Hello University City Schools Parents and Caregivers,

I’m so proud of our community and so grateful to serve you and your children during these complicated times. There are infinite things to be thankful for as we begin a full week off from school and look forward to getting together with loved ones. Having our students and staff back in our school buildings is on the top of my gratitude list.

Please take some time to see my video marking the upcoming fall break that runs from Monday, November 22 through Friday, November 26.

On Tuesday evening, a line filled a Jackson Park hallway as families arrived to get their children vaccinated with the new COVID-19 pediatric vaccine for ages 5-11. Though getting a shot isn’t very fun, our younger students were true heros, championed on by loving caregivers, staff and a crew of incredibly kind nurses with an abundance of hugs. To see 124 of our youth taking this important step for the health of the community was truly inspiring. The next COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic is Monday, December 13 from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Jackson Park. The clinic is open to youth, 5-11, and adults 18 or older. There will be first and second doses and booster shots available depending on the age group. To pre-register for the clinic, click here.

As I write this, it warms me greatly to know that several organizations are putting together care packages for our families so that they can have a full holiday meal next week that includes a whole turkey and side fixings. Many thanks to Holy Communion Church, The Hazel Erby Foundation, and an anonymous donor for this incredibly generous support of these families.
I wanted to thank the parents and students who participated in this past Tuesday’s virtual STEAM Expo on Zoom. We are asking parents that did attend to fill out this brief survey about their experience by Monday, Dec. 6. If you missed the live event, all of the Zoom sessions were recorded and can be viewed in the “links to presentations” section at www.ucityschools.org/STEAMExpo2021.

I also want to invite everyone to our State of the District presentation on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021 where I will present an update on the implementation of the District’s continuing vision of Learning Reimagined; its continued response to COVID-19 challenges; financial and academic data as available; overview of future and strategic priorities; opportunities for improvement and positive highlights. There will be both an in-person session and a virtual session. See below for more details.

Key Dates:

- **November 22-26**, No school.
- **November 29**, Students return to classes.
- **December 1-3**, Community Book Fair, in partnership with I See Me bookstore, 6 to 8 p.m. at University City High School library.
- **December 2**, Middle School Strings Concert, 6:30 p.m. at Brittany Woods Middle School.
- **December 3**, Middle School Dance Concert, 6:30 p.m. at Brittany Woods Middle School. Cost: $5 cash at the door.
- **December 7, State of the District**, University City High School Library and virtual. Register for either in-person or virtual sessions at www.ucityschools.org/SOD120721.
  - 5 to 6 p.m. virtual webinar via Zoom
  - 6 to 7:30 p.m., in person with a light dinner at University City High School library
- **December 8, Flynn Park & Pershing Strings Concert**, 6:30 p.m. at Brittany Woods Middle School.
- **December 10, Middle & High School Choir Concert**, 6:30 p.m. at University City High School.
- **December 13, COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic**, 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Jackson Park Elementary School for individuals 5-11 or 18 and older. First and second doses and boosters will be available depending on the age group. Pre-register here.
- **December 14, Barbara C. Jordan & Jackson Park Strings Concert**, 6:30 p.m. at Brittany Woods Middle School.
- **December 15, High School Strings Concert**, 6:30 p.m. at University City High School.
- **December 20 - January 3**, No School, Winter Break and Staff Professional Development.

Please remember that we are still dealing with COVID-19. There has been a surge in the past two weeks. To be safe, avoid larger gatherings and make sure to wear a mask when inside with groups. Social distancing, masking and vaccinations remain the best ways to avoid transmission. I can be reached at shardin@ucityschools.org or on my cell phone at
314-399-0941 if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a wonderful and restful week!

In Service of Our Children,

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, Ph.D, PHR
Superintendent

Click here to view the video

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