Hello University City Schools Families,

Our first week of school was filled with smiles, enthusiasm, positive energy, and, yes, love. We are ecstatic to have our children back for in-person learning and are grateful to have such amazing parents and caregivers.

As the school year continues, please remember that we are still deeply in a global pandemic. The decision one family makes can impact hundreds of people. Remain cognizant of COVID-19 mitigating measures and monitor symptoms closely. We understand the current metrics related to the Delta variant and want to do our part to keep our students and staff in school buildings safe. We can't accomplish this goal without your support. So, thank you!

**Quarantine procedures**

Several families have inquired regarding our quarantine procedures. Please see the recently updated [St. Louis County Department of Health school guidance](#) issued this week. The district is finishing up a user-friendly document to explain our procedures further. Please expect to see that document by next week.

**Canvas Learning Management System (LMS)**

A new year brings some changes to how we do things. This year all students have been given a Canvas LMS account. Canvas is a content learning platform that enables students to access their learning materials for each classroom, keep track of and submit assignments, gain access to learning resources, see feedback from teachers, track grades and more. As a parent, you can also access Canvas as an observer of your child. You can sign-up for an observer account on a desktop computer or with an app downloaded to your phone or tablet device. When you login with a Canvas observer account you can check in on your students progress and view
assignments, but not edit or interact with the class.

Next week, you can expect to receive a user-friendly Getting Started with Canvas guide that provides step-by-step instructions on how to sign up for your parent observer account. Additionally, you can expect additional support with future videos and a parent coffee where you can join staff, in-person, who will demonstrate this powerful learning and communication tool to you.

**Vaccine Incentives**
The University City Board of Education has approved a COVID-19 vaccine incentive program for all staff. The $600 cash incentive is available to all staff who are fully immunized by September 15 and requires them to verify their status by submitting their immunization card to Human Resources. This is intended to increase our ranks of vaccinated employees. This will further give us an accurate picture of immunization rates and greatly assist in contact tracing. We will communicate our vaccination rates to you in September.

The first week of school always presents an emotional tapestry of joy, relief, anticipation and challenges. The tapestry grows even heavier as we also deal with hard news regarding the pandemic and world affairs. I am hoping to rest some this weekend and have some time with friends. I hope that you, too, get the chance to have time for yourself. Also, remember to check-in this weekend with your children. Breathe in their spirit, guide them and support them as they take on another courageous step of growing, learning and becoming their true, wonderful selves.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at shardin@ucityschools.org or on my cell phone at 314-399-0941.

In Service of Our Children,

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, PhD, PHR
*Superintendent*

Please see these additional informational fliers that dispel myths about the COVID-19 vaccine.
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: Untsubscribe

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.