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Greetings,

Whether you are a University Schools parent, student, faculty member, staff or community supporter – we are grateful for your many contributions to our schools. The 2019 academic year was a year of many firsts for us, many of which we have celebrated and navigated together. While we ended our school year in an unprecedented way, much like schools all over the world, I am still incredibly proud of the work we accomplished together to the benefit of more than 500 children, a number that is growing and will eclipse 1,000 in the next two years.

As you likely know, our schools are a unique facet of our educational community – both at the University of Memphis and within Shelby County. We have an incredibly diverse student population, comprised of children of UofM faculty, staff and students, and local community members. We have a dedicated team of faculty and staff who work tirelessly to model and practice new and innovative education methods that not only result in a high quality education for hundreds of University Schools children, but also models best practice teaching and child development techniques for countless teachers and practitioners in training. Learning lives and thrives in our laboratory environment, regardless of the challenges we may face.

Our schools are home to innovative, inclusive and authentic learning with highly engaged families led by creative faculty and bright young learners. In our most recent school year, we opened the doors to the UofM’s first-ever laboratory middle school, we launched our first-ever University Schools Advisory Board, we constructed three kindergarten and two therapy classrooms at Campus School, we secured funding to launch a $15 million Early Childhood Academy in Orange Mound, we addressed years of wage disparity among our faculty, our Campus School received a Blue Ribbon distinction from the Department of Education – the highest honor a school can receive, we overhauled our entire Montessori classroom and curriculum and added an additional mixed-age classroom at the Early Learning and Research Center. On the horizon for 2020 are our high school planning efforts supported in part by $200,000 of grant funding, the expansion of our Campus School and University Middle grades including Campus School’s first-ever Kindergarten program, a new early childhood program offered in partnership with the Harwood Center, important capital projects including moving University Middle to its permanent on-campus home and the groundbreaking of the Porter-Leath/UofM (PLUM) Early Childhood Academy referenced above.

While all of these are certainly points of pride, I would be remiss not to acknowledge that our greatest accomplishment over the past year, and likely facing the next, is in the continuation of learning we have been able to provide despite the most challenging conditions we have ever faced. While none of us would have hoped to find ourselves ending the 2019 school year and launching the 2020 school year in the midst of a global pandemic, I have never been more proud of our students, our staff and our faculty who have shown tremendous ingenuity, compassion and resilience during this time. Learning has never stopped, and we have learned to leverage technology in new and innovative ways. To our teachers – thank you for never giving up and for always keeping our students at the center of your work. Their lives and ours are better thanks to you.

The UofM is a wonderful place to live, learn and lead. I have called it my home for over 20 years as a student, alumna, administrator and now as a parent of two children in our University Schools. I have never been more certain of the important role our University Schools play than I am today, and I look forward to our schools continuing to grow and serve our local community as we continue to work toward our goal of providing high quality, innovative educational opportunities from birth to graduation. It is truly a pleasure and a privilege to do this work, and I am grateful to do it alongside you.

Go Tigers!

Sally G. Parish
OUR MISSION
The University Schools aim to provide the children of our community with educational experiences that enhance their
development from birth to graduation and promote dynamic research, collaborative partnerships and innovative practices.
The University Schools ecosystem is home to the following laboratory schools: the Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning &
Research Center, Campus Elementary School and University Middle School.

The University Schools are nested with the Educational Initiatives Department at the University of Memphis, along with
the Center for Service, Learning & Volunteerism to further promote and foster volunteerism amongst our youngest and
oldest Tigers.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES
The Educational Initiatives team supports and facilitates interworking between University faculty, staff, students and the
laboratory schools. University departments are invited to all three schools to conduct research and promote educational
observation and engagement. University departments and community partners are also invited to engage in our schools
to complete teacher and practitioner preparation programs, internships, volunteer hours and participate in engaged
scholarship with our school faculty, staff and students.
The Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning & Research Center (ELRC) is a laboratory preschool which offers a unique learning environment and a nurturing place that encourages children to explore their own active learning abilities. Here they are guided by specially trained teachers and are supported by community.

At the Early Learning & Research Center, students are challenged to explore and learn about the world around them in a constructivist learning environment. Our interactive classrooms promote interpersonal communication skills, academic development and kindergarten readiness.

**By the Numbers**

- **20+** students of UofM faculty/staff enrolled
- **15+** UofM students served
- **60+** years of excellence
- **100+** students served
- **1:4** average teacher to student ratio

**Programs**

Montessori, Reggio-Emilia, Universal Pre-K

The Early Learning & Research Center is the only lab school in the U.S. that has three unique learning demonstrations in a constructivist learning environment.
The ELRC welcomes a newly renovated Montessori classroom with the support of Dr. Loretta Rudd, Dr. Richard Irwin and the College of Professional & Liberal Studies. The Montessori classroom is made up of children of mixed ages. Students ages 3-6 share the same classroom, and each child usually has the same teacher for three years. This allows the teacher, student and their families to create a strong bond and build community in learning. The mixed-age grouping of children corresponds to Maria Montessori’s theory of child development, which is based on three-year cycles. In the multi-age setting, the children learn from each other, and they learn because of each other. Younger children get a chance to look ahead and see what is coming next by watching the older children. Older children have the opportunity to reinforce their knowledge by sharing it with the younger children and also to build their leadership skills. The Montessori method focuses on respecting and encouraging each child’s individual differences, provides a nurturing environment to teach social interaction and emotional skills and builds their independence.

Thank you to Keep America Beautiful and Keep Tennessee Beautiful for their generous contributions towards the playground renovation project!

Campus School is a laboratory school which promotes excellence in teaching and enthusiasm for learning. Through integration of research into an innovative curriculum, the school can offer its best to aspiring teachers and to the urban community it serves. A diverse school population allows for valuable relationships and collaborations — educational, cultural, social and personal — among the stakeholders who are involved. Teachers, students and parents working together can maximize outcomes to the benefit of all involved.

For students to function productively in society, education should provide opportunities for them to be curious and creative; to exercise initiative; to handle responsibilities; to test ideas; to establish opinions about controversial matters; and to develop aesthetic values.

At Campus School, we incorporate these opportunities into the school experience each day. Our students will meet high academic expectations because their learning is enhanced by best practices offered by dedicated and capable teachers. The teaching and learning atmosphere of the school will prepare students for their eventual place in the larger world.
For the first time, Campus School at the University of Memphis has been designated an Exemplary High Performing National Blue Ribbon School. The designation is one of the highest honors from the U.S. Department of Education, awarded to just 362 schools nationwide.

Campus School is one of two schools in Memphis and among only seven in Tennessee to earn a 2019 Blue Ribbon designation. Campus School is the only elementary school in West Tennessee to receive the honor.
University Middle School is the newest addition to the University Schools ecosystem and started with the inaugural 6th grade class in the fall of 2019. University Middle’s full enrollment will serve 240 children in grades 6-8. University Middle is structured to create diverse enrollment with the inaugural class feeding from more than 20 local Shelby County Schools. As an extension of the laboratory lifestyle, University Middle students will be following a project-based learning curriculum that will allow them to take their in-class education into the wider world and apply theory to practice. University Middle aims to challenge students at all levels of academic enrichment.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- **SERVING**
  - 70 students
- **75%**
  - faculty members with advanced degree
- **100%**
  - core teachers are project-based learning certified 2019
- **18**
  - average class size
- **CHOICE**
  - unique academic offerings: journalism, debate, creative writing, computer science, ACT math, leadership, social emotional learning

**2019-2020 UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS**
University Middle honored at 2019 SPARK Awards

University Middle was recognized during The SPARK Awards 2019 special broadcast on WKNO/Channel 10 as a school that is igniting change and making a positive impact in the Greater Memphis community. The SPARK Awards recognizes that education is vitally important to the future of the Greater Memphis community, and University Middle was recognized as an institution that shapes and supports the education and lives of its students.
## UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS OVERVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ELRC</th>
<th>CAMPUS SCHOOL</th>
<th>UNIVERSITY MIDDLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year End Enrollment</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>509</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Class Size</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18 (avg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Faculty Members</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Years of Experience</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11 (avg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty Members with Advanced Degree</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>67% (avg)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>UofM Faculty/Staff Students Served</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>1,425</td>
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<td>Professional Development Hours</td>
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<td>2,324</td>
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<td>Tours/Shadowing Contacts</td>
<td>68</td>
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### UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS DEMOGRAPHICS

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ELRC</th>
<th>CAMPUS SCHOOL</th>
<th>UNIVERSITY MIDDLE</th>
<th>AVERAGE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Black/African-American</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>White/Caucasian</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>46%</td>
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<td>Asian</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<td>Hispanic/Latinx</td>
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<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-racial</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</table>

### GRANTS AWARDED

**ELRC**
- Department of Education CCAMPIS Grant: $633,024
- First 8: $115,000

**Campus School**
- University of Memphis Go Green Award: $1,435
- Tennessee Consolidated Arts Program: $1,000
- Gallopade Publishing: $1,500

**University Schools**
- Green Fee Award: $11,150
- Urban Child Institute Award: $3.5 million
- New Schools Venture Fund Award: $100,000
- Keep America Beautiful: $10,000
- Keep Tennessee Beautiful: $5,000

### PARTNERSHIPS

**Research Partnerships**
In partnership with the University Schools Research Consortium, more than 15 research partnerships have been created with University of Memphis faculty. These research projects range in scope and duration but include researching ADHD and Positive Illusory Bias, Indoor Environmental Assessments and Metacognition Awareness.

**Community Partnerships**
University Schools partners with more than 50 campus partners and more than 40 community partners to provide students with on-campus learning opportunities and hands-on experiences in the greater Memphis community.
The Harwood Center
The University of Memphis and the Harwood Center have developed a partnership which created an early learning classroom for children with special needs ages 2-6. The classroom is housed on the University of Memphis campus, and priority enrollment is offered to children of University students, faculty and staff. This partnership allows over 100 local families to be served.

LOOKING AHEAD

Porter-Leath University of Memphis (PLUM) Early Childhood Academy in Orange Mound.
Through the generosity of a $3.5 million grant from the Urban Child Institute, the University has partnered with Porter-Leath to launch a new, innovative initiative designed to help address a critical need for early childhood care in the Memphis community. The state-of-the-art facility will serve children from 6 weeks through pre-K, where care is most crucial and under-provided in Shelby County. The Academy’s tentative open date is January 2022.

University High School
The University of Memphis received a competitive, prestigious national planning grant of $100,000 from New Schools Venture Funds to begin development of University High School. Planning is underway and includes the development of a physical space, the school culture and an innovative school curriculum.

The addition of a laboratory high school allows the University to continue expanding its reach into the community by providing quality, collaborative, innovative education focusing on the cultivation of 21st-century skills. It will extend the University’s reach from birth to graduation, with a projected total University Schools enrollment of 1,600.

The high school would be the latest addition to the University’s growing school compendium, rounding out the longstanding Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning & Research Center; Blue Ribbon-designated Campus School; University Middle, which is opening its doors to its second incoming class this fall; a newly launched partnership with the Harwood Center set to launch this fall; and a state-of-the-art infant development facility scheduled to break ground in Orange Mound in partnership with Porter-Leath this winter.