

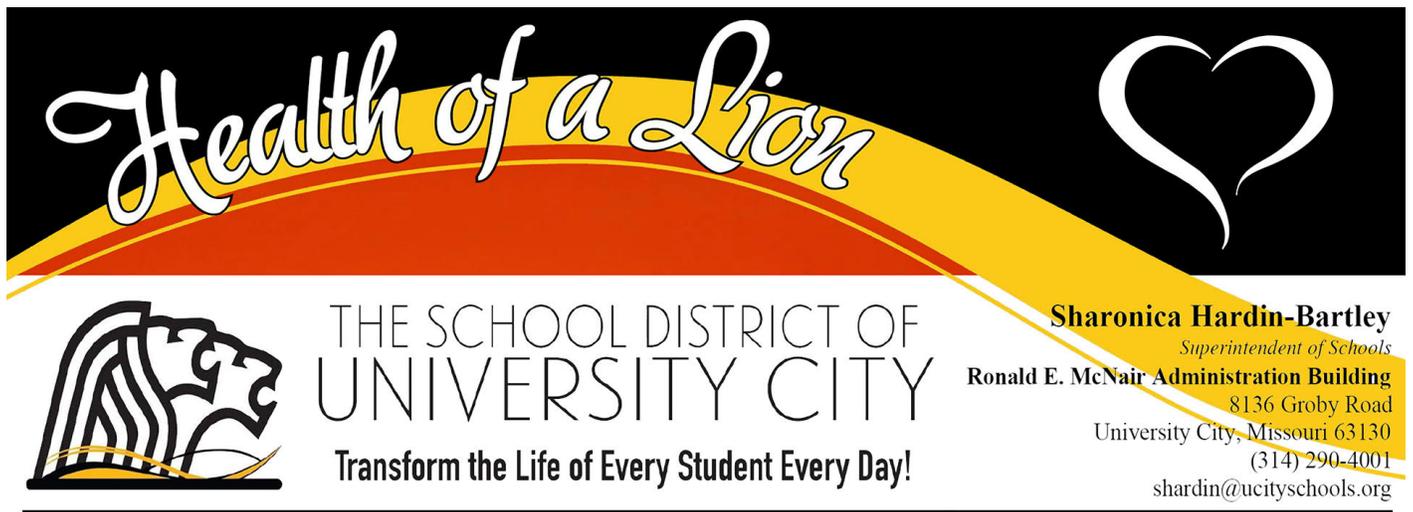


## Re-entry to preschool and elementary schools and more

1 message

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Reply-To: communications@ucityschools.org

Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 3:13 PM



Hello University City Schools Families and Staff:

I am excited to announce that we plan to re-open our school buildings to our preschool on October 19 and are discussing a return to school buildings for elementary students very soon. The current COVID-19 metrics in our region and St. Louis County health officials' recommendations inform this decision. We plan to ensure that our youngest students are back in our schools where they can fully connect with their teachers and staff in a safe, physically-distanced manner.

This decision aligns with our Health of a Lion re-entry plan that promises a safe, gradual, and kind return to school buildings. Here are the key points:

### **Preschool**

Julia Goldstein preschool students will be able to return to in-person instruction starting on Monday, October 19. Students will participate in a full-day blended model of instruction in which groups or cohorts will come to school either on Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday, with all groups participating in virtual instruction on days they are not in school. Meetings have already been held with Julia Goldstein staff and parents, and communication about the Oct. 19 reopening has been sent to all parents and staff.

### **Elementary**

Exact dates have not been set, however, elementary school parents can expect that younger grades will start first with older grades starting a week later. Formal dates will be set very soon. As with the preschool, students who opt to return to school buildings will participate in a blended model of instruction in which groups or cohorts will come to school either on Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday, with all groups participating in virtual instruction on days they are not in school. Arrangements are underway for before- and aftercare as well as childcare during days students are not in school.

### **Preparations**

- Elementary school parents will be receiving substantial follow-up correspondence and can expect to receive a sign-up survey to let us know if their child or children will be opting for in-person instruction or continuing all-virtual instruction at home.

- We are finalizing all procedures for health and safety. Though more details will be shared, all parents will be required to do a health screening through a mobile app in the mornings prior to their children entering a school building.
- The District will also launch very soon a COVID-19 Hotline manned by a District health professional.
- The District will also finalize its [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) prior to the opening of school buildings.
- Staff will attend a COVID-19 Q&A meeting next week with Washington University School of Medicine physicians Katie Plax, M.D. and Jason Newland, M.D. The meeting is intended to give our staff the most up-to-date medical information and best practices regarding screening, transmission and prevention.



### Events and updates

- On behalf of the District, its PTOs, Wyman and the University City Education Foundation we invite all District families to a safe, physically distanced **Pumpkin Stroll** on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. around the track of the UCHS stadium. Families are encouraged to carve a pumpkin and bring it to the Balson entrance of the stadium between 2 and 5 p.m. on the 24th so it can be set up for the stroll. We'll provide the LED tea lights. Safe, distanced pumpkin carving stations will also be available to families from 2 to 5 p.m. on the 24th. Any family that needs a pumpkin can pick one up on Tuesday, Oct. 20 during the Grab and Go Meal Program pick-up or through supply pick-ups at their schools scheduled for that day. This is a great way to safely and literally brighten our spirits. I encourage you to read the full details [here](#). Safety cloth face masks are a must and appropriate costumes are encouraged!
- There is still time [to register](#) for tonight's **outdoor screening** of last year's AP English and Composition student-produced film documentaries inspired by the groundbreaking 1619 Project. The screening will take place inside the high school stadium on a 24-foot screen. The weather looks amazing, so bring a chair and a blanket and celebrate our student's bold look at history and racial equity. Doors to the stadium open at 5:30 p.m. with the screening starting just after dusk.



*Plein Air*  
**Art Festival**  
 Virtual Gallery Show



- I wanted to acknowledge the tremendous support of Mi Ranchito and so many other local restaurants through dine-outs and other functions that benefit the District. Please stop by and patronize Mi Ranchito and others if you can in honor of Hispanic-American Heritage Month and their long-standing support and commitment to the U. City schools and community.



- Don't forget! In partnership with Walgreens and our district nurses, we have a **drive-through flu shot clinic** for all District students (age 7 and up) as well as all U. City residents this Saturday, Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the McNair Administration Building, 8136 Groby Road. This is an important way to take care of yourself and your family during this difficult time. Flu shots will also help us keep our school buildings open this winter. The shots are free, if you have insurance, so please bring your card. Register at [www.ucityschools.org/FluShot101020](http://www.ucityschools.org/FluShot101020).



I hope you all have a chance to safely enjoy this fabulous fall weather. It's a great time to breathe deep, get some healthy exercise and center. We are here for you and so very honored to have you as our partners.

In Service of Our Children,

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

*Para leer en español, haga clic [aquí](#).*



[ucityschools.org](http://ucityschools.org)



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A poster for the 'Pumpkin Stroll' event. It features a large, glowing jack-o'-lantern carved into a lion's face on the left, and a smaller jack-o'-lantern on the right. The background is dark with some bokeh light effects. Text on the poster includes the School District of University City logo, the event title 'Pumpkin Stroll', the date and time 'Saturday, Oct. 24 6 - 8 p.m.', the location 'U. City High School Stadium', and a note that it is a free, physically distanced outdoor event with details at [ucityschools.org/pumpkinstroll](http://ucityschools.org/pumpkinstroll).

 **Pumpkin Stroll**  
Saturday, Oct. 24  
6 - 8 p.m.  
U. City High School Stadium

A free, physically distanced outdoor event.  
Details at [ucityschools.org/pumpkinstroll](http://ucityschools.org/pumpkinstroll)