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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **DORLITA ADAMS HIRED AS NEW PRINCIPAL OF BARBARA C. JORDAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**University City, MO** - The School District of University City is delighted to announce Dorlita Adams has been hired as the new principal of Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School. Adams will begin her new role on July 1, 2021.

Adams replaces Dr. JaNaé Alfred who is moving on to do special projects within the District. The District thanks Dr. Alfred for her service to the children and families of Barbara C. Jordan Elementary.

With 27 years of education experience, Adams has served in numerous educational roles that include teaching and school leadership. She comes to the District after 17 years in the Ritenour School District where she served as a reading specialist and assistant principal at Hoech Middle School, principal of Kratz Elementary School, and, most recently, director of alternative education for Ritenour High School's Husky Academy.



"I am excited to welcome Mrs. Adams to the U. City Schools community," said Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, Ph.D. "Mrs. Adams joins us as a proven educational leader who has demonstrated the highest standards of leadership, accountability and communication with her school communities. She brings a keen understanding of the needs of parents and students of color, an understanding of the importance of relationship-building in classrooms, and the need for rigorous and heartfelt instruction from her staff. She has a proven track record of utilizing metrics for continuous improvement to ensure accountability of student performance."

Adams is further trained in many of the practices that bring well-being and joy to students and staff - one of the District's five defined priorities so students are cared for and prepared to learn. She has worked closely with longtime District partner Sharroky Hollie to build her and others' skills in culturally responsive teaching, and she supports her teachers in utilizing restorative circles, trauma-informed practices and recognition and remediation of racial and cultural bias in classrooms.

Adams began her career as a fourth grade teacher in St. Louis Public Schools. A graduate of Harris Stowe State College, she earned her master's degree from the University of Missouri - St. Louis, and is certified in Elementary Education, Educational Administration, Reading Specialist and Educational Specialist.

Adams is married to a longtime preschool teacher and enjoys caring for her two dogs, Grace and Faith. She is deeply into wellness as a yoga instructor and is in the process of being certified in meditation practices. She said she is excited by the District's focus on well-being and positive mental health for all its students and is looking forward to integrating wellness practices into the Barbara C. Jordan community.