

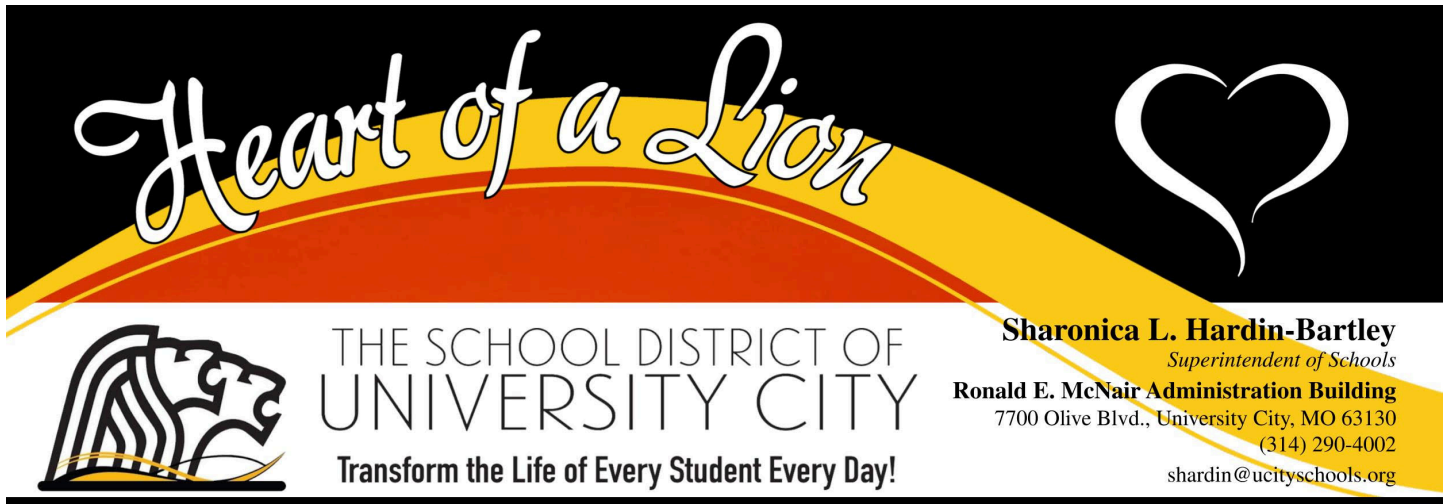


## April 2024 News Updates and Blog

1 message

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Reply-To: communications@ucityschools.org

Sat, Apr 20, 2024 at 11:54 AM



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**April 20, 2024**

**From the Desk of Dr. Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley**

### **There's "No Place" Like University City**

*A reflection on where we were, where we are, and where we need to go in educating today's students*

In the 1925 classic, "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" (based on the book by L. Frank Baum), we were introduced to young Dorothy's world in stark black and white. Only when she landed on the outskirts of Oz did we see her world in vivid color. Our Jackson Park scholars recently performed the modern version of *Ease on Down the Road*, adapted from the 1978 Broadway Musical, *The Wiz*. The performance highlighted the essence of learning reimagined and our hope for the future.



*Jackson Park Elementary School Production  
of "Ease on Down the Road" 2024!*

Eight years ago, when I stepped into the Superintendent's role in The School District of University City, I knew I wanted to shake things up and view our work with students and families differently. That meant reimagining the education experience for children, staff, and families.

With the support of our entire community, we created a vision called “Learning Reimagined.” It was an opportunity to fully center children in every decision, create strong student/family relationships, and personalize instruction. I knew it would pay off for our students and families, but I was not sure exactly how until March 2020... ([Click here to read my recent blog](#))

## **News and Updates**

### **April 2 Elections**

On behalf of the students and staff in The School District of University City, we thank our community, especially our parents/caregivers, for an overwhelming 88.5% voter support in April. The Proposition U zero tax rate increase bond issue will generate \$65 million for district repairs, renovations, and upgrades. District and Board of Education leaders understand that the best “thank you” we can offer is to continue our efficient planning and execution of bond sales and projects. That work has already begun! Please continue to visit [www.ucityschools.org/PropU](http://www.ucityschools.org/PropU), where you can learn about our progress on Prop U projects.

On April 18, 2024, we swore in two school board members: Monica A. Stewart, Ed.D., who retained her seat for a second term, and Tameka Staten, who was newly elected on April 2. We also thank outgoing Director Joanne Soudah for nine years of dedication and service to students, staff, and the community.

### **Map and EOC Assessments**

Our scholars are preparing for Spring assessments at all grade levels. This is an opportunity to demonstrate their learning and progress and for us to reflect on instructional practices. You will receive detailed information from your building principal.

### **Spring 2024 Arts Celebrations**

Please check our website at [www.ucityschools.org/Spring2024Arts](http://www.ucityschools.org/Spring2024Arts) for a current list of opportunities to see our excellent students performing and displaying their artistic talents!

### **District Family Resource Fair - April 25**

Keeping with our strategic priority of well-being and joy, the District hosts a Family Resource Fair on Thursday, April 25, from 4- 6 p.m. at Jackson Park Elementary School. Join us for free food and raffle prizes, visit with representatives from local agencies, and learn about resources available for mental and physical health, bill assistance, job assistance, and more. If you plan to attend, please register at [www.ucityschools.org/042524Fair](http://www.ucityschools.org/042524Fair). This will help us get an accurate count of attendees.

## School Calendars

The University City Board of Education approved the revised 2024-25 District Calendar and the 2025-26 District Calendar at the April 18 meeting. Both calendars can be found on the District website at [www.ucityschools.org/PrintableCalendar](http://www.ucityschools.org/PrintableCalendar). Please note changes to the 2024-25 academic calendar.

## Key Dates for April 2024

*Please check emails from your school principal for school activities or the website calendar at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org). In the meantime, here are some reminders!*

**April 23 – Flynn Park 2nd & 5th Grade Concert:**  
**Langston Hughes: Dreamer**, 6:30 p.m., Flynn Park Elementary School

**April 24 – UCHS Band and Orchestra Concert**, 6:30 p.m., University City High School, [7401 Balson Ave.](#)

**April 25 – District Family Resource Fair**, 4-6 p.m., Jackson Park Elementary School, [7400 Balson Ave.](#) Register at [www.ucityschools.org/042524Fair](http://www.ucityschools.org/042524Fair)

**April 27 – University City High School Prom**

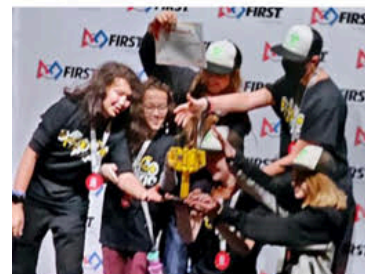
**April 30 – Flynn Park K & 3rd Grade Concert: The Very Busy Spider**, 6:30 p.m., Flynn Park Elementary School

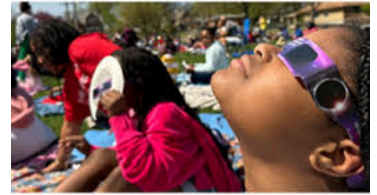
**April 30 – Jackson Park 3rd, 4th & 5th Grade Concert: Stand Tall**, 6:30 p.m., Jackson Park Elementary School Gymnasium

## In Closing:

As we approach the end of the 2024-2025 school year, let's keep the momentum going! Graduation for the class of 2024 is just around the corner, and we will celebrate many other milestones for our scholars.

Thank you for your support and for entrusting us with your child's success.





As always, contact me at [shardin@ucityschools.org](mailto:shardin@ucityschools.org) or by cell phone at 314-399-0941.

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

[ucityschools.org](http://ucityschools.org)



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