

Press Clippings 3/25/2018

---Daily Herald--- 3/25/18

U-46 adopts digital math resources

District buys thousands of Chromebooks

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY

This fall, thousands of high school students within Elgin Area School District U-46 will receive personal computers – a huge step forward in the district’s vision of providing one-to-one devices to all students.

The technology upgrade is a result of the school board’s recently adopting new mathematics resources, mostly digital, for high schools.

Instead of a multimillion-dollar textbook adoption, the district is purchasing 11,000 Dell Chromebooks for high school freshmen, sophomores, most juniors and even some middle schoolers, taking new algebra and geometry courses this fall, said Amy Ingente, district math coordinator.

Total cost of resources and technology- including graphic calculators – is roughly \$5.5 million.

“We made a shift in the last three years not to buy technology for technology’s sake,” said Trisha Shrode, director of curriculum and instruction.

“We wanted the technology that was necessary to bring forward good instruction and curriculum.”

Current math resources were adopted in 2011 and are not aligned to the district’s more rigorous standards-based learning curriculum. Now, math textbooks are heavy on equations with few word problems, Ingente said.

Ingente said the new resources provide equal amounts of conceptual problem-solving and real-life application of math.

High school teacher vetted and tested resources from multiple vendors in the classroom last fall.

Officials settled on purchasing digital algebra and geometry textbooks from Discovery Education, which also offers materials in Spanish to support U-46s roll-up of dual-language programming into high schools, Ingente said.

“We would be giving each student a Dell Chromebook to be their textbook, in essence. It has a touch screen and a table-style hinge so it could fold over,” she said. “We are also asking for a charging station for each of the classrooms”.

The district also is buying a series of pre-calculus, calculus and finite mathematics resources from Pearson and Advance Placement statistics textbook from MacMillan. Students will be using physical and online versions of those textbooks. Calculus courses require the district to buy sets of Texas Instruments’ Nspire graphic calculators for classrooms, Ingente said.

“So when juniors sit down to take the SAT tests, every student would be equipped with one of these devices,” said Ingente, adding that smartphones or tablets with internet access cannot be used as calculators during exams.

High school math teachers will be trained on the new resources starting in May. All high school teacher will receive training on the new technology this spring and summer. The district will spend roughly \$1.8 million in grant money to train teachers, Ingente said.

Officials are considering extending school library hours and having activity buses available for students who need to stay after school to finish homework due to lack of internet access at home. Discovery math resources also are available through a downloadable app so students could complete their work at home and upload it when in school.

The school board also recently approved increasing the bandwidth so schools can handle more digital resources.

---Courier News--- 3/25/18

Thousands march in Elgin, elsewhere

BY ROBERT SANCHEZ AND MARNI PYKE

With so many people attending March for Our Lives protests in Chicago and Washington, D.C., Gretchen Coleman said she would have been happy if the sister march she helped organize in Schaumburg drew a few hundred people.

A much larger crowd than that showed up Saturday morning to participate in the protest against gun violence. While an exact count wasn't available, the number of protesters far exceeded the 400 people who had signed up.

For Coleman and three other young people who organized the march and rally, it was a message to local politicians that gun laws need to be changed.

"It's really important for us to show that the Northwest suburbs really cares about this," said Coleman, an 18-year-old senior at Fremd High School in Palatine. "If everyone went downtown, no one would know that."

The Schaumburg march was one of several held in the suburbs as part of the worldwide [March for Our Lives](#) campaign. The events were organized after a Feb. 14 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Seventeen students and employees were killed there.

Thousands of suburban high school students walked out of classes in protest March 14 as well. Those demonstrations also were part of a nationally coordinated effort.

On Saturday, the list of suburban marches included Downers Grove, Elgin, Glen Ellyn, Huntley, Vernon Hills and Woodstock. More than 800 marches were held across the United States and in Canada, Israel, India, Japan and other nations.

Kate Boon of Arlington Heights said she attended the Schaumburg march because she wanted to voice her support for common-sense laws that reduce and eliminate acts of violence.

She said it was "humbling" to see so many marches on a single day.

"It's kind of exhilarating to see the power that's being expressed by people much younger than me," said Boon, adding that she's never seen anything like it before.

Deb Dionesotes of Roselle said she participated in the Schaumburg march with her three children because she wanted to show them how important the protests were.

"The gun laws that we have are ridiculous," she said. "I really, really hope this is going to make a difference."

Participants at Glen Ellyn's March for Our Lives event ranged from seniors to babies in strollers to middle-school students who walked from Lincoln Elementary School to Glenbard West High School.

"We have to go to school every day obviously, and I feel we shouldn't have to go to school afraid that we may not come home from school ... or that someone could come into our school," 13-year-old Linnea Barron of Glen Ellyn said as she waited for the march to start.

Her classmate Olivia Malahy added, "We just want to show that we're here and we're this country's future. We want to show we can make an impact too. Just because we're 14 doesn't mean we can't do something."

Three local churches collaborated on the event, which hit home for the Rev. Kendra Joyner-Miller, associate minister at First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn. She was studying theology in Brooktown, Connecticut, when 20 children and six staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary School in neighboring Newtown were killed by a gunman in 2012.

"I have a very distinct memory of the pain it costs when lives are lost. We're at a point when we need more than thoughts and prayers. We need policy change," she said. "I'm really grateful for the students and I feel sad it's taken high school students speaking up for us to rally behind this and understand our attitude toward guns in this country is not OK."

Laura Collins of Wheaton brought her 3-year-old, Riley Barnes, to participate.

"You have to do something ... you can't just say, 'Oh, that's terrible,'" Collins said. "And I want to set an example for her -- that you have to stand up."

DePaul University student Hadiya Afzal, who grew up in Glen Ellyn, was one of several speakers who rallied the crowd.

"It should be unacceptable that students in the United States are dying in their own classrooms. We march to call on our (lawmakers) to do their job and pass legislation that will protect us. We know that gun control works," she said.

Before the march in Elgin, the large crowd lined Kimball Street south of the Gail Borden library. Many of the protesters carried signs with messages like "Stop the NRA" and "Enough is Enough." Some passing motorists honked their horns in support.

Eleanor Sams of St. Charles said she's hoping that politicians realize that there are a lot of people who want change.

"We're not going to let them sit down and do nothing about it," said Sams, a 17-year-old senior at St. Charles East High School. "We want to be safe in our schools. We want to be safe in cities and movie theaters."

Emma Cork, an 18-year-old senior at Bartlett High School, said marching was just the beginning of what she plans to do. She said she will vote to make her voice heard.

"It's not a moment," the Elgin resident said. "It's a movement."

---Courier News--- 3/25/18

'No more silence, stop the violence'

Hundreds in Elgin join nationwide protests advocating for gun control

BY GLORIA CASAS

Riya, 9, and Sriya Gangavarapu, 14, held a homemade sign reading "More Puppies, less guns" at the Elgin March For Our Lives rally Saturday.

Riya said she has heard about mass shootings in schools.

"I don't think I should have to learn about mass shootings," the Elgin girl said. "It shouldn't be happening."

Hundreds of people of all ages gathered in downtown Elgin at Saturday's March For Our Lives, part of a national movement launched by survivors of the Feb. 14 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

Similar marches were held around the country to advocate for stronger gun laws and banning assault weapons.

Calvin Gange, 3, was among the youngest marchers in Elgin. He starts preschool in the fall, his mom, Abby Gange, said. She said she doesn't want her son to be scared to go to school.

She said she wants to see assault weapons banned and to see schools take more security precautions against mass shootings. Gange and her husband, David, do not like the idea of arming teachers, she said.

"It's not what they signed up for," she said. "They are there to teach."

They blended into the crowd as it headed toward the Kimball Street Bridge, then turned to march along Route 31 and onto National Street.

“No more silence, stop the violence,” marchers shouted as drivers honked in approval.

Karen McGuire and James Bishop also marched but stopped near the bridge to listen to Shawn Campbell. The 23-year-old Campbell wore a March For Our Lives T-shirt and a red Make America Great Again hat. He disagreed with some marchers over his viewpoints on gun ownership.

“Do you think every single gun should be banned?” Campbell asked Carl Strathmann, chairman of Elgin Township Democrats.

“No,” Strathmann said.

Strathmann added that assault weapons should be banned, an action he believes would help stop a large percentage of mass shootings.

McGuire listened and shared her own views. She put her hand on Campbell’s arm as she spoke about how poverty, mental illness and isolation fuel mass shootings.

“I think the way you change things is to talk and compromise,” she said later.

After the interaction, McGuire and Campbell walked across the bridge arm in arm.

Saturday’s turnout was larger than organizer David Manuel expected. He said he wanted to give people in the suburbs a chance to march without having to go into the city.

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting motivated Manuel to organize a March For Our Lives in Elgin, he said.

“It’s like you hear about (mass shootings) constantly. When is enough enough?” Manuel said. “How many senseless shootings is it going to take before they start having a conversation about what has to change?”

Taylor Pray, a senior at **South Elgin High School**, held a sign reading “We March For Our FUTURE” as she walked along Kimball Street in downtown Elgin.

“We can make the change,” Pray said of her generation. “We’ve lived through a lot of tragedy. Because of that, we know we can make change.”

Gloria Casas is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 3/25/18

Softball: South Elgin notches win in Tennessee; ACC goes 2-1

DAILY HERALD REPORT

Casey Brennan had a 3-run triple to lead the South Elgin softball team to its first win of the season, 8-5 over Coffee County Central (TN) Saturday in Clarksville, Tenn.

McKenna Eicholz (2 hits, 2B, RBI), Geneva Pollman (3 hits, 2 doubles, 2 RBI) and Julianna Battaglia (2 hits, RBI) also contributed to the offense for the Storm (1-4).

Sidney Strama picked up the win with 4 innings of relief in which she didn't allow a run and just 3 hits.

ACC in Tennessee: Aurora Central Catholic played 3 three-inning games at the Zaxby's Invite in Clarksville, Tenn., going 2-1 for the day. The Chargers opened the day with a 5-2 loss to Clarksville Academy. Losing pitcher Izzy Hernandez had a double and an RBI for ACC while Rachel Haley (2 hits, RBI), Isabel Gonzalez (2B) and Lizzie Albert (2B) also contributed. The Chargers then came back with a pair of 12-0 wins, over Hume-Fogg of Nashville and against Rossville (IN). In the Hume-Fogg game, Dani Brown (2 hits, 2B, 2 RBI), Gonzalez (2 hits, 2B, 2 RBI), Hernandez (2 hits, 3 RBI) and Sammy Martinez (2B, RBI) led the offense. Hernandez was the winning pitcher. Against Rossville, Brown threw a no-hitter and struck out 9 of the 11 batter she faced, walking one and another reaching on an error. Brown (2 hits, 2B, RBI), Gonzales (2 hits, 2B), Hernandez (2 hits), Kaitlyn Carlson (2B, 2 RBI) and Ava Wilkins (2 hits, 2B, 3 RBI) led the offense.