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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University City, Mo.-The School District of University City is pleased to announce that



Jennifer Pryor, an English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) Instructional Coach, will serve as PreK-5 ELAR and Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator starting in the 2026-2027 school year. Mrs. Pryor, who was named University City School District Elementary Teacher of the Year in 2024, has had a positive impact on teacher growth as an ELAR Coach. Over the past three years, she has strengthened literacy instruction across our elementary schools through coaching, professional development, and collaborative support with teachers and leaders. She has also led districtwide professional

learning focused on curriculum implementation, teaching with urgency, foundational literacy practices, and data-informed instruction. Mrs. Pryor says she is “honored to step into the role of Pre-K–5 ELAR and Social Studies Coordinator and continue serving the students, educators, and families of our district. Literacy has the power to open doors, build confidence, and create opportunities for every child. I am excited to continue partnering with teachers and leaders to strengthen high-quality, aligned literacy instruction that supports all students in becoming strong readers, writers, thinkers, and communicators.”



The School District is also excited to announce that Mr. Arnez Newton, 6-8 Academy Lead at Grand Center Arts Academy, has been hired as an Assistant Principal at Brittany Woods Middle School starting in the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Newton holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership. Over the past 12 years at Grand Center Arts Academy, serving as a teacher, Dean of Students, and Middle School

Academy Principal, Mr. Newton has remained dedicated to fostering positive school cultures through the implementation of restorative practices and PBIS. He looks forward to bringing that same commitment to the students and families of University City. Before his time at Grand Center Arts Academy, Mr. Newton taught middle school in Memphis, TN, and Chicago, IL, including service as a Teach For America Corps Member. Mr. Newton says he “believes every student deserves to feel seen, challenged, and inspired to dream beyond their current circumstances. I’m a dreamer at heart, but I also believe in setting realistic goals and building intentional pathways to achieve them. I’m honored to join the Brittany Woods community and look forward to partnering with students, families, and staff to create a culture of growth, accountability, and opportunity for every child.”

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Finally, Dr. Susan Hill, who is currently on the Curriculum and Instruction Team, will transition to Director of Communication and Community Engagement. Dr. Hill has worked as an administrator in the district for the past thirteen years. She also serves as a Board Member for University City's nonprofit Sustainable Housing and Economic Development (SHED), and as a Director on the Kirkwood School District Board of Education. During her tenure at University City as a building and district-level leader, she has established positive relationships with families, staff, and community partners. Some of her key contributions include leading the creation of the District's Portrait of a Graduate, forming Career and Technical Education (CTE) advisory boards with professional partners, and reimagining our district summer school program, CampU. About the new role, Hill said, "I am excited to serve a community that I know and love, in a new capacity. University City families and the broader community deserve deep engagement with the school district, which goes beyond sharing information. I look forward to partnering with family, community members, local businesses, and government officials on behalf of our students' academic progress and well-being."