

Press Clippings for 8/29/2022

Fox Valley Beaux Arts announces annual scholarship winners

Submitted by Fox Valley Beaux Arts 8/26/2022



Fox Valley Beaux Arts scholarship winners are: first row, from left, Ava Barclay, Priya Boldt, Ariana Cruz, Anastasia Ehlers, Nate Garcia; and second row, Jonathon Hirtzig, Kaylin Kenders, Lupita Madera, Gabby May, and Jacob Pangilinan *Courtesy of Fox Valley Beaux Arts*

Fox Valley Beaux Arts, a nonprofit women's club founded in 1984 to foster and support the arts, recently presented 14 Elgin area students with college scholarships valuing a total of \$21,500.

"Our club's mission is to offer scholarships to **Elgin area high school** seniors going on to major or minor in the arts in higher education," said Susan Pepa, club president. "In spite of another challenging year with the pandemic, we are proud to have the opportunity this year to continue our tradition and award these amazing creative students."

The 10 first-tier scholarship recipients all intend to pursue the arts in their areas of talent and interest this fall. The students are:



Ava Barclay

- Ava Barclay, **Bartlett High School** in Bartlett (drawing, Savannah School of Art & Design in Savannah, Georgia);



Priya Boldt

- Priya Boldt, Westminster Christian Academy in Elgin (drama/vocal, Taylor University in Upland, Indiana);



Ariana Cruz

Ariana Mattos Cruz, **Larkin High School** in Elgin (violin, Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia);



Anastasia Ehlers

- Anastasia Ehlers, **Bartlett High School** in Bartlett (drawing, Northern Illinois University in DeKalb);

- Nate Garcia, **Bartlett High School** in Bartlett (drawing, College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn);



Jonathon Hirtzig

- Jonathon Hirtzig, **Larkin High School** in Elgin (piano, Elgin Community College in Elgin);



Kaylin Kenders

- Kaylin Kenders, Westminster Christian Academy in Elgin (drama, Biola University in La Mirada, California);



Lupita Madera

- Lupita Platas Madera, **Bartlett High School** in Bartlett (drawing, Northern Illinois University);



Gabby May

- Gabrielle May, St. Edward Central Catholic High School in Elgin (drawing/painting, Elgin Community College);



Jacob Pangilinan

- Jacob Pangilinan, **South Elgin High School** in South Elgin (drama/vocal, Millikin University in Decatur).

"Major support for our scholarship donations is raised through our popular annual luncheon event," said Loretta Heuer, vice president. "Due to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the last two years' luncheons were canceled."

"We are pleased to say that there will be a luncheon with entertainment this year on Sept. 17 at the Elgin Country Club," Pepa said.

For more information about this event, please contact Rose Engle at roseengle@hotmail.com or (224) 623-2418.

'We need a lot more people': Staffing shortages bedevil school districts

**By Alicia Fabre
The Daily Herald**

8/27/2022



Palatine-Schaumburg Township High School District 211 is advertising open positions with banners such as this one in front of Fremd High School in Palatine. The district is among several in the suburbs struggling to fill teaching jobs. *John Starks | Staff Photographer*

As schools across the state welcome back students for a new school year, many districts still are working to fill open staffing positions amid a statewide shortage in education personnel.

More than 5,000 school employee positions remain open across the state's 852 districts, according to the Illinois State Board of Education website. Despite the educator shortage, school administrators are doing what they can to minimize the impact on students.

"Everything by and large went very well," Elgin Area **School District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders** said during last week's school board meeting as he reported on the first few days of classes. "If there's one area where we need some assistance, it's with people. We need a lot more people."

The state's second-largest school system started the year with more than 400 openings, including about 80 teaching positions. The district employs about 6,000 people.

"We need teachers, we need paraeducators, we need bus drivers," Sanders said, noting district employees have stepped up to help fill in the gaps.

School districts across the suburbs are finding creative ways to deal with the shortages.

For example, in Palatine-Schaumburg High School District 211, officials are careful not to schedule professional development for large groups of teachers at once. Teacher absences are being covered with other teachers who give up their preparation periods to fill in the gaps, said Erin Holmes, District 211 director of communications.



A sign on the fence at Fremd High School in Palatine advertises the need for teachers amid a statewide shortage. - John Starks | Staff Photographer

"This year is quite different when compared to years preceding the COVID-19 pandemic," Holmes said. "We have never experienced such a deficiency in candidates for teaching assistant positions, nor have we started the school year with so many open positions across our system."

She said the district was able to staff all teaching positions, but still is in need of teaching assistants who help serve students with English language learning or special education needs. The district also started the year short of a dozen school bus drivers.

Mundelein Elementary District 75 contracted with an agency to fill a social worker position. With an unfilled bilingual teacher position, the district had to drop a class section, resulting in some classrooms with 24 students rather than 19. The district also is using interns to help fill other gaps.

"We're very fortunate to have a talented and helpful staff that is willing, flexible and able to pitch in," said Peter Gill, District 75 spokesperson.

In Elgin's **U-46**, some teachers have come out of retirement to help fill open spots, said **Sanders**, noting that it's not unusual for the district to have retirees return to teaching.

"Retirees save us every year," he said.



Kindergarten teacher Lisa Hillquist leads her class into the building for the first day of school at Hoover-Wood Elementary School in Batavia on Aug. 16. School districts across the state are dealing with staffing shortages as they start the school year. - Sandy Bressner/Shaw Local News Network

As districts grapple to fill full-time positions, they also are keeping an eye on their substitute teacher pool.

In Wheaton-Warrenville Community Unit District 200, officials try to keep a list of about 250 substitute teachers to help fill in at the 20 schools.

"We're definitely shy of that," said Superintendent Jeff Schuler, adding the district started the year with about 100 fewer subs than needed. The district has increased the daily rate to \$125 to help lure substitute teachers. School districts across the suburbs faced with similar shortages also have bumped up substitute pay to shore up the pool of substitute teachers in their districts.

Schuler and other school officials say the staffing shortages they face are the result of a number of factors, such as retirements or an increase in funds that help make new teaching positions possible, leaving some districts with a need for more teachers than in previous years.

And even though the state has seen the number of licensed teachers grow each year since 2018, districts still face shortages not just for classroom teachers but for other specialized positions, most notably special education and bilingual teachers and paraeducators.

The state has implemented a number of initiatives to help address the dearth, including residency grants, mentoring programs and short-term approvals that help teachers earn special licenses for bilingual or special education while teaching their existing classes.

"Illinois has invested in teachers and in public education," said Liam Chan Hodges, media coordinator for the Illinois State Board of Education.



Anna Sanan talks to her fifth-grade students at Whittier Elementary Wednesday on the first day of school. - Brian Hill | Staff Photographer, Aug. 17

Like the state, suburban districts have programs to help attract employees.

In **U-46**, the district's Horizons for You covers tuition expenses for paraeducators who earn their teaching degree and agree to work in the school district once they complete the program, said **Mark Moore**, the district's assistant superintendent for human resources. The district also has a partnership with Northern Illinois University that helps existing teachers earn bilingual or ESL endorsements to help fill some of those specialized teaching positions. To attract bus drivers, **U-46** covers the expense of earning a commercial driver's license.

Despite the staffing shortages, school officials across the suburbs largely reported a good start to the school year. However, they are cautious about the future, saying it will take time to build up the pipeline of new teachers.

Some districts, such as Wheaton-Warrenville District 200, have programs to help engage high school students and get them interested in a career in teaching.

"There's a lot of good energy around rebuilding the pipeline, but that's going to take a few years. It's not going to correct itself in a single year," Schuler said. "The system as a whole and communities are going to need to support that effort to rebuild the pipeline."

Elgin Golden K Kiwanis donates to U-46 Superintendent's Scholarship Program

Submitted by Bruce Cook

8/26/2022



On Aug. 24, Elgin Area School District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders, left, and Chief of Staff Brian Lindholm, right, accept a \$2,000 donation from Elgin Golden K Kiwanis Golden K president Ken Jowaski, center left, and Golden K Board chairman Ron Blake. *Courtesy of Bruce Cook*

Elgin Area School District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders addressed Golden K Kiwanis members at the weekly meeting on Aug. 22.

The group was pleased to donate \$2,000 to the Superintendent's Scholarship Program. The fund, established in 2012, supports outstanding students who are the first in their immediate family to attend college.

The Elgin Golden K Kiwanis meets at 9 a.m. Wednesdays in Lind Hall at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 Division St. in downtown Elgin.

The Elgin Golden K Kiwanis, founded in 1975, is part of Kiwanis International, a global organization of members dedicated to serving the children of the world.

Property taxes paid to District U-46 expected to go up in coming year under final budget nearing approval

By Mike Danahey
The Courier-News
8/25/2022



www.u-46.org

Property owners who fund **School District U-46** will be seeing an increase in their tax bill pending final approval of the district's 2022-23 budget at the end of September.

U-46 Director of Financial Operations Dale Burnidge gave the school board a brief recap of the \$697 million spending plan with the confirmation that property taxes would be going up as a result.

"For a home value of \$250,000, the property tax increase would be about \$185 dollars," Burnidge said.

The budget, which technically went into effect July 1, calls for \$690.5 million in expenditures and includes a \$5.9 million deficit, which will be covered with money from the district's surplus fund balance.

"The deficit is due to making the final debt service payments on the 2003 bond issue so the balance of the debt service fund is projected to decrease \$11 million," Superintendent Tony Sanders said in a budget transmittal letter. "The operating funds will maintain a \$5 million surplus for the year."

Revenue is projected to be \$28.2 million more than the \$662.3 million received last year, including an \$8.1 million property taxes increase. Property tax makes up 48% of the district's overall revenue base.

Evidence Based Funding from the state is expected to go up from about \$212 million in the 2021-22 fiscal year to about \$233 million in the current year, a jump of almost 10%. Other funding from the state adds up to about \$31.8 million, an increase of about \$1.4 million year to year, documents showed.

Federal reimbursements are expected to decline \$8.9 million to \$74.4 million, Burnidge said.

About \$347 million is earmarked for salaries, up from \$334 million, and benefits expenditures are going from \$112 million to \$118 million. Salaries and benefits account for more than two-thirds of the district's expenditures.

A public hearing for the spending plan will be held at the board's Sept. 12 meeting and the final document approved Sept. 26.

The proposed budget can be viewed at [go.boarddocs.com/il/u46/Board.nsf/files/CHKKPD525D02/\\$file/FY23 U-46 Tentative Budget Book 8.22.22.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/il/u46/Board.nsf/files/CHKKPD525D02/$file/FY23%20U-46%20Tentative%20Budget%20Book%208.22.22.pdf).

Girls cross country: Larkin's Durant races to Kane County title

By Bobbie Narang
Daily Herald Correspondent
8/27/2022



Larkin's Heather Durrant won the Kane County meet Saturday at Northwestern Medicine Field in Geneva. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*

Larkin senior Heather Durant's celebrations lasted for just a few seconds.

Rather than cause a scene or cherish her first-place showing in the girls race of the Kane County Meet on Saturday morning, Durant immediately slowly started walking back toward the finish line.

She wanted to cheer on her teammates for a better finish, including her twin sister.

"I love cheering on my team, love supporting them and they support me," Durant said. "I want to help them finish and be there for them and give them a hand when they need additional support."

Durant needed very little support for her race, topping the talented field with ease to win her first major event of the high school season. Durant recorded a first-place time of 18 minutes, 27.7 seconds to beat St. Charles East's Marley Andelman (19:19.9).

Durant admitted she was shocked at her time, which crushed last season's time of 19:40 at the meet. Durant said her time might cause her to possibly alter her goals for the season. She

credited her off-season training and competing in several big events, including in North Carolina, Oregon and California, for a strong showing in the meet.

"I want to break my personal record on each course, have a fun season with my team and build up my team and make them stronger and race strong together," Durant said. "It was very tough because of the conditions. I was hoping to get under 19, so I'm happy how I did today. I'm shocked I got (my time). I was just hoping to have fun, my first last high school cross country with my team, have fun and race smart."

On the team side, Batavia squeezed out the team title with 38 points. St. Charles East took second with 41 points and St. Charles North ended in third with 79 points. Hampshire finished fourth with 99 points, Larkin placed fifth (116) and Kaneland was sixth (152).

Batavia had a number of solid performances on the challenging and hilly course. Senior Liliana Bednarek led the way with a fourth-place effort (19:29).

"It was pretty hard running out there," Bednarek said. "It's a tough race, mentally so hard knowing you have so many hills that are going to be challenging to get up. Even just sticking with it. We had a very good pack, sticking with your teammates so in the end we all finish well and place well as a team, which is huge."

"It's a hard course, but for me, it's good knowing that if I can run this well, I can run others and we all can do well together super exciting. I'm super excited for this season. I think team has a lot of potential to do really really well."

Bartlett tops Streamwood for Vuckovich's 1st win

By Craig Brueske

8/26/2022

Right before the opening kickoff, Bartlett first-year head coach Milan Vuckovich was brought to tears after seeing his family and several out-of-town friends arrive at the field.

Vuckovich, who calls himself, "an emotional dude," couldn't hold back the tears after the game, either, following the Hawks' 14-10 Upstate Eight Conference victory over Streamwood (0-1) at Millennium Field.

"I've got two buddies who live in Tennessee right now, and one from Texas, who all came up for the game," said Vuckovich, also joined by his wife and family members. "My dad passed away six years ago so to get this opportunity after so many years of coaching -- I miss him. To have that crew here, I can't say enough."

Despite losing 3 of its 5 fumbles in the first half, Streamwood grabbed a 2-0 lead with 4:03 left in the second quarter when Cristian Clark sacked Bartlett quarterback Matthew Teruel in the end zone.

After the Hawks' Ravi Banipal recovered a fumble to thwart a Streamwood drive in the final minute of the opening half, Teruel (4 of 7, 148 yards) tossed a 73-yard touchdown strike to senior receiver Jalen Davis (3 catches, 138 yards) with 20 seconds remaining to give Bartlett (1-0) a 7-2 halftime advantage.

"I knew the play -- I knew what was coming," said Davis. "I knew I had to execute and go out and do what I do."

"You've got to take a shot," said Vuckovich. "The kid's (Davis) a stud and Matthew Teruel has a cannon. I said to Jalen, 'you make us look good.'"

After Dontain Williams (16 carries, 104 yards) recovered a fumble on the Sabres' first possession of the second half, the Hawks made them pay 3 plays later as senior Koleman Salyers scored on a 13-yard run, and Aidan Smolenski's PAT kick upped the lead to 14-2.

Streamwood answered on its next possession, as quarterback Genaud Phillips scored on a 16-yard touchdown run and added the 2-point conversion attempt to narrow the deficit to 14-10.

The Sabres threatened early in the fourth quarter, driving to the Hawks' 14 before being turned away on downs.

From there, Bartlett sealed the decision with a pair of first-down conversions -- 36- and 29-yard completions from Teruel to Davis.

"I'm just thankful we came out of here with a win," said Davis, whose team committed 11 penalties, including 3 holding calls on the final possession.

"It means a lot," said Vuckovich. "This is for our program. I can't do anything without everybody else. These kids played their hearts out."

Jaiden Thomas rushed for 103 yards on 16 carries for the Sabres.

"I couldn't be prouder defensively," said Sabres coach Keith McMaster. "I think we stopped them five times in the red zone. We work on turnovers but we're going to have to work on them offensively, too. It was a little bit sloppy for game one."

