

## Prop U Projects Are Underway! Playgrounds Set to Open in the Fall



### PROBLEMATIZE: Learning Reimagined

Grateful for an overwhelming 88.5% show of support for The School District of University City's Proposition U bond issue, District leaders have used every avenue to share a big "thank you" to voters for their amazing \$65 million endorsement on April 2, 2024.

Of course, the most important way we can thank our community is to deliver on our promise of renovating and reimagining targeted areas of our facilities. The project list will also guarantee jobs for hundreds of tradespeople over the next few years of project development, with the largest projects being tackled in phases.

Work is now underway as, immediately after passage, the University City Board of Education authorized work to start on playground upgrades at Jackson Park and Pershing Elementary Schools. Each project is subjected to a bid process, and the successful bidders will be held to quality standards and deadlines. Visit [www.ucityschools.org/PropU](http://www.ucityschools.org/PropU) for a dashboard with updates that will help you follow our progress.

*"It often takes a project like this to remind us of how very fortunate we are to live, work and learn in the progressive community of University City."*

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



Work is underway on playground upgrades at Jackson Park and Pershing Elementary Schools.

It's a truly exciting time for District students and staff as we prepare to make important changes that will positively impact the quality of their educational experiences. Strong schools help build stronger communities. Thank you, again, for your continued support as we work together to make great things happen for University City children and families.

"I thank the Board of Education for their support in placing Prop U on the ballot and their guidance as we move forward with our improvement plans," Superintendent Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley, Ph.D., PHR, said. "I am grateful to the parents and volunteers who organized a campaign committee to help us to get the word out about Proposition U; They are co-chairs Angela McManus and Lauren Wright-Jones, Treasurer Lisa Brenner and members David Harris, Sunny Bellows, Traci Moore and Emily Edwards. We also appreciate the support of One U. City parents and the members of the University City Education Foundation along with Development Director Debbie Chase."

She added, "It often takes a project like this to remind us of how very fortunate we are to live, work and learn in the progressive community of University City."

## University City High Welcomes New Football Coach Will Franklin



Parents and athletes came out in full force to greet new head football coach Will Franklin at a June 2024 reception in his honor.

St. Louis native Will Franklin began his athletic career at Vashon High School, excelling in football and track. He continued his football journey at the University of Missouri-Columbia before playing in the NFL for the Kansas City Chiefs, Detroit Lions, and Oakland Raiders. After his NFL career, Franklin focused on community and youth, working with various sports organizations and serving as head football coach at Vashon High School for four years.

In interviews, Coach Franklin laid out his strategy: "Right now just building a relationship with the current athletes; that's first and foremost. You got to build those guys up. I need to learn about their personal goals."

Franklin is thrilled to be home. "St. Louis is special, and since I was a kid I always wanted to make sure I made my way back when I got older." He added, "When I got the call about this job... I saw it as a great opportunity for me to come in and do some things that I know can be done here to make this one of the best destinations in St. Louis."



### KidSmart is ALL.IN. for August 6 Event

In partnership with the Starbucks ALL.IN. community team, KidSmart donated nearly 3,000 books in English and Spanish. Books will be free to all students during the August 6 U. City National Night Out and Back-to-School Rally, from 3 to 7 p.m. at Jackson Park Elementary School, located at 7400 Balson Ave. (63130). More event details are available at [www.ucityschools.org/NNOBTSR2024](http://www.ucityschools.org/NNOBTSR2024).



# Message From Our Superintendent of Schools



Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley  
Superintendent

Greetings University City Students, Families and Staff!

This summer edition of PRIDE is our way of capturing most of the new information you will need to know for the start of school. We have so much to look forward to in the school year 2024-25 and are using time this summer to prepare to welcome students and families on August 19.

Of course, our students have not slowed down during the summer! Several are still making news, and we have been highlighting them on social media as well as our website.

Watch for important calendar events in this issue, including our Tuesday, August 6, opener in collaboration with the University City Police Department. Our **U. City National Night Out and Back-to-School Rally** has been kicked into high gear with the addition of the Starbucks ALL. IN. community team! Our new partnership with Starbucks sees the coffee company leveraging its own partner network to provide additional resources, products and services, supplies, health and wellness, entertainment and, of course, FUN, to augment the annual event! This year, Jackson Park Elementary School’s doors will open at 3 p.m. for the community to visit Starbucks Village and Café before the official kickoff at 5 p.m., when all booths will open. The event closes at 7 p.m. For more details including the vendor list, go to [www.ucityschools.org/NNOBTSR2024](http://www.ucityschools.org/NNOBTSR2024).

**The first Prop U projects are underway.** At the July 11 Board of Education meeting, we announced the sale of our first bonds under Prop U. The process went smoothly, thanks to the work of our finance and investment teams. Now, our Operations team is actively engaged. Playground equipment has been ordered, and construction planning for safety improvements is underway. According to the present construction schedule, we now estimate that playground work will be completed this fall (2024). Watch for ongoing updates at [www.ucityshools.org/PropU](http://www.ucityshools.org/PropU).

We are so excited about the new **Sustainability and Agriculture course expansion** at the high school, also partially funded by Prop U. UCHS is the first high school in the region, and one of few in the state, to have an Agriculture course! It started last year and is growing fast, with more than 80 students signed up for this upcoming school year. Pam Lester, Ph.D., is leading the effort to expand this pathway into a new set of career opportunities for our students! Read more on the website at [www.ucityschools.org/DrLester](http://www.ucityschools.org/DrLester).

**Welcome, Coach Franklin!** Former NFL player and Mizzou coach Will Franklin has joined our team as the new head football coach. Franklin comes to us most recently from Vashon High School, where he was instrumental in building their team. Now, working under Athletic Director Lawndale Thomas, Coach Franklin follows Coach Derrick Colquitt in the work of building an excellent athletic program at UCHS.

Finally, we are opening a discussion on **cell phone use in school**. A few months ago, a group of One U. City parents approached the District with concerns about the use of cell phones in classrooms. Since that first conversation, large school systems across the country have announced that they are moving to strict cell phone policies. Locally, districts are also grappling with the issue and handling it in various ways.

The School District of University City understands that social media is a useful communication tool, but we also recognize that it is important for our students to stay focused. That is why we proactively installed cell phone lockers at UCHS in 2018-19. This summer, we installed them at Brittany Woods Middle School as well. We are excited to share more about our program in the coming school year.

As we continue to study the issue, we will continue to involve our teachers, parents/caregivers and students in the discussion. We are asking, how soon is too soon for students to receive a cell phone? And, at the high school, how do we create space for students to “unplug”?

To let us know your thoughts on how we might work together to help protect class time by discouraging cell phones in class, please visit [www.ucityschools.org/CellPhoneSurvey](http://www.ucityschools.org/CellPhoneSurvey) (or scan the QR code on the right).



As I enter my ninth year as superintendent, I could not be more proud to serve this amazing community. Each day is an opportunity to make a difference for our students.

In Service of Our Children,  
*Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley*  
Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley, Ph.D., PHR  
Superintendent of Schools

## From Our Board of Education



Karen Bernstein  
Board of Education  
Vice President

Greetings from the Board of Education!

This year’s school year theme of “Flourish” inspired us to grow and thrive as a school district and a community. As we reflect on the 2023-24 school year and prepare for another, it is clear that we flourished in every level of our system.

Our students succeeded academically, athletically, artistically and personally. Our staff worked tirelessly to grow their crafts while supporting students both inside and outside the classroom. Yes, we have more work to do, but it is clear that we are on the right path and will continue to flourish beyond this year.

The passage of Prop U ensures that the School District of University City will continue to flourish throughout the next decade. Historic support for this measure indicates that our environment is indeed ready for growth. To our entire community — thank you for your belief in our students and trust in our school district.

The \$65 million raised by this zero tax rate increase

bond issue is already being used to reimagine and renovate spaces in all University City schools. I am excited to see what additional ways these funds will support our learning spaces over time. Each of the three phases of projects will take an estimated two to three years. All students will benefit from these dollars, whether they are early in their educational journey or preparing for graduation day.

We look forward to sharing more about Proposition U updates throughout the process — including how they help us achieve our district mission to Humanize, Personalize and Problematicize learning for each and every student.

I wish you all a restful, rejuvenating and safe summer — we can’t wait to welcome you back in August! (August 19, if you want to be specific.)

Sincerely,  
*Karen L Bernstein*  
Karen Bernstein, Vice President

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



# Meet Our School Board Members



**Monica Stewart, Ed.D.**  
*President*  
*Liaison to Jackson Park Elementary School*



**Karen Bernstein**  
*Vice President*  
*Liaison to Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School*



**Kay Gage**  
*Secretary*  
*Liaison to Pershing Elementary School*



**Matt Bellows**  
*Director*  
*Liaison to University City High School and ROAR Academy Academy at LLC*



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



**Bridget McDougall**  
*Director*  
*Liaison to Brittany Woods Middle School*



**Tameka Staten**  
*Director*  
*Liaison to Julia Goldstein ECEC and Adult Education & Literacy Program*



**Fatima Thabet**  
*Student Representative*  
*University City High School Senior*

## Board of Education News

In May 2024, The School District of University City Board of Education welcomed new director Tameka Staten and University City High School rising senior Fatima Thabet as the District’s student representative for SY 2024-25.

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

Board meetings and sessions are held in-person at the McNair Administration Building at 7700 Olive Boulevard (63130) unless otherwise specified. Work sessions may be toggled to virtual if needed.

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

For other information including agendas, minutes and committee assignments, go to [www.ucityschools.org/BoardDocs](http://www.ucityschools.org/BoardDocs).

# Author and Rabbi Jeff Gale Draws Inspiration from Today’s Students

## HUMANIZE: Learning Reimagined

Throughout history, songwriters and musicians have served as “voices of the people,” through haunting, defiant or otherwise empowering lyrics that spoke to society’s shared consciousness. Those songs created a soundtrack of the times. That was the case in 1970 when missions to the moon and Mars were overshadowed by war, civil and women’s rights protests and general unrest. Singer Marvin Gaye amplified the voices of the people when he asked, “What’s Going On?”

At the time, Jeff Gale was a junior at University City High School, and one day stood out. He recalled, “I remember sitting in the little theater with our class watching a documentary more than 50 years ago.” He added, “Several American Studies teachers showed the documentary “The Invisible Empire,” with an excerpt from “Birth of a Nation,” a racist film. Some students were laughing, and that infuriated people. Then, there was hissing and noise, and most African American students walked out. One student pulled the film from the projector.”

Gale said there was tension throughout the day, and the event sparked protests. The next morning, the school entrance was blocked by students, black and white. “I operated on a theory that this whole blockade was not about the film, but many deeper issues...the bottom line is that very few students were prepared for the film. It was just sprung on us cold turkey – I was certainly not prepared for what I was about to see. Out of context you can draw the wrong conclusions.”

Now an author and interfaith leader in New York, Gale returned to UCHS on May 6, 2024, to meet with students in preparation of writing the final chapters of his next book, “A Human Rights Odyssey.” He said, “I specifically asked to meet with students in that same theater. A part of me wanted to speak there, as it was a room of conflict over 50 years ago and now it was transformed into a room of reconciliation.”

Although a work of fiction, the new book will mirror Gale’s experiences growing up in University City, where his mother Rosalie taught primary school students throughout her career (1969-99). After graduating, Gale went on to earn a degree in political science from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He moved to London, England, and, in 1980, was ordained at Leo Baeck College. After ordination, Rabbi Gale served congregations in England, Canada and the United States.



*In preparation for his next book, “A Human Rights Odyssey,” Rabbi Jeff Gale met with UCHS students in the same theater he had sat in more than 50 years prior.*

“From 2009 to 2020, I served a congregation in northern Manhattan (New York). The general community is very Dominican and borders Harlem. If you want to make a meaningful presence in Washington Heights, you must interact with (all types of) people,” Gale said. “It was my dream to establish an interfaith community center where we could hold services and provide a place for all people.”

He was working toward this dream when, on August 9, 2014, news of the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., reached his congregation. “It hit me personally...and, then, within a few days, the body of Tina Fontaine, a First Nations girl from Canada, was found in the Red River (Winnipeg). The two incidents together really bothered me, and the book will flash back over those experiences as well as where I started – in University City.

“What we went through in 1970 was different than what happened in Ferguson, but the things going on then were allowed to fester and needed to come out, and that is what I am doing with my book,” Gale said. He wanted to meet with students to see if we have come as far as we had hoped 50 years ago. He was pleased to learn how the curriculum has progressed.

“I came out feeling really good,” Gale said. “The students were very perceptive and asked intelligent questions. Most importantly, I sensed a definite atmosphere in which students felt listened to and respected.” He added, “I felt there was a genuine interest in what I had to bring to the table from years past. I was a total stranger, and yet we were able to talk about topics that mattered, and that was very important. Intergenerational communication builds community. That is what I am here to do.”

Read more at [www.ucityschools.org/RabbiGale](http://www.ucityschools.org/RabbiGale).



# Camp U Connects Students to New Adventures

## A Summer of Exploration and Discovery!

The School District of University City has been full of exploration and discovery this summer! From cooking alongside culinary experts to analyzing art from centuries ago, students at Camp U have kept their bodies, minds and imaginations active. Camp U is a free summer program that is offered to students grades 1-8 that utilizes Project Based Learning, an instructional approach where students engage in real-world projects to gain knowledge and skills. Camp U students choose to focus on a specific area of interest — whether that be fashion design, sports, science or a myriad of other options. Through partnerships with engaging learning institutions, students participated in hands-on academic learning with enrichment experiences at The Magic House, MADE for Kids; St. Louis Science Center; The Saint Louis Zoo; Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis; Heru Urban Farming; and a variety of other locations with partners from across the St. Louis area.

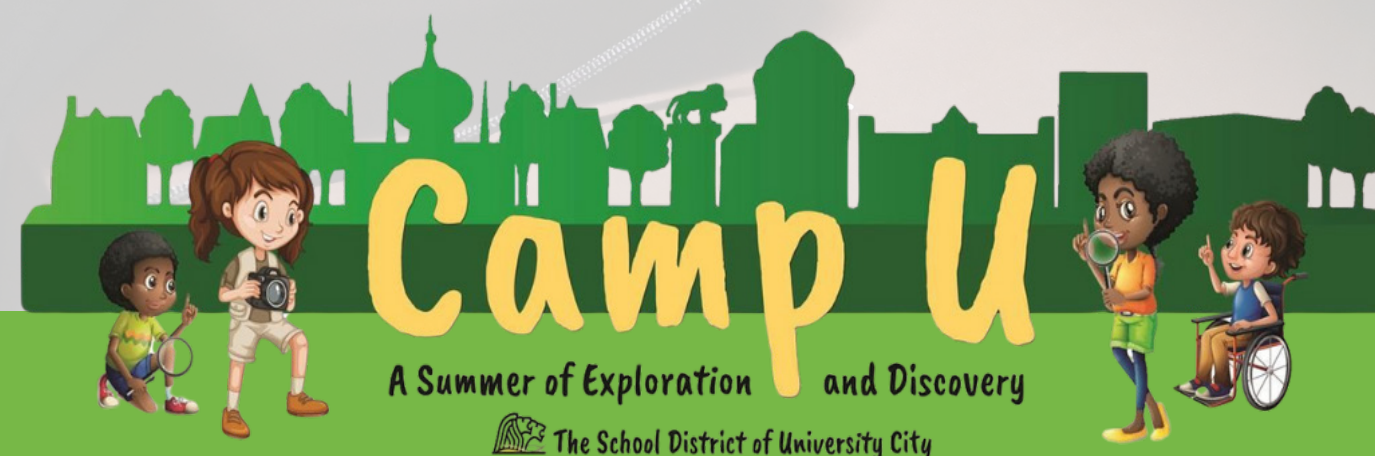
Camp Bon Appetit allowed students interested in cooking and baking to learn about culinary arts from professional chefs. During a field trip to Fennel Cooking Studio, rising middle school students learned all the ins and outs of what it is like to work in a kitchen; they practiced knife skills (safely), identified herbs and spices, and prepared meals and recreated recipes. Students made their own hummus and ranch dressing for dipping the freshly cut fruits and vegetables they had chopped themselves!

In a recent video, D'Angello Collier, Camp Bon Appetit teacher, said, "Some (students are cooking) for the first time, some are experienced cooks, some are in-between, but all of them get the same experiences, and they really love doing the cooking."

At Camp U, all the pieces fit together to paint a whole picture of success for our students. The experiences were aligned to curricular standards and differentiated supports were provided based on each student's needs.

Camp U culminated with two spectacular showcases, highlighting a wide variety of skills, projects and talents, from student-made golf courses to musical performances.

To watch a recap video of Camp U 2024, visit [www.ucityschools.org/CampU2024Video](http://www.ucityschools.org/CampU2024Video) or scan the QR code below!







Family and friends look on as the UCHS Class of 2024 answers back to the iconic UCity question of “What time is it?!” with a resounding U-TIME!

# Congratulations UCHS Class of 2024!

## PERSONALIZE: Learning Reimagined

They entered high school as freshmen in 2020, and one could tell from the moment they marched in that University City High School’s Class of 2024 was special. They seemed more mature, more poised and more reluctant to say goodbye to their friends, perhaps even more than they had anticipated. Their affection and obvious emotions made the Chaifetz Arena seem smaller and more personal than it had just moments before. This was their night and – with every step of the processional – it was evident that they owned it.

On May 20, at 7 p.m., the University City Board of Education and District administrators took their places on stage to help manage diplomas later conferred jointly by Superintendent of Schools Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley, Ph.D., PHR; Board of Education President Monica Stewart, Ed.D., and University City High School Principal Michael Peoples, Ph.D.

GRADUATION REPORT

2024: BY THE NUMBERS!

10

STUDENTS OFFERED MORE THAN

\$400,000

IN SCHOLARSHIPS

176

GRADUATES

107TH

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

NEARLY

\$11,000,000

IN SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS REPORTED

3

STUDENTS RECEIVED NEARLY \$1 MILLION IN INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS!

UCHS

In their remarks, all acknowledged the uniqueness of this particular class who spent their entire four years of high school under the COVID cloud. Despite these challenges, UCHS students handled every roadblock with grace, determination and optimism. UCHS graduation coordinator for 25 years, Chris Blumenhorst helped mentor and guide many of these students and could not have been prouder. “I was joyous! This was a joyous celebration of accomplishment for the students who went through quarantine and isolation and persevered,” he said.

The four young women selected to speak on behalf of the class included school community leaders Jordyn Bell, Laila Dixon, Tori Wilson and Sienna Yazdi. Each addressed the crowd with an air of intimacy, typically reserved for close friends and family. From their words, one sensed the strong relationships among students and staff that grew through their unique shared experiences.

Peoples had the honor of closing the program out with some special words for the graduates. He said, “You have impacted all of us in a very special way. Your perseverance, resiliency and pursuit of excellence has made all of us better people because of the time we have spent with you.”

To watch the graduation video, review the downloadable program and read more about the UCHS Class of 2024’s Commencement Exercise, visit [www.ucityschools.org/Classof24](http://www.ucityschools.org/Classof24).

Na’Kiyah Abbott-Harrell	Pariaun Henderson	Nabil Salem
Lawyer Allen	Dallas Hill	Kameron Sanders
Brandon Artis	Andrew Holahan	Sylvia Sanders
Evan Atkinson	Jordyn Holland	Danae Scales
Daniel Isaac Avilez Aguilar	Neah Hopes	Benjamin Scharff
Jay’Mi Baker	Cherrish Horton	La’nai Scruggs
Sieanna Ball	Jordan Hudson	Victor Seay
Zakiyah Banks	Stefani Hudson	Juliana Shackelford
Ziara Beckham	Deveonah Hughes	Cailey Shanks
Tamia Becton	Tyrone Jackson	Mariyah Shaw
Asia Bell	Modou Jaye	Rosemary Shawver
Jordyn Bell	Mariona Jefferson	Kaveon Shegog
Tristan Belton	Firral Jeffries	Taylor Shelton
*Xavier Bennett-Stewart	Damonte Johnson	Arvell Lenell Sherman
Jerome Billings	Demarrion Johnson	Mohamed Shukri
Blake Bilyeu	Shaniya Johnson	Jo’hannah Simms
Dylan Blake	Tonyee’ Johnson	Supreme Simms
Isabelle Braeske	Vance Johnson-Holbrooks	Kailynne Small
Alando Braziel	Hana Jones	Bria Smith
Ayonna Brown	Kobe Jones	Da Veon Smith
Yustralia Brown	Mya Jones	Kobe Smith
Jahziah Brownlee	Neona Jones	Raniyah Stevens
Deonna Bryant	Sandra Kariuki	MaKayla Stewart
Shayonna Burgess	Braeden Klohr	Diamond Street
Ericka Campbell	Laila Lawrence	Payton Stroud
Danae Carey	Tyler Lemen	Dakota Sykes
Breanna Carter	Nkenge Lester	Demicoe Taylor
Kendall Carter	*Maurico C Lovejoy-Webb	Camryn Thomas
Gabriella Carvajal	Taran Manigo	Roman Thomas
Cameron Cole	Glody Mapengo	Xavier Thomas
Eric Cole	Jared Martin	Camryn Thompson
Shawn Coleman	Solomon Maufas	Kaleah Thorpes
Tia Coleman	Jordynn Mays	Natayvia Turks
Zaryah Collier	Anthony McCoy	Chloe Tyler
Breeze Collins	Anajaa Miller	Braniyah Vance
Bryan Cooley	Jamyia Miller	Layla Wade
Jasmine Cooley	Angel Monroy-Castulo	Jashad Waller
Car’niyah Cross	Jerkeya Morgan	Danielle Wasserman
Tamara Dailey	Ricky Moseley	Korion Watson
Jordan Davis	Maya Mumin	Yoriah Watson
Zaveon Dickerson	Briah Myers	Zane Watt Hoven
Laila Dixon	Caleb Nesbitt	Batsheva Weiman
Nyla Dixon	Declan O’Leary	Jacob Wibben
Mondis Doyle	Ja’Khari Oliphant	Dorian Williams
Charissa Ferguson Hitchens	Paris Pate	Janiah Williams
Lancelot Fordyce	Cole Patterson	Kamarra Williams
Annalise Forster	Kyla Penton	Lee Williams
Jack Forster	Sarai Pitts	Na’ila Williams
Kiriston D Fuller	Ehress Peoples	Eve Wilson
Terrica Garey	Essence Peoples	Somir Wilson
Tiante Garrett	Jada Prince	Tori Wilson
Terrance Gipson	Madelaine Province	A’niya Woods
Ra’Mya Golden	A’Rianna Reid	Jaden Woods
Kevin Arenas Gutierrez	Alejandra Rico-Garcia	Isabella Wright
Krystian Hall	Brayla Rimmer	Cameron Wright Jones
Amaia Hamilton	Ke’Nirah Robinson	Sienna Yazdi
Damaree Handley	Kennedy Robinson	Arin Young
Nigel Miqlik Harris	Denim Rose	Gabrielle Yudovich
Destiny Hatcher	Kamdin Ross	*Honorary Diploma

6 July 2024 | PRIDE | [ucityschools.org](http://ucityschools.org)

The School District of University City, Missouri



# Getting to Know The School District of University City Team

<b>Central Administration, 7700 Olive Boulevard, University City, MO 63130</b> .....	<b>290-4000</b>
Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, Superintendent of Schools .....	shardin@ucityschools.org ..... Cell: 399-0941
Joseph Miller, District Chief of Staff for Organizational Health and Effectiveness.....	joemiller@ucityschools.org .....290-4007
Mark Basi, Director of Technology Solutions - <i>For student technology issues, please contact the school office.</i> .....	mbasi@ucityschools.org .....290-4078
Lori Willis, Director of Communications .....	lwillis@ucityschools.org .....290-4016
General Communications.....	communications@ucityschools.org .....290-4001
Olu Mitchom, Executive Director of Operations (8125 Groby Road, 63130).....	omitchom@ucityschools.org .....290-4009
Ayinde Wayne, IT Director (7401 Balson Avenue, 63130).....	awayne@ucityschools.org .....290-4014
Scott Hafertepe, Chief Financial Officer .....	shafertepe@ucityschools.org .....290-4008
Amelia Hammerstone, Chartwells Director of Food/Nutrition (7401 Balson Avenue, 63130).....	foodservice@ucityschools.org .....290-4068
Joe Griffin, Transpar Director of Transportation (8125 Groby Road, 63130) .....	transportation@ucityschools.org .....290-4046
Rebecca O’Connell, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources .....	roconnell@ucityschools.org .....290-4028
SaVonne Whitfield, Human Resources Coordinator .....	swhitfield@ucityschools.org .....290-4022
Office of Curriculum & Instruction (7401 Balson Avenue, 63130).....	uclearns@ucityschools.org .....290-4020
Elizabeth Gardner, Coordinator, Professional Development and 6-12 Science.....	egardner@ucityschools.org .....290--4017
Christina Grove, Coordinator, Culturally & Linguistically Responsive	
Susan Hill, Coordinator, PreK-12 Social Studies & College Technical Education.....	shill@ucityschools.org .....290-4079
Christina Sneed, Coordinator, PreK-12 English Language Arts .....	chsneed@ucityschools.org .....290-4263
Rebecca Soriano, Coordinator, State & Federal Programs).....	rsoriano@ucityschools.org .....290-4049
Beverly Velloff, Coordinator, PreK-12 STEM .....	bvelloff@ucityschools.org .....290-4013
Sandra Cox, ESOL/Spanish (BWMS).....	scox@ucityschools.org .....290-4077
Gary Spiller, Executive Director of Student Services and Innovation .....	gspiller@ucityschools.org .....290-4045
Michael Peoples, Director of Secondary Education/ UCHS Principal.....	mpeoples@ucityschools.org .....290-4148
Artondria Bentley, Director, Special Programs in Support of Districtwide MTSS.....	abentley@ucityschools.org .....290-4186
Wendy Gilliam, Special School District (SSD) Partner District Director.....	wgilliam@ucityschools.org .....290-4038
Meghan Boyer, SSD Special Education Coordinator for Elementary Schools .....	mboyer@ucityschools.org .....989-8309
Bri’Ana Martin, SSD Special Education Coordinator for Middle and High Schools.....	bmartin@ucityschools.org .....329-7026
<b>University City Board of Education, 7700 Olive Boulevard, University City, MO 63130</b> .....	lboyce@ucityschools.org .....290-4002
<i>See page 3 for University City Board of Education members and their liaison assignments</i>	

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Brittany Woods Middle School**.....**290-4280**  
8125 Groby Road, University City, MO 63130  
Principal: Justin Davis - judavis@ucityschools.org ..... 290-4280  
Secretary/Athletics: Kimberly Walker - kwalker@ucityschools.org ... 290-4278

Assistant Principals:  
Ife Williams (6th grade) - iwilliams@ucityschools.org..... 290-4298  
Darrin Young (7th grade) - dyoung@ucityschools.org ..... 290-4284  
Yvonne Rooks (8th grade) - yrooks@ucityschools.org ..... 290-4282  
Dean of Students: Joe Green - jgreen@ucityschools.org ..... 290-4280  
Nurse: Cristin Latimore - clatimore@ucityschools.org..... 290-4286  
Social Worker: LaKaysha Shields - lshields@ucityschools.org ..... 290-4328  
Counselors:  
Kristen Collins (6th grade) - krcollins@ucityschools.org ..... 290-4302  
Kellie Willis (7th grade) - kwillis@ucityschools.org ..... 290-4289  
Crystal Webb (8th grade) - cwebb@ucityschools.org ..... 290-4288  
Registrar: Lorna Nichols - lnichols@ucityschools.org ..... 290-4288  
Well-Being Specialist: Catherine Johnson - cjohnson@ucityschools.org... 290-4280


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

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024

U CITY NIGHT OUT & BACK-TO-SCHOOL RALLY

WELCOMES NEW PARTNER & AFFILIATES





DETAILS AT WWW.UCITYSCHOOLS.ORG/NNOBTSR2024

CO-CREATED BY  
UCHS 1969 ALUM AND  
HALL OF FAMER,  
BOB GALE!



COMING TO THE FABULOUS FOX THEATER SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 6!



University City Board of Education

Monica Stewart, Ed.D., *President*  
Karen Bernstein, *Vice President*  
Kay Gage, *Secretary*  
Matthew Bellows, *Director*  
LaVerne Ford-Williams, *Director*  
Bridget McDougall, *Director*  
Tameka Staten, *Director*  
Fatima Thabet, *Student Representative*

The School District of University City

Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley, Ph.D. PHR  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
Joe Miller, *Chief of Staff*  
Lori Willis,  
*Communications Director*  
Communications Team:  
CarolAnn Cole • Veronica Hohe  
Kharynton Allen • Curtis Conyears



314-290-4000 • [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org)

Applicants for admission or employment, students, parents of elementary and secondary school students, employees, sources of referral and applicants for employment and all professional organizations that have entered into agreements with The School District of University City are hereby notified that the District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. In addition, the District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. Any person having inquiries concerning the District's compliance with the laws and regulations implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (Section 504), Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) or the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, is directed to the respective Compliance Coordinator listed below, who oversees the School District's efforts to comply with the laws and regulations implementing those procedures cited above. The School District has established grievance procedures for persons unable to resolve problems arising under the statutes above. The School District's Compliance Coordinator will provide information regarding those procedures upon request. Any person who is unable to resolve a problem or grievance arising under any of the laws and regulations cited above may contact the Office for Civil Rights, Region VII, at 800 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114 or 816-268-9550. Adult and Employee Compliance Coordinator: Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Ronald E. McNair Administrative Building, The School District of University City, 7700 Olive Blvd., University City, MO 63130, 314-290-4021. Student Compliance Coordinator: Executive Director of Student Services, Ronald E. McNair Administrative Building, The School District of University City, 7700 Olive Blvd., University City, MO 63130, 314-290-4045.

*Dated Material. Distribute as soon as possible.*

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
St. Louis, MO  
Permit No. 276

ECRWSS

Postal Patron



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

UCITY PRIDE

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

July 2024

## Enrollment Ongoing!

This summer, The School District of University City transitioned to a new data system. Current family information has been migrated, and we are ready for families to review and update immunization records, media permission and more as part of online enrollment for fall 2024 at [www.ucityschools.org/ParentPortal](http://www.ucityschools.org/ParentPortal). Need help? Visit [www.ucityschools.org/Enroll](http://www.ucityschools.org/Enroll), call your school office or drop by Jackson Park Elementary School during Enrollment Days on August 5 or 6. See the District website calendar for more details.



**YOU'RE INVITED!**

Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024

Hospitality Booths 3-7 p.m.

UCPD Kickoff at 5 p.m.

**PLUS Starbucks Village & Café**

**NEW!!! Shuttle Bus runs every 15 minutes**

Julia Goldstein, Barbara C. Jordan, Flynn Park, Pershing & Brittany Woods Schools

**FREE TO ALL U. CITY FAMILIES!**

DJ Tossin Ted • FREE Food & Drinks • Bubble Bus • Face Painters • Crafts  
FREE Backpacks • School Supplies • Great Fit Boutique • Hair Cuts/Styles  
Safety Tips • Immunization Clinic • Professional Soccer • District Athletics  
School & Health Updates • Employment Opportunities and Much More!

Co-sponsored by the University City Police Department and The School District of University City



Jackson Park School Campus  
7400 Balson Ave. 63130

Visit Our Website  
[ucityschools.org/NNOBTSR2024](http://ucityschools.org/NNOBTSR2024)



## Key Dates for SY2024-25

For the most current calendar information, visit [www.ucityschools.org/Calendar](http://www.ucityschools.org/Calendar). For Board of Education Sessions and Regular Meetings, go to [www.ucityschools.org/BOE](http://www.ucityschools.org/BOE).

August 5-6: Enrollment Days, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (closed noon -1 p.m.), Jackson Park Elementary School

August 6: National Night Out/Back-to-School Rally at Jackson Park Elementary School with Student Immunization Clinic, 5 to 7 p.m.  
Starbucks Village & Café, 3-7 p.m.

August 6-8: Jump Start to Kindergarten at neighborhood elementary schools, 9 a.m. to noon  
(Register: [www.ucityschools.org/JumpStart2024](http://www.ucityschools.org/JumpStart2024))

August 12: All-Staff Opening Day

August 16: UCHS Freshmen Orientation — Half Day  
Student Immunization Clinic, 9 a.m. - noon @UCHS

**August 19: First Day of Classes  
& UCHS Red Carpet Welcome, 7 a.m.**

September 2: District Closed — Labor Day

September 13: No School — PD Day

September 25-26: Parent-Teacher Conferences — evening

September 27: No Classes — Teacher Comp Day

October 18: No School — End of 1st Quarter

October 24: UCHS Homecoming  
(Football Game at Jennings)

October 26: Homecoming Parade & Dance

November 4: No School — Plan Day

November 5: District Closed — Election Day

November 25-29: No School — Fall/ Thanksgiving Break  
(District Closed, Nov. 28-29)

December 23-January 2: District Closed — Winter Break

January 3: No School - Teacher Work Day — Full Day

March 17-21: No School — Spring Break  
(District Closed, March 21)

May 29: Last Day of School  
(subject to change, pending weather closures)



### This Issue's Highlights:

- Prop U Projects are Underway, page 1
- KidSmart Book Donation, page 1
- UCHS Welcomes Coach Franklin, page 1
- Message From Our Superintendent, page 2
- Meet Our School Board Members, page 2
- Rabbi Jeff Gale Visits UCHS, page 3
- Camp U Recap, page 4-5
- UCHS Class of 2024, page 6
- District Contacts & Legal Notices, page 7
- NNOBTSR New Partner & Affiliates, page 7