Hello University City Families and Caregivers,

Happy autumn to all of you. The crisp weather is here and marks the start of a very engaging and fun part of the school year.

This past Monday it was uplifting to see our kindergarteners receive their new, free Adidas sneakers thanks to the wonderful organization Sneakers with Soul. There were so many fun styles, including classic Adidas designs as well as bright pink Dora the Explorer sneakers, green dinosaur skin shoes, pastel joggers and more. We know sneakers are a big outlay for parents and that little feet grow very fast, so we hope this gives our kindergarten families a spring in their step. Many thanks, as well, to our Wyman team who measured 160 students’ feet so they got the right size!

**Staff vaccinations**
On September 16, The University City Board of Education unanimously approved mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for all staff by October 1. We will allow medical and religious exemptions as required by law. At this point, we have 92 percent of our staff vaccinated. The mandate was a very hard recommendation for me to make to the board. However, research indicates vaccination is one of the best ways to prevent transmission of the virus and further reduce the severity of the virus if there are breakthrough infections. This decision continues our yearlong pledge to strive to be safe, healthy, flourishing and connected during a global pandemic.

**McNair Building**
In other school board news, it’s official: the board unanimously approved a committee recommendation to keep the name of our new building at 7700 Olive Boulevard. The Ronald E. McNair Administration Building.
The committee consisted of parents, board members, staff and alumni. For those who don’t know, Ronald McNair was an African-American astronaut who died in the Challenger explosion. He is also the namesake of a popular children’s book based on his life called “Ron’s Big Mission.” We are still awaiting several final touches for the building, including outdoor signage. We hope to have an open house later this fall.

**Homecoming**
Homecoming is Saturday, October 2. Our parade from The Loop to University City High School starts at 10 a.m. sharp. The home football game against Clayton High School begins at 1 p.m. We have several safety expectations for the parade and the game. First, we will not have elementary school floats this year, as both decorating them and having students on them creates challenges for physical distancing, especially with younger children. Everyone participating in the parade must be masked. Instead of throwing candy, we have decided to distribute gift bags to our spectators. We ask that parade-goers do not congregate after the parade, but instead quickly leave the high school area. At the football game, spectators will follow the District’s existing safety measures for outdoor athletic events.

**Getting to know Canvas**
As promised, we are having a Coffee and Canvas get together at the new McNair Administration Building (7700 Olive Blvd.) on Monday, October 4. There are two sessions to pick from: one at 9 a.m. and another at 5 p.m. Parents and caregivers are invited to learn more about using Canvas, our new learning management system, and how you can use the system to help your teacher and child. We’ll also help you “pair” electronically with your child’s Canvas account if you have not already. Please register ahead of time at www.ucityschools.org/100421Canvas. Masks are required to attend.

**Elementary PTO Listening Session**
I hope that elementary school parents and caregivers, particularly, attend One U City’s October 5 listening session outside in the Brittany Woods Middle School courtyard from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The evening will feature remarks from Faybra Hemphill, a UCHS graduate and U. City resident who is the director of racial equity capacity at Forward Through Ferguson. Dinner will be served. Children are welcome and will go to the gym for activities and a movie while adults meet in the courtyard.

**Hispanic Heritage Month**
I also wanted to wish our Hispanic families a wonderful Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from September 15 to October 15. The month coincides with national independence days in several Latin American countries. Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica celebrate theirs on Sept. 15, followed by Mexico on Sept. 16, Chile on Sept. 18 and Belize on Sept. 21. I hope all of our families can take some time to enjoy and appreciate the cultures and contributions that so enrich our daily lives.

**Key Dates**
- **September 25, IMPACT:** An in-person one-act drama in commemoration of 9/11, 1 p.m. at University City High school. Free and open to the public.
- **October 2, Homecoming parade and football game.** For the 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. Football game against Clayton High School starts at 1 p.m. in the stadium.

- **October 4**, **Coffee and Canvas**, 9 to 10 a.m. or 5 to 6 p.m. at the new McNair Administration Building *(7700 Olive Boulevard)*. Learn about our new learning management system and how you can work with it to help your students. Register [here](#).

- **October 5**, **One U City Community Listening Session**. Elementary parents and children are welcome, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Brittany Woods Middle School courtyard.

- **October 6 and 7**, **Parent Conferences** - virtual

- **October 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](#).

- **October 22**, **Early Release Day**

- **October 30**, **Trunk or Treat and Pumpkin Stroll**, Jackson Park Elementary School and the high school.

- **November 16**, **districtwide STEAM Expo**, more details soon.

The next edition of the District’s newsmagazine, Pride, is set to hit your mailboxes in about a week. It’s great to read in one place the amazing things our students and staff are doing during these historic times. I can always be reached with questions or concerns at shardin@ucityschools.org or on my cell phone at 314-399-0941. Have a great weekend.

In Service of Our Children,

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, Ph.D., PHR

*Superintendent*

---

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](#)

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.