

PERSHING

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL www.ucityschools.org/PER

6761 Bartmer Ave • University City, MO 63130 • 314-290-4152

Deitra Colquitt, *Principal*

Pershing Elementary School is an amazing school! There is an African Proverb that states, "It takes a village to raise a child," which simply means we need our entire Pershing community to interact and engage in what we do so our students experience and grow in a safe and healthy learning environment. One of our main goals is to be a "community hub" for the families we serve, ensuring students thrive academically and experience joy throughout their time in our school.

School Mission

At Pershing ES, we are **unapologetically committed** to celebrating and empowering each student's unique identity and brilliance. We will **lead and learn for liberation** with a primary focus on social justice, so that every student leaves Pershing with the knowledge and skills to make a significant impact in their communities. Every day, students will engage in **meaningful and joyful learning** experiences that build their capacity as eco-conscious citizens and build their understanding of the arts as a means of advocacy..

School Vision

We envision a school that is the heart and soul of the community where we cultivate students who impact not only University City but also the world: Exuding excellence in every endeavor.

History

Pershing School opened in 1920 and was named for General John J. Pershing, a native Missourian and commander-in-chief of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I. In 2009, the voters in University City approved a \$53 million bond issue to include construction of a new LEED-certified school building that opened in 2012.

Addressing the Needs of All Students

Within and beyond the classroom students are nurtured through the SEEAL (Social, Emotional, Equitable and Academic Learning) model. Students have access to support services from the school nurse, guidance counselor, social worker, well-being specialist and an instructional support team who work with students to meet their academic goals. We cultivate students through our Talented and Gifted Development (TAGD) program and support our EL learners with specific language supports. Special School District provides on-site supports to students who qualify for their programs.

Well-Being and Joy

Students learn better when they feel loved, safe, included and challenged. District teachers are expected to teach with the head and heart with the understanding positive relationships are the foundation of learning. Teachers and staff are trained to be trauma-informed and culturally responsive. All schools participate in restorative practices to build community and relationships and repair harm when a wrong has been done. A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) is employed for students facing academic or social-emotional challenges. The social-emotional climate in all District schools is measured twice a year through a Panorama survey system. Students and staff participate in yoga, mindfulness activities and service projects to build self-awareness, empathy and student voice.

*Join us on our journey of **Learning Reimagined**, a path to Humanize, Personalize and Problematize student education through modern, rigorous and relevant learning experiences.*

Revised 070523



of a Lion



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Challenging, Rigorous Curriculum

- **English Language Arts and Social Studies:** Instruction is offered in a balanced literacy model; students practice reading, writing, listening and speaking for a variety of authentic purposes and with varied media. Strategies for reading and writing informational texts receive strong emphasis. Students access social studies content and themes while practicing the technical aspects of communication. Students also utilize a Believe Room for reading that features more than 1,200 books featuring characters or authors of color in a comfortable and aspirational setting.
- **Mathematics:** Students pursue conceptual understanding while also mastering procedural skills and fluency. Fewer topics are taught and the objective is to achieve deep understanding. Goals for student outcomes include efficient problem-solving and critical thinking.
- **Science, Technology and Engineering:** Integrated units allow students to actively engage in scientific and engineering practices while building deep understanding of the core ideas in physical, life, earth and space sciences, as well as engineering, technology and applications. Hands-on learning is supported by science labs and docents in each school.
- **Visual Arts:** All creators learn about art through historical and cultural contexts that are age appropriate. Using the elements and principles of art, media and process, artists at all grade levels will design and create one-of-a-kind pieces of artwork.
- **Performing Arts:** All K-5 students receive instruction in music. Fourth and fifth graders have an additional opportunity to play a stringed instrument. The District has extensive partnerships with the nearby Center of Creative Arts (COCA) to provide professional learning in the arts for teachers. Teaching artists collaborate with classroom teachers to develop and implement standards-based arts integration units during six- to eight-week residencies.
- **Physical Education:** Students at all grade levels take gym classes that focus on physical fitness by practicing motor movements, nutritional awareness and sportsmanship through games and team play.

Pershing Activities & Events

Students participate in

- Black History Program
- African American Read-In
- Winter and Spring Musical performances
- Outdoor Learning Experiences: PER Community Garden
- MTSS Lion Time
- Scholar Showcase
- District Arts Night
- District Music Night
- All Strings Concerts
- Believe Room

Families share in

- Curriculum Nights
- Math Nights
- Literacy Nights
- Juneteenth Celebration
- Family Wellness Nights
- Pershing Spread the Love Day
- Conscious Classrooms: Family Yoga
- STEAM Expo

One U City

Starting in 2019, the PTOs from all four University City elementary schools and Brittany Woods Middle School formed One U City, an initiative to build equity and community by jointly producing district-wide PTO community events as well as individual school events through school-based parent collaboratives. Events include:

- Book fairs
- Fall Festival
- Trunk or Treat and Pumpkin Glow
- Holiday music concert
- All Strings concert
- Spice and Spark chili cook-off and social action expo
- World Tour
- Trivia Night
- Field Day
- Spring Picnic
- Talent Show
- and more



All schools in The School District of University City are designated as Title I. Each school receives federal funding to provide extra services to students, coaching and professional development for teachers and parent involvement activities.

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