Dear University City Schools Parents and Caregivers:

We’re on the cusp of a fun-filled fall weekend - and also a very busy weekend of activities for District students and families.

First, I wish you health and safety this weekend. Please remember that COVID-19 is still with us. Make sure to wear face masks when attending indoor events and also outdoor gatherings where social distancing may not be taking place. If you celebrate Halloween, make sure to be careful with costumes and costume masks so that children can see and be seen while trick-or-treating.

University City High School and Jackson Park Elementary School will be hopping on Saturday. At 1 p.m. Saturday, our Varsity Lions Football team takes on Parkway Central in the UCHS school stadium for the start of District playoffs. Gates open at noon. Tickets are $3 for students and $5 for adults. A win will advance the team to the District semifinals! Also exciting: on Saturday, our Varsity Boys Soccer team takes on Orchard Farms at 3 p.m. at St. Charles High School to begin their postseason District play. Tickets are $5.

From 2 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, please join One U. City as the PTO hosts free pumpkin carving outside, in front of the high school. Pumpkins and carving supplies will be available. The goal is to place the carved pumpkins around the high school track that evening for the annual and very pretty Pumpkin Stroll that runs from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Last year, there were more than 100 illuminated pumpkins on display - and we expect to have many more this year.

On Saturday, just across the street from the Pumpkin Stroll, the Jackson Park PTO, in partnership with One U. City, will also host the annual Trunk or Treat in the elementary school’s parking lot from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Our
parent volunteers have worked hard to make this event truly fun and special, so we hope to see you there as well!

As a reminder, there are no classes on Monday for staff professional development, nor on Tuesday for Election Day. Please note, district offices will be closed this Tuesday, November 2, as we give all of our staff needed personal and self care time.

Things are changing very rapidly regarding the COVID-19 vaccine landscape. Not only are many teens and adults eligible for boosters, but it is expected that children aged 5 through 11 will be eligible for vaccines very, very soon. Given the situation, I invite all of you to an informational session on November 10 featuring Ericka Hayes, M.D. Dr. Hayes is an associate professor of pediatrics and infectious disease at Washington University School of Medicine. She will present up-to-date information and research on COVID-19 vaccines, especially new information regarding vaccinations for children. The event is in-person at the new McNair Administration Building location at 7700 Olive Boulevard and begins at 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The event will be recorded for those who cannot attend.

A University City task force is currently engaged in a project to envision U. City in 2040. This type of work helps the city to plan positive actions for the future. The task force currently needs community input. Please consider filling out this survey to let them know your thoughts.

Key Dates

- **October 30**, Trunk or Treat and Pumpkin Stroll, Jackson Park Elementary School and the high school. More details at www.ucityschools.org/PumpkinStroll.
- **November 1**, No classes, staff professional development day.
- **November 2**, No classes and offices closed, Election Day.
- **November 4**, Walk-In Student Immunization Clinic (no Covid vaccines), 3 to 6 p.m., McNair Administration Building, 7700 Olive Boulevard, 63130
- **November 10**, COVID-19 Vaccines and Town Hall with Washington University School of Medicine Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Infectious Disease Ericka Hayes, M.D., 5:30 p.m. at the McNair Administration Building. Register at www.ucityschools.org/TownHall111021.
- **November 16**, districtwide STEAM Expo, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Event will be virtual. Learn more at www.ucityschools.org/STEAMExpo2021.
- Thanksgiving Break. **November 24-26**, District closed.

As always, I am available by email at shardin@ucityschools.org or by cell phone at 314-399-0941 if you have any questions or concerns. Have a great weekend!

In Service of Our Children,

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