

District Names Peoples as High School Principal



New University City High School principal, Michael Peoples, begins to bond with high school students during 2018 Summer Learning Academy.

Michael Peoples has accepted the position of principal at University City High School. Peoples, formerly associate principal at Hazelwood East High School, will follow Susan Hill, who has taken on a new assignment in District, working to improve college- and/or career-readiness and access for students PreK-12.

“We are excited to bring Michael to this key position at the high school and are looking forward to introducing him to our school family and community,” Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley said. “We believe that Michael’s expertise and work with instructional and improvement strategies will accelerate our ongoing efforts to transform the educational experience and reinforce a strong culture of personal responsibility and community at University City High School.”

Hardin-Bartley said Peoples will work with Hill during the summer.

“Having this transition time is a great opportunity for these two administrators to create a powerful partnership in their new roles and in support of our students,” she added.

With more than four years of experience as a high school administrator and 10 years of mathematics instruction at all levels, Peoples is excited to step into his first role as principal. The St. Louis native says, “I am familiar with the high-quality offerings and community pride associated with University City High School. It’s a resource-rich environment with impressive options in the pursuit of academics and career paths unique to the students at this school. I am looking forward to working with a program with such a rich legacy and where I can write my own chapter.”

Peoples says he intends to focus on building and maintaining

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Jackson Park Students Help Neighbor



Embracing the concepts of Learning Reimagined, students across The School District of University City are partnering with the University City Commission on Senior Issues and Senior Services Coordinator Marcia Mermelstein to experience education from different perspectives. They are especially focused on developing intergenerational relationships.

As part of their Civic Responsibility Project-Based Learning curriculum, third- and fourth-grade students from Jackson Park Elementary School walked to a neighboring University City resident’s home to help her with yard work.

“The students absolutely loved helping Ms. Stanley!” said their teacher, Lyndlee Mabry. “They worked SO hard! They ended up with a huge pile of sticks and 14 bags of brush.”

When they returned to the classroom, one student shared, “It made me feel really good to do something for someone else just because – not because I had to, or for money, but because it felt good!”

For more information about the Commission, call (314) 505-8563 or email mmermelstein@ucitymo.org.

Seniors Connecting With Seniors



In May, the University City Public Library hosted “Engage at Every Age.” It is a display of stories and photos depicting the intergenerational collaboration between University City High School’s Intro to Journalism students and local senior citizens. The concept was forwarded by Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley and coordinated by Mary Williams, UCHS journalism teacher, and Marcia Mermelstein, University City’s senior services coordinator. Student reporters were paired with older adults for interviews that led to biographical articles and photos. As part of the process, students conducted school tours for the older adults. After the library event, a participating professor posted the story his student wrote about him on his Facebook page and received more than 100 comments. He said that, through the process, he reconnected with many of his former students and others he had not heard from in ages.

From our Superintendent of Schools



Sharonica Hardin-Bartley
Superintendent

Dear University City Families,

From Opening Day to the end of school, we have had a particularly full year. We have bonded over the typical highs and lows you would expect when working with 2,800 students, families and community – as well as some extraordinary experiences that both touched and taught us about ourselves as a national community. We have a lot to celebrate and a lot on which to reflect.

We opened the year by bringing on 30 new teachers, a new philosophy in Learning Reimagined and new results from personalized learning, building relationships and solving real-world problems.

We bonded as a nation under the Great North American Eclipse, railed against senseless acts of gun violence against students across the country, mourned the accidental death of one of our own and helped beautify the Loop damaged in the wake of protests.

We analyzed test scores districtwide, tracked the impact of restorative practices, launched a public review of disciplinary practices and updated the messages in our discipline handbook.

We walked our community through a Strategic Planning process that refocused efforts on students and community. We walked the paths of social justice. WE Schools walked to raise funds for water. We walked through history, inducting 11 alumni into our Hall of Fame. For Homecoming, we walked in a parade of fairy tales and in January, invited our entire community to join in a “Walk with Martin (Luther King Jr.).”

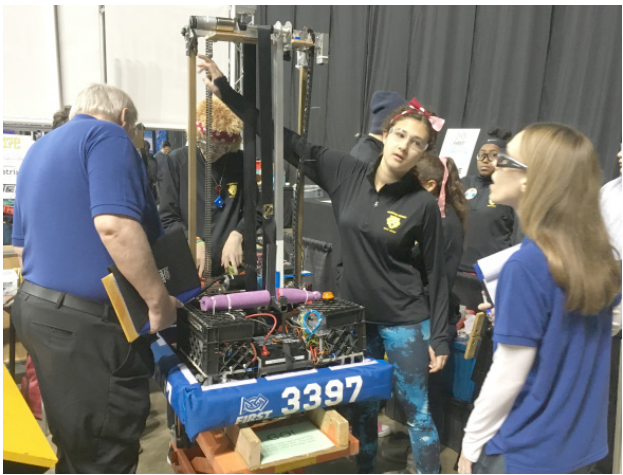
We celebrated a Brazilian exchange student, new partners, a Robolions win at Regional and their run at World. We joined our UCHS women’s choir’s voice with those of the St. Louis Chamber Chorus. Our teaching team helped students acquire seats to see the groundbreaking play, “Hamilton.” And, we celebrated one staff member’s 40 years of service.

We transitioned 20 of our dedicated staff into retirement and graduated 178 students. And now, thanks to groundwork we’ve laid and partners who have been invited to join us on this journey, we are looking forward to the start of another amazing school year.

We couldn’t have done any of this without you! Have a wonderful summer and look forward to all the great things we will do together in school year 2018-19.

In Service of Our Children,

Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley
Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley, PhD PHR



From our Board of Education



Kristine Hendrix
Board of Education
Vice President

Dear University City Families,

As I write, spring has moved into summer and I reflect on the traditional rites of passage including prom and graduation. As a parent and a Board member, I am always excited to go to graduation and promotion ceremonies of the children of family and friends. This year, I cheered excitedly for my own boys, 5th- and 8th-grade graduates of Pershing Elementary.

Graduation is a time for celebration. It is a milestone each of our youth takes on his or her way to adulthood. We celebrate their hard work and successes as they transition to a new chapter. And, as tradition dictates, we fill gymnasiums to communally cheer them on for the long road ahead. We whisper to our partners and friends in amazement at how they were, “... just so little yesterday and now they are graduating!”

We have a right to be proud because our support helped get them to this point. Whether they are transitioning from kindergarten to first grade or preparing to leave home for colleges or careers, it is the charge of the District and the entire learning community to ensure that our students are prepared for their next steps.

As Dr. Hardin-Bartley reminds us, our younger students must be prepared for jobs not yet in existence. It’s a concept that is hard for most of us to imagine, so let’s reimagine it!

Let’s continue to give students project-based learning experiences that challenge their brains creatively and intellectually. Our children must all have access to the best educational experiences we can offer regardless of economics, race, family origin, or on which side of Olive he or she lives.

All of our students deserve to be our first thoughts in the morning as our entire learning community wakes up to the shared mission of engaging our youth, transforming lives and providing support. So, just as we packed the gyms in graduation celebrations; let’s also plan next year to pack PTO meetings, Board meetings, District Town Halls and other school/community engagement opportunities that impact the education, health and well-being of our children.

In the words of our 44th president, Barack Obama, “The future belongs to young people with an education and the imagination to create.” That’s part of the uniqueness of University City. Each day, in our schools, we work to graduate students who are not only college and career ready, but who have the ability, drive and desire to reimagine their own futures. For them, the possibilities are endless.

Kristine Hendrix
Kristine Hendrix, U. City Board of Education Vice President

The personal opinions expressed in this article may not reflect that of the entire school board.

District Hosts First TEDx Talk on Modern Learning

The School District of University City hosted its first TEDx Talk at University City High School on May 22, 2018. The TEDx “Delmar LoopED” panel event explored the challenges, opportunities and rewards of creating a modern learning experience for today’s students. The panel included educators and experts on health, wellness, socio-emotional development, the achievement gap and more.

Presenters and their topics in order of appearance included:

- **Sharonica Hardin-Bartley**, Ph.D., PHR, Superintendent of The School District of University City - *Ensuring Equal Access to a Quality Life for Today’s Students*
- **Joe Miller**, MPA, Sr. Vice President of Partnerships, Wyman Center - *Collective Impact and Student Improvement: How can all Students Thrive, not Just Survive?*
- **Stephen P. Zwolak**, Founder and CEO of LUME Institute/Executive Director of University City’s Children’s Center/Educator - *What Happens Early in Life and the Importance of Early Childhood Education*
- **Emily Luft**, Program Director of Alive and Well STL - *Imagining Our Schools Complexly*
- **Terry W. Harris**, Ed.D., Executive Director of Student Services, Rockwood School District - *And, How are the Children? Mindfully Preparing all Children to Thrive*
- **Katie Kaufmann**, Director of Ready by 21 St. Louis - *Preparing our Youth to be Ready by 21*
- **Dr. Katie Plax**, Ferring Family Professor and Division Director of Adolescent Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis - *Powerful Partnerships for Child Health and Wellbeing*
- **Amy Hunter**, Manager of Diversity and Inclusion, St. Louis Children’s Hospital - *A Wakanda Education*

More information regarding the presenters is available at www.ucityschools.org/TEDxDelmarLoopED.



This program was videotaped and will be shared following TEDx review. If you did not pre-register and would appreciate notification once the video is available, please sign up at www.ucityschools.org/TEDxPostRegistration.

New High School Principal from page 1

strong relationships, “I am excited to partner with the University City community and hear their thoughts on what our students and school need.” He adds, “Only through genuine collaboration does change occur. Student success is positively impacted through building relationships and establishing structures. As an example, I am wholly committed to the use of Restorative Practices and doing more ‘with’ students, as opposed to, ‘for’ them. In addition, I look forward to working with the team to deliver high-quality instructional practices to all students.”

Peoples’ new character building program called “Tied to Greatness,” includes a Tie Drive (*see ad below*), to ensure young men have a special occasion wardrobe at the ready.

Peoples graduated from the University of Missouri – Rolla; an honors student with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering management with a technology emphasis. He later earned mathematics and principal certifications and master’s degrees in both school administration and teaching from Lindenwood University. He’s presently working toward a doctorate at Saint Louis University.

For more details, visit www.ucityschools.org/NewPrincipalPeoples.

Board Officers Reaffirmed

On April 12, Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley led the re-elected Board of Education Directors Joanne Soudah and Kristine Hendrix, along with incumbents: Chelsea Addison, Lisa Brenner, LaVerne Ford-Williams, Tracy Gritsenko and George Lenard in reaffirming their oath of office. President Brenner led the new, student representative, Dominic Bryant, in the oath of office. The Board elected new officers: President Soudah, Vice President Hendrix and Secretary Addison.



On May 17 (*photo above*), the Board recognized and thanked Brenner for her three years as Board president, as she worked tirelessly to support the District’s mission, vision and goals. She demonstrated the ability to remain data-focused, while never forgetting that children are more than their numbers. She was instrumental in hiring Hardin-Bartley and in the completion of Prop U projects. She also initiated discussion to establish a student representative to the city council.

University City High School

presents

TIEd to Greatness!

New UCHS Principal Michael Peoples launches a community

TIE DRIVE

to run through the 2018-19 school year.

Please donate new or gently-used ties for young men in our mentoring programs.

DROP OFF POINTS:
UCHS (7401 Balson)
McNair Administration Building (8136 Groby)
More to be added soon!

OPTIONS:
Along with your tie, include an encouraging note and/or your email so we can thank you and invite you to a culminating event next spring!

For more information, visit ucityschools.org/T2G.

UCHS WE School Students Lead a “Walk for Water” Through U. City

For most of us, clean water to drink, cook and bathe in is available at the turn of a tap. Yet, in some parts of the world, people must walk miles to find sources of fresh water.

At noon on Saturday, April 21, a group of about 25 University City High School students and teachers embarked on a water walk of their own to raise awareness and funds for this concern.

According to UCHS WE Schools sponsor, Matt Horn, who is also a U.S. and African American Studies teacher at UCHS, “WE Walk for Water” is one of the main campaigns of the “WE Schools” program.

“Our students started in the Loop and walked up Delmar to the high school carrying five-gallon jugs of water in empathy with those impacted by the shortage,” said Horn. “It’s mainly young women and children who often miss school or work to trek miles to access clean water.”

“The kids really enjoyed the honks and waves from community members as well,” Horn added. “WE had a good time on the walk and the kids did us proud!”

UCHS students also started a CrowdRise page. “It takes only \$25 for one person to have clean access to water for life,” Horn added. “With your generous donations, we have met our group goal of \$500!”

So far, the students have raised enough money to help 20 people eventually gain fresh water for life.

“Thank you to everybody who either donated or helped to spread awareness of our group research and work on water scarcity around the globe...who joined us for the WE Walk for Water empathy walk...who supported us in the community, thank you!” Horn concluded.

For WE Schools’ Walk for Water information, visit we.org/we-families. For more articles about WE Schools in U. City, check out District News at ucityschools.org.



About 25 high school students and teachers walked for water to raise awareness and funds to help 20 people gain access to fresh water.



UCHS Women’s Choir Hit High Notes with Saint Louis Chamber Choir

Performances Included “Alleluia Amen,” a Commissioned Work by Haitian-American Composer Sydney Guillaume

On April 8, the University City High School Women’s Choir performed with the Saint Louis Chamber Chorus in a critically acclaimed rendition of selected works in the Chamber series, “The Time of Our Lives.”

UCHS Choir Director Caroline Ibnabdeljalil, who has performed with the St. Louis Chamber Chorus since 2006, said, “When Phillip approached me about this opportunity, I was thrilled for our students and a bit nervous! It’s been wonderful teaching and watching these young women grow as musicians this past season and I am excited for them to have this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to sing with one of the world’s finest acapella choirs.” University City teachers, Bria Jones and Darby Dachroeden, also performed with the Chorus.

The first collaboration of the evening was a performance of the cantata, “A Pageant of Human Life,” by British composer Sir Granville Bantock. Reflecting the season’s theme, Dance to the Music of Time, Bantock’s piece explores the cycle of life from childhood through death, which prompted the chorus to partner with a youth choir.

“The concert was amazing!” Laura Frank, executive director for the Chorus, said. “The U. City community should be so proud of the girls and how they sang and conducted themselves. It was such a positive experience for everyone involved.”

That includes Nicole Holahan, a first-year choir student and rising-senior at UCHS. “I’ve never experienced anything like this before. The sound we produced was amazing.” Nicole said. “It’s a bit overwhelming, to think of how strong and powerful our voices were together.”

She added, “I was impressed by the fact that they all had other jobs and yet they sing for enjoyment.”

As a soprano, Nicole said her favorite piece was “Lady Eternity,” “This song had the highest note I had ever sung and it was (beautiful) to hear all



University City High School Women’s Choir performed with The Saint Louis Chamber Chorus in a critically acclaimed rendition of select works in the Chamber series, “The Time of Our Lives.”

the sopranos sing.” “It’s unusual to have three professionals from a school district performing in the Chorus” Frank observed. “In addition to Caroline, teachers Bria Jones and Darby Dachroeden also sang. It really speaks to the quality of the District’s music program.”

“That’s significant because music is something you carry with you your whole life.” Frank added, “In this concert, the students will perform alongside adults from a wide range of professions including teachers, doctors and lawyers – music is something they can share with each other as well as with the audience members. The students will also see that music can be a companion for life; it can carry them through many phases and stages.”

The Saint Louis Chamber Choir performances are made possible by the Missouri Arts Council with support from the Regional Arts Commission. Artistic collaborations in season 62 are made possible by the E. Reuben and Gladys Flora Grant Charitable Trust. This event represents the Chorus’ fifth performance of the season. For more information about the Choir, visit www.chamberchorus.org.



UCHS Collegiate Trunk Initiative

Ten University City High School graduating seniors were surprised with trunks full of college supplies including lamps, light bulbs, irons, batteries, bedding, first aid kits and snacks to help prepare them for their future.

“The students were chosen based upon their attendance, course performance, community service and leadership in the building,” said Bishop Luther Baker, CEO of Man of Valor, Inc. “This was our first year and we are looking to grow this trunk initiative each year.”

Donations are courtesy of Royal Banks of Missouri, U. City Family Church and the Assistance League. A live stream video of the May 4 packing party is available on the @UCitySchools Facebook page.

UCHS Senior Safiyah Worth Wins Music Scholarship at Audition

“It was kind of a spur of the moment decision,” said Safiyah Worth, a University City High School graduating-senior. “I was told about auditions and mom took me. A friend, Jerryl Christmas (UCHS Class of 1981), introduced me to the director of the choir. I sang parts of several songs and he offered me a \$7,000 scholarship!”

Safiyah wasted no time in sending in her application to Alabama A & M University. Although she had received an offer from an in-state college, she had always wanted to attend a Historically Black College or University.

“Two family members attend Alabama A & M,” she added, “but I had received an offer from another college so had not thought of it.”

A strong student with a 3.0 accumulative GPA, Safiyah wants to minor in music and major in sociology and African American Studies. But, psychology is her favorite class at UCHS. “I would like to understand human behavior and learn about mental illnesses. I have people close to me struggling with autism, mental illness and dyslexia.”

Safiyah grew up singing in the church choir and had some vocal training in middle school, but no longer sings regularly. “I have always loved music. I love to sing!”

The auditioning choir director asked her to sing a variety of selections of her own choosing. Safiyah said, “I wasn’t prepared at all! But, I sang the ‘Star Spangled Banner,’ the ‘Black National Anthem,’ ‘Home’ from ‘The Wiz’ and a more obscure jazz song.” She laughed, “I didn’t want to be cliché and sing ‘Jennifer Holiday’ (ala Dream Girls) or ‘At Last’ (by Etta James)! There was a guy before me who was perfect, with piano accompaniment and everything. But, God is good! That’s just how I was feeling after I left!”

She went into the auditions on a lark and left with a new opportunity and a \$7,000 promise.

Safiyah is the daughter of Audrey Worth. She has three brothers and one sister.

The School District of University City congratulates Safiyah and the other graduating seniors for their accomplishments, and especially their work to earn so many significant scholarships. For more UCHS scholarship information, visit www.ucityschools.org/2018UCHSAwards.



Safiyah Worth

UCHS Cadet Gillispie Selected for U.S. Air Force Academy

Marco Gillispie, a University City High School (UCHS) graduating-senior, is one of a select group of Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets to receive an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. His appointment was officially announced during U.S. Representative Wm. Lacy Clay’s special recognition ceremony at the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

According to Marco’s instructor, Col. Thomas Henson, typically the

Academy selects about 15 percent of student applicants. Marco is one of only 20 Missouri cadets chosen and one of 1,200 nationally.

“Marco is a true leader who demonstrates a high degree of integrity and character,” said Henson. “He leads by example, is highly involved with many extracurricular and community activities and his academic record of performance is unmatched. Marco has the ability, confidence, and drive to succeed and to achieve the high goals he sets for himself.”

Col. Henson said the Academy’s application process is tough and that students must earn a 3.5 GPA or higher and pass the physical ability tests. “It is very competitive and must be initiated by the student with a vision of a career in the Air Force,” Col. Henson added.

Marco, who is soon to turn 18, carries a weighted GPA of 4.3, unweighted 3.9, and has been entertaining offers from prestigious colleges, including Washington University in St. Louis. However, he says he has always wanted to follow in the footsteps of his dad, Mark Gillispie, a retired USAF Major. The Academy became a goal his junior year. “I was very excited when I woke up and saw the email and I immediately went online to confirm. The first thing I did was call my dad at work.”

Marco recognizes the importance of the opportunity he has been offered and credits UCHS with getting him to his goal. He says, “UCHS provided me with a lot of great resources including Col. Henson, computer classes for systems engineering and (preparatory) resources for ACT testing and college admissions.”

After being accepted, Marco said, “It was awesome news and it took a lot of weight off because now I know where I am going and that I will be attending a great institution.”

Also, we want to congratulate Col. Henson on his retirement from teaching with the UCHS AF JROTC program. He retired from the Air Force in 2007. But, rest assured, he will still be around, as he intends to continue to coach both boys and girls soccer at UCHS next school year.



Marco Gillispie at recognition ceremony with U.S. Representative Wm. Lacy Clay.

Regions Banks Donates \$20,000



On April 11, 2018, Regions Bank executives presented a check for \$20,000 to support University City High School’s student participation in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri’s ABCToday Program. To learn more about this program at UCHS, visit www.ucityschools.org/RegionsBBBS2018.



Chaifetz hosts 101st U. City graduation

The 2018 senior class graduated from University City High School (UCHS) on May 14 at Chaifetz Arena, moving on to a new stage in their lives.

The traditional “Pomp and Circumstance,” played by the concert band and orchestra, welcomed graduating seniors into the venue. Senior Class President Kelsi Bryant

gave the opening address. Kelsi ended her emotional speech on a high note by asking the crowd, “One last time, what time is it? U. time!” Following Kelsi was the UCHS Choir with their rendition of “Seasons of Love,” from the musical, “Rent,” highlighting the vocal talent of soloist, Jamoni Richardson, a graduating-senior.

Valedictorian David White gave the speech he had been anticipating his entire high school career.

“To be valedictorian meant the world to me as a freshman,” said David. “I even had a list of people I thought of as competition.”

Additional speeches were given by graduating-senior Terran Williams,

guest motivational speaker Koran Bolden who was introduced by Salutorian Della Cox, Principal Susan Hill, Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley and Board of Education President Joanne Soudah.

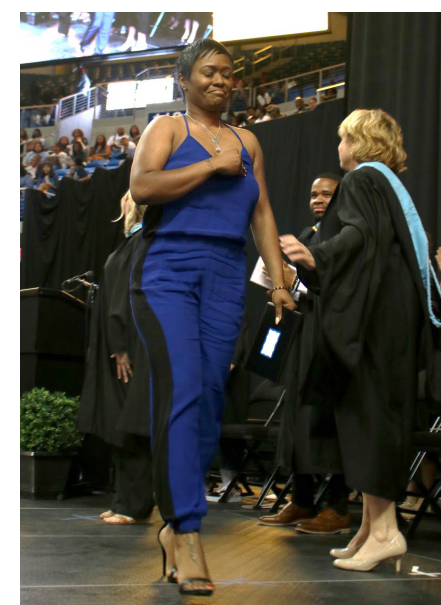
Many tears were shed as families looked at their seniors proudly and smiles were seen on every face.



Traveon Johnson and Maleak Johnson enter the Chaifetz Arena as part of the 2018 University City High School Commencement Processional.



Seniors give a standing ovation to Tiffany Simpson, mother of Taylor Simpson, while she accepts an honorary degree for her son who passed away in the spring of his junior year.



Laconia Adams, mother of Alvin Sanders, exits the stage after accepting honorary diploma for son who passed away.



Tiffany Simpson flashes the honorary diploma of her son, Taylor Simpson, as she walks across stage.

Story by Linsey Sparks ~ Photos by Izabella De Paula Braga, Alona Jenkins, Linsey Sparks and Sierra Tyler ~ Design by Alona Jenkins



Kelsi Bryant, senior class president, gives the welcome address.



David White, valedictorian, presents his commencement speech.



Terran Williams, student speaker, gives his speech.



Della Cox, salutorian, introduces the commencement guest speaker Koran Bolden.

GRADUATION BY THE NUMBERS

178 graduates

18 Laude recognitions

40 colleges/universities from which students reported receiving scholarship offers

\$6M total value of reported scholarship offers

3 full-ride scholarship offers

10 individual scholarship offers totaling more than \$100,000 over all four years

13 students reported scholarship offers totaling more than \$100,000

Kelsi Bryant, Della Cox, Jakob Giles, Marco Gillispie, Cheyenne Hawkins, Catherine Hoff, Whitney Huling, Maleak Johnson, Daniel Pomerantz, Brandi Redmond, Gordon Stuvland, David White, Lucille Wurst

33 scholarship offers that were greater than \$50,000 over all four years

\$500,000 largest total of scholarships offered to a single student

Lucille Wurst

Class of 2018

Fumilola J Adewale

^R Ryan Akers

^R Rodney M Anderson

Essense Atkinson

William Austin

^R Donte T Ball

^M Christy Bell

Stephan Steven Benson

Steven Andrew Benson

Dasha M Bland

Jessica Bolton

Ethan V Braeske

Justice D Brent

^R Anndreana Brooks

Choyce L Brown

Dante D Brown

Essence Nacori Brown

^C Kelsi J Bryant

Alexus Y Buchanan

Jasmine Buchanan

Kayla R Buchanan

Michael Campbell

Tamiyah Churchman

^R George Ellis Clark

Tabitha A Cole

^S Della R Cox

Larry D Cox

Khyler Cross

Alexis Cunningham

Dorcas T Davis

Raven Davis

Laverle D Davis

Ambrenae' Davis-Jenkins

Savion L Douglas

Danae L Dudley

^R Anthony Lael Easley

Breanna Edwards

^R Chaz L Eleby

Tajjaye A Elgin

Iceis C Fort

^S Kathryn A Fuller

Mckee D Gaines

^{*S} Daniel Wright Gibson

^{*S} Jakob N Giles

^{*S} Marco B Gillispie

^R Devin L Green

Elijah Hall

Malia J Harden

D'angelo D Harris

Hailey C Harris

Jayla Avril Harris

^{*M} Cheyenne Hawkins

Dreeia A Henderson

Madison Henderson

^R Taria D Henderson

Sienna E Hernandez

Khahriah Hill

^S Catherine C Hoff

Kevon Latrel Hoover

^R Derrell Hoskin

Marque Houston

^R Diasia Howard

^M Whitney Huling

Taj Jackson

^R Michael Jefferson

^R Vincent Jefferson

Ashlynn Marie Jenkins

Ashley Johnson

Darrion Johnson

Makaya R Johnson

Maleak T Johnson

Traveon M Johnson

^R Sheriona D Johnson

^R Alyssa Jones

Hayle Jones

Lance Jones

^R Reginald W Jones

Shavonda C Jones

^R Kameron M Jordan

^R Yazmyn Jordan

Zoe Jordan

Jason Alexander Knight

Micah E Leonard

Mason Alexander Lewis

Selena N Lewis

Lee Arthur Little

Derrian M Long

^R Siobhan R Lopes

^R Torey T Lowery

Destiny J Martin

^R Eboni S McAtee

^M Jayiera McBride

Andre M McCoy

Matthew McMahon

Jordan H McNeal

Zahrya Metcalfe

Clayton M Miller

Viviana Miranda

Destiny C Moore

^{*}Aaliyah M Moore

^R Maxwell Moore

Tenia L Moore

Kathleen M Murphy

Aniceia S Nelson

Dashawn Nelson

Damond Northcross

Kayla J Parks

^R Destiny N Peoples

^R Caleb Z Perkins

^R Devin M Perry

^C Alan J Phillips

Daris I Plair

Derrick Poindexter

^{*S} Daniel M Pomerantz

Tamia R Porter

^{*C} Brandi C Redmond

Haley Akila Rhiney

Chanelle M Rice

Jamoni Lynn Richardson

Jahlyn F Richmond

Keyaria Robbins

Devontae Anthony Rowe

^H Alvin Danerio Sanders

Tyann L Scales

^R Milo Schock

Gabriel Sekou

Amera R Shelton

Maya Shelton

^R Michaila N Shores

Michelle S Shores

^R James L Simmons

Marco Simmons

^H Taylor Simpson

Ivan A Sinitsyn

D'aveon Smith

Le'monte D Smith

Miata B Smith

Tyrell Jonathan Smith

Tyreese Smith-Spearman

^R Khairi Smith-Windham

Nia S Spencer

^R Jaylen Stampley

^R Remington B Steele

Arielle K Stevenson

^R Gari Stevenson

Jared Cameron Stidham

^S Gordon L Stuvland

^R Leon Graham Taggart

Demetrius Taylor

Jonathan P York

Lakeecia T Taylor

Summer Thabet

^C Wadad Thabet

Chamahra A Tucker

Tori Ann Turner

Tristan L Tyler

Andria Vincent

Joseph Washington

Deasia R Watson

^R Tyrone Watson

Adrianna S Webb

Zhongmei Webb

^R Arries Webbe

Tyrisha Weeden

Keirra Welch

Shiana Whigham

^S David C White

De'Avion Williams

Deion Williams

Dominique Williams

^R Gregory Williams

^R Jailynn Williams

Jalen Williams

^R Mya R Williams

^R Raymond Williams

Terran Williams

Safiyah T Worth

^S Lucille G Wurst

Jonathan P York

Key: ^SSumma Cum Laude(4.0+) ^MMagna Cum Laude (3.8-3.99) ^CCum Laude (3.5-3.79) ^{*}National Honor Society Member ^RNational Career Readiness Certificate ^HHonorary Diploma

District Says “Thank You” to Retirees and Other Honorees

The School District of University City hosted its annual Honorees and Retirees Reception on May 10, 2018, at Jackson Park Elementary School to pay special tribute to 80 staff, students and community members for their contributions and dedication.

The University City High School Orchestra Ensemble performed prelude music before an audience of about 250 friends, family and coworkers. The evening’s program officially began with the UCHS AFJROTC Color Guard posting the colors and the audience singing the National Anthem.

Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley gave the welcoming address and presented Sharon Knuckles with an award for 40 years of service. Leroy Applewhite, Linda Brown, Dorthea B. Nevils, Bella Quintal and Alvin Watkins were recognized for 30 years of service and Chester Clark, Julie Ertmann, Lafayette Gatewood III, June Hilliard, Linda Hoffman, Pamela Meyer and Todd Yancy for 25 years of service.

Gary Spiller, executive director for Student Services and Innovations, thanked Portia House, the 2017-18 Educational Support Person of the Year, and introduced Kathleen Collins, the 2018-19 awardee. Ian Buchanan, Ed.D., assistant superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, thanked Matt Horn, the 2017-18 Teacher of the Year, and introduced Anne Cummings, the 2018-19 awardee.

Tiffany Slater, Ph.D., assistant superintendent for Human Resources, paid tribute to our distinguished retirees: Mary “Lori” Adkins, Leroy Applewhite, Stanley Coleman, Julie Dee, Kathy Edwards, Sandra Feemster, Col. Thomas N. Henson, Felecia Hathorn Hickman, Heidi Morgan, Amy Newhard, JoEllen Potchen-Webb, Andrew Phillip Purley, Deborah Sclar, Curtis Stuart, Debra Tolliver-Nash, Anthony Thomas, Janice Vaughn, Evelyn Usual Williams, Laura Washington and Alison Young. Union representatives acknowledged their retiring members with tokens presented by University City Education Association’s Deborah Kuster and University City Federation of Teachers’ CarolAnn Cole.

University City Board of Education President Joanne Soudah and Vice President Kristine Hendrix presented PACEsetter awards to St. Louis Zoo’s Tommy Brown, Debbie Lammering, Ben Peterson, Scott Runnels, Alice Seyfried and Ben Woodruff; Marisa Davenport Sheppard; Laura Thompson-Small and Washington University in St. Louis’ Victoria May. Additional PACEsetters included robotics coaches and mentors, including UCHS Robolions: Ed Deitzler (Lead), Andrew Cawood, Rowland Dodson, Roslyn Hogan, Steve Kellogg, Dana Shelton and Mike Stuvland; along with FIRST Lego League coaches from Flynn Park Elementary School: Rachael Byrd, Kim Dann-Messier, Gautam Dantas, Rachel Dunaway, Chistina Frazier, Margaret Hassenstab, Stephen Immer, Becky Immer, Tessa Milofsky, Kristin Rea, Lynn Reid, Rebecca Salem, Shama Singh, Kate Sutherell, Jamie Tolliver and Kami Whitehurst-Levy; from Jackson Park Elementary School: Jasmane Boyd, Sherrie Brown-Pittman, Adena Dorsey and Allisa Simril; and from Brittany Woods Middle School: Agnieszka Jateczynska-Reed, Celina McGinnis and Everett Townsend.

Superintendent Hardin-Bartley closed the ceremonies with the presentation of her Uniquely U. City (formerly Superintendent’s Choice) Awards to UCHS students: Daniel Gibson, Whitney Huling and Clayton Miller for their demonstrations of leadership; and appreciation to all distinguished honorees and retirees. Special thanks were also extended to Chartwells Inc., the District’s food service provider, for the refreshments served and to U. City in Bloom for the beautiful centerpieces.

For more photos from the May 10 celebration, visit www.ucityschools.org/HonoreesRetirees2018.



Retirees



Uniquely U. City



40 Years of Service



Teacher of the Year



Educational Support Person of the Year

UCHS Students Take a History Lesson from Hamilton at the Fox

As part of the Gilder Lehrman Institute’s partnership with “Hamilton” and The Rockefeller Foundation, University City High School students joined others from across the region



UCHS students were recorded by KSDK-Ch5 News as they prepare to perform Hamilton-related skits.

to participate in the Hamilton Education Program, including an April 11 showing of the musical, “Hamilton” at the Fabulous Fox Theater.

There is no denying that the musical, written by Lin-Manuel Miranda, has a unique appeal to today’s young people. Hip-hop, rhythm and blues, pop, soul and traditional show tunes help tell the story of American founding father Alexander Hamilton, with an intentional casting of non-white actors as Hamilton and other historical figures.

The Hamilton Education Program provides support to students and teachers. According to UCHS Social Studies Instructional Team Leader Will McNulty, “We took 84 juniors and sophomores enrolled in Government or U.S. History.” McNulty said, “You wouldn’t believe how excited they were! ‘Hamilton’ came out in 2013 and our students are still constantly singing the songs.”

McNulty, who has been teaching social studies at UCHS for seven years, learned of the opportunity geared toward Title I schools through a professional development course at the Eagleton Courthouse Judicial Learning Center. “For students to attend, they each had to produce a two-minute skit, song or poem performance event as part of the Gilder Lehrman curriculum,” he added.

“This experience goes right along with our government and U.S. history curricula,” he said. “We study America’s founding fathers and the writing of the Constitution. Hamilton was a big player in the writing of the constitution and creating the Federalist Papers or, the justification for the Constitution is written the way it is. Our students have already studied Hamilton’s writing and have considered how to relate events from that time period to our lives today.”

For more information, visit www.ucityschols.org/Hamilton2018.

Chris Thorburn and “Blues for Kids” Score Big for Flynn Park Students

St. Louis Blues Hockey Forward Chris Thorburn (#22) and his wife, Sara, visited Sierra Weber’s classroom at Flynn Park Elementary School to present an oversized check for \$20,000. The funds were raised at the Support Special Education Night at the April 4 Blues game with a silent auction and raffle. The inspiration for the event was the bond between seven-year-old Bennett Thorburn and his teacher, Weber, which the family noted has led to noticeable breakthroughs in Bennett’s development.

Bennett was diagnosed with autism at age four and, since then, his education and development has been the family’s focus. In a recent news feature, Chris Thorburn opened up about how amazingly well his son manages the challenges he faces every day. As his story unfolded, it became clear there was another hero in the picture. The family credits Weber, a Special School District teacher, for helping Bennett adjust to his new home and Flynn Park School.

“Ms. Weber, she’s an angel and she’s a saint,” Chris Thorburn said. “I’ve gotten to know a lot of her students and they deserve nothing but the best. We want to help her achieve that...Bennet has progressed leaps and bounds and we owe her a lot for that. Seeing her is the highlight of his morning.”

Weber added, “Bennett is the sweetest boy! He tries really hard and has made so much progress even though he was nervous about starting at a new school, in a new home and a new country! Now, he just runs into the building every morning. He’s excited to learn and more engaged with his peers. He has made great progress academically and socially.”

Acknowledging those significant breakthroughs, Sara Thorburn said, “We are so blessed, in that this is the ideal situation where we ended up having a teacher who cares and is willing to put in time and effort. She is



Thorburn family presents check for \$20,000 on behalf of Blues for Kids.

amazing at what she does and loves what she does. That is a big part of what’s making Bennett excel right now.”

In support of that, the Thorburn family and St. Louis Blues’ Blues for Kids organization launched a series of fundraisers.

“When the Thorburn’s said they wanted to do something for our classroom, I didn’t know what that could mean,” Weber said. “I am overwhelmed by their offer and how the Blues just ran with it!”

Read more at www.ucityschools.org/WeberThorburn.



Note: Siera Weber’s classroom has blue walls and blue lighting to provide a calming effect on special-needs students.

Mannequins on the Loop Expands to Include UCHS Scholarship

Ten years ago, Audrey Jones, a local designer of women’s clothing, and her mother, Dorothy Davis, created “Mannequins on the Loop.” This recycling competition is designed to showcase St. Louis creative talent while raising awareness, particularly in the fashion industry, of the need to “go green.” Money raised has always been donated to a University City art organization, project (Trolley) or school (including Brittany Woods Middle School and University City High School).

Now, with help from a network of community businesses, Jones has expanded the program to include a \$1,000 scholarship, which was presented to Brandi Redmond, a UCHS graduating-senior planning to study art or a related field in a college or university. The sponsors hope to present this type of scholarship annually.

In addition this year, UCHS student-artists are designing mannequins to enter into the program. These students are competing for cash prizes awarded for first and second place, as well as audience favorite.

For 2018 contest update, visit www.ucityschools.org/Mannequins2018.



On April 12, the University City Board of Education recognized Audrey Jones and Dorothy Davis for the unique artistic experiences and opportunities for students through Mannequins on the Loop.

Civic Arts Actors Dramatize Questions of “Race” at UCHS

On April 19, an acting troupe from The Civic Arts Company delivered a compelling performance on the subject of race as adapted by Jaime Pacino, based on the book,



Civic Arts performers dramatize race relations.

“Race,” by Studs Terkel, to students of University City High School. The actors included a white male and female and a black male and female, who changed roles to create dynamic relationships as they dramatized real-life situations that took place more than 50 years ago.

The team followed up with a panel discussion as students asked questions such as, “Has racism gotten better over time?”

The answers sparked lively discussion. According to CAC Managing Director Suzette Martinez, “I think students had a very positive reaction and some said they could relate to the kinds of situations (in the play) like being stopped by police.”

Some African American students said that they enjoyed hearing the viewpoints of the white couple on stage, even though they had different personal perspectives.

Starlight Concert Series

This annual University City favorite provides a dazzling array of local jazz, blues and other musical artists who grace the outdoor concert stage in Heman Park for nine Monday nights in June, July and August. Hundreds of citizens come with blankets and barbecues to listen and dance to great free music under the stars.

The 2018 schedule is:

Sat., June 7 – Coleman Hughes Project featuring Adrienne, and The Cheryl Brown Band

Mon., June 9 – TLT Productions

Mon., June 16 – The Convertables

Mon., June 23 – Inner City Blues

Mon., June 30 – Black Diamonds – featuring Tamara Cross & Chuck Flowers

Mon., August 6 – Flirt

Concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. near Heman Park's Midland/Shatesbury entrance.

The Starlight Concert Series is sponsored by the University City Municipal Commission on Arts and Letters and the City of University City. For more information, contact Centennial Commons at 314.505.8625 or visit www.ucitymo.org.

University City Historical Society Presents: Ittner Schools in U. City

University City Historical Society presents "Ittner Schools in University City," a program about the renowned St. Louis architect, William B. Ittner.

Ittner was considered the most influential man in school architecture in the U.S. He designed numerous buildings in the St. Louis area, including some in University City. Ittner was known for his unique design perspective and desire to make schools more inviting for students.

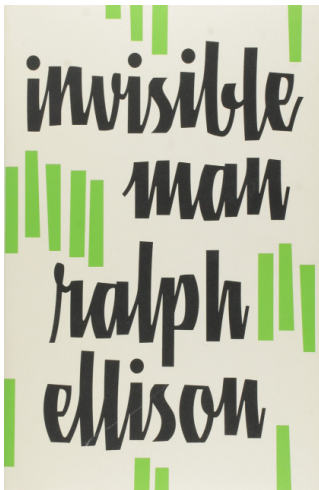
The program will discuss Ittner's design methods and their historic value.

The event is Thurs., June 28, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Library Auditorium. The program will be presented by Carolyn Green, archivist for Ittner Architects.

For more information, check the website at www.ucityhistory.org.

Summer Events at University City Public Library

It's summer reading time at University City Public Library! This year, our adult summer reading program will focus on Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man," a 1952 novel about an African American man whose skin



color renders him invisible. The first round of discussions are scheduled for Wed., June 27 through Fri., June 29, and additional discussions on the "Invisible Man" will take place during the last week of July and August. Between discussions, a variety of related programming

will include a film screening, a lecture on the "Invisible Man" and jazz and a live jazz performance!

Meanwhile, children can count time spent reading as part of the youth summer reading program, Libraries Rock! Reporting is ongoing and will continue through Fri., July 20. Participants can win prizes and check out cool events throughout the summer, such as music performances, a puppet show and even the chance to play with some awesome robots!

For more information on summer reading events, check out ucitylibrary.org, call 314.727.3150 or stop by the Library!



Next Police Focus Group – Tues., July 24

The University City Police Department (UCPD) will be meeting for its July Police Focus Group on Tues., July 24, 2018 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Ave. UCPD holds these Focus Group meetings each month to discuss important issues in the community and

how to improve them.

The meeting will feature updates from the police department, as well as presentations from city department leaders. We would love to see you there!

Visit ucitymo.org/78/Police-Department for more information!

The Farmers Market is in Full-Swing



The Midtown Farmers Market began its season in University City in April. The Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Nov. 10, 2018.

Market-goers will find a wide selection of the Midwest's best farm-fresh produce, hand-crafted artisan foods and eclectic arts and crafts. Live

music, children's activities, community events and great food are weekly favorites! We're pleased to announce that Saturday Morning Yoga will return this season, too.

New this year: The market now offers SNAP/EBT as well as a program called Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb). For every dollar spent by SNAP customers, they can get an equal amount of free fruits and/or vegetables (up to \$25 each visit).

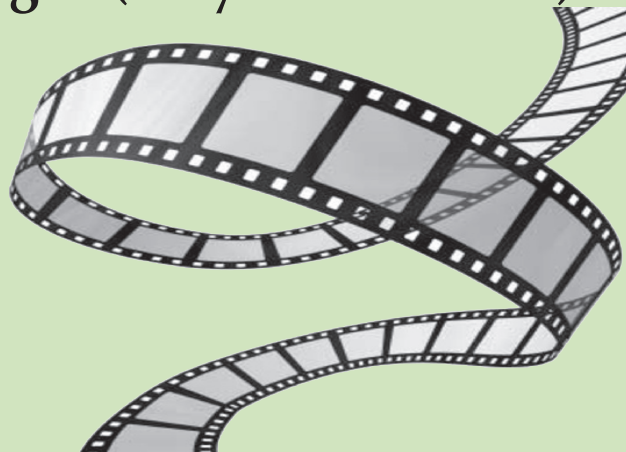
The farmers market is located at the "Historic Market in the Loop" in the public parking lot between Kingsland and Leland Avenues, to the rear of 6655 Delmar Blvd. There is plenty of parking in the early morning!

For more information, call 314.913.6632. www.midwestfarmersmarkets.org.

Adult Swim-In Movie Night (18 years & older)

Brave the water as we play the classic movie Jaws at this 18 years and older only event at Heman Park Pool. Enjoy the movie from a lounge on the deck. For those trusting enough to try the water, please feel free to bring floats or tubes to enjoy the movie from the pool. The concession stand will be open for this event.

The movie night will take place on Fri., July 6, from 8 to 11 p.m. It is free to pass holders, or \$7 for non-pass holders.



Quest and AFS Opens Doors for UCHS students Harris and Broga

Malike Harris, a University City High School (UCHS) rising-senior, is preparing to travel in June to meet his new host family in Italy, thanks to the Quest Scholarship Fund in partnership with The School District of University City and AFS (formerly American Field Services). Malike will be part of their family for eight weeks.

At the same time, Izabella (Iza) DePaul Broga, a UCHS exchange student who has spent the past year making new friends at the high school, is preparing to leave her University City host family to return to Brazil.

For years, Quest has helped to provide AFS travel abroad experiences for high schools students who might not otherwise be able to go. Quest coordinates the travel details and helps students become more familiar with air travel and complete the required forms and immunizations.

The idea of taking such a long trip can be a little overwhelming for the students and their families. Malike’s mother, Sheari Harris, said, “I was kind of frightened at first (when he told me), happy but frightened and I still am a little!” She added, “I just had to make sure he was ready. I want him to keep pursuing his dreams and never stop.”

Malike also has mixed emotions about the pending 17-hour flight, but he’s excited for the opportunity, “I have never traveled on an airplane before so this is a big step for me. I want to experience a new culture and find out what living in another country feels like. It’s a great opportunity to try something new.” He added, “I leave around my birthday so, it will be a good birthday gift!”

In early June, Malike could be found working at the AMC-12 Theaters and already packing for the trip. He said, “Every time I get a paycheck, I save some to buy travel supplies!”

The first step on the journey was for Quest to help Malike apply for a passport. The Quest team was fascinated to learn that the Post Office official processing Malike’s form graduated from UCHS, along with former AFS student and UCHS alumnae Virginia Palmer, Ambassador to Malawi. It truly is a small world – and getting smaller, thanks to Quest and the AFS program and their efforts to bring people together.

Ambassador Palmer (Class of 1979) credits her time in UCHS’ AFS Club and as an AFS exchange student with “inspiring my career choice and everything I’ve accomplished since.” While in town for her Hall of Fame induction last October, Ambassador Palmer said, “As I’ve moved from country to country and lived in different cultures, confronting governments and organizations, sometimes hostile to the United States – I have relied on the lessons UCHS taught me about the importance of diversity and being true to one’s self.”

For more information about Malike, AFS and Quest Scholarship Fund, visit www.ucityschools.org/AFSMalike.



Malike Harris (top right) bonds with other area Quest students before their big adventures abroad.

Iza Celebrates New Friendships as She Returns Home to Brazil



Izabella (Iza) De Paula Braga and the Holahan family were recognized by Superintendent Hardin-Bartley during the April 12 Board of Education meeting.

As Malike Harris prepares for his own unique AFS experience, he and other UCHS students are saying goodbye to Izabella (Iza) De Paula Braga, the school’s Brazilian foreign-exchange student who will return home after graduation.

Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley said, “Iza has been a wonderful addition to our student body and we have enjoyed having her for this year. I thank John and Sarah Holahan and their family as well as AFS for helping us to bridge cultures and enrich the lives and education of our students.”

Hoping more families will agree to host, Holahan dispelled two misconceptions about the program, saying the exchange student doesn’t need a private room, just a welcoming space in your home and family. And, although the Holahan’s have a daughter, Nicole, who is a UCHS junior, it’s not necessary for the host family to have a high school-age student. In fact, she says, if the exchange student has left siblings behind, younger kids can help ease the transition.

Holahan said, “It’s been a great experience for everyone in our family, learning about another country and also being involved in the activities that’s she (Iza) has chosen (different sports, clubs, activities than our own kids are in) and meeting new students and families at our school. It’s been a wonderful year and no one is ready for it to end.”

For information regarding hosting an AFS student, contact the AFS USA Team Development Director (MO, Metro East and AK) James Butler at (618) 558-3614 or email jbutler@afsusa.org.

Painting Will Hang in D.C. Gallery



University City High School graduate senior Ashlynn Jenkins’ painting, “Bleeding Pain,” won first place in the 2018 Congressional Art Competition. Judges deemed this captivating abstract portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as both visually pleasing and emotionally appealing.

In mid-May, Ashlynn was honored at a reception (photo above) with U.S. Representative Wm. Lacy Clay. She was awarded two round-trip tickets to Washington, D.C. for late June to attend the national reception and witness the installation of her painting in the D.C. gallery where it will be displayed for one year. Watch for details on Twitter @YouthInCongress and Facebook @MO1arts.

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It's Summertime! And the Learning Opportunities Continue...

The School District of University City offers Summer Learning Academy for students in all grade levels on Monday through Thursday, from June 4 through 29, 2018. Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center offers Extended School Year through June 21. Visit www.ucityschools.org/SLA for more details.

Summer Reading Lists with book recommendations for students at all grade levels (K-12) were developed by the District's office of Curriculum and Instruction and are available at www.ucityschools.org/SummerRead.

Families and students looking for activities beyond academic intervention may check out the community/partner opportunities posted at www.ucityschools.org/CommunityOpportunities. This page includes a link to a variety of high school specific summer opportunities available at www.ucityschools.org/SummerOpportunities.

Additional summer camps and other learning opportunities will continue to be shared through social media and Wednesday Peachjar throughout the summer. Site-based Peachjar links are available on each school's website homepage or at www.ucityschools.org/Peachjar.

Who said there is NO free meal?

Attention ALL KIDS:
Visit your neighborhood
Summer Learning Academy
site in University City during
dates and times listed below and
receive a breakfast and/or lunch
at **NO CHARGE.**



Monday through Thursday
May 29 - June 21, 2018

Julia Goldstein Extend School Year
8:15 - 8:30 a.m.

Monday through Thursday
June 4 - June 28, 2018

Brittany Woods Middle School
7:55 - 8:10 a.m. / 11:45 a.m. - noon

Pershing Elementary School
8:25 - 8:40 a.m. / 12:10 - 12:25 p.m.

University City High School
7:25 - 7:40 a.m. / 10:00 - 10:15 a.m.



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05/15/18 10:00 AM

Safe at School - Safe at Home



Mark your calendar for the
First Tuesday in August

August 7, 2018

5-8 p.m.
McNair Campus

Details at ucityschools.org/NNOBTSR

communications@ucityschools.org or call (314) 290-4001