Teacher Appraisal Plan

Peer Assistance and Review

You are invited to attend a Zoom Meeting on Monday, May 18 at 3 p.m. to find out more about the U-46 Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) Program. It is a District support program offered to teachers that provides ongoing, customized, job-embedded support. PAR is available to any teacher not formally matched with a mentor through the U-46 Teacher Mentor Program (TMP). Please see this flyer for additional information, including a link to the Zoom meeting. Please contact paradm@u-46.org with any questions.

School Year 2020-21

Online Registration

Due to the statewide stay-at-home order, Registration Assistance Events that had been planned for spring 2020 have been canceled. All families are being asked to register online for the 2020-21 school year using their laptop, desktop, or student's District-issued chromebook. Detailed instructions, along with contact information for questions, are located on the Registration Department’s home page.

Right at School

School District U-46 is transitioning to offering before- and after-school programming through Right At School. Visit bit.ly/RASjobs to view job opportunities available for this program.

Operations: Facilities Master Plan

Staff Survey

The Educational Facilities survey has been extended for another week. Don’t miss this important chance for U-46 staff to make their voices heard in the collaborative process to shape our facilities to best support teaching and learning. The anonymous, confidential survey allows participants to provide detailed feedback on their building. While nearly 500 responses have been received so far, some buildings have only had a few employees participate. The survey will take about 10 minutes. Please help by completing this survey here: https://dlrgroup.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0TiMVVaqEsqugip

Equity

Student Survey
Earlier this week we sent a survey to all 4th through 12th graders that invites them to tell us how included and equally represented they feel throughout their U-46 experience. Students may use a computer, tablet or smartphone to access the online survey. The survey will take approximately 20 to 30 minutes to complete. Students will be asked to provide their student ID.

U-46 is partnering with Panorama Education, a leading K-12 research company, to administer the survey and ensure data privacy and security. Student responses are an important part of helping to create wonderful experiences in our schools. We have shared news of this survey with our families and are sending reminders as well. All responses to the survey are completely confidential. Please feel free to use Let’s Talk to ask any questions about the survey.

**School & Community Relations**

**2020 Census**

School District U-46, in collaboration with the Elgin Complete Count Committee, has created a digital art show to help spread the word about the importance of the 2020 Census. The young artists who enter are eligible to win one of three $50 gift cards!

The digital art show invites all U-46 students to share artwork expressing why they count in the 2020 Census. The artwork can be, but is not limited to, a drawing, painting, video or photography. To make the student’s artwork count for the drawing, they must use the hashtag #U46Counts and their local community hashtag such as #ElginKidsCount when uploading a photo of their artwork to social media. The digital art show started earlier this week and ends at midnight Tuesday, May 19. The drawing for the gift cards will take place on Gail Borden’s Facebook page on Wednesday, May 20. If the student prefers that the Committee post and enter their artwork into the show, they can send the photo to lmarting@gailborden.info.

Please download the [graphic](https://forms.gle/5P2JMoKrEfzxu6kk9) available in [English](https://forms.gle/5P2JMoKrEfzxu6kk9) and [Spanish](https://forms.gle/5P2JMoKrEfzxu6kk9) and help spread the word!

**Teachers’ Stories**

The School & Community Relations Team is collecting photos and stories of the distance learning background spaces and experiences that teachers have created in their homes. Those interested in sharing their stories can complete this form: [https://forms.gle/5P2JMoKrEfzxu6kk9](https://forms.gle/5P2JMoKrEfzxu6kk9)

**Music Videos and Copyright Laws**

Any staff or student videos shared on social media are subject to copyright law. Copyright asks us to consider two important questions: Who owns the right and did they give me permission to use it in this way?
Users need to seek permission to use popular commercial music for slideshows, videos, online lip sync performances/videos. Without permission, you could expose the District to liability if you use and post the video. Violations may cost our District.

For information about music rights, there’s the National Association for Music Education and the U.S. Copyright Office.

Below are some sites where you can find free copyright music or purchase music (please read the fine print about how often purchased music can be shared.)

- Official YouTube Audio Library
- Facebook Sound Collection
- BenSound
- www.free-stock-music.com
- YouTube Channel - Audio Library
- https://envato.com/
- Envato
- Premium Beat
- FyrFly (formerly Songfreedom.com)
- Public Domain Music
- https://www.ascap.com/

of this information can be found on the District’s intranet website under School & Community Relations.

**Reading Books Aloud on Social Media**

Copyright law—specifically fair use—permits many read-aloud activities online. Many publishers, such as Scholastic, have made accommodations for online reading during this pandemic. The topic has been addressed in several recent articles, including these from the School Library Journal and Ed Surge.

**Sharing Resources Online**

Remember that we need to continue to apply proper citation when referencing written material or seek publisher permission when scanning and sharing books or portions of texts with students in this distance learning environment.
Online library Axis360 or other Board-approved online resources do not require any special permission

**Information Services**

**Hardware Support**

Information Services has moved their technology repair shop to South Elgin High School. Just as before, appointments for hardware issues and pick up for an approved laptop can be scheduled using the Computer Support Appointment Request Form, and you will receive a confirmation email after submitting.

As a reminder: Non-hardware technology issues will be addressed remotely using the helpdesk@u-46.org email. Due to the volume of requests received for password resets, Information Services has opened an email box to address them quickly. Please send your password reset request to passwordresetonly@u-46.org, and dedicated personnel will address it promptly.

The new location for technology repairs is at South Elgin High School, 760 E. Main St., South Elgin. It will be located in the ticketing office, use door #5.

**Community**

**Childcare**

The Boys and Girls Club of Elgin is now accepting applications to provide care to children of essential workers. Detailed information and an application can be found at bit.ly/ApplyEssentialWorkers.

**Photo of the Week**

**VISION Art Show**
The high school art teaching team, in addition to ensuring our students continue to receive high-quality instruction during distance learning, wanted to find a way for our students to have their annual art show this spring. Click on the artwork above by Streamwood High senior Elleana Forte, or this link here, to see the 2020 VISION Art Show, a virtual art showcase featuring work from each of our five comprehensive high school buildings. Please direct any questions or comments to Fine Arts Coordinator Jaimie Giraldo.

**State News**
The May 11 Weekly Message from State Superintendent Carmen I. Ayala, Ph.D., is available online in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format here. All COVID-related editions of the Weekly Message are archived on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at here.

**Kudos**
Send Kudos directly by clicking here. They are due by noon each Wednesday. Be sure to click to the bottom of your email to ensure you can read all the kudos each week.
Kudos to Brittney Mallen, Environmental Science Teacher at Elgin High School, from a Grateful Parent
For asking students to share kind words for classmates. How nice to remember to take a few moments for kindness! Then, she created an amazing and thoughtful gift with these words! Just words! And it is fantastic for my daughter to see those kind words thoughtfully shared and written about her!

Kudos to Jill Waichunas, Special Education Teacher at Elgin High School, from Tim Kolanko, Math Teacher at Elgin High School
I just want to thank Jill for being such a great co-teacher. I appreciate all of the ways she's helped me grow as a professional and improve my practice. I'm fortunate to be able to share a classroom with such a wonderful person.

Kudos to Ms. Kucera, 5th Grade Teacher at Huff Elementary School, from the Geary’s
We just wanted to let you know what an excellent job Ms. Kucera is doing. She is always available to not only her students but to us parents. I have listened to her during her Zoom lessons and even though the students are so excited to talk to each other, she keeps them on task while still appreciating their need to be able to socialize with each other. We have had a few problems with our lack of technical skills, and she has been able to talk us through them or find the solutions. Thank you, Ms. Kucera.

Kudos to Tony Romero, Technician Specialist at Curriculum & Instruction, from Anne C. Cordina, Assistant Principal at Sycamore Trails Elementary School
A huge thank you to Tony, aka CurriculumApps. Whenever I have sent an email or made a phone call, he always responds promptly. He has fulfilled requests from all at superhuman speed to ensure all staff and students are ready to learn and engage. We are able to support our staff and students efficiently because of your hard work. Thank you!

Kudos to my Kindergarten Team Members Andi Peterson and Jasmine Oh at Sycamore Trails Elementary School, from Laura Englehart, Kindergarten Teacher at Sycamore Trails Elementary School
Teaching kindergarten is a feat to itself within a classroom. Teaching kindergarten online took this feat to a whole new level! Andi Peterson and Jasmine Oh have shared their creative talents, knowledge of education and technical expertise during all hours of our waking days. Their dedication allowed us to provide a creative, usable, engaging, yet challenging platform of lessons
to our little learners. I am honored daily to work with these two women as a truly sharing and collaborative team!

**Kudos to Wendy Hasto, 2nd Grade Teacher at Willard Elementary School, from Anonymous**
For compiling a video and writing the lyrics to a piece that was sung by Willard’s music teacher Minji Will and then shared with our families and community. It was an awesome way for us to show the families that we miss them and that we are all here together! It took a lot of work to coordinate everything and it was very much appreciated!!

**Kudos to the School Administration, Staff and Community at Ronald D. O’Neal Elementary School, from Ednaliz Schettini Massa, Teacher at Ronald D. O’Neal Elementary School**
I would like to express my appreciation for all the support and love of Ronald D. O’Neal School administration, staff and community. I have been a teacher there since I started in U-46 and now they are my family. Thanks for being such an amazing place to teach! We are "high income" in love standards!

**Kudos to Tony Romero, Technician Specialist at Curriculum and Instruction, from Iliana Gonzalez, Teacher at Heritage Elementary School**
Thank you Tony Romero for all your quick and effective help.

**Kudos to Brittney Mallen, Science Teacher at Elgin High School, from Anonymous**
For doing so much this year to make sure the seniors at Elgin High are celebrated. She has worked tirelessly to alleviate some of the pain our seniors are experiencing and provide them some joy through these unprecedented times. I am forever grateful we have such a dedicated teacher at Elgin High. East Side Maroon Pride!

**Kudos to Mark Hutson, Music Teacher at Lords Park Elementary School, from Elisabet Garcia, Teacher at Lords Park Elementary School**
I wanted to take the time to give a huge shout-out to our music teacher Mark Hutson! He joined me today in our live Zoom to talk to the kiddos about Quaver's Music.

So here's what happened afterwards: Mark led us in the song, "De colores" and he sang the lyrics entirely in Spanish! One might think, and ...? Well, here's the thing, Mark doesn't speak Spanish, so for him to learn the lyrics in the manner that he did, to then engage our kiddos in a sing-along, speaks VOLUMES!!! I appreciate all he brings to us here at LP, and am truly grateful that our
kiddos have a music teacher who acknowledges the cultural and linguistic abilities of our students.

**Kudos to the High School Art Staff in U-46!**

Led by District Fine Arts Coordinator, Jaimie Giraldo, Teachers include Alyssa Coy, Carrie Brannon, Dana Katz, Darrell St. John, Gavin Dillehay, Jamie Miquelon, Jorie Bartholomew, Jenifer Spets, Lisa Vandenberghe, Lisa Welch, Rhiannon Hunter, Robert Wrobel, Sean Murray, Tim Vaulato, and Jessica Vaillancourt, from Michelle M Zappia-Eickmeier, Music Teacher at Bartlett High School

In addition to figuring out a whole new way to deliver instruction to students without the supplies and technology we use in our classroom, these teachers were still able to collect artwork digitally and by going into buildings when we were allowed and photographing pieces at school. Then the hunt was on for a virtual gallery! We found a great online gallery through Kunstmatrix. Jaimie Giraldo collected the work curated by the High School art staff and loaded them into the gallery. The Vision Show is an annual tradition in SD U-46, and through the above and beyond efforts of all of the High School staff, the tradition remains unbroken. Take that, COVID-19!

“Attend” the show [here](#).

**Kudos to Elgin High School Academy Teachers and Staff, from a Grateful Parent**

For continuing to teach, support, and guide my daughter. So much has changed, but she was really well prepared to keep working and finish strong. I'm not surprised, she is the youngest of four, all EHS grads and all well prepared by fantastic, dedicated, outstanding teachers.

**Kudos to Michelle Baldwin, Librarian at Ronald D. O’Neal Elementary School, from Mary Tristani, Teacher at Ronald D. O’Neal Elementary School**

She went above and beyond by offering to carry my students’ bags of supplies down the stairs, down the hall and to the gym from where they will be distributed. I was worried about gathering up all of their supplies, bagging them, tying them shut, stabling their name tags on each bag and carrying them to the gym all in a two-hour period. I couldn’t have done it without her. Thank you, Michelle!

**Kudos to Anne Schmidt for her Years of Service as a Teacher at Streamwood High School and Her Upcoming Retirement from:**

**Eric Peterson**- Anne, thank you so much for the great memories. We had a fun time co-labbing together for our many years and you truly made it science fun with your daily labs.

**Megan**- Anne was so welcoming and helpful to me in my first year at SHS, I don't know if I would have survived without her!

**Cristina**- Anne, it has been a pleasure working with you over the years! Thank you for
welcoming me to the science office and always helping me find stuff and putting labs together. Thank you for your friendship, you will be missed! 

**Mack**- Anne is someone who is always eager to help no matter what. She made co-teaching easy with her ability to help maintain the classroom and provide quality lessons and activities. Thank you Anne for your help and guidance these past couple years.

**Baker**- Anne Schmidt was my co-teacher for several years. She helped me fill the special needs of the students we taught together. Her help was immeasurable.

**Kudos to our Amazing Speech and Language Pathologists in U-46, from Kelly O'Hara, Lead SLP**  
It's been a huge learning curve but we are making the transition to video speech sessions and sending unique lessons and materials out to all of the students on our caseloads, no easy task! I appreciate our department and how we collaborate with each other, with so many diverse needs! So very proud and humbled to serve you all!

**Kudos to Principal Cathie Fletcher and Assistant Principal Dr. Angel Brooks at Heritage Elementary School, from Cheryl Domokos, Secretary at Heritage Elementary School**  
Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to the students and staff at Heritage. You have both gone above and beyond in helping our families and staff members during these unpredictable times! Thank you both for being such great leaders and for supporting us all!!