Dear University City Parents and Caregivers,

It is hard to believe that tomorrow marks 20 years since the attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. It is also hard to believe that none of our students ever knew a world before this awful day in history. This is always a difficult topic to discuss, particularly with children. Some of you may have had a direct or indirect connection to someone who was lost that day in the attacks. Its aftermath reverberates and has led to many complex changes and polarizing issues and actions in the U.S. and around the world.

I hope you are able to spend a little reflective time this weekend in remembrance of those lost and courageous ways we can all work together for nonviolence and a more peaceful world.

Thank you to all of the parents who attended curriculum nights this week at the elementary schools and high school. Your partnership is so appreciated. You can always reach out to your school principals and teachers if you ever have any questions or concerns.

As we close out the week, we continue to ask our staff to take advantage of the District’s COVID-19 vaccination incentive program. We currently have 75% of our staff fully vaccinated and are hopeful that will increase by the incentive deadline of next Wednesday, September 15.

I’ve been spending significant time visiting school buildings this week. It is so rewarding to see our students learning and engaging with teachers and peers. It was particularly fun visiting our middle school students on Tuesday morning during their first-ever Literacy Café. Students were seated at tables with tablecloths and fresh floral centerpieces and given menus to sample a delicious array of books in different genres. The “tasting” enabled them to pick their favorites for their upcoming book clubs this year. What a fun way to engage
students in literacy and a lifelong love of reading!

I also wanted to give a shout out to the high school for hosting an activities fair around the track in the outdoor stadium. It was a safe, energizing way to get our students involved in issues and activities that matter to them.

**Key Dates**

- **Sept. 16: Student immunization clinic**, 2:45 to 5:45 p.m., District Administration Building, 7700 Olive Blvd.
- **Sept. 16: University City Board of Education Regular Meeting**, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Register to attend or leave a citizen comment [here](#).
- **Sept. 17: Early Release Day**
- **Sept. 18: U. City Night at the Ballpark**, 6 p.m., Busch Stadium, St. Louis Cardinals v. San Diego Padres. Limited tickets still available at the District Administration Building, 7700 Olive. $20 ticket includes a drink and a hot dog. Cash or check only.
- **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. Click [here](#) to register if you plan to participate in the parade.
- **Oct. 5, One U City Community Listening Session**, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Brittany Woods Middle School. More information coming soon on its [website](#).
- **Oct. 6 and 7, Parent Conferences** - virtual
- **Oct. 8, No school**
- **Oct. 9. Community Flu Shot Clinic**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jackson Park Elementary School, 7400 Balson Ave. Register [here](#).

Have a wonderful weekend. Please remember to stay safe and healthy by wearing your masks in public indoor spaces and keeping distance when in groups. I can be reached with any questions or concerns 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 of Schools*