



Contact: Communications & Community Outreach Department
8136 Groby Road, University City, MO 63130

Communications@ucityschools.org
(314) 290-4001 - Fax: (314) 725-7846

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 22, 2019

University City High School is Taking Part in a Pilot Program To Help Keep Cell Phones from Distracting Students While in Class

University City, MO – Now that the new school year is underway, the School District of University City is partnering with a local company, Jordiam LLC on a pilot program to curb cell phone usage in the classroom. The program will be implemented at University City High School (UCHS) and will be a voluntary partnership between students, parents, teachers and administrators.

Jordiam LLC will oversee the pilot and collect data at least twice a week during the program. Participating teachers will have a control panel attached to their desk, and participating students will have a phone locker attached under their desk. It's a coordinated effort between teacher and students to lock phones away, a process which takes less than ten seconds to initiate. At the end of class, the teacher will push a button and students can retrieve their cell phones. There is also an instant button on the control box, in case a student needs to leave class early.

“Cell phones create major distractions to student learning,” said University City High School Principal Mike Peoples. “The new cell phone lockers will function to remove the distraction and increase student engagement. I’m confident they will have a significant impact on student achievement.”

Studies show that typically students are prone to distraction, forgetfulness and have trouble organizing and completing a task. They can also become easily bored, struggle to follow directions and have trouble focusing on one thing. In separate study, 92% of students reportedly use their cell phones to send text messages.

A total of ten UCHS teachers are participating in the pilot program. The results will be compared to comparable classes that are not using the cell phone lockers. The program will last for 4-8 weeks. For more information on how it works, please visit: www.phonelocker.org.

#UCLionPride



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