



INSIDE

the School District of University City

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

July / August 2009

Welcome Back!

2009-2010 Opening Day Activities for ALL staff will be held on Monday, August 10 beginning at 7:30 a.m. at University City High School.

Dear District Staff:

It is my hope that you had a restful summer and maybe even completed some projects, traveled, or reached personal goals. However you spent your summer, I would like to welcome you to another exciting school year in the School District of University City.

I can assure you that the District has been very busy this summer. Furnishings from Barbara Jordan Elementary School have been transported to its temporary home in the McNair Administration Building while their new school is being built. The high school science wing is being renovated and is projected to be completed by the end of winter break, adding an additional 2,000-square feet of learning space. The high school vestibule and lobby will also look refreshed when you attend the Opening Day ceremony on Monday, August 10. These are but a few of the changes you will notice in the coming years as the \$53.6 million bond issue is being implemented.

With the many changes taking place this year, the district is implementing new safety and security procedures that will help ensure the safety of our staff. Beginning this school year, staff members will need to vacate their buildings no later than 9:00 p.m. in the evening (unless there is a school sponsored event that goes beyond that time). This will allow the custodial staff to remain productive as well as securing our buildings earlier.

Also, as many teachers/staff members from Barbara Jordan Elementary School are being transitioned to new classrooms, you may make arrangements to begin setting up your classroom/office prior to August 10 by contacting your principal.

As always, our focus will remain on academics, including programs that will be implemented to enhance any student's learning experience. Some of these programs or initiatives include Academic Literacy, a reading program for ninth graders; Balanced Literacy, and Everyday Mathematics at the elementary level; Robotics; and the Scholastic Reading Inventory will be expanded to include grades 7-12.

During the Opening Day ceremonies on August 10, you will hear more about the District's vision and direction and your role in helping to accomplish these goals. The District's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, or CSIP as it is most often referred, plays a vital role in the District attaining academic achievement for all students, highly qualified staff, facilities, support and instructional resources, parent and community involvement, and finally, governance and administration. With these five components working together, it is possible to meet and exceed local, state and national standards, accept and embrace diversity, provide safe and secure learning environments and instill pride in students, staff and throughout our community.

New administrators have joined the District team and include Dr. Darryl Cobb, assistant superintendent for human resources; Mr. Jim Jennings, communications coordinator; and principals Dr. Jamie Jordan and Mr. Tim Wernentin, at Brittany Woods Middle School and University City High School, respectively. Please welcome them when you get the opportunity.

Here's to another good year as we work together in being dedicated to educational excellence for all students.

Sincerely,


Joylynn L. Wilson
Superintendent of Schools



Joylynn L. Wilson

Saturday, August 1
9 a.m. - noon
Back-To-School Rally
on McNair Campus
Call 314/290-4058 to volunteer.

August 4-6 - **New Teacher Institute**

Monday, August 10
7:30 a.m.
Opening Day Ceremony
(for ALL staff)
University City High School Auditorium
10 a.m. - **Building/Departmental Meetings**

August 11, 12 & 13
Building Meetings & Teacher Work Days

Friday, August 14
Schools & Offices Open
(Non-contract day)
Freshmen begin at UCHS

Monday, August 17
First day of School - Classes begin

Changing the Work to Raise the Level of Challenge

OPENING DAY ACTIVITIES for the School District of University City will be held on Monday, August 10, at University City High School (UCHS), located at 7401 Balson Ave. A continental breakfast will be served at 7:30 in the UCHS foyer. A slide show video will be shown congruently in the UCHS auditorium.

All staff is expected to sit together by school or location for the general session that begins promptly at 8:15 a.m.

The keynote speaker for the day is Joylynn Wilson, superintendent of schools. Her topic will be "Changing the Work to Raise the Level of Challenge."

Following the morning ceremony, all employees will be excused for building/departmental meetings before lunch. Support staff will be directed where to report for any special meetings.

Tell us about it!

The Communications & Media department is excited to tell our community and the nation about the great things happening in the School District of University City. To do that, we need you to let us now about the great things occurring in your schools and with your fellow staff members.

Call or email Jim Jennings, communications coordinator, 314/290-4016 - jjennings@u-city.k12.mo.us, or CarolAnn Cole, 314/290-04019 - ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us.

Exciting changes for the 2009-2010 school year

This 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 is hosting its third annual communitywide Back-To-School Rally on Saturday, August 1, from 9 a.m. to noon, on the McNair Campus, located at 8136 Groby Road.**
- ▶ Jamie Jordan, Ed.D. and Timothy R. Wernentin have been named principals for Brittany Woods Middle School and University City High School (UCHS), respectively.
- ▶ Other administrative changes at UCHS include Christopher Blumenhorst named associate principal and a reduction to two assistant principals Dayle Burgdorf and D'Angello Collier.
- ▶ Darryl Cobb, Ed.D. has been named the assistant superintendent of human resources.
- ▶ Jim Jennings is the new communications coordinator.
- ▶ Classes begin Monday, August 17, with UCHS freshmen returning on Friday, August 14, for orientation.
- ▶ Voters in the School District of University City said "yes" to the April 7 Proposition U, a \$53.6 million zero tax-rate-increase bond measure. Funds from the bond issue will finance the construction of two new schools - Barbara Jordan and Pershing elementary schools on their existing sites, and pay for renovations at Jackson Park and Flynn Park elementary schools as well as Brittany Woods Middle and University City High schools.
- ▶ In July 2009, Barbara C. Jordan School was cleared of all usable furnishings and materials and moved into the

EXCITING CHANGES FOR 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR continued on back

. . . dedicated to education excellence!

- McNair Administration Building, where students will be taught for the 2009-2010 school year. Staff are invited to attend Barbara C. Jordan's Parent Meeting on August 13 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the McNair Administration Building, to learn more about construction projects, logistical plans and timelines.
- ▶ The Lieberman Learning Center has been moved to Brittany Woods Middle School.
 - ▶ At press time, the University City Adult Education and Literacy program is still looking for a new home.
 - ▶ Work will begin on Pershing School soon after the new Barbara C. Jordan School is completed.
 - ▶ Construction renovations that began this summer at the middle school include replacement of the neutral air units and repairs to the fluid cooler. The library and classroom additions will begin this fall.
 - ▶ Construction renovations that began this summer at UCHS include tuck pointing, lintel and Balson Road entry doors replacements, construction of handicap parking and a wheelchair ramp to the gymnasium, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) modifications to the restrooms adjacent to the gym, construction of restrooms adjacent to the cafeteria and an elevator shaft, aesthetic improvements to the front entry and repairs to the front stairs of the building.
 - ▶ Construction renovations at Jackson Park and Flynn Park elementary schools for this summer include tuck pointing, lintel replacements, foundation waterproofing, replacement of the neutral air unit and repairs to the fluid cooler. The additions to these schools are scheduled to begin in the summer of 2010.
 - ▶ Technological infrastructure updates for the new school year are planned in areas impacted by the recent bond issue; along with improved Internet filtering and new classroom management software throughout the District.
 - ▶ Professional development for educators has been expanded to monthly opportunities and will include a new partnership between Washington University and the middle school teachers.
 - ▶ Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) will be expanded to include grades 7-12.
 - ▶ UCHS is offering a new Academic Literacy course for all freshmen.
 - ▶ FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics teams in the District, initiated at Flynn Park Elementary School in 2007, are expanding for 2009-2010 to include UCHS FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) and FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC). FIRST Lego League (FLL) teams are organizing for Brittany Woods Middle School along with Barbara C Jordan, Delmar-Harvard and Flynn Park elementary schools for the 2009-2010 school year.
 - ▶ Kuder expands to include seventh grade students. Visit www.missouriconnections.org for more information.

Fall cycle grant applications due by August 26

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 2009 Cycle Grant is August 26. Applications are available online at www.ucityschools.org and are emailed to staff throughout the school year.

Donations to help support Foundation efforts may be mailed to UCEF, 8136 Groby Road, University City, MO 63130. For more information, contact the cycle grant committee chair Barbara Santoro at bdesantoro@aol.com or 314/725-6206.



Sales tax break for back-to-school purchases, August 7-9

Thanks to a bill signed into law by former Governor Matt Blunt, Missourians have been given a permanent sales tax holiday during the first weekend in August, for back-to-school purchases. The holiday will exempt tax on certain clothing up to \$100, school supplies up to \$50, computer software up to \$350 and personal computers or peripheral devices up to \$3,500 bought for personal use. The legislation automatically suspends the state's 4.225 percent sales tax, along with local taxes in many areas.

Although University City does not participate in the tax-free holiday, many other neighboring Missouri municipalities will provide tax-free shopping opportunities on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

For more information, or to read the actual bill, visit <http://dor.mo.gov/tax/business/sales/taxholiday/school>.

SCHOOL DISTRICT of UNIVERSITY CITY

Back-to-School Rally

First Saturday in August · 9 a.m. to 12 noon

A communitywide event held on McNair Campus, 8136 Groby

Dedicated to Educational Excellence

Employees interested in volunteering for the August 1 Rally are asked to contact Kelly Mueller at kmuller@u-city.k12.mo.us or 314/290-4058.

BEYOND our schools' walls

Nikki Davenport, District math/science coordinator, participated in the Four-State Environmental Literacy Plan Summit on June 29 - July 1 sponsored in part by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to the Missouri Environmental Education Association (MEEA) to bring educational leaders from Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa together to share ideas and help develop state environmental literacy plans to set the frameworks for educational programs and ultimately lead to environmentally literate citizenry of vital and sustainable communities.



UCHS history teacher **Darlene Donegan** was honored as an outstanding teacher by the Missouri Scholars Academy on June 22 at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She was nominated in an essay written by Jason Mavropoulos.



Superintendent **Joylynn Wilson** visited China on June 22-30 as part of the National Superintendents Roundtable for a tour of the country and to discover ways to bring Chinese influences into District classrooms, as well as network with Chinese and American educational leaders.



Scott Hafertepe, the District's chief financial officer, and his wife, Kimberly, welcomed their daughter, Shay Victoria Hafertepe, (7 lbs, 5 oz. and 20 inches long) into their family on July 4. She was born at 3:12 a.m.

KidSmart offers free school supplies for students through teachers

Through the "Volunteer To Shop" Program, KidSmart offers certified classroom teachers in PreK-12 the opportunity to help students in their classrooms who may not have the supplies necessary to enrich their learning experience.

Armed with an official letter from the principal verifying status as certificated staff with teaching assignment, teachers may attend an orientation and volunteer for three hours in KidSmart's free educational supply store and earn a shopping trip valued up to \$500, limit one per month. In University City, Barbara C. Jordan, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Pershing schools are qualified as "Special Shoppers." Teachers in these three schools are only required to volunteer three hours each year, in order to shop once per month throughout the year. This program is available to all certificated art, music, physical education, self-contained special education and regular classroom teachers for prekindergarten through grade twelve.

KidSmart's mission is to ensure that children and their classrooms in the Greater Metropolitan St. Louis Area have the basic tools for learning by transferring, at no cost, the community's surplus supplies and merchandise into the hands of teachers for school children in need.

The store is in the process of reorganizing for the 2009-2010 school year and will reopen in August. Teachers are asked to visit their website at www.kidsmartstl.org for updated posting of store hours. KidSmart is located at 12175 Bridgeton Square Drive, Bridgeton, MO 63044 (near the intersection of McKelvey and St. Charles Rock Rd.).

For more information about KidSmart, contact Danielle Sallee, operations manager at (314) 291-6211 or email danielle@kidsmartstl.org.

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 e-mailed 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.

Applicants for admission or employment, students, parents of elementary and secondary school students, employees, sources of referral, and all professional organizations that have entered into agreements with the School District of University City are hereby notified that our School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. Inquiries or concerns regarding the application of this notice may be referred to our School District's Compliance Coordinator for civil rights laws, Dr. Daryyl Cobb, Assistant Superintendent/Human Resources, 8136 Groby Road, University City, MO 63130, phone (314) 290-4023. Any person who is unable to resolve a problem or grievance arising under Title VI (race/color/national origin), Title IX (sex), the Age Discrimination Act (age), Section 504 (disability), or Title II of the ADA (disability), may contact the Office for Civil Rights, Region VII, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114; phone (816) 268-0550.

Dated Material. Distribute as soon as possible.

SCHOOL DISTRICT of UNIVERSITY CITY
8136 Groby Road
University City, MO 63130