Robolions Win Regionals: Head to World Competition

University City High School’s (UCHS) Project Robolions robotics team, along with two assigned alliance teams from Michigan, earned the title of Miami Valley Regional champions in Ohio on Saturday, March 3, 2018. Competing together, three teams won the FIRST Robotics Competition at the Nutter Center at Wright University and are headed to the World Robotics Competition in Houston April 18-21.

The process started six weeks ago when FIRST Robotics assigned a problem-solving exercise to design, test and quickly build a multi-directional robot. Robolion Cooper Deitzler (junior) said, “It was about creating something basic, but doing it really, really well and effectively.”

The students calculated their strategy down to the last second, based on what actions would earn the most points during a 2.5-minute qualifying round. Once complete, the final bot was sealed, tagged and transported to competition.

Seventeen of the 25 UCHS team members traveled to Ohio along with coaches Ed Deitzler and Roslyn Hogan and two mentors, Steve Kellogg of ATT and Mike Stuvland of Boeing. Robolions available to attend the March 3 event were seniors Will Austin, Daniel Gibson, Matthew McMahon, Clayton Miller, James Simmons and Gordon Stuvland; juniors Will Crow, Cooper Deitzler and Gage McGinnis; sophomores Alex Hogan, Nicole Kellogg and Laurence Wright-Jones, along with freshmen Timothy Gibson, Jared Grove, Adam Holahan, Mia Klohr and Quincy Yarrington.

“Much like NASCAR, there is a driver team, pit crew and field crew,” said Coach Deitzler. Mid-day on Saturday, UCHS was partnered with two other teams, both from Michigan, to perform a competitive alliance that resulted in several high point matches. UCHS and their Michigan partners won the Ohio round; traditionally one of the toughest of 21 regional competitions. The event included some tense moments. Cooper, whose job as driver

ACLU and District Continue Community Dialogue on School Discipline

The ACLU of Missouri’s second meeting on school discipline was held Sunday, Feb. 11, as a continuation of the introductory meeting on positive ways to impact the process. Facilitated by Mustafa Abdullah, lead organizer for the ACLU of Missouri (ACLU-MO), the program delved deeper into the topics that arose from the first meeting.

Approximately 30 parents and community members gathered to join the growing conversation and to brainstorm how we might work together in support of more constructive and equitable ways to administer disciplinary action in our schools.

Abdullah explained, “In close partnership with the District, we are working as a community to protect the rights of every student to fair and equitable access to education. Where alternatives to suspension or expulsion exist, we want to pursue them.” He added, “However, it’s important that we get more parents – those more directly impacted – to join us in the process.”

“We are here to do a very positive thing and a very difficult thing,” continued Abdullah. “Our research describes it as disrupting the ‘School to Prison Pipeline,’ a well-documented pathway for students with behavioral issues who, without intervention or positive supports, can get lost in that pipeline.”

Superintendent of Schools Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, Ph.D., PHR, said that both the ACLU-MO and the District benefit from shared research but, “I don’t want anyone to think we waited for ACLU to address this issue. Not having out-of-school suspensions is a huge undertaking – there needs to be an infrastructure put into place.” She added, “Based on a Board of Education request earlier in the year, we are in the process of rewriting all discipline policies with the intent to remove outdated ones and to clarify others.” Hardin-Bartley added that Gary Spiller, executive director of Student Services and Innovations, is working with a representative of The Children’s Legal Services of Oakland, Cal., and ACLU on this process.
Dear University City Families,

I’m very excited to say that The School District of University City is now actively engaged in one of the most innovative and potentially game-changing new partnerships – focused on our entire learning experience.

Thanks to a grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health, the Wyman Center, a youth development organization based in St. Louis, is infusing $500,000 of additional support into our district, through what we call a “Youth Impact Partnership.”

These grant funds will help provide targeted support and customized services over the next three years to:

1. Provide solutions to fulfill the needs of students and youth-serving adults in our district, based on a needs assessment beginning this spring.
2. Help these youth and adults gain more access to opportunities to build their strengths and assets.
3. Build the capacity of adults in our district to serve students.
4. Align and coordinate these services.
5. Create quality and accountability measures to track our progress.

Within just weeks of its official launch, Wyman’s senior vice president of partnerships Joe Miller has already joined as a contributor in our administrative team meetings. Soon, additional Wyman team members will also join the partnership to begin this important work.

This partnership is a breakthrough offering and, for any parents or guardians considering our district, it should be considered a true differentiator. We believe this collaborative makes us a clear choice and signals that good things await you and your child at this educational juncture.

This collaborative will help youth increase emotional, life and leadership skills that they will take with them throughout their life.

It’s truly a dream collaborative. We are tapping into Wyman’s vast knowledge base and additional support to increase programs, support and opportunities for our students at a formative time, when the need for support is greatest.

This approach supports our own Learning Reimagined philosophy, and will support our teachers and staff in personalizing, humanizing, and problematizing our overall education experience (visit www.ucityschools.org/LearningReimagined).

As this school year winds down, our plans for full scale implementation in 2018-19 are gearing up. While we don’t know exactly what “full immersion” will look like, we can anticipate the amount of ground we can cover with, and for, our students, teachers and families with Wyman’s help.

To that end, Wyman staff will be seamlessly embedded among our own staff and will work from inside our schools to coordinate and align District services. Wyman will also provide additional support services and supplies as identified in the District’s needs assessment. After an assessment of needs and goals, which will wrap up near the end of June, we expect implementation and coordination to begin this summer.

We have already begun the process of inventorying District resources, including those already provided by Wyman’s Teen Outreach Program® (TOP®) and Connection Project, and those provided by other amazing outside partnerships; ensuring we are making the best use of all our gifts.

This process is both critical and exciting as it maximizes impact and direct benefits to our students, which ultimately, positively impacts school climate and student performance.

Just as importantly, Wyman’s Youth Impact Partnership expeditiously forwards a number of middle-school specific needs, making every student’s time with us a true launching pad for future success in school and in life.

Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley, PhD PHR
Superintendent

From our Board of Education

Dear University City Families,

Once again, it is time for school board elections and there are five candidates vying for two seats. I encourage you to get to know the candidates, profiled in this issue of PRIDE and prepare to cast an informed vote on April 3.

Thanks to the community’s support, I am now in my fourth year of board service (second term) and I take my role very seriously. I have found the experience very rewarding as we have implemented plans and processes that are now yielding benefits for our students and community. It’s a wonderful feeling to see the positive impact good decision-making and strong partnership development has on our students.

Continuous education is on-going and key for Board members as well. Presently, the Board is working on better understanding our roles as community servants working in partnership with the superintendent and administration to deliver a quality educational product. We don’t always immediately agree, but we find our way to consensus. In fact, the Board has read and is presently discussing a book that centers on developing a “balanced governance approach,” which is key to building a healthy relationship between the superintendent and the school board and cultivating the ability to work as a team in support of our goals for students.

Ideally, each Board member brings a unique perspective and uses his or her experiences, understanding and influence to help the superintendent guide the direction of the District. I am excited about the synergy that has developed among the current Board and administration and how that has helped to swiftly move projects forward. That’s a particularly important breakthrough when you consider the importance of each formative year in a student’s life.

This April, we have two seasoned Board members hoping to continue service and three new community members who want to step up to the position. As you consider each candidate, I suggest you look for people of passion and consider what the perspectives of each one might add to the current education conversation. Finally, consider how well the candidate could collaborate as part of the superintendent-board team decision-making that is the hallmark of a balanced-governance board. In the end, it’s the balanced-governance board that is the steam that powers us forward as we work to achieve the best for each and every student.

Additionally, I would like to thank those who contributed funds for the University City Education Foundation in honor of my birthday celebration fundraiser. Your support is greatly appreciated!

George Lenard
Board of Education Director

The personal opinions expressed in this article may not reflect that of the entire school board.
Brittany Woods Students Launch a School-Wide Recycling Program

New Environmental Club Leads the Way in Waste Reduction Efforts

The Brittany Woods Environmental Club is welcoming spring with a new, school-wide recycling program sponsored in part by a grant from the St. Louis County Department of Public Health (SLCDPH). On Valentine’s Day, labeled recycling bins were delivered to each classroom and student-led education is underway to ensure proper use.

Sixth grader Emma Scharff, a leader in the new Environmental Club, said, “Going into this, I was incredibly nervous. I didn’t know if it would actually become a reality; a reality that I strive for every day.” She added, “Today (after the launch), I feel completely elated! This whole experience gave me the confidence I need to bring this (process) to other places and use it for my career in the future.”

The recycling program is a product of the Public Health grant received last spring. At the suggestion of Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, superintendent of schools, Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) teacher Anne Cummings applied for and received a grant to install three water bottle filling stations. Cummings then brought Emma into the process. “Emma had just led a group of students to speak with the superintendent on eliminating foam trays in the lunchroom. She was a natural fit,” said Cummings. That was the start of the Brittany Woods Environmental Club, which has grown to include 50 students.

SLCDPH environmental representative Margaret Lilly explained, “Brittany Woods was one of 10 schools participating in the study to highlight the number of disposable bottles used.” She added, “Reusable bottles and filling stations are ways to help reduce the number of disposable bottles. The water is also cold and filtered for better taste!”

SLCDPH environmental representative Bailey Lutz said, “Students left with objectives for recycling including eliminating foam trays at lunch, water bottle filling stations and bottles, ways to measure and reduce waste and ideas for the kick off of the recycling program.”

“We met last week to make sure they were ready (for launch). We made signs, unwrapped 96 bins and made sure they were labeled,” Lutz said. Lilly added, “It was an extremely well-coordinated approach thanks to strong support from Superintendent Hardin-Bartley and (Executive Director of Operations) Karl Scheidt.”

Now that the bins are in place, Emma and her team are preparing to announce the recycling program on video and through a quiz on Kahoots, which is a game-based learning platform that helps teach students, in this case, the finer points of recycling, what is appropriate to put in the bin and what contaminates a bin.

Cummings said, “This whole process has been an excellent opportunity for us to teach students the important of environmental responsibility – or, in some cases, let them teach us.”

UCHS Robolions Win Regionals: Head to World Competition

From page 1

Students from Brittany Woods Middle School’s New Environmental Club visited the St. Louis County Department of Public Health’s recovery facility in preparation for developing the school’s recycling program.

discarded at the school. Now a counter on each of the filling stations tracks the number of refills and the reduction in waste.

The Environmental Club students were invited to tour the Public Health recovery facility where they explored the logistics of recycling and participated in a strategic planning meeting. Waste management environmental representative Bailey Lutz said, “Students left with objectives for recycling including eliminating foam trays at lunch, water bottle filling stations and bottles, ways to measure and reduce waste and ideas for the kick off of the recycling program.”

“We met last week to make sure they were ready (for launch). We made signs, unwrapped 96 bins and made sure they were labeled,” Lutz said. Lilly added, “It was an extremely well-coordinated approach thanks to strong support from Superintendent Hardin-Bartley and (Executive Director of Operations) Karl Scheidt.”

Now that the bins are in place, Emma and her team are preparing to announce the recycling program on video and through a quiz on Kahoots, which is a game-based learning platform that helps teach students, in this case, the finer points of recycling, what is appropriate to put in the bin and what contaminates a bin.

Cummings said, “This whole process has been an excellent opportunity for us to teach students the important of environmental responsibility – or, in some cases, let them teach us.”

The School District of University City's Human Resources Department is hosting a speed-dating event for all interested teachers on Wednesday, March 21, 5:30-7 p.m. at Blueberry Hill, located at 6594 Delmar in the Loop.

Teacher recruitment in preparation for the 2018-19 school year is on going and competition for the best and brightest has never been stronger. Tiffany Slater, assistant superintendent of Human Resources explained, “We have aggressive and clearly defined education goals and we acknowledge the importance of acquiring amazing teachers to forward those goals and teach our talented students. It’s also important that interviewing is not a one-sided process. Both parties must actively choose each other. That’s how we decided to invite candidates to participate in an exciting and welcoming speed-dating format.”

“We are hoping to generate some excitement around the one profession that, through their development of tomorrow’s leaders, has the potential to positively impact them all,” Slater said.

All teachers interested in joining the District are eligible to participate. The District has established an online registration portal at www.ucityschools.org/TeacherRecruitment2018. Candidates can provide advance information including resume and reserve their spot for the event. For more information, call (314) 290-4022.

March 2018 | PRIDE | ucityschools.org
I ask for your support so that I can continue to transform the life of every student every day. Help guide the district as we move forward to initiatives and to ask the right questions to allowed me to effectively assess programming relationship with citizens, staff and board the classroom every day and a good working are an awareness of the challenges faced in pressing issues, including increasing student achievement and improving school climate. Some of my strengths as a board member are an awareness of the challenges faced in the classroom every day and a good working relationship with citizens, staff and board members. My background as an educator has allowed me to effectively assess programming initiatives and to ask the right questions to help guide the district as we move forward to transform the life of every student every day. I ask for your support so that I can continue to help guide the district as we seek the best for our students and our University City community.

For the past three years I’ve had the privilege of serving on the Board of Education. During that time, I’ve been part of a team that hired an outstanding new superintendent, voted to provide free breakfast and lunch for all students, and sold surplus property. I’m excited to continue the journey for excellence in education through programs like Learning Reimagined and Restorative Practices. Implementing these programs with fidelity and accountability by the board is key, and I know I am up for the job.

I chose University City as home over 10 years ago, because of the great communities and world class tradition of public education. As a mother of three boys in the district (1 at BW and 2 at Pershing), I understand first hand the concerns parents who choose to send their children to our schools. That is why I am running, because the educational future of all our children is so important to me.

If re-elected I want continue to provide support for the Administration while implementing Learning Reimagined and Restorative Practices. These programs are vital to student learning and changing the culture for better. I also want to continue advocating for expansion of our early childhood program. I am fortunate to have sent all three boys through Julia Goldstein; that vital childhood program. I am fortunate to have sent all three boys through Julia Goldstein; that vital experience should be available to more University City Pre-K families.

As a Board Member, I take my role seriously as an advocate for the District. I would like to see improved communications throughout the district, so that families, community members and the region know the wonderful opportunities such as Project Based Learning, a new Bio-medical class, Robotics in every school, and so much more.

If elected, I am committed to being open minded about all issues coming before the Board. I will only make decisions after careful consideration with the fellow Directors and keep the best interest of Students, Parents, Staff, and Community in mind.

I have lived in University City since 1981, and have served our school community continuously since 1984; as a Kindergarten teacher at Daniel Boone (now Barbara C. Jordan), Delmar-Harvard, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Flynn Park schools from 1984-2014, and as a member of the University City Board of Education since 2015, where I am now serving as Vice President. I have a Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and a Master’s Degree in Educational Processes from Maryville University. I have also become a Certified Board Member through the Missouri School Boards’ Association and have received continuous training as a board member since being elected in 2015.

My board service has also allowed me to be active on the boards of Education Plus and Character Plus, among others. These are challenging times in education and in our society as a whole. During my time on the school board, there has been a lot of change in district leadership. I am proud to be a part of our current board, where we are working in harmony as a team and with administration. We are working diligently to find solutions to some of our most pressing issues, including increasing student achievement and improving school climate.

Some of my strengths as a board member are an awareness of the challenges faced in the classroom every day and a good working relationship with citizens, staff and board members. My background as an educator has allowed me to effectively assess programming initiatives and to ask the right questions to help guide the district as we move forward to transform the life of every student every day. I ask for your support so that I can continue to help guide the district as we seek the best for our students and our University City community.

For the past three years I’ve had the privilege of serving on the Board of Education. During that time, I’ve been part of a team that hired an outstanding new superintendent, voted to provide free breakfast and lunch for all students, and sold surplus property. I’m excited to continue the journey for excellence in education through programs like Learning Reimagined and Restorative Practices. Implementing these programs with fidelity and accountability by the board is key, and I know I am up for the job.

I chose University City as home over 10 years ago, because of the great communities and world class tradition of public education. As a mother of three boys in the district (1 at BW and 2 at Pershing), I understand first hand the concerns parents who choose to send their children to our schools. That is why I am running, because the educational future of all our children is so important to me.

If re-elected I want continue to provide support for the Administration while implementing Learning Reimagined and Restorative Practices. These programs are vital to student learning and changing the culture for better. I also want to continue advocating for expansion of our early childhood program. I am fortunate to have sent all three boys through Julia Goldstein; that vital experience should be available to more University City Pre-K families.

As a Board Member, I take my role seriously as an advocate for the District. I would like to see improved communications throughout the district, so that families, community members and the region know the wonderful opportunities such as Project Based Learning, a new Bio-medical class, Robotics in every school, and so much more.

If elected, I am committed to being open minded about all issues coming before the Board. I will only make decisions after careful consideration with the fellow Directors and keep the best interest of Students, Parents, Staff, and Community in mind.

Since moving to Missouri nearly six years ago, University City and its residents have embraced my family and me like nowhere I’ve lived before. I was born and raised in Nebraska, and coming from a family of educators, I was taught that a strong school district is the backbone to a vibrant city. A strong school district teaches students how to be successful citizens. I am seeking a position on the school board because I want to help the district meet and exceed the goals they have set and educate the young adults of our city.

I am a firm believer in STEAM and a comprehensive education that includes real life skills such as asset management and job shadowing. As a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in finance, I believe financial soundness is the foundation to a quality school district. It allows our district to attract and retain quality educators and maintain top-notch facilities for our students to thrive.

Our district has valuable assets that other districts try to replicate. We have a diverse city with wonderful public facilities geared toward education and a strong sense of community. We also have leadership that is dedicated to student achievement and community outreach. As a “Big” in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater St. Louis, I am aware of the challenges and triumphs that students and public school districts face. With the support of our educators, superintendent, and current school board members we can be the school district the St. Louis region looks to as the standard of what can be accomplished.

Our students deserve the best education we can provide. As the father of a future School District of University City student, I will do all that I can to make it a reality if elected.

Elections will be held Tuesday, April 3, 2018, for two University City Board of Education seats. For more information, visit www.ucityschools.org/BOE or call (314) 290-4003.
Board of Education Candidate Statements continued from page 4

Patricia Washington

I have been a passionate advocate for children and families all of my life. Serving on the Board would be a privilege and allow me to work with a great group of individuals also committed to serving children.

I am a SEMO State University grad. After graduation, I bought my first house on Braddock Drive and currently reside in the 3rd Ward. I am deeply rooted here serving as President of both the University City Community Foundation and our new Kiwanis Club.

I served on the governing board for SEMO and during my term we transformed the University. I know the courage and diplomacy needed to have tough conversations. I understand the laser focus required to implement transformational initiatives and monitor impact. I know how to create accountability frameworks to ensure educational equity—giving every child, no matter their background or where they live—the best chance to succeed.

I am proud to have served on the Executive Cabinet for two superintendents. I worked in the district as Executive Director of Communications & Community Outreach tirelessly promoting our students, staff and positive accomplishments. I am proud of my contributions, especially our new logo and website. I served on the district’s Accountability Committee and understand our challenges well. I also know there is new hope and excitement; much of that due to strong initiatives implemented by Superintendent Hardin-Bartley.

In an effort to provide a more comprehensive and cohesive K-12 athletic program, The School District of University City’s Athletics Department and The City of University City’s Parks and Recreation Department have established the U. City Athletic Committee.

“We are looking to bring various youth sports groups together to be more efficient and more unified,” said David M. (Matt) Brooks, Ph.D., District athletic director. “Our goal is to provide opportunities to more students, at various ages, to be successful in athletics.” Brooks added that it will unite local K-12 youth athletic programs for football, baseball and soccer hosted in the students’ neighborhood public elementary school while saving time, equipment and costs.

In 2018, this relationship will be solidified with a memo of understanding thanks to the efforts of Brooks and Lynda Euell-Taylor, deputy director of recreation for the City.

The first outcome from this committee was the newly-established University City Youth Basketball Program that included 60 local youth athletes. University City High School students refereed and worked the scoreboard for the games at Centennial Commons.

Also being included under this committee’s umbrella of programs is Cardinal Care’s Redbird Rookies summer program that began in 2004. This free, noncompetitive, co-ed baseball/softball program is for youth ages 5-13 years old.

Summer Learning Academy Begins June 4

The School District of University City offers the 2018 Summer Learning Academy (SLA) for students who will be in first- through twelfth-grades in the 2018-19 school year with varied criteria for enrollment. The 2018 SLA runs Monday-Thursday beginning Monday, June 4 and concludes on Thursday, June 28. Students will attend the SLA site for their 2018-19 grade level.

“Our District’s Summer Learning Academy is a great way for students to engage in instruction based on their personal needs to ensure their readiness for success in the following school year,” said Elizabeth Gardner, director of instruction. “If you are looking for summer experiences for students beyond summer school, we have partnered with numerous local organizations to offer enrichment opportunities.” More information is available at www.ucityschools.org/UCHSSummer2018.

Parent notifications began during spring Parent/Teacher Conferences. The pre-registration deadline is May 4, 2018. For more information, visit www.ucityschools.org/SLA. For printed copies of any SLA form, contact the District’s office of curriculum and instruction at (314) 290-4020.

New App 2.0 Roll-out

The School District of University City proudly announces the roll out of our NEW app for Android and iOS users available through Play Store and the App Store by searching “University City Schools.”

This individually-customizable app features news and announcements from the District and school websites, Facebook, Twitter, Peachjar and YouTube. It also includes direct links to Tyler SIS Parent Portal, BoardDocs, ULIVE (live streaming), U-Times, calendars, menus, transportation, athletics and much more. (Watch for new “Athletics” page also available at www.ucityschools.org/Athletics.) For more information about the new app, visit www.ucityschools.org/APP.

Calling residents of University City to attend the

School Board Forum
Monday, March 26, 2018
7 p.m.
All Nations Church
864 Olive Blvd, 63130

Moderated by: 3rd Ward Councilman Rod Jennings
Sponsored by: Richard Dockett Community Organization Kymal Dockett, President
Richard Dockett Community Organization rdcommunityorg@gmail.com
Office: 314-285-8010

PRIDE
ucityschools.org

March 2018 | PRIDE | ucityschools.org

Transform the Life of Every Student Every Day

The newly-established University City Youth Basketball Program provides local training and competition experiences for 60 athletes.

Redbird Rookies works to instill the values of teamwork, integrity, self-esteem and leadership in the “classroom” of a baseball setting. More information is available on school Peachjars (see www.ucityschools.org/peachjar).

Special thanks to the following committee members as they work with organizers Brooks and Euell-Taylor: Tamura Binion, Carrie Blair, Eunice Davis, LaVerne Ford-Williams, Mike Glickert, Tracy Gritsenko, Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, Fred Lewis, Jason McLure, Joanne Soudah, Gary Spiller, Bart Stewart, Kevin Taylor, Brittin Ward, Jeri Wenneker, James Wilke and Stephen A. Wilke.
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his legacy are celebrated around the country on Jan. 15. The School District of University City held its own celebration for him on Jan. 12 at University City High School. This celebration was presented by staff members throughout the District, including Caroline Naubdejalial, UCHS choir director. Naubdejalial, as well as elementary school teachers from across the District, organized elementary school students to perform with the high school choir students. The elementary singers had previously learned the song, “We All Need Peace,” so the high school students quickly learned the song so they could perform it together.

“I think that it presented a wonderful opportunity and sets the stage for future MLK programs to showcase our talented participants district wide,” said Naubdejalial.

Other performances included a reading of Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, a solo performance by Kura Love singing “Hallelujah” by Alicia Keys, and various drawings based on the activities of the day that were created artwork to express different aspects of Dr. King’s reasonings to the students.

“Other elementary students focused on making faces of people they can be friends with and second graders focused on friendship (by) ‘I have a dream’ statements or pictures.”

C. Jordan Elementary art teacher. “My first and second graders focused on friendship (by) making faces of people they can be friends with (and) paper people with clothes from around the world. My fourth- and fifth-graders created ‘I have a dream’ statements or pictures.”

Middle school students opted to use multiple types of media to enhance their creativity. “My students really focused on the message this year, diving into MLK’s philosophy on peace and friendship,” said Emily Puls, Barbara C. Jordan Elementary art teacher. “My first and second graders focused on friendship (by) making faces of people they can be friends with and eighth-graders created ‘I have a dream’ statements or pictures.”

Students in Maureen Cloos’ Pre-AP Studio Art class depicted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. according to their own interpretations. Artists for the works displayed from left to right: Styjah Hudson and Joash Easley, Zhong-Mei Web and Sh’ra’ya Bailey, Kalbi Byun, Jeanne Quinn, Katherine Murphy and Ashlynn Jenkins. “Each person had a different interpretation and the groups that worked together also worked out very well,” said Ashlynn Jenkins, senior.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and his legacy are celebrated around the country on Jan. 15. The School District of University City held its own celebration for him on Jan. 12 at University City High School. This celebration was presented by staff members throughout the District, including Caroline Naubdejalial, UCHS choir director. Naubdejalial, as well as elementary school teachers from across the District, organized elementary school students to perform with the high school choir students.

The elementary singers had previously learned the song, “We All Need Peace,” so the high school students quickly learned the song so they could perform it together.

“I think that it presented a wonderful opportunity and sets the stage for future MLK programs to showcase our talented participants district wide,” said Naubdejalial.

Other performances included a reading of Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, a solo performance by Kura Love singing “Hallelujah” by Alicia Keys, and various drawings based on the activities of the day that were created artwork to express different aspects of Dr. King’s reasonings to the students.

“Other elementary students focused on making faces of people they can be friends with and second graders focused on friendship (by) ‘I have a dream’ statements or pictures.”

C. Jordan Elementary art teacher. “My first and second graders focused on friendship (by) making faces of people they can be friends with (and) paper people with clothes from around the world. My fourth- and fifth-graders created ‘I have a dream’ statements or pictures.”

Middle school students opted to use multiple types of media to enhance their creativity. “My students really focused on the message this year, diving into MLK’s philosophy on peace and friendship,” said Emily Puls, Barbara C. Jordan Elementary art teacher. “My first and second graders focused on friendship (by) making faces of people they can be friends with and eighth-graders created ‘I have a dream’ statements or pictures.”

Students in Maureen Cloos’ Pre-AP Studio Art class depicted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. according to their own interpretations. Artists for the works displayed from left to right: Styjah Hudson and Joash Easley, Zhong-Mei Web and Sh’ra’ya Bailey, Kalbi Byun, Jeanne Quinn, Katherine Murphy and Ashlynn Jenkins. “Each person had a different interpretation and the groups that worked together also worked out very well,” said Ashlynn Jenkins, senior.

‘A Walk with Martin’ Celebrates with Performances

District Students Contribute Artwork

Inspired by his message, determination and fight during the Civil Rights Movement, University City students across the District created artwork to express different aspects of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s life, for his celebration.

At University City High School, students painted their own interpretations of Dr. King. “Our assignment was to interpret in our own ways a walk in the life of Martin and how he influenced the world today,” said Ashlynn Jenkins, senior.

For elementary schools, some art teachers took their students to the next level by giving them a visual and hands-on experience to learn about Dr. King’s role in the movement to transfer to their pieces. “My students watched age-appropriate videos on Dr. King and I shared my personal photos I’d taken from a trip I took in May to the National Civil rights museum with each class,” said Yellia Jeffries-Evans, Jackson Park Elementary art teacher. “I asked my second through fifth-grade students to choose an illustration we’d discussed and create a drawing of it, but they had to include themselves and Dr. King in the drawing. They had to show Dr. King saying something about how the injustice in their picture needed to be made fair or changed.”

Other elementary students focused on specific aspects of Dr. King’s reasonings to express in their art.

“My students really focused on the message this year, diving into MLK’s philosophy on peace and friendship,” said Emily Puls, Barbara C. Jordan Elementary art teacher. “My first and second graders focused on friendship (by) making faces of people they can be friends with and eighth-graders created ‘I have a dream’ statements or pictures.”

Middle school students opted to use multiple types of media to enhance their creativity. “My students (sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders) created works inspired by quotes, images from his speeches and his messages,” said Katherine Avant, Brittwood Middle School art teacher. “They worked in oil, pastel, pencil, marker and various other media.”

Ahmed Receives MLK Award

Every year at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration held at University City High School, a community member is chosen to receive the Dr. King Spirit Award, presented by the Board of Education. The recipient of the award is somebody who shows qualities like Dr. King, such as community service, as well as makes an impact through social justice.

This year, DeBorah Ahmed was presented with the award on Jan. 12. Ahmed was a student at UCHS from 1971 to 1973 and went on to college at Grinnell College where she earned a bachelor of arts in anthropology and later went to Southern Illinois University where she earned her masters in policy analysis. She is now the executive director of the Better Family Life Cultural, Educational and Business Center where she focuses on cultural issues that affect African-Americans in urban communities.

“When I graduated from high school here in June of 1973, the dream that I had for myself was to go to college and be an archaeologist,” said Ahmed. “When I got to college, I discovered African dance and it turned my life around.

As someone who studies African dance, Ahmed integrates aspects of the arts into her work as a form of liberation for her people, similar to the way Dr. King liberated his people.

“What Dr. King did was use the power of his voice to liberate his people and to liberate all humanity,” said Ahmed.

At the end of her acceptance speech, Ahmed called Kura Love, junior, who sang earlier during the celebration, onto the stage to share some final words of motivation.

“My advice to you is to use your voice,” said Ahmed. “Use your God-given talent to liberate and to uplift, not to pull down, to inspire and rejuvenate.”
**ACLU-MO Leads Community Dialogue on Navigating School Discipline**

Hardin-Bartley opened the work session by speaking to the need to work as a community to help students remain on the right path even after graduation. She was clear that the discussions did not apply to all students, “We know that our African American male population is most at risk,” said Hardin-Bartley. “It’s important for us to learn to see the warning signs.”

Often, she said, the only sign is lack of a strong support system. “Our Student Services team has data that shows support, or lack thereof (real or perceived by the student), weighs heavily in disciplinary issues.”

Earlier in the school year, The District launched a restorative practices process that aligns, in part, with ACLU’s framework. Rather than punitive action, the restorative practice approach allows for a more positive way to change behavior. That includes working with stakeholders in a student’s life to get to the root issues. Hardin-Bartley said, “We must focus on solutions and that’s why we agreed – enthusiastically agreed – to partner with the ACLU on this project. We want to be a model for change.”

Abdullah admitted, “The organizing process can, at times, be messy (confusing) so we need to focus. To do that, we break out in small group discussions.” The groups brainstormed the top three points voted on at the first meeting and expanded the discussion to include:

1) Youth engagement in the disciplinary process;
2) Keeping students in school;
3) Providing wrap-around services to support the whole child;

At some point the youth must have input in what we are doing.

ACLU-MO invites the University City community to the Navigating School Discipline Workshop in partnership with Legal Services of Eastern Missouri on Tuesday, April 10, 7-9 p.m. at Jackson Park Elementary School, 7400 Balson Ave. (63130). Childcare and food will be provided.

---

**UCHS “Project Lead The Way” Team Bests 16 Local High Schools for First Place**

Members of University City High School’s (UCHS) Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Engineering Team created, constructed, careened and catapulted themselves into first place in this year’s Greater St. Louis PLTW Engineering Competition. The event was held Feb. 2, 2018, at Florissant Valley Community College. Seniors David White, Daniel Gibson, Marco Gillispie, Clayton Miller and juniors Thomas Looby and Peter Zhang were pitted against teams from 16 local high schools in a day-long competition that tested their problem-solving abilities under a tightly timed process.

UCHS PLTW teacher Stephen Wurst explained, “One, three-member (UCHS) team was assigned to create a catapult and the other was to create an object that moved to the rear part of the building. The teams were told to transfer their written instructions to see if the other team could recreate the object.”

Coaches Wurst and Michael Dorsey, a UCHS PLTW math teacher, were isolated from the students during the competition. Wurst said, “The students received no input (from us), They did it all themselves.” He added, “Best of all, they were nicely dressed, respectful and really took it seriously.” This is particularly for the four seniors for whom this was a first win at this competition and first experience under a new format.

Miller, who plans to study journalism at Indiana State University next fall, said PLTW courses have taught him sound engineering practices, “Our teachers prepared us pretty well in how to document and create engineering drawings and notebooks.”

The UCHS team has gotten stronger in the past three years, but with the prospective loss of senior team members, Wurst said they will begin a rebuilding phase. Miller advised, “Next year, I would tell the team to try to stay on time and make sure documentation is done well. Good time management is key. Don’t risk not finishing.”

---

**UCHS Team Plans for Presentation in May**

St. Louis Community College teacher Tim Poelker also has a Project Lead The Way class at University City High School as part of the Engineering Design and Development capstone project — the culmination of all PLTW engineering courses. Excited by the team’s recent win, Poelker anticipated the next presentation at Ameren in early May.

“This is when all St. Louis area EDD high schools bring their capstone projects to be judged by a team of professional engineers,” said Poelker. “EDD projects are judged on how well students follow and document the EDD process along with construction and presentation.”

This will be the first year UCHS has participated in this event.

In preparation, the team is in the process of designing and building an athletic shoe, which has reversible (soft and hard) cleats. With one win behind them, they should be “shoe-ins” for the win.

---

**Strategic Plan Update**

At press time, the District’s Strategic Plan was making its way to the Board of Education to be reviewed during the March meeting. At that point, the plan will be communicated widely in an effort to drive the process throughout the District.

The plan was crafted with the help and support of a core team and a working team of parents, teachers, administrators, community members — a cross section of District stakeholder teams. Over a series of meetings, the teams were led by University City High School alumnus and author Alan Spector, a specialist in mapping strategy for various industries.

The resulting plan, as presented to the Board, is a rolling plan with immediate, noticeable and positive student impact and annual renewals.
Students Offer Outstanding Performances in Annual Musical, Sister Act

When a worldly singer witnesses a mob crime, the police hide her as a nun in a traditional convent where she has trouble fitting in.

University City High School’s 2018 annual spring musical, Sister Act, was a joyous show that used music to bring different communities, and lifestyles, together on Feb. 23-24 in the UCHS Auditorium.

“Sister Act was absolutely amazing! If you missed this production, you missed a real treat” said Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, superintendent of schools. “Kudos to our students and all of the staff who worked to make the production a success. Job well done!”

This year’s success is due to the hard work of students and staff including the cast (in order of appearance): Haley Rhiney as Deloris Van Cartier, Kristina Eason as Tina, Zhong-Mei Webb as Michelle, Marquess Pearson as Curtis, Kevin Worth as TJ, William Austin as Joey, Reuben Thomas as Pablo, Larry Cox as Ernie, Cory Barber and John Ruland as Cop 1 and 2, Nathan Hill as Eddie, Jamoni Richardson as Mother Superior, Karl Nelson as Monsignor O’Hara, Phoebe Thoroughman as Mary Patrick, Kathleen Murphy as Mary Robert and Nicole Holahan as Mary Lazarus. Ensembles include Queen of Angels Convent Nuns played by Shu’rya Butler, Della Cox, Kristina Eason, Kayla Harris, Yael Portman, Lydia Thoroughman and Zhong-Mei Webb; along with Alter Boys, Bar Patrons, Priest and The Pope - Cory Barber, Larry Cox, John Ruland and Reuban Thomas.

Behind the scenes were set crew members Linsey Sparks and Hailey Harris, stage manager Makiaya Stewart, sound designer Karl Nelson, follow spot operators Deleon Fitzgerald and Tamarhd Taylor along with poster and program cover artist Yael Portman.

The student and professional orchestra included Ryan Bolinger, first keyboard; Henry Giles, student keyboard; Christopher Boemler, second keyboard; Robert Hardcastle, guitar; Darby Dochreden, bass; Jack Kissinger, first reed; Stanley Coleman, second reed; Daniel Pomeranz, student reed, Robert Giles, first trumpet; Bentley Caughlan, second trumpet; Jason Jennings, percussion, and Scott Waggoner, drums.

Special thanks to the following UCHS staff members who played major roles behind the scenes: Catherine Hopkins, director and costumes; Cameron Tesson, set and lighting; Justin Foster, sound technical; Nancy Burstein, costumes, and Todd Yancy, artistic director.

(See photos on Facebook @ucityschools.)
U City in Bloom’s Spring Plant Sale - April 28-29

U City in Bloom will hold its annual Spring Plant Sale this April at the Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Ave. (63130). A variety of flowering annuals, vegetables and herbs will be offered for sale, in addition to the thousands of perennial plants prepared by U City in Bloom volunteers.

U City in Bloom’s Preview Party is scheduled for 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, April 27. Tickets for the preview party are $25. Reservations are available at www.ucityinbloom.org or call (314) 973-6062. Guests may browse and purchase plants while enjoying a signature cocktail, light refreshments and other beverages. The public plant sale begins Saturday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and continues on Sunday, April 29, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All proceeds from the plant sale will help keep University City blooming.

University City’s National Walking Day - Wednesday, April 4

University City Recreation Division invites you to the American Heart Association’s National Walking Day on Wednesday, April 4, from 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Spend your day “getting out and walking” in University City. You will receive a route map to walk through Heman Park, located right outside Centennial Commons (park here), 7210 Olive Blvd. (63130). Once you have completed the walking route, stop back into Centennial Commons for a special gift!

What’s New at the Library - Orcs & Aliens

Lots of new things are taking shape at the University City Public Library! In March, a new monthly book group, Orcs & Aliens, kicks off with “Binti” by Nnedi Okorafor. Group members focus on science fiction and fantasy titles. They meet on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

The Library also has a couple of author events on the horizon — on Friday, March 23, poet Michael Castro will read from his new book, “We Need to Talk: Selected Poems, 1970-2016,” and on Monday, April 23, the Friends of the Library will welcome author Elsa Hart to discuss her books, “The White Mirror” and “Jade Dragon Mountain.” Both author events will take place in the Library auditorium at 7 p.m. These events are free and open to all.

But let’s not forget about the Youth Services department, where robots are on the brain! Thanks to a technology grant, Youth Services staff members are working hard on learning some new Spheros, Ozobot and LEGO Mindstorms robotics equipment that will be used for programs this spring and summer.

Stay tuned to the Library website at ucitylibrary.org and Facebook page at facebook.com/UCityLibrary for updates, or call (314) 727-3150 for more information.

The Ruth Park Spring Jr. Golf Camp
April 14 - April 21 – April 28
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
$40 per student for the 3 lesson class. The program is available to University City residents and surrounding communities.

Wednesday Golf Clinic – “Get Golf Ready”
April 11, 18, 25; May 2, 9, 16
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
$90 including range balls. Great for beginners to learn with our experienced and friendly PGA professionals.

Time to regrip your clubs?
Get your golf club grips sized right at Ruth Park! Special offer now through April 30 - $15% off of six clubs or more.

To learn more about these and other golf programs, visit ruthparkgolf.org

GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATES

CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY, MO

VOTE: APRIL 3, 2018

WARD 1
STEVE McMAHON
WARD 2
TIM CUSICK
JERROLD TIERS
WARD 3
STACY CLAY
OFFICE OF MAYOR
TERRY CROW

10 March 2018 | PRIDE | ucityschools.org

The School District of University City, Missouri
Four UCHS Football Lions Make Commitments on National Signing Day

National Signing Day is one of the most exciting days in the lives of many student-athletes, when they commit to continuing their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level. Not only does it validate all the hard work put in by students and their families, but it’s also a chance to continue to play a sport they love, and earn a degree.

On Feb. 7, 2018, University City High School (UCHS) senior football standouts signed letters of intent as part of National Signing Day.

Linebacker #4 Laverle Davis, Jr., (unanimous first team All-Conference) will attend Lindenwood University, Belleville, IL; defensive lineman and three-year starter #67 Traveon Johnson and defensive lineman #74 Gregory Williams (unanimous first team All-Conference) will both attend Iowa Central Community College and running back #2 Jason Knight, who led the team in rushing yards and touchdowns, will attend Georgia Prep Sports Academy.

Wells said he admired the dedication demonstrated by Laverle Davis, Jr. “Laverle committed (to Lindenwood) a long time ago after going on school visits and he didn’t waver when other schools came to call. It’s good to see him rewarded for the effort he has shown.” Laverle, who already has his own clothing line, plans to major in business marketing.

Annual “Safe at School - Safe At Home” Event Seeks Community Support

The University City community is invited to University City’s seventh annual National Night Out and Back-to-School Rally on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2018.

Help kick off the new school year, increase neighborhood spirit and strengthen community/police partnerships at this annual event co-sponsored by the University City Police Department and The School District of University City. Remember: Safe at School - Safe at Home is the event’s annual theme!

Last year’s FREE activities included a live DJ and other entertainment, food and beverages, hair cuts and styling, immunizations, enrollment, backpack and school supply give-aways and more.

This year’s planning committee is looking for community support including sponsorships, donations, booths and volunteers. More information and links to this year’s registrations are available at www.ucityschools.org/NNOBTSR; or contact the District’s Communications Office at (314) 290-4001 or communications@ucityschools.org.
School Transition is in the Air!

As we welcome spring and all the opportunities that come with the new season, we look forward to more than just weather transition. Pre-kindergarten, fifth-graders, eighth-graders, seniors (Class of 2018) as well as the grades in between are preparing for their next great adventures!

As you consider plans for the next school year, your school district has everything that your child needs to smoothly transition to the next level. You can be assured that we have the educational infrastructure in place to ensure success. Online enrollment for new students for the 2018-19 school year is currently OPEN! Re-enrollment for current students officially begins Tuesday, May 29, 2018, and may be done through Tyler SIS Parent Portal. More details and links are available at www.ucityschools.org/Enroll.

Learning Reimagined, the District’s approach for delivering a modern learning experience, is in full swing. The program is attracting partners who are showing their confidence by providing financial and human resources to help reach educational goals. Across all grade levels, exciting new experiences await.

Check out transitional opportunities online at:
- [www.ucityschools.org/Welcome](http://www.ucityschools.org/Welcome) (for kindergarten and other prospective families)
- [www.ucityschools.org/SixthGrade](http://www.ucityschools.org/SixthGrade) (for rising fifth graders planning to attend Brittany Woods Middle School)
- [www.ucityschools.org/Freshmen](http://www.ucityschools.org/Freshmen) (for incoming ninth graders planning to attend University City High School)

The synergy of Learning Reimagined and complementary initiatives and programs are strengthening all District offerings. We invite you to visit your neighborhood school; call the school office to schedule a tour.

University City Board of Education
Lisa Brenner, Ph.D., President
Joanne Soudah, Vice President
Kristine Hendrix, Secretary
Chelsea Addison, Director
LaVerne Ford-Williams, Director
Tracey Gritsenko, Director
George Lenard, Director

The School District of University City
Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley, Ph.D., PHR
Superintendent of Schools
Lori Willis, Interim Executive Director of Communications Strategy and Outreach
CarolAnn Cole, Communications Specialist
Curtis Conyears, Communications Specialist
314-290-4000 • ucityschools.org

**Dated Material. Distribute as soon as possible.**

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT of UNIVERSITY CITY**
8136 Groby Road
University City, MO 63130

**Postal Patron**

**ENROLL NOW!**
UCitySchools.org/ENROLL
(314) 290-4045

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
 Permit No. 275
ECRWSS

Cover Photos: Brittany Woods Middle School’s Environmental Club launched a new recycling program on Feb. 14, 2018. Photo insert: During the March 3, 2018, FIRST Robotics Miami Valley Regional Competition in Ohio, UCHS Robolion Mia Klohr explains to judges how the robot works, what it is made of and the design process.