19. Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated some of its mitigation recommendations regarding close contacts and quarantines. We are fortunate in many ways: regional hospitalization rates have steadily decreased; there are antiviral treatments to prevent symptoms from becoming life-threatening and effective treatments for those who must be hospitalized; vaccines are now available for all children and adults; and home testing is common.

We have worked closely with our medical partners this month to determine our mediation strategies for the start of the school year. On Thursday, our Board of Education revised the District’s COVID-19 mitigation plan. We will start the school year Monday with a “mask recommended” policy, meaning staff and students (in partnership with their parents and caregivers) will have the choice to mask. We continue to highly recommend masking in school buildings.

To help you make this important decision, we will start the year with our contact tracing procedures. We will continue to keep a [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) of active cases. And, parents will continue to receive morning reminders to check for COVID-19 symptoms prior to sending their children to school. Also, the full updated Return to School Planning Guide will be

posted to the District website and sent via email later today.

Vaccinations remain a very effective way to prevent and/or lessen COVID-19 symptoms. The District will continue to offer vaccination clinics at regular intervals. Finally, I am delighted to tell you that Washington University will continue to offer [free curbside saliva testing this fall](#) for the entire University Schools community, including all household members.

Our deepest gratitude

We have many District families and caregivers still coping with displacement and devastating losses of personal property due to the flash flooding in University City in late July. Their resilience and courage during such hardship has been inspiring. We continue to support them, delivering needed supplies, clothing and care baskets with food, personal hygiene products and cleaning supplies. We are also ensuring that all of their children have transportation to school and needed supplies. We could not have done this without the tremendous action of our community. Within hours after the first round of flooding, the McNair Administration Building began filling up with donated items. A team of volunteers that included parents and members of our faith-based community started sorting, folding and inventorying the items. And another team began shuttling shoes, clothing, food and other necessities to those families.

The community gave more than \$20,000 in donations that go directly to families to purchase targeted needs. They donated so much clothing and household supplies, we can no longer accept further donations. University City is an incredible community, and we are so grateful!

Key dates

- **Aug. 22** - First day of classes
- **Aug. 22** - UCHS Red Carpet Welcome, 7:30 a.m.
- **Aug. 30** - One U City Community Listening Session in Brittany Woods Middle School Courtyard, 6 p.m.
- **Sept. 1** - Board of Education Work Zoom session, 5:45 p.m. (Register/Citizen Comments: www.ucityschools.org/BOEO90122)
- **Sept. 5** - District closed, Labor Day
- **Sept. 6** - Elementary Schools Open Houses, Times TBD by your school principal
- **Sept. 7** - UCHS Parent Open House, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- **Sept. 9** - Julia Goldstein Garden Party, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
- **Sept. 15** - Board Meeting, 7-8 p.m. (Register/Citizen Comments: www.ucityschools.org/BOEO90122)
- **Sept. 16** - District Early Release - Staff PD

Parents and caregivers, if you have any questions regarding the first day of school, please reach out to your school principal by email. I can also be reached by email at shardin@ucityschools.org or on my cell phone at 314-399-0941. Have a wonderful weekend, and we will see you all Monday!

In Service of Our Children,

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, PhD, PHR
Superintendent



To see the Superintendent video, [click here](#).



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