

Press Clippings 11/10/2021

---Daily Herald---11/10/2021

Elgin Area School District U-46 schools host Veterans Day appreciation events this week

Submitted by Elgin Area School District U-46

In November, students and staff in **Elgin Area School District U-46** are honoring local veterans and troops with special ceremonies, concerts, displays, and collections.

In addition, dozens of local veterans will join classrooms virtually to speak to students about their service and their lives in the Veterans Voices program being held in partnership with the Gail Borden Public Library.

Traditionally, veterans visit classrooms in U-46 to speak to students and they often bring reminders of their military service, such as uniforms, medals, or letters.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, those visits will be virtual this month. Veterans who may want to participate in future events are encouraged to visit gailborden.info/veterans to learn more and submit a volunteer application.

On Veterans Day Nov. 11, student musicians from Larkin High School will participate in the City of Elgin's annual Veterans Day ceremony, held in conjunction with American Legion Post 57.

It will take place at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 11, in the Heritage Ballroom at the Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, located at 100 Symphony Way in Elgin.

The ceremony, which is open to the public, will feature a welcome from Mayor Dave Kaptain, several musical selections played by Larkin students, and representation from local veterans organizations.

In addition, all schools in U-46 are holding collections for items to be placed in care packages for veterans and active duty military via two organizations, Operation LOVE and Air Lift.

There is a long list of suggested items, including nonperishable snacks, puzzles, books, craft supplies, toiletries, and more. The collection drive, taking place through Nov. 29, is a cooperative effort with four of the unions that represent U-46 employees -- DUEA, ESSO, DUSA, and DUTU.

Details on Veterans Day events in U-46 schools are as follows:

- Centennial Elementary, 234 E. Stearns Road in Bartlett, on Monday, Nov. 8 through Friday, Nov. 12

"America's White Table" (picture book) reading and Zoom visits with veterans; various times week of Nov. 8-12

- Sunnydale Elementary, 716 Sunnydale Blvd. in Streamwood, on Monday, Nov. 8 through Friday, Nov. 12

Reading "Twenty-One Steps" book and a video for grades 3-6; various times during the week of Nov. 8-12

- South Elgin High School, 760 E. Main St., on Monday, Nov. 8 through Thursday, Nov. 11

Zoom visits with local veterans in classrooms Nov. 8-11; presentation of staff veterans running on school's digital screens on Nov. 11; Band students and the Beacon Academy of Media & Digital Arts will share a musical tribute to veterans available starting Nov. 11 on the Beacon YouTube channel.

- Bartlett High School, 701 Schick Road, on Thursday, Nov. 11

In all English and ELL classes, students will watch a TEDTalk from author and Army veteran Wes Moore on how to speak to veterans about their stories and experiences.

- Streamwood High School, 701 W. Schaumburg Road, on Thursday, Nov. 11

Veterans Day panel at 8:35 a.m. Students who took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test can attend in-person. All others via Zoom. Panel is made up of a Navy recruiter and local veterans.

Sycamore Trails Elementary, 1025 Sycamore Lane in Bartlett, on Friday, Nov. 12

Zoom visits with local veterans in classrooms

- Hawk Hollow Elementary, 235 Jacaranda Drive in Bartlett, on Friday, Nov. 12

Zoom visits with local veterans in classrooms

- Larkin High School, 1475 Larkin Ave. in Elgin, with events running through Nov. 24.

Larkin music students perform in a wind ensemble program for local veterans at 11 a.m. Nov. 11 at The Centre of Elgin. Program is open to the public; Veterans Day board featuring staff and former students who have served will be displayed through Nov. 11; U.S. history classes making thank-you and holiday cards for veterans.

---Daily Herald--11/10/2021

U-46 offers COVID-19 vaccine clinics at all 40 elementary schools

Submitted by Karla Jimenez



Elgin Area School District U-46 is offering vaccine clinics this month. *Courtesy of School District U-46*

With federal health officials now recommending that children, age 5 to 11, be vaccinated against COVID-19, **Elgin Area School District U-46** is holding optional vaccine clinics at all 40 of its elementary schools this month.

The clinics will allow these students to be vaccinated with the pediatric dose of the Pfizer vaccine during the school day. For a student to participate, their parent or guardian must register them for the first and second doses of the vaccine, and submit a consent form to their school nurse.

There is no mandate for students to participate, it is completely optional and free. The vaccine clinics will be held in school libraries.

"I know that many families of younger children have been eagerly awaiting the chance to give them the protection offered by the COVID-19 vaccine," said Superintendent Tony Sanders. "We decided to offer these clinics at our elementary schools as a service to our busy families. They won't need to worry about transportation or locating a trusted provider, and their children can be vaccinated in a place that is familiar and comfortable to them."

The vaccine clinics will start at 13 of U-46's elementary schools on Friday, Nov. 12, with another 13 schools hosting clinics on Friday, Nov. 19, and the final 14 holding their events on Tuesday, Nov. 23.

Because the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine requires two doses, students will receive their second shot about three weeks after their first, also at school.

Parents who want to be present while their child is vaccinated will be able to do so by letting the school know in advance, answering a few COVID-19 screening questions upon their arrival, and using the District's normal guest-management system to receive a temporary ID.

More information about U-46's elementary COVID-19 clinics can be found at u-46.org/covidclinics.

---Elgin Courier-News--11/10/2021

U-46 setting up three clinics this month for students ages 5 to 11 to receive COVID-19 vaccinations

By Mike Danahey

School District U-46 will host the first of three COVID-19 vaccine clinics for elementary school students Friday.

“We are doing this as a service to our students and families,” Superintendent Tony Sanders said. “By and large, they trust us. This is providing a convenience for them, and it is the right thing to do.”

Thirteen elementary schools will hold the first clinics Friday, Nov. 12, followed by another 13 on Friday, Nov. 19, and the 14 remaining on Tuesday, Nov. 23.

The district divided the lists alphabetically by school names, with Bartlett through Hawk Hollow making up the first group, Heritage through Nature Ridge the second, and Oakhill through Willard the final group.

Clinics will run from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in each school's library.

Sanders said Fridays were chosen for the first two students who experience side effects will have time to recover. The third date is just before the start of the Thanksgiving holiday.

The second dose will be administered three days after the first at the student's school.

To participate, parents and guardians must register students online for both doses. A consent form, available at www.u-46.org/covidclinics, must be submitted at least 24 hours before the clinic is held.

Sanders said the shots are not required, nor will students be required to be periodically tested for COVID-19 should they not get vaccinated. Neither could happen without a federal or state mandate, he said.

Any parent or guardian who would like to be with their child when the shot is given must notify the school nurse at their child's school at least a day in advance, officials said.

The district will continue to do voluntary virus testing of any unvaccinated students whose parents or guardians give permission, Sanders said.

The district will not keep records of who is or isn't vaccinated unless a parent volunteers to provide the information, he said. However, families are being encouraged to submit the information because it helps school nurses better know which students need to quarantine if there an exposure situation, Sanders said.

In late October, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized emergency use of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for children ages 5 to 11, which is one-third the dosage given to adults. The Centers for Disease Control endorsed the immunizations for the estimated 28 million U.S. children who fall into the 5 to 11 age group.

Children 12 to 18 have been able to get vaccinated since May.

Jeff Judge, U-46's supervisor of health services, and his staff are working with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to secure the vaccine and organize its distribution, Sanders said.

The district is not receiving any extra funding for setting up the clinics, he said. It's being done as a courtesy to students and their families, and he is encouraging all families to take advantage of it, he said.

"Anyone with questions should talk to their child's pediatrician or with their family doctor if they have concerns about the vaccinations," Sanders said. "Getting people vaccinated will be the key for (the pandemic) going away, from my perspective."

---The Examiner of South Elgin---11/10/2021

Technology-related item set for U-46 board vote

By Seth Hancock; Note – This story also ran in The Examiner of Streamwood

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** is set to vote on an expenditure item totaling \$258,020 at its upcoming meeting on Monday, Nov. 15.

The proposal, which is for replacing iPads under the district's age and obsolescence plan, was presented at the Nov. 1 board meeting. The proposal is with Apple, Inc. and would be paid for by the nation's taxpayers through the Elementary School Emergency Relief Grant funds as well as the Emergency Connectivity Fund.

"The new 380 iPads (used for staff, Pre-K, and Kindergarten), 200 iPad Minis (used for Specialized Student Services, Physical Education, and some staff), and 10 iPad Pros (used for visually impaired students) will replace five and seven-year-old devices that have met their life expectancy for updates to their operating systems for security purposes," the proposal states.

The proposal added: "The iPads are moved from school to home on a daily basis for PreK and Kindergarten students which takes a toll on the devices. Not only will the new iPads receive security updates, but will also have updated operating systems and have a life span of five years.... With the purchase of the new iPads, the students will experience updated equipment and the district will ensure that the devices will receive updates and have a secure operating system."

If approved, the district will immediately purchase the devices, the proposal states

---The Examiner of South Elgin---11/10/2021

U-46 receives additional charter school application

By Seth Hancock; Note – this story also ran in The Examiner of Streamwood

School District U-46 has had a charter school application submitted from Andromeda Blue Academy.

The application was announced at the Board of Education meeting on Monday, Nov. 1. If eventually approved, Andromeda would be the second charter school in U-46 after the Elgin Math and Science Academy (EMSA) was approved in 2017.

Trisha Olson, Chief Legal Officer said the district has "45 days from receipt of that application to convene a public meeting to obtain information to assist the board in making our decision." After that meeting, the board has 30 days to decide on the application.

Superintendent Tony Sanders released the application in a message to staff later in the week. He described the proposed charter school as a "virtual school for grades kindergarten through 8th beginning in fiscal year 2023." Andromeda is seeking "\$8.4 million in funding, with expenditures for the first year totaling \$2.6 million, for a surplus of \$5.8 million."

Milena Perryman, Andromeda's founder, stated in the application that the curriculum "combines common core standards with STEM, thanks in part to Project Lead The Way, a revolutionary program with rock solid educational offerings that can be scaled up or down based on need. But where our program truly differs from the rest, is in the fact that we are a primarily digital/online school. All courses will be instructed by licensed teachers, presented

digitally in a combination of live streamed lessons, prerecorded lessons, interactive games, and on-site labs carried out at our partner sites throughout the Chicagoland area.”

According to the financial information, Andromeda seeks 700 students in Fiscal Year 2023 increasing to 800 by Fiscal Year 2026. Expenditures would be set at \$2.6 million increasing to \$2.9 million by Fiscal Year 2026.

That spending level for the first year equates to \$3,714 per student, a fraction of the \$16,964 spent in U-46 using the \$610 million in expenditure and 35,958 students in FY2020 on the Illinois State Board of Education’s annual report card.

The U-46 board initially supported the EMSA proposal in 2017 to later reverse its stance leading to the Illinois State Charter School Commission eventually approving that charter school.

Univision Chicago – TV interview was aired the night of Nov. 9, 2021

What you need to do in order to get your children ages 5-11 vaccinated at schools in **District U-46 in Elgin. We let you know.**

(Hit Ctrl and left-click on mouse to open link)

<https://www.univision.com/local/chicago-wgbo/que-debes-hacer-para-que-tus-hijos-de-5-a-11-anos-se-vacunen-en-las-escuelas-del-distrito-u-46-en-elgin-te-contamos-video>

---WBEZ Chicago---11/10/2021

Friday is a day off school to get vaccinated. Why aren’t more CPS schools giving COVID-19 shots?

By Sarah Karp

When Chicago mother and doctor Cheryl Conner heard about a pharmacy willing to come to schools to give COVID-19 vaccination shots to newly eligible young children, she jumped into action.

Conner quickly set up a vaccination event at her children’s school for this Friday. Chicago Public Schools classes are canceled that day for what the school district is calling Vaccine Awareness Day. The day off was announced last week, just after the CDC approved the vaccine for children ages 5 through 11.

“If you go to where people are, they will do it,” Connor said. “Everyone’s like ‘These people don’t believe in science; it’s all vaccine hesitancy.’ No, it’s access, really.”

But her school, Sabin Elementary in West Town, will be one of the few elementary schools in the city offering shots. The city and CPS have been getting criticized for that decision, with many people asking why CPS isn't offering vaccines at schools across the city.

Dr. Allison Arwady, the head of the Chicago Department of Public Health, wants parents to first reach out to their children's pediatrician for the vaccine, where she said they can get their questions answered and also get other vaccinations. "That's the best place always and then sort of go from there," she said.

Arwady and school district officials insist, in addition to pediatrician offices, there are plenty of places to get children vaccinated and they are easily accessible.

About 200 locations will be offering vaccines to children on Friday, including mobile units at six schools, 13 school-based clinics and four public high schools. They are Clark, Roosevelt, CVCA and Richards, officials said. [Other locations](#) include hospitals, pharmacies and large clinics, with more walk-in appointments available in areas with low vaccination rates. Arwady said Chicago has received about 100,000 doses and shots have been directed to areas with high numbers of children.

Arwady said vaccine uptake tends to be better in community spaces and in doctors offices, rather than schools. She said she talked to other big cities that have been offering vaccines at schools and they did not have many takers.

She also noted that appointments are not full at the city's four high schools serving as vaccination sites. It is far better, she said, to reach out to families that are waiting to have children vaccinated and schools with low vaccination rates, have conversations with them and then offer vaccines at their school.

But New York City this week started rolling out vaccine clinics at each of its 1,000 elementary schools and has had so much demand at some schools that parents had to wait hours, according to the [New York Times](#). Los Angeles Unified School District is sending its mobile vaccine units to each secondary school on specific dates.

And closer to Chicago, **Elgin School District 46** announced Tuesday it will offer shots at each of its 40 elementary schools.

The backdrop of the push to get children vaccinated is an uptick in COVID-19 cases in the school district, the city and the state. Last week, CPS reported 247 positive cases among children and 79 adults. That is the most cases since the third week of school. At last count, nearly 5,000 students are quarantined. The number of cases in the city is also up 21% over a week ago, to 382 cases a day.

Martinez said canceling school on Friday is evidence he really wants children to be vaccinated. He noted that thousands of unvaccinated children are having to quarantine because of exposure to COVID-19. This disrupts their education.

"We want to have a strong second semester and I want to have stability in the schools," he said.

He urged families to get their children vaccinated Friday or this weekend. That way they will have some protection when they get together with family over the holidays. To be fully

vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine by Christmas, you need your first dose by the end of November.

But many are worried that the school district is setting itself up for the same disparities in vaccinations seen in other age groups.

Among 12- to 17-year-olds, who have been eligible for vaccination since May, some 58% are fully vaccinated. But in 17 ZIP codes, less than half of teenagers are fully vaccinated. Meanwhile, in 13 other ZIP codes, more than 80% of teens are protected against COVID-19, [according to state data analyzed by WBEZ](#).

Sabin Elementary, where Conner is organizing the event, is located in West Town and serves mostly Latino, mostly low-income students. Other schools planning vaccination programs are Lincoln Elementary in Lincoln Park and National Teachers Academy on the near South Side.

LaSalle Elementary School, in Old Town, held a vaccine event last week, giving out 600 shots as the parents made it a festive party-like event.

Conner is a physician and found out about the pharmacy through one of her connections.

The owner of the small chain of pharmacies, Jigna Gandhi, said she is partnering with a number of area schools to hold vaccination events. But only one of them is a Chicago public school and the district was the only one that made her fill out reams of paperwork.

She said distributing the vaccines at schools is easier than at a pharmacy. The pharmacy's hours are not always good for parents. Also, her workers can often talk to parents who are hesitant and answer questions.

Conner said Sabin is holding an information session for parents with a bilingual physician to answer questions. "It's not really fair to other schools that don't have a parent like me, that has a connection," she said.

The Chicago Teachers Union also is holding a vaccination event at their headquarters on Friday.

CTU Vice President Stacy Davis Gates said she doesn't understand why the school district is not coordinating this effort and offering shots at schools. Davis Gates notes parents trust their schools and teachers more than others. That can help with hesitancy.

"You have students in school full time and the cases in CPS are creeping back up," she said. "So, it's frustrating to be told no for something that is a life-saving therapy, something that is proven to work and to be told no, 'we can't do it' or be given the runaround."

---The Examiner of South Elgin---11/10/2021

Storm football season ends in 30-7 loss to Marist

By Seth Hancock

The **South Elgin football team's** perfect season came to an end in the second round of the playoffs as the No. 2 Storm fell 30-7 against No. 18 Marist on Saturday, Nov. 6 at Marist.

Entering the game, South Elgin was averaging 45.4 points per game and posted five shutouts allowing no more than one touchdown in a game, until last week's 24-13 win over Edwardsville in the first round of the postseason.

However, against Marist the Storm offense tallied just 145 yards, led by sophomore quarterback Jake Sullivan (52 passing yards, 47 rushing yards).

"They're really good," said South Elgin coach Dragan Teonic. "You have to give them a lot of credit. I don't think we necessarily played badly. They're a really good football team."

Marist scored first, but the Storm tied it by the end of the first quarter. Setup with good field position after sophomore Michael Tringali's fumble recovery, senior Anthony Marshall ran in a seven-yard touchdown to knot it 7-7.

The game remained within reach after three quarters. South Elgin trailed just 14-7 at halftime and 17-7 entering the fourth, but Marist concluded the game with a pair of touchdowns in the final quarter.

South Elgin's defense finished with two turnovers, including an interception from senior Kai Paz.

The Storm end the season 10-1 overall and will lose 28 seniors.

"I think not having playoffs in the spring hurt us," Teonic said. "I think the lack of being ready for the big game hurt us. I'm not sure if it's a conference thing or it's a playoff thing, but their best players showed up really well and, at times, ours didn't."

Teonic added: "I'm still proud of our guys. You have to give credit to Marist. They're just a really good football team."