



For and about University City High School

November 21, 2011

A Word From Our Principal

Parent-teacher conferences were a huge success. If you were unable to make it during that time, you may call and make an appointment or email your questions to teachers.

As we approach the holiday season, remember that the best gifts are ones that enhance our students' education. Consider giving books, computers, flash cards, magazine subscriptions, science equipment, musical instruments, and art supplies. These are the gifts that keep on giving.

Due to the late start this school year, the semester will not end until January 20, 2012. To help our students prepare for final exams, the three days before finals in January will be changed to "U" days on the calendar. These are days when students meet with all of their teachers for 45 minutes each.

Be prepared for inclement weather days by making sure you are receiving SIS calls from the high school. If you received a call on November 9 at about 6:30 PM regarding parent-teacher conferences then you are all set. If you did not receive a call, please call 314-290-4118 to give us your updated contact information so that you will receive inclement weather calls when they go out. Also we are now making automatic calls when students miss two or more class periods unexcused. If you think you have received these calls in error please call the attendance office.

The year is flying by! Please take a close look at your student's grades and attendance. Take some time this long holiday weekend to talk about future plans and what your student would like to do after high school. It is never too early to start planning! The next task will be choosing classes for the 2012-2013 school year.

Please be safe if you are traveling this weekend and if you have questions or concerns about grades or attendance please contact us immediately.

Sincerely,

Ms. Dayle Burgdorf, Interim Principal

Please remember to use your Schnucks Scrip card when you buy your groceries. The PTO gets a percentage of your bill, and it doesn't cost you a thing!

UCHS Calendar

November

- 23 Early release for staff professional development
- 24,25 NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving break

December

- 1 7 pm Athletic Boosters meeting
- 1 7 pm Winter concert in the auditorium \$5 admission
- 6 6:30 pm Financial Aid Night
- 7 9:30 – 10:30 am SSD coffee at McNair Admin. Bldg. is open to all parents and family members throughout the district.
- 10 8 am ACT test at UCHS
- 10 6:30 pm Kinesis Dance Concert \$5 admission
- 14 7 pm High School PTO meeting in library
- 22 Early Release

NO SCHOOL during Winter Break December 22 – January 3. SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 3

Colleges Visiting UCHS

Students need a pass from their guidance counselor to attend these sessions

Wed. Nov. 2	U. of Missouri St. Louis at 11 am Ozark College at 1:30 pm
Thurs. Nov. 3	Webster U. at 8:45 am Earlham College at 10 am
Mon. Nov. 7	Maryville U. at 11:30 am
Tues. Nov. 15	Ball State U. at 11:30 am
Tues. Nov. 22	Yale U. at 11 am
Tues. Nov. 29	Northwest Mo. State at 12:30

Dec. 6 Financial Assistance 101 for Seniors

Seniors and their families are invited to attend this financial aid program at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria. Presenter Jessie McCoy from Commerce Bank will provide assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and information on scholarships for college. For more details, contact Rashida Miller at 314-290-4111 or email ramiller@ucityschools.org.

The high school STILL needs donations of merchandise for its UROAR Exchange store.

Students redeem their Lion Bucks, given for doing the right thing, for real merchandise. Donations of small tubes of hand lotion, lip gloss, lip balm, hats, ear buds and gift cards would all be appreciated, as well as anything you

think high school students would like, except for candy or food. Bring items to the school office or to conferences.

Did You Know...

TREND (Turning Resources and Energies into New Directions) will be having a toy drive for the Family Haven's Christmas party. Please drop unwrapped items for ages 0 to 10 years old items with Ms. Quintal in the computer lab by Dec. 14.

E-Books are now available! Students can study at home using reference materials and other titles online. First log on to the U. City School District Website, (ucityschools.org). Next go to the drop down menu on the right side and choose University City High School. Now, choose the library button on the left side of the screen. In the center portion will be Library Media Center. Click on the article for our library. Underneath the Welcome are two icons: Follett E-Books and our Library Catalog. Both of these resources can be used from home or school. Students use their school computer login to access these tools. Online databases are also available and students use the login: *ucity* and the password: *lions* to complete research at home

On November 29 and 30, Ms. Ross, Junior Counselor, will present college planning information to juniors during their English classes. Parents, you can use this information to prompt some good discussion around the dinner table. It is NOT too early to start planning your higher education strategy.

Athletic Report

Winter sports are off to a roaring start. Basketball and wrestling started practice on October 31 and girls swimming just started on November 14. The wrestling team welcomes back Tarique Jefferson, a returning state qualifier and a medalist favorite this season. Lynden Peoples and Gianni Cook are the other returning lettermen. The Boys basketball team returns Trevon Williams, a pre-season all-metro pick along with seniors Avion Ashford, Markus Ashford, and Jeffrey McGhee.

Girls Basketball has a lot of experience returning. Seniors Autumn Jacobs, Brennan Jones, Domonique Union, Diarra Williams, and Amber Taylor are just some of the returning lettermen from last year looking to have a big impact in their last season.

Girls Swimming has a large turnout again this season. Led by seniors Keana Henderson and Shayla Jackson, the Lady Lions should prove to be formidable opponents this season.

SSD Programs And Scholarships

The next U City Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Parent-to-Parent Coffee will be Wednesday, December 7, 9:30 am at the McNair Administration Building.. Judy Presberg, a member of the SSD Parent Education staff will be

discussing support services and resources available to SSD families.

The February 6 coffee, 7:00 pm at the Flynn Park Library will be about transitions: year-to-year, school-to-school & after. Guest Speaker: Sandra Kempf, SSD Transition Facilitator for University City. For questions or more information, contact Shelley Shray, sshray@sbcglobal.net or 314-863-1918.

MOBLN (Missouri Business Leaders Network) Scholarship for High School Senior with a disability who is college bound. Applications are due March 15, 2012. Go to www.mobln.org.

College fair for students with LD and/or ADD, March 5, 2012 at Churchill School 6:00 - 8:00 pm - more information will become available in the coming weeks.

visit https://iwiki.ssdmo.org/groups/parentprogram/wiki/54e8b/Parent_Workshops.html for a complete list of free workshops offered by Special School District.

UCHS Alum Returns as College Bound Coach

Charles Levinson (UCHS Class of 2007) has recently returned home to University City High School in his new role as a College Coach for College Bound-St. Louis. College Bound assists UCHS students who are interested in applying, gaining acceptance, and completing degrees from four-year selective universities. Along with teaching partner Candice Combs, Charles coaches the sophomore class and supports his students as they begin to pave their path towards success in college.

Growing up in University City, Charles developed an awareness of the differing levels of support his peers received, and the resulting effects on their pursuit of a college education. As an undergraduate at the University of Miami, Charles developed a passion for community service through his engagement both on and off campus, and volunteering during his Spring Breaks. Charles applied for the position with College Bound after learning about it through the AmeriCorps website, and accepted the position during his final semester of college.

"I was thrilled to have the opportunity to work for College Bound," said Charles, who has friends from high school currently in the College Bound Persistence program. "I have seen some amazing things so far – from my students' enthusiasm as we volunteered at Kingdom House at nine a.m. on a Saturday, to their engagement in class. They are motivated, and I am glad I can be here with the rest of the CB staff to support them. I know the potential that U. City students possess."

Charlie feels "It is strange to be working with some of the teachers who taught me just a few years ago, but I am grateful for the support they have shown me. I have so many ties to U. City, so it is amazing to have the opportunity to give back."