



The weekly newsletter from School District U-46

March 20, 2024

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Calendar

Stay tuned for upcoming events with our District website calendar available [here](#).

- **Wednesday, March 20:** Dual Language Info Session. [Details here.](#)
- **Thursday, March 21:** U-46 Planetarium Public Sky Show. [Details here.](#)
- **Monday, March 25-Monday, April 1:** Spring recess. No classes. [Details here.](#)
- **Tuesday, April 2:** Classes resume after Spring Recess.
- **Tuesday, April 2:** U-46 Planetarium Public Sky Show. [Details here.](#)
- **Thursday, April 4:** CAC General Meeting. [Details here.](#)

Spring Recess

U-46's spring recess will begin on Monday, March 25, and last through Monday, April 1. After that, classes for students are scheduled through Thursday, May 30, which is the last day for students if no additional emergency days are used. Remember that May 3 is now a student attendance day.

When classes are in session, it's extremely important that our students are in school and on time to class every day, for the entire school day.

Each day in school counts and helps build the foundation for your child's academic success. It is an important opportunity for students to learn as well as collaborate with their peers on rigorous, standards-aligned tasks that require critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication. When your child is absent, they miss out on this collaboration.

We hope you plan your Spring Recess vacation in time for your child(ren) to return to school on Tuesday, April 2. We'll look forward to seeing them back in class!

For our Student Attendance Guidelines as part of our Student Handbook, please visit u-46.org/attendance.

Eclipse Permission Slip

The permission slip to allow your student to safely view the eclipse on Monday, April 8, is now available [here](#). Use your Infinite Campus credentials to log in and get access to the permission slip. You'll then see a waiver with the names of all of your children who are in U-46 schools. Next to each name will be a drop-down menu that will allow you to choose "yes" or "no" granting permission. The online slip must be signed before midnight on Wednesday, April 3.

Students whose parents have signed the slip - and whose teacher has completed the necessary professional development - will be provided eclipse glasses or an eclipse viewer in class on Monday, April 8.

The U-46 Planetarium is continuing to host special public sky shows focused on the eclipse. Admission is free for these shows, but seating is limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors open at 4 p.m. on these dates, and the hour-long shows are being offered on:

- Thursday, March 21, at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 2, at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

For videos, suggested reading, and more on the eclipse, visit u-46.org/eclipse.

Staff Spotlight





Nine teachers, a principal, and two school social workers in School District U-46 were recognized recently in the Illinois State Board of Education's annual Those Who Excel program, and a U-46 teacher was among the finalists for the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. Watch [this video](#) to read what the nominators said about each of the recipients.

5Essentials Closes Soon

Can you set aside 15 minutes this week to help make a difference in your children's schools? That's all it will take to complete the [5Essentials Survey](#), a research-based survey that provides a unique opportunity for teachers, students, and parents to have a voice in improving our schools.



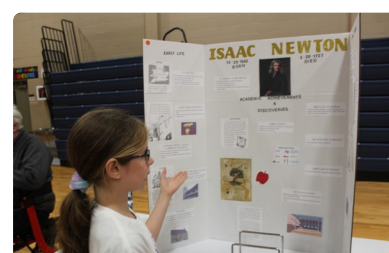
This survey generates reports to help drive school improvement on the five leading indicators or "essentials" – effective leaders, collaborative teachers, involved families, supportive environment, and ambitious instruction. Schools in U-46 use this valuable feedback to make changes and create new programs. For instance, at one elementary school, the survey's results led to more after-school offerings and a 6th grade parent panel to support students transitioning to middle school.

However, data from the parent survey will be made available to the school only if at least 20 percent of parents at the school respond. So don't delay! The survey closes on Friday, March 29. [Click here](#) to get started.

STEM Expo

Students have the opportunity to showcase their passion for science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics at the 2024 STEM Expo!

Registration for the annual Expo is free, and the event is open to all students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Students develop a



question or problem they would like to solve and explore it through hands-on investigation and research. Students then plan, carry out, and present their projects to fellow students, families, and community members at the Expo.

If your child needs some inspiration for a project, they can watch the STEM Expo Kick-Off events, which were held virtually last fall, on the U-46 Science and Planetarium [YouTube channel](#). In addition, the department's [Facebook page](#) might prompt some ideas, as well!

Registration is now open. More information, including the registration form, is available [here](#).

Summer Connection

As in previous years, School District U-46 is offering a variety of free summertime experiences, under the program name "U-46 Summer Connection."

Enrollment is now open for most of the offerings available to middle school and high school students, including the two-day programs aimed specifically at helping students entering 7th, 9th, and 12th grade prepare for the school year ahead.

Details and sign-up links can be found at u-46.org/summerconnection.

There are limited seats available for many of these opportunities, so don't delay in signing up. If you have questions, please contact your school directly or use [Let's Talk](#).



Fox Valley College Fair

South Elgin High School will host the annual Fox Valley College Fair from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 4. U-46 high schoolers and their parents or guardians will have the opportunity to meet with admission representatives from more than 150 colleges and universities, both in Illinois and outside of it. We encourage families to register in advance to save time the night of the event. Registration is available at strivefair.com.




#U46FirstDayReady

If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten, 6th grade, 9th grade, or 12th grade next school year, the state of Illinois has certain health requirements for those students. For incoming seniors, that means proving they are up to date on their meningococcal vaccine. For students in the other listed grades, physical exams and certain immunizations are required.

You can find details on the requirements, as well as the necessary forms, in English and Spanish [on this page](#), in the Health Services section of the U-46 website. Forms are due on or before Aug. 13.

Because of these required physicals, summers are always busy at the offices of pediatricians. Please schedule your doctor's appointments now! Families who have questions or need assistance locating a clinic for a physical or immunization should contact the nurse at their school.



U46 HEALTH REQUIREMENTS 2024 - 25

Grades Kindergarten • 6 • 9 • 12

U-46.ORG/HEALTH

More Resources

Weekly Message from Dr. Johnson

Each week, Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Johnson shares a message with U-46 employees and community members. You can read the latest message [here](#).



We Are Hiring!

Have you considered becoming a part of the U-46 team? School District U-46 offers a number of [rewarding opportunities](#) for educators and support staff.



Board of Education

The Board of Education meetings are streamed on the District's [YouTube channel](#) and via Zoom. Written highlights from the meetings, as well as presentations delivered to the Board, can be found [here](#).



Care Coordination

[Care Solace](#) is a complimentary and confidential service provided by School District U-46 to help locate a provider for mental health care or substance use treatment. It's available to U-46 students, staff, and their family members.



Online Backpack
Mochila Digital

Community

Visit our [U-46 Online Backpack](#) to find information on community events, activities, and resources for our U-46 families and students.



School District U-46

All means all.

