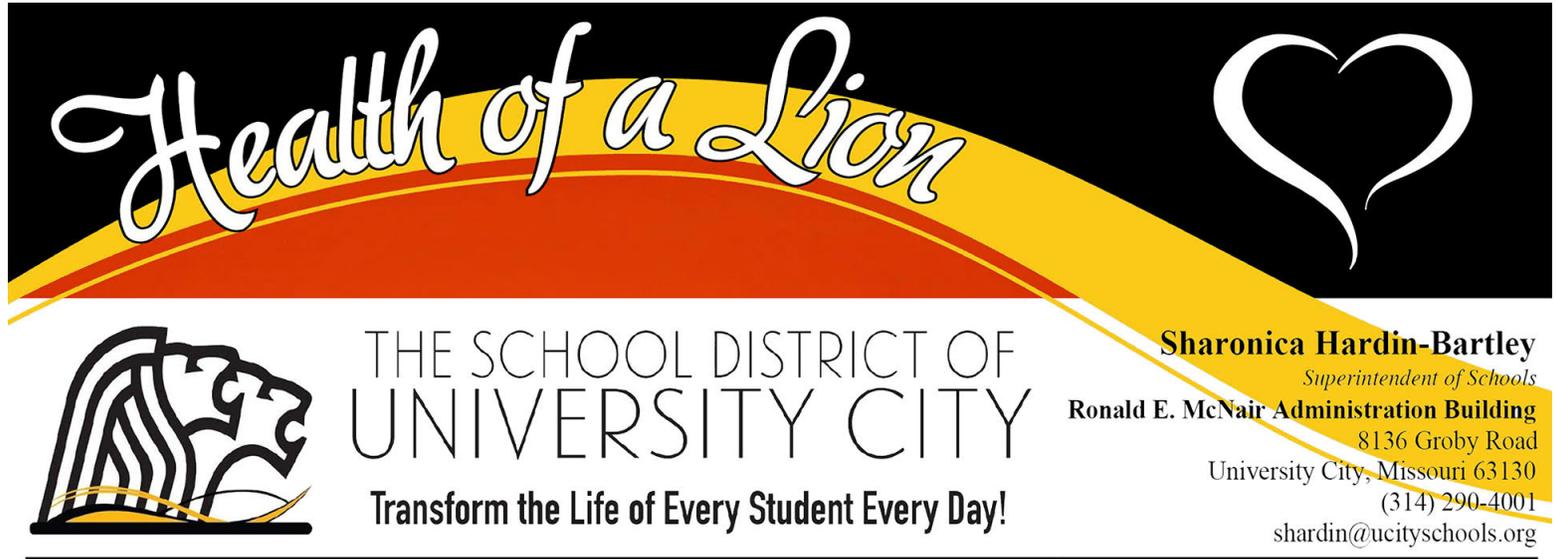


## Words of support and updates

1 message

**Sharonica Hardin-Bartley** <news@ucityschools.org>  
Reply-To: communications@ucityschools.org

Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 3:01 PM



*Health of a Lion*

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
**UNIVERSITY CITY**  
Transform the Life of Every Student Every Day!

**Sharonica Hardin-Bartley**  
Superintendent of Schools  
Ronald E. McNair Administration Building  
8136 Groby Road  
University City, Missouri 63130  
(314) 290-4001  
shardin@ucityschools.org

Para leer en español, [haga clic aquí](#).

Dear U. City Schools Families:

As I write to you today, I can't emphasize the importance of taking care of yourself to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to nurture your well-being during such a stressful and tumultuous time in our country.

I share in your disgust, alarm, and, frankly, trauma last week with the violent actions within the walls of the nation's Capitol Building. I understand and feel your frustration and alienation as the world witnessed our inability to stop an all-white and violent crowd from threatening our leaders' lives and our Democracy. And, we continue to deal with several unknowns.

And yet, we move forward intentionally and thoughtfully with our mantra of "safe, gradual, and kind." We are taking safe care of your children and our staff regarding COVID-19 and giving them outlets to speak in class and share their feelings about our country's current political climate. This week, we joyfully welcomed back our 7th and 8th graders to in-person instruction. And, we are now in conversations to bring many of our younger grades back to four days a week of in-person instruction. You will hear more about that soon.

Here are several updates and reminders:

- This week, the University City Board of Education announced that Dr. Natalie Parks, UCHS Class of '95, is the recipient of the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Spirit Award. We cannot congratulate Natalie in-person this year, but we were able to celebrate her accomplishments in [this moving video](#) that features remarks by her. Congratulations, Natalie, for your service to our community and your unflinching work on behalf of racial equity and inclusion!
- Our school nurses are scheduled to receive the COVID-19 vaccine starting next week, and we are eagerly awaiting February when we expect the vaccine to be available to staff in close proximity to students.
- My next Zoom with the Superintendent sessions are Tuesday, Jan.19 at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. To attend one or both of the sessions next week, click [here](#).
- The Board of Education has approved a contract for the sale of the McNair Administration Building. We will share more details soon.

- There will be no classes and offices will be closed this Monday, January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Day. Classes will resume with their normal cohort schedules on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

In closing, remember to take those intentional deep breaths, tune in to the moment when you can and stay attuned to your and your children's feelings so you can be there for them if they have questions or worries regarding the current climate in our country. You are all in my thoughts. As always, I can be reached at [shardin@ucityschools.org](mailto:shardin@ucityschools.org) or on my cell phone at 314-399-0941.

In Service of Our Children,

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, Ph.D., PHR  
*Superintendent*

[Click here to view video](#)



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**Welcome Back  
 Brittany Woods Students**



**2021 MLK Spirit Award Winner  
 Dr. Natalie Parks**

