



## Welcome Back to School!



## Students Experience the Edge of Totality

On Aug. 21, 2017, students in The School District of University City joined others across the country witnessing perhaps the most significant solar phenomenon of our time.

The Great American Solar Eclipse promoted as a spectacular sight and did not disappoint. With solar glasses on, permission slips signed and a week's worth of lessons on what was going to occur, students on all grade levels were prepared to witness history in the making.

Congratulations to math and science teachers from across the District, particularly coordinator Beverly Vellhoff, for their work in making this event a spectacular learning experience for staff, students, families and community members.

Continued on page 5



Donning solar glasses, students and staff across The School District of University City witnessed history during The Great American Solar Eclipse of 2017.

## U WOKE: Students Respond to Verdict

On Monday, Sept. 18, 2017, a crowd of about 300 students, families, neighbors and congregants of local churches and synagogues gathered in Balson Circle in front of University City High School (UCHS) to share a few minutes of reflection. The peaceful protest was not a "walk out" but a thoughtfully-planned program orchestrated for and by high school students.

With the Ferguson issue still fresh in their minds, the preceding Friday's not guilty verdict in the Stockley case brought back the fears and frustrations that some students experienced three years ago. A core group decided to take action. Just as some had learned last year in Andrew Walz's English class, the students decided to exercise their First Amendment rights to take their teachings and their beliefs to the people.

During this time, classes were in session as usual and teachers were prepared to head outside the school. Other students, who were excused for first period, quietly walked across to the quad and picked up their signs. The colorful, homemade posters created by students and community members bore different sayings reflecting the diversity of the crowd and their personal connections to the event. All sentiments were reflected in the slogan "U Woke."

UCHS sophomore Adrienne Albert, one of the spokespersons for U Woke, said it means



(Above: left to right) Madison Henderson, Christina Eason, Maleak Johnson, Aliyah Mitchell and Adrienne Albert (right) addresses the crowd of students and community members (right and below).



students are aware of, or awake to, the issues around them and want to effect change. "If we work together, and set aside our differences, the world would be a better place and this community would be a better community."

Concerned about the violence perpetrated on businesses in the Delmar Loop, including some of their favorites, high school students announced plans to sell t-shirts to benefit those who were impacted.



## UCHS Appoints Wells as Head Football Coach

During the District's Back-to-School Rally, Jason Wells, University City High School's (UCHS) new head football coach and physical education instructor, personally drove one of his players to the event. Executive director of Student Services and

Continued on page 4

## Lee Named Varsity Basketball Head Coach

Basketball is a winter-season sport, yet new UCHS head coach Kelvin D. Lee has started developing the varsity boys program in the heat of the summer.

Lee looks forward to building a competitive basketball program in University City. "I am very excited about being here restoring the glory and the rich tradition," Lee said. "I've been in this gym scouting and there is something special about it. I look forward to filling that gymnasium back up and bringing our alumni back."

Lee, former varsity head basketball coach at St. Mary's High School, is a veteran with an all-time coaching record of 306-133. He is a 13-time Coach of the Year in the Metro

Continued on page 4



# From our Superintendent of Schools



Sharonica Hardin-Bartley  
Superintendent

Dear University City Families,

In the days before Opening Day, the District was a whirl of activity. Halls echoed with teams cleaning classrooms, new furniture being unpacked; teachers finishing lesson plans and redecorating classrooms; alumni and community painting stadium railings; art teachers creating display boards—there was a buzz and a sense of anticipation in the air. It’s a time of new beginnings and new ways to make a difference for our students. And, so it goes that in our district, and in the lives of teachers and students across the globe, every year is a BIG year — new beginnings and “firsts” for our students.

It’s a first for my daughter who is now a kindergartner, Class of 2030! When my husband and I walked her into Jackson Park on that first day, pangs of separation were lessened by the excitement of the students who were literally, stepping into a whole new world.

This year, we celebrate a BIG year for new kindergartners, new middle schoolers, new freshmen, new seniors and an enthusiastic crop of 30 new teachers. And, this year, we expect, and are planning for, new breakthroughs, new discoveries, new partnerships and new goals.

The 2017-18 school year brings new opportunities to stretch ourselves as educators, parents, students and community leaders and come together to create greater connections for our students. In fact, we launched a new key strategy to promote achievement that involves **personalizing** instruction, **humanizing** student interactions to include more socio-emotional support and **problematizing** learning by targeting real world issues that can be studied and solved through project-based learning.

These are the three pillars in the concept of “Learning

Reimagined,” our answer to the modern learning experience that, we believe, better addresses the needs of today’s students; navigating their ways through a swiftly changing world.

Our reimagined concept is based on a myriad of nationally proven education breakthroughs, but structured to fit the unique characteristics of our District today and where we hope to be tomorrow.

Presently, we are awaiting the results of standardized tests taken last spring. Extra time was taken to double check results across the state, but we expect that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will soon release all scores. These will be our baselines from which we will build individualized instruction plans for students.

To that end, we will look to our community as a source of advisors, speakers, workshop content, apprenticeships, internships and job co-ops. I invite all to come visit our schools and see what’s really happening because inside these historic walls, we are creating amazing classroom experiences.

Thanks to feedback gathered in our recent community engagement process, you can see even more progress to goals this year. Each engagement process reveals something new that helps change the course of our informational and education strategies. A recurring theme is that many recognize the significance of our District’s connection to the wonderful community it serves.

I hope we can all agree that the growth and success of our community depends on the growth and success of the District that lies in the heart of it. I thank those who participated in the public meetings and hope you continue to stay engaged. With your help, we will not only grow — we will thrive.

I assure you, our best days are yet to come.

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

*“This year, we expect and are planning for new breakthroughs, new discoveries, new partnerships and new goals.”*

**Sharonica Hardin-Bartley**  
Superintendent of Schools

First day of school at  
University City High  
School for SY2017-18



## Seventh Grade Students Publish “The Sixth Grade Survival Guide”

Middle school is a big transition, and no one knows this better than the middle schoolers themselves! At the end of the 2016-17 school year, a group of soon-to-be seventh graders wondered how they could help incoming students feel at home at Brittany Woods Middle School (BWMS)...and “The Sixth Grade Survival Guide” was born!

During the first week of school, 20 newly-minted seventh graders served as WE Schools ambassadors to hand deliver the guides, which they wrote, printed and assembled themselves to new sixth graders.

“We want incoming students to know how to have a great year!” said seventh-grader Lana English.

Packed with wisdom, the guides offer tips and insights unique to BWMS. Each tip answers the question, “What do I wish I’d known on the first day of middle school?”

WE Schools is an international program that shifts the focus from “me” to “we” and promotes service learning at middle and high school levels.



*The Survival Guide is just one way middle school students are welcoming new sixth graders into the BWMS family. Watch the school’s Facebook page for more about WE Schools and #WeAreOne activities.*



# From our Board of Education



Lisa Brenner  
Board of Education  
President

Dear University City Community,

Back to school is always filled with so much energy-the joy of seeing old friends, the excitement of learning new things, and the anxiety of the unknown. This mirrors my feelings as a Board Director as we continue to move forward with the vision of “Learning Reimagined.”

The end of last school year through the beginning of the summer were filled with countless stakeholder meetings with all eight of our schools and the community at large. Dr. Hardin-Bartley laid out the initial concepts of “Learning Reimagined” and gathered feedback to strengthen and inform the plan to implement that vision. I attended some of those meetings including the one at my liaison school, Pershing. I heard the excitement, hopes, and anxiety of the parents which reminded me of my own feelings as my children were moving through the school district. There was one exception to the similarity. These parents were worried that their children were not being afforded the same opportunities as children from schools South of Olive. This is why equity is such an important part of “Learning Reimagined.”

While I believe there has not been any intention of inequity in funding or staffing, there has certainly been inequity in some experiences our students have had. It is important to understand where this is occurring and work to mitigate it. For instance, integrating Lego® robotics into the elementary curriculum gives all of our children a chance to participate, not just the ones lucky enough to have a parent volunteer.

In addition to equity issues, we continue to work toward providing our students with a modern educational experience, which includes thinking out of the box and trying new things. This year we modified the schedules for sixth- and ninth-graders to provide the flexibility to incorporate project based learning and to build stronger relationships between students and staff. The stakes are high. Our children deserve to have their “Learning Reimagined” so they can succeed in a world that is constantly evolving. So, with joy, excitement, and some anxiety, I welcome all to the new school year.

*Lisa M. Brenner*  
Lisa Brenner, Ph.D.  
U. City Board of Education President

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

## Meet our School Board Members



**Lisa Brenner**  
President  
*Liaison to Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School*



**Joanne Soudah**  
Vice President  
*Liaison to University City High School*



**Kristine Hendrix**  
Secretary  
*Liaison to Brittany Woods Middle School*



**Whitney Hulling**  
Student Representative  
*University City High School*



**Chelsea Addison**  
Director  
*Liaison to Julia Goldstein ECEC, Lieberman Learning Center and Adult Education & Literacy Program*



**LaVerne Ford-Williams**  
Director  
*Liaison to Flynn Park Elementary School*



**Tracy Gritsenko**  
Director  
*Liaison to Pershing Elementary School*



**George Lenard**  
Director  
*Liaison to Jackson Park Elementary School*

### Board Meetings to be Streamed

The School District of University City is excited to report that we are presently testing the technology and will soon start streaming Board meetings. An announcement will be made when we are ready to make these streams available.

In the meantime, agendas and minutes are available 24 hours prior to each Board meeting with meeting votes recorded in real time at [www.ucityschools.org/BoardDocs](http://www.ucityschools.org/BoardDocs). Patrons are encouraged to attend the meetings in person at the McNair Administration Building, 8136 Groby Road (63130). Dates and times are posted to school and District website calendars at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org).

Additional information including the process for becoming a Board member, Board governance goals and District policies are available at [www.ucityschools.org/BOE](http://www.ucityschools.org/BOE).

To communicate with Board members, contact Della Tolliver, administrative assistant to the Board, at [dtolliver@ucityschools.org](mailto:dtolliver@ucityschools.org), (314) 290-4003, fax (314) 290-4050 or mail correspondence to: Board Member Name, c/o The School District of University City, 8136 Groby Road, University City, MO 63130.

## U. City High School Football Team Looks Forward to a New Season

On August 17, the University City Board of Education held its first meeting of the new school year and, right at the top, took time to acknowledge the 2017-18 University City High School football team and their coaches at the start of a new season. The Board invited the entire Lions team including Coach Jason Wells and the five assistant coaches: Tyrone Baker, Gerald Campbell, Kareem Wise, U. City Teacher of Year Matt Horn and newcomer Artie Tobias to come and receive the support of the community for the new season.

Dressed in uniforms, the 24 young men appeared confident and excited about the new season. Coach Wells spoke first, laying the groundwork for

**Continued on page 4**





# UCHS Welcomes New Assistant Principal Austin

As a University City resident and District parent, new assistant principal Kimberly A. Austin, M.Ed., has a strong connection to the District. She is excited to bring her more than 21 years in education, 13 years as a building administrator, to her new assignment.

“I have a unique opportunity to make a difference in the school district in which I reside,” said Austin. “My experience is grounded in servant leadership. Building relationships with students and successfully guiding them through their high-school experience is my number one priority. It is my honor and privilege to serve the students, staff and parents of UCHS.”

Austin is a graduate of Harris Stowe State College with a master’s in educational administration from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She is currently completing her doctorate in education leadership and policy studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Austin taught middle school English language arts at Normandy and Maplewood-Richmond Heights School District and served as a principal in St. Louis Public Schools, Normandy and MRH.



Kimberly Austin



## New Football Coach Wells From page 1

Innovations Gary Spiller smiled and shared, “He (Wells) had his arm on the young man’s shoulder and steered him toward the building and asked, ‘Where do we go for immunizations?’”

Wells would say that he was just following the playbook of some of the coaches who helped shape his life. “When I was in high school, he (Coach Brian Simmons) came to my house and took me on college visits and for more than 20 years he’s been my mentor. I want to do the same for my players,” Wells said.



Jason Wells

Switching easily into locker room speak, Wells told his student-athletes, “I’m more than just your football coach...while you are here, I am your life coach; not just four months of the year, but year round. You can always call me — my number does not change.”

Wells, who came to UCHS from Lutheran North High School, graduated from Pattonville High School in 1999. He went on to play football at Missouri Valley College and graduated from Southeast Missouri State University in 2004 with a degree in physical education. Since then, he has coached at East St. Louis (District 189), Normandy, Trinity Catholic High School and Hazelwood (East and West). The University City opportunity is his first head coaching position.

Wells has been studying his players and predicts, “We’re (University City) sitting on a sleeping giant. We have a lot of talented young people and I’m excited for this season.”

He wants to make a lasting impression. “Sports and life are synonymous,” he said. “What you learn in sports will help you in life. It builds discipline, comradery, success and, perhaps the best lesson it teaches you is that when you work hard enough toward a goal, eventually you will achieve it.”

The 2017-18 season is what Wells calls a “foundation building” year where players learn what it takes to be successful both on and off the field. Wells believes fans will notice a difference. “We will compete every single play and we will eventually build a championship program – Conference, District and State titles — always competing.” He predicts, “This time next year, we will be a team to be reckoned with.”

Because of the many positive influences in his own career, Wells can’t pin down his own coaching style admitting, “It’s all over the spectrum!” But, one thing is for sure, “We don’t go to the calendar and circle the BIG ones – each game, is a big one.”

## New Basketball Coach Lee From page 1

Catholic Conference, Public High League (PHL) and Archdiocesan Athletics Association. In addition to St. Mary’s, Lee led basketball programs at Clyde C. Miller Academy and coached Chaminade College Preparatory School to a Class 5 state championship in 2009. Lee’s coaching career also includes stints at the Division I collegiate level with programs at St. Louis University, Baylor and Texas A&M. In fact, Lee coached two local players to successful careers in the NBA, Bradley Beal (Washington Wizards) and David Lee (San Antonio Spurs).



Kelvin D. Lee

Matt Brooks, Ed.D., athletic director at UCHS, said that Lee’s impact will be felt beyond the court as he serves as coordinator of Restorative Practices. “I am very excited that Coach Lee will be part of the U. City family,” Brooks said. “His presence and leadership will greatly impact the character of the young men in our basketball program and the rest of the school.”

Lee said his ultimate goal is to “get to Columbia” for championship play and to have fun along the way. “We have goals including building the program; I’ll be spending a lot of time with our eighth graders,” Lee said. “But we will also have fun; if I’m not having fun, I want to get out of this business.”

## UCHS Football Team From page 3

excellence on and off the field. Class captains spoke about the team bonds they were building, which would change their course in the upcoming year. Junior and senior captains, Traveon Johnson (#67) and Dominic Bryant (#1), respectively, shared additional insight.

Traveon, left tackle and defensive end, said there is already a different vibe with the team, “Everyone is giving 100 percent effort and that means a better season than last year.” The former Barbara C. Jordan student has plans to play college football, but says he is learning much more. “Coach’s (Wells’) role is getting the team to come together as a brotherhood. He’s teaching not just football, but teaching us life lessons as young men... I thank the coaching staff and directors for giving us a chance.”

Junior Dominic Bryant, a wide receiver, agreed and said he’s already seeing improvement, “Coach brought the best out of us.” Dominic attended Jackson Park Elementary and plans to attend college and major in marketing and business. “They (coaching staff) are giving us something to look forward to when we leave — we can look back att the memories of football.”

The team shook hands with Board members as they filed out.



*The University City Football Lions got off to a rocky start, but with determination and grit on the field, and guidance from Coach Jason Wells, they claimed their first 2017 season victory on Sept. 8.*



# U. City Uses Project RESTORE Funds to Support Socio-emotional Programs

In late July, County Executive Steve Stenger announced that The School District of University City Schools is one of three area districts to benefit from a portion of a four-year, \$1.7 million grant from The St. Louis County Department of Public Health.

“We’re calling this effort ‘Project RESTORE,’ an acronym for ‘Reconciliation and Empowerment to Support Tolerance and Race Equity,’” said Dr. Faisal Khan, director of the St. Louis County Department of Public Health, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Partners in the research effort include the St. Louis County Police Department, the Police Athletic League (PAL) and the Department of Criminology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. County Executive Steve Stenger said, “We want to do whatever we can to prevent youth violence. This grant will be used to help us identify which approaches work best to reduce violence among teens.”

Under the grant, University City, Normandy and Hazelwood will each receive \$22,000 in this first year, to implement targeted programs including peer mentoring and life-skills training, academic tutoring, after-school and summer programs, training for educators and proactive parent engagement.

University City’s Executive Director of Student Services and Innovations Gary Spiller said, “We went after the grant because we want to offer our students support at the highest level of intention. “Trauma knows no socio-economic class, no race, no gender — it impacts and affects us all. The opportunities for restorative practice professional development (PD) as part of this grant provides are huge,” said Spiller.

“In U. City, our emphasis will be on helping Brittany Woods become a trauma-informed school and provide teachers with professional development training on the impact of trauma (direct or indirect) on young people,” Spiller continued. “There are also plans to provide after-school programs, paid tutors and summer enrichment programs through the Police Athletic League (PAL) that should generate positive interactions with law enforcement.”



*(Left to right) Echo Wang, Nhial Tutlam, Jennifer Kret and Lara Dame of St. Louis County Department of Public Health discussed Project RESTORE with University of Missouri-St.Louis Researcher Terrance Taylor (front left) and (not pictured) Brittany Woods Middle School Principal Elliott Shostak and Gary Spiller, executive director of Student Services and Innovations.*

## Solar Eclipse From page 1

The sunlight dimmed, solar glasses went on and students watched in rapt attention. Smiles twisted in awe when the sun became just a sliver of gold — a smile and a wink of light — as the moon completed its trip.

Site-based lessons surrounding the solar eclipse took on a different flavor at each school. Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center’s preschool students celebrated their first day of school that day by attaching solar eclipse glasses to face masks to help them understand the concept of the eclipse.

At Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School students counted down the hours to the eclipse with treats such as Eclipse and Orbit gum, Starburst chews and Sun Chips. They concluded the day with sun/moon (vanilla/ chocolate) sandwich cookies and “totality” brownies.

The UCHS football stadium seemed more like a coliseum as students filed onto the field. UCHS Athletic Director Matt Brooks gave a play-by-play from the press box, advising students as to what to watch as the phenomenon unfolded. The students got comfortable, standing in groups and stretching out on their backs for a better view. They watched the light dim, noted the temperature drop and, for a few short minutes, seemed like time stopped.

UCHS math students prepared by using TI-NSpire calculators to chart illumination phases of the upcoming eclipse. In class, they compared graphs to a mock video of an eclipse before seeing it unfold in real time.

Check out District and school Facebook pages, especially video posted by Lieberman Learning Center, for more student and staff reactions to The Great American Solar Eclipse of 2017.

According to Velloff, the District donated all unused glasses to a student leadership team working on a project with Astronomers Without Borders.



*From 1-1:20 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 21, Brittany Woods Middle School students (above) and University City High School students (below) joined students from across the District to watch The Great American Solar Eclipse of 2017 with wonder and amazement.*



## Sprint Partners to Provide Technology and Access

In mid-September, University City High School partnered with the Sprint Foundation’s 1Million Project to connect 60 students and their families with free devices and Internet access. The project enhances achievement and growth in personal responsibility; and helps students have the tools and access needed to complete their schoolwork at home.

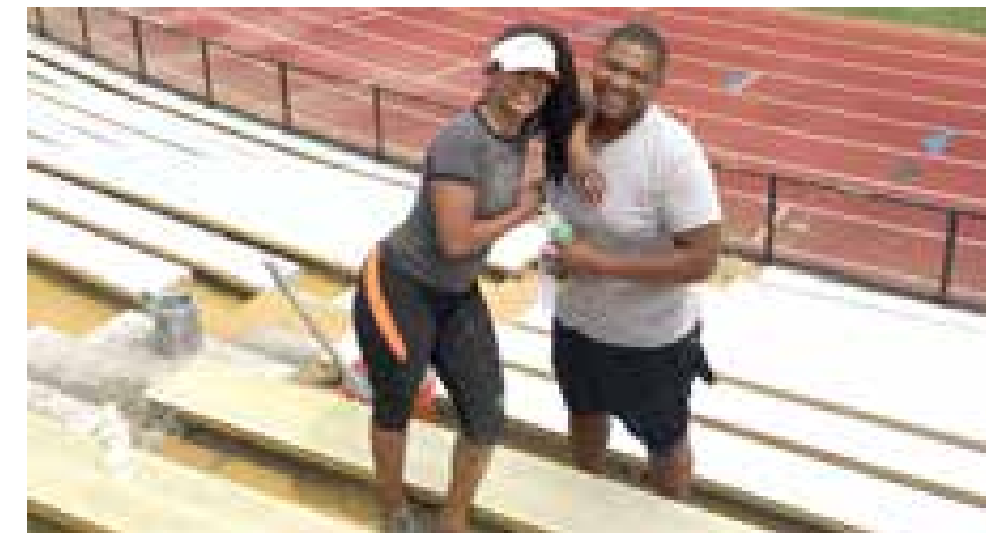
“We’re in a time and place where we’re asking students to do more and more of their work in a digital space,” said Robert Dillon, Ed.D., director of Innovative Learning. “We are making every effort to go after what some call the homework gap. We want to ensure our students have the access they need in order to be successful.”

According to FCC data, 70 percent of teachers assign homework that requires Internet use, and lack of connectedness is an issue facing many students. Over the next month, 90 more U. City students and their families are expected be connected through this program.





# Welcome to a New School Year...

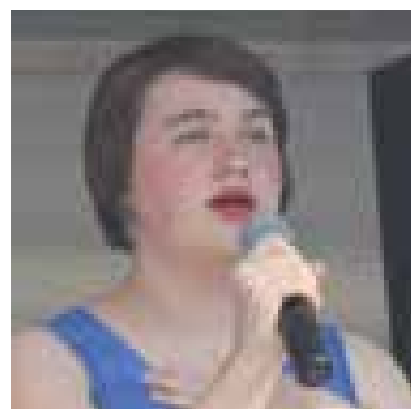


## The Annual National Night Out and Back-To-School Rally

For the past six years, The School District of University City has joined forces with the University City Police Department to bring the community together for a combined National Night Out and Back-to-School Rally on the first Tuesday in August.

Police Captain Dana Morley said, "Making NNO and BSR a joint effort conserves funds for both the Police Department and the District, but more importantly, we get a better turnout together and a greater chance to build community which is what NNO is all about." She added, "Combining audiences also involves people who might not otherwise have participated in one or the other of these events had they been held separately."

The UCPD's color guard opened the festivities and University City High School junior Phoebe Thoroughman sang the National Anthem. With a block party atmosphere, Tossin' Ted DJed as the UCPD Focus Group provided food and refreshments. McGruff the Crime Dog greeted attendees while they visited more than 40 community vendor booths on Groby Road between the middle school and administration building. Children enjoyed face painting, bounce houses and bandstand entertainment while families benefited from free hair cuts and styles, an immunization clinic and sports physicals. Children took home free backpacks filled with school supplies, much of which is donated by local community organizations.



## First Day of School Showcases #UCLionPRIDE in Action!

This year, signs were staked in yards across University City to welcome kindergartners and high-school freshmen before the start of school on Tuesday, Aug. 15. The University City High School PTO distributed about 210 yard signs to incoming freshmen before their Aug. 14 orientation day.

On August 10, Jackson Park teachers reached out to more than 300 students with welcome notes. "The Jackson Park staff is dedicated to making connections and building relationships with students even before they walk through the door on the first day of school," said Principal Rebecca O'Connell.

"It was an amazing first day at UCHS!" said UCHS Principal Susan Hill. "We literally rolled out the red carpet and staff and alumni welcomed our students with high fives, fist bumps and cheers." UCHS' Cheerleading Team, Golden Girls and Drum Line added to the spirit of first-day excitement that was in the air.

The week prior, on Aug. 7, teachers and other staff were invigorated by an Opening Day celebration with St. Louis Cardinals' Fredbird as drum major leading members of the UCHS drumline into the high-school auditorium. Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley not only caught Fredbird's first pitch, but she knocked it out of the park with her words of inspiration and encouragement to the District staff with accents punctuated by the Cardinal's organist Jeremy Boyer.

Also, special thanks to all the community members and alumni who help spruce up the school grounds across the District before the start of school. Even the UCHS Muhl-Schemmer Stadium got a fresh coat of paint.

**Alumni joined community members to welcome students back to school on Aug. 15, 2017.**







The Illphonics hope their music leads them on a worldwide tour but, Larry Morris says, “No matter how far we (graduates) go we come back and give back to U. City.”

## UCHS Alumni Class Acts spotlight: Larry Morris of The Illphonics

Popular local musical group, The Illphonics, are preparing to make waves with their new EP entitled, “The Purple Piano Society.” According to front man, vocalist and songwriter Larry Morris (UCHS Class of 2003), the work is a compilation of music they’ve been working on over the past 11 years and named to celebrate the purple piano around which it all started; now, a colorful memory of University City High School (UCHS). Four of the band members, Morris, Keith Moore, Simon Chervitz and Chaz (Spike) Brew, attended UCHS. Kevin Koehler attended De Smet Jesuit High School, but the friends share a love of music that was, Morris says, nurtured at UCHS. Today, they all share the writing of their music and the development of their sound. Morris colorfully explained the name Illphonics, in artist terms, “We wanted our music to be ‘sick’ or ‘ill’ (awe-inspiring) – hip hop fused with other genres.”

The name of their new album project is inspired by that purple piano. Morris acknowledged that the concept is a bit different or even, “low-key odd” to U. City, but resonated for both Morris and bandmate Keith Moore. Morris explained, “It takes me back to a time when we became officially a part of the U. City alumni musicians.” Morris said, “At UCHS there was a purple piano that inspired the Purple Piano Club and a keyboardist music club. That piano was awesome even if it wasn’t the prettiest thing — it was cool and it was purple.” Others recall it as more of a lavender color but agree that it was unique and very mobile — allowing for jam sessions around the school! The purple piano is long gone, but the memories and the melodies live on.

Morris holds two degrees at Webster University in St. Louis; a bachelor of arts in audio engineering in 2008 and a second in media communications in 2016. He credits UCHS and its music program for giving him the foundation he needed to pursue his dreams. “UCHS is (for some) a music school. We’ve always had that rich history. It’s our badge of identity as a high school that produced great artists. We have to uphold that tradition.” He added, “You can’t talk about the St. Louis music scene and big people coming out of music without mentioning U. City.”

The Purple Piano Society EP has a run time of 38 minutes and is available for download on Google Play, Amazon Music, Apple Music, iTunes and Spotify.

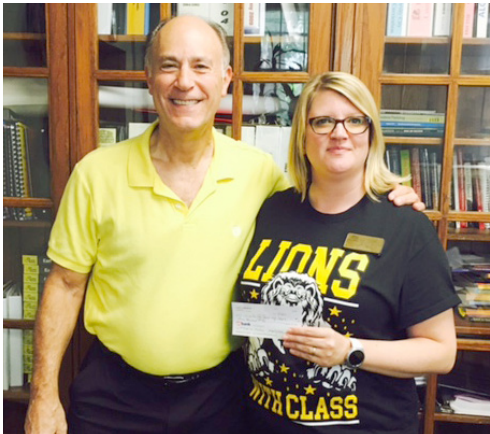


## Music Producer Jermaine Dupri Brings Next-Generation Leaders to UCHS

Over the summer, University City High School (UCHS) and Ferguson-Florissant students, along with youth from the Herbert Hoover Boys Club, Better Family Life and other organizations, gathered in the UCHS auditorium to meet the breakout stars of the reality show, “The Rap Game.” In town for his highly anticipated, “So, So Summer 17 Tour,” Grammy-winning music producer Jermaine Dupri took the opportunity to bring his talented team to UCHS for a Next Generations Leaders Summit. Over 10 years, the Summit, founded on 12 codes of leadership, has become a tradition for the socially conscious music mogul and his father, former Columbia Records president Michael Mauldin of Scream Nation. The two are building a legacy of giving back to fan-filled communities; particularly like those in St. Louis, where many youth are still feeling the effects of the events in Ferguson three years ago. William Killebrew, program director and moderator, said of Mauldin, “Whenever we tour, he wants to stick around and have conversations that help prepare tomorrow’s leadership.”

## Thank You UCHS Class of 1966

The University City High School Class of 1966, represented by Class President Richard Schainker, D.D.S., recently donated \$3,000 to provide flexible classroom seating for the ninth-grade academy. According to UCHS Principal Susan Hill, “We are excited to show our freshmen how this donation will impact their new flexible learning environments.” Across the District, new seating areas are being created to provide comfortable areas for quiet time and study.



Richard Schainker and Principal Hill

## Alum Wiley Price Sees His Historic Obama Photo in the Smithsonian

St. Louis American photojournalist Wiley Price (UCHS Class of 1975 and 2007 UCHS Hall of Fame inductee) poses near his historic photograph, “Message for the Messenger,” now on display at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. The full story by Sophie Hurwitz is featured at [www.stlamERICAN.com](http://www.stlamERICAN.com).



Darlynn Bosley

Adult Education Services

WorkKeys Prep

NEW STUDENT INTAKES OCT. 17 & 19, 2017 1 PM

UNIVERSITY CITY ADULT EDUCATION & LITERACY PROGRAM

8136 Groby Rd. St. Louis, MO 63130

314.290.4052 [www.ucityaelprogram.org](http://www.ucityaelprogram.org)

Job Training Assistance

College Prep Assistance

FREE CLASSES BEYOND HSE PREP (FORMERLY GED) TO TRANSFORM YOUR CAREER

Homecoming Weekend: October 13-14, 2017

Details at [www.ucityschools.org/HOF](http://www.ucityschools.org/HOF)





# UCEF Grants Help Teachers Reimagine Learning

Last school year, thanks to our generous donors, the University City Education Foundation distributed more than \$14,000 in grant funds to teachers and students across all grade levels. Teachers from prekindergarten to 12th grade purchased cutting-edge products and technology that supported the science, technology, engineering, art and math programs (STEM and STEAM). At the early childhood level, materials included support for the Reggio Emilia approach to learning.

Students are testing their skills with new breakout puzzle boxes that open with clues based on social studies lessons, sensory tables, online sight-reading programs; while classrooms incorporate flexible classroom seating, photo and ceramic and supplies along with various technology tools such as iPad Minis, Makey Makey, Ozobot, SparkFun Kinker circuitry, Bloxel, Lightbox, Osmo learning system, Dash Robot, Snap Circuits, LittleBits Electronics and more!

Beverly Brandt, UCEF President and Lieberman Learning Center art teacher explained, “UCEF supports all University City public schools by providing grant funding for innovative, exciting approaches to education with measurable results. We are grateful for the support we receive from our alumni and greater community which makes it possible for UCEF to continue funding projects that enable teachers to create or further enhance education experiences for our students.”

Brittany Woods Middle School teacher Anne Cummings said, “The new equipment was carefully selected to spark student creativity, engage them in creative problem-solving and build understanding and accept individual differences.” She added, “UCEF wants to put the right supplies in our teachers hands to help us best serve our students.” As examples, she said, “The Makey Makey kit we purchased teaches students to combine technology and imagination to turn everyday objects into something more. The new green screen gives them the chance to practice their video recording and production skills.”

In all, Cummings concluded, “These resources also make it easier to collaborate with other teachers on project-based learning for students and to engage a broader group of students, including those in after-school clubs or other learning experiences.”

Parents and community members can support students, teachers and public school education by donating, volunteering and attending UCEF events. For more information visit [www.ucityschools.org/UCEF](http://www.ucityschools.org/UCEF).

*“UCEF’s grants have given our students access to unique and innovative learning experiences that they would not have otherwise.”*

**Anne Cummings**  
*Brittany Woods GATE Teacher*



## UCHS Announces 11 Hall of Fame Inductees for 2017

The tradition continues as University City High School (UCHS) Principal Susan Hill and Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, Ph.D. PHR, announced that 11 new alumni are being added to the historic high school’s star-studded Hall of Fame (HOF).

Award-winning animator Marlon West, lead Disney effects animator for Moana and Frozen, will serve as keynote speaker for the induction ceremony. West graduated from UCHS In 1981 and was inducted into the HOF in 2002. Alan Spector (UCHS Class of 1964 and 2011 HOF inductee) will serve as moderator.

The induction ceremony will kick off the 2017 UCHS Homecoming festivities beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13, at the Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel. This year’s honorees are:

- **Jack Fishman** (1966), professor of meteorology, department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Saint Louis University;
- **Marlene Scheinkman Hammerman** (1969), social justice and women’s rights activist;
- **The late Hasan Houston** (1976), UCHS tri-sport athlete, Chicago Bears, commodities broker, federal probation officer;
- **Robert Kalish** (1958), journalist and author, “Bloodrun” book series;
- **James Katzman** (1964), co-founder, Tandem Computers, Inc. and private investor in high-tech companies;
- **Anthony “Tony” Neal** (1979), president and CEO, Education Equity Consultants;
- **Virginia E. Palmer** (1979), U.S. Ambassador to Malawi;
- **Jerry Sugerman** (1959), conservationist;
- **Jake “Alex” Williams** (1975), television production;
- **Todd Williams** (1985), assistant professor, department of Music Education, Indiana Wesleyan University; and
- **Andrew Woods** (1975), president, Andrew Woods & Associates, LLC./Public Relations.

In 2017, our historic high school held its 100th commencement. The University City community continues to take pride in its tradition of graduating individuals who have made, and are making, a difference in the world through philanthropy and contributions to their fields of expertise. This years’ inductees are joining the likes of Thomas Lanier “Tennessee” Williams, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright (“Cat on a Hot Tin Roof”); Bob Gale, writer and producer (“Back to the Future” movies); Marlon West, Disney animator (Lion King/Frozen/Moana); Gerald Greenwald, former Chairman and CEO of United Airlines; Cornell “Nelly” Haynes, Jr., national recording artist; Marylen Mann, founder of the national non-profit OASIS and others who once proudly walked the halls of UCHS.

The UCHS Hall of Fame was launched in 1999 and remains a daily inspiration to the students who walk the same halls and sit in the same classrooms as these accomplished men and women.

“The Hall of Fame photos and biographies of honored graduates from each era is a tremendous source of pride and inspiration for our students,” said UCHS Principal Susan Hill. “It is not uncommon to hear one of them predict they’ll be on that wall someday.”

Tickets to the UCHS Hall of Fame Induction Dinner may be purchased online [uchshof.eventbrite.com](http://uchshof.eventbrite.com). Seating is limited and the deadline is Oct. 9, so please order your tickets now.

Visit [www.ucityschools.org/HOF](http://www.ucityschools.org/HOF) to learn more about the UCHS HOF nomination process and past inductees along with 2017 Homecoming activities on Saturday, Oct. 14, including 10 a.m. parade (online entry form and parade route), noon HOF Hall Visit (free and no registration required) and 1 p.m. football game (\$5 at the gate).

### U City Schools On The Move!



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

#### Strategic Planning Community Meeting

**Monday, October 16, 2017**  
6-7:30 p.m.  
**Jackson Park Elementary School Gymnasium**  
*(Please use parking lot entrance.)*

**OR**

**Saturday, October 28, 2017**  
9-10:30 a.m.  
**University City High School Joylynn Pruitt Library Media Center**  
*(Please use Jackson Avenue entrance.)*

**Sign up at <https://UCitySchoolsOnTheMove.eventbrite.com>**



## University City Awarded National Honorable Mention Award for Climate Protection

The United States Conference of Mayors, Mayors Climate Protection Center awarded University City Mayor Shelley Welsch Honorable Mention for the Sustainability Initiatives in the Delmar Loop Commercial District.

Expanding commercial recycling, replacing trash-only containers with trash/recycling combination containers, becoming a Green Dining District, installing permeable pavers for reduced stormwater pollution and upgrading lighting to LED are just a few things that were done to achieve this award.

The successful initiatives were developed through collaborative efforts between University City's staff, the Green Practices Commission, the Loop Special Business District and robust community involvement.



A new season brings a new book group to University City Public Library! Join us at 2 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month for our new Classics Book Group. The group kicked off September 19. If you're interested in newer books, check out our U City Book Group, which focuses on contemporary fiction and non-fiction. The U City Book Group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month and is led by UCPL Director Patrick Wall.

Also new at the library: the One Button Studio! Library patrons can use the simple recording studio to create high-quality videos with preset lighting and camera, using only a flash drive and the push of a button. Want to do some video recording out of the studio? Check out one of our Sony Handycam or GoPro video cameras, which can both be checked out for three weeks.

Keep up to date on our upcoming events at [www.ucitylibrary.org/ucplevents](http://www.ucitylibrary.org/ucplevents). Follow us on Twitter @ UCPL\_Librarians and like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ucitylibrary](http://www.facebook.com/ucitylibrary). Call 314.727.3150 for more information.

## Trunk or Treat! - Oct. 27

Let's bring the fun of Fall to Centennial Commons during the second annual Trunk or Treat! event on Friday, Oct. 27, from 5-7 p.m. in Heman Pool Parking Lot, 7210 Olive St.

Children ages 12 and under will enjoy trick-or-treating with a twist. The Heman Pool parking lot will be transformed into a safe and fun environment where kids can visit decorated automobile trunks filled with candy. Awards and prizes will be awarded for the best costumes and for the best decorated trunks.

## Howl-O-Ween Pet Parade – Sunday, October 29

This year's Howl-O-Ween Pet Parade benefitting Gateway Pet Guardians takes place on Sunday, October 29th. The event kicks off at the Commerce Bank parking lot, 6630 Delmar Blvd. Stop by from 11 a.m. - 11:45 p.m. to register. The parade will start at noon and will go down the sidewalk heading east through the Delmar Loop and end at the Moonrise Hotel Rooftop. There will be plenty of fun and safe activities for children as well. Local stores will be providing candy so that kids can trick-or-treat along with the parade.

At the Moonrise Hotel, you will find treats from Three Dog Bakery to reward your pet for a parade well done. Costumes for both pets and people are welcome, but not required. Prizes will be awarded for several different costume categories between 3-4 p.m., so dress your best!



## Have you seen the updates at Fogerty Park?



University City has just completed a three-month renovation on Fogerty Park. The City received a \$525,000 grant to offset the cost of the renovation. The last time our park was updated was in 1997. Bring the family out to enjoy the new playground and trails, and use the new pavilion for your next family gathering.

**On a sadder note:** We have had several incidents of vandalism since reopening on June 23. Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to call the University City Police Department at 314.725.2211, or Crime Stoppers at 866.371.TIPS. If you witness anyone committing vandalism at your community's newly renovated park, please call 911 immediately.

## Make A Difference Day – Saturday, October 28

Make A Difference Day is one of the largest annual single days of service. Thousands of volunteers around the nation unite with one common mission – to improve the lives of others through big or small projects. The event started back in 1992 and has since grown to communities all around the nation. Make A Difference Day connects people with opportunities to serve, increases the strength of communities and promotes civic engagements. This is an event for all people, no matter their age or background.

University City will be organizing a city-wide effort to partake in this year's event. Make a Difference Day takes place the fourth Saturday of October. This year's event is on Saturday, Oct. 28. More than 100 volunteers have participated in helping grow and improve our community. In the past, University City projects have included clean up on Olive Boulevard, the River Des Peres, area alleys and other projects. Projects for this year have yet to be determined and more details are to come. Participating in this event offers volunteers a sense of accomplishment and establishes a deeper connection to their community. Join us in making a difference and making University City a better place and a stronger, more vibrant community for all.

## Electronics Recycling - Oct. 7

On Saturday, Oct. 7, there will be an electronics recycling event at the Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (rain or shine) for computers, printers, flat screens, keyboards, laptops, hard drives, monitors, cell phones, pagers, radios, scanners, speakers, VCR, DVD, fax machines, answering machines, televisions, stereos, air conditioners, microwaves, power tools, kitchen appliances, etc. - anything with a cord. A \$20 fee will apply for each CRT TV or CRT computer monitor.





# Legal Notices for School Families

Parent/student handbooks and the District website include the following policies and information important to families. Please take time to read them and contact the office of Communications and Community Outreach at (314) 290-4001 if you have any questions.

- **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.
- **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015, to replace the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2002. This bipartisan measure reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation’s national education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students. In 2012, the Obama administration began granting flexibility to states regarding specific requirements of NCLB in exchange for rigorous and comprehensive state-developed plans designed to close achievement gaps, increase equity, improve the quality of instruction and increase outcomes for all students. Any additional questions should be directed to Rebecca Soriano at (314) 290-4020 or via email at rsoriano@ucityschools.org.
- **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.
- **McKinney-Vento Act** protects the rights of school-age children of homeless and migrant workers. Bernadette White, 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, call (314) 290-4045.
- **English Language Learners** are offered appropriate instructional services and content modifications, as needed based on assessments.
- **Notice of Non-Discrimination** is printed on the back cover of all issues of PRIDE as well.
- **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 in order to participate, contact the office of Operations at (314) 290-4044.

## Enrollment Procedures

The School District of University City has moved to an online enrollment process for all families through Tyler Parent Portal. New families may begin the process by completing the Quick Registration Form and following up with an initial enrollment appointment with the elementary-school secretary or secondary registrar. A valid email address and documentation including birth certificate, immunization record and proof of residency are required. For more information about the enrollment process and check list, visit [www.ucityschools.org/enroll](http://www.ucityschools.org/enroll) or call the school or office of Student Services at (314) 290-4045.

Calling future  
Kindergartners!

If you are going to be 5 by August 1, bring your family to...

Kindergarten  
Information Night

The School District of  
UNIVERSITY CITY  
ucityschools.org

Tues. Oct. 17 - 6-7 p.m.  
at your neighborhood school

# Our Dedicated Leaders of The School District of University City

## Board of Education

(See page 3 for names of current directors.)  
8136 Groby Road, 63130 .....314-290-4003

## District Administrators

**Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley, Ph.D., PHR**  
Superintendent of Schools  
8136 Groby Road, 63130 .....314-290-4002

**Ian P. Buchanan, Ed.D.,** Assistant Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instructional Services .....314-290-4020  
**Robert Dillon, Ed.D.,** Executive Director  
Technology and Innovative Learning ..... 3314-290-4097  
**Elizabeth Gardner,** Director, Instruction .....314-290-4017

**Tiffany E. Slater, Ph.D.,** Assistant Superintendent  
Human Resources.....314-290-4021

**Scott Hafertepe,** Chief Financial Officer  
Business and Finance .....314-290-4008  
**Gene Kieczkowski** (Transpar), Director  
Transportation ..... 314-290-4046  
**Michelle Clayton-Ramey** (Chartwells), Director  
Food & Nutrition .....314-290-4068

**Karl Scheidt,** Executive Director, Operations ..... 314-290-4044

**Gary L. Spiller, II,** Executive Director  
Student Services and Innovation ..... 314-290-4045

**Lori Willis,** Director, Development.....314-290-4016  
Communications..... 314-290-4001

**Rob Corley** (FantasTechs), Director  
Technology Leadership.....314-290-4014

**University City Alumni Association** .....314-290-4126

**University City Education Foundation** ..... 314-290-4037

## School Administrators

**Crystal Cauley,** Director,  
Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center  
737 Kingsland Ave., 63130 ..... 314-721-2965  
**Parents As Teachers** ..... 314-721-4120

**Shenelle DuBose, Ed.D.,** Principal, Barbara C. Jordan Elementary  
1500 N. 82nd Blvd., 63132 ..... 314-290-4360

**Nicalee Stephens,** Principal, Flynn Park Elementary  
7220 Waterman Ave., 63130 ..... 314-290-4420

**Rebecca O’Connell, Ed.D.,** Principal, Jackson Park Elementary  
7400 Balson Ave., 63130 ..... 314-290-4450

**Herbert Buie,** Principal, Pershing Elementary  
6761 Bartmer Ave., 63130.....314-290-4150

**Elliott Shostak,** Principal, Brittany Woods Middle  
8125 Groby Road, 63130 .....314-290-4280  
Assistant Principal: **Ernest Carter**  
Dean of Students and Instruction: **Jessica Bitting**

**Susan Hill,** Principal, University City High  
7401 Balson Ave., 63130 ..... 314-290-4100  
Assistant Principals: **Kimberly Austin** and **T-Herbert Jeffrey**  
Dean of Students: **Samuel Martin, IV**

**Christopher Blumenhorst,** Principal, Lieberman Learning Center  
8136 Groby Road, 63130 ..... 314-290-4330

## Program Administrators

**Clay Ware,** Coordinator, University City Adult Education and Literacy  
8136 Groby Road, 63130 ..... 314-290-4052

**Sandra Cox,** Coordinator, K-12 English for Speakers of Other Languages  
8136 Groby Road, 63130 .....314-290-4077



**University City Board of Education**  
 Lisa Bennett, Ph.D., President  
 Joanne Swadish, Vice President  
 Kristine Hinds, Secretary  
 Chelsea Adkins, Director  
 LaVonne Ford-Williams, Director  
 Tracy O'Grady, Director  
 George Leonard, Director

**The School District of University City**  
 Roseanna L. Bartley-Barley, Ph.D., FHE  
 Superintendent of Schools  
 Lori Willis, Director of Development  
 Carol Ann Cole, Communications Specialist  
 Curtis Coopers, Communications Specialist  
 314-299-4600 • [ucityschools.org](http://ucityschools.org)

UNIVERSITY CITY SCHOOLS is an equal opportunity institution. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability in its policies, programs, or activities. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the District Office at 314-299-4600 or the U.S. Department of Education at 202-403-1000.

Donor Material: Distribute as soon as possible

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT of UNIVERSITY CITY  
 848 Oakley Road  
 University City, MO 63130

Post-Print (ing)  
 U.S. Postage  
 #100  
 St. Louis, MO  
 Permit No. 478  
 3/2012

Postal Permit

## Keep Connected with Parent Portal

School closings, delayed starts and special announcements are just a few of the reasons why The School District of University City may want to contact parents or guardians by telephone, email or text message.

Tyler Parent Portal online system not only is essential for student enrollment and school messages, but also allows parents and students to stay connected, monitor progress (grades for assignments and tests), track attendance and more.

Families are asked to keep their Parent Portal contact information current and accurate.

Think you've missed an automated voice message for your school or the District? SchoolMessenger offers two options: check your email or call their toll-free message retrieval line. Call (844) 889-5427 from any direct-dial phone and follow the prompts provided to hear recent messages.



## District Calendars

The District offers a variety of calendars at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org):

- School and District calendars are syncable.
- High school athletics events are available through ArbitrLive.com with link from UCHS Athletic section.
- Year-at-a-Glance calendars are printable.
- Board of Education dates are also available through BoardDocs.
- District and school calendars are included in schools' parent handbooks.

## School Closing Procedure

When inclement weather or other emergency conditions exist, the health and safety of students and staff is the most important consideration. District administrators may decide to close school for the entire District or specific buildings, open schools on a late start schedule or dismiss early.

The decision is usually made by 5 a.m. and notifications begin as early as 5:30 a.m. through the District's automated phone and email system, website at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org) and social media such as Facebook and Twitter; along with local television and radio stations.

Days missed because of school closures are typically made up at the end of the school year as needed.

## Believe in



**UCITY HIGH SCHOOL**

**Open House / Oct. 17**

7421 Balcon Ave. / [ucityschools.org](http://ucityschools.org) **6-8 p.m.**