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U-46 joins in seventh Illinois 5Essentials Survey to improve student learning

By: Elgin Area School District U-46

Elgin Area School District U-46 is joining the Illinois State Board of Education again in the seventh statewide survey of school climate and learning conditions.

From now through Jan. 18, parents, students, and teachers have the opportunity to take the annual 15-minute research-based survey.

"We encourage every parent, student, and teacher to let their voice be heard through this confidential survey," said U-46 CEO Tony Sanders. "The results provide valuable feedback to help us identify our strengths as well as our opportunities for improvement."

The Illinois 5Essentials Survey provides a comprehensive picture of a school's organizational culture in an individualized report focused on five elements or "essentials" that have proved to influence school success:

- Effective leaders
- Collaborative teachers
- Involved families
- Supportive environment
- Ambitious instruction

The survey has historically captured feedback from sixth- through 12th- graders.

This year, the Illinois State Board of Education has expanded the eligible student population to include fourth and fifth graders.

To take the survey, parents are instructed to visit survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/ and answer important questions about their child's school.

Parents can complete a survey for each child and their school. At least 20 percent of a school's parent population must submit a completed survey in order for the state to generate survey results.

The survey is mobile friendly and available in English and Spanish. Students and teachers will have the opportunity to take the survey while they are at school.

Those results can inspire a school to try new approaches or efforts to improve leadership, instruction, staff collaboration, or school climate and culture.

At Sycamore Trails Elementary in Bartlett, for instance, the 5Essentials parental feedback led to the creation of a "Safety Pledge" to help keep students safe during arrival and dismissal, more after-school offerings, and a sixth-grade parent panel to support students transitioning to middle school.

U-46 parents, students and teachers with any questions on 5Essentials are encouraged to use "[Let's Talk](#)."

SPORTS

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South Elgin's most complete game takes down Jefferson

By: Dave Hess

Dynamic Duo.

South Elgin seniors Vince Miskiewicz and Drake Montgomery have certainly proved to be the leaders for the Storm this season.

That dynamic was on display at Thursday's Hinkle Holiday Classic hosted by Jacobs High School.

Montgomery scored 20 points with 5 assists and 3 steals while Miskiewicz stuffed the stat sheet with 18 points, 12 rebounds, 4 assists and 3 blocked shots as the Storm ended pool play with an impressive 78-56 win over Rockford Jefferson.

Montgomery was 8-of-10 from the field and 1 -of-2 from 3-point range.

"We have played with each other for forever and we feed off of each other," said Montgomery. "We have a good chemistry. When Vince gets open I know when to get him the ball."

Miskiewicz, who was 8-of-11 from the free-throw line, slammed down 2 dunks.

"Drake and I know each other's tendencies and we have a great chemistry," said Miskiewicz. "When I drive I look for him and when he drives he looks for me. "

In Pool 4, Cary-Grove, Jefferson and South Elgin all ended with 2-1 record. C-G gets the nod for the championship bracket with a 73 percent free throw percentage while South Elgin was second shooting 65 percent from the line.

"We stress free throws and we are a little disappointed we are not in the championship bracket," said South Elgin coach Brett Johnson. "We took a step forward in pool play and now we have 2 more games to prove ourselves."

The Storm (11-3), who were 8-of-16 from 3-point range for 50 percent, will play Dixon in the Consolation A Bracket Friday at 3 p.m.

Cary-Grove, in the championship bracket, will play Barrington at 6 while the other semifinal has Chicago King tangling with Waubonsie Valley at 7:30 p.m.

Miskiewicz and Montgomery were joined in double digits by freshmen Lane McVicar with 14 which included a pair 3s and Drew Cwik with 12.

Leading 50-43 after 3 quarters, South Elgin seized control of the game in the fourth quarter.

Up 56-49 with 6 minutes left, the Storm went on a pivotal 9-0 run to take a 65-49 advantage with 4:06 remaining,.

Miskiewicz scored 4 points, Jace Warrick canned a 3 and Montgomery had a layup during the run.

The Storm's biggest lead was 76-52 after a putback from Kendis Wiley with 1:25 left in the contest.

"This was our most complete game of the season," said Johnson. "We executed the game plan offensively and defensively. It was a good win against a very good Jefferson team."

DeArio Newbie paced the J-Hawks with 14 points while Latrell Graham and Jaquavion Robinson added 8 apiece.