THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF UNIVERSITY CITY
Transform the Life of Every Student Every Day!

UCITY PRIDE

GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL

A publication for and about The School District of University City, Missouri

November 2023

Students Cultivate a New Kind of Farm in Cool Valley

PROBLEMATIZE: Learning Reimagined

In an old industrial park sits a thriving farm on a small parcel of asphalt. Its lush crops are cultivated by University City High School students.

The farming takes place inside two steel cargo shipping containers. The inside of each container looks like a greenhouse in a spaceship. Colored lights blink. Monitors flash. Walls of greenery slide back and forth like hanging folders in a filing cabinet. U. City student farmers tuck the spindly roots of kale seedlings into slots in large door-sized panels with long strips of black sponge. The panels hang vertically on the sliding walls that are attached to a water and nutrient system. As the day goes on, the lighting switches to different colors – like a plant discotheque of changing red, yellow and white lights. The colored lights enhance growth and plant photosynthesis.

> ***"We need to have more healthy options. For us to be able to grow vegetables at school and have them at lunch – it would be better for all of us."***
>
> Ryenne Davis
> University City High School
> Junior / Class of 2025

UCHS Junior Janiya White calls the set-up a "plant cave," a confined space where plants multiply vertically without sunlight to maximize space. At first she didn't know what to make of it, but then she saw the plants grow and grow. She said this has the potential to help her community and students in her school regarding health and nutrition.

Welcome to the new frontier of urban farming. In June, eight University City High School students had the chance to be a part of it thanks to the organization, Fresh Harvest 365. The students took a bus three times a week to its headquarters in Cool Valley. Once there, they learned about hydroponic farming techniques, the business of agriculture, the benefits of organic, plant-based nutrition, principles of sustainability, and entrepreneurship. Then, they entered the grow containers, donned rubber gloves, and tended to the fields – rather, the walls – inside the shipping containers.



University City High School students admire a full wall of basil they cultivated in a Fresh Harvest 365 hydroponic growing container as part of their summer program to learn the basics of urban container farming and entrepreneurship in agriculture.

"Urban farming is really the key to education, employment and looking to empower people from a workforce point of view," said Fresh Harvest 365 founder Demetrius Bledsoe. "It's giving people help in that they can go into agriculture and still be successful in being able to provide healthy and fresh produce into their own households and community."

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New McNair Mural Soars

PERSONALIZE: Learning Reimagined

Don't be surprised if you find yourself pumping your brakes when you approach the Ronald E. McNair Administration Building on Olive Boulevard at North and South Road. In late summer, the District was the proud recipient of an eye-popping mural covering the entire west side of its administrative office building.

Entitled "Soar," the mural was created by North St. Louis County native and self-taught painter Marquis Terrell. The mural represents the diverse faces and aspirational dreams of The School District of University City's students as they progress from early childhood into adulthood. It is located at the epicenter of University City and symbolizes the dismantling of the outdated racial and economic lines represented by the Olive Divide.

"It was the perfect space," Terrell said. "I knew it was going to get a lot of traffic, so I knew instantly that I wanted to go with a lot of color to make it pop. I knew I wanted kids facing forward, some looking up, and others looking straight ahead, with the idea of them looking focused or inspired."

A public reception was held on September 27 to officially celebrate the mural's installation, which Terrell painted over the summer on

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Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, artist Marquis Terrell and Murals on Olive leader Garrie Burr participate in a September ribbon-cutting to celebrate the installation of the mural "Soar" on the west side of the Ronald E. McNair Administration Building at Olive Boulevard and North and South Road.

From our Superintendent of Schools



Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley
Superintendent

Dear University City Community:

The 2023-24 school year is well underway, and I continue to feel blessed to serve a community that is uniquely U. City.

Our scholars, staff, parents/caregivers and partners truly work together to create a community that already stands out in the St. Louis region for its rich history, its forward-thinking and its vibrancy. U. City is alive, and it's awe-inspiring for me to personally witness this brilliance in our students.

This issue of Pride highlights our District's past, current and future aspirations. Last month, I celebrated my own milestone birthday, marking a big turning point in my perceptions of life. I saw very clearly the connection between my early struggles and my later accomplishments. I really don't bemoan getting older, but instead embrace the potential of always getting better. It's exciting to think of what is yet to come. For me – and the District – that time ahead is hope.



Sharonica Hardin, Kindergarten

I often think about my kindergarten self and how my educational spaces impacted me as a learner and individual. Solid relationships, high expectations and opportunities to engage in meaningful and rich curricular opportunities were so key to who I am now. I had courageous and passionate teachers who believed in me and only accepted my absolute best. These aspects truly are the roots of highly effective educational systems.

In this issue, you will learn more about our aspirational SEEAL (social, emotional, equitable, and academic learning) method of learning that centers on the well-being of students and adults. We have new curricular offerings and systems in place to support SEEAL, including the introduction of Carnegie Math and the new Caring School Community programming in our elementary schools. You will also learn about our pioneering students who undertook a hands-on course during the summer in urban farming through hydroponics. They are already part of the next frontier of sustainability in our world.

You'll also see news about our recent University City High School Hall of Fame celebration. Our alumni epitomize what is possible given the solid foundation that is U. City. I also hope you enjoy reading about our recent Class of 2023 graduates, as well as the growing accomplishments of the members of the Class of 2024. Their future is so very bright.

In U. City, equity continues to drive not only District but student efforts. You will learn more about senior Dani Wasserman. Understanding her own privilege, Dani continues to use her network, knowledge and passion to help students understand the importance of financial literacy and investing. You'll even learn how more than 700 parents, caregivers and children attended the first One U City meeting of the year in an effort to plan for the future under the lens of equity.

As my milestone birthday reminded me, the best way to grow older is to get better. This past month, we sought out your voices through a community survey to help us plan for the future so we continue to improve as a system and work towards creating a safe, holistic, innovative and modern learning environment for all students.

As a kindergarten student years ago, I never imagined that my journey would lead me here. For that reason, I never miss an opportunity to give and expect the absolute best every day for the students and community I serve.

In Service of Our Children,

Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley

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

From our Board of Education



Matt Bellows
Board of Education President

Dear University City Community:

Of all the skills one can learn, I have always felt empathy is essential to personal growth. At its core, empathy allows us to understand and share in the emotions and experiences of others, fostering deeper connections and enriching our relationships. It promotes compassion, compelling us to care about the well-being of those around us, and drives us to alleviate their suffering. Moreover, empathy plays a pivotal role in conflict resolution, as it enables us to see different perspectives and find common ground, contributing to peaceful resolutions.

Empathy holds a significant role within schools, influencing many aspects of the educational experience. It is a critical component of efforts to create a safe and inclusive environment. It is instrumental in teacher-student relationships, allowing educators to tailor their teaching methods to meet individual needs, improving engagement and achievement. It also plays a pivotal role in nurturing positive peer relationships because students who understand and relate to each other's feelings are less likely to engage in conflicts and more likely to collaborate effectively.

In broader social contexts, empathy acts as a catalyst for social change and inclusivity, as it helps us understand the experiences of marginalized groups and advocate for justice and equitable outcomes.

As I noted above, practicing empathy is a journey of personal growth, challenging us to be more open-minded, adaptable, and self-aware. In a world marked by division and discord, empathy stands as a beacon of hope, reminding us of our shared humanity. It is the foundation upon which we can build a more compassionate, understanding, and harmonious society.

Sincerely,

Matt Bellows

Matt Bellows, President

The personal opinions expressed in the letter above may not reflect those of the entire University City Board of Education.

School Board Elections Public Notice of Filing

The School District of University City encourages any qualified person interested in running for a position on the school board to file to be a candidate in the April 2, 2024, election. There are two positions available with voter approval for three-year terms.

Interested persons may file at the University City Board of Education office located at 7700 Olive Blvd., University City, MO 63130. Filing will begin at 8 a.m. on December 5, 2023, and will continue during business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. through December 15, 2023; and 4 - 5 p.m. on December 26, 2023, which is the last day of filing for this election.

Filing will not be available if central offices are closed due to inclement weather or other emergency closings.

For more information, visit www.ucityschools.org/BOE or contact Amanda Isom at 314-290-4002 or aisom@ucityschools.org.

Meet our School Board Members



Matt Bellows
President

Liaison to Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Eduction Center



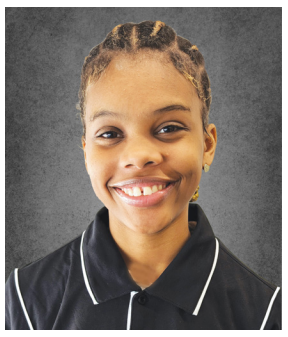
Monica Stewart, Ed.D.
Vice President

Liaison to Jackson Park Elementary School



Joanne Soudah
Secretary

Liaison to University City High School, Lieberman Learning Center and Adult Education & Literacy



Tori Wilson
Student Representative

University City High School



Karen Bernstein
Director

Liaison to Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School



LaVerne Ford-Williams
Director

Liaison to Flynn Park Elementary School



Kay Gage
Director

Liaison to Pershing Elementary School



Bridget McDougall
Director

Liaison to Brittany Woods Middle School

Board of Education News

In May 2023, The School District of University City Board of Education welcomed University City High School senior Tori Wilson as the District's student representative.

The Board meets twice a month except for July, December and April when there are no work sessions. Work sessions are typically held on the first Thursday of the month at 5:45 p.m. Regular Board meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Board meetings and sessions are held in-person at the McNair Administration Building located at 7700 Olive Boulevard unless otherwise specified. Work sessions may be toggled to virtual if needed.

For more information regarding upcoming meetings, our current Board and how to become a school board member, visit www.ucityschools.org/BOE.

For other information including agendas, minutes and committee assignments, go to www.ucityschools.org/BoardDocs.

Superintendent Receives Prestigious Pearce Award

In March, the Missouri Association of School Administrators (MASA) selected Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley as the recipient of the 2023 Robert L. Pearce Award.

Nominated by St. Louis regional superintendents, Hardin-Bartley was recognized by her peers as the top superintendent in Missouri for her leadership and commitment to students in University City Schools. She received the award at the annual convening of MASA at the Lake of the Ozarks.

"It is my hope that this statewide recognition elevates the intentional work we are doing within The School District of University City to humanize our students by respecting their voices and their identities through a modern, rigorous and relevant learning process. Now, more than ever, we must ensure that meaningful relationships, equity, quality access to rich curricular resources and experiences, and social-emotional wellness are always entwined with learning so that all of our children are well and can succeed," Hardin-Bartley said.



Above: Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, 2023 Robert L. Pearce Awardee





Far Left: Grace Billups, 2023-24 University City Teacher of the Year

Left: Christine Woodward, 2023-24 University City Educational Support Person of the Year

Congratulations to 2023-24 U. City Teacher and Support Person of the Year

In March, The School District of University City recognized Grace Billups and Christine Woodward for their tremendous impact on the lives of students, families and staff in the U. City community.

Grace Billups, a third-grade teacher at Jackson Park Elementary School, was selected as the 2023-24 University City Teacher of the Year. Her instructional leadership, community contributions and inspiration to students of all backgrounds make her an exceptional teacher.

Christine Woodward, social worker at University City High School, was selected as the University City Educational Support Person of the Year for 2023-24. She has been a dedicated part of University City High School since 2013 and has been an unwavering supporter of the students, families, and staff, providing the necessary assistance and support for their success.

The pair learned of their honors on April 13 when District leaders and colleagues surprised them in their schools with balloons, bouquets and posters.

Both received $1,500 checks at the District's August Opening Day Ceremony for all staff.

News from Around the District

Elementary Schools Begin New Caring School Community Program

HUMANIZE: Learning Reimagined

Restorative practices have long been a valued part of the District's social-emotional approach to building authentic relationships in classrooms and schools that empower learning. There is an art to building these healthy learning environments – especially when it comes to young children.

In June, The School District of University City Board of Education approved a new curricular resource called Caring School Community to be implemented in all elementary schools by the end of the next school year. Developed by the Center for Collaborative Schools, the resource presents a blueprint for developing a community culture of caring, inclusion and teamwork among younger students and school staff.

The program is currently underway in all kindergarten classrooms. Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School is further piloting the program in grades 1-5. Other schools are currently implementing the program in select grade levels.

"The program is designed to teach students what it means to be a school community," said Christina Grove, coordinator, cultural and linguistic responsiveness (CLR). "It helps them learn, how do we to talk to people in class? How do we conduct ourselves in an assembly? How do we engage with a substitute teacher? How do we handle teasing and bullying in a school space? How do we handle people who are alike to us and who are different? How do we welcome new students?

"We really want them to learn how to build a culture of gratitude, creativity and happiness dealing with things that are alike and different."

Grove noted that circle time via a daily morning meeting is an essential part of the school day, and the new curriculum builds in 15-20 minutes a day for this practice in all grade levels. Grove said the curriculum helps make the circles more consistent. Teachers and leaders are further excited to build a "buddy system" as part of the program. Students in higher grade levels will be assigned a buddy in the younger grades and will mentor them through the school, Grove said.



Kindergarten students in Melissa Klopstein's classroom used their morning circle time to interview Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley as part of the District's new Caring School Community curriculum in grades K-5. The curricular resources help build social-emotional competencies and activities that enhance school cultures.



New staff celebrated the spirit of "U Time" during a motor coach tour of University City and visits to all District schools as part of their two-week summer orientation program.

Get on the Bus: Welcome, New Staff!

The District welcomed new staff this summer in a variety of support, teaching and administrative positions. All new staff participated in an extensive two-week orientation. This year, on the second day of the orientation, the group enjoyed lunch at several restaurants on the Loop and then boarded two motor coaches to tour different neighborhoods in University City to learn about where our students live and play. They also visited each of the District's school buildings, where they were greeted by school principals who then gave them a small token representing the special traits of their schools.

District Rolls Out Carnegie Learning Math Curriculum

PROBLEMATIZE: Learning Reimagined

This school year, the District's secondary mathematics departments, along with the Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) Department, began implementing Carnegie Learning, a new mathematics curriculum for middle and high school students. The inquiry and problem-based program engages students through relatable and relevant activities that require them to apply their higher-level thinking skills for a clearer understanding of math concepts.

The program encourages students and teachers to go beyond rote learning into deeper discussions about the "why" behind math concepts. Classroom techniques include "spiraling," meaning material is revisited repeatedly over months and across grades. Research finds that even though math concepts build on each other over time, it is important to double back on both basic and advanced concepts both for review and for deeper understanding of earlier concepts and advanced applications.

"We envision a University City math program in which all staff and students are engaged in collaborative learning and investigations focused around identifying and solving problems," said Beverly Velloff, preK-12 math, K-5 science, and STEM coordinator. "Students should be comfortable advocating for their understanding through verbal and written explanations of their thinking."

Velloff said the new approach is a good fit because the District's students are intrinsically motivated problem solvers who are used to applying different types of classroom knowledge to real world situations.

"This new curriculum taps into our students' inquisitive strengths and development under the District's vision of Learning Reimagined, which stresses rigorous, relevant and modern learning and also includes social-emotional components. Math discussions and relevance to daily life help build relationships in the classroom and connections to the material being taught," Velloff said.

Math teachers continue to obtain extensive training on the curriculum during professional development sessions and during weekly math check-ins. Individual teacher coaching, learning walks, intensive monitoring of student achievement through benchmark assessments, and continued awareness of strong student engagement are all being used to ensure the curriculum is working and implemented with fidelity. To learn more, visit www.ucityschools.org/NewMathCurriculum.

Wibben Named Finalist in National Science Foundation Presidential Awards

Congratulations to University City High School Biology Teacher Sherry Wibben on being named a state finalist for the National Science Foundation's Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She joins an elite group of teachers nationwide who are now being considered for the U.S. government's highest honor for K-12 mathematics and science teachers. The final awards, to be announced by the White House at a future date, were established by Congress in 1983.

Wibben is a 20-year veteran of teaching science and is in her seventh year with the District. She teaches dual college credit anatomy and physiology, honors biology, biology, and human body systems – a second-year course in the District's biomedical track of courses. She is a member of the Kappa Delta Pi education honor society, the Mu Iota Chapter of University of Missouri-St. Louis and the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association. She also sponsors both the student Future Health Professionals chapter at the high school and the Better U club. This year she was recognized at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's annual Interface conference. A resident of Illinois, Wibben's two children attend The School District of University City.

"I love teaching at U. City because we truly are one family, and when I am here, I feel at home," Wibben said.



Sherry Wibben, National Science Foundation's Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching state finalist

Social Studies Instruction Bolstered by $2.9 Million in Grants

PROBLEMATIZE: Learning Reimagined

The teaching of social studies and civics in the District will get a big boost thanks to two major grant awards designed to strengthen teaching expertise and broaden instruction in areas regarding civics, civil rights and history.

The District and St. Louis Public Schools partnered with the National Council for History Education to garner a three-year, $2.7 million American History and Civics National Activities grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant will be used to create "Amplifying Civil Rights Education (ACRE): The Long Civil Rights Movement," an elementary and middle school history and civics program for grades 3-8.

Teachers in the program will learn to guide their students into deeper explorations of civil rights both in Missouri and the United States. Participants will investigate how people have removed, retained and restored civil rights for themselves and others. This professional learning supports educators as they teach diverse histories and content literacy that further encourage student engagement in civic life beyond school walls.

The training will include Saturday seminars, webinars and summer colloquiums with historians and teaching experts. Each year of the grant, participants will take a five-day summer trip tied to the content focus for the year. Next summer, they will tour Missouri. The second summer will include a trip to Philadelphia. The third year, they will travel to Washington, D.C.

The District, in partnership with the University of Missouri-St. Louis, was further awarded $114,000 from The Educating for American Democracy (EAD) Implementation Consortium via the National Endowment for the Humanities. Funding will be used for professional development and curriculum that equips third-grade educators with teaching skills and Missouri History and Government content so their students have a firm grounding and inquisitive mindset towards civics and history in preparation for middle and high school. The grant kicked off with a full-day professional development and ideation session at the Gateway Arch on September 16th.

Susan Hill, coordinator for K-12 social studies, said, "The grants bring special focus to the importance of civic literacy and the teaching of history, which is especially important because of the decades-long, national trend of reducing time spent on social studies instruction."

District Secures Grant Funding for Safety

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education awarded the District $200,000 to be used to upgrade facilities and implement further technology systems to better ensure safety and security in its schools. The funding is part of a $70 million pool made possible under the federal School Safety Reimbursement Program. The District was one of 735 Missouri school districts, charter schools and nonpublic schools to receive the funding.



One U City Draws Hundreds to First Gathering in Fall 2023

One U City, the District's dynamic parent-community organization, drew a record 700 parents, caregivers, staff and students to its first meeting of the school year at Pershing Elementary School. Adult attendees enjoyed socializing and pizza together before heading into individual School Collaborative meetings to plan special community engagement activities and teacher support initiatives for their schools. Students in attendance enjoyed indoor and outdoor activities including making s'mores.

Founded less than four years ago, One U City has grown into a powerful community organization supporting the District's four elementary schools and its middle school through an equity mindset. It is one of the few community organizations of its kind in the country and has had national press coverage for its commitment to racial equity among all schools, and its work against "resource hoarding" that can sometimes be found in traditional PTO structures.

Check out the future One U City event schedule:

- **January 16, 2024**: Community Meeting, 5:45 to 8 p.m., at Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School
- **February 4, 2024**: World Tour, time TBD, at Brittany Woods Middle School
- **April 20, 2024**: Trivia Night Fundraiser, time and location TBD
- **June 9, 2024**: Kickback meet-up, 2 to 4 p.m., Flynn Park Elementary School playground

Follow One U City on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OneUCity

Q & A with Artondria Bentley: MTSS

PERSONALIZE: Learning Reimagined



Artondria Bentley, Ed.D., Director of Special Programs in Support of MTSS

This school year, Artondria Bentley, Ed.D., UCHS Class of 1988, joined The School District of University City as the Director of Special Programs in Support of MTSS, a new executive leadership position intended to better personalize rigorous, modern and relevant learning for all students within the District. Bentley was previously the Special School District (SSD) of St. Louis County's partner director for U. City Schools, overseeing more than 80 SSD staff members within our District. In her new role, she continues similar work, but with a more comprehensive view of the District's student population to ensure that all students, regardless of whether they are identified as needing SSD services or not, are given the targeted, individual support to thrive as academic learners. In her role, she oversees student-centered social-emotional and academic teams to ensure comprehensive systems are in place so no students fall through the cracks and all students succeed. In this role, she further works closely with Wendy Gilliam, the District's new SSD partner director. We sat down with Bentley to further discuss her new role and what it means for District students.

When we say multi-tiered, what exactly does that mean? How is it different from what our students might be receiving now?

MTSS is an acronym for Multi-Tiered Systems of Support. MTSS places emphasis on the whole child within a system that is proactive, timely, focused and data driven. This universal approach uses very current student information, including data and observation, to measure a student's alignment and progress within the District's core curriculum. This deep dive into each student identifies specific needs and supports that can help springboard them to success. This approach takes care of all students and is a shift from identifying specific students for "special education" to addressing the needs of every child. MTSS embraces and thrives when the entire school community plays a part in the system to produce the well-deserved, best outcomes for all students.

We often talk about preventing students from falling through the cracks by not getting the support they need. But at the same time, we worry about inaccurately labeling students. How does MTSS address both of these issues?

We are building a universal support structure where students are not required to experience academic failure before getting access to the support they need when they need it. Tiered systems of support are intended to support all students, including students who receive special education services. Multi-tiered support does not label a student, but identifies the appropriate level of support needed at any given time based on their individual needs. This support is in addition to, not instead of, their grade level instruction. Therefore, students can continue to make academic progress because the skills that have been mastered are maintained. The goal of MTSS is to provide support alongside the general education curriculum to avoid academic disruptions to regular education.

How has your previous work with the Special School District (SSD) of St. Louis County and your experience in U. City Schools prepared you for this new role?

This is my 21st year in education, and helping students reach their full potential is very important to me. I became a special educator because I wanted to collaborate and advocate for a culturally rich, rigorous and meaningful education where all students are provided their right to a free, appropriate public education. My experience as an SSD administrator encompassed systems work across disciplines, both academic and services, and includes integrated approaches that support the whole child. Specifically, The School District of University City and Special School District collaborate to bring skills, training, resources and insightful perspectives together to strengthen teaching and learning opportunities for our students in the District. Being able to continue the partnership with special educators is essential to this work. All students are vibrant, brilliant and ready to demonstrate and engage in high level learning – even when more academic, social and emotional support may be needed. Both districts have a mission and vision that makes our students the center of everything we do, so that will always lend itself to the best outcome for students and will lay the foundation to tap the genius that's inside of all of our students.

What's at stake here?

Too many times Black students and students identified as "low-income" experience inequities consistently and systematically in public education. When gaps in access are not spanned, students can unfairly be subjected to poor learning outcomes, which closes the door prematurely to well-deserved, meaningful and postsecondary outcomes. Removing barriers for all students to acquire an education rooted in high expectations, strong academic curriculum, and a safe and supportive environment is the turning point so students can see themselves as brilliant learners. The District is embracing an opportunity to collaborate with the Special School District of St. Louis County to design a framework that is responsive and child-centered and embeds equitable practices and resources for all students. This foundation allows all students to learn in a supportive and rigorous environment so students can focus and feel accepted and supported. When students receive supports aimed at their individual needs and are active participants in their own learning, this fuels learning and helps to close achievement and access gaps.

> ***"We are building a universal support structure where students are not required to experience academic failure before getting access to the support they need when they need it."***
>
> *Artondria Bentley, Ed.D.*
> *Director of Special Programs in Support of MTSS*

Can you share with us a specific student success story regarding MTSS?

Last year, these practices were implemented at two elementary schools in the District. Both schools experienced positive student growth in a short time span. The buildings used multiple data points to determine the appropriate level of support to provide to individual students to meet their immediate needs. These students responded to support positively and showed academic and social gains, allowing the students to move fluidly between tiered support. This is a testament to the success of appropriate and timely supports provided to students.

What is your favorite U. City memory from your student days? And what about your U. City student experience sparked you to go into education?

I have so many great U. City memories to choose from, but my favorites were being involved in school clubs. I was a member of the student government association and was a captain of the pom-pom squad. These clubs were exciting and connected me not just to my school, but the community as well. As a member of student government, I experienced the wonderful opportunity of my first airplane ride to Washington, D.C., to actually hear and see the advocacy work for children by The Children's Defense Fund in the nation's capital. This trip to D.C. gave me my first real opportunity to witness the hard work it took to ensure protections for children across the United States and abroad. This organization emphasized policy changes that negatively impacted child poverty, inequitable education and children's health. That was the moment, at age 17, that deepened my passion for advocacy work and started my education journey.



District Welcomes Second Believe Projects Literacy Lab

HUMANIZE: Learning Reimagined

Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School is now home to a new Believe Projects literacy lab. The lab contains hundreds of children's books featuring characters and authors of color so that students of all backgrounds can better identify with stories and main characters while building literacy.

This is the second lab of its kind in the The School District of University City. Pershing Elementary School's literacy lab opened in the fall of 2021. The District expects to eventually have the labs in all of four of its elementary schools.

Spearheaded by the organization St. Louis Black Authors of Children's Literature, The Believe Projects aim to improve reading proficiency among students in kindergarten through third grade. The bright and cozy reading room includes an aspirational mural.

Parents, caregivers, students and staff attended a morning ribbon-cutting ceremony for the lab on April 27, 2023.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, students who struggle with reading in third grade are four times more likely to eventually drop out of school. The Believe Projects literacy labs aim to deepen student engagement in the development of reading skills.

Funding for the project was made possible through the Build-A-Bear Foundation, which aims to inspire creativity and make written stories more accessible for children and educators. The foundation's president, Chris Hurt, said literacy plays a crucial role in a child's well-being, imagination and success.

The School District of University City is committed to racial equity and sees the literacy lab as a powerful learning tool for its students. Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley expressed gratitude for the vision of The Believe Projects and its supporters, which include the Build-A-Bear Foundation.

"We are excited and grateful to welcome a second literacy lab to the District thanks to the outstanding vision of The Believe Projects. These



A ribbon-cutting for the new Barbara C. Jordan Believe Projects literacy lab was held last spring. The District aims to eventually have the reading rooms in all four of its elementary schools.

literacy labs are critical components of our district's commitment to racial equity and are also powerful learning tools for our students. It is liberating and healthy for our students to read about and enjoy illustrations of main characters and literary heroes that reflect themselves," Hardin-Bartley said. "It helps all students learn about diverse groups of people."

Believe Projects President Julius B. Anthony said the labs "encourage children to fall in love with literacy through experiences that build confidence and joy."

"Our goal is simple," he said. "We want to encourage children to fall in love with literacy through experiences they feel a connection with, that builds confidence, and gives them joy! It is to ensure all children become successful readers by the end of third grade."



The 2023 University City High School Hall of Fame inductees and their loved ones took center stage after an elegant reception in the school cafeteria and a moving ceremony in the high school auditorium. More than 300 guests attended the event.

University City High School Celebrates 20 New Hall of Fame Inductees

Congratulations to the 20 graduates recently inducted into the University City High School Hall of Fame! More than 300 people attended the September 29 celebration at the high school, which included a gala reception in the cafeteria and a ceremony in the auditorium. The 2023 inductees, going all the way back to the Class of 1917 and progressing to the Class of 1994, and their loved ones came as far as Israel and California to celebrate. In their remarks, inductees recalled their friendships, their beloved teachers and the enduring community that embodies The School District of University City. This year's inductees were:

- Karl Van Meter, Class of 1917, UCHS' first graduate
- W.L. Hadley Griffith, Class of 1936, Business and civic leader
- Arthur Litz, Class of 1941, Judge and local historian
- Maureen Arthur, Class of 1952, Hollywood and stage actress
- Richard Breiner, Class of 1953, Judge and social justice advocate
- Sheldon Breiner, Class of 1955, Scientist and inventor
- Justina Bricka, Class of 1961, World tennis champion
- Stephen Gerber, Class of 1965, Comic artist and creator of Howard the Duck
- Sheri Sherman, Class of 1965, Civic booster
- Richard Weiss, Class of 1969, Journalist
- Dr. Michael Shannon, Class of 1970, Groundbreaking physician
- Richard Zane Smith, Class of 1973, Ceramicist and proponent of the Wyandot people
- Jerryl Christmas, Class of 1981, Attorney and social justice advocate
- Gary Boyd, Class of 1982, Radio and TV personality and hospitality professional
- Petra Jackson, Class of 1982, Professional women's basketball player and coach
- Dorthea B. Nevils, Class of 1984, Educator
- George Eugene Harper, Jr., Class of 1987, U.S. naval officer
- Roderick Smith, Class of 1987, Musician and music promoter
- Michael Silverman, Class of 1989, Musician, composer and record label owner
- Tonya Smith-Johnson, Class of 1994, Midwife and national maternal health leader

Visit www.ucityschools.org/HOF2023 to read their full biographies.

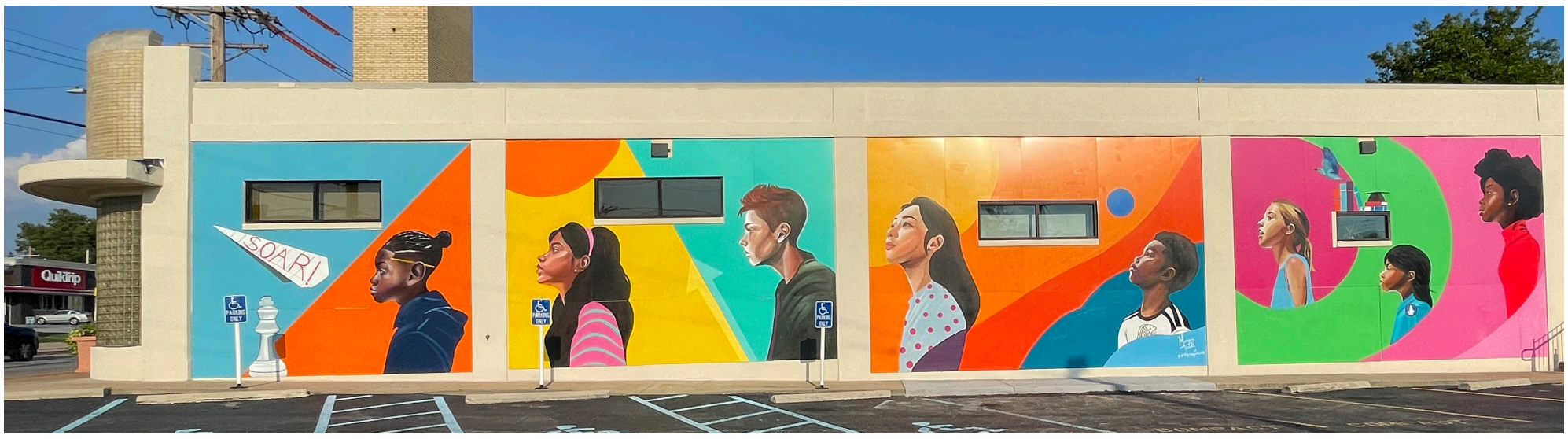


Reception guests at the 2023 Hall of Fame celebration enjoyed exceptional student musical performances thanks to University City High School's ongoing Orchestra Enrichment Program in partnership with professional string musicians from The Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra (SLSO).

Students in this program, organized by UCHS strings instructor Grace Fitter, receive priceless private instruction, coaching and mentorship from some of the nation's best musicians. The program is made possible thanks to the generosity of longtime District supporters Dick and MaryAnn Shaw and Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley. This year's performers were:

- Junior Emily Blackwell performing with SLSO violinist Jessica Hellwege
- Junior Joshua Minton performing with SLSO viola player Chris Tantillo
- Senior Cailey Shanks performing with SLSO violinist Jessica Hellwege
- Senior Rosemary Shawver performing with SLSO cellist Bjorn Ranheim
- Senior Dakota Sykes performing with SLSO violinist Kyle Lombard

Each year, our Hall of Fame Celebration offers a special opportunity to give back to current U. City students and teachers with specific needs that District funding cannot cover. This year's opportunity was Fund The Need, coordinated by the University City Education Foundation. For more details, including a link to make donations for specific programs, please visit www.ucityschools.org/FundTheNeed2023.



New McNair Mural Soars *Continued from page 1*

the gym floor at Jackson Park Elementary School. About 40 people attended the celebration, which included a ribbon-cutting by the artist, Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley and Garrie Burr of Murals on Olive.

Terrell said he named the mural "Soar," "because everything is pointing up. I wanted the kids to see something that they could also physically look up to if they were walking by the mural."

The mural does just that. One day, while Terrell was putting the final touches on the hung mural, he recalled a mother and daughter driving up in their car. They both hopped out of the vehicle, and the mother took a picture of her daughter in front of it looking up at the giant children.

The mural was made possible by the Regional Arts Commission (RAC) of St. Louis; Murals on Olive, a subsidiary of the U. City community organization SHED; and the District. The aspirational and colorful work of art further symbolizes the District's vision of Learning Reimagined, which focuses on racial equity, student voice, social justice and inclusion through rigorous, modern and relevant learning grounded in well-being and joy, said Hardin-Bartley.

"The mural is stunning," the superintendent said. "We wanted images of children and students that couldn't be missed, because children are at the center of what we do. This represents the potential and joyful intensity of our students and the power of their potential. They truly are ready to soar. I thank Murals on Olive and the Regional Arts Commission for making Marquis' artistic vision possible."

Terrell recently completed an indoor mural at Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School that complements another mural he painted last summer in the wellness space at Pershing Elementary School. The goal is to eventually paint two more murals, so each of the District's four elementary schools has a similar inspirational piece of art for students and staff.

District Partners with U. City Police for Annual National Night Out and Back-to-School Rally

The August 1 weather was perfect for the District's annual National Night Out/ Back to School Rally held outside Jackson Park Elementary School. More than 2,000 people attended the event, which helps our students and families and members of the U. City community prepare for the upcoming school year. The event is held in partnership with the University City Police Department and provides entertainment, free food and beverages, child-friendly activities, free knapsacks and school supplies provided by KidsSmart, free haircuts and dozens of information tents from our schools and community partners to ensure our families have vital information, support and connections to be healthy, safe and well.

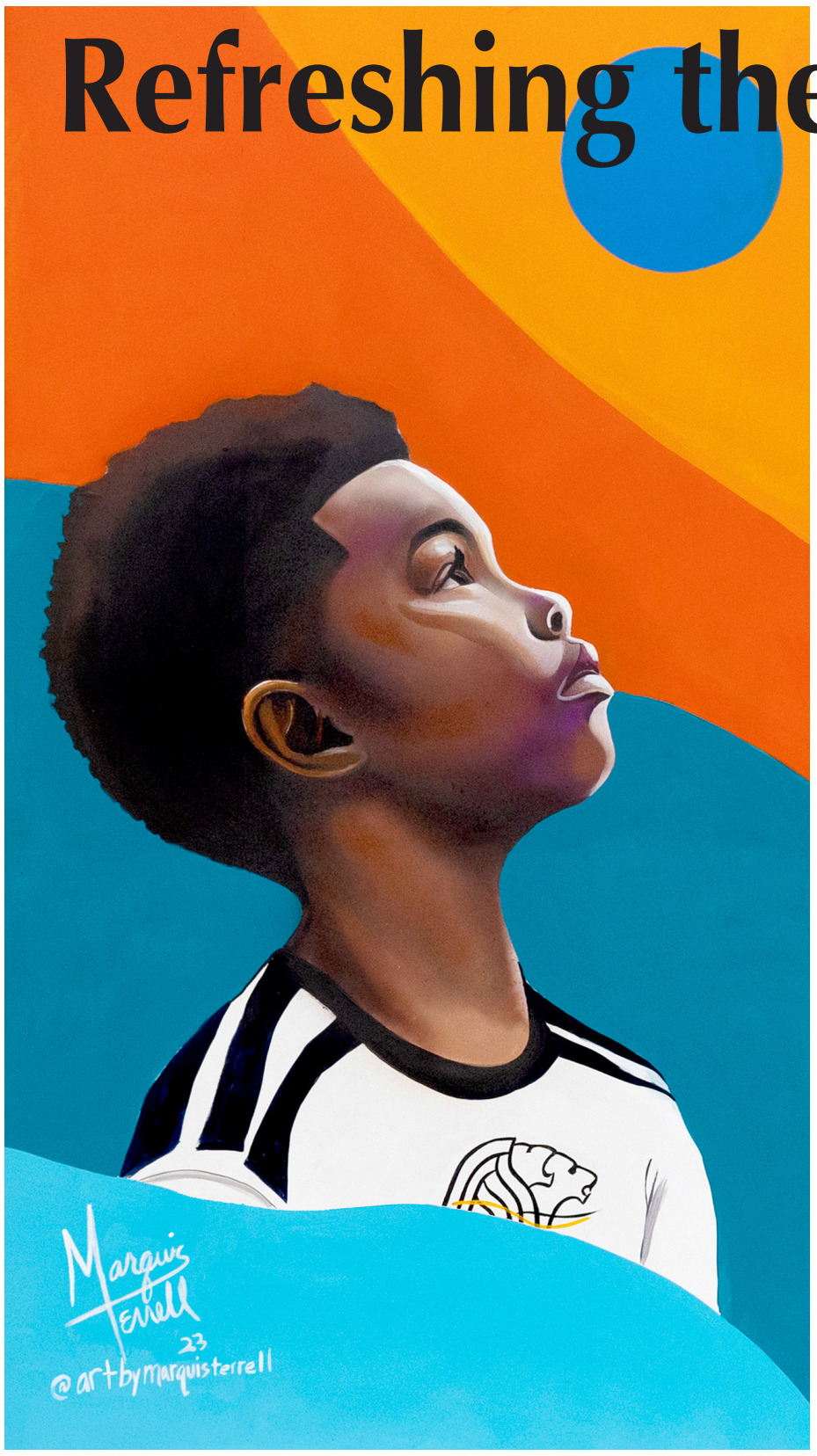
For more information about next year's summer celebration, visit www.ucityschools.org/NNOBTSR. Community booth and volunteer registrations will open in the spring.







Refreshing the Vision of Learnin





During the 2022-23 school year, The School District of University City invited community members to take part in extensive engagement meetings to discuss possible updates or adjustments to the District's ongoing vision of Learning Reimagined.

Learning Reimagined has five strategic priority areas which guide work to educate students:

- Rigorous, Modern and Relevant Learning
- Well-Being and Joy
- Excellent Staff
- All Hands/Strategic Partnerships
- Resources

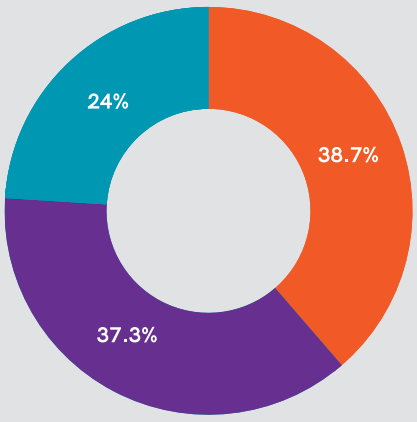
Learning Reimagined is timeless and enduring. Last year, under the leadership of Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, the District re-engaged the public on the plan to determine whether Learning Reimagined was still relevant and on-track with student needs, educational advancement and societal changes.

Eight public meetings were held from October 2022 through April 2023. In each meeting, participants heard a presentation about strategic planning, the existing vision of Learning Reimagined and how it is applied in individual schools. Attendees participated in a "gallery walk" at each meeting – a presentation of photographs of students and staff indicative of the five strategic priorities and possible areas of improvement. Participants provided feedback on each of the priorities with sticky notes and further convened as a group to discuss their findings.

A District report summarizing nearly 300 different pieces of feedback from 56 participants, including parents/caregivers, teachers, District partners and other community members, was accepted by the University City Board of Education in June.

Here Is What Our

Strategic Priority No. 1: Rigorous, Modern And Relevant Learning

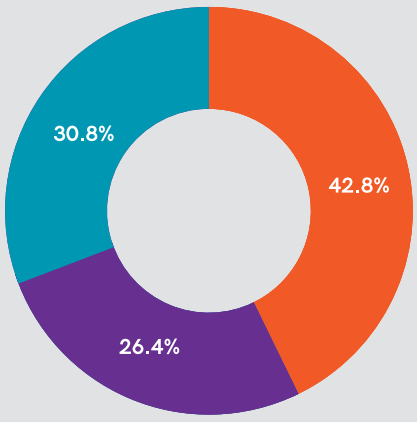


The District provides a rich and dynamic array of learning opportunities for hands-on learning and greater access to opportunity by increasing access and engagement to professional fields, early college credit, internships, summer learning and more.

Academic rigor must be better reflected in stronger student assessment scores.

Key: Glows | Grows | Wonderings

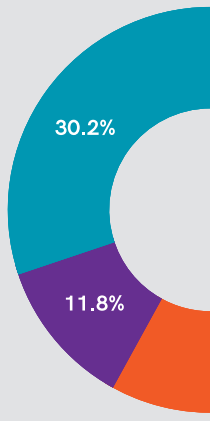
Strategic Priority No. 2: Well-Being And Joy



Supporting the physical, social and emotional needs of our students, teachers and families is tremendously important. Students learn best when they are supported and nurtured and their physical and emotional needs are met.

Members of the community believe our students are facing unprecedented challenges, including the aftermath of COVID-19, safety worries, a polarizing racial climate, lack of resources, climate change and exposure to trauma. The District does not shy away from issues involving racism, racial inequity, bias in the classroom, health disparities, trauma of racism and poverty, which are all a part of well-being and joy.

Strategic Pr... Excelle...

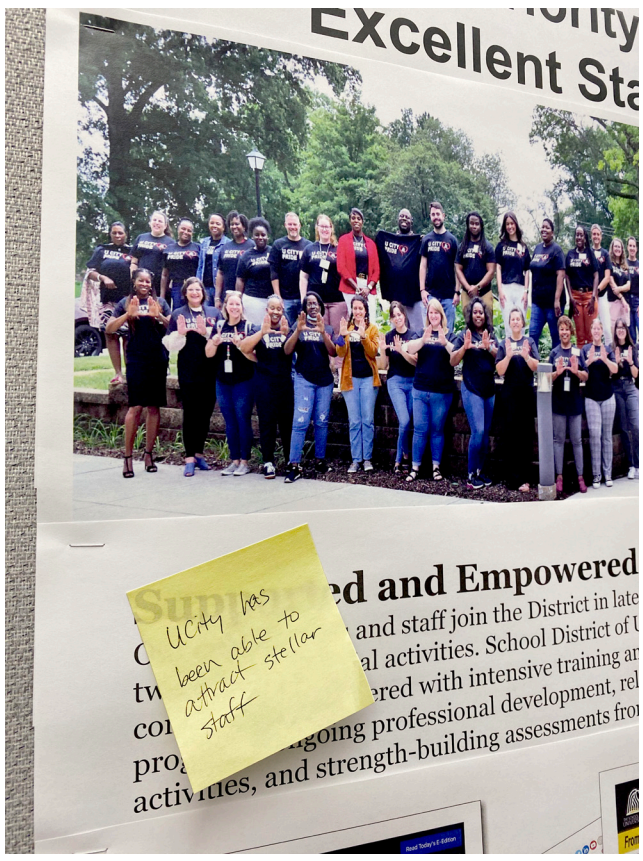


District teachers are highly
and academic success of th
relationships at the heart of

There is concern about tea
aftermath of COVID-19 and
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subjects taught in schools.

g Reimagined







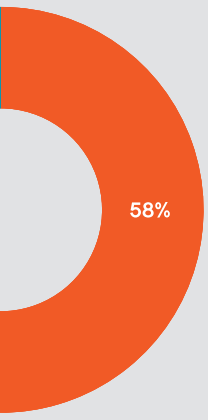
Eight community engagement meetings open to all members of the public started in October 2022 and progressed through April 2023. Meetings included two all-District gatherings on October 22 and 25, 2022. Individual gatherings were held in February through April 2023 at Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center, the four District elementary schools and a joint gathering with the high school and middle school in the high school library.

Participants at all meetings first met in a group to hear an overview of strategic planning and the District's vision of Learning Reimagined. Guests then browsed through a gallery of student, staff and partner photos illustrating learning, activities, partnerships, facilities and programs emblematic of the strategic plan's five priorities. Guests provided commentary on the progress of the plan via sticky notes and through joint discussions.

Public comments were also collected through exit surveys. Comments were categorized in three categories: Glows (positives), grows (areas of opportunity) and wonderings (general questions).

Community Said

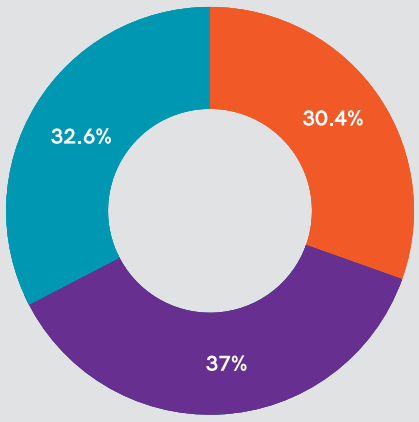
riority No. 3: nt Staff



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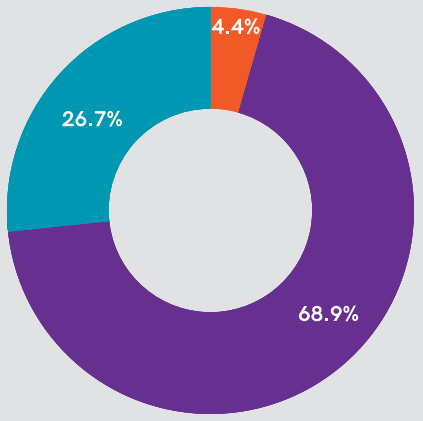
Strategic Priority No. 4: All Hands, Strategic Partnerships



The District dynamically engages many outside partners, including premier St. Louis institutions such as the Zoo, the Science Center, The Magic House and many others. They work closely with nonprofit organizations promoting health and well being; an active array of faith-based volunteer groups; federal and state agencies and philanthropic organizations.

These partnerships have resulted in outstanding opportunities and resources for students and families. The District must continue to press further to engage all parents and caregivers and the local community, including city government.

Strategic Priority No. 5: Resources



District facilities were a distinct area of concern. Less than 5% of comments spoke positively about resources. Most of the feedback referred to the poor condition of specific District facilities.

Nearly 70% of comments cited outdated and deteriorating student facilities that need significant repairs. Building safety to prevent intruders at two elementary schools was of great concern.

Middle School Creates a Landmark USDA People's Garden

HUMANIZE: Learning Reimagined

In the spring of 2022, Brittany Woods Middle School eighth-graders in Anne Cummings' Sustainability II class were facing a problem: They didn't have enough gardening area to keep up with demand for their growing line of Brittany Brand sustainable products. The brand includes the students' homemade mix of nutrient-rich potting soil, honey from the school's apiary, fresh eggs from the school's chickens, and fresh, healthy produce grown at the school that is used in the cafeteria and distributed in the community to combat food insecurity.

It was a good problem to have. The school's original Growing Garden in the courtyard was so successful, it was no longer large enough to fill demand for fresh produce. The students targeted a new garden plot for the west side of the building, but quickly learned that topsoil and other resources to make the second garden were costly. So, the students put their writing and thinking skills to work. Together, they wrote a proposal to Seed St. Louis (Formerly Gateway Greening), the local administrator of grant money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). To their great surprise, the application was accepted and work began on the first USDA-sponsored People's Garden in the St. Louis region.

On Monday, April 3, under blue spring skies, Brittany Woods students along with school leaders and staff, University City Mayor Terry Crow and representatives from the USDA and Seed St. Louis celebrated the opening of the garden with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The garden, which is wheelchair accessible, has the capacity to yield more than a ton of fresh fruits and vegetables every season.



Brittany Woods Middle School students and staff hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony with members of Seed St. Louis *and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to mark the school's new People's Garden.*

During the ceremony, now 10th-grader Demarion Smith told the audience that he was honored to be a part of the garden planning group. He said it was gratifying to see the garden come together in such a celebratory way because the garden took a lot of hard work and planning to prep the site.

Students Cultivate a New Kind of Farm in Cool Valley

Continued from page 1

Each of the 40-foot containers can yield up to five acres of produce – in 320 square feet of space. That's about 1,000 heads of lettuce harvested per week in one container. The containers use about five gallons of water a day, 180 kilowatts of daily electricity and no soil.

The partnership with Fresh Harvest 365 was nurtured by UCHS Principal and Director of Secondary Education Michael Peoples, Ph.D. Peoples met Bledsoe while he was volunteering with students at a Young Men's Night Out event at a local high school, and from there, an idea bloomed to create an agricultural pathway for students at University City High School.

Bledsoe was an inspiration to Peoples. A native of North St. Louis City, Bledsoe went on to Iowa State University and majored in agricultural business. He told his advisor, "People have to eat for the rest of their lives, so let me major in agriculture."

The crossover from urban life to farm life was a great fit, even though his classmates called him a city slicker. From there, Bledsoe worked at Dow AgroSciences and Pfizer Animal Sciences. A four-year stint in the Philippines, where he was tasked with addressing food scarcity issues, led him to an interest in bringing large-scale, urban hydroponics farming back to St. Louis. Bledsoe says this is a logical approach to empowering local communities with local businesses to grow healthy food in areas where access to fresh produce is limited, and residents may rely on corner markets that typically sell unhealthy and highly processed foods. He says there is a future in innovative agriculture for students who will be grappling to solve food scarcity in the decades to come.

Sophomore Anson Collins said the experience provided new ways to address pressing global issues.

"Vertical farming seems to be the solution to us losing a lot of the arable land that we may no longer use to plant food due to global warming, air pollution, etc.," Collins said. "Vertical farming seems to be the answer to that because it's land efficient."

Principal Peoples said he hopes that a Fresh Harvest 365 growing container will one day be placed directly on the campus of University City High School so students can grow and distribute the produce locally and also serve it in the school cafeteria.

"We need to have more healthy options. For us to be able to grow vegetables at school and have them at lunch – it would be better for all of us," said junior Ryenne Davis, who noted that students' go-to meal in the cafeteria is pizza. Vegetables are not really a popular choice.



Peoples said the partnership with Fresh Harvest 365 is one part of the school's developing agricultural pathway of courses that should be in place by the 2024-25 school year. Students who participated in the program this summer received a half-credit. This year, the high school is offering its first course in agri-business.

"Student interest in the pathway is exciting," he said.

"Several who worked with Fresh Harvest 365 this summer who had no exposure to farming or agriculture developed passions that are now driving their secondary school choices and college search," Peoples said. "Our students have a growing awareness of food deserts and scarcity, and they are developing mindsets and skill sets to work towards finding solutions to these issues."

Students who participated in the program celebrated their final day at the farm by cooking and eating the fresh produce they grew. The menu included pesto, an Italian dish made with crushed basil leaves, pine nuts, parmesan cheese and olive oil. Some of the students had never tasted basil before.

"I felt like, if it has a strong smell, then it has a strong taste," Davis said. "And, yes it does."

County Executive Sam Page Proclaims Growing Together Day

PERSONALIZE: Learning Reimagined

St. Louis County Executive Dr. Sam Page proclaimed April 20, 2023 Growing Together Day in honor of then-seniors Michaela Flowers, Elias Klein, Mohamed Ly, Xeta O'Hara, Zofia Reed, Lucy Rhoades, Michael Simmons, Gayle Stevenson, Alara Stewart, Candace Weeden, Beckett Wilke, Jah'de Alexander, Quinn Dorsey, Tae Shia Johnson and Angel Wells and junior Caily Shanks.

Page praised the students for their groundbreaking work in envisioning and planting a Giving Garden in the Brittany Woods Middle School to help feed our community, and later, the creation of the District's annual Growing Together event at Brittany Woods to encourage food gardening and sustainability in the University City Community.

Page presented each student a proclamation at a special gathering in the middle school courtyard. Their former sustainability teacher, Anne Cummings, also presented the seniors with green cords to wear at graduation. Afterwards, Page visited with the middle school chickens, and then returned to his work with some freshly laid eggs.



In April, St. Louis County Executive Dr. Sam Page visited Brittany Woods Middle School to present 16 high school students with proclamations recognizing their work in sustainability. During the visit, students gave Page a tour of the school's chicken coop and sustainability classroom.

Middle School Students Win Second Green Quest Trophy

PROBLEMATIZE: Learning Reimagined

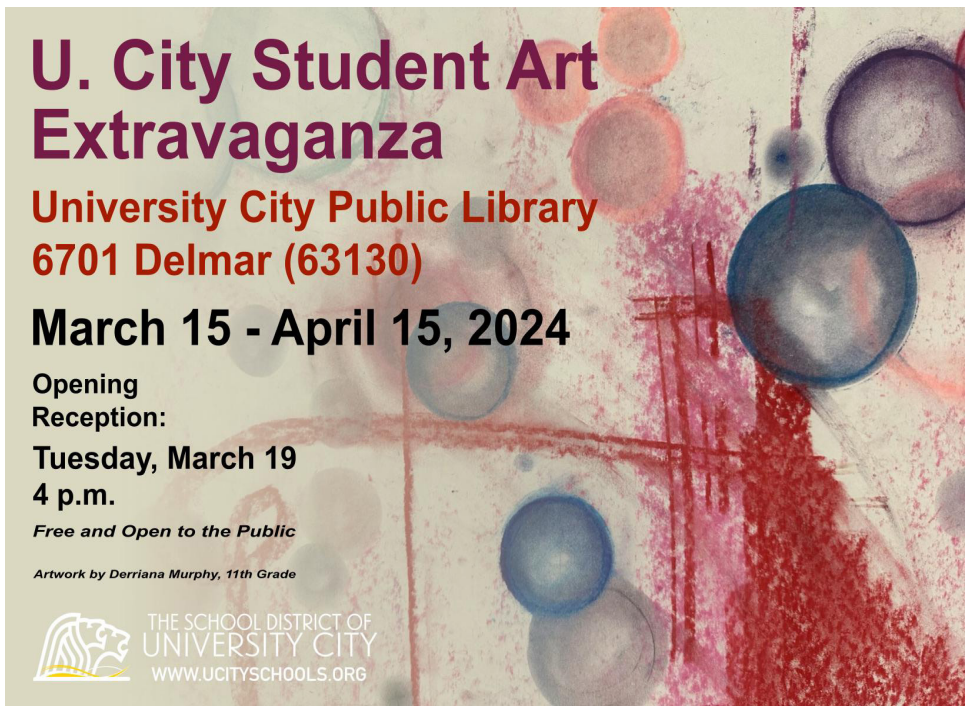
For the second year in a row, sustainability students at Brittany Woods Middle School won first place in the middle school category in the regional Green Quest Schools competition.

Under the mentorship of sustainability teacher Anne Cummings, the students were honored for their ongoing project, "Keeping it Clean," a school-wide sustainability certification program.

Students designed a certification checklist for classrooms in the middle school to guide teachers and students in adhering to specific sustainability practices during their school day. The classrooms were required to demonstrate their ongoing participation in activities like proper recycling, healthy eating, well-being habits and general eco-friendly activities, such as reducing the production of trash that goes into landfills.

The students not only reviewed classrooms for certification, but documented the positive environmental impact of the program on the school. By March 2023, 19 BWMS classrooms were certified by eighth-grade group leaders who were accompanied by sixth-grade sustainability students to learn the review and certification process for continued implementation of the program.

Brittany Woods Middle School leaders were presented with a trophy and a $600 check this past spring to continue sustainability efforts. Last year, Brittany Woods students won a first-place Green Quest Schools award for creating The Parsley Project, a community initiative to plant parsley seeds around U. City to feed pollinators.





Special Delivery!



Thanks to the nonprofit organization KidSmart, $20,000 in school supplies were distributed in late September to Jackson Park Elementary students and teachers. The school community received cartfuls of pencils, markers, paper, scissors and hundreds of special items to enhance classroom learning. KidSmart has been a longtime supporter of the District, providing our students with thousands of backpacks and school supplies at the annual Back to School Rally held every August.

Senior Dani Wasserman Honored with National Awards

When we last checked in with University City High School student Danielle "Dani" Wasserman, she was a junior well on her way to creating a highly successful student-centered organization called Invest Now Clubs. Wasserman was featured on the front page of "Pride" this past spring for her work in bringing financial literacy clubs to high schools where students may not have the privilege or access to learn vital financial skills – such as ways to leverage savings or how to make nest eggs grow through simple investing. The clubs enable participants to trade actual stocks, engage with business leaders through a Lessons in Leadership series and receive one-to-one mentorship opportunities.



University City High School Senior Dani Wasserman was recognized in September by Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley and District school board members for her outstanding work in fostering financial literacy among students attending schools in underserved communities.

Wasserman, now a senior, has since been honored with two national awards for her work. In April, she was honored with the prestigious Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Award for her work developing an organization that promotes social justice and equity. The honor came with a $36,000 award that may be used to further grow Invest Now Clubs and to help with her future educational expenses. In May, she was named one of 26 national Bronfman Fellows. The fellowship enabled her to attend a five-week summer study abroad program that culminated in Israel. The fellowship will continue through her senior year and include in-person and virtual seminars, gatherings and projects with her other teenage fellows.

Admitted on the Spot!

In October, University City High School hosted its annual college fair for juniors and seniors in the high school library. There were more than 40 representatives present from colleges and universities around the country, trade schools, apprenticeships, and other professional organizations. Participants included Boeing, Mizzou, Saint Louis University, Washington University and many more fine schools and organizations.



For one student, the day led to a big surprise. Senior Shawn Coleman was accepted on the spot to South Carolina State University. This was the first time ever that an acceptance offer was given to a student during the fair. Students and staff cheered after they learned of the offer. Congratulations, Shawn!





Gabriella Carvajal



Declan O'Leary



Isabella Wright

High School Seniors Earn Prestigious Honors

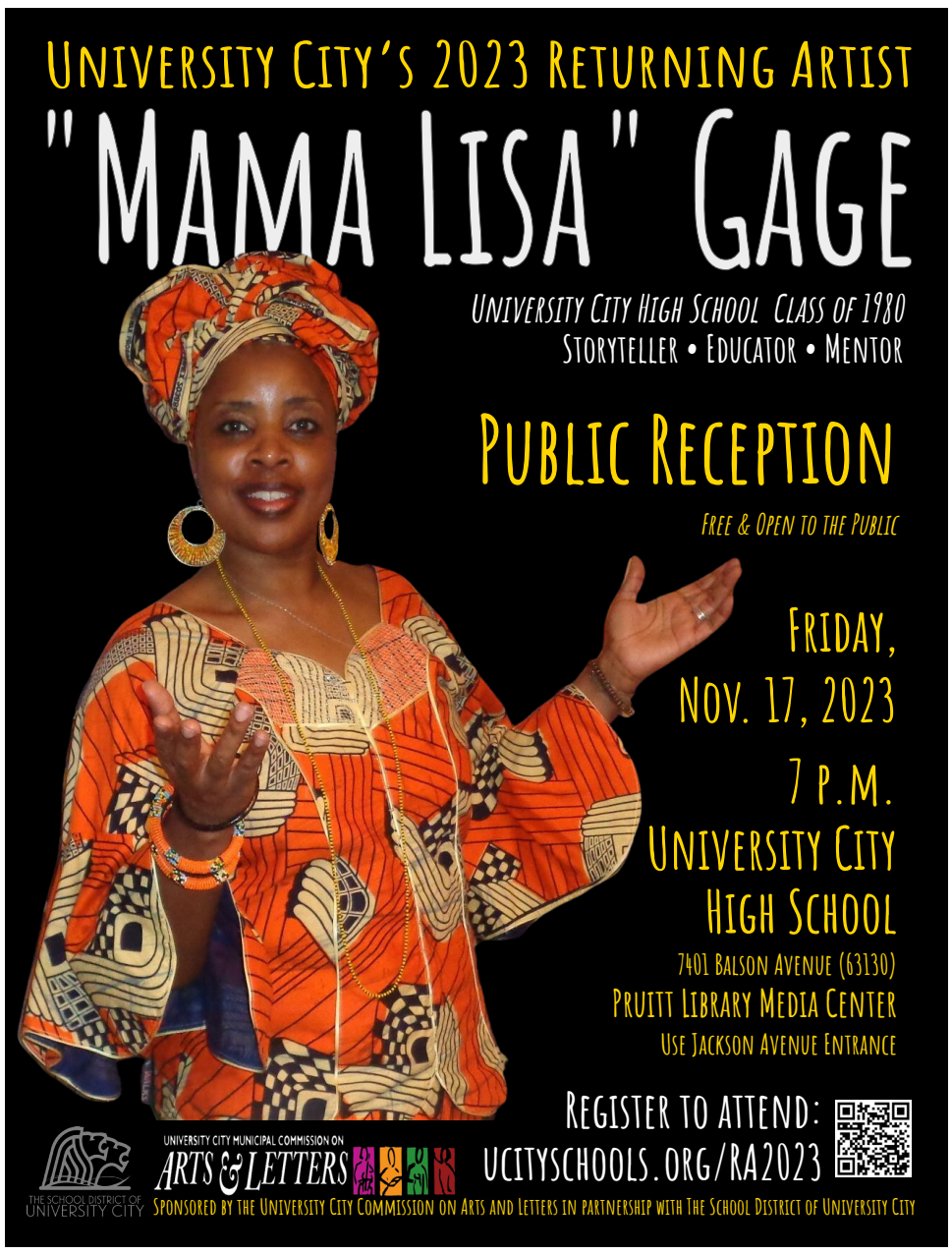
College Board Designations

Mix a 3.5 GPA (or above) with academic excellence, throw in a healthy dose of leadership, and finish it off with high-scoring college test scores, and what do you get? For seniors Gabriella "Gabby" Carvajal and Isabella "Bella" Wright, it was the magic formula for national recognition by the College Board. Carvajal was recognized by the national organization with a 2023 National Hispanic Recognition Award, and Wright was recognized with a 2023 National African American Recognition Award.

Carvajal and Wright are currently enrolled in the District's Early College Experience Program, where they expect to earn associate's degrees. Wright holds a 3.9 cumulative GPA and scored a 29 on the ACT last spring. Carvajal is active on the Girls Varsity Field Hockey team, a member of the National Thespian Club and serves as the president of the Environmental Club. Wright spends her free time volunteering at Brittany Woods Middle School and assisting the field hockey team.

National Merit Scholar Semifinalists

Congratulations to seniors Declan O'Leary and Gabriella "Gabby" Carvajal for scoring in the top 1% of students taking the PSAT. The scores, plus their academic records, led them both to be named National Merit Scholar Semifinalists. This honor is one of the most prestigious merit-based scholarships available, with more than 1 million high school juniors entering the competition annually. In addition to their outstanding grades and test scores, both Gabriella and Declan also work hard outside the classroom – participating in community and special interest organizations, including the Boy Scouts, band, robotics, environmental club, theater and more.



District Athletic Teams Merge



Working together is always a critical factor for building successful athletic teams. The District is excited to announce three dynamic partnerships involving other schools to enhance its athletic programs. Last year, the University City High School girls field hockey team joined forces with Rosati-Kain to create the United Field Hockey team. The merger was highlighted in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

This school year, the Maplewood-Richmond Heights School District entered into an agreement that enables its football players to play on the UCHS football team and its swimmers to compete on the UCHS swim team. A bus brings the MRH athletes to District facilities after school each day. Coaches and athletes say the partnership has yielded new friendships, better competition and long-term stability for the teams.

Bravo to Congressional Art Winners

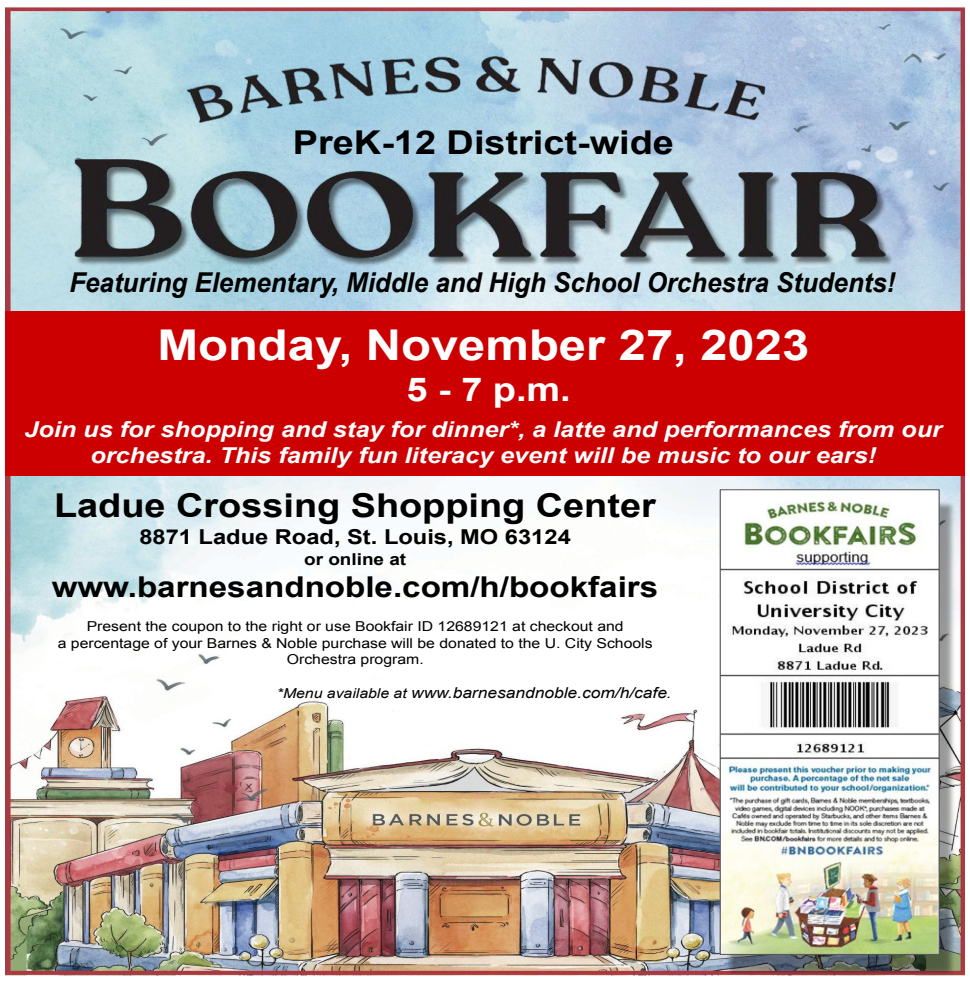


Daysha "Jet" Clark – Second Place

U.S. Congresswoman Cori Bush celebrated the talents of University City High School students during a May 26 reception at the St. Louis University Art Museum as part of the region's annual Congressional Art Competition. The optional theme for the competition was "Show Me You STL," which invited students to express their artistic vision of the St. Louis area. Students T'Mya Bradley won an honorable mention, and Daysha "Jet" Clark won second place.



T'Mya Bradley
Honorable Mention



Student Ambassadors Are the Roots of Year-Long Centennial Park Celebration

University City has some of the most beautiful community parks in the region. These lovely green spaces are located in nearly all U. City neighborhoods, and were created intentionally, with historic roots in the planning and development of University City.



Centennial Park Ambassadors

This year, as the city continues its 100-year celebration of its first park, 36 students are serving as University City Centennial Park Ambassadors. Many of the students in journalism teacher Olivia Steely's class at the high school worked in partnership with the centennial committee to write histories of the parks.



Trail Head Ribbon-Cutting

The student ambassadors also participated heavily in community events affiliated with the centennial celebration. In April, students helped in the grand opening of the newly upgraded hiking trail and aviary corridor in Ruth Park. Students set up tents, handed out informational flyers about the park, monitored guests along the trail and participated in the ribbon-cutting with Mayor Terry Crow and others. One student, Declan O'Leary, built one of the small footbridges on the trail as part of his successful effort to become an Eagle Scout.



Parks Bike Tour

On Memorial Day weekend, the students assisted in U. City's annual road race. Over the summer, they participated in the dedication ceremony for Shelley Welch Park and helped lead a bike tour showcasing all of the city's parks.



Congratulations, UCHS Class of 2023!



PERSONALIZE: Learning Reimagined

The University City High School Class of 2023 is on to new adventures and exciting opportunities after graduating on May 22 inside Chaifetz Arena.

The class earned more than $11 million in scholarship offers from colleges and universities around the country. Eight students were offered more than $500,000 in scholarships during the application process, with one of them gaining more than $1 million in offers. Other students earned scholarships and apprenticeships to move into trades and professional fields. The local community further awarded nearly $70,000 in scholarships to students.

The Class of 2023 earned more than $11 million in scholarship offers from colleges and universities around the country.

Students were accepted into colleges and universities that included University of Arizona, Arizona State, Boston University, Clemson, University of Colorado-Boulder, Colorado State, DePaul, Howard, Iowa, Kansas, Lehigh, Loyola-Chicago, Loyola-New Orleans, Macalaster, McKendree, Morehouse, Mizzou, Northeastern, Purdue, Rhodes, SLU, Tulane, UMKC, UMSL, Washington University and University of Wisconsin-Madison. Students also earned prestigious full tuition and room and board scholarships to attend Vanderbilt and Boston College.

Seventeen graduates completed the Early College Experience program with St. Louis Community College-Forest Park, enabling them to also earn an associate's degree before heading off to earn a four-year degree. Another 15 students earned significant dual college credit hours.

Congratulations, Class of 2023! Oh, the places you will go!

Sasha Adin Albright
Keyvonta Allen
Isaac J Armour Dozier
Nasra Artan
Demario Quentin Batteast
Vernon Maurice Beasley
Camille Bell
Armond Black
Eli Jetrayo Blackwell
Fred Aricka C Boyd
T'Mya Dlor Bradley
Nyla Laon Brooks
Jalah Brown
Lailah Marneece Brown
Jaylen Jamel Bryant
Kamille D Buck
Ismael Cabanas-Monroy
Kenya Dana Calvert
Aaliyah Michelle Carter
Christian Carter
Mecca A Champion
Aiden Chapman
Daysha A Clark
Nikia G Clark
Terrence Cooper
Nakylon Armon Cozart
Aaron Craig
J'Shon Craig
Anthony Samuel Cunningham
Jah Mya Ivy Davis
Jamaal I Davis
Shelisha L Davis
Tavonte Day
Alexander James Days
Tamija Skire Dixon
Kouessan Emanuel Dotou
Kimmora S Edwards
Kahari Evans
Kiara Fall
Reilley Nicole Farrar
Jaidyn Faulkner-Barnes
Derron Donte Finney
Michaela Ashley Flowers
Bethany Fryer
Aliyah L Goodman
Mekhai Gover
Taysha Naomi Griffin
Veronica Tyshon Griffin
Arianna J Guy
Eric Deshaun Hall
Calese Hampton
Alajha B Harris
Donte Harris
Zacoria D Hatton
Samya Hayes
Anna Aiyanice Herron
John Thomas Herron
Amoriea K Hester
Shane A Hines
John Hilton
Luke Vincent Howard
Delilah Huck
Rylan Hudson
Brandon Christopher Hunter
Kalia Jackson
Maliq Jackson
Camron Johnson
Elena Gwendolyn Kellogg
Eryn Lashae Kinnard
Elias S Klein
Makayla Reneé Larkin
Jasmin Rose Lewis
Chloé Danyelle T Lovely
Mouhamed Bachir Ly
Da'Sarius Robert Mack
Sadie Grace Malks
Ella Corinne Martin
Emmalyn Trinity Matt
Anaya J Mays
Elijah D Mayweather
Chassidy E McClure
Omari McCottrell
Lashall M McCoy
Aniya McKinney
Kiaira Merrill
Rashad Miller
Elijah Warren Minor
David Mitchell
Aaliyah M Navies
Xeta Themetta O'Hara
Edwin Ocampo
Parker Overlin
Yosemely Paredes Ortiz
Jaylan Parker
Quanyse D Parker
Jamerrah Parsons
Damonté Lamont Pate
Erielle Darcell Porter
Larryn Charles Porter
Merav S Portman
Coruan Rainey
Zofia A Reed
Lucy Kay Rhoades
Dominic Riggins
Emya Robinson
Kalen Robinson
Ciara Danay Roddy
Yasmin Brielle Ross
Dasia Savory
James A Scales
Thelonius Sharp
Mikya A Shaw
Michael J Simmons
Jordan Sleet
Aaliyah Smith
Anniya Smith
Ariah Gabriel Sneed
Mekhi Depree Spann
Erin M Standish
Gayle Mae Jones Stevenson
Staci Alexa Stevenson
Alara Isabel Stewart
Anthony Stewart
Tori Strickland
Adil Sufi
Laila Tolbert
Julien Trobaugh
Fanny Julissa Veliz Aguilera
Luz Marina Veliz Garcia
Na'Myiah Vesey
Kayla Walker
Gia N Ward
Anyah M Washington
Dondujuan Washington
Timothy Isaiah Watts
Candace Ruth Weeden
Joseph West
Francesca S White
Zoe Elizabeth White
Charles C Whitehead
Beckett Wilke
Ariyanna Marie Wilkes
D'Auni Williams
Tyrece Willis
Caleb Winston
Tallie Jalynn Winter
Taylor Wright
Samantha Alexandra Young

In loving MEMORY OF



Kashina Bell

AUGUST 22, 1973 - AUGUST 5, 2023

If I can help somebody as I travel along, if I can cheer somebody with a word or a song, if I can show somebody that they're traveling wrong, then my living will not be in vain.

~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ~

Dear School District of University City Family:

Education truly is a head and heart business. As we enter the 2023-24 school year and as I personally process the loss of my dear friend and colleague, I'm reminded of just how much the heart gives to the work of educating young people, supporting their families, working to cultivate a sense of community and purpose amongst staff, and in our case, serving in an urban school district during unprecedented times.

Yes, our SEEAL (social, emotional, equitable and academic) learning is necessary now more than ever. It is the essence of the educational ecosystem we aim to create, and our vision of Learning Reimagined is the driving force – particularly our humanize pillar.



Kashina Bell flashes U. City pride with new teachers before start of the 2022-23 school year.

Eddie White, one of Kashina's former students, spoke during her memorial services held on her 50th birthday. His words were profound and amplified who she was as an educator. Eddie spoke of her high expectations for him and the care that she displayed when he wasn't presenting his best. High expectations balanced with love. UCity family, that is our SEEAL work. Eddie is now an educator and is pursuing a degree in administration. Through his tears, he attributed his success to Ms. Ealy, or, as we know her, Dr. Bell.

As we commemorate the 60th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, we must acknowledge that all children deserve a quality educational experience that validates and affirms their brilliance without judgment.

My dear friend, Kashina, thank you for advancing our SEEAL work. I saw your heart each and every day. Consistently, your intellect impacted all who you encountered. We will stay the course; our children deserve our absolute best, and we are better off because of your leadership, relentless pursuit of excellence, and your heart. I will forever be grateful.

In Service of Our Children,

Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley

Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley, PhD, PHR, Superintendent of Schools

University City News

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming City Council Meetings
Mon., Nov. 13
Mon., Nov. 27
Mon., Dec. 11

Fall Leaf Collection

WEST AREA
Nov. 13 - 14 & Dec. 11 - 15

EAST AREA
Oct. 30 - Nov. 7 & Nov. 27 - Dec. 1

CENTRAL AREA
Nov. 6 - 10 & Dec. 4 - 8

Holiday Schedule for Trash and Recycling Collection

Thanksgiving Day and Day After
No trash or recycling collection on Thurs., Nov. 23 and Fri., Nov. 24. Thursday routes will be collected on Friday and Friday routes on Saturday. Regular collection will resume Mon., Nov. 27.

Christmas Day
No trash or recycling collection on Mon., Dec. 25. Monday routes will be collected Tuesday, Tuesday routes will be collected Wednesday, Wednesday routes will be collected Thursday, Thursday routes will be collected Friday and Friday routes will be collected on Saturday.

New Year's Day
No trash or recycling collection on Mon., Jan. 1, 2024. Monday routes will be collected Tuesday, Tuesday routes will be collected Wednesday, Wednesday routes will be collected Thursday, Thursday routes will be collected Friday, Friday routes will be collected Saturday. Regular trash and recycling collection will resume on Mon., Jan. 8, 2024.

More information can be found at ucitymo.org/publicworks

GET CONNECTED with U City

Sign up today to read our weekly e-newsletter by scanning this QR code and be the first to know the latest U City news!

UCITYMO.ORG

University City: Let's Move the Third Ward Forward



We need your help to move the Third Ward forward and grow a brighter future for our City.

The Third Ward Housing and Revitalization Plan is a project initiated by the City of University City and led by a task force made up of local residents and stakeholders.

This project aims to develop a housing plan that guides equitable growth both in the short-term and for the next two decades. The project also intends to create a revitalization strategy for the third ward that ensures outcomes that strengthen the local economy and prevent economic displacement.

Throughout the coming months, residents will be asked to participate in surveys and various events to help guide these efforts. Visit ucity3rdward.com to learn more and participate.

Snow and Ice Removal Reminders in University City

Snow and ice control is a difficult and time-consuming operation. Crews can better clear the streets promptly and completely when residents cooperate by making sure cars are parked in driveways or garages until plowing has been completed.

When encountering snow removal or ice control equipment, please yield the right of-way if it can be done safely. Please keep back at least 50 feet from snow or ice control equipment and do not attempt to pass this equipment or drive through the plowed windrows of snow, which can cause drivers to lose vehicle control. The snow and ice control crews are working to make it easier for those on the road to safely reach their destinations.

DRIVEWAYS AND PRIVATE PROPERTY

City snowplows will not clear private driveways or other private property such as parking lots or school driveways, except in a verified emergency. The equipment used to clear snow from the street may leave a ridge of snow across driveways or where the sidewalk meets the street. It is the responsibility of property owners to remove the ridge of snow or ice left by snow plowing equipment.

The snow should be removed to the sides of the driveway and not back into the street. Residents or private contractors are prohibited from blowing or pushing snow into or across the street or leaving windrows of snow in the street after cleaning sidewalks or driveways.

JOINT JURISDICTION WITH ST. LOUIS COUNTY & STATE OF MISSOURI

Snow and ice removal for streets listed here are the responsibility of St. Louis County and State of Missouri.

Learn more at ucitymo.org/snow.

STREET	JURISDICTION	
Olive Blvd.	I-170 to Ferguson Ave.	State of Missouri
Olive Blvd.	Ferguson Ave. to Skinker Blvd.	St. Louis County
Vernon Ave.	Midland Blvd. to Skinker Blvd.	St. Louis County
Delmar Blvd.	Upper Price Rd. to Big Bend Blvd.	St. Louis County
Forest Park Pkwy.	West City Limits to St. Louis City Limits	St. Louis County
McKnight Rd.	Delmar Blvd. to Olive Blvd.	St. Louis County
Woodson Rd.	Olive Blvd. to North City Limits	St. Louis County
North & South Rd.	Delmar Blvd. to North City Limits	St. Louis County
Hanley Rd.	Westmoreland Dr. to North City Limits	St. Louis County
Midland Blvd.	Delmar Blvd. to North City Limits	St. Louis County
Kingsland Ave.	Delmar Blvd. to Olive Blvd.	St. Louis County

'Tis the Season for Recycling!

From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, household waste increases by more than 25%.

Be wise – Recycle your cardboard, gift paper and other recyclable holiday waste in your curbside recycling cart!



Holiday Tree Collection

City staff will collect holiday trees when placed at the front curb during the first two weeks of January 2024 on your regular collection day. Trees must be without any type of bag, decorations, or lights. Please do not place holiday trees in trash or recycle carts or in City alleys.

Key Contacts in The School District of University City

Central Administration, 7700 Olive Boulevard, University City, MO 63130 290-4000
Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, Superintendent of Schools ..... shardin@ucityschools.org ..... Cell: 399-0941
Joseph Miller, District Chief of Staff for Organizational Health and Effectiveness..... joemiller@ucityschools.org 290-4007
Mark Basi, Director of Technology Solutions - *For student technology issues, please contact the school office.*..... mbasi@ucityschools.org 290-4078
Nancy Cambria, Director of Communications ..... ncambria@ucityschools.org 290-4016
General Communications ..... communications@ucityschools.org 290-4001
Olu Mitchom, Executive Director of Operations (8125 Groby Road, 63130)..... omitchom@ucityschools.org 290-4009
Ayinde Wayne, IT Director (7401 Balson Avenue, 63130) ..... awayne@ucityschools.org 290-4014
Scott Hafertepe, Chief Financial Officer ..... shafertepe@ucityschools.org 290-4008
Amelia Hammerstone, Chartwells Director of Food/Nutrition (7401 Balson Avenue, 63130)..... foodservice@ucityschools.org 290-4068
Joe Griffin, Transpar Director of Transportation (8125 Groby Road, 63130) ..... transportation@ucityschools.org 290-4046
Rebecca O'Connell, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources ..... roconnell@ucityschools.org 290-4028
SaVonne Whitfield, Lead Human Resources Generalist ..... swhitfield@ucityschools.org 290-4022
Office of Curriculum & Instruction (7401 Balson Avenue, 63130)..... uclearns@ucityschools.org 290-4020
Elizabeth Gardner, Coordinator, Professional Development and 6-12 Science..... egardner@ucityschools.org 290--4017
Christina Grove, Coordinator, Culturally & Linguistically Responsive
Susan Hill, Coordinator, PreK-12 Social Studies & College Technical Education ..... shill@ucityschools.org 290-4079
Christina Sneed, Coordinator, PreK-12 English Language Arts ..... chsneed@ucityschools.org 290-4263
Rebecca Soriano, Coordinator, State & Federal Programs)..... rsoriano@ucityschools.org 290-4049
Beverly Velloff, Coordinator, PreK-12 STEM..... bvelloff@ucityschools.org 290-4013
Sandra Cox, ESOL/Spanish (BWMS)..... scox@ucityschools.org 290-4077
Gary Spiller, Executive Director of Student Services and Innovation ..... gspiller@ucityschools.org 290-4045
Michael Peoples, Director of Secondary Education/ UCHS Principal..... mpeoples@ucityschools.org 290-4148
Artondria Bentley, Director, Special Programs in Support of Districtwide MTSS..... abentley@ucityschools.org 290-4186
Wendy Gilliam, Special School District (SSD) Partner District Director..... wgilliam@ucityschools.org 290-4038
Meghan Boyer, SSD Special Education Coordinator for Elementary Schools..... mboyer@ucityschools.org 989-8309
Bri'Ana Martin, SSD Special Education Coordinator for Middle and High Schools ..... bmartin@ucityschools.org 329-7026

University City Board of Education, 7700 Olive Boulevard, University City, MO 63130 ..... aisom@ucityschools.org 290-4002
See page 3 for University City Board of Education members and their liaison assignments

Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center 290-4390
737 Kingsland Avenue, University City, MO 63130
Principal: Crystal Cauley - ccauley@ucityschools.org.....290-4391
Secretary: Barbara Dickerson - bdickerson@ucityschools.org 290-4391
Nurse: Pat Wilson - pwilson@ucityschools.org.....290-4393

Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School 290-4360
1500 North 82nd Boulevard, University City, MO 63132
Principal: Dorlita Adams - dadams@ucityschools.org.....290-4361
Secretary: Zuncherrie Doyle - zdoyle@ucityschools.org 290-4361
Nurse: Vacancy 290-4362
Social Worker: Rosa Vance - rvance@ucityschools.org 290-4384
Counselor: Anita Qualls - aqualls@ucityschools.org.....290-4364
Well-Being Specialist: Jamal Bailey - jbailey@ucityschools.org.....290-4361
After-School Care: Shawnica Andrews - sandrews@upstl.org.....269-7502

Flynn Park Elementary School 290-4420
7220 Waterman Avenue, University City, MO 63130
Interim Principal: Karen Jones - kajones@ucityschools.org 290-4421
Secretary: Portia House - phouse@ucityschools.org 290-4421
Nurse: Dr. Ramona Symonette - rsymonette@ucityschools.org 290-4422
Social Worker: Sara Goede - sgoede@ucityschools.org 290-4446
Counselor: Jona Ross - jross@ucityschools.org 290-4424
Well-Being Specialist: Jamal Bailey - jbailey@ucityschools.org.....290-4421
After-School Care: Rachele Johnson-Bell - rjohnsonbell@upstl.org.....728-1254

Jackson Park Elementary School 290-4450
7400 Balson Avenue, University City, MO 63130)
Principal: Jim Triplett - jtriplett@ucityschools.org .....290-4451.
Secretary: Laela Weems - laweems@ucityschools.org 290-4451
Nurse: Tamara Bartley - tbartley@ucityschools.org 290-4453
Social Worker: Christine Parks - cparks@ucityschools.org 290-4456
Counselor: Shalonda Haynes - shaynes@ucityschools.org 290-4455
Well-Being Specialist: Sarah Smelser - ssmelser@ucityschools.org.....290-4490
After-School Care: Shanise Lewis - slewis@upstl.org 290-4055

Pershing Elementary School 290-4150
6761 Bartmer Avenue, University City, MO 63130
Principal: Deitra Colquitt - dcolquitt@ucityschools.org 290-4152
Office Coordinator: Krista Jones - krjones@ucityschools.org.....290-4152
Nurse: Olivia Anderson - oanderson@ucityschools.org.....290-4155
Social Worker: Stacey Miller - smiller@ucityschools.org 290-4160
Counselor: Michelle Turner - miturner@ucityschools.org 290-4154
Well-Being Specialist: Sarah Smelser - ssmelser@ucityschools.org.....290-4153
After-School Care: Donyalde Sherrod - dsherrod@upstl.org.....680-1796

University City Adult Education and Literacy Program 290-4052
7401 Balson Avenue, University City, MO 63130
Coordinator: Clarence Ware - cware@ucityschools.org

Brittany Woods Middle School.....290-4280
8125 Groby Road, University City, MO 63130
Principal: Justin Davis - judavis@ucityschools.org 290-4280
Secretary/Athletics: Kimberly Walker - kwalker@ucityschools.org 290-4278
Assistant Principals:
Darrin Young (6th grade) - dyoung@ucityschools.org.....290-4281
Yvonne Rooks (7th grade) - yrooks@ucityschools.org 290-4281
Ife Williams (8th grade) - iwilliams@ucityschools.org 290-4281
Dean of Students: Joe Green - jgreen@ucityschools.org 290-4280
Nurse: Cristin Latimore - clatimore@ucityschools.org.....290-4286
Social Worker: LaKaysha Shields - lshields@ucityschools.org.....290-4328
Counselors:
Kellie Willis (6th grade) - kwillis@ucityschools.org 290-4289
Crystal Webb (7th grade) - cwebb@ucityschools.org 290-4302
Kristen Collins (8th grade) - krcollins@ucityschools.org.....290-4293
Registrar: Lorna Nichols - lnichols@ucityschools.org 290-4288
Well-Being Specialist: Catherine Johnson - cjohnson@ucityschools.org 290-4280

University City High School 290-4100
7401 Balson Avenue, University City, MO 63130
Principal/Director of Secondary Education: Michael Peoples
- mpeoples@ucityschools.org.....290-4101
Secretary: Britini Ward - bward@ucityschools.org 290-4101
Receptionist: Jaki Cooke - jcooke@ucityschools.org 290-4275
Attendance: Jade Burrell - jburrell@ucityschools.org.....290-4118
Associate Principal: Ernest Carter - ecarter@ucityschools.org.....290-4101
Assistant Principal: Valerie Carter-Thomas - vcthomas@ucityschools.org ...290-4101
Dean of Students: T-Herbert Jeffrey - tjeffrey@ucityschools.org.....290-4101
Athletic Director: Lawndale Thomas - lthomas@ucityschools.org.....290-4116
Sports Medicine: Ashley Jenkins - ajenkins@ucityschools.org.....290-4211
Nurse: Vacancy 290-4112
Social Worker: Christine Woodward - cwoodward@ucityschools.org 290-4114
Counselors (Last Names):
Counseling Secretary: Bella Quintal - bquintal@ucityschools.org.....290-4110
Kimberly Merrill (Lead/Early College) - kimerrill@ucityschools.org.....290-4110
Theresa Covington (A-G) - tcovington@ucityschools.org 290-4110
Melvin Bond (H-O) - mbond@ucityschools.org 290-4110
April Lawrence (P-Z) - alawarence@ucityschools.org.....290-4110
Registrar: Robyn Murry - rmurry@ucityschools.org 290-4115
Well-Being Specialist: Darren Brooks - dabrooks@ucityschools.org 290-4110
Craig Morris - cmorris@ucityschools.org 290-4064

ROAR Academy at Lieberman Learning Center.....290-4330
7401 Balson Avenue, University City, MO 63130
Coordinator: Nikole Shurn - nshurn@ucityschools.org.....290-4330
Secretary: Annette Allen - aallen@ucityschools.org.....290-4330
Counselor: Ebonie Davis - edavis@ucityschools.org.....290-4025
Well-Being Specialist: Craig Morris - cmorris@ucityschools.org 290-4064
See UCHS for Nurse and Social Worker

Legal notices for school families (www.ucityschools.org/LegalNotices)

The following policies and information important for families are available in parent/student handbooks as well as the District website at www.ucityschools.org/LegalNotices. Please take time to read them. If you have any questions, please contact the office of Communications at (314) 290-4001 or email communications@ucityschools.org.

- **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** was signed by President Obama on Dec. 10, 2015, to replace the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2002. ESSA was enacted to ensure educational equity and ultimately, to close the achievement gap. It maintains that all children, no matter where they live, what income level, what type of family unit or what challenges they have – all are entitled to a quality education. ESSA includes:
  - **Title I.A:** Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
  - **Title II:** Preparing, Training and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers, Principals, and Other School Leaders
  - **Title III:** Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students
  - **Title IV.A:** 21st Century Schools

  All are federal programs under ESSA aimed at closing the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility and choice. More details including ESSA's Parents Right to Know letter and Complaint Procedures are available at www.ucityschools.org/LegalNotices. Any additional questions should be directed to Rebecca Soriano at (314) 290-4020 or via email at rsoriano@ucityschools.org.
- **ADA accommodations:** The School District of University City wants all students, parents, staff and community members to be able to attend and enjoy District events, meetings and activities. For special assistance or accommodations to participate, contact the office of Operations at (314) 290-4044.
- **English Language Learners** are offered appropriate instructional services and content modifications, as needed based on assessments.
- **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):** Parents/guardians and students who are at least 18 years of age have rights regarding education records. FERPA explains these rights and offers a process to file complaints if those rights are violated.
- **Students In Foster Care:** The School District of University City is committed to the identification, support and enrollment of foster care students living within the District. For more information, contact Gary Spiller at (314) 290-4045.
- **The McKinney-Vento Education Assistance Act** protects the rights of school-aged children of homeless and migrant workers. The executive director of Student Services serves as the link between homeless families and school staff, district personnel, shelter workers and social service providers. For more information, contact the District's homeless liaison, Gary Spiller, at (314) 290-4045.
- **Notice of Non-Discrimination** is printed on the back cover of all issues of PRIDE as well as other school and District publications.
- **Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)** affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes and certain physical exams.
- **Senate Bill 319** calls for early reading assessments, reading improvement plans and student retention.
- **Students with Disabilities** are offered services in partnership with the Special School District of St. Louis County to all eligible children ages 3 to 21, with disabilities, under the District's jurisdiction.

University City Board of Education
Matthew Bellows, President
Monica Stewart, Ed.D., Vice President
Joanne Soudah, Secretary
Karen Bernstein, Director
LaVerne Ford-Williams, Director
Kay Gage, Director
Bridget McDougall, Director
Tori Wilson, Student Representative

The School District of University City
Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley, Ph.D. PHR
Superintendent of Schools
Nancy Cambria,
Communications Director
Amanda Evans,
Assistant Communications Director
CarolAnn Cole
Communications Specialist
314-290-4000 • www.ucityschools.org

Applicants for admission or employment, students, parents of elementary and secondary school students, employees, sources of referral and applicants for employment and all professional organizations that have entered into agreements with The School District of University City are hereby notified that the District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. In addition, the District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. Any person having inquiries concerning the District's compliance with the laws and regulations implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), the Age Discrimination Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) or the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, is directed to the respective Compliance Coordinator listed below, who oversees the School District's efforts to comply with the laws and regulations implementing the laws and regulations cited above. The School District has established grievance procedures for persons unable to resolve problems arising under the statutes above. The School District's Compliance Coordinator will provide information regarding those procedures upon request. Any person who is unable to resolve a problem or grievance arising under any of the laws and regulations cited above may contact the Office for Civil Rights, Region VII, at 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114 or 816-268-0550. Adult and Employee Compliance Coordinator: Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Ronald E. McNair Administrative Building, The School District of University City, 7700 Olive Blvd., University City, MO 63130, 314-290-4021. Student Compliance Coordinator: Executive Director of Student Services, Ronald E. McNair Administrative Building, The School District of University City, 7700 Olive Blvd., University City, MO 63130, 314-290-4045.

Dated Material. Distribute as soon as possible.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT of UNIVERSITY CITY
7700 Olive Blvd.
University City, MO 63130
Postal Patron

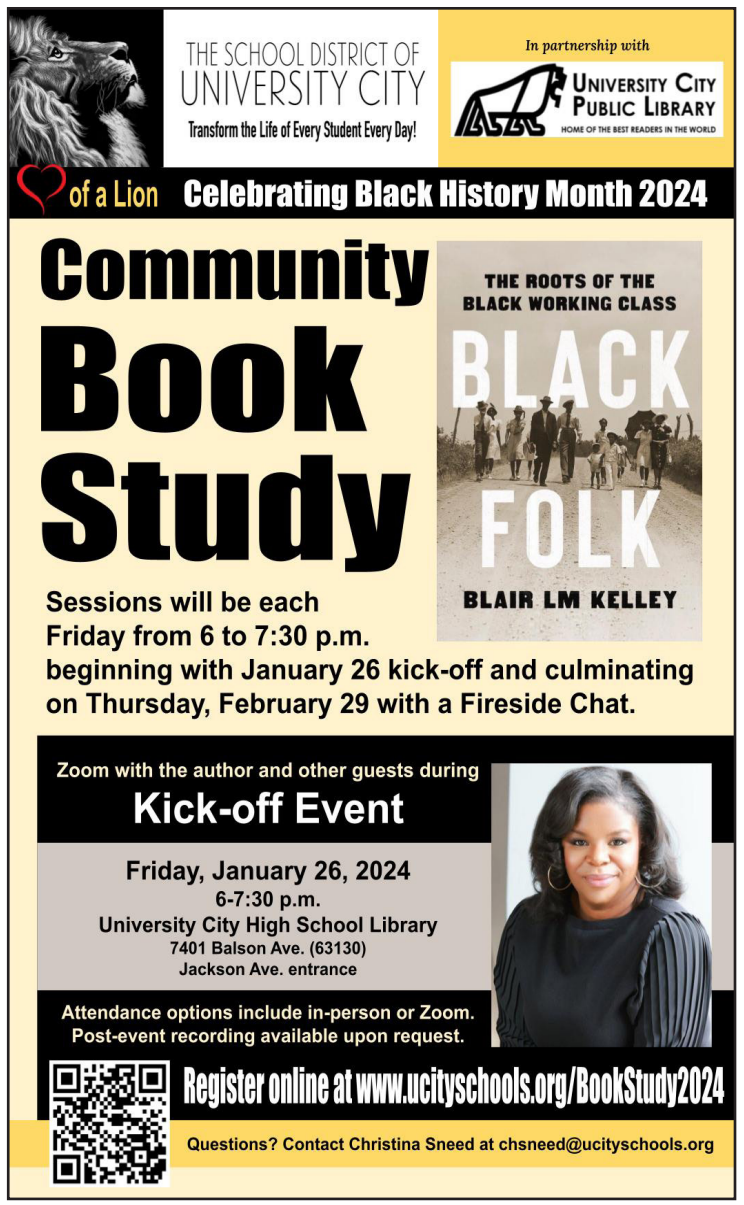
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ECRWSS

Come See Our Middle and High Schools this November

Prospective students and their families are invited to visit Brittany Woods Middle School and/or University City High School at two special events in November. The high school will host "Experiencing the U" on November 15, 2023, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The middle school will host its See Our School event on November 30 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The Brittany Woods Middle School Orchestra and Band will also perform that evening at 6:30 p.m. in the school gym.





THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF UNIVERSITY CITY
Transform the Life of Every Student Every Day!

UCITY PRIDE

GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL

A publication for and about The School District of University City, Missouri — November 2023



This Issue's Highlights:

- New McNair Mural Soars, page 1
- Students Learn Urban Farming, page 1
- Learning Reimagined Community Engagement Feedback, pages 10-11
- Curriculum updates, student news and more, Pages 4-16