



Friday updates and Spring Break video

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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Dear University City Schools Community:

One year ago all of our lives changed overnight. Big plans fell through. Fear gripped us. We were isolated. Some of us became very sick while others tended to or grieved the traumatic loss of people they love.

Once again, we grapple with another horrific shooting this week influenced by racial hatred, this time against Asian-Americans. This pattern must stop for everyone's well-being, and it sends a clear message that we must double-down on educating our students about inequity, social justice, action for change, positive relationships and kindness.

During Spring Break, I hope you get some peace and time for reflection and healing. When we return, spring will be in full bloom and the District will be busy as a year's worth of work comes to fruition through celebrations, final projects and, of course, graduations. As I write this, a group of our high school students are planning an ambitious new sustainability program starting this spring called [Growing Together: The U. City Schools Food Garden Network](#). Our youth are planning ways for all of our families to plant seeds, nurture soil and grow food. I cannot help but think of the symbolism here. In one of our hardest winters, our students planted the seeds of something wonderful to nurture and bring our community together.

I consider this a stellar example of resilience and empathy. In partnership, our entire school community will be reflecting on their resilience and strengths this spring - the ways they grew during an international crisis. You'll be seeing this in some District-wide activities and a safe outdoor community event early in May. As we move forward, we must embrace our strength, our community and our growth that took place this year because this is the key to well-being and joy.

Please take a look at my annual [spring break video](#). And please, congratulate our 200-plus staff members who braved the rain and were vaccinated against COVID-19 this past Thursday at a special educator clinic at Vashon High School. It was a celebratory event, and I am so proud of them.

A few reminders

Learning is all-virtual the week we return from Spring Break (March 29-April 2). Open registration for Camp U is the Tuesday (March 30) after we return from Spring Break. There is still room to register for in-person kindergarten open houses on March 30. Virtual open house options will be available soon. See below for more details and links:

- **Monday, March 22 - Friday, March 26:** Spring Break, no classes.
- **Friday, March 26** - District offices closed.
- **Monday, March 29 - Friday, April 2:** All-virtual learning from home. No in-person instruction or Distance Learning Hubs.
- **Tuesday, March 30:** Online open enrollment begins for [Camp U: A summer of Exploration and Discovery](#).
- **Tuesday, March 30:** In-person Kindergarten Open House night for prospective parents or district families enrolling a kindergarten child next August. Sessions at 4:30 or 5:30 p.m. [Click here to register to attend](#).

Finally, in April, you can expect to start receiving plans for the 2021-22 school year which will require your input. Stay tuned. As always, I am available 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

[Click here to see Spring Break video](#)



Vaccine Day



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