

# WHERE WE ARE GOING

Students are at the core of our plan. We strive for them to be well-prepared for their future with a sense of purpose and the skills to creatively impact their communities and our world. To achieve this, we must do five things exceptionally well.

## Well-prepared students who

- Are ready to succeed in college or career: Skilled readers and writers. Critical thinkers. Problem solvers.
- Are empowered to lead and advocate for others in their communities.
- Feel safe, loved, challenged and prepared.

## Rigorous, relevant, modern learning experiences

We will make learning reimagined a reality for all students: An education that engages them as human beings. Tailors learning to their individual needs. And presents relevant, real-world problems to solve—with clear connections to their future education and work.

## Well-being and joy

Our students — and our staff — are whole people who require an environment of safety, love and support to thrive. They will find that in our schools.

## Excellent staff

We will recruit, develop and retain excellent teachers, principals and specialists ready to commit to our shared vision of academic excellence through learning reimagined.

## All hands

Our plan is ambitious. It will happen only with support and partnership both inside and outside the hallways of University City schools. We need the University City community and the greater community to help us succeed.

## Resources

Our schools must have the resources to put this plan into action. Our budget is a statement of our priorities. As a school system, we commit to finding the resources we need and to making sure our budget and operations reflect and support our priorities.

# HOW WE'LL GET THERE

Our plan is ambitious. But like any big journey, it's a matter of breaking it down into achievable steps at a brisk but realistic pace. Here's what that path looks like for The School District of University City.







## 3 CORE PILLARS

Learning Reimagined stands on three core pillars that humanize, personalize and problematize learning. We know that academic achievement increases with a strong classroom climate. The Pillars outlined below bring new energy, connections and possibilities to elevate our teachers, students and communities.



### HUMANIZE

- Value and affirm each student's unique brilliance and help each reach his/her fullest human potential.
- Understand that our students are more than test scores.
- View students holistically and support them academically and socio-emotionally.
- Coordinate events and activities that help establish connections with the world outside of school.
- Understand that healthy student-teacher relationships are crucial to holistic student growth.
- Allow students more voice and choice in academic settings.
- Promote the power and importance of the relationship between home and school.
- Affirm that District teachers and staff are talented, experienced, honorable and committed human beings and treat them with respect and dignity.
- Reinforce commitment to principles of equity, access, justice, restorative practices and respect for differences.
- Broaden social and team building skills by offering extracurricular education in support of all disciplines.



### PERSONALIZE

- Consider individual learning styles, interests, strengths and personal experiences to **custom fit** learning.
- Provide specific academic pathways that lead to quality college and career choices.
- Provide high-quality science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning opportunities to all students.
- **Leverage technology** to help each student learn at his/her pace.
- Provide **one-on-one counseling**, coaching, tutoring and mentoring to ensure each student's success.
- Encourage leadership roles through participation of special interest activities.
- Provide opportunities for students to explore and thrive in a broad range of arts, humanities and science offerings.
- Create **unique classroom spaces** and team configurations that inspire creativity, ingenuity and collaboration.



### PROBLEMATIZE

- Provide opportunities and programs that encourage students to **problem-solve**, create, design, debate, advocate, improve, perform and challenge.
- Provide rigorous, **memorable learning experiences** that stimulate innovation and creativity and connect students to the world outside of the classroom.
- Engage students in the exploration of social issues relative to diversity, equity, and **inclusiveness**.
- Encourage students to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination.

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Dear Friend,

As parents, so many of us share a vision of what we want for our students. We want them to have the kind of education that gives them great choices in their lives. We want them to be prepared – not just to be workers who can get good jobs – but to be leaders, thinkers and good people who act for justice. And, we want them to go to schools where they are empowered, loved, safe and joyful.

That's the same vision we have for our schools in University City. We now have a plan to bring all of our schools to that place.

We are not there yet. Too many of our students aren't on track for success for college or careers after high school.

Facing that reality, more than 200 people – including educators, students, community supporters and outside experts – assisted the District to develop a comprehensive strategic plan. Now, with transformative changes on the way, we want the community to see and understand this plan.

What follows in this document is an overview of that plan. It starts with students in the center and defines what it means for them to be truly prepared and engaged in the world ahead of them. It details what must be in place in our school district to get students to that goal. And, it explains the step-by-step process for us to get there.

We need you to be part of this: To challenge us. To make this better. To co-own this effort to make our district one of the best in the country.

So please, explore the plan both here and in more detail on our website: [www.ucityschools.org/StrategicPlan](http://www.ucityschools.org/StrategicPlan).

Thank you!

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, PhD, PHR  
Superintendent of Schools

# Learning Reimagined

Creating a Modern Learning Experience



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
UNIVERSITY CITY

