

Press Clippings 05/20/2019

---Patch.com---05/20/2019

Feedback Sought on U-46 Magnet Academies

The school district is looking at ways to improve its magnet academies at Streamwood and Bartlett high schools.

By: Amie Schaenzer



ELGIN, IL – U-46 is seeking feedback from parents on ways they might improve magnet academies at Bartlett and Streamwood high school. Magnet Academies offer educational choices for students throughout the district and are accessible through an application process that occurs in the fall of 8th grade. While similar courses and programs may be available in comprehensive schools, Magnet Academies attract students by offering unique opportunities for in-depth experiences and study in specific areas of interest, according to an online survey.

U-46 is currently seeking feedback for Magnet Academy programming at Bartlett High School and Streamwood High School. School officials are looking into whether they need "more relevant curriculum to prepare students [for a global economy](#)," the Daily Herald reports.

Students and parents can share their feedback in an online survey, [which will be available through May 29](#).

"...it is critical to ensure that the programming we offer meets the needs of our students, parents, staff, and community. That is why we invite you to participate in this survey regarding options for magnet school themes for these two Academies," according to information posted on the survey website.

---The Daily Herald---05/19/2019

District 300 students first to earn high school diplomas and 2-year college degrees

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



Anna Yessica Tello is hugged by her father, Guillermo, after she got her Associate of Arts degree from Elgin Community College on Friday. She was one of 10 Community Unit District 300 high school students to receive their associate degrees from ECC before getting their high school diplomas.



Ten Community Unit District 300 high school students switch their tassels as they receive their associate degrees from Elgin Community College Friday as the first graduating class of students to receive their degree before getting their high school diplomas.



Ten Community Unit District 300 high school students sit during a ceremony to receive their associate degrees from Elgin Community College Friday. They are the first class to get a college degree before getting their high school diploma.

For most students, graduating high school already is a tremendous feat marking the culmination of 12 years of study.

But 10 students from Dundee-Crown, Hampshire and Jacobs high schools have the added distinction of being the first in the suburbs to simultaneously earn high school diplomas and associate degrees.

The students received their degrees Friday from Elgin Community College. Then on Saturday, they walked across the stage of the Sears Centre Arena in Hoffman Estates to collect their high school diplomas.

These students were part of Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300's Accelerate College program, which allows qualifying high school juniors and seniors to take a full year of college classes tuition-free in partnership with ECC, while visiting their high schools weekly to check in.

"It's very exciting," District 300 Superintendent Fred Heid said. "They are getting their college diplomas at the same time they are graduating high school, tuition-free, which is a huge savings for families. The program taught them how to be successful in a traditional college classroom."

District 300's Accelerated College program was the inspiration for a 2016 state law allowing Illinois high school students to earn college credit while in high school, ultimately making college tuition more affordable. Community college districts now can voluntarily enter into Accelerate College partnerships with any school district within their boundaries. Coursework completed by high school students in a community college is transferrable to Illinois' public universities.

Now, other suburban school districts, including the state's second-largest -- **Elgin Area School District U-46** -- have followed District 300's model.

The district pays roughly \$8,000 yearly per student enrolled full time at ECC, which is what it costs to educate them in high school. The only fees families incur are for books, Heid said.

Anna Yessica Tello, 18, of Carpentersville, a senior at Jacobs High School in Algonquin, studied political science at ECC. Her biggest challenge wasn't the rigor of college classes, but rather time management and adjusting to different instructors' expectations.

Through the program, she learned to be independent, manage her time wisely, and develop social, organizational and "many more skills that I didn't realize I was lacking in," she said.

Tello went from being shy and quiet to speaking up for herself. At ECC, she joined the Aspire 1G club advocating for first-generation college students, initially as the club's information officer and now president.

"This program has very much exceeded my expectations," Tello said. "I've learned and grown a lot more than I thought I would have. Every day my schedule is really changing. Being able to experience that now while I'm still at home is very comforting."

At Jacobs, Tello struggled to stand out. Now, having an associate degree right out of high school gives her an edge over her peers, she said.

This fall, she will be studying government and international politics at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, with the goal of attending law school afterward.

Heid expects program enrollment to grow next school year -- 59 students are enrolled this school year, though up to 90 can participate. Officials anticipate 21 graduates will receive their ECC associate degrees next spring.

"Right now, the only obstacle that we run into for growth is transportation," said Heid adding, the district might consider busing juniors who don't drive to ECC for classes four days a week.

Also starting this fall, District 300 will begin offering college-level courses at its high schools taught by district teachers who have acquired the endorsements for teaching college-level coursework. Dundee-Crown and Hampshire will offer English 101 and 102, and Jacobs will offer history.

"Wouldn't it be great if every one of our high schools would have a wing for college coursework?" said Heid.

---The Courier-News---05/18/2019

Double diplomas for 10 suburban students: 'I have an associate degree in my hand one day before I get my high school diploma'

By: Rafael Guerrero



Yessica Tello graduates twice this weekend.

On Friday she received an associate degree from [Elgin](#) Community College. Saturday she'll be in line to receive her high school diploma from Jacobs High School in Algonquin.

"I'm definitely feeling anxious," Tello, 18, of Carpentersville, said before her ECC graduation. "But it's a good kind of anxious."

Tello was one of 10 students from School District 300 high schools who earned associate degrees through the Accelerate College dual-credit program — the first D300 students to do so. The program allows students to attain college credit that goes toward both their high school and associate degrees with a goal of completing both programs simultaneously.

“You have a leg up on your friends,” ECC President David Sam told the graduates Friday. “Many of your friends will be freshmen and freshwomen this fall. And hello: you are juniors in college or university this fall.”

While Friday’s graduation ceremony was smaller than the typical community college commencement, attended by just the students, their families, and ECC and D300 staff, it was a historic day for all those involved.

District Superintendent Fred Heid lauded district and college officials for taking a chance on the dual-credit idea when he broached it three years ago. There was concern that 16- and 17-year-olds might not be ready for more rigorous college classes or might not be able to handle the responsibility that comes with being an independent student, he said

“The fact that you’re now transferring as both high school seniors and incoming (college) juniors — having saved tuition, having addressed all your prerequisites — is an incredible accomplishment,” Heid said.

“Every single barrier and every single barrier that was ever presented, you have proven wrong,” he said.

Next year, an even larger number will graduate through the program, with students from School District 303 in St. Charles joining those from D300, said Rodrigo Lopez, ECC’s assistant dean of school partnerships and college transitions. In a few more years, students from **School District U46** and Central School District 301 will also be in the mix, he said.

“We wanted to do something special for (this year’s graduates),” he said. “It’s a huge achievement, an unbelievable milestone.”

Accelerate College students like Tello spent two years taking classes at the ECC campus. She was at the college Monday through Thursday and at Jacobs High on most Fridays to meet with her counselor.

Tello said she took five to six classes — between 12 and 15 credit hours — per semester.

“It was intimidating at first. I was scared that I would stand out, be ousted for being young,” said Tello, who was 16 when she started. “But (my classmates and instructors) were knowledgeable, they were fun to be around.”

The school district covered tuition costs, which officials estimated to be about \$8,000 per student per school year.

Most of her credits transferred to [George Mason University](#), the Virginia school she will attend this fall. Tello said she saved time and money through Accelerate College because she completed most of her general education requirements before going to a four-year university.

Among the schools Accelerate College students are headed to in the fall include the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, [Northern Illinois University](#) in DeKalb and the University of Utah.

“I’m excited to have two commencements this weekend,” said Caiden Lukan, 17, of West Dundee, who graduates Saturday from Dundee-Crown High School in Carpentersville. He plans to pursue a research pharmacy career.

“I have an associate degree in my hand one day before I get my high school diploma.”

SPORTS

---The Courier-News---05/20/2019

Winning push

Barthelt scores in double OT as South Elgin stops Huntley for regional title

By: Patrick Z. McGavin



South Elgin’s Katrina Barthelt, right, and Huntley’s Maddisen Gough battle over a loose ball in a Class 3A regional championship game on Saturday.

South Elgin forward Katrina Barthelt has the ability to create an almost electrical sense of anticipation and excitement.

Every time the ball is near her, the crowd seems to understand something vital is about to happen.

Barthelt put another stamp on her remarkable freshman season Saturday, scoring in the 83rd minute to catapult the Storm to a 1-0 victory in the Class 3A Huntley Regional championship game against the host Red Raiders.

It was Barthelt’s 33rd goal of the season for South Elgin (14-3-3), which won its first regional title since 2016.

South Elgin advanced to play two-time defending state champion Barrington at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in a sectional semifinal at Rockford Guilford. On the winning goal, sophomore midfielder Madeline Freitag pushed a through-ball pass that Barthelt ran down.

“I love to dribble the ball out top and work the give-and-go,” Barthelt said. “I also like to use my speed to create the open space.”

After watching Barthelt score four goals in the second game of the season against East Aurora, South Elgin coach Laura Szwaja knew she had a special talent.

“I told my assistant she was going to get 30 goals,” Szwaja said. “He was not sure because Katrina is kind of shy and under the radar in how she has created her success.

“It’s almost beginner’s luck with her in that she does not really think about the game — she just goes out and does it. What makes her lethal is she loves to take people one-on-one.”

The five-minute break from the end of the regulation to the start of the overtime was just what Barthelt needed to calm her nerves.

“I was pretty frustrated at the end of (regulation), but we always talk about taking your frustration and turning it into confidence,” she said. “And that is what I tried to do.”

Her success has caught her by surprise.

“I never expected to have a year like this,” she said. “It has been surreal, but it also shows how well we play together.”

Huntley (10-9-2) was the equal of South Elgin throughout the game. Senior forward Avery Fitzgerald created several strong chances for the Red Raiders that were denied by goalkeeper Megan McClure.

Lexi Kozak and Jenna Franklin alternated playing goalkeeper for the Red Raiders, and each was exceptional in slowing down the Storm.

“Soccer is fickle that way,” Huntley coach Matt Lewandowski said. “I thought we had the better chances throughout the game, but we just could not put one in the back of the net.

“Their goal was really their only one good opportunity, and she took off and ran. She had the mental capacity to put it away.”

Patrick Z. McGavin is a freelance reporter for The Beacon-News.