



Summer Meal Appeal for Children and Families of U. City Schools

Classroom buildings in The School District of University City have been closed since March 23, 2020, and will remain closed into the District's summer session as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, student education continues through online learning, and we are grateful for our dedication of teachers, staff and families as we navigate this new way to learn.

Food is Needed by Many Families

Since March 23, the District has been providing regular meals to students through curbside pickups and porch drop-offs - all done in strict adherence to CDC guidelines. In April, in response to the growing need, the District increased its meal service to provide the equivalent of three meals a day seven days a week for all students in need. (*More information available at www.ucityschools.org/GrabAndGo.)*

Right now, about 500 families are utilizing this critical meal program, but the need is increasing weekly. Many U. City parents work in hospitality fields, such as in hotels, restaurants and shops, which have seen unprecedented layoffs and furloughs. Even professional families are experiencing furloughs and job loss. The U.S. unemployment rate is currently higher than during the Great Depression, so we know the need will continue to grow.

This summer will be challenging, and many District families will need meal support until school starts again in late August. The District will be able to continue its basic food support, but families would also greatly benefit from supplements beyond basic meals. In response to this need, the University City Education Foundation has committed to fundraising to meet the continuing nutritional and learning needs of families this summer.

"The School District of University City continues to be committed to head and heart work," said Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley. "If our families aren't well, we can't expect our community to be well. Basic needs such as food, are truly needed during this challenging time. We hope you can help us make this happen for families this summer."

Donate to Increase Food for U. City Students and Families this Summer

This summer, many U. City families will benefit greatly if we can supplement the basic food distributed by adding produce, snacks and other nutritional items and household essentials. Because we all know, growing children and families need more than just three meals a day. **A \$50 donation will greatly enhance our ability to adequately feed a family of four for a week. We estimate at least 600 families will need meals for the 13 weeks of summer before the next school year begins. Your donation would give families the needed extras to last them with food and essentials for the summer.**

Please see our video at www.ucityschools.org/GrabAndGoVideo on the success of the District's Grab & Go meal program so far and its vision for the future.

To donate, visit www.ucityschools.org/DonateMealAppeal. All your donations will go towards providing food and basic needs to children and families this summer. And we will continue to get these meals to families in adherence to the strictest CDC guidelines and practices. All donations are tax-deductible. If you prefer to send a check, please make donations out to University City Education Foundation and mail to Debbie Chase c/o UCEF, 8136 Groby Road, University City, MO 63130.

Thank you for your commitment and support to the U. City community.

If you have questions, please contact Debbie Chase, director of development,
at dchase@ucityschools.org.