Thank you all for a great 2018-19 school year. For my last weekly message of the year, I thought you might appreciate a glimpse into what you can expect in 2019-20:

1) We are purchasing cell phone holders for every secondary classroom. Now that all 5th through 12th graders will have Chromebooks, I see no reason why students should be on their cell phones during instructional time. Students will be able to reach their phones in the event of an emergency. Otherwise, the classroom time will be focused on teacher instruction, discussion and collaboration.

2) Identification will be required for all staff members and for all students in middle and high school worn on the upper torso on the outermost garment. Secondary schools will need to review their process to ensure identifications are worn. IDs are the only mechanism we have to ensure it is appropriate for someone to be inside our schools and we need to monitor each other.

3) There will be more administrative support for elementary schools. We have posted 10 new assistant principal positions for Sycamore Trails, Channing, Laurel Hill, Illinois Park, Glenbrook, Lincoln, Heritage, Harriet Gifford, Lowrie, and Oakhill.

4) We will present to the Board and then implement a plan to increase proficiency and measurable growth of students in math for grades K through 6.

5) We will present a plan to the Board to measure and increase the number of teachers and students feeling safe at school, including a timeline for the inclusion of social-emotional learning into the curriculum. Many of you learned more about integrated units this week.

6) Facility utilization will also be a large topic. We will begin a full facility utilization review with the goal of preparing for educational pathways, determining the feasibility of moving 6th grade to middle school, and providing more school choice opportunities.

These are just a few areas of the work that will begin in 2019-20. The Board has been explicit in their goals (last several pages of the contract) for me which provide a lot more detail about what you can expect next year and beyond.

Click here to watch a video from our School & Community Relations Department capturing our five back-to-back graduation ceremonies last Saturday at the Sears Centre.

All my best,

Tony

**Calendar**

**Friday, May 31:** Institute Day/School Improvement Day.

**Monday, June 3:** U-46 Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m., open session, room 140, ESC.
Secondary Education

Explore 2019

The U-46 Secondary Department is again partnering with the Alignment Collaborative for Education (ACE) to host the fifth annual Explore: A Curriculum and Career Expo. Explore is designed to support the District’s ongoing efforts to improve college and career readiness; it showcases a wide variety of jobs within the main career clusters. Last year, more than 85 businesses and industry partners showcased careers and U-46 faculty was also on hand to explain how our secondary curriculum and Magnet Academies support college and career readiness.

Explore 2019 is slated to run from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. September 11th at the Sears Centre. All U-46 eighth graders and their teachers will attend. Parents of 8th graders will be invited to preview the expo from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on September 10.

U-46 Educational Foundation and School & Community Relations

#ThankAU46Teacher

Initially tied to Teacher Appreciation Week, the #ThankAU46Teacher campaign organized by the School & Community Relations Department in collaboration with the U-46 Educational Foundation extended through the end of May through generous additional donations. Parents, students, alumni, and community members were invited to honor a special teacher through a donation to the Foundation, a non-profit organization that expands opportunities for U-46 students beyond what is possible with tax dollars. A total of $5,725 was raised for the Foundation, with about 110 teachers and staff members honored. Learn more, and see a list of those honored, here.

Human Resources and School & Community Relations

ISBE Those Who Excel

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is accepting nominations for the 2020 Illinois Teacher of the Year and Those Who Excel awards. The awards honor individuals who have made significant contributions to Illinois’ public and nonpublic preK-12 schools. Any person or organization may submit nominations for the awards. This is another great opportunity to celebrate our talented U-46 colleagues.

Nominations are open in several categories, including:

- Classroom Teacher (Licensed)
- Early Career Educator
- Education Service Personnel (Unlicensed)
- School Administrator
- School Board Member/Community Volunteer
All nominations for the 2020 Illinois Teacher of the Year and Those Who Excel awards are due by June 3, 2019. View the nomination form and learn more at www.isbe.net/thosewhoexcel. Please inform Ann Chan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, and/or Mary Fergus, Director of School & Community Relations, of any nominations.

**School & Community Relations**

**Summer Reading Challenge**
The District is encouraging all U-46 staff to help make sure students are aware of the Summer Reading Challenge, an annual friendly competition that emphasizes the power of strong literacy skills. Summer reading can help students maintain or improve academic performance and avoid the dreaded “summer slide.” National research has demonstrated that students who participate in summer reading programs score higher on reading achievement tests at the beginning of the next school year. Students are encouraged to visit their local libraries for a copy of the reading log, information about the reading challenge, and how they can earn prizes. While the Summer Reading Challenge is aimed at elementary schools, the public libraries offer fun summer reading programs for older students and even adults as well! Links to each library partner and facts about summer reading will also be posted on the District’s website at u-46.org/summerreadingchallenge.

**Elementary Literacy Professional Development**
There will be a required, full-day Integrated Curriculum PD, offered over the summer (voluntary) and fall (required if not previously attended). If teachers choose to attend the voluntary, full-day, summer PD, they will be paid a stipend, have access to the new Social Sciences materials and be able to choose their August DCD sessions. If teachers attend one of the summer sessions, they will be able to explore the curriculum and resources before classes begin in the fall. Sessions will be posted in Coursewhere soon.

**Social Emotional Resources K-6**
All classrooms will be provided the Second Step resource to support the social emotional standards that have been embedded in the Integrated Curriculum. Per Coursewhere records if teachers have not previously attended Second Step training, they will need to complete a half-day training on using the resource. A morning or afternoon session is being offered on the Friday, May 31, 2019 PPD, as well as sessions this summer and at the August DCD.

**Senderos Resource**
The ELL department in coordination with the Literacy department has provided the Senderos resource as a compendium of texts in Spanish. This resource is not intended to be used as a basal with all of its components starting at the beginning and moving through each unit. The dual language thematic units outline which resources could be used to support the District-adopted curriculum. As the integrated curriculum moves forward, we will continue to collaborate on how ELL-provided resources support the District-adopted curriculum. For next year, the decision has been made that the consumable workbooks will no longer be available to order. Research does not support the use of these kinds of workbooks. Students who may need additional practice with the skills being taught, should be directed to do so through authentic tasks such as their own reading and writing, academic conversations, differentiated group work. Such work will make a greater impact and transfer of knowledge than using the workbooks. There are also online Senderos resources.

**Curriculum & Instruction**

**Teacher Appraisal Plan: Student Growth Professional Development**

Voluntary summer 2019 opportunities are included below. Hope to see you!

6/18  **Piecing Together the SLO**  ESC 325, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
8/1  **Piecing Together the SLO**  ESC 325, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
8/2  **Piecing Together the SLO**  ESC 325, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Specialized Student Services**

**Job Openings**

The Specialized Student Services Department has openings for Extended School Year (ESY) LBSI Teachers in the following areas: Exceptional Needs I/II, Instructional Learning Program, Modified Learning Program, Transitional Program, Cross Categorical, Early Childhood, and DHH. All grade levels are needed. ESY is offered Monday through Thursday 7:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. from June 10 through July 11 (no school on July 4) at Liberty Elementary (Early Childhood to Grade 6 plus EN 2 MS/HS) and South Elgin High School (Middle and High School - MLP, CC, ILP and Transition programs.) There are job share opportunities available for those who can not work the entire 19 days. Please apply on applitrak. For questions, please reach out to francescadimaggio@u-46.org.

**Plant Operations**

**Energy Conservation: Summer Shutdown/Setback**

The Plant Operations department and the Cenergistic Energy Specialists are requesting your assistance in the 2019 Summer Shutdown/Setback. Your help in this effort will benefit the
District. We are working to recognize the effort that all U-46 staff contribute to this effort over school breaks.

To Participate

- Teachers should have all electronics and energy-consuming devices turned off and/or unplugged by the end of the day Friday, May 31, 2019.
- Complete the School Break Shutdown Checklist. It can be downloaded by following this link.
- Tape the completed checklist and tape to the outside of the classroom door before leaving for the summer break.
- The energy specialists will collect all checklists and review the classrooms over summer break.
- Recognition for those with high levels of participation will be shared in the CEO Weekly at the onset of the school year.

For more details, please feel free to reach out to our energy specialists Jacob Keene or Stephanie McDermott.

**Community**

**Project Backpack: Back to School Supply Fair**

This year’s Project Backpack: Back to School Supply Fair will be held a bit earlier in the summer than usual. It’s scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or until supplies last, at Elgin Community College’s Spartan Event Center (Building J). School District U-46 is among the partners for this event, which is organized and hosted by ECC. Students who provide proof of residency or school enrollment with Elgin Community College or School District U-46, D300, D301, D303, or D20 for fall of 2019 will receive a backpack with school supplies to start the school year off on a successful note. Backpacks are distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis, and there is a limit of one backpack per student.

A supply dropbox will be placed at the U-46 Educational Services Center, in the 2nd floor reception area, for anyone interested in donating supplies. More information can be found here and here. Please help spread the word about this important event.

**Photo of the Week**

*High School Graduation Ceremonies*
More than 2,700 seniors graduated from U-46 on Saturday during five back-to-back graduation ceremonies at the Sears Centre, starting with Elgin High School at 8 a.m. and finishing with South Elgin High School (pictured above) getting underway at 8 p.m. Enjoy photos and videos from this very special day by using the #U46Classof2019 hashtag on the District’s Facebook account.

**State News**
The May 29 Weekly Message from State Superintendent Carmen I. Ayala, Ph.D., is available online in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format [here](#). All 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 bottom of your email to ensure you can read all the kudos each week.*

**Kudos to Amanda Long and Aurora Scarpaci, Teachers at Larkin High School, from Kathryn Thompson, Teacher at Larkin High School**
Thank you to Amanda and Aurora for facilitating the end of year activities for the Senior class. They go above and beyond and make it look so easy. They also make it special for the graduates! Job well done.

**Kudos to Elgin Police Officers from Daniel Galuszek, Teacher at Central School Programs**
I want to thank the Elgin Police Department officers who took time out of their day on May 23rd to spend it with our Central School students for our annual outdoor picnic. Having our students, staff, and the EPD together made for a heartfelt Community event.
Kudos to Michele Brodbeck, Horizon Elementary School Garden Champion, from Breana Balaskovits, Lisa Burnell, Veronica Erion, Veronica Hutchins, Jeff Schultz, and Theresa Tetti, Teachers at Horizon Elementary School
Our heartfelt thanks and admiration go to parent Michele Brodbeck. She brought her passion and deep knowledge of gardening to our school, took the germ of an idea and led us to create the first iteration of our school's garden. Her work included writing for and receiving a grant for five raised garden beds, plus soil and compost from The Gardenworks Project. Michele also put in countless hours in meetings, putting together our "winter sowing" project and planning each square foot of the beds and the tilled ground. She also took the time to contact seed companies to obtain a huge variety of seeds for our kids to plant. Our garden is just beginning, and we look forward to sharing our garden and its harvest with the rest of our school and our community. Thank you, Michele for sharing your love and passion not only with us (the teachers) but also "our" kids!

Kudos to all the Teaching Staff, Administration, Office Staff, and Custodial Staff at Eastview Middle School, from Jorie Ganek, Teacher at Eastview Middle School
Thank you to all for helping make Eastview Middle School's MTSS Celebration possible. The students have worked diligently demonstrating respect, responsibility, and citizenship this school year. Although the weather didn't cooperate as we had planned, fun was still had by all. What a way to kick off the summer! A million and one THANKS to all! Enjoy the summer and recharge those batteries.

Kudos to Samantha Morton, PE teacher at Creekside Elementary, from the Creekside Kindergarten Team
A huge thank you for organizing Creekside’s Field Day. The games and activities were a blast for the students. Even though our afternoon session was rained out, Samantha was able to reschedule it the following day, and it was a success without any issues!