District welcomes all students back to school

The School District of University City welcomed about 2,500 students back to school on Monday, August 23, for the 2021-22 school year. About 96% of PreK-12 students are attending in-person instruction in school buildings five days a week. About 4%, or a little over 100 students, will take classes remotely through state-certified semester-long courses with the online learning program Launch, operated out of the Springfield, Missouri, school system.

The start of the school year was especially gratifying for the District’s high school students who learned online during the past school year due to COVID-19. The high schoolers were welcomed to the school on the 23rd by cheering alumni, parents and staff with a walk up a red carpet as they entered the school that morning. Just prior to the return of students, Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley sent her welcome back video to all families and staff speaking to the themes of safety and health and the concept of Radical Love.

“Radical love gives us the heart to connect with others...the energy to fight for change and press for excellence in all of our students – because we love them. Radical love gives us the courage to experience the world with our students, our families and our colleagues together as one love so we all rise up.”

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley
Superintendent of Schools

Moving, building and roosting:
District makes facility improvements over the summer

The District was busy moving and improving spaces for its students and staff this summer, starting with a move of its central administration offices to a building on Olive Boulevard.

The move to 7700 Olive took place in August just before school started and was part of the District’s sale of the former McNair Administration Building at 8136 Groby Road. The Groby Road building, built in 1949 to originally house Blackberry Elementary School, was sold in the spring after the University City Board of Education declared the building surplus.

The District’s new location on Olive at the intersection of North and South was originally an A&P grocery store, and most recently the home of a physical therapy facility. The 9,000-square-foot building houses the offices of the superintendent, human resources, student services, special school district, finance and communications. The smaller, more professional space encourages staff collaboration and offers several conference and flex spaces for meetings, including a multi-purpose room that will host board of education meetings. The building is awaiting signage and some technology, but will be ready for board meetings later this fall.

In August, a naming committee of students, staff and community members decided to keep the name of the building the Ronald E. McNair Administration Building. The namesake is U.S. Astronaut Ronald E. McNair, an African American who made two missions into space and passed away in the Challenger explosion. As a young boy, McNair lobbied District administrative offices are now housed at 7700 Olive Boulevard. In September, the University City Board of Education officially approved naming the building the Ronald E. McNair Administration Building.

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Continued on page 5
Greetings University City Community:

What a difference a year makes! Last year at this time we had no students in our school buildings as we learned how to deal with a global pandemic. This year, just a few weeks into the start of the school year, nearly all of our students are back in their classrooms with their teachers and friends. They are smiling. Their energy is fantastic. The learning is rich and hands-on. And, remarkably, our students are benefiting from new innovations created in the midst of the hardship of COVID-19.

In this issue of PRIDE, you will read about the many student and staff successes that occurred this past winter, spring and summer, as well as new programs and facilities for our students and staff in the 2021-22 school year. There is a new building, updated classroom areas for our Lieberman Learning Center students, and a new outdoor learning pavilion to enhance learning. There are also new programs, such as sustainability, to prepare our students for the environmental and societal challenges of the future.

And there are many, many new supports in place to help our children with well-being as we continue to deal with the challenges of COVID-19. Thanks to a $95,000 grant from the St. Louis County Children’s Service Fund, this includes additional social workers and therapists as well as more in-depth training in trauma informed practices, particularly regarding the trauma of racism and inequity.

COVID-19 continues to challenge our community in heavy ways. Recently, with the approval of The School District of University City Board of Education, the District moved forward with a mandatory vaccination policy for our staff to better ensure the health and safety of our entire community. We continue with a mandatory mask policy for all students, staff and visitors in our buildings.

We also continue to sponsor frequent vaccination clinics in partnership with the St. Louis County Department of Health and other agencies. And, thanks to an incredible partnership with Washington University, we offer free COVID-19 saliva testing and highly effective contact tracing.

I wish I could wave a magic wand and make this pandemic go away, but for now, we are rising to the challenge of our research-based plan to keep everyone safe, healthy, flourishing and connected.

Speaking of rising to the challenge, in this year of controversy, uncertainty, and continued racial inequity, our district community is focusing on the powerful practice of Radical Love. It’s a notion that despite differences, disagreements and difficult situations, we can respond with productive intention and out of a place of love for our community and the greater good of the world. University City is a special community. I know, because I am a resident and I am raising a family here. If there was ever a place in our world that can respond to hardship and unfairness with empathy and love, it is University City.

I cannot thank our community enough for its partnership and the hundreds of people who helped the District through the past school year with their time, their expertise and their resources. We are grateful and we are thriving thanks to your radical love.

In Service Of Our Children,

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, Ph.D., PHR
Superintendent

From our Superintendent of Schools

Greetings University City:

Recent news has placed a spotlight on school boards as they are being thrown into the divisive politics that permeate our country. Whether it is about masks or how to teach history, politicians’ actions seem more about the sound bite than doing what is right for our children. Being a good school board director is not about winning an argument or beating an opponent. It is about being a servant leader. It is about having the determination and strength to always do what is right for the children, regardless of popularity, threats, or rhetoric. While there are stories about board directors resigning due to the political climate, my hope is that there will be those inspired to be the humble but strong servant leaders that our children deserve. If you are such a person, please consider running for an elected office, especially the school board. The community and our children need you.

Lisa Brenner, Ph.D.
Vice President
University City Board of Education

From our Board of Education

The personal opinions expressed in the letter above may not reflect that of the entire University City Board of Education.

School Board Elections
Public Notice of Filing

The School District of University City encourages any qualified person interested in running for a position on the school board to file to be a candidate in the April 5, 2022 election. There are two positions available with voter approval for three-year terms.

Interested persons may file at The University City Board of Education office located at 7700 Olive Blvd., University City, MO 63130.

Contact Juli Lashley at 314-290-4002 or jlashley@ucityschools.org for more details.

Filing will begin at 8 a.m. on December 7, 2021 and will continue during business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. through December 17, 2021; plus 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on December 28, 2021, which is the last day of filing.

Except for the first and last day of filing, filing will not occur on days the school district’s central offices are closed due to inclement weather.

For more information on serving on the University City Board of Education, visit www.ucityschools.org/BOE.
Meet our School Board Members

Matt Bellows
President
Liaison to
Flynn Park
Elementary School

Lisa Brenner, Ph.D.
Vice President
Liaison to
University City
High School

Traci Moore
Secretary
Liaison to
Jackson Park
Elementary School

Emma Scharff
Student Representative
University City
High School

LaVerne Ford-Williams
Director
Liaison to
Pershing
Elementary School

George Lenard
Director
Liaison to
Brittany Woods
Middle School

Joanne Soudah
Director
Liaison to
Julia Goldstein
ECEC, Lieberman Learning Center and Adult Education & Literacy Program

Monica Stewart, Ed.D.
Director
Liaison to
Barbara C. Jordan
Elementary School

Board of Education News

In April, the University City Board of Education welcomed two new members. Dr. Monica Stewart joined the board as a new director. University City High School senior Emma Scharff joined the board as the District’s student representative.

The board meets twice a month except for July, December and April when there are no work sessions. Work sessions are typically held on the first Thursday of the month at 5:45 p.m. Regular board meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Starting later this fall, regular board meetings will be held in-person at the new McNair Administration Building located at 7700 Olive Boulevard. Board work sessions will continue to be held virtually. Those wishing to attend or file a citizen comment for the virtual work sessions must pre-register. For more information regarding upcoming meetings and links to register for virtual meetings, go to www.ucityschools.org/BOEZoom.

For more school board information including agenda and minutes, go to www.ucityschools.org/BoardDocs.

Brittany Woods hosts book “tasting” at Legacy Café

**PERSONALIZE: Learning Reimagined**

On September 7, Brittany Woods Middle School students attended a Legacy Literacy Café where they sampled a delicious array of books. Teachers and staff served as hostesses and waiters, serving up a sampling of books in different genres.

The formal word tasting, complete with menus, tablecloths and centerpieces, helped them to plan their book clubs for the year and build the foundation for a lifelong love of reading.
The School District of University City is now able to offer free COVID-19 saliva testing to its greater community thanks to an $8 million research program that includes Washington University in St. Louis and the National Institutes of Health.

The free testing became available to the community in late May and will be offered through the entire 2021-22 school year. Any student, staff member or individual living with a staff member or student is eligible for testing if they are experiencing signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

The easily accessible testing is available Sunday through Friday by calling 314-454-4269. The pain-free test requires participants to produce a saliva sample in a collection tube and does not require an invasive nasal swab.

“This is an absolutely fantastic opportunity for our school community,” said Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley. “This service can act to close health disparities that harm our African American families regarding COVID-19. By having testing readily available to everyone in our community, we can better ensure that the virus is detected and further prevented from spreading to our loved ones and those most vulnerable to it.”

Under the new research initiative, called RADx-UP, Washington University is further providing weekly saliva testing to any University City High School student or staff member. The testing will help the District better detect asymptomatic active cases which can cause transmission, quarantines and continued disruptions to learning.

The testing is on a voluntary basis, but Hardin-Bartley is hopeful that the students and staff will take advantage of it. The samples can be collected at home ahead of coming to school.

“I can’t think of a better way to show your Heart and Health of a Lion by taking advantage of this new testing opportunity for the high school, especially as students and staff return to five days a week of in-person instruction,” Hardin-Bartley said. “It truly is an easy way to care for your entire community so it can thrive during hard times. Our students and families have endured a lot of sorrow, worry and loss due to COVID. I’m certain our students and staff will stand up for their school by participating in this profound way.”

The District was invited to join the project by Dr. Jason Newland, a pediatric infectious diseases specialist who treats patients at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. During the past school year, Newland spoke in generous detail during meetings with both district staff and parents about the most up-to-date research on COVID-19 and transmission in schools. He has also been readily available to help the District with its contact tracing efforts during the 2020-21 school year after students returned to school buildings at all grade levels. The testing aims to help the researchers evaluate whether frequent COVID-19 testing in schools serving under-resourced populations can help to reduce the spread of the virus.

Newland said he hopes that the testing will give further peace of mind and safety for students and parents. The St. Louis RADx-UP project focuses on five school districts in St. Louis County with high percentages of African American students: Normandy, Jennings, University City, Pattonville and Ferguson-Florissant.

Sleeves up, U. City!

The District is serious about community health and highly encourages all staff, students, families and the greater community to become fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Since the vaccine first became available in Missouri, the District has offered 11 free COVID-19 vaccination clinics open to the entire community with partners that include the Urban League, St. Louis Public Schools, Clayton Schools and the St. Louis County Department of Health. The clinics have taken place in district schools, at the District’s annual Back to School Rally, inside the District’s new Administration Building and at schools in neighboring districts.

In late August, St. Louis County Executive Sam Page visited students and parents getting the vaccine during Brittany Woods Middle School’s Open House. Page said U. City Schools were setting an exemplary example regarding COVID-19 prevention.

In March, Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley also shared her thoughts on getting vaccinated in a widely shared essay published in the St. Louis American (see page 16).
For more than a decade, University City High School’s Lieberman Learning Center (LLC) existed in an aging corridor of a classroom building built in 1949 for elementary students to accommodate a post-World War II population boom. Fifty years later, the building housed administrative offices, the District’s adult education program, and the LLC high school students. The building was underutilized and needed extensive capital improvements.

Building conditions aside, this was not an ideal setting for LLC students, who typically are high school sophomores, juniors and seniors in need of additional support and mentorship to graduate and find successful careers. They have had challenges in traditional classroom settings, and many are typically dealing with more adult problems and uncertainty about their futures. And yet, here they were, young adults who had already experienced rather adult lives, going to school in an old school building originally built for very young baby boomers.

Things changed drastically this summer when the building was sold and the District relocated LLC students to their own space inside University City High School. District leaders vowed to give them the space that they needed to thrive.

“We had to do something to help the mindset of our LLC students who already had chafed in a traditional school environment,” said Gary Spiller, the District’s executive director of student services and innovation. “They needed an aspirational setting based on real world, somewhat adult environments that they had already experienced.”

New Lieberman Learning Center space gets an artist’s touch

A public open house for both the new building and the new LLC space will be held this fall once the final touches are completed.

This summer also continued the rich transformation of the Brittany Woods Middle School outdoor courtyard into a healthy social and educational space for students. In July, a 45-foot by 25-foot covered outdoor pavilion was constructed in the courtyard to enable outdoor classroom and lunch seating as well as a space for special student and community events.

The courtyard is also now home to 18 chickens and a chicken coop built by volunteers from Boeing, coordinated by ABCToday. The chickens, who roost in the coop near the courtyard’s Giving Garden, have a full range of the courtyard during the day. This gives students a chance to care for and engage with the hens, and adds to a joyful and calming atmosphere in the courtyard, said Brittany Woods Principal Grace Lee. The courtyard’s renaissance is due in large part to recognizing that learning is not limited to the indoors. The outdoor classroom is a vital space that offers students the opportunity to move and explore.

“Sustainability is about more than gardening; it’s about connecting with all the layers that impact our daily lives from the environment to relationships with each other,” Lee said. “It’s never been more important than now to ensure that our kids have the opportunity to engage in meaningful problem solving scenarios to think about how they impact their community and how they can influence the need to equitably sustain everyone with resources to thrive.”

Located at 7700 Olive Boulevard at North and South Road.
District welcomes all students back to school

Continued from page 1

experience the world with our students, our families and our colleagues together as one love so we all rise up,” Hardin-Bartley said.

“This year, I challenged our staff to double down on love. I told them to go radical with it in the face of disappointment and fear of others. Bring it in their classrooms, in the hallways, on the playing fields and with their colleagues. This year, we can love powerfully, instinctually and loyally on our students and ourselves despite our hardships.”

Students returned to an energized staff who spent early August participating in professional development which included intensive discussions on the unchecked trauma of racial inequity and ways to address it. Discussions also centered on Radical Love, and what it takes to love a community and people so we all rise up. On Monday, August 16, all staff participated in a fun lunchtime block party followed by more than 20 wellness activities to choose from.

The District begins the 2021-22 school year with a complete plan to keep its community safe, healthy, flourishing and connected as it continues to deal with COVID-19.

The District anticipates a full year of regularly scheduled athletic seasons, continued student clubs and district-wide events and school events that adhere to highly effective mitigation strategies to protect our community against COVID-19.

Additionally, thanks to generous grants and federal funding, the District now has social workers in every school building, additional counselors, expanded services for student and family therapy, continued anti-racial bias training and accelerated trauma-informed responses and practices so our community remains well.

As always, the District adheres to its vision of Learning Reimagined and works courageously and authentically to build meaningful relationships in our community. Together, we share the Heart of a Lion.

Safe, healthy, flourishing and connected

District shares a complete plan to address COVID-19

In August, the District released a 24-page Return to School Planning Guide outlining how it will strive to be safe, healthy, flourishing and connected while still dealing with a global pandemic. The guide can be found at www.ucityschools.org/2021ReturntoSchool. Here are some of the key strategies in the plan.

Safe

- Face masking is mandatory for all students, staff and visitors while in district buildings.
- Physical distancing of 3 to 6 feet will take place in all buildings at all times.
- Continuous cleaning and sanitizing of surfaces will continue.
- Parents will screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms every day prior to coming to school.

Healthy

- Vaccination of staff is mandatory.
- Vaccination of qualifying students is highly encouraged.
- COVID-19 vaccine clinics will be offered at regular intervals for our University City community.
- Free and easy saliva COVID-19 testing will be offered for all students, staff and affiliated household members in partnership with Washington University.
- The high school community will further be offered weekly COVID-19 saliva testing in partnership with Washington University.
- Intensive contact tracing in partnership with Washington University will continue throughout the District.

Flourishing

- Additional resources have been allocated for mental health and well-being of students, staff and families.
- The District continues its pledge to provide rigorous and relevant learning.
- The District has a heightened focus on racial equity and resources.
- The District will strive to maintain athletics, clubs, field trips, activities and community events in a safe and healthy way.

Connected

- The District will continue to maintain a COVID-19 Dashboard to track active cases and quarantines in all District buildings. (www.ucityschools.org/coviddashboard)
- The District will communicate COVID-19 statistics to all families every morning prior to the start of the school day.

The complete Return to School Planning Guide can be found at www.ucityschools.org/2021ReturntoSchool.
Grab & Go wraps up

In August 2021, The School District of University City completed its 18-month-long Grab & Go drive-through meal program after providing nearly 1 million meals to students and their families during a global pandemic.

District administrators ended the program after it became clear that 96% of students district-wide planned to return to school buildings this fall for five days a week of in-person instruction. Now back in school, all students have access to free breakfast and lunches as well as sack dinners.

With the help of our partners at Wyman, Chartwells food service, dozens of volunteers, and generous donations from the community, the District distributed 908,739 meals.

Though school is back in session, the need continues for some families. The District’s Student Services Office continues to provide families with essential household supplies and personal items. Thanks to a partnership with The Bailey Foundation, families with food insecurity are being provided essential meals and snacks.

Families in need of resources or additional support are always encouraged to call the Office of Student Services at 314-290-4045.

Partnered produces restaurant quality meals for district families

Vicia is one of the hottest restaurants in St. Louis. The St. Louis Community Foundation is a vital philanthropic organization in the region. In response to the challenges COVID-19 placed on both families and restaurants, the two institutions teamed up in February with the District to fund and cook fresh, healthy and delicious meals for 60 District Families. Vicia, which specializes in organic, locally sourced ingredients with a focus on quality produce, is located in the Cortex Region of St. Louis. It was ranked the second best restaurant in America in 2017 by USA Today.

The delicious and nutritious meals of baked chicken, soup and vegetable sides were prepared by Vicia. They were then delivered to the family homes by Wyman and operations staff members. The meals were part of the first cohort of the St. Louis Community Foundation’s Community Carry-Out Fund, which awards grants to local restaurants in exchange for the preparation of healthy and delicious meals to be delivered to participating organizations that then distribute to individuals with food needs. The program was designed to give both restaurants and families a needed boost at a time when many restaurants had lost business due to the pandemic and many families were struggling with household expenses.

The U. City and Vicia partnership garnered immediate media attention. So much so that the nearby local restaurant Crispy Edge joined the Foundation’s program and later prepared another round of restaurant-quality meals to district families.

In addition to Vicia and Crispy Edge, McDonald’s, Starbucks, Kaldi’s, Peel Wood Fired Pizza and other restaurants graciously donated sandwiches, fruit, dairy, vegetables and treats to be distributed to district families through the District’s former Grab & Go meal program. Local businesses Which Wich and House of India further donated coupons and gift cards for families.

District hosts wellness block party for staff Opening Day

On August 16, the District welcomed back more than 400 staff members and partners with an Opening Day Wellness Block Party that started with lunch in front of the high school and continued with an afternoon full of more than 20 different wellness activities to choose from.

There were llamas to hug, a make your own potions and lotions workshop, cupcake decorating classes, line dancing groups, succulents to plant, kickball, volleyball and basketball games, yoga, sewing, creative writing, a neighborhood walk/run, cooking and art classes, and more.

The day was supported by the District’s Wyman partners, who served as activity leads, building guides, lunch servers and more. The staff lunch was co-sponsored by the teacher and support staff unions: University City Education Association and University City Federation of Teachers SRP Local 3179.

The District wanted to especially stress staff wellness given the tremendous challenges of teaching and operating schools during COVID-19. It was a strong reminder that you cannot drink from an empty cup, and that to serve our students well, staff must also be well.

The afternoon started with webinar remarks and recognitions by Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley who said:

"I know from experience that it’s hard to radically love others if you don’t at first radically love and care for yourself — every part of you needs your own love, forgiveness and nurturing. This, too, is a challenge I present to you this year. It’s not an easy one. But the reward of loving yourself is the priceless gift of living.”
HUMANIZE: Learning Reimagined

COVID-19 continues to challenge our students and families in many social and emotional ways. Research indicates students have strikingly higher levels of anxiety, depression and a sense of isolation due to the pandemic.

Last spring, as part of the District’s efforts to encourage well-being and combat isolation, the District held a special Growing Together event outside Brittany Woods Middle School. The festival included music, games, yoga, fitness and a very, very big public art project focusing on the ways the U. City Schools community was strong, resilient and positive during a challenging school year.

Prior to the event, students and staff from every school were asked to write or draw pictures on varying shades of green construction paper shaped as tree leaves indicating ways they grew, despite dealing with COVID-19. More than 500 leaves were collected altogether. During the day of the festival, the leaves were attached by volunteers to a giant tree painted on a 10x20-foot canvas created by University City High School students.

Visitors to the May 1 event saw a vibrant, growing canopy of hope, courage and spirit in every leaf. The leaves included messages such as:

- “I’ve grown to be more patient. In life, you stop to smell the roses.”
- “I learned to work under pressure... always remember you can do anything when you put your mind to it.”
- “I learned to tell time.”
- “I learned how to regroup and add two digits.”
- “I learned not to be angry all the time.”
- “At first I couldn’t add up money, but now I can.”
- “I learned how to take care of myself and be well.”

When the tree was fully put together, every school was represented in a part of the leafy canopy. Students from the high school then took a picture of the final product from a drone, highlighting the end of a perfect day of community and unity.

Students and staff create jumbo public art project

As part of the District’s Growing Together public art project, staff and students wrote ways they grew while coping with a global pandemic. More than 500 leaves were the affixed to the giant tree.

Students distribute plant seedlings to 200 families

The May 1 Growing Together event was also a beautiful day to celebrate sustainability through food gardening.

More than 200 families picked up free vegetable and herb seedlings as well as gardening supplies as part of the student-run Growing Together: The UCity Schools Food Garden Network. The Network promotes sustainability throughout University City by enabling District and community residents to grow their own food regardless of whether they live in a house, condo or apartment.

Under the mentorship of Brittany Woods Middle School teacher Anne Cummings, University City High School students spent months planning the Food Garden Network to promote the joy and practicality of growing food. With generous support from a local resident and former University City Schools teacher, the Network was able to purchase seedlings and gardening equipment for distribution. Additionally, the group provided gardening equipment such as soil, planters, gardening gloves and shovels to help people start their gardens.

With the help of teacher Steven Wurst, students in University High School’s Black Academy further constructed more than 200 wooden planters for families that wanted to do porch or window gardening.

During the day, about 80 of the families gathered in the middle school courtyard to plant their own herbs and vegetables. All participants received yard signs to advertise that they are part of the Food Garden Network.

In June, the students further sponsored a Swap & Pops event where members could swap plants and gently used gardening supplies as well as socialize over popsicles about their growing accomplishments.
Retirees and special partners celebrated at U Are Special event

On May 12, the District honored 27 retirees, its teacher and educational support persons of the year, as well as 21 individuals and 13 local organizations for their outstanding and unwavering support of the District during COVID-19.

The U Are Special event was held outside in the Brittany Woods Middle School courtyard. Guests enjoyed boxed appetizers, Jilly’s cupcakes and beautiful centerpieces made by volunteers with U. City in Bloom. The retirees honored included retirees from 2020 who did not have a celebration last year due to COVID-19.

Christina Grove, an eighth-grade social studies teacher at Brittany Woods Middle School, was honored as the District’s Teacher of the Year. Pam Meyer, an administrative assistant with the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, was honored as Educational Support Person of the Year.

Those honored for their support for the District included physicians helping the District safely cope with COVID-19; funders and volunteers who made the District’s Grab & Go meal program a success during the pandemic; churches that provided food, volunteers, bikes and other services to our students and families; and academics who helped our teachers grow.

### Distinguished Retirees

**Celebrating Retirees from 2019-20 and 2020-21**

- Kakoli Bhattacharyya (2020 SSD)
- Charlene Bowers (2020)
- Dionne Brasely-Kelley (2020 SSD)
- Herbert Buie (2020)
- Kevin Cheeks (2020)
- Kathleen Collins (2020)
- Lorraine Eason (2021)
- James Ferguson (2020)
- Robert Griffin (2020)
- Charles David Hill (2021)
- Margaret Holly (2020 SSD)
- Marilise Jones 2021
- Lyndlee Mabry (2020)
- Larry Schulz (2021)
- Sharon Shannon (2021)
- Jerry Shores (2020)
- Elliott Shostak (2020)
- Annette Smith (2020)
- Heidi Stuart (2020)
- Lillian Blackshear Bryant Summers (2021)
- Booker Terry (2020)
- Terri Thomas (2021)
- Kurt Tuegel (2020)
- Deborah Wells (2020 SSD)
- Mary Williams (2021)
- Carol York (2021)

### 2021-22 Teacher of the Year

Christina Grove  
Eighth-Grade Social Studies Teacher,  
Brittany Woods Middle School

### 2021-22 Educational Support Person of the Year

Pam Meyer  
Administrative Assistant,  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction

### Uniquely U. City

**Celebrating Outstanding District Partners**

**University City Board of Education**
- Kristine Hendrix, Former BOE President
- Jai’Den Smith, Former BOE Student Representative

**Individual Community Volunteers**
- Ann Aurbach
- Terry Bowman
- Jennifer Bretsch
- Jodie Burditt
- Tameka D. Cook
- Larry Schulz (2021)
- Sharon Shannon (2021)
- Jerry Shores (2020)
- Elliott Shostak (2020)
- Annette Smith (2020)
- Heidi Stuart (2020)
- Lillian Blackshear Bryant Summers (2021)
- Booker Terry (2020)
- Terri Thomas (2021)
- Kurt Tuegel (2020)
- Deborah Wells (2020 SSD)
- Mary Williams (2021)
- Carol York (2021)

**Partner Organizations**
- All Nations Church (Chris Paavola)
- First Bank (Stacy Clay)
- Kids Smart (Michael Smith)
- LPD - Literacy (Darlene Castelli, Patti Rosenkratz)
- Math 314 Team (Victoria May)
- One Family Church (Brent Roam)
- Operation Food Search (Brooklyn Swyers)
- St. Louis Chess Club (Jeremy Compton)
- St. Louis Community Foundation (Elizabeth M. George)
- The Journey (Pastor Carlos Smith)
- University City Education Foundation (Linda Jones)
- Urban League of St. Louis (James R. Clark)
- Washington University in St. Louis (Brett Maricque, Jason Newland, Katie Plax)
- Ilene Murray
- Trisha Pfanzl
- Nancy Quigly
- Tiffany Scharff
- Maryann Shaw
- Rudolph A. Walz
- Jackie Walker
The forecast predicted a storm coming. The day was already throwing off a lot of humidity. Time was limited before the weather rolled in, but it was also time to tend to Barry and Jerry.

The Brittany Woods Middle School seventh-graders were ready for the job on this steamy May afternoon. Like astronauts, the trio stepped foot-first into their heavy white protective suits, a U.S. flag on the upper right arm of each. It was best to wear their suits baggy, advised the students, because it provides better protection and ventilation.

It was also time for the three adults in training to don their suits. Unlike the students, they were rookies on this mission.

At just past 2:15 p.m. the students embarked from their basement classroom toward the Urban Bird Corridor, a wooded path and wetland that runs between Brittany Woods and the Ruth Park Golf Course. The adults trailed behind. White hoods and veils now firmly on their heads, they went down a narrow path, climbed a small berm, and arrived at their destination. What the students heard was no surprise given the uncertain weather: Barry and Jerry were buzzing.

These pioneering students, Lila Stewart, Bella Lombardo and Grayson Nagy, were becoming highly capable trained beekeepers learning to tend to the middle school’s first apiary. Barry and Jerry are the students’ nicknames for the tan and green painted wooden beehives, now the active homes of thousands and thousands of bees, each hive loyal to their own queen.

The hives were named for Barry, the lead character in the animated “Bee Movie,” and Jerry, after the students learned that comedian Jerry Seinfeld produced the movie – though none of them had ever heard of the popular 1990s TV show “Seinfeld.”

Brittany Woods Middle School is one of the few schools in Missouri that now keeps bees as part of its curriculum and everyday school culture. It is also one of just a few schools in the region that further raises free-ranging chickens in its enclosed outdoor courtyard. The animals, both cluckers and buzzers, are all part of the school’s new sustainability initiatives.

Not only do the animals represent various parts of our integrated ecosystem for survival, but a relevant part of the school’s hands-on curriculum and unique opportunities for students. Bees are critically important for pollinating plants and flowers. Our planet cannot survive without them. But their colonies are shrinking worldwide. Cummings said the students’ interactions with the bees and their continued care and observation of their behaviors are all part of learning how the greater world works together to sustain itself.

As the bees buzzed, Lila and Bella entered the apiary and began their work, slowly lifting the wooden lid off the first hive with their heavily padded gloves. Bees immediately started darting out in swirling patterns around their bulky suits. It was up to Lila to pump the tin smoker. Smoke makes it harder for the bees to smell pheromones and calms them down.

Outside the aviary’s fenced area, Grayson took detailed notes on a clipboard recording the bees behavior and the health of the hive.

Some of the bees began clinging to the students’ protective suits and screened face masks. Unfazed, they noticed several ants on the edge of the hive and asked the observer to make note of a possible, but not highly concerning, threat.

They continued by lifting out one of 10 hanging frames inside the deep hive box, each swarmed in a thick coat of worker bees clinging to a growing mass of honeycomb. Yes, they noted, there were varying components of a growing, healthy hive. There were both bee eggs and bee larvae inside the honeycomb in the frame. Some of the larvae inside the...
Brittany Woods Middle School buzzes as students learn beekeeping

Continued on page 12

honeycomb had already been capped with wax by the worker bees, giving them a safe, contained space to grow and develop into adults. There were also numerous brown patches on the honeycomb indicating the healthy production of honey. It was up to the students at this point to clear the frame of accumulating wax to ensure the continued thrum of a highly productive hive producing both new bees, wax and honey under the rule of its queen.

As the students worked, teachers Audrey Lane, David Gammon, and Reagan Dauve stood outside the fenced apiary in their suits and observed the students. They, too, wanted to learn beekeeping. They were joined

Continued on page 12
by Rubina McCadney, BWMS’ “Queen Bee” who shares beekeeping responsibility with Cummings.

“What’s really amazing here,” Cummings said, “is how the students are really the teachers for the adults. That’s a goal of project-based learning, giving the students the tools and experience to gain authentic expertise.”

Donned in her own protective suit, Cummings watched and coached from outside the apiary.

There’s been just one sting so far – and that was when Cummings and McCadney were transporting the bees to their new hives. But, just in case, the beekeepers keep an EpiPen in a special safety bag nearby whenever they check the hives. That protects anyone who is stung who may have an allergic reaction.

Altogether it took about 40 minutes to inspect both hives, and most importantly, ensure that the queens had not abandoned their workers – which could lead to a collapse of the colony. But the queens were doing just fine with their minions.

Though the hive is a safe distance away from the middle school, it’s close enough for the worker bees to pollinate the blooms in the Giving Garden inside the school’s courtyard. That’s where students have been tending vegetables and berries, not to mention 18 new chickens who like to roost in the courtyard trees and peck in the grass with students nearby.

When the bees return to their hives from the garden and surrounding woods, they bring with them small sacs of pollen and nectar from the blooms. These provide protein and energy for bees, eggs and larvae, and the key material to spark the chemical reaction that produces the sweet, golden prize: pure honey. The students said they are optimistic the hives will soon yield enough honey that they can scrape, drip and collect off the frames. But they have yet to decide what to do with the liquid gold. It could be sold as a special brand of Brittany Woods honey. Or, they could use the wax and honey in the production of soaps and candles. It will be up to them to decide.

Just like the Giving Garden, the aviary remains a marvelous example to both students and staff of how humans are interdependent with nature. Humans cannot survive without bees that have the herculean task of pollinating plants that provide the food we live on, the medicines we need and the materials to build our homes and create our everyday items. And, yet, the bees will not survive without the profound work of human beings to preserve and conserve the planet through sustainability.

As the storm moved closer, the students returned the lid to the second hive. They gently shook their arms and legs to shoo away the bees still clinging to their suits, and then headed back inside. The school buses were coming to take them home for dinner and homework. The bees, on instinct, swirled back to their hives. It was time to get back to work, and away from the approaching storm.

New Lieberman Learning Center space gets an artist’s touch

Enter St. Louis area artist Sara Zigman. Zigman said the corridor needed a more aspirational personality.

Zigman, who cites artists such as Matisse, Calder, Morris Lewis, Vassarely, Warhol, Agam and Britto as her influences, designs bright modern murals with big pops of color that are printed on jumbo adhesive vinyl decals that can adhere directly on walls. This is a highly economic way to bring jumbo art into the hallways of larger buildings, said Zigman, who worked in partnership with the local company Color Art to facilitate the redesign of the space.

The new murals are intentionally inspirational and modern, appealing to the sensibilities of an older teen dealing with modern pop culture, the dynamic and changing world of everyday technology and the very modern challenges in their daily lives.

As Zigman put it, “We wanted to make this space bright and energized. We had to design it so it was inspiring even if this was the worst and darkest day in January. The students should get the message that ‘you are going to feel valued here.’”

During the design process, Paula Sams, coordinator of LLC, polled LLC staff about inspirational quotes that would appeal to LLC students. She wanted a mix of old and new. So the murals include quotes from Michelle Obama, Amanda Gorman, Greta Thunberg, Kobe Bryant and Eleanor Roosevelt. There are also references to Heart of a Lion and the core values of LLC.

By all accounts, Zigman has succeeded with her toughest critics. Sams said the LLC students were excited by the new facilities and felt special that they were the first in the school to have a redesign of their hallway. Teachers and students from around the school have stopped by to admire the new hallway as well, she said.
September 20 brought smiles to the faces of all kindergarten students attending the four elementary schools in the District. Sneakers with Soul, a nonprofit with roots dating back to 2010 as a mission ministry of Manchester UMC in Manchester, MO, provided new, high-quality Adidas sneakers to all 260 kindergartners.

Working in collaboration with Joe Miller, executive director, organizational health and efficiency for Wyman, and Gary Spiller, executive director of student services and innovation, Sneakers with Soul Founder and President Maurice Parisien arranged for the distribution of the correctly sized sneakers to the U. City students at no cost to the district or the students’ families.

The program is designed to support the children and their families by relieving one small, but costly component of going back to school. High-quality sneakers can be an expensive outlay for families sometimes living from paycheck to paycheck. Research suggests that when children are not equipped with well-fitted, quality shoes, they may suffer from physical and skeletal issues. Additionally, if a child lacks proper shoes for school, class attendance can be negatively impacted.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to work with the University City School District on this Kicks for Kindergartners program,” Parisien said. “The children enrolled in kindergarten at each of the SDUC elementary schools had their feet measured ahead of time, enabling them to kick off their elementary school year in style.”

Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley said, “We are so deeply grateful to Sneakers with Soul and our partners at Wyman for providing this special boost for our kindergartners and their families. Nice, new sneakers are too expensive for some of our parents, but a big deal to kids. Thanks to this generosity, we know our younger students are now ready for an active day of school, healthy movement and intensive learning.”

There is hope next year to expand the program to more grade levels. KMOV News Channel 4 and the St. Louis American both visited Barbara C. Jordan to report on the kindergartners there getting their new sneakers.

The School District of University City is part of a new Equity Acceleration Initiative with DonorsChoose. The District joins a select group of innovative, equity-focused districts being highlighted through DonorsChoose. The organization helps public school teachers nationwide crowdsourced funding for special materials and projects in their classrooms. As part of the Equity Acceleration Initiative, the proposed projects are being marketed to donors with a particular interest in supporting equity initiatives in schools.

The District’s DonorsChoose website is at www.donorschoose.org/ucityschools. This is where teachers post their funding requests to connect with potential donors from around the country.

The District has had impressive results through DonorsChoose. Teachers have raised about $200,000 through 371 fully funded projects in all seven of schools. More than one-third of the funding comes from donors outside of Missouri.
Congratulations UCHS Class of 2021!

The Class of 2021 made history in many ways. A global pandemic prohibited the class from attending in-person instruction in the high school during their senior year, and several signature events such as Homecoming were canceled. However, beautiful weather and the need to hold a large ceremony outside due to COVID-19 restrictions also enabled the class to be the first to celebrate their commencement ceremony at the school’s historic Muhl Schemmer Stadium in 27 years.

About 150 students attended the evening ceremony. Graduates were seated on the football field facing a stage in front of the northern goalpost. They marched around the track before and after the ceremony in front of cheering parents, grandparents and other extended family members seated in the bleachers. The stadium received a fresh coat of black and gold for the occasion.

Students in the Class of 2021 stood out with 68% percent headed to two- or four-year colleges that included Alabama State University, Beloit College, Bryn Mawr College, Cornell College, DePaul University, Fisk University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Grinnell College, St. Louis Community College, Saint Louis University, University of Missouri - Columbia, University of Missouri - St. Louis, Washington University and Occidental College. Another 20% were headed into the world of work. Some of these students are entering job apprenticeship and training programs in well-paying industries such as information technology and the trades, with 4% of graduates headed to the military.

Fourteen students graduated with dual degrees from both University City High School and St. Louis Community College - Forest Park with two full years of college credits. Another 14 students earned more than two full years of college credits at the classes to the first to celebrate their commencement ceremony at the school’s historic Muhl Schemmer Stadium in 27 years.

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Preschoolers create a sound wall for playground

What is a sound? What things make sounds? Why do things sound different from one another? What happens when you mix sounds together? How do you write sounds down on paper?

There is nothing more joyful than when preschoolers ask questions about everyday things and then start to chain the questions together into a wonderful song of exploration.

In 2019, the then 3-year-olds at Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center began exploring the concept of sound with just such questions. The inquiry led them over the next two years to experiment with sound through everyday objects. That led them, with the help of artists from nearby COCA, to invent their own instruments to produce their own unique sounds.

From there they practiced writing, drawing and painting to understand how to represent sound on paper. They learned the basics of musical notes. And finally, with experimentation as their guide, they designed and created a sound wall for their school’s playground, finished just before their promotion to kindergarten.

That wall was unveiled on May 27 during the school’s annual field day. Under blue skies, students of all ages were allowed to sound it out on the playground for the first time.

Students immediately gathered around their final creation — a brightly painted wooden wall standing about 8 feet tall and adorned with metal pots, pans and trays, plastic gallon drums, a laundry washboard, and other everyday items. Using spatulas and wooden spoons attached to the wall with rope, they began tapping, pounding, patting and drumming on their “instruments.” The symphony drew other students on the playground to join them, and the music went on throughout the school day.

The sound wall was made possible by a $1,088 grant from the University City Education Foundation awarded to Julia Goldstein teachers Dawn Pulsipher and Fannie “Belle” Lebby.

Pulsipher said they wanted to introduce the preschoolers to the design process by brainstorming a project on sound and building it.

Indeed, throughout the year, students tested out the best “instruments” to put on the wall. They made drawings of what the wall should look like and what colors best represented certain sounds. Materials were purchased and the basic wall was constructed. Students then painted the wall aqua, red, orange, yellow and purple and then added musical notes and other final touches.

The wall was a loud and bold testament to the power of young imagination and the ever-changing world of sound.

With the financial support of the University City Education Foundation, Julia Goldstein preschoolers designed and helped put together their own Sound Wall for their playground.
Repairing our trust in medicine amid COVID-19

By: SHARONICA HARDIN-BARTLEY, Superintendent, The School District of University City

As a superintendent of a school district in which more than four-fifths of its students are Black, COVID-19 has been nothing but a scourge to our community and the work we’ve done to lift and empower our students.

This virus has been particularly cruel to the Black community. It has cut off many of our students from the refuge of school buildings where they not only learn best, but where we hope they have powerful relationships with their teachers, coaches and staff and critical wellness resources that they may not have at home.

This virus has also unfairly separated our fine and loving Black culture of extended family members. Our divine bloodlines and our blessed cultural web of aunties and uncles and cousins and grandchildren who support one another currently cannot give rides to one another, share meals or gather on Sundays.

They cannot celebrate milestones like births and birthdays, graduations or even a great report card – all the things that fly in the face of poverty and systemic exclusion. Right now, they cannot hug.

For some struggling to survive, their safety bubble is impossible to keep. Their need for extended family support may open a doorway to this awful disease. When will it stop?

Right now we have a complex and emotional choice to make. Do we take the vaccine or not? Do we trust a medical profession that treated our ancestors like guinea pigs, cruelly oblivious to their pain? Do we trust an institution that to this day still gives me hope for our students currently fighting to be educated and healthy in a global pandemic. It is in honor of all of our youth – the young innovators and the children – that I will let go of my fear. I will step into the healthy in a global pandemic. It is in honor of all of our youth – the young innovators and the children – that I will let go of my fear. I will step into the power, vision and integrity of our Black offspring. It is this youthful hope and transformative change they are building together that sprung from the power, vision and innovation of our Black offspring. It is this youthful hope and transformative change they are building together that sprung from the power, vision and integrity of our Black offspring.

But my point is, change in medicine has sprung from the power, vision and integrity of our Black offspring. It is this youthful hope and transformative change they are building together that still gives me hope for our students currently fighting to be educated and healthy in a global pandemic. It is in honor of all of our youth – the young innovators and the children – that I will let go of my fear. I will step into the past to repair my trust in medicine lost in our African American experience. It is the past we step into and how we repair it. Let’s also look to nurturing of poverty and systemic exclusion. Right now, their need for extended family support may open a doorway to this awful disease. When will it stop?

But my point is, change in medicine has sprung from the power, vision and integrity of our Black offspring. It is this youthful hope and transformative change they are building together that still gives me hope for our students currently fighting to be educated and healthy in a global pandemic. It is in honor of all of our youth – the young innovators and the children – that I will let go of my fear. I will step into the past to repair my trust in medicine lost in our African American experience.

I can’t make this critical medical decision for you. Like all of this, it’s incredibly personal and part of the pain, resilience and courageous beauty of the Black experience.

However, I’ve been asked quite a bit about what to do in my role as a school superintendent where most white parents and grandparents will without hesitation get the vaccine, and many of our Black families may not.

My advice is this: Look to our youth. Look to the vision and innovation of your children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

“I’ve been asked quite a bit about what to do in my role as a school superintendent where most white parents and grandparents will without hesitation get the vaccine, and many of our Black families may not.

My advice is this: Look to our youth. Look to the vision and innovation of your children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.”

Stressed? Need time to reflect? Want some downtime? Join us in...

The Peace Place

As part of its vision of well-being and joy, the District has created a virtual toolkit for wellness. The Peace Place offers guided exercises for mindfulness, quick escapes through sounds and music, creative exercises and more.

The Peace Place is open to anyone who would like to take a little time for themselves to refresh, refocus and be well.

www.ucityschools.org/ThePeacePlace

Reprinted with permission from the March 22, 2021, edition of the St. Louis American.
University City students were captivated, not indoctrinated, by 1619 Project

By IAN FELD, a senior at University City High School in May 2021

Of course Missouri wants to ban the 1619 Project. It is impossible to expect anything less of a state represented by the likes of conservative Sen. Josh Hawley and a gaggle of Republican state House members, and by the likes of those who consider themselves free-speech activists but who seek to suppress perspectives that are different from their own.

It’s pathetic to have to advocate against the banning of curricula. We are witnessing modern-day book burning.

The students at University City High School and their teacher included the 1619 Project in our Advanced Placement language class in 11th grade. The 1619 Project, written by Nikole Hannah-Jones for The New York Times in August 2019, presents a look at the contribution of African Americans throughout U.S. history since they were first shackled and brought to America as enslaved people. It presents an alternative view of American history that is often whitewashed in textbooks. Our teacher included the 1619 Project in our 11th-grade AP English language and composition class.

We students were not taught exclusively by it; we were not indoctrinated; but we were captivated. We examined and connected with it, critically and scrutinized its claims, and we left our junior year of high school with a better understanding of how America feels to people whose generational histories have been left in the margins. In the fall of 12th grade, we urged the school board to include the 1619 Project in our district’s curriculum, not because it brainwashed us but because we felt it was valuable.

No one in America is arguing that the 1619 Project should be the indisputable instruction our students receive on this subject, but that does not mean it shouldn’t be included in discussions; teaching it does not mean it is 100%, cover-to-cover, factually indisputable. The 1619 Project is no different from any passage from a history textbook, any historic speech, or any historical documentary. It presents a viewpoint of history that can’t be universally defended in the same way that traditional teaching levies bias into the minds of students. But that does not mean it is incorrect. It’s appalling to many students like me that something so valuable, something so critical of traditional teaching should be banned simply because it paints an unpleasant picture of the past that still exists in today’s world. The effects of slavery are not confined to the past, just as tears in the fabric of a quilt are not eliminated by sewing torn pieces back together.

For a party dedicated to preserving the constitutional rights of Americans, promoting a bill that bans a source material in classrooms seems hypocritical, unconstitutional, authoritarian and politically petty. Students aren’t sheep, and lawmakers should never assume that students in classrooms absorb the information they are fed without critical analysis, questioning and discussion. This is the purpose of education.

The 1619 Project is not revisionist history. It is history. It is a collection of stories from real people about real events that often get glossed over. It provides perspectives and viewpoints that haven’t been adequately heard. It is not just about slavery. It is about what our country is born from.

The 1619 Project is not revisionist history. It is history. It is a collection of stories from real people about real events that often get glossed over. It provides perspectives and viewpoints that haven’t been adequately heard. It is not just about slavery. It is about what our country is born from. It is about respecting emotions and viewpoints. It is about making us uncomfortable with our past and desiring to build a better future.

Students like me are sickened by the blatant constitutional infringement that Missouri House Bill 1141 presents, and I join more than 25 students at University City High School in urging state officials and lawmakers to consider their position. We demand that each lawmaker examine and critically analyze their own viewpoints as much as we did last year in the classroom. This bill needs to be exiled from the legislative floor. We understand firsthand the impact of the 1619 Project. We have seen and heard and felt the uncomfortable reactions that it evokes. But we also understand better than lawmakers that the manner in which to confront discomfort is not to ignore it or feel threatened by it. Embrace a different perspective. Do not erase it.
Upcoming Events

**Electronics Recycling**
October 23
9:00 AM - Noon
Heman Park Community Center
975 Pennsylvania Ave.
(rain or shine)
Visit [www.ucitymo.org](http://www.ucitymo.org) for details.

**Fall Curbside Leaf Collection**
Crews will begin collecting leaves from the front curb of participating residential properties in November. Leaves must be raked to the curb line by Sunday, the day before collection in your area. Trucks make only one pass on each street during the collection week. Leaves must be raked at curb before scheduled collection week begins. Area pick-up schedules:

**EAST AREA** - NOV. 1-5 AND NOV. 29-DEC. 3
**CENTRAL AREA** - NOV. 8-12 AND DEC. 6-10
**WEST AREA** - NOV. 15-19 AND DEC. 13-17

Parked vehicles must not block access to the leaves. Only leaves will be collected, not gumballs, limbs or other yard debris, which are considered yard waste and should be placed in yard waste bags to be picked up on your regular collection day. Yard waste bag stickers are NOT required on bags. For questions, please visit [www.ucitymo.org](http://www.ucitymo.org) or contact the Department of Public Works at (314) 505-8560.

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**U City Community Vision 2040**

University City is embarking on a visioning process that will produce a future-oriented and inclusive Community Vision for its residents looking out to 2040. The shared vision is intended to be strategic, actionable, and sustainable. University City’s new Community Vision will identify future opportunities and align resources for development as the city prepares to update its Comprehensive Plan in 2022.

**Schedule Update**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of Delta variant transmission, the City has postponed the two Think Tank sessions originally scheduled for October 14 and 16 to next year. In the meantime, smaller engagement sessions with a wide range of stakeholders will be held later this year. Small groups may include students, educators, business owners, faith leaders, etc. Please stay tuned to the project website for more information and to provide us your input.

**We want your input!**

The purpose of this project is to develop a unified community vision for University City looking out to 2040. The vision must be built on the input of community stakeholders like you. Please take a moment to participate in this important building block of the visioning process for your community. The survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes and the results will inform the next steps in the visioning process. To take the survey, follow the project and contribute your ideas, visit [www.ucitymo.org/Vision2040](http://www.ucitymo.org/Vision2040). We want to hear from students, parents, faculty and staff.

**For more information about U City’s Community Vision Project, please contact:**

Gabby Macaluso, Asst. City Manager
6801 Delmar Boulevard
University City, MO 63130
Phone: (314) 505-8533
Email: gmacaluso@ucitymo.org
Legal notices for school families (www.ucityschools.org/LegalNotices)

The following policies and information important for families are available in parent/student handbooks as well as the District website at www.ucityschools.org/LegalNotices.

• Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed by President Obama on Dec. 10, 2015, to replace the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2002. ESSA was enacted to ensure educational equity and ultimately, to close the achievement gap. It maintains that all children, no matter where they live, what income level, what type of family unit or what challenges they may face have a right to a high-quality education. ESSA includes:
  • Title I.A: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
  • Title II: Preparing, Training and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers, Principals, and Other School Leaders
  • Title III: Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students
  • Title IV.A: 21st Century Schools

All are federal initiatives aimed at closing the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility and choice. More details including ESSA’s Parent’s Right to Know letter and Complaint Procedures are available at www.ucityschools.org/LegalNotices.

• English Language Learners: Students who are at least 18 years of age have rights regarding education records. FERPA explains these rights and offers a process to file complaints if those rights are violated. For more information, contact Keith Baker at (314) 290-4013.

• Students In Foster Care: The School District of University City is committed to the identification, support and enrollment of foster care students living within the District.

• The McKinney-Vento Education For Homeless Children Act protects the rights of school-aged children of homeless and migrant workers. The executive director of Student Services serves as the link between homeless families and school staff, district personnel, shelter workers and social service providers. For more information, contact the District’s homeless liaison, Gary Spiller, at (314) 290-4045.

• Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes and certain public education information. For more information, contact Gay Spiller at (314) 290-4045.

• Notice of Non-Discrimination is printed on the back cover of all issues of PRIDE as well as in other school and District publications. For more information, contact the District’s non-discrimination Coordinator, and contact the District’s Title IX Coordinator at (314) 290-4045.

• Students with Disabilities are offered appropriate instructional services and content modifications, as needed based on assessments.

• Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA): Parents/guardians and students who are at least 18 years of age have rights regarding education records. FERPA explains these rights and offers a process to file complaints if these rights are violated. For more information, contact Gary Spiller at (314) 290-4045.

• Social Security numbers are protected by law and will not be released for any reason.

• Under the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA), parents have rights to inspect the educational record(s) of their child. For more information, contact Gay Spiller at (314) 290-4045.

• Notice to Students and Parents: Personal information is protected by law and will not be released for any reason.

• Students have the right to inspect their educational records. For more information, contact Gay Spiller at (314) 290-4045.

• Parents and students have the right to inspect their educational records. For more information, contact Gay Spiller at (314) 290-4045.

• The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes and certain public education information. For more information, contact the District’s non-discrimination Coordinator, and contact the District’s Title IX Coordinator at (314) 290-4045.
The School District of University City is seeking permanent building substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year. We offer competitive rates as well as benefits. Candidate qualifications include high school diploma and current Missouri Substitute Certification. Previous teaching experience or equivalent in urban settings preferred. Apply now at www.ucityschools.org/Employment.

The Pumpkin Stroll & Trunk or Treat Returns!
Saturday, October 30, 2021
Stroll: 6 to 7:30 p.m. among 200 glowing, hand-carved jack-o-lanterns. Get your treats at Trunk or Treat. Carve your own pumpkin before the stroll.

Stroll:
6 to 7:30 p.m. in UCHS stadium
Carving:
2 to 4:30 p.m. outside UCHS
Drop-off your pumpkin:
2 to 4:30 p.m.
Stroll:
6 to 7:30 p.m at nearby Jackson Park Elementary

Sponsored by One U City

Stroll: 6 to 7:30 p.m., in UCHS stadium
Carving: 2 to 4:30 p.m., outside UCHS
Drop-off your pumpkin: 2 to 4:30 p.m.

Trunk or Treat: 6 to 7:30 p.m at nearby Jackson Park Elementary
Sponsored by One U City

Needed: Hosts of car trunk stations and candy donations: oneucity@ucityschools.org

This Issue's Highlights:
• What's the buzz at Brittany Woods Middle School? Ask our new student beekeepers!
• District welcomes more than 2,500 students to in-person instruction
• Safe, healthy, and fun learning for all! The latest on COVID-19 plans
• New learning and office spaces for LLC, Brittany Woods, and district administrators
• Grab & Go program distributes nearly 1 million meals
• Kindergartners get a spring in their step thanks to Sneakers with Soul
• Preschoolers design sound wall for their playground
• Class of 2021 commencement roundup
• Upcoming events, celebrations and more!