

Friday news and updates

1 message

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Health of a Lion



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
UNIVERSITY CITY

Transform the Life of Every Student Every Day!

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Good afternoon University City Families,

We were delighted on Thursday to bring back our K-8 students to our new four-day per week in-person learning schedule despite a week of cruel temperatures and snow.

As I presented to our Board of Education last night, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and The U.S. Department of Education have issued more specific COVID-19 safety guidelines regarding schools. I'm pleased to say that we remain ahead of the curve. Under the new guidelines our schools are deemed safe and continue to operate with excellent, research-based safety standards.

Even with these new guidelines, we are striving to maintain maximum physical distancing of at least three to six feet. To ensure we maintain those standards, **parents who picked all-virtual learning must stick with their original choice at least through spring break.** This will give us adequate time to safely adjust for more spacing if more students want to return to in-person learning.

High School re-entry and ACT testing and prep

After a webinar held earlier this month to introduce the concept of Distance Learning Hubs for student re-entry at the high school, we heard considerable feedback from our parents and students. I invite grade 9-12 parents to rejoin us this Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 5 p.m. in another webinar to learn in more detail our plan to bring back seniors and freshmen on March 8 and juniors and sophomores on April 8. We will discuss refined plans for academic support, social emotional wellness and visual and performing arts instruction. Parents should register at www.ucityschools.org/UCHSo22421 to receive a link and password. I encourage everyone to attend.

The high school is continuing to offer juniors free prep for the ACT on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Please make sure to touch base with your junior about taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity. In addition, on March 2, all high school juniors will take the free, practice ACT **at the high school** at 8 a.m. The testing will be held in a designated space with physical distancing in place. Masks must be worn. **Registration is required and has been extended through this Sunday, February 21.** For more information, contact kjohnson@ucityschools.org.

Key dates and many upcoming events

I also want to again encourage you to attend Dr. Denise Hooks-Anderson's talk next Tuesday evening on the COVID-19 vaccine. And, I hope you have time to attend our virtual **Ubuntu Community Conversation** next Wednesday when participants will continue to address ways to redesign school and community systems so they improve student social and emotional wellness already impacted by COVID-19. See further details below.

Additionally, in keeping with our Health of a Lion theme, I'm excited to announce a new and free series of talks in partnership with Alive and Well Communities open to the entire community. The **Community Empowerment Series** addresses trauma and toxic stress and provides proven tools for coping and thriving so our minds and bodies can be well. These sessions are valuable to anyone. I love Alive and Well Communities because its work is based in racial equity and recognizes further that the Black community copes with additional trauma created by structural racism. For more information, [click here](#).

- Sunday, Feb. 21: Deadline for UCHS juniors to register for mandatory practice ACT on March 2. [Click here to register](#).
- Tuesday, Feb. 23: Safe, Healthy, Wise: Debunking COVID-19 Myths with Dr. Denise Hooks Anderson at 5 p.m. [Click here to register](#).
- Wednesday, Feb. 24: UCHS all-parent webinar to discuss re-entry at 5 p.m. [Click here to register](#).
- Wednesday, Feb. 24: Virtual Ubuntu Community Conversation at 6:30 p.m. [Click here to register](#).
- Thursday, Feb. 25, BWMS Incoming 6th Grade Parent Webinar Night at 6 p.m. [Click here to register](#).
- Friday, Feb. 26: BWMS Black History Month Trivia Night at 7 p.m. [Click here to register](#).
- Tuesday, March 2: UCHS juniors take ACT practice test on campus at 8 a.m. Registration by this Sunday is mandatory. [Click here to register](#).
- Tuesday, March 2: Zoom with the Superintendent at 9 a.m. and/or 5 p.m. [Click here to register](#).
- Wednesday and Thursday, March 3-4: Evening virtual parent-teacher conferences. Parents will hear directly from their schools to schedule conferences.
- Friday, March 5: No classes.
- Wednesday, March 10: Know Thyself - We Are More Than Our Experiences, the first of Alive and Well Communities' Community Empowerment Virtual Sessions. [Click here to register](#).

As you can see from the breadth of our events and activities, we are not slowing down. I'm looking forward to marching ahead into the spring with you when we will have even more activities and events. As always, you can reach me by email at shardin@ucityschools.org or on my cell phone at 314-399-0941.

In Service of Our Children,

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



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