

# Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter

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Sept. 14, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

As we continue our journey to enhance the educational experience for our students and foster a positive work environment, your valuable input remains essential. It's that time of year again when we invite you to participate in our #U46Voice Employee Engagement Survey. The survey is administered by Gallup and asks several research-based questions to determine whether an employee is engaged at work.

This survey serves as a critical tool for us to gauge our progress and ensure that we fulfill our mission to be a great place for all students to learn, all teachers to teach, and all employees to work. All means all.

Here's why your participation is so important:

- **Anonymous and Confidential:** Rest assured that your responses will remain completely anonymous and confidential. Your honest feedback helps us understand the true state of employee engagement districtwide.
- **Influence Positive Change:** Your input directly informs our strategic direction and initiatives. It's your chance to highlight what's working well and where we can do better.
- **Continuous Improvement:** We are committed to ongoing improvement, and your insights are needed for meaningful change. By every U-46 staff member participating, you contribute to a culture of growth and development within every district department and school.

Completing the survey is easy! On Monday, Sept. 25, you will receive an email directly from Gallup ([support@mail.gallup.com](mailto:support@mail.gallup.com)) with a unique survey link. Please do not forward or share this unique survey link. The confidential survey will only take a short amount of your time, but its impact will be lasting.

Please join me in our commitment to excellence. Your input is our driving force, and together, we can shape the future of our schools.

It's a great day to learn in U-46!

Dr. Suzanne Johnson

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## Kudos

Send Kudos directly by clicking [HERE](#) or using Let's Talk. Remember, only Kudos with the sender's name will appear in the Weekly; no anonymous messages. Kudos are due by 5 p.m. each Tuesday.

**Kudos to Teacher Leaders Veronica Kernler, Gloria Helin, and Alisha Wildermuth from Teacher Leader Colleen Ballantyne**

Thank you to this supportive team of teachers for always being willing to collaborate, brainstorm, problem-solve, and support the work of the Teacher Appraisal Plan. Your depth of knowledge, creativity, and contributions are appreciated! Thank you!

**Kudos to Instructional Coaches Christy Craig and Katie Mucha at Tefft Middle School from Kaity Romine, Social Sciences Teacher at Tefft**

I want to send a shout-out to our awesome instructional coaches, who have been working non-stop to ensure this school year started out positively. Thank you!

**Kudos to Tara Burghart, Communications & Media Relations Coordinator, School & Community Relations, from Diane Sheehan, Principal's Secretary, Bartlett High School**

We are only a month into the new school year, and I must have contacted her regarding the website or the Blackboard message system at least once a week. Tara is always pleasant, so quick in her responses, and helpful. Thank you, Tara! You are appreciated!

**Kudos Melissa Pekar, PE Teacher; Mary Fedor, Art Teacher; Isabel Lopez, Secretary, and Emily Shannon, Reading Specialist, all at Lowrie Elementary School, from Rene Chinn, 4th/5th Grade Teacher, Lowrie Elementary**

I want to send kudos to our entire Lowrie staff, but especially to Melissa, Mary, Isabel, and Emily for going above and beyond in working to fill staffing gaps over the past four weeks. They have tirelessly supported our students and teachers and sacrificed their time to make sure that all of our classes have had coverage every week. We are grateful to have them as part of our Lowrie team!

**Kudos to Sean Hardiman, Eve Perdikaris, and Jessica Ventrella, Counselors at Kenyon Woods Middle School, from Robert Botwinski, Orchestra Teacher at Kenyon Woods Middle School**

A huge shout-out to all of our counselors at KWMS! I don't know if others feel similarly, but I feel like I have been contacting the counselors much more frequently this year than in any previous year. Any issue that I need the counselors' assistance with is usually solved within the day, and they all do it with such positive attitudes and friendly smiles! From getting students into the correct classes, helping them develop strategies for academic success, sending homework to students who are on extended absences, being a supportive adult for the students to go to, and so

much more ... these three individuals do it all! Quite simply, our school would not be able to function without them. Thank you!

**Kudos to Linda Geller, Principal's Secretary at Larsen Middle School, from Christine Schlueter, Cross-Categorical Teacher at Larsen Middle School**

Linda goes above and beyond to ensure that our classes have a teacher when one is out. I appreciate all of her efforts to ensure our students are continuously learning.

**Kudos to Rob Reimer, Bus Driver, and Mike Schultz, Bus Aide, from Kendyl Kinshaw, Special Education Administrator for Private Placement**

I would like to especially recognize these two gentlemen for the compassion, care, and support that they show to our students. During a very rough route, these gentlemen continued to show respect and kindness to our students and worked diligently to ensure their safety. Their jobs are not easy ones, and I appreciate their efforts. Thank you so much gentlemen!

**Kudos to Angel Rodrigues, School Custodian at Washington Elementary School, from the Washington Elementary School Administration Team - Principal Lori Brandes, Co-Principal Ryan Corcoran, and Assistant Principal Maria Martin-Bowman**

Your tireless efforts in ensuring our school's pristine condition are deeply appreciated. The gleaming hallways and well-maintained spaces reflect not just your hard work, but your genuine care for the school community. Your warm interactions with students and staff make our school even more inviting. Thank you, Angel, for being the unsung hero who makes a marked difference in our daily experiences.

**Kudos to Dr. Suzanne Johnson, Superintendent, from Liciele Acance, Dean of Students, Dream Academy.**

I wanted to say a big "Thank You!" to Dr. Johnson. You are an amazing person, you do incredible things, and they do not go unnoticed.



**School District U-46**

