Hello University City Schools Community,

As I write this, everyone is preparing for Homecoming tomorrow and crossing our fingers that the weather will hold. The theme is There’s No Place Like Home, which is just so true.

**Homecoming details**
The parade lineup begins at 9 a.m. in the parking lot behind the old Cicero’s in the western end of The Loop. We ask that participants maintain physical distancing and wear masks during the preparation and during the parade. The parade starts at 10 a.m. sharp and will move west down Delmar, turn north onto Hanley and then right onto Balson to the high school. To be safe and healthy, we ask that participants and spectators not congregate and leave immediately after the parade. At 1 p.m., the UCHS Lions take on the Clayton Greyhounds for the Homecoming football game. Our high school homecoming dance takes place outside in the evening.

The forecast tomorrow calls for a 70% chance for storms, including thunderstorms in the evening. We will be watching the weather closely and will keep you posted via text and calls if plans must change.

**Social media and school citizenship**
Parents and caregivers, some of you have already received correspondence about this from Principal Peoples at the high school, but I want to stress personal responsibility when it comes to social media use among our students. There is a very disturbing trend on Tik Tok encouraging student vandalism in schools. As Mr. Peoples put it, this is OUR House. We need to respect the community of trust and positivity we’ve built in OUR HOUSE. We are bigger than negative behaviors of any kind stirred up by strangers on social media. Our school communities are better and stronger than this. Please talk with your students about these expectations and also let them know that negative behaviors like this cannot be a part of our community and may be subject to
disciplinary action.

**Parent/ Caregiver conferences are next week**
Virtual parent/caregiver conferences are next Wednesday and Thursday evening. Please make sure to look closely for communications from your individual schools to get your needed links and times to check in with your students' teachers. These conferences are vitally important, particularly given the challenges and stresses of learning during COVID-19. If you have questions about scheduling and getting connected, make sure to reach out to your students’ teachers or principals. We appreciate your partnership!

**Flu shot clinic and vaccinations**
We are delighted to announce that the District will sponsor a drive-through flu shot clinic on Saturday, October 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Jackson Park for the entire community. Please bring an insurance card, including pharmacy benefits, as flu shots are covered under most insurance plans and require no co-pay. Out of pocket cost is $30 per individual. Please contact Lead Nurse Pat Wilson at pwilson@ucityschools.org or 314-651-7268 if you need assistance regarding the co-pay. Registration is encouraged at www.ucityschools.org/FluShot100921. We will be planning another COVID-19 vaccination clinic in October that will include booster shots for qualifying individuals. We will keep you posted.

**Key dates**

- **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. 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/Caregiver Conferences** - virtual
- **October 8, No school**
- **October 9, Community Flu Shot Clinic,** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Jackson Park Elementary School, 7400 Balson Ave. Register here.
- **October 9, UCHS Entrepreneurship Showcase,** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the high school. Students and local businesses host booths with items and services for sale.
- **October 22, Early Release Day**
- **October 30, Trunk or Treat and Pumpkin Stroll,** Jackson Park Elementary School and the high school. Pumpkin carving, 2 to 4:30 p.m. outside UCHS. Trunk or Treat and Pumpkin Stroll at UCHS and Jackson Park, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by One U. City in partnership with the District. Donated bags of candy are needed: contact: oneucity@ucityschools.org.
- **November 16, districtwide STEAM Expo,** 6 to 7:30 p.m., Brittany Woods Middle School.
Happy October! If you have any questions or concerns, 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, Ph.D., PHR
Superintendent

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