

# U46Engage: The Newsletter

## January 2020

### Calendar

- **Monday, Jan. 20:** No classes for students. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
  - **Monday, Jan. 27:** U-46 Board of Education Meeting. Check [u-46.org](http://u-46.org) for specific meeting time in Room 140, Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago St., Elgin. Also available to watch on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).
  - **Friday, Jan 31:** No classes for students.
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### Parents Urged to Take 5Essentials Survey

Can you set aside 10 minutes to help improve the school culture and learning environment at your children's schools?



Ten minutes is all it takes to complete the Illinois 5Essentials Survey. This research-based survey provides a unique opportunity for teachers, students, and parents to have a voice in improving our schools.

This survey generates reports to help drive school improvement on the five leading indicators or “essentials” – effective leaders, collaborative teachers, involved families, supportive environment, and ambitious instruction. Schools in U-46 use this valuable feedback to make changes and create new programs.

The 5Essentials Survey is completely confidential and will never be connected to you or your child. It is available in English and Spanish and can be taken on your mobile phone, tablet, laptop or computer. To take the survey, please visit

<https://survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/> and select the parent survey. Make sure to hit "submit" once the survey is complete to ensure your responses are recorded.

If at least 20 percent of the parents at a school complete the parent portion of the survey, the school will receive a special report on those anonymous responses. To see the participation rate for your school, please click [here](#).

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## **Families Asked to Provide Input on Career Planning Experiences**



The District is collecting information from high school students and their families regarding their career planning experiences in U-46. The brief survey will be used to help administrators evaluate and improve future career planning experiences for students.

The survey for parents can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/36uv165> and the survey for students can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/2FoIwsh>. The surveys are available in both English and Spanish and will be open until Jan. 29.

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## **Superintendent's Scholarship to Support a New Generation of College Grads**

As the members of the Class of 2020 begin to finalize their post-graduation plans, School District U-46 is preparing to support a new generation of college graduates through the [Superintendent's Scholarship](#) program. Since the program was



established in 2012, more than 220 U-46 graduates have been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship through generous donations to the U-46 Educational Foundation from members of the community.

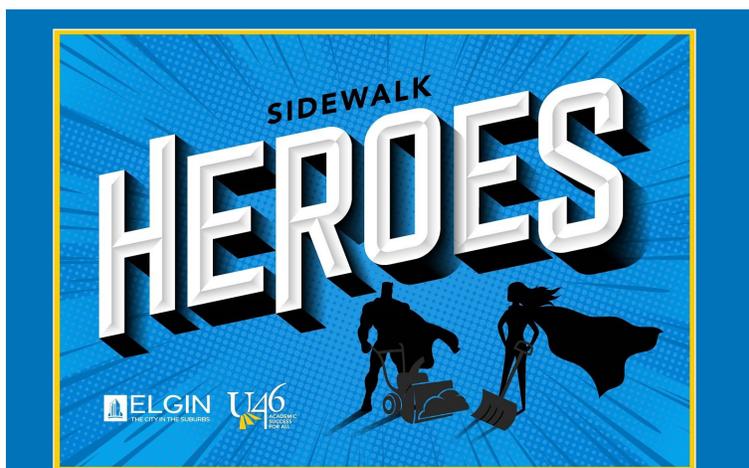
The program is open to students whose parents did not graduate from a trade school, community college or four-year institution — students like Maritza Renteria, who graduated from Larkin High School in 2019. She is now studying mechanical engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She says that as much as she appreciated the monetary award, which she used for textbooks, she was just as grateful for the feeling of support she received as a Superintendent’s Scholarship recipient.

Please encourage students who are interested in the Superintendent’s Scholarship to apply online [through the District website](#) before **11:59 p.m. on Feb. 29**. The application consists of an essay, letter of recommendation, and FAFSA application, if applicable.

If you’d like to support this important program with a monetary donation, you can do so through the U-46 Educational Foundation. Find instructions [here](#).

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## School District U-46, City of Elgin Encourage ‘Sidewalk Heroes’



Not all heroes wear capes — some wear stocking caps, insulated gloves, rubber-toed boots, and hold a shovel. “Sidewalk Heroes,” a new joint initiative of School District U-46 and the City of Elgin, aims to encourage just such warmly-clad residents to help keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice this winter.

Clear sidewalks allow students to walk safely to and from school or the bus stop, and makes it easier for all pedestrians, including mail carriers, meter readers, seniors, and those with disabilities, to get around.

Some residents can’t shovel snow because of disabilities, health conditions, or other reasons. So “Sidewalk Heroes” encourages people who are able to shovel snow or who own a snowblower to look around their neighborhood for areas that need clearing.

Good deeds can be shared on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter using the #SidewalkHeroes hashtag. A list of those posts will be compiled, and then after each snow event, a name will be chosen at random to win a special prize. Elgin Police officers and snow plow drivers will also carry with them “Sidewalk Heroes” stickers that they can hand out when they spot a good deed in progress.

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## **How to View Elementary Progress Reports Online**

Elementary progress reports for the second trimester were made available for 1st through 6th grade parents to view online starting Jan. 13 via the Campus Parent portal. You can also find step-by-step directions [here](#) for how to access a printable PDF of your student’s elementary progress report cards. If you did not receive a printed copy of your child’s progress report and would like one, please let your child’s teacher know and she/he will print one for you.

The second trimester progress reports provide a good opportunity for you to review your child’s academic performance thus far. As always, it’s important to keep the lines of communication open with your child’s teacher. You are always welcome

to check in with teachers about your child's academic performance. Second trimester elementary report cards are scheduled to be shared and available online by March 2. Again, if you prefer to receive a printed copy of your child's elementary report card, please let your child's teacher know and it will be printed for you.

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## **Alumni Feature: Jacob Yarwood of Bartlett High School**

Six years ago, Jacob Yarwood was an academic high achiever in Bartlett High School's Science, Engineering and Technology Academy program. Now he literally reaches for the sky as an officer and pilot in the U.S. Air Force.



After graduating in the BHS Class of 2013, Yarwood was accepted into the U.S. Air Force Academy where he earned his degree and is currently honing his skills as an active duty military pilot.

“I always felt like I wanted to serve,” said the Bartlett native, who is the son of Brian and Susan Yarwood.

*To read more about Jacob Yarwood, 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](#).*