



The weekly newsletter from School District U-46

Feb. 1, 2023

Para leer la Noticia Semanal en español, por favor haga clic aquí

Calendar

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

- **Monday, Feb. 6:** Kindergarten registration gets underway. [Details here](#).
- **Thursday, Feb. 9:** African-American Advisory Council meeting. [Details here](#).
- **Thursday, Feb. 9:** Community Advisory Council general meeting. [Details here](#).
- **Monday, Feb. 13:** Board of Education meeting. [Details here](#).
- **Tuesday, Feb. 14:** Planetarium Public Sky Show. [Details here](#).

We're #U46Proud of Superintendent Tony Sanders

On Tuesday, Dr. Tony Sanders, who has led U-46 since 2014, was appointed to serve as the next Illinois State Superintendent of Education. He will take on the new role at the end of February. You can read Dr. Sanders' message to the U-46 community [here](#), the news release from U-46 [here](#), and the announcement from the Illinois State Board of Education [here](#).



The U-46 Board of Education will outline and take action on next steps for the District at its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, Feb. 13.

District and schools celebrate Black History Month

Today marks the first day of [Black History Month](#), observed every year during the month of February and designed to pay tribute to the generations of African-Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society.

The District and individual schools will be hosting a variety of programs, events, displays, and activities to mark this important month. Watch future U-46 Engage newsletters, and our social media channels, for details and photos.



National Biodiversity Teach-In aims to inspire

Environmental science students from Elgin High School are once again hosting the [National Biodiversity Teach-In](#) on Fridays in February. Featuring webinars led by renowned scientists, the Teach-In aims to educate participants and inspire them to take action in environmental protection.

Subjects to be addressed during this year's Teach-In include Arctic plants, reefs in the Great Lakes, and native plants, as well as presentations that center on polar bears, wolves, elephants, snow leopards, amphibians, sharks, whales, and bats.



Since it started in 2013, the Teach-In has registered more than 110,000 participants from more than 27 countries, including individuals and whole classrooms of students. Learn more [here](#) about the history of the Teach-In.

The webinars are free and open to the public. The Teach-In website at www.nationalbiodiversityteachin.com has a full schedule and details on the speakers and topics being discussed. Those who register to attend a webinar will receive a personalized Zoom link.

Webinars will also be livestreamed on the Teach-In's YouTube channel the day of the event at youtube.com/@nationalbiodiversityteachin and its Facebook page at [@natbioteachin](https://facebook.com/@natbioteachin).

Kindergarten registration opens next week

Registration for incoming kindergarten students gets underway next week! Starting Monday, Feb. 6, families can visit u-46.org/registration to start the online registration process. They will then make an appointment at their school to turn in paperwork or get more assistance. Alternatively, elementary schools have scheduled kindergarten registration events. That schedule can be found [here](#).

The parents of incoming kindergarten students will also be able to register any other current U-46 students in their households starting Feb. 6.

In U-46, kindergarten is a full-day, play-based program. Children learn through playing with real-world materials and situations, movement tied to verbal cues, predictable routines with repetitive language, songs and chants, and more.

To be eligible to enter kindergarten next fall, children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2023. There will be no instructional fees collected.

We want to ensure all U-46 schools are ready to welcome our kindergarten on their first day of school, Aug. 15, 2023. In order to have the classrooms set to go, teachers hired, and transportation routes all set, we ask all parents and guardians of eligible incoming kindergarten students to register their child starting Feb. 6. We ask all to help us spread the word and share this information with others who may have an incoming kindergarten student. Details available at u-46.org/registration.



Reminder about holiday snacks in the classroom

As a District, we encourage students to make good choices around healthy eating and physical activity to promote positive outcomes. With Valentine's Day this month, 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.

Holidays provide a good 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.

Finally, the American Academy of Pediatrics offers [this list](#) of 14 ways to show your child love on Valentine's Day and every day.

U-46 seniors urged to check out Foundation scholarships

Calling all members of the Class of 2023! Through the generosity of its donors, the [U-46 Educational Foundation](#) is proud to offer tens of thousands of dollars in scholarship opportunities

to U-46 seniors this year.



Some require that a student attend a specific high school or pursue a certain career in college. Others are much more general. The list of available scholarships can be found [here](#).

The [U-46 Educational Foundation Online Scholarship Application](#) allows students to be considered for up to 10 scholarships without having to fill out a different application for each scholarship.

Please help us spread the word about these amazing opportunities to our students.

We're Hiring

Have you considered becoming a part of the U-46 team? As the second-largest school district in the state of Illinois, School District U-46 offers a number of rewarding opportunities for educators and support staff, including bus drivers, social workers, secretaries, food service technicians, and more. You can learn more about our District and job openings at u-46.org/careers.



Here are a couple of positions that we are highlighting:

- [Noon-Hour Supervisor](#): Recess and lunch time is a vital part of the children's school day. Our noon-hour supervisor monitor student movement to and from the classroom, cafeteria, bathroom and playground to ensure an orderly lunch and recess period. This position works two hours a school day. Training provided, no experience necessary.
- [AVID Tutor](#): This position provides leadership, coordination, and support for the AVID program to raise the achievement level of participating students and to increase the students' personal benefit from the learning experience. Hours vary based on the site but can add up to 16.5 hours a week.

Online Backpack

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

Coming up:

- South Elgin Parks & Recreation - Daddy-Daughter Dance Party and Mother-Son Bowling Tournament
- Children's Theatre of Elgin - Auditions for the play "Jack"

The flyers in the Online Backpack are the responsibility of the group listed and not a District endorsement. Visit Online Backpack to view the organization's flyer for more information.



School District U-46
All means all.



