

Press Clippings 03/04/2019

---Kane County Connects---03/01/2019

‘EDUCATION FOR ALL’: ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES 150-YEAR HISTORY — 1869-2019

By: Kanecountyconnects

Elgin High School is celebrating 150 years in 2019, and the school’s motto “*Education for All*” is as true today as it was when the school was opened in 1869.

In a world of constant change, the Elgin High School has pursued this goal in a variety of ways.



- Preparation of students for college
- Direct vocational training
- “Life adjustment skills”
- General education for citizenship

From academics to athletics, from arts to politics, from good citizens to good people, EHS graduates have spread across the globe to excel and to distinguish themselves in all walks of life.

Elgin reflects the national trend in the development of a strong system of public education by the 1860s. Elgin, Aurora and other Fox River Valley communities were setting up high schools in the 1860s and 1870s. The early school systems evolved with standardized instruction, teachers with Normal School training, and the need for an educated citizenry to read, write, and vote.

Public education was built on the idea that everyone in the community — regardless of class or wealth — has a right to educate their children.

Early Elgin High School



- New Brick School, Kimbal and Center streets (1857-1899).

The school started as the work of Elgin's first professional educator, Charles F. Kimball (1830-1907), known as the "Father of Elgin High School."



- Charles F. Kimball

Kimball came to Elgin in 1868 as principal of the "New Brick" school and the next year became superintendent of schools. It was "Professor" Kimball's task to find the classroom space for the growing number of students in a booming town.

Enrollment jumped from 12 pupils in 1869 to about 50 in 1871-72. Kimball recruited and trained a constantly changing staff of teachers. Through it all, he steadily improved instruction and developed a considerable reputation as an educator.

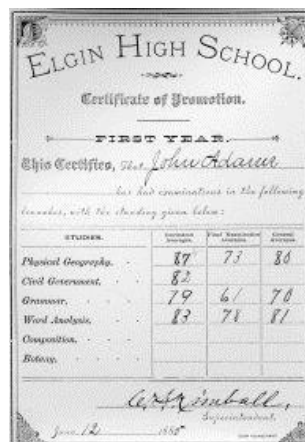
Kimball is a relation to Elgin's pioneer Kimball families.

Student Instruction



It was not until 1874 that the first boy received a diploma.

Through the class of 1895, there were 203 girl graduates and only 66 boys.



ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL.			
Certificate of Promotion.			
FIRST YEAR.			
Ohio Certifies, that <i>John Adams</i>			
has had examinations in the following			
branches, with the standing given below:			
STUDIES.	Percentage	Final Examination	General Average
Physical Geography.	87	75	88
Civil Government.	82		
Grammar.	79	61	70
Wood Analysis.	83	74	81
Composition.			
Botany.			
<i>Chas. F. Kimball,</i> Superintendent.			
June 12, 1895			

Measured by the occupational choices of its graduates, one of the main functions of Elgin High School was the education of future teachers. Possibly as many as half became teachers in the Elgin schools or in the many one-room district schools in the surrounding rural area.

The high school gave no instruction about teaching methods or child development until 1892, when a training school was established. This was necessary because of the growing number of inexperienced teachers in an expanding school system.

Experienced teachers could not be attracted from outside the community because most preferred to cut expenses by living at home and Elgin salaries were not sufficient to attract them here.

The educational requirements for positions in business and industry were rising. In 1903, for example, the superintendent of the watch factory wrote the superintendent of schools seeking high school graduates for the machine department “skilled in mathematics, physics, and chemistry.” In the same year, the watch company president offered to equip a manual training room, and that fall two classes were formed in the Branch High.

The girls were not forgotten as the school adjusted to a changing student body. In 1903 the Elgin Woman’s Club furnished the equipment for a domestic science room in rented quarters near the high school.

Elgin High School Buildings



Elgin High School has been housed in four different buildings.

The most iconic is the 1911 building on DuPage Street, now the administrative offices for School District U-46.



From the first Maroon yearbook in 1911: *“Beyond a shadow of a doubt the finest high school building in the state of Illinois for any city the size of Elgin.”*

Elgin voters finally approved a new school in 1905 to solve school overcrowding. Designed in a classical style by local architect David Postle, the east wing opened in 1906.

The school was completed in early 1911 with 50 rooms and an enrollment capacity of 1,050. The library was located on the second floor over the main entrance. There were rooms equipped for vocational training, domestic arts, and science labs.

The auditorium could hold the whole student body with 1,100 seats, providing space for entertainments, debates, contests and graduation exercises. Above the auditorium was a gymnasium with a running track and showers.

World War I



During World War I, a military training class was authorized.

Boys enlisting in military service were able to graduate early. Boys working on farms as members of the Boys' Working Reserve were excused from school.

The students bought thrift stamps and participated in Red Cross drives. The war hit many students personally, when word reached Elgin that Nellis Clark, president of the Class of 1917, had perished from a shrapnel wound in August 1918. Two faculty members and eight graduates died in war service.

The patriotic fervor altered the curriculum. French was added, and German dropped in 1918, and not until 1928 was the language of the enemy restored as an elective.

Student Entertainment



Student life in the post-World War I years reflected the younger generation's growing interests in dancing, flapper styles, automobile driving, movies, cigarettes, and even the prohibited liquor. Dancing and movies both arrived at EHS in 1919.

Principal Goble was reluctant to accept these innovations. Students had been attending dances sponsored privately or by the classes for several years, but they had never been allowed in the high school building.

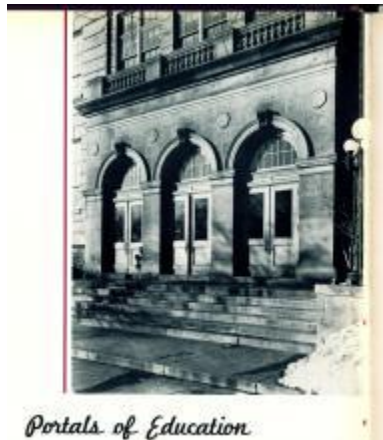
The issue had split the clergy and townspeople since 1914, but the Class of 1919 successfully petitioned the board.

The first dance, under strict rules and supervision, took place at the senior class party in the gymnasium in May 1919.

That spring, the seniors gave a dance for the juniors and the juniors gave a dance for the seniors, and the prom tradition at year's end was under way.

Depression Impact

Elgin was devastated by the Depression. In the spring of 1930, to avoid the expenses of new suits and dresses, the graduating class voted to wear caps and gowns.



That fall, 29 of its members returned to EHS as “post graduate” students, and the following year there were 73 alumni enrolled.

The jammed high school building had to accommodate those who had nowhere else to go. The average daily attendance in 1931-32 reached 1,539 in a structure built to house a maximum of 1,050.

For the school year 1932-33, most teachers had their salaries reduced 10% and all automatic salary raises were suspended. Another 10 percent cut in salaries was made in 1933-34.

EHS retrenched in other ways, too. The summer school was abandoned in 1932 after nine years of operation. The school was closed to post-graduates the same year. To pool resources, the separate junior and senior proms were combined in 1934.

Elgin/Larkin Split

Elgin changed when Larkin High School opened on Elgin's west side with sophomores and juniors in the fall of 1962. The Fox River became the dividing line between the two schools within the city of Elgin.



The high school had been a place where everyone went to school together. A new school created an east/west rivalry and illustrated Elgin's growth.

With the graduation of the EHS Class of 1963, the last to contain west side students, the overcrowding ended temporarily. South Elgin students were enrolled at Larkin, while those from Bartlett and Wayne continued at EHS. Streamwood and Hanover Park students were split between the two high schools.

The Elgin High School Archives holds a wealth of information on the history of the school. Volunteer alums meet each week to catalog new items donated items and create exhibits to tell a story of Elgin High School's development.

The Wall of Fame is a program continued by the Archives that documents the biographies of dozens of successful and famous Elgin High School Alumni. Bios are available at <https://www.u-46.org/domain/3280>

---The Daily Herald---03/04/2019

U-46 to host informational sessions on dual language program

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy

Elgin Area School District U-46 will host informational meetings on its dual language program for families of incoming kindergartners and English-dominant first-graders starting next week through early April.

In the program, students are taught literacy and grade-level academic content in two languages. U-46 offers "one-way instruction" for native Spanish speaking students who qualify for English language learner, or ELL, services. English-dominant students can enroll in "two-way instruction" to learn Spanish and develop bilingual skills along with English learners.

U-46's program is structured on an "80:20" model in which the youngest students start out with 80 percent of their instruction in Spanish and 20 percent in English. The Spanish-language portion is reduced by 10 percent each year from kindergarten through third grade until instruction in both languages reaches parity and remains that way through sixth grade.

Dual-language students in seventh and eighth grades continue to develop academic and language skills of high rigor in both languages. The district expanded dual language into ninth grade this school year and the program will be rolled into 10th grade this fall. Officials plan to offer the dual-language program through 12th grade by the 2021-22 school year.

Parents can learn about the program, its application process, and research showing the benefits of bilingualism during the following sessions:

- Monday: 6 to 7 p.m., Otter Creek Elementary, 2701 Hopps Road, Elgin.
- Tuesday: 6 to 7 p.m., Bartlett Elementary, 111 E. North Ave., Bartlett.
- Tuesday: 6 to 7 p.m., Clinton Elementary, 770 Mill St., South Elgin.
- Tuesday: 5 to 6 p.m., Illinois Park Center for Early Learning, 1350 Wing St., Elgin.
- Wednesday: 6 to 7 p.m., Gail Borden Library, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin.
- Thursday: 6 to 7 p.m., Huff Elementary, 801 Hastings St., Elgin.
- March 11: 6 to 7 p.m., Lords Park Elementary, 323 Waverly Drive, Elgin.
- March 12: 6 to 7 p.m., Glenbrook Elementary, 315 Garden Circle, Streamwood.
- March 12: 6 to 7 p.m., Lincoln Elementary, 1650 Maureen Drive, Hoffman Estates.
- March 13: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Highland Elementary 190 N. Melrose Ave., Elgin.
- March 14: 6 to 7 p.m., Heritage Elementary, 507 Arnold Ave., Streamwood.
- March 14: 6 to 7 p.m., Hillcrest Elementary, 80 N. Airlite St., Elgin.
- March 14: 5 to 6 p.m., Independence Center for Early Learning, 200 Taylor Ave., Bartlett.
- March 19: 6 to 7 p.m., Channing Elementary, 63 S. Channing St., Elgin.
- April 4: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., South Elgin Branch Library, 127 McLean Blvd., South Elgin.
- April 10: 6 to 7 p.m., Timber Trails Elementary, 1675 McDonough Road, Hoffman Estates.
- April 10: 6 to 7 p.m., Gail Borden Library, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin.
- April 17: 6 to 7 p.m., U-46 Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago St., Elgin.

For more information, call the English Language Learners Department at (847) 888-5000, ext. 5331 or ext. 5332.

---The Daily Herald---03/02/2019

ECC board candidates discuss ideas for developing future workforce

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



- Adriana Barriga-Green



- Nazneen Hashmi



- Shane Nowak



- Clare Ollayos



- Ryan Weiss

Five candidates running for two seats on the Elgin Community College board say the college needs to expand its offerings to better cater to the evolving needs of a future workforce and offer different ideas on how to accomplish it.

Incumbents Clare Ollayos and Ryan Weiss, both of Elgin, and challengers Adriana Barriga-Green and Shane Nowak, both of Elgin, and Nazneen Hashmi of Streamwood are vying for 6-year terms on April 2. They recently met with the Daily Herald editorial board to discuss their candidacies.

Hashmi, 58, an auditor and adjunct professor, said ECC could make more grants available for people in-between jobs or for laid off workers seeking retraining and certification to switch careers.

"There are housewives who cannot go out because they have kids ... these women want to work from home," said Hashmi.

She added that ECC could create online certificate programs for certain fields of study, such as cosmetology and medical billing, that students can complete from home.

"We should offer evening classes, weekend classes so it will be helpful for those who are working full-time during the day to go to school," she said.

In some cases, certifications are valued higher than master's degrees earning workers better pay, Hashmi said.

Barriga-Green, 54, said ECC was instrumental in helping her change careers from business to becoming a dual language teacher in [Elgin Area School District U-46](#).

She supports the college expanding certificate programs in trade sciences, such as electrical, plumbing, pipe fitting, electric vehicle infrastructure, environmental studies and sustainability, in keeping with industry trends, and offering more choices in health professions, such as veterinary science and medical imaging.

"As technology changes so quickly, people are going to be displaced and they need to retrain for the next job," she said. "We need to make sure the college is staying one step ahead to be able to train that workforce that we are going to need three, five years down the road."

Nowak, 38, a patient advocate and ECC alumnus, suggests the college partner with local companies to gauge what type of workers they need and tailor its certification and training accordingly.

He urged expanding access and providing more online classes for district residents as a means of growing enrollment and bringing in more tuition revenue. Partnering with local hospitals to provide more health certifications that nurses are required to have would complement the college's existing nursing program, he said.

Ollayos, 64, a chiropractic physician elected to the ECC board in 1995, supports increasing industry internship opportunities for students of all ages.

"My push would be we develop more robust internships and connections with our businesses," she said. "For really decades, a lot of union apprenticeships ... it's been really separate from the community college system. There are some discussions now going on about how can we work better together."

She added that the college needs to lobby legislators to help expand the eligibility criteria for government Pell grants for low-income students to include shorter certificate programs.

Weiss, 42, president of SEAM Strategies in Elgin appointed to the board in December 2017 to fill a vacancy, said launching new courses could be expensive and the college should ensure new programs are aligned with the needs of local employers.

He cautioned that while offering more online courses has certain advantages, ECC would be competing with already existing online programs not only regionally, but nationally.

"It would take quite a bit of resources to do well," said Weiss adding, creating more robust internships in partnership with local businesses is critical.

Now that it's March, let's talk about ... more winter?!?

By: Marni Pyke



- **JANUARY:** A commuter bundles up in Arlington Heights on Jan. 30, when the temperature hit minus 23.



- **NOVEMBER:** Winter got an early start. Larry Buckles removes snow from his Arlington Heights driveway on Nov. 26.



- **FEBRUARY:** Scraping windshields grew old long before this ice storm Feb. 5 at Woodfield Mall in Schaumburg.



- **NOVEMBER:** An early snow blanketed colorful leaves Nov. 9 in Geneva.



- **DECEMBER:** Maple Park residents Mina Sauer, 6, sits on her dad Paul's shoulders during Geneva's Great Tree Lighting Dec. 7, when the winter was actually pretty normal.



- **JANUARY:** Francisco Carapia tries to jump-start his sister's boyfriend's car in the parking lot of Maple Ridge Apartments in Carpentersville Jan. 30.

How bad was this winter?

So bad the car is pickled from the road salt brine. So bad the snowblower called in sick. So bad the dog is using the cat's litter box (no, not really).

And the pain continues, even though March has arrived. If nature was cooperating it should be in the 40s, but snow is possible Sunday, the high is 11 degrees Monday, and the weekend low will be around 0 degrees.

"I think everybody is ready for this winter to end," ComEd spokesman John Schoen said.

Here's a look at the winter of our discontent.

Worst ever?

Based on data from O'Hare International Airport, 41.3 inches of snow socked the region from Nov. 1 through Thursday. That's a lot -- compared to the 2017-18 winter when 30.3 inches fell. But "we're not setting any records -- not for snow, not for cold," National Weather Service meteorologist Amy Seeley said. "It just feels worse."

You'd have to travel back in time to when disco was hot but the weather was not to find the real eternal winter. Nearly 90 inches of snow descended on the region in winter of 1978-79, the weather service reported.

Lowest temperatures? The winner is minus 27 degrees on Jan. 20, 1985. Our worst this winter was Jan. 30 with minus 23 degrees, a record for that day, Seeley said.

Demolition derby

Ice-caked roads, traffic lights made with LEDs covered with snow, and storms took their toll. Illinois State Police data showed an increase in the number of crashes this winter with 13,961 occurring between Nov. 20, 2018, and Monday. That's 126 more than the same time frame during the 2017-2018 winter when 13,835 collisions happened.

'Sno school

The first snow day was a fabulous bonding time with sledding and hot chocolate. The fourth time school districts canceled school because of extreme weather, cabin fever set.

Elgin Area School District U-46 and Indian Prairie District 204 based in Aurora, two of the largest districts in the state, reported four snow days apiece this school year compared to just one in 2017-2018. Two of those days occurred Jan. 30 and 31, when extreme cold kept kids inside.

"Fingers crossed that this beast of a winter will settle down into a lovely spring," U-46 spokeswoman Mary Fergus said.

Health hazards

Northwest Community Healthcare reports patient volumes rose by 10 percent at the emergency department this winter compared to the milder one in 2017-2018. Multiple

patients slipped on the ice, injuring their heads and breaking bones, Emergency Department Medical Director Daniel Reaven reported.

After the polar vortex Jan. 30 and 31, numerous people showed up with frostbite injuries. And another group of patients suffered from injuries occurring from car crashes and fender-benders related to the snow and ice.

Powerless

It was a miserable winter for ComEd customers and workers.

"During winter storms, we restored around 580,000 outages. That includes the post-Thanksgiving storm," Schoen said, referring to a Nov. 25 and 26 snowfall that closed schools.

But it wasn't just the snow. "It was the ice" that coated power lines and tree limbs," creating a one-two punch, Schoen said.

Wish we were dormant

The minus-23-degree temperatures and relentless storms might cause some dieback on branches and winter burn on evergreens, Morton Arboretum Plant Clinic Manager Julie Janoski said. "We also could see some salt damage because we've had so much snow."

On the bright side, many plants and trees are dormant and probably weren't harmed by the cold.

Since the most severe arctic temperatures lasted only two days, most of your plants "are going to be fine," she said.

---The Courier-News---03/03/2019

March into Health

Month of free community wellness events planned

By: Gloria Casas



- Joanne McNamara helps Cecilia Garcia and her son, Henry Castillo, learn about March into Health's kickoff at the Gail Borden Library on Saturday in Elgin.

Registered nurse Elisa Lara had a busy afternoon at Saturday's March into Health kickoff as a steady stream of people visited the VNA Mobile Health Clinic's door to get free blood pressure, diabetes and weight screenings.

“It’s been nonstop,” Lara, VNA Health Care’s clinical coordinator, said. “This is a screening. Then, you go to a doctor for a checkup. We can schedule appointments too,” she said.

The screening provides a good indication of potential health issues, she said.

It’s the first year VNA Mobile Health Clinic participated in March into Health, an event that has been gaining in popularity, said Danielle Henson, Gail Borden Library’s community engagement liaison.

Last year, March into Health had more than 850 people attend the kickoff, and a total of 2,500 people attended 31 different programs held throughout the month, she said. This year, 41 programs and events are planned throughout the month at different locations around the city, Henson said.

“Year after year, it gets better and better,” Henson said.

March into Health is organized by Activate Elgin and has become its signature event.

Activate Elgin, a citywide initiative that began in 2006, offers over 30 free community health programs for all ages celebrating National Nutrition Month.

The goal is providing Elginites opportunities to improve their health, well-being and quality of life, according to Activate Elgin’s website. Activate Elgin’s programs, held with community partners, include Healthy Kid’s Day, Walk with the Mayor, cooking demonstrations, **U-46 Wellness Fest**, and March into Health, according to Activate Elgin.

Henson feels March into Health, in its seventh year, is gaining momentum in the public. Some of this year’s programs that require registration are already filled up, she said.

Saturday’s March into Health 2019 kickoff included an interactive family concert with Wendy & DB, an award winning duo in children’s music whose songs focused on health. The Jammin 3 band performed with the duo. Other activities were a cooking demonstration with Chef Doug from Tarragon Catering, a Fresh Market fresh fruit giveaway, a roaming fruit juggler, the VNA Mobile Health Clinic and kids’ crafts.

Every year, Activate Elgin evaluates what to offer and this year added programs geared toward mental health, which was listed as a top priority for people living in Kane County, according to a Kane County Health Department assessment, Henson said. “Wellness is much more than what you eat or how you exercise. Wellness includes mindfulness,” she said, adding Activate Elgin is trying to take a holistic approach to health and wellness.

March into Health’s list of events is available at activateelgin.org. Upcoming programs and events range from chef demos, Zumba classes, Elgin Bike Ride, discussions on plant-based eating and drinking water issues, spring cleaning your pantry, and a health and wellness fair at Judson University.

Get involved

A few March into Health highlights from Activate Elgin's website:

HealthyMe Interactive Annual Family Festival from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Gail Borden Library. Families can learn the links between physical activity, healthy eating and child safety.

Full Moon Ride: Elgin Bike Hub from 9 to 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20. Take a nighttime bike ride through the city's neighborhoods.

Taylor Family YMCA's Stress & Wellness Workshop from 2 to 4 p.m. March 23 Gail Borden Library. Learn tips to manage stress and be happy and healthy this spring.

Anyone attending one or all programs can enter a drawing to win one of eight grand prizes, which are geared toward healthy activities including personal training at the Taylor Family YMCA or an Elgin Parks & Recreation Family Swim pass for four.

District U46 plans meeting dates for info on dual-language classes

Parents of incoming students urged to attend if interested

By: Erin Sauder

School District U46 will hold several upcoming informational meetings for parents interested in enrolling their incoming kindergartners and English-dominant first-graders in the district's dual-language program.

Dual language is a form of bilingual education in which students are taught literacy and grade-level academic content in two languages.

"Students leaving our schools literate in both English and Spanish will be unstoppable in college or in careers," U46 CEO Tony Sanders said.

The informational sessions, which will be hosted at local schools and libraries during March and early April, will cover details of the U46 program, application process and research showing the benefits of bilingualism, according to a district news release.

U46 began its dual language program in the 2011-12 school year, starting with pre-kindergarten through second-grade students at 29 elementary schools. The program has gradually expanded each year, grade by grade, as students progress through it.

"Because of our student enrollment, we are able to offer all students the ability to become proficient in both English and Spanish through our award-winning dual language program," Sanders said.

U46 offers "one-way instruction" for students with a home language background of Spanish who qualify for the English Language Learners services program. Students without a home background of Spanish or who are English dominant may enroll in "two-way instruction" to learn Spanish and develop bilingual skills along with English learners, officials said.

The district also has an 80/20 Dual Language Program, in which the youngest students start out with 80 percent of their instruction in Spanish and 20 percent in English, reducing the Spanish-language portion by 10 percent per year from kindergarten through third grade, until the split is 50-50, where it remains through sixth grade, according to a district news release.

Dual language students in seventh and eighth grades continue to focus on developing academic and language skills in both languages, officials said.

Dual language courses were expanded to the freshmen level for the 2018-19 school year and will be available at the sophomore level for the 2019-20 year, with plans to offer the program through 12th grade for the 2021-22 school year.

Parents can attend any session. For more information, call 847-888-5000, ext. 5331 or ext. 5332.

The list of sessions are as follows:

Erin Sauder is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

Dual-language sessions

6 to 7 p.m. Monday, Otter Creek Elementary, 2701 Hopps Road, Elgin.

6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Bartlett Elementary, 111 E. North Ave., Bartlett.

6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Clinton Elementary, 770 Mill St., South Elgin.

5 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Illinois Park Center for Early Learning 1350 Wing St., Elgin.

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6 to 7 p.m. March 11, Lords Park Elementary, 323 Waverly Drive, Elgin.

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6 to 7 p.m. March 19, Channing Elementary, 63 S. Channing St., Elgin.

5:30 to 6:30 p.m. April 4, South Elgin Branch Library, 127 McLean Blvd., South Elgin.

6 to 7 p.m. April 10, Timber Trails Elementary, 1675 McDonough Road, Hoffman Estates.

6 to 7 p.m. April 10, Gail Borden Library.

6 to 7 p.m. April 17, U-46 Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago St., Elgin.

---The Courier-News---03/01/2019

U46 high schoolers talk mental health, school safety at annual student summit

By: Rafael Guerrero



- Streamwood High School student Mikaela Koehler, right, speaks with other School District U46 students at a summit held Wednesday at Elgin Community College to discuss issues affecting them. U46 CEO Tony Sanders, second from left, and other participants listen.

Nearly 200 students from the five School District U46 high schools and the DREAM Academy offered their insights Wednesday on such issues as mental health, academics, school safety, even lack of sleep, at the annual Student Leadership Summit.

“Students are very candid,” Bartlett High School Principal Mike Demovsky said. “They will tell you what they like and what needs improvement. It can be brutal.”

Split into small groups, the teens talk while administrators and district officials observe and listen. The annual event, now in its third year, was held at Elgin Community College.

Denny Alvarado, an Elgin High School student, opened up to his small group on sleep. Simply put, he doesn’t get enough, the sophomore said. He reminisced about the better sleeping schedule he had in middle school, when classes started more than an hour later than those in high school.

“On a nice day, I get six hours,” he said about his current sleep schedule.

The group discussed their sleep cycles and fears that things could get worse when the school year draws closer to an end.

Sleep plays a vital role in mental health, group members agreed. A better sleep schedule helps with stress, anxiety and depression although unlikely to improve given the demanding class workloads, extracurricular activities and other commitments students have, they said.

“It’s scientifically proven we perform better with more sleep,” said Mikaela Koehler, a junior at Streamwood High School. Could a school day that starts later help students and improve their mental health, group members asked.

Julia Wafford, a senior at South Elgin High School, has attended all three student summits that have been held. She said she appreciates that organizers made mental health one of the main topics of this year’s gathering.

One of the benefits of the event is it lets students listen and talk to people from other high schools, which doesn’t happen often given the district’s size, Wafford said.

“The ideas we’ve gotten from other schools, we’ve been able to implement that into some of our own clubs that we do in South Elgin,” she said.

Jackson Teeter, a Larkin High School senior and student advisor to the U46 school board, led the preparation and planning of this year’s summit, just as his predecessors did in the previous two years. It’s a year-long effort, requiring student advisory council members to fine-tune what topics get discussed and other aspects of the gathering, he said.



- Jackson Teeter, School District U46’s student advisor to the school board, is the third consecutive advisor to organize a student summit for U46 students. Teeter is a senior at Larkin High School in Elgin.

Teeter is a first-time summit attendee, and said he welcomed the no-holds-barred approach students took Wednesday.

“These are things that are so common but taboo to talk about,” he said. “We thought this would be a great place to start the conversations.”

Teen facilitators at each table gathered feedback, and will meet later with their school principals to discuss what they heard. Ultimately, the information will be shared with U46 administrators, including Sanders.

Issues discussed at the first two summits contributed to the school district’s decision to adjust the student dress code policies and to change one of the career academies being discussed as part of the proposed career pathways plan, Sanders said.

He enjoys the summit because students will “tell you everything on their minds,” he said.

“We care about what you think, we really do,” Sanders told those in attendance Wednesday. “Even if it’s on Twitter and you’re mean about it sometimes, I still care about what you think.”

In addition to mental health, academics and school safety, students also offered their thoughts on the high school career pathways and academies and incorporating technology into the classrooms.

U46 plan: \$3.4M on computers for students

By: Rafael Guerrero



- Students use Chromebooks in a School District 300 classroom. Neighboring School District U46 might offer Chromebooks to students in grades 5-8

School District U46 continues to draw closer to being a one-device-per-student school district, introducing a plan to lend Chromebook computers to all students in grades five through eight.

The \$3.4 million plan would support the purchase of 11,750 notebook computers for students in grades 5-8, according to the proposal presented Monday. The proposal follows this school year's adoption of a one-device-per-student policy in the high schools.

If approved, the plan increases the number of Chromebook computers to more than 23,000 districtwide beginning next school year. The only middle school students currently issued a U46 Chromebook are those taking algebra or geometry. A school board vote on the purchase is scheduled for March.

According to the proposal, the \$322-per-unit cost takes into account the device, power adapter, and the license to access online educational materials.

Board members Monday repeated concerns mentioned during the high school rollout. Board member Melissa Owens said some U46 families do not have internet access at home. How would a Chromebook, digital textbooks and assignments be completed without internet access?

Resources in the Chromebook computers can function while offline, said Trisha Shrode, U46's curriculum and instruction director. The digital curriculum and resources in middle school and high school algebra/geometry allow for offline work to upload once the computers log onto a wireless network, she said.

The proposal also calls for professional development opportunities for teachers, Shrode said. The district already hosts sessions for teachers to navigate the resources and capabilities of the Chromebooks. The district may venture into alternative forms of training for educators, such as more webinars and how-to videos, she said.

"We could be more creative in how we design professional development, especially at a training level," Shrode said.

Families whose children receive a school-issued Chromebook must pay a \$25 insurance fee at the beginning of the year in the event the device requires repairs.

SPORTS

---The Daily Herald---03/02/2019

Clutch shooting lifts South Elgin over Cary-Grove

By: Jerry Fitzpatrick

It was like a high-stakes game of try to top this.

The South Elgin boys basketball team answered Cary-Grove big shot for big shot down the stretch to claim the program's first Class 4A regional title since 2014 with a 66-60 victory in South Elgin Friday.

When Cary-Grove junior Frank Jakubicek sank a 3-pointer from the corner to draw his team within 47-44, South Elgin senior guard Drake Montgomery responded with a tap-in at the other end.

When Cary-Grove junior guard Beau Frericks drained a 3-pointer with 4:30 left to draw the Trojans within 51-50, Montgomery answered with a four-point play that gave his team a 55-51 lead with 3:01 left.

"We knew we had to retaliate," said Montgomery, who led all scorers with 27 points.

When Jakubicek sank another 3-pointer from the same corner spot to make it a 2-point game, South Elgin freshman Lane McVicar canned a 3-pointer of his own to stake the Storm to a 58-53 lead with 2:18 remaining.

"I live for those moments, those shots," said the 15-year-old McVicar. "Coach trusts me with those shots. That's what I work on."

No. 1 Cary-Grove (21-8) pulled within 58-55 after a putback by senior forward Ryan Rice with 1:58 to play, but South Elgin senior Vince Miszkiewicz had the ultimate answer, a two-hand slam after he rebounded a missed free throw with 1:37 left.

"Every time we got close they just made another play and another play," Cary-Grove coach Adam McCloud said. "They miss a free throw, they get the offensive rebound, the four-point play. Just those little things where it's like we're right there and then they take it back.

"Outstanding job by them. They're an outstanding team. I felt like it was two really good teams playing and they just made more plays."

No. 3 South Elgin (24-8), which sets a new school record for single-season wins with every victory, advances to face Harlem (20-11) in a Rock Valley College sectional semifinal in Rockford on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

"It's the best feeling in the world," said Miszkiewicz, who finished with 19 points, 6 rebounds, 4 blocks and 3 steals. "It was a hard-fought game until the end. We did a lot of preparing, a lot of teamwork. We played as a team tonight and it showed. I'm overjoyed.

First regional in five years. This was my career goal, to win a regional for the school, and it's not over yet."

South Elgin played zone defense the majority of the game, but Frericks, who scored 33 points in a 70-62 victory over South Elgin on Dec. 22, still scored 26 points to lead the Trojans. He sank 5-of-10 attempts from 3-point range.

The Trojans jumped to a 7-0 lead but the Storm finished the first quarter on a 19-5 run and led 34-27 at halftime.

Cary-Grove twice drew within 2 points in third quarter but still trailed 47-42 heading to the fourth.

"We've always known how to fight back," third-year South Elgin coach Brett Johnson said. "We did that in this game. They were up early and had a few runs ... The great players on this team stepped up when they had to and we had younger guys make great plays down the stretch. When you do that, you're going to win games."

Cary-Grove was denied its first regional title since 2001, but the Jacobs holiday tournament champions enjoyed their first 20-win season since that year. Leading scorers Frericks and Jakubicek return next season.

"They'll remember this game and they'll use it," McCloud said. "To win 21 games, to win the Jacobs Tournament, all great things but I think we have bigger goals in mind so the guys are disappointed. I told them it's not about one game. You have to take a look at the whole season and reflect back, but that's hard to do when you're 17. This one hurts."

Jakubicek finished with 14 points and 7 rebounds, and Daniel Sowa and David Aulert each contributed 6 points for the Trojans.

McVicar and seniors Jace Warrick and Trace Ashby each scored 7 points for the Storm.

---The Courier-News---03/01/2019

Can't-miss Miskiewicz has double(-double) the impact

Senior forward's effort powers South Elgin past Hampshire

By: Patrick Z. McGavin

South Elgin's Vincent Miskiewicz impacts the game at every level.

The 6-foot-7 senior forward has the length to dominate with his scoring, rebounding and ability to block shots.

His defining trait, however, is hustle.

"He does not have a stop button," Storm coach Brett Johnson said of Miskiewicz. "I think he has a go-harder button. He makes plays that nobody else can make sometimes."

That was on display again Wednesday night in the Class 4A South Elgin Regional semifinals.

Miskiewicz lunged onto the floor for a loose ball to create a breakaway for senior guard Trace Ashby and ignite a 53-41 victory over Hampshire.

South Elgin (23-8), which plays at 7 p.m. Friday against Cary-Grove, will be seeking its first regional championship since the 2013-14 season.

Miskiewicz led the Storm with 19 points, 12 rebounds, five blocks and four assists. The hustle play underscored his cerebral and heady style.

The sequence punctuated a 14-3 spurt that turned the game in the South Elgin's favor after Hampshire closed within 29-28 late in the third quarter.

"I knew we needed that ball because the game was getting close," Miskiewicz said. "As I went down for the ball, I saw Trace coming down the court so I tipped it toward him."

Senior guard Drake Montgomery added 15 points for the Storm.

When the two teams played on Nov. 23, South Elgin won 82-74. Offense was harder to come by this time around.

"Vincent does not overdo anything defensively," Johnson said. "(Wednesday) we struggled to score offensively. We had to find a way to turn defense into offense, and that is what the team did."

Miskiewicz continually stymied Hampshire (15-17), which missed all 14 of its shots from the floor in the second quarter.

"He really protects the rim and made it difficult for us around the basket," Hampshire coach Ben Whitehouse said of Miskiewicz. "We had good looks, but he forced us into bad or contested shots."

Junior forward Jeremy Rosa Jr. had 14 points and nine rebounds for the Whip-Purs. Junior guard Collin Woods added eight points.

Despite the loss, Hampshire won three times as many games as last season, when they finished 5-24. They improved in conference from 1-15 to 9-7.

"It is great to see the growth of the program," Whitehouse said.

Now, the Storm draws talented Cary-Grove, which beat South Elgin 70-62 on Dec. 22 at the Jacobs Christmas Tournament.

"We have to play solid defense and play as a team," Miskiewicz said.

Miskiewicz is the ace in the hole.

“He understands his role,” Johnson said. “He is an exceptional leader. He does not want to lose. He does not want his season or career to end.”



- South Elgin’s Vincent Miskiewicz dunks during the Class 4A South Elgin Regional semifinals against Hampshire on Wednesday.



- South Elgin’s Vincent Miskiewicz, left, drives past Hampshire’s Nick Erickson during the Class 4A South Elgin Regional semifinals on Wednesday.