



INSIDE

the School District of University City

A publication for and about the staff of the School District of University City

July / August 2008

Welcome Back!

2008-2009 Opening Day Activities for ALL staff will be held on Monday, August 11 beginning at 7:30 a.m. at University City High School.

Celebrating Difference

Differentiating for High Student Achievement

OPENING DAY ACTIVITIES for the School District of University City will be held on Monday, August 11, at University City High School, 7401 Balson Ave.

A continental breakfast will be served from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. in the UCHS cafeteria.

A slide show will begin at 8 a.m. in the UCHS auditorium.

All staff is expected to sit together by school or location for the general session that begins promptly at 8:30 a.m.

The guest speaker for the day is Carolyn Chapman, international educational consultant, teacher and author of "If the Shoe Fits... How to Develop Multiple Intelligences in the Classroom." She has also co-authored "Differentiated Instructional Strategies for Writing in Content Areas," "Differentiated Instructional Strategies for Reading in Content Areas," "Multiple Assessments for Multiple Intelligences," "Multiple Intelligences through Centers and Projects" and "Test Success in the Brain Compatible Classroom."

Support staff will be directed where to report for any special meetings.

Exciting changes planned for the 2008-09 school year

It has been a busy summer within the School District of University City. Students and faculty will be greeted with a number of staff and program changes when they return for the upcoming school year.

- The District hosts its second annual community-wide Back-To-School Rally on Saturday, August 2, from 10 am to 2 p.m. on the grounds of Jackson Park Elementary School at Hanley and Balson.
- **Classes begin Monday, August 18, with UCHS freshmen returning on Friday, August 15, for orientation.**
- Bonita Jamison, Phyllis Fredericksen and Monica Hudson have been named principals for Barbara C. Jordan, Delmar-Harvard and Jackson Park Elementary Schools, respectively.
- Administrative changes at University City High School (UCHS) include the appointment of Christopher Blumenhorst as interim principal and Brian Rich as an interim assistant principal. Also the UCHS assistant principal staff has been reduced

Changes for SY 2008-09 continued on back

UCEF fall cycle grant applications due August 27

The University City Education Foundation (UCEF) awards grants to educators in the School District of University City to assist teachers or other staff in engaging in special classroom projects. The UCEF grant program is not designed to supplement general operating funds or programs normally funded by the District. The UCEF funds two cycles of grants each year for University City teachers and staff, based on submissions that fulfill the Foundation's guidelines. Grant proposals that implement creative ideas and projects designed to enhance student learning and performance will be considered. Grants are awarded in amounts up to \$1,000. Application deadline for the Fall 2008 Cycle Grant is August 27. The Spring 2009 Cycle Grant application deadline is February 3. Applications are available online at www.ucityschools.org and are emailed to staff throughout the school year.

For more information, contact committee co-chairs Barbara Santoro at bdcsantoro@aol.com, 314/725-6206, or Darlene Norfleet at dnorfleet@slsc.org, 314/290-9696.



Make U. City Schools A Destination



About 300 staff, parents and other community representatives participated in the first Destination U. City Schools community engagement meetings.


Changes for SY 2008-09 *continued from front*

from four to three positions.

- Dominic LeNoir, formerly a UCHS assistant principal, will serve as the seventh grade assistant principal at Brittany Woods Middle School.
- Dr. Chauna Williams has been named the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. Rebecca (Forgash) O'Connell, is the director of instruction. Sandra Bell will return to the McNair Administration as a special projects coordinator. Nikki Davenport is the math and science curriculum coordinator and Declan FitzPatrick is the new communication arts and social studies curriculum coordinator.
- The District will participate in a voluntary, early MSIP review on November 10-13, 2008.
- New science textbooks have been adopted to correlate with the newly approved science curriculum guides.
- New computers have been installed in the classrooms in University City High School and the Lieberman Learning Center and the teachers will be receiving new laptops. Support staff and administration in these buildings and McNair Administration have received replacement computers. In total, nearly 900 computers have been installed in the District during the past 14 months in accordance with the five-year Technology Plan.
- A new districtwide initiative, Project Lead the Way, combines rigorous and relevant curriculum with project- and problem-based instruction to better prepare students for health care and science careers.
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) has been adopted as a districtwide approach to discipline.
- Instrumental music will be offered to fifth and sixth grade students during the regular school day.
- Destination U. City Schools community engagement sessions began on July 15 and will continue throughout the fall and early winter.
- The Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) program has been expanded to include kindergarten through twelfth grades.
- The Earn Your Way Back program has been restructured.
- The Lieberman Learning Center will serve only high school students.
- Middle school sports has been expanded to include baseball/softball, basketball, cross country, field hockey, football, golf, soccer, track, volleyball and wrestling.
- Instructional coaches will provide support to teachers at all grade levels.
- New pianos have been delivered to each school.
- Adult breakfast and lunch prices have increased.

BEYOND OUR WALLS

Lori Adkins, University City High School librarian, has been accepted to participate in Picturing America, an exciting new initiative from the National Endowment for the Humanities in cooperation with the American Library Association that brings masterpieces of American art into classrooms and libraries nationwide so students and citizens will gain a deeper appreciation of our country's history and character through the study and understanding of its art.



Donna Patton, recently retired Jackson Park first grade teacher, has been selected for the 2008 Stellar Achiever in Education Award. She will receive her recognition at the *St. Louis American* Foundation's 21st annual Salute to Excellence in Education Scholarship & Awards Banquet on September 5.



Math & science curriculum coordinator **Nikki Davenport** has been asked to speak at the North American Association for Environmental Education's Annual Conference in Wichita, Kansas in October 2008. She will present "Bring Birds into Your Inquiry Classroom," which uses birds as a way to talk to teachers about inquiry in all its forms in the classroom.

Look Inside, Look Ahead:

Destination U. City Schools to set direction for school district

The first Destination U. City Schools community engagement meetings were held on July 15 and 19. More than 300 parents, residents and District staff participated in the initiative. The goal of the program is solicit input and opinions that will help decide the future direction of the School District of University City that will ultimately lead to the school system becoming a high performing district that provides the best education for children.

Over the next several months, a series of meetings will be held that focus on four imperatives: student achievement (August 13 and 16), family/community involvement (September 9 and 13), facilities (October 7 and 11) and finance (November 5 and 8). Participants have the option of attending either a weekday or weekend session - the same topic will be discussed at both. A final presentation, based upon the comments and recommendations gathered from the meetings, will be made to the Board of Education on December 4.

To succeed, the effort needs the support of everyone in the community. For more information about the community engagement initiative, contact Daphne Dorsey at 314/290-4016 or email destinationucityschools@u-city.k12.mo.us.

INSIDE the School District of University City is published 11 times per school year the first week of each month except July. The August issue is mailed to all staff homes, subsequent issues will be emailed to all staff with District e-mail addresses. Building secretaries are asked to post the current issue for all staff to read. If you have any information to contribute to this publication, please contact CarolAnn Cole at ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us, phone 314/290-4019, fax 314/725-7846 or inner-office mail to McNair Administration Building.