In September, I began progress toward one of the Board of Education’s goals for me which, like last year, is to conduct a Rigor Walk at every U-46 school. In the past month I have conducted Rigor Walks at Elgin High, DREAM Academy, Larkin High, Highland, Tefft Middle, Creekside, South Elgin High, Willard, Parkwood, Lords Park, Oakhill, Glenbrook, and Hillcrest. Thank you to the administrators who joined me in the Rigor Walks, and especially the teachers who welcomed me into your classrooms!

As a reminder, I laid out several priorities for this school year which I continue to monitor when I visit schools.

1. The task and student work are at the appropriate taxonomy level or higher and demonstrate the standard as intended.
2. Student teammates interact equally as they make connections between their learning and their teammates’ learning.
3. We assess and provide feedback on what we value: deeper, authentic learning aligned with grade-level standards.
4. Our intervention and support systems align with core instruction and include early identification and exit based on real-time learning.

I unpacked all of these priorities in my weekly messages at the beginning of the year. If you have not had the opportunity to read them, please do so [here](#).

Let me describe for you two very recent classroom experiences I had to demonstrate the importance of priorities 1 and 2.

One is a 6th grade classroom where the learning target (please remember I do expect learning targets to be posted) was: I can create and solve real world story problems involving division of a fraction by a fraction using equations and visual models. The teacher had each student create a
real world problem, then discuss their problem in their academic team. The team would then
discuss each problem for two purposes, 1) to ensure every student successfully met the target by
creating an appropriate word problem, 2) to determine as a team which word problem they wanted
to solve. Using summary mats, the students each solved the selected problem using the strategies
identified in the learning target (equations and visual models), then discussed it as a team to
determine the final answer. This is an example of how a comprehension-level standard can be used
to create a learning target and student work at the analysis taxonomy level. Even better, the use of
academic teaming allowed the teacher to serve in the role of the classroom coach. She was busy
visiting tables, listening, and monitoring for progress using a system to track. Every student was
fully engaged. It was so much fun to be in that classroom!

In another recent classroom visit, a 5th grade teacher had a learning target regarding writing.
Forgive me, but I failed to capture the full target, but essentially it compelled students to plan,
write, and edit their writing (a target written at the comprehension level). However, the students
worked in pairs to read each other's stories, analyze them, and provide feedback (at the analysis
taxonomy level). These 5th graders were fully immersed in conversation about each other's
stories. The teacher had established a system for the students to monitor their own progress
toward the standard (through notes that she would collect from each student), and her own system
of tracking students as she monitored and coached the students.

Teacher buy-in is essential to accomplish priorities 1 and 2. The Academic Teaming professional
development is designed to support teachers in this journey and coaches are available to all
teachers. I realize the shift in pedagogy can be difficult; however, we know from research that this
shift is what will make a difference for all students. All students will grow academically with
enhanced self-regulation and agency if the target and the task are aligned at the correct taxonomy
level (especially at the comprehension level or higher). And, students will develop the skills they
need for better life chances if they are able to engage together in their learning in teams (where
they do most of the talking). Even better? Once the learning is released to the students, our
students will be the ones going home feeling exhausted.

My deepest appreciation to all of our teachers for engaging in this professional learning and
beginning this shift. My deepest appreciation also goes out to all our principals - especially as we
celebrate National Principal Appreciation Month - for engaging in the professional learning and
collaboration to lead this work in your schools.

All my best,

Tony

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**Calendar**

**Friday, Oct. 21:** Institute/Professional Development Day. No classes.
**Monday, Oct. 24:** Board of Education Meeting. [Details here.]
**Monday, Oct. 24:** Open house for Elgin High School’s International Baccalaureate Candidate
Academy. [Details here.]
**Tuesday, Oct. 25:** Open house for Bartlett High School’s Science, Engineering, and High
Technology Academy. [Details here.]
Tuesday, Oct. 25: Freshmen Curriculum to Careers Showcase. Details here.
Wednesday, Oct. 26: Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee meeting. Details here.
Thursday, Oct. 27: Dual Credit Informational Night. Details here.
Saturday, Oct. 29: 50th Anniversary Celebration for U-46 Bilingual Program. Details here.

**Unite U-46**

**Survey**

The #UniteU46 survey closes on Friday, Oct 21. With parent-teacher conferences taking place in many U-46 school buildings this week, we are asking our U-46 staff for help in promoting this important step in the community engagement initiative that has included a series of meetings, an open house, and a building tour.

Each school should have received a 24”x36” Unite U-46 poster board that is to be displayed prominently in each school building. If you are a teacher or a staff member who interacts with parents and guardians, please encourage them to scan the QR code on the board - or visit u-46.org/uniteu46 - to take the survey. You can also share with your U-46 community this short video that provides a nice overview of the Unite U-46 work and features the schools that were recently highlighted in our building tours and open houses.

For more information about Unite U-46, visit uniteu46.org.

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**Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department**

**50th Anniversary Celebration**

School District U-46 is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its Bilingual Program, and all families, current and former staff members, and alumni are invited! The celebration will take place on Saturday, Oct. 29, at Tefft Middle School in Streamwood.

It will start at 11:30 a.m. with a panel discussion from current and former U-46 staff members who will speak about the evolution of the program, areas of success, and challenges, too. Participants will speak about why bilingual programs are critical for students’ success.

After the panel discussion wraps up at 12:30 p.m., there will be a performance by Mariachi Joya Dorada de U-46, the District’s student mariachi band. Refreshments will be served, and those in attendance will have time to connect, reminisce, and celebrate.
Newcomer Collaboration Group

The Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department invites U-46 employees to be part of the Newcomer Collaboration Group. The purpose of this group is to develop a Newcomer Resource Guide to support students and families in transitioning into our District and to meet students’ social-emotional and academic needs to achieve success. If you are interested in helping with this project and collaborating with our MMED to better serve our newcomer students, their families, and our communities, please complete this interest form no later than Friday, Oct. 28. We are excited to have this opportunity to collaborate with all of you! Questions can be directed to Family Welcome Center Coordinator Brenda Escobedo.
The application process closes at the end of this month for U-46 8th graders who are interested in attending high school at one of the District's five Magnet Academies, which offer a unique focus and accompanying curriculum that promote student interest and academic excellence.

To be considered for a U-46 Magnet Academy, students must have a 2.0 GPA and two letters of recommendation.

For students who think they want to apply, it's important for them to allow enough time to gather their recommendation letters and resolve any questions or concerns. An optional template for recommendation letters can be found here, and this page has information about preferences and priorities for the selection process.

The application window for all academies closes at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 31. A link to the application platform is available at u-46.org/magnetacademies.

Career & Technical Education

The Freshmen Curriculum to Careers Showcase, being held virtually on Tuesday, Oct. 25, is aimed at students in 9th grade and their parents or guardians, who can learn more about their academic options before course registration begins for the 2023-24 school year.
year. Information will be presented on high-wage/high-demand career fields such as automotive technician, business and information technology, media and digital arts, early childhood education, engineering, healthcare, precision manufacturing, veterinary assistant, and welding.

This event is being hosted by the Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System and the Alignment Collaborative for Education. High school teachers and industry experts will share information and answer questions. For planning purposes, advance registration is required via a Google Form at info.u-46.org/FreshmenShowcase or for Spanish-speakers, at info.u-46.org/FreshmenShowcase-SPN. Please help spread the word about this opportunity to U-46 9th graders and their families. Questions can be directed to the Coordinator for Career and Technical Education, Melissa Damewood.

Science

STEM Expo Kick-Off

Each fall, the Science department organizes STEM Expo Kick-Off events to engage, excite, and inform K-12 students ahead of the U-46 STEM Expo, which is held in the spring. For the expo, students are encouraged to explore a question or concept that interests them, create a project, and share their learning with their community.

During the STEM Expo Kick-Off events, students and their families will learn about the U-46 science curriculum, listen to scientists, ask questions, and get ideas for potential STEM projects.

This year, the events are being held virtually from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in November. Each week will feature a different guest scientist speaking about their area of expertise. To sign up to receive the webinar link for one, two, or all three of the kick-off events, fill out this form: info.u-46.org/STEM-Kickoff22.

The dates and guests are:

- **Wednesday, Nov. 2:** Peggy Hernandez, U-46 Planetarium teacher
- **Wednesday, Nov. 9:** Carrie Levitt-Bussian, paleontology collections manager with the Natural History Museum of Utah
- **Wednesday, Nov. 16:** Jordan Gray, communications and outreach coordinator for the Turtle Survival Alliance

Teacher Mentor Program

Mentees have been working hard on their TAP Portfolios, observing colleagues, and navigating the many U-46 systems and resources. Thank you to all the mentors who have been supporting and collaborating with mentees during this first quarter! Please check out the October TMP Newsletter with information regarding PD opportunities, TMP requirements, and Quarterly Meeting dates.

The TMP is seeking mentors! Newly certified staff members continue to be hired and must be matched with trained mentors. If you are interested in mentoring, please see this flyer for more information. There will be a synchronous Zoom New Mentor Training Session on Friday, Oct. 21, from noon to 1:15 p.m. Please enroll in the New Mentor Training Canvas Course to get started!
National School Lunch Week

The Food & Nutrition Services Department got their groove on last week, celebrating National School Lunch Week. "Peace, Love, and School Lunch" was this year's theme. Thank you to all staff and students who joined in on the fun. See more highlights from the celebrations [here](#).

Assessment and MTSS

**CogAT**: Oct. 24 – Nov. 4, 2022
- 6th grade students and any 3rd grade makeups
- [CogAT Planning Checklist](#)

**LAS Links**: Oct. 31 – Nov. 14, 2022
- 5th and 8th grade Dual Language students
- [LAS Links Planning Checklist](#)

**Assessment Guides**:
- [2022-23 Grades PreK-6 District Assessment Guide](#)
- [2022-23 Grades 7-12 District Assessment Guide](#)

**MTSS Guide**
- [2022-23 MTSS Implementation Guide](#)

**Testing Dates**:
- [22-23 Assessment Testing Windows](#)

U-46 Board of Education

Highlights from each Board of Education meeting, along with PDFs of the presentations delivered during the meeting, can be found [here](#) on the School Board portion of the website. The minutes from each meeting can be found [here](#).
The Oct. 18 Weekly Message from State Superintendent Carmen I. Ayala, Ph.D., is available online here. All editions of the Weekly Message are archived on the Illinois State Board of Education’s website here.

Photo of the Week

As we celebrate our principals all month in U-46, spot some familiar faces in this collage!

Submit Your Kudos!

Send Kudos directly by clicking above 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 the U-46 Transportation Department from Marcy Murphy, Director of Transportation

In honor of School Bus Safety Week, I would like to thank the entire U-46 Transportation Team: Assistants, Drivers, Routers, Managers, Assistant Manager, Mechanics, Dispatchers, Trainers, Vehicle Tech Manager, Vehicle Tech, Route Planning Manager, Shop Foreman, Payroll Manager, Shop Clerk, Trip Advisor, Inspection Compliance Clerk, Fleet Inspectors, Safety and Operations Manager, and Assistant Director. Thank you all for all that you do each and every day. You are all such an integral part of the daily operation of the Transportation department. I am so grateful to be part of such an amazing team.
Kudos to Peter Fillicaro, English Language Arts Teacher at Larsen Middle School, from His Co-Teacher Christine Schlueter, Larsen Middle School
Thank you for being such a supportive and fun co-teacher. All 32 of our students benefit from our ability to collaborate whenever possible to build rigor in our classroom and to support all of our students.

Kudos to Pamela S. Thomas, Health Secretary at Streamwood High School, from Mary Girardi, Certified School Nurse, Streamwood High School
Thank you, Pam, for your superhuman help with our Vaccination and Physical Examination (IWAS) compliance reporting since the beginning of the school year. Every day, Pam's superpower is knowing where we need support and what to do to help. She is amazing!

Kudos to Orchestra Teachers Jennifer Brown-James, Allison Vickers, and Matthew Quezada from Edward Nelson, Substitute Principal, Abbott Middle School
Thank you to Jennifer, Allison and Matthew for performing during student breakfast at Abbott Middle School. A great way to start the day!

Kudos to Diego Mendez Puente, Technology Specialist, Information Services, from the Main Office Team at Tefft Middle School
Our technology specialist Diego is always ready to jump in and help whenever we have a problem. We like his optimism and willingness to help, and he does it with a great attitude. Thank you, Diego!

Kudos to Teresa Winters, Executive Director of Elementary Schools, Streamwood Network, from Rajan Shamra, Principal, Glenbrook Elementary School
Ms. Winters, thank you so much from the Glenbrook Staff! You are always positive and you make all of us feel appreciated. We had a school "challenge," and you came to the rescue to support all of us. Your feedback, kindness, and approach to everything is always professional and resourceful. Thank you for all you do; you go above and beyond. NO RELATIONSHIP, NO IMPACT! That is a fact!

Kudos to the Century Oaks Elementary School Crisis Team from Amanda Higgin, Paraeducator at Century Oaks Elementary
Great work by the Century Oaks Crisis Team for working together and supporting each other! Our team molds well! We all deserve a gold star!

Kudos to Principal Stephanie Sylvester and Assistant Principal Jon Wilsey at Liberty Elementary School from Liberty Teachers and Staff
Thank you, Stephanie Sylvester, for being a truly amazing boss! We are very lucky to have you as our principal. You are always on top of everything, and we feel very supported with you as our leader. Also, thanks to Jon Wilsey for taking the role as our assistant principal this year. It is great to have you to bounce ideas around with, and problem solve. You have made a great impact on our school in a very short time, and we are excited to see what the rest of the year will bring! Happy Boss's Day to you both from your Liberty Teachers and Staff!

Kudos to Judy Dalka, Paraeducator at Streamwood High School, from Sloane Power, Modified Learning Program Teacher, Streamwood High School
I want to thank paraeducator, Judy Dalka. I am the MLP teacher at Streamwood and have a new student in my class who Judy has a positive relationship with. Judy not only supports him, but also supports all students which is great to see. Judy is a positive and trusted adult for a lot of our students in the building, and they know she is someone they can count on. Judy has supported the
transition into my program for this specific student and it would not have run as smoothly as it did without her. Thanks Judy! Your support does not go unnoticed.

**Kudos to the Food Techs at Bartlett High School from Judy Dorsz, Food & Nutrition Manager, Bartlett High School**

A HUGE shoutout to my cafeteria team Diane, Debbie, Mary W, Consuelo, Joanne, Michele, Mary J, and Jamie! Though we are at half-staff, these amazing employees understand the importance of not just feeding the students, but take pride in their job. This amazing team prepares and serves approximately 1,800+ meals daily and they do it with a smile, a positive attitude, and a “we can get this done” approach. They truly are a very important part of what makes this cafeteria run smoothly every day. I’m lucky to have your support. You are all amazing!