Hello University City Parents,

We are two weeks into the school year, and yes, the excitement of the new year continues to fill our hallways, classrooms, playgrounds, and district offices. We are thrilled to have students at school. Parents and caregivers, thank you for doing your part at home to keep our entire school community safe.

**Getting Started with Canvas**

As promised, we have additional information regarding our Canvas Learning Management System (LMS). Canvas is a tool to provide parents and caregivers with resources and information about their child’s educational experience. Our new "Getting Started with Canvas" how-to-guide for parents assists with account setup and provides other pertinent information regarding Canvas.

There is a step-by-step process you will need to follow to sign-up and pair with your children(s) account(s). You can access those instructions under the parent button menu on the District home page, or by going to [www.ucityschools.org/CanvasHowTo](http://www.ucityschools.org/CanvasHowTo). I appreciate your patience as we implement this powerful resource, and we look forward to hearing your feedback.

**COVID-19 Resources**

We have new Decision Tree graphics for you to help you determine if it is OK to send your child to school. The flow charts can help you determine the steps you need to take if your child has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or exposed to COVID-19. It is directly accessible through the link [www.ucityschools.org/DecisionTree](http://www.ucityschools.org/DecisionTree). Other resources include:

- A full Return to School Planning Guide
A COVID-19 website
A COVID-19 dashboard to track active cases and quarantines by District and building

Staff Vaccination Incentive Statistics
Last week, I announced a vaccination incentive program for staff members who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. As of today we have a 67% participation rate with 251 out of 372 eligible staff members applying for the incentive. We are hopeful this rate will increase. Staff have until September 15 to sign up for the program.

Curriculum Nights
Curriculum nights are scheduled for next week on October 7-9. We have decided to make these virtual events for parents and caregivers. You will be receiving specific information from your schools on dates and times and how to participate. Please note, the middle school held its curriculum night prior to the start of the school year. See Key Dates below for more details.

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic
Our next COVID-19 vaccination clinic is scheduled for Thursday, September 9 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the District Administration Building, 7700 Olive Boulevard at North and South. The clinic will offer the one dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine and the first or second dose of the Pfizer vaccine. This clinic enables anyone who received their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine at the Brittany Woods Open House on August 19, to receive their second dose. Register here for your vaccine type, dose and appointment time.

Routine Vaccinations
Parents and caregivers, we have further scheduled regular walk-in immunization clinics on September 16 from 2:45 to 5:45 p.m. and September 23 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the District Administration building, 7700 Olive Blvd. Please take advantage of these important health resources for your children.

Looking Ahead
There are still limited tickets left for the 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18 St. Louis Cardinals v. San Diego Padres game at Busch Stadium. Tickets are $20 and include a hot dog and a soda. Our own University City High School JROTC Color Guard will be on the field to start the game. To purchase tickets, come to the new Administration Building at 7700 Olive Boulevard next Tuesday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cash or check only.

We are excited to announce that on October 2 the District will be hosting its district-wide Homecoming Parade down Delmar to the high school, and an outdoor Homecoming Dance for our high school students. These events will have specific safety protocols in place, including required masking for all participants. The theme is There’s No Place Like Home, of course with our black and gold colors.

Key Dates
• Monday, Sept. 6: District Closed for Labor Day
• Tuesday, Sept. 7: Virtual Elementary School Curriculum Night. Look for correspondence from your school principals for times and how to join online.
• **Wednesday, Sept. 8: Virtual High School Curriculum Night.** Look for correspondence from the high school for the time and how to join.

• **Thursday, Sept. 9: COVID-19 vaccination clinic,** 3 to 7 p.m., District Administration Building, 7700 Olive Blvd.

• **Sept. 16: Student immunization clinic,** 2:45 to 5:45 p.m., District Administration Building, 7700 Olive Blvd.

• **Sept. 23, Student immunization clinic,** 3 to 6 p.m., District Administration Building, 7700 Olive Blvd.

• **Sept. 23, Zoom with the Superintendent,** 5 p.m. session only. Register [here](#).

• **Oct. 2, Homecoming Parade,** line-up at 9 a.m. in the lot behind Loop at Delmar and Kingsland. Parade to University City High School starts at 10 a.m. sharp.

• **Oct. 6 and 7, Parent Conferences** - virtual

• **Oct. 8, No school**

Please be safe and remain cognizant of suggested COVID-19 mitigating protocols. I value the opportunity to engage with family and friends and I also understand the importance of remaining safe. Have a wonderful long weekend. If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at 314-399-0941 or [shardin@ucityschools.org](mailto:shardin@ucityschools.org).

In Service of Our Children,

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

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