



## Teacher Appreciation Week and Updates

1 message

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THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
UNIVERSITY CITY  
Transform the Life of Every Student Every Day!

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Good Morning U. City Families:

Hello! Today, May 4, marks the start of **National Teacher Appreciation Week**. I can think of no other time in education history that has so deeply challenged our teachers and staff. They have made heroic strides in a completely unexpected and nearly overnight transition from the classroom to distance instruction - all while often caring for their own children and loved ones during a pandemic.

We cannot thank our teachers enough. Please enjoy this [video](#) shared with our teachers and staff this morning - it is the first of many ways we plan to celebrate our teachers this week.

I have several updates and reminders:

- If you were unable to attend this morning's **Zoom with the Superintendent** session, please remember there is another session at 5 p.m. today. You can click [here](#) to join the meeting. The password is SDUC. All parents are welcome to join, ask questions and share comments.
- Our **Board of Education** is also changing to an open Zoom meeting format starting with its Work Session this Thursday, May 7 at 5:45 p.m. To join the Zoom meeting, click on [www.ucityschools.org/BOE050720](http://www.ucityschools.org/BOE050720) and enter the password SDUC. Public comments can be made during the Citizen Comment portion of the meeting and are limited to four minutes. You will be asked to sign up in the Zoom chat box if you wish to make a comment. Please check [www.ucityschools.org/BOEZoom2020](http://www.ucityschools.org/BOEZoom2020) for future BOE meetings and accompanying Zoom links.
- Brittany Woods Middle school parents and staff, please mark your calendars for a **Zoom Meet and Greet with Grace Lee**, the incoming school principal. The Zoom session will be held on Thursday, May 14 at 5 p.m. Please register by Wednesday, May 13 at [www.ucityschools.org/GraceLeeZoom051420](http://www.ucityschools.org/GraceLeeZoom051420).
- We are still seeking your input on **summer learning**. If you haven't already, please complete this [brief online survey](#) to help us better plan summer programming.
- We continue to reach out for volunteers to serve on a **Re-Entry Re-Imagined Advisory Group** to help us plan and implement a safe and comprehensive reopening of our schools for the 2020-21 school year. We are still looking for experts in the fields of food safety, crowd logistics, risk assessment and more. If you are interested and/or could recommend a strong candidate, please contact Juli Ward at [jward@ucityschools.org](mailto:jward@ucityschools.org) or 314-341-9966
- I wanted to let you know about ways we are trying to support our greater community. First, we are hosting a curbside drop-off site next weekend at the McNair Administration Building (8136 Groby Road, 63130) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to collect canned goods and other non-perishable food essentials for the **St. Louis Area Foodbank's Mayors for Meals** campaign. Mayors from around the region, including University City Mayor Terry Crow, are organizing drop-off sites in their communities to help stock the [food bank](#) which has been severely depleted due to COVID-19. Please donate what you can.
- Additionally, we are making efforts to partner with local businesses to support one another in hard financial times. Recently, the District purchased culturally responsive children's books through local retailer **Eye See Me book store**. Based in University City, Eye See Me has been a wonderful partner with our District sponsoring book readings, participating in book fairs and helping our African American students to see themselves as central parts of children's and young adult literature. These books will be distributed to students over the summer months to promote literacy.

I will end on a bittersweet note. Tomorrow is our seniors' last day of high school. Nobody could have anticipated that they would be missing out on so many rites of passage. They have handled this with resilience and grace. Please see two local news broadcasts featuring the thoughtful voices of some of our seniors [here](#) and [here](#) as they reflect on the situation. I hope you've been enjoying their portraits on Facebook and Instagram as well. Senior parents, please keep an eye out for an email tomorrow.

Please, take care and be well. You can always contact me with questions or concerns at [shardin@ucityschools.org](mailto:shardin@ucityschools.org) or 314-399-0941.

In Service of Our Children,

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, PhD, PHR  
Superintendent of Schools

[Click here to view Teacher Appreciation video](#)



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