

U46Engage: The Newsletter

October 2019

Calendar

- **Thursday, Oct. 3:** Information sessions for elementary and middle school parents on [U-46 Gifted programming](#), 6 p.m. Tefft Middle School, 1100 Shirley Ave., Streamwood.
- **Sunday, Oct. 6:** [Let's Move 5K/10K](#) benefiting U-46's Project Access, 8 a.m., Festival Park, 132 S. Grove Ave., Elgin.
- **Monday, Oct. 7 and Monday, Oct. 21:** U-46 Board of Education Meeting, 5:15 p.m. Board to convene and open meeting but will go into closed session until the 7 p.m. scheduled open session. Also available to watch on [YouTube](#). Room 140, Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago St., Elgin.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 8:** Dual Credit Information Night, 6 p.m., Streamwood High School, 701 W. Schaumburg Road, Streamwood.
- **Thursday, Oct. 10:** [Citizens' Advisory Council](#) general meeting, 7 p.m., Elgin High School, 1200 Maroon Drive, Elgin.
- **Monday, Oct. 14:** Columbus Day Holiday. No classes, offices closed.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 15:** "[Understanding the Alphabet Soup for Your Special Needs Child's Future](#)," 6:30 p.m., Gail Borden Public Library, Meadows Community Rooms, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 16:** [Parent Group Gathering](#) for members of U-46 parent-teacher organizations, 7 p.m. Elgin High School library, 1200 Maroon Drive, Elgin.
- **Friday, Oct. 25:** No classes for students. Institute Day. U-46 offices open.

Parents Invited to Learn More About Updated Educational Pathways Plan

Following valuable feedback from parents and community groups, School District U-46 administrators will provide the Board of Education on Oct. 7 with an update to its plan to expand small learning communities through all five of the District's high schools. That meeting can be watched via the [District's YouTube channel](#).



The College and Career Academies will be designed to provide all students with a small learning environment that supports them academically, socially and emotionally. Like our existing magnet academies, these additional academies aim to prepare U-46 students for the rigors of college and tomorrow's career skills. The plan calls for all U-46 high schools to each house the same five college and career academies: Arts, Humanities, Liberal Arts, Business, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). Under those academies will be Educational Pathways, a multi-year sequence of courses. Students will still be required to meet state graduation requirements and still be able to meet any specific college admission requirements, but their elective courses will be part of their "pathway" to exploring a field of interest and earning early college credit and/or industry credentials. Students who are currently 7th graders will be the first class to choose an Educational Pathway.

More info can be found at u-46.org/educationalpathways. And as the work progresses, the U-46 team will hold sessions at which parents, guardians, students and interested community members can learn more about the plans. **Future town halls are scheduled at 6 p.m. on the following dates:**

- Thursday, Oct. 17: Kenyon Woods Middle School, 1515 Raymond St., South Elgin
- Tuesday, Oct. 29: Eastview Middle School, 321 N. Oak Ave., Bartlett
- Tuesday, Nov. 5: Kimball Middle School, 451 N. McLean Blvd., Elgin

Magnet Academy Applications Accepted Through Oct. 15

The application process for the District's five Magnet Academies is now open. Students who are in 8th grade can submit applications from now through 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 15.



Applications and supporting materials can be submitted online at www.u-46.org via the [Magnet Academies webpage](#) or by clicking [here](#). Also, any additional testing or interviews need to be scheduled by the deadline to be considered for Magnet Academy placement.

If you'd like to learn more about each academy's unique focus and opportunities offered to students, a PDF version of the Magnet Academies booklet can be [viewed online](#). Copies are also available in the offices of middle schools, and 8th graders are receiving booklets to bring home. Videos for the Magnet Academies at Bartlett High School, South Elgin High School, and Elgin High School can be viewed on the [U-46 YouTube channel](#).

Dual Credit Information Session Scheduled for October

U-46 partners with Elgin Community College to offer a Dual Credit program for our high school juniors and seniors. The full-time Dual Credit program provides students the opportunity to take all of their coursework at Elgin Community College (ECC) while earning both high school and college credit for all of their courses. Current sophomores and juniors are eligible to apply to the Dual Credit program for the 2020-21 school year.



Interested parents and students are encouraged to attend the Dual Credit informational night being held **Tuesday, Oct. 8** at 6 p.m. at Streamwood High School, 701 W. Schaumburg Road, Streamwood. At the meetings, the Dual Credit application and program requirements will be reviewed, and there will be a representative from ECC to explain the benchmark process and the courses at ECC.

Members of Parent Groups Invited to Share Ideas at Gathering

Members of all U-46 parent groups (PTO, PTA, Booster Clubs) are invited to the first Parent Group Gathering for this school year starting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at Elgin High School Library, 1200 Maroon Drive, Elgin.

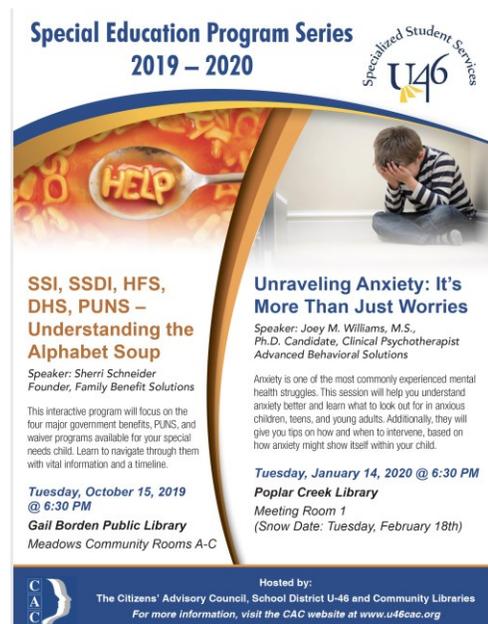
The Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC) Family and Community Engagement Committee hosts these events throughout the school year to provide a space to network with parents from other school parent groups, bring fundraising ideas, and share best practices around volunteer and parent participation. All group representatives are welcome – elementary, middle and high school. Dinner and childcare will be available.

To help prepare for the meeting, please RSVP by Friday, Oct. 11 with the name of the school and representative(s) attending to parentnet46@gmail.com. The second Parent Group Gathering is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020.

Series for Parents of Children with Special Needs Gets Underway

The Citizens' Advisory Council's Specialized Student Services Committee has planned a two-part series for parents of special needs children.

The first event in this series, entitled "Understanding the Alphabet Soup," is being held Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meadows Community Rooms at the Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin. Speaker Sherri Schneider of Family Benefit Solutions will lead an interactive program focusing on the four major government benefits and waiver programs available to a special needs child. Parents and guardians will leave with vital information and a timeline.



Special Education Program Series
2019 – 2020

Specialized Student Services
U46

SSI, SSDI, HFS, DHS, PUNS – Understanding the Alphabet Soup
Speaker: Sherri Schneider
Founder, Family Benefit Solutions

This interactive program will focus on the four major government benefits, PUNS, and waiver programs available for your special needs child. Learn to navigate through them with vital information and a timeline.

Tuesday, October 15, 2019
@ 6:30 PM
Gail Borden Public Library
Meadows Community Rooms A-C

Unraveling Anxiety: It's More Than Just Worries
Speaker: Joey M. Williams, M.S.,
Ph.D. Candidate, Clinical Psychologist
Advanced Behavioral Solutions

Anxiety is one of the most commonly experienced mental health struggles. This session will help you understand anxiety better and learn what to look out for in anxious children, teens, and young adults. Additionally, they will give you tips on how and when to intervene, based on how anxiety might show itself within your child.

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 @ 6:30 PM
Poplar Creek Library
Meeting Room 1
(Snow Date: Tuesday, February 18th)

Hosted by:
The Citizens' Advisory Council, School District U-46 and Community Libraries
For more information, visit the CAC website at www.u46cac.org

This program is a free, and no registration is necessary. More information can be found here on the [CAC website](#). And mark your calendars now for the other program in the series: "Unraveling Anxiety: It's More Than Just Worries" at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 14 at the Poplar Creek Library in Streamwood.

You're invited to attend a free STEM Expo Kick-Off Event!

U-46 will host kick-off events in October and November at local libraries to prepare students and families for the 2020 STEM Expo, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 22 at Streamwood High School. The fall kick-off events at the libraries will give students a chance to engage with cutting-edge technologies, experiment with next-generation science, and enjoy live chemistry and physics demonstrations.



The STEM Expo is open to all students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Any K-12 students who are looking for ideas for their projects can use the kick-off events as brainstorming opportunities. All kick-off events will run from 5:30 p.m.

to 7 p.m. They are scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 2 at Poplar Creek Public Library, 1405 S. Park Ave. in Streamwood; Thursday, Oct. 10 at Bartlett Public Library, 800 S. Bartlett Road in Bartlett; Wednesday, Nov. 6 at Gail Borden Public Library, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin; and Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Gail Borden's Rakow Branch, 2751 W. Bowes Road, Elgin.

Elgin Race to Benefit U-46's Project Access

The annual [Let's Move Elgin](#) 5K/10K Run/Walk is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 6 at Elgin's Festival Park. The race benefits Project Access, U-46's homeless education program. The 5K and the 10K both start at 8 a.m. and have registration fees. The Kids Fun Run, which is an untimed 100-meter dash for children under 8, starts at 7:50 a.m. and is free for kids to enter. If you don't want to run or walk the event, Let's Move is in need of volunteers both in leading up to Oct. 6, as well as on the day of the race itself. Find more information, including registration fees and links, at letsmoveelgin.com.



Alumni Feature: Cristina Castro of Larkin High School

When Cristina Castro attended Larkin High School in the mid-1990s, she was a quiet student whose favorite subject was math. And her future aspirations did not include a career in politics.

“If you would have told me that back then, I would have laughed. Me? No way,” said Castro, who represents the 22nd District as an Illinois State Senator.



Castro grew up a second-generation Mexican-American on Elgin's east side, and attended Century Oaks Elementary. Her teachers at Larkin, she said, opened her eyes to the possibility that she could attend college.

To read more about State Senator Castro, and other interesting and accomplished U-46 alumni, visit the [Alumni section of the website](#) or follow the

#U46AlumniSunday hashtag on the [U-46 Facebook page](#). If you have the name and contact info for a graduate you think we should feature, please let us know via Let's Talk, our customer service tool, by using the [School and Community Relations button](#).

U-46 In the News ...

The Daily Herald wrote about a [free music festival](#) that opened up Larkin High School's Homecoming Week and featured CEO Tony Sanders [in an article](#) looking at how suburban school districts are preparing for the impacts of legal marijuana.

Video of the Month

Ten U-46 schools earned regional recognition for implementing a proactive positive student behavioral program at the highest level. The approach, called Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) aims to teach behavioral expectations in the same manner as any core curriculum subject. You can watch a brief video about the District's PBIS programs [here](#).



The program is an important part of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) implemented in all U-46 schools to meet the full range of academic and behavioral needs of all students. Effective implementation has been tied to a healthier school climate and culture.

The Midwest PBIS Network annually reviews each school's practice and data and determined the following 10 U-46 schools earned the highest level of implementation, called the "platinum" level. They are Bartlett High School; Larkin High School; Streamwood High School; Canton Middle School; Kenyon Woods Middle School; Century Oaks Elementary School; Channing Elementary School; Liberty Elementary School; Ontarioville Elementary School; Timber Trails Elementary School. Congratulations to all!

Online Backpack

Many flyers are submitted to School District U-46 with requests to send them home to our families. In an effort to save “backpack space” for assignments and communications from your child’s school and the district, we are posting informational material on activities outside of school on the U-46 website in an Online Backpack.



The flyers in the Online Backpack are the responsibility of the group listed and not a U-46 endorsement. Visit our [Online Backpack](#) webpage to view community organization flyers.