



Expanded Opportunities for All U-46 Students in a Changing World



*Noah and Cole enjoy learning about ocean animals in preparation for Shedd Aquarium field trip. Noah loves the sharks!
Enrique and Evelin work on counting apples at the light table after listening to the story, Ten Apples Up On Top!*

Light Table Brings Learning to Life

Educator Marta Laskus loves “seeing the ‘light bulb’ go off when students are working on academic activities and learning to socialize appropriately.” Laskus, a recipient of the first-ever Innovation Mini-Grant Awards, works with the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing early childhood program at Horizon Elementary.

She applied for funds to purchase a light table and related manipulatives for her classroom. The equipment allows preschoolers to explore color and light, acquiring academic skills in a play-based manner. One unexpected benefit is that it provides sensory breaks and “enables students to calm down, focus, and self-regulate their emotions to prepare their minds to learn. The light table has been such an incredible addition to the classroom,” said Laskus.

Eight winning projects were selected from 27 proposals which covered a variety of innovative programs. Elgin High’s Maroon Mentoring Program received funds to support monthly events for students dealing with traumatic life experiences. Another grant added equipment for biotechnology studies in DNA and Hereditary Study Units at Bartlett High School. Hillcrest Elementary was awarded a grant to develop a parent-child book club.

“We are excited to continue supporting innovative programs in U46 in the years ahead, and we’re appreciative of all the donors who help make this happen,” said Foundation Board President Bud Wilson.



Celebrating Educators

More than 100 teachers and other staff were honored as part of the #ThankAU46Teacher campaign, scheduled in conjunction with Teacher Appreciation Week. Students, alumni, and parents were invited to recognize a special teacher by making a donation to the U-46 Educational Foundation.

More than \$5,000 was raised to support programs that enhance educational opportunities for students. Honored teachers received a pin for their lanyard and a special card with the note that accompanied the donors' contribution. Several teachers received surprise visits from parents and Foundation board members.

A New Way to Give Back

Show school spirit in a new way! KCT Credit Union, long-time partner of School District U-46, will offer exclusive credit and debit cards customized with logos from each of the five high schools or the U-46 logo. With every purchase, KCT donates a portion of the transaction to the U-46 Educational Foundation to expand opportunities for students. Switch to a card with purpose...check the Foundation's website for details later this fall when the program launches.



*Hawks, Maroons, Royals, Sabres, or Storm...
which card will you choose?*

Make a difference for the children of U-46

You may contribute to the foundation in general—or to honor a teacher, staff member, child or parent.

www.district.u-46.org/foundation

**Visit for more information
Or to donate.**

***Investing in the future, the
U-46 Educational Foundation
develops and dedicates
resources, supports innovation,
and creates partnerships to
enhance student learning
and well-being.***