



The weekly newsletter from School District U-46

Feb. 15, 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](#).

- **Thursday, Feb. 16:** Dual Language Parent Support Group. [Details here](#).
- **Monday, Feb. 20:** Presidents Day holiday. No classes, buildings closed. [Details here](#).
- **Tuesday, Feb. 21:** "Supporting a Special Needs Child Through Puberty" presentation by CAC's Specialized Student Services committee. [Details here](#).
- **Wednesday, Feb. 22:** Dual Language Informational Meeting. [Details here](#).
- **Thursday, Feb. 23:** Panel with representatives from Historically Black Colleges and Universities. [Details here](#).
- **Friday, Feb. 24:** U-46 Black History Month Celebration. [Details here](#).

## Interim Superintendent Appointed

The U-46 Board of Education on Monday night appointed Dr. Suzanne Johnson as the interim superintendent for School District U-46. For the past five years, Johnson has served as the deputy superintendent of instruction for the District. Dr. Johnson is a graduate of Elgin High School who began her career teaching language arts at Canton Middle School in Streamwood. She later served as a divisional, associate principal, and principal at Bartlett High School. The interim appointment is effective Feb. 23. Current Superintendent Dr. Tony Sanders has been appointed the Illinois State Superintendent of Education, and his last day in U-46 will be Feb. 22. Learn more [here](#).



## Presidents Day Holiday

Monday, Feb. 20, is Presidents Day, and it's a non-attendance day for students. All U-46 buildings will be closed.

## Learn How to Support a Special Needs Child Through Puberty

The Community Advisory Council's Specialized Student Services committee will host a virtual presentation at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 21, for parents of children with disabilities. "Supporting a Special Needs Child Through Puberty" will review biological, psychological, and social-emotional factors associated with puberty. It will explain current research and literature about modern issues, such as gender identity, social media, and Covid-19-created vulnerabilities. A special lens and practical advice will be applied for children with special needs, including those with developmental delays, mental illness, and learning disorders. Presenters are pediatric psychologist Dr. Ann Weller and licensed professional counselor Cheryl Curry of Plum Tree Psychology. Those who want to attend can join the Zoom meeting at [info.u-46.org/CACSpedFeb](https://info.u-46.org/CACSpedFeb). The event will be presented in English with Spanish interpretation.



## Families Invited to Learn More About Dual Language Program

Parents and guardians of children who will be in kindergarten or 1st grade next school year are encouraged to start learning now about U-46's award-winning Dual Language program. The knowledge will help parents make an informed decision on whether to express interest in having their child participate in the U-46 Dual Language program. Please note that kindergarten and 1st grade are the only grades a child can enter this program.



The Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department is hosting four information sessions over the next few months: Two are in-person and two are virtual to explain the structure of the program and resources available for parents to support their child's learning experience. Click [here](#) for the dates and location of all information sessions. The first one is next Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin.

Families who know they want their child to be considered for placement in the Dual Language program can fill out an interest form. Both an online and printable version of the interest form can be found [here](#). The window for the acceptance of these interest forms closes officially on Friday, May 12.

Please help spread the word about this opportunity. Any families with questions can call 847-888-5000, ext. 5331 or 5332, or visit [u-46.org/duallanguage](http://u-46.org/duallanguage).

## Honoring Contributions Made by Black Americans

As part of School District U-46 events celebrating Black History Month, U-46 will host an event on Friday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m., at Larkin High School. It will feature a keynote speech from Roger Simmons, an adjunct professor at Judson University who provides instruction to students about cultural diversity. He also serves as Judson's Director of Diversity and Spiritual Development, working with the university community to develop programs, policies, and practices that promote an institutional culture of diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence. His presentation is entitled "Power, Promise and Purpose: Our Gaze is Fixed!" All are welcome. For questions, please email [gifted@u-46.org](mailto:gifted@u-46.org).



In addition, U-46 high schoolers are invited to attend a virtual panel with representatives from four Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This event is being sponsored by the Alignment Collaborative for Education and School District U-46. Representatives and alumni from Howard University, Tuskegee University, Grambling State University, and North Carolina A&T State University, will share their guidance and experiences. To attend this event, being held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23, students and their family members should register at [info.u-46.org/HBCU-Panel](http://info.u-46.org/HBCU-Panel).

## Parent Cafes

The U-46 Family Welcome Center hosts "Parent Cafés" regularly at schools throughout the District. During these events, parents have the opportunity to talk with other caregivers about the challenges and rewards of raising a family. They also learn about five "protective factors" — such as social connections and knowledge of parenting — that have been shown to keep children safe and families strong.

Through individual self-reflection and peer-to-peer learning, participants create strategies from their own wisdom and experiences to help strengthen their families. Participants leave Parent Cafés feeling inspired, energized, and excited to put into practice what they've learned!

The sessions are held in Spanish. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend a Parent Café even if their child does not attend that specific school. For a complete schedule, click [here](#). Any questions can be directed to parent educator Norma Burns at [normaburns@u-46.org](mailto:normaburns@u-46.org).



## Improve Our Schools - with Zero-Tax-Rate-Change

Did you know that School District U-46 has a bond proposal on the ballot in the April 4 election? This proposal will give voters a unique chance to improve our schools, with zero-tax-rate-change. As previous debt from a referendum in the early 2000s is paid off, the District can take on new debt without changing the tax rate homeowners pay. Look for more information to be shared on this bond proposal soon.



## Looking for a New Career?

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](http://u-46.org/careers).



Here are a couple of positions that we are highlighting:

- [Special Olympics Assistant Coach](#) - This individual will work with the BlueStars, U-46's team of athletes ages 8 through 22 who compete in Special Olympics events.
- [CNA Teacher](#) - The employee in this role will prepare and train U-46 students for the state Certified Nursing Assistant exam and implement research-based teaching strategies that engage all students.

## 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:

- Elgin Breakfast Rotary - Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
- Elgin High School PTO - The 48th annual collectibles and crafts Flea Market



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.



