Contact: Communications & Community Outreach Department 8136 Groby Road, University City, MO 63130 Communications@ucityschools.org (314) 290-4001 - Fax: (314) 725-7846

## For Immediate Release

## Police and Schools Partner to Grow U. City Community Spirit

University City, MO (Aug. 4, 2018) - In a unique display of community partnership, The School District of University City (SDUC) and the University City Police Department (UCPD) will host the "Back-to-School Rally/National Night Out," event on Tuesday, Aug. 7, from 5 to 8 p.m., in front of Brittany Woods Middle School and McNair Administration Building, located at 8125 & 8136 Groby Road (63130) respectively.

National Night Out started in 1984 as a way to reinforce positive relationships between of law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. It is set for the first Tuesday in August and is celebrated in communities across the country. University City has one public school district within its boundaries that includes eight schools and approximately 2,800 students who will see these same officers in programs, clubs and assemblies throughout the year.

The school district's executive director of Student Services and Innovation, Gary Spiller, said, "The combined rally attracts a greater crowd and shows our students that the whole community is committed to their success. It also demonstrates to our community that local law enforcement officers are partners in education and in our neighborhoods."

UCPD Captain Dana Morley adds, "Working together allows us to combine and maximize resources. It also enables both the school district and the police department to cross over into various stakeholder groups; attracting people to their respective events that they might not have been able to serve otherwise." Morley added, "Our respective messages go hand-in-hand, so it makes sense to come together for our community in this way. Besides, it's just a lot of fun!"

The event includes distribution of backpacks and supplies for District students and more than 50 partners are sponsoring booths and services at no charge. Some of the offerings include immunization clinic, haircuts/styles, face painting, robotics, sports programs, alumni services, refreshments including hot dogs, popsicles and beverages along with community safety-programs sponsored by the UCPD. Sports physicals will be available for minimal cost of \$15.

An event "passport" will be distributed to guide guests through a scavenger hunt of information and prizes. (Look for the yellow school bus serving as a supply drop for collecting additional clothing, coat and school supply donations.) DJ Tossing Ted and bounce houses will help youngsters work off the extra excitement surround the start of school. The first day of school for all students in The School District of University City is Tuesday, Aug. 14.

Part of Groby Road will be blocked off from noon to 9 p.m. for this event.

More details available at www.ucityschools.org/NNOBTSR.

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## Photos from last year's event on page 2

On February 21, 1911, with a City population of only 2,417, The School District of University City was officially established. Classes began in September 1912 with a total school population of 769. Today, you will find outstanding educational programs serving a student population of approximately 2,800 with a preschool, four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. In May 2018, University City High School held its 101st formal Commencement Ceremony.



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Aug. 1, 2017 - U. City's National Night Out & Back-to-School Rally -Our 2018 celebration promises to be even bigger and better!

















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