



The weekly newsletter from School District U-46

Oct. 18, 2023

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Calendar

- **Friday, Oct. 20:** Institute Day. No classes for students. Offices open.
- **Monday, Oct. 23:** Board of Education meeting. [Details here](#).
- **Wednesday, Oct. 25:** Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee meeting. [Details here](#).

Principals Month

October is National Principals Month, designed to help recognize the essential role that principals play in the education, growth, and well-being of students across the country. Here in U-46, we want to express our appreciation to the principals who lead our 55 school buildings and sites.

Happy National Principals Month

October 2023

National Bus Safety Week

[National School Bus Safety Week](#) is Oct. 16-20 this year. School bus drivers do everything they can to keep students safe, but drivers and parents play a critical role, too. By following the bus safety laws and guidelines, we can all help protect the children who ride school buses in our communities. Violating school bus safety laws in Illinois can result in a fine, citation, or loss of driver's license. When driving near our school buses, please remember the following guidelines.

Stop for School Buses

If you are traveling behind a school bus, be sure to follow at a safe distance, because the vehicles make frequent stops. When you see a school bus slowing down or stopping, be aware of not only the bus but also the surrounding area. Children are likely nearby.

Illegal School Bus Passing

In Illinois, it is illegal for you to pass a school bus while the stop-arm is extended and the red lights are flashing. This applies to highways, streets, private roads, and school property, including when school buses are in parking lots or in a drop-off or pick-up lane at school. The Illinois State Police offer more information [here](#).

Understanding School Bus Lights

Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. You should slow down and prepare to stop your vehicle. Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off.

Read more guidance on how you can help with school bus safety [here](#).



NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK

October 2023



Dual Credit Info Session

Parents, guardians, and students who want to learn more about U-46's full-time [Dual Credit program](#) should plan to attend an informational session on Thursday, Oct. 26, at 6 p.m. It's being held via Zoom and can be joined [here](#). Spanish-language interpretation will be available.

The full-time Dual Credit program provides U-46 students the opportunity to take all of their coursework at Elgin Community College (ECC) while earning both high school and college credit for their courses. Current sophomores and juniors are eligible to apply to the Dual Credit program for the 2024-25 school year.

STEM Expo Kick-Off

Students who are fascinated by fossils won't want to miss the STEM Expo Kick-Off event being held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 25, at the [Bartlett Public Library](#).

The featured guest will be U-46 graduate and Bartlett native Carrie Levitt-Bussian, who serves as the paleontology collections manager at the Natural History Museum of Utah. She will share stories about her daily life and experiences as a paleontologist and bring some items to display as well. She'll be available to answer questions at the end of the session. Space is limited, so [advance registration](#) is encouraged.

The STEM Expo Kick-Off events are designed to inspire U-46 students to start thinking about a project they can present in the spring at the U-46 STEM Expo. Learn more [here](#). If you have questions about the STEM Expo or the kick-off events, please write stemexpo@u-46.org.



Magnet Academy Deadline

The application process closes at the end of this month for U-46 8th graders who are interested in attending high school at one of the District's five [Magnet Academies](#). Each of the five academies has a unique focus and accompanying curriculum that promote student interest and academic excellence.



To be considered for a U-46 Magnet Academy, students are required to have a 2.0 GPA and two letters of recommendation.

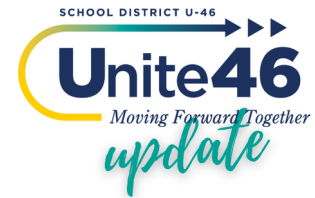
For students who think they want to apply, it's important for them to allow enough time to gather their recommendation letters and resolve any questions or concerns. An optional template for recommendation letters can be found [here](#), and [this page](#) has information about preferences and priorities for the selection process.

Any questions about requirements, recommendation letters, or the application process should be directed to middle school counselors or by emailing magnetacademies@u-46.org.

Unite U-46

This month, we hosted the first Unite U-46 session of the school year. The session presentation reviewed and analyzed criteria to help establish priorities for updates to buildings.

Future sessions will continue this work along with evaluating criteria to determine new attendance boundaries. Mark your calendars for the next Unite U-46 community engagement session. It will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 2, as part of the monthly Community Advisory Council meeting. Register [here](#). If you missed the last session, please watch the recording [here](#) and then complete this [feedback activity](#).



Holiday Celebrations

As a District, we encourage students to make good choices around healthy eating and physical activity to promote positive outcomes. U-46 will continue this practice by promoting holiday celebrations with non-food items. To stay aligned with the USDA's Smart Snacks requirements, food-related celebrations or distribution of snacks to students to eat in the classroom during the school day will not be allowed. The USDA-defined school day hours are from midnight to 30 minutes after the end of the school day.

With Halloween around the corner, we want to provide you with a few resources for a safe and healthy celebration at home:

- [Halloween Health & Safety Tips](#) by Healthy Children
- [Avoid a Food Allergy Scare on Halloween](#) by Healthy Children
- [Tips for a Healthy Halloween](#) by CDC

This time of year also provides an opportunity to talk to your children about not sharing food or snacks they bring from home with friends and, when offered home-baked goods, how to politely say no.

Save the Date!

This school year's first Dual Language Parent Support Group will be offered virtually on Thursday, Nov. 7, at 6:30 p.m. This group is for parents and guardians with children in the District's award-winning Dual Language program. Register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link.

More Resources



Careers

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



Care



Community

[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.

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

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](#).

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](#).



School District U-46

All means all.

