Hello University City Schools Families,

Here we are, days away from the start of the 2021-22 school year. We are ready and so excited to welcome everyone back! The first day of classes is Monday, August 23. Classes for all students will be held in-person, five days a week at all schools. Next week we are also very busy with social and orientation events at every school for parents and students. They are listed below in the Key Dates section. We hope to see you soon.

NEW: Return to School Planning Guide

I am very pleased to present to you the District’s August 2021 Return to School Planning Guide which outlines how our community will remain Safe, Healthy, Flourishing and Connected. Additionally our COVID-19 website has been fully updated for the 2021-22 school year.

The guide details our safety and health protocols in addition to plans for social emotional wellness, rigorous and relevant instruction, racial equity, enrichment through athletics and other activities, and more. The guide further provides contact information by school, including principals, nurses and others. There is also a Frequently Asked Questions section at the end of the guide.

Please note, everything in the guide is fluid and may be subject to change as the year progresses given the unpredictable nature of COVID-19. We remain committed to science, public health metrics, and the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our medical expert partners at Washington University. We will continue to work in collaboration with all of you to make sure you remain fully informed.

You can find the guide directly by going to www.ucityschools.org/2021returntoschool. It is also posted in several places on the District website.

Masking and Screening
The University City Board of Education is expected to formally vote next Thursday on our masking policy to affirm our commitment to this critical COVID-19 prevention protocol. As outlined in the Return to School Planning Guide, we will continue to wear face masks in all of our buildings. Masking applies to all students in grades preK-12.

We will not continue using the daily health screening app from last year. Parents are asked instead to assess their children every morning prior to coming to school for COVID-19 symptoms. You can learn more about this assessment in the Return to School Planning Guide.

**SSD Parent Meeting**
Artondria Bentley joined the District in July as our new director of SSD. She will be hosting a Zoom meeting next Wednesday, August 18 at 5 p.m. to say hello and field any questions from parents. To register for a link and password go to [www.ucityschools.org/SSD081821](http://www.ucityschools.org/SSD081821).

**Virtual Instruction Parent Meeting**
The District highly recommends that students attend in-person instruction five days a week in all grades as it is best aligned to our vision of Learning Reimagined.

For those who do choose virtual learning, students in grades K-8 will take MOCAP (The Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program) curriculum. This is a semester-long array of virtual courses/instruction administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). High school students will enroll in Launch courses for the semester.

Dr. JaNae’ Alfred will be the District’s main contact for virtual learning. She will be holding two Zoom meeting sessions at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Thursday, August 19 for parents considering these options. To register for a session click here: [www.ucityschools.org/virtual081921](http://www.ucityschools.org/virtual081921).
If you have not done so already, please let your school principals know no later than Friday, August 20 if your child will be doing virtual instruction from home.

**Freshmen and Sophomore High School Orientations**
Incoming freshmen will meet at the high school at 8:05 a.m. on Friday, August 19 for a half-day of orientation. Incoming sophomores are invited to attend Sophomore Kick-Back in the high school stadium next Wednesday, August 18 from 5 to 8 p.m. This event will offer DJ music, food, games, and team-building activities as well as guided building tours. See the key dates below for more orientation events at other schools scheduled for next week.

**We’ve Moved!**
Most of our senior administrative offices relocated this week to our new building at 7700 Olive Boulevard at the intersection of North and South. Offices housed in the new location include: Superintendent, Human Resources, Student Services, SSD, Finance and Communications. The Office of Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) has relocated to the high school. Lieberman Learning Center has also relocated to the high school. We no longer conduct any district business or activities at the 8136 Groby Road building.

We will be planning a celebration of the new 7700 Olive building and the new Lieberman Learning Center spaces in the fall. A committee of parents, community members and staff recommended last month that the new administration building remain named the McNair Administration Building. The committee will be holding a community feedback meeting about the proposed name in early September. More information will be forthcoming.

**Key Dates**
- **August 17, Zoom with the Superintendent**, 9 a.m. or 5 p.m. Learn about our Safe, Healthy, Flourishing and Connected Return to School Planning Guide for the upcoming school year. To register for a link and a password: [www.ucityschools.org/Zoom](http://www.ucityschools.org/Zoom).
• **August 17, Jackson Park Meet the Teachers and Snow Cones**, 6 to 7 p.m. at Jackson Park for all Jackson Park families.

• **August 18, Meet the new Special School District (SSD) Director** on Zoom, 5 p.m. Register at [www.ucityschools.org/SSD081821](http://www.ucityschools.org/SSD081821).

• **August 18, Sophomore Kick-Back**, 5 to 8 p.m. in the high school stadium: DJ music, food, games, and team-building activities as well as guided building tours. Check-in at stadium entrance.

• **August 19, Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center Open House**, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. More information coming from the school with specific time for your child’s classroom.

• **August 19, Brittany Woods Middle School Open House**, 3 to 7 p.m. Students, walk through your new schedules, move into your lockers, get your school pics, tune up your Chromebooks, socialize with your friends and more. COVID-19 vaccines available!

• **August 19, Flynn Park Kindergarten Open House**, 4 to 6 p.m. More information coming from the school.

• **August 19, Virtual Instruction Zoom Meeting**, 9 a.m. or 5 p.m., for parents considering a full virtual learning option for the fall of 2021. Register [here](http://www.ucityschools.org/SSD081821).

• **August 19, Regular School Board Meeting** (virtual), 7 p.m. To register to attend or make citizen comment, click [here](http://www.ucityschools.org/SSD081821).

• **August 20, Flynn Park Elementary Meet the Teachers**, 4 to 6 p.m. at Flynn Park for all Flynn Park families.

• **August 20, Pershing Elementary Open House**, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Pershing for all Pershing families.

• **August 20, Ninth Grade Orientation**, 8:05 a.m. at University City High School for a half-day of activities.

• **August 23, First Day of School** for all students.

The week before school starts is a busy, sometimes stressful, but exciting time. I wish you rest and peace, and give you my heartfelt assurances that we are ready for a fantastic school year ahead. As always, I can be reached at any time via email 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

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School District of University City would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact School District of University City directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](http://www.ucityschools.org/SSD081821)

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation’s leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.