

Press Clippings 03/05/20 to 03/09/20

---Daily Herald---03/09/2020

Nine U-46 student musicians honored at board meeting

Submitted by Elgin Area School District U-46

Nine Elgin Area School District U-46 high school students were recognized by the board of education Feb. 24 with an "Accent on Achievement" for their outstanding achievements as musicians, including a student who was named the best high school clarinet player in the state of Illinois.

Students participated in the Illinois Music Education Association competitive audition process to be named All-State Musicians, the highest musical achievement for high schoolers in Illinois. Selected students performed at the ILMEA's annual music education conference Jan. 29 to Feb. 1 in Peoria.

"Our dedicated music teachers offer students a strong musical education in U-46," said Jaimie Giraldo, U-46 Coordinator of Fine Arts. "Opportunities like the ILMEA allow students to perform and practice their artistry surrounded by gifted musicians from across the state."

Last year, U-46 was one of 13 districts in the state to earn the Best Communities for Music Education designation from the NAMM Foundation.

Six of the seven U-46 performing students were placed into the Honors ensembles. Larkin High School's Ethan Montgomery won the clarinet audition and sat as the principal clarinet in the Honors Band.

The board recognized the following students with "Accent on Achievement" certificates.

- South Elgin High School: Jacob Pangilinan, sophomore, All-State Chorus -- Bass I; and David Galanes, senior, All-State Honors Orchestra -- Oboe;
- Larkin High School: Ethan Montgomery, junior, All-State Honors Band -- Clarinet (First Chair); Elianna Nielsen, senior, All-State Honors Orchestra -- Viola; and Miguel Rodriguez, junior, All-State Honors Band -- Flute.
- Bartlett High School: Gauri Yadav, junior, All-State Honors Chorus -- Alto II; Ryan Blake, senior, All-State Honors Band -- Euphonium; Tommy Arms, senior -- Future Music Educators Symposium; and Mikayla Chin, junior -- Future Music Educators Symposium

Nearly two dozen other U-46 students were selected to participate in the ILMEA District IX honors festival, which U-46 participates in annually. Students from around the suburban area audition before a panel of professional musicians and are selected based on their ranking among their peers.

The U-46 students selected for the ILMEA District IX honors festival are:

- Bartlett High School: Senior Chloe Fox (chorus -- soprano I), junior Kara Fox (chorus -- soprano I), senior Daniel Hernandez (chorus -- tenor I), junior Nick Raymundo (chorus -- tenor II), and junior Ziona Tharakan (chorus -- alto I), senior Thomas Arms (band -- trumpet), senior Lawrence Yap (chorus -- tenor II)
- Larkin High School: Senior Cassie Valdes (chorus -- alto II), junior Tyler Hopkins (band -- alto sax), sophomore Jackson Baker (jazz band I -- trumpet), and junior Ben Dobbeck (jazz band II -- trombone), senior Mirando Preuss (orchestra -- viola), junior Kyle Saengdara (orchestra -- harp)
- Elgin High School: Senior Isabella Hernandez (chorus -- alto I), senior Annabelle Mique (chorus -- alto II), senior Gian Tupaz (chorus -- bass I), sophomore Shaun Tupaz (chorus -- bass I), and freshman Stephanie Skrabacz (band -- clarinet), junior Salvador Salud (orchestra -- viola)
- South Elgin High School: Senior Alexandra Wesner (chorus -- alto II), junior Chanel Antoshin (orchestra -- flute), and junior Caden Grogan (band -- tenor sax)
- Streamwood High School: Junior Joshua Lindahl (chorus -- bass I) and senior Zoe Becker (band -- horn)

Eleven middle school students were also selected to perform in District IX ensembles. They are:

- Kimball Middle School: eighth-grader Sandar Perez (orchestra -- violin II) and eighth-grader Brandon Biddle (band -- trumpet II)
- Abbott Middle School: seventh-grader Jenna Mack (band -- flute II)
- Eastview Middle School: eighth-grader Aanya Navsariwala (orchestra -- violin II), eighth-grader Maison Preuss (orchestra -- violin I) and eighth-grader Victoria Nalepka (orchestra -- violin II)
- Canton Middle School: eighth-grader James Chung (orchestra -- cello)
- Larsen Middle School: seventh-grader Landon Kim (orchestra -- violin II)
- Kenyon Woods Middle School: eighth-grader Victoria Vo (orchestra -- violin II) and eighth-grader Emma Greenberg (band -- clarinet II)
- Tefft Middle School: eighth-grader Kiera Moore (band -- bass clarinet)

The board meetings are open to the public and streamed live on YouTube.

---The Courier-News---03/08/2020

Elgin-area school officials weigh in on coronavirus

By: Rafael Guerrero



School District U46 offices in Elgin, Ill. (Rafael Guerrero / The Courier-News)

Elgin-area educators are grappling with questions about the coronavirus and how it might affect the school year.

How much cleaning do schools need? How often should students be reminded to wash hands? Should educators track where families go during spring break? Could e-learning solve any potential disruption to the school year?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says while there can be serious complications for children, it has been uncommon. A World Health Organization report said a small percentage of children made up the infected cases, and even fewer reported severe symptoms.

"My message is one of prevention," said School District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders. "The message is schools are still a safe place."

"There's a lot to this. It's not just day-to-day operations," added School District 300 Superintendent Fred Heid.

What are the latest figures on the coronavirus?

As of Friday, more than 200 people across 18 states in the U.S. have been infected with this strain of the coronavirus. Twelve people have died from the virus. All but one of the 12 deaths was reported in Washington State. In Illinois, health officials confirmed a fifth case of coronavirus Thursday. No cases have been reported in Kane County.

How are schools being cleaned?

Local schools and school districts have adopted measures following guidelines from the CDC, state and local health departments on how to clean and sanitize buildings.

At School District U-46, bathrooms and common surfaces like front desks and lunchroom tables are cleaned every night, said Sanders. The district's procedures have schools report attendance to the district by 11 a.m. every day so officials can observe any illness trends in any given classroom and determine whether additional cleaning is required.

St. Charles School District 303 introduced its “super cleaning” procedure in the last week, said spokeswoman Carol Smith.

“Every day they wipe down touchable surfaces -- door knobs, desks, telephones, bathroom areas, light switches,” she said. “They wipe them down on a nightly basis.”

What about hand washing?

Local school officials agreed unanimously that hand washing is the best way to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the flu, or any other virus. Schools have all forwarded the recommendation to frequently wash hands with soap and hot water for 20 seconds.

Classrooms in the lower grade levels at District 301 are watching CDC videos, said Stirn. In St. Charles, school nurses are visiting elementary school classrooms to remind students of best personal hygiene practices, added Smith.

“As important as cleaning is, it’s of equal importance that people follow good procedures,” added Stirn. “Even if a custodian does the best job possible, someone who doesn’t properly wash their hands can re-contaminate.”

Can students wear masks?

Officials said they would view each instance of a student wearing a mask in school on a case-by-case basis.

“I guess I would have to ask are they sick -- and if they are, why aren’t they at home?” said Michael Kagan, Catholic schools superintendent for the Diocese of Rockford, which includes Elgin schools.. “Did the parent ask them to wear it? I don’t know.”

At School District 300, students are allowed to wear masks if certain conditions are met, like whether a doctor recommended the mask or if the mask is medical-grade.

Could schools close?

Sanders said U-46 schools have closed due to illness-related reasons, such as the H1N1 outbreak in 2009 or when high levels of Legionella bacteria closed three schools in 2015.

St. Charles East High School closed for two days in 2017 due to the norovirus.

St. Mary Catholic School in Elgin closed for two days in early February after 20% of students called in sick due to flu-like symptoms.

Schools in the state have five emergency days to use per school year, although they are only allowed if all schools in that school district or system close. This year’s mild winter kept many schools from using any of its emergency days.

Is e-learning an option?

When St. Mary closed for two days, the school incorporated e-learning -- that is, students worked on assignments from home via the Internet. Kagan said 90-95% of its schools are capable of switching to e-learning should schools close due to illness.

In its update to the community, School District 300 officials would “look to use a combination of e-learning and additional school days to make up the lost instructional time.”

St. Charles and U-46 do not see e-learning as a viable option at this time. U-46 spokeswoman Mary Fergus said not all students have Internet access at home, even if they have a district-issued Chromebook. And just like U-46, not all District 303 students have district-issued devices, said Smith.

Are educators worried about spring break travel?

The statuses of some school-sponsored trips abroad during spring break are unclear. High school trips to Italy and other parts of Europe have been canceled or are being re-evaluated in St. Charles and in the Rockford Diocese school system.

“A parent can make the final decision,” Smith said. “But we are looking into whether how (cancellations) impact financially.”

Sanders said U-46 officials anticipate some families will travel during spring break. “I don’t particularly have any issues or concerns of people traveling during spring break,” he said.

Sanders noted the district is following CDC’s current and future policies on people traveling to countries with widespread or sustained outbreaks.

D300 is reminding families on its coronavirus webpage that “if you are traveling abroad to one of the identified countries or your destination is subsequently added while you are traveling (or soon after your return to the United States), your child may be required to stay at home for the 7 to 14 days.”

“Given the growth and expansion of the virus, I wouldn’t be surprised if (other countries) get on that list,” added Heid.

---The Courier-News---03/07/2020

Elgin goes after hard-to-count populations — African Americans, Hispanics and Laotians — for U.S. Census

By: Gloria Casas



Aloun Khotisene, of Xilin Association in Elgin, is part of Elgin Census 2020, a coalition of public and private organizations working inform traditionally undercounted populations about the census. (Gloria Casas / The Courier-News)

Elgin’s 2020 Census coalition is in high gear to get people counted, especially traditionally hard-to-count populations such as African Americans, Hispanics and Laotians.

“Our message that we’ve gone to and been with is, it’s safe, it’s simple and it’s significant,” said Denise Raleigh, Gail Borden division chief of public relations and communications. She is part of Elgin’s Census committee and worked on the 2010 count. “We’ve moved from messaging. Now, we’re activating and implementing.”

Elgin’s census committee comprises 80 public, nonprofit and private organizations and businesses, including the City of Elgin, Gail Borden Public Library, **School District U-46**, Centro de Informacion.

The U.S. Census determines how much federal money towns and cities receive for programs, including free and reduced-cost school lunches, health services for people in need, and transportation. It’s also used to determine how many representatives each state gets in Congress.

Official U.S. census forms will be mailed between March 12 and 20, Raleigh said. April 1 is Census Day. People can fill out the forms online, by mail or by phone.

Elgin Census 2020 has five public sites to help people respond online. They are: Gail Borden Library and its branches, Centro de Informacion, the YWCA, the Eastside Recreation Center and Elgin Community College Library. The library also has 30 iPads with a link to 2020census.gov available for community groups to borrow and get people counted, Raleigh said.

Coalition members want to get as many people to self-report as possible, she said. If people don’t respond on their own, the U.S. Census Bureau sends out census-takers to neighborhoods.

The agency has provided a Response Outreach Area Mapper (ROAM) that identifies hard-to-count areas using socioeconomic and demographic data, which Elgin is using, she said.

Some barriers in those neighborhoods could be language, income, and rent status, Raleigh said. The ROAM application has “been a really great source of information for us, using their census figures, to determine where we should concentrate our efforts.”

Another challenge has been, “Can I trust the government?” Raleigh said. “There is great fear.” Elgin’s committee has turned to education to ameliorate the problem. “We’ve spent a lot of time on that.”

Part of the community outreach includes a social media campaign, #elgincensus, #getcounted, with videos and photos of community members, messages on electronic signs, radio, and cable TV ads, including on Telemundo and Univision, she said.

Eight billboards say “Count me” and “Our Kids Count” in English and Spanish. Two are located on National Street and Route 31.

“We’ve looked at where we anticipate the most challenging people to count and that’s where most of our billboards are presently up,” Raleigh said. “We’ve been very pleased with them.”

Schools have been another way to reach hard-to-count neighborhoods, with volunteers attending school events.

“Our philosophy is not to create new census events, but to make sure the census is at events where people are coming,” she said.

Karla Jimenez is a co-chair of the coalition’s education subcommittee.

“Our main objective was to empower and inform those who work with families of the importance of a complete count, what is the value,” Jimenez said. Teachers are incorporating the census into the curriculum and there’s other messaging in both public and private schools.

Elgin Census 2020 volunteers will canvass neighborhoods later this month. Census Pi(e) Day will be celebrated from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at The Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, 100 Symphony Way.

“We going to provide the census message to a lot of people who like to eat pizza and pie,” she said.

---Chicago Sun Times---03/07/2020 Sick CPS students ‘will be sent home immediately,’ district says, as coronavirus fears spread

A CPS spokeswoman said the district is sending schools more soap and hand sanitizer this week to stay prepared.

By: Nader Issa



CPS sent a letter to parents outlining precautions being taking in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

Chicago Public Schools officials on Wednesday sent a letter to families and staff laying out preventive measures being taken in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak — and emphasizing that “students who are sick will be sent home immediately.”

With only six cases so far in the Chicago area, CPS isn’t considering closing schools at this point, the district said. But officials nonetheless are preparing for any potential outbreaks with the help of the Chicago Department of Public Health.

CPS Chief Health Officer Kenneth Fox and CDPH Commissioner Allison Arwady urged staff or students who have traveled anywhere that has experienced an outbreak to stay home for 14 days after they return.

Anyone who’s sick should call a doctor and stay home from school, and student absences will be marked excused, Fox and Arwady said in the letter. If a student goes to school sick, their parent or guardian will be called immediately to schedule a pick-up.

Perfect attendance awards discouraged

Meanwhile, guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says school districts should “review attendance and sick leave policies” and “discourage the use of perfect attendance awards and incentives.”

CPS teachers and parents have said on social media this week that several schools in the district haven’t followed that advice. At CPS’ Blaine Elementary, for example, administrators posted a letter last week announcing a “March Madness” attendance incentive program.

”That’s right, beginning next week, students, staff, and classrooms will go head to head in an effort to achieve 100% attendance at school,” a school newsletter said. “Students and staff will participate for an opportunity to earn a field experience for their class or a gift card individually.”

CPS spokeswoman Emily Bolton said the district has since sent out guidance discouraging principals from allowing attendance competitions at their schools.

On Monday, Blaine sent out another notice saying that while 100 percent attendance was still the goal, kids shouldn’t come to school if they are sick.

The CPS letter sent home Wednesday did note that “children seem to be less likely to become ill,” but it still encouraged good hygiene: Everyone should wash their hands for at least 20 seconds, avoid close contact with anyone who’s sick and cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw out that tissue and wash their hands.

CPS also reminded school communities not to engage in racist or discriminatory behavior, and that “stigma and discrimination against the afflicted discourages early reporting of symptoms and further perpetuates community spread.”

Bolton said the district is sending schools more soap and hand sanitizer this week to stay prepared.

At one CPS school, Bell Elementary in North Center, principal Katie Miller told families in an email that the school will hang up signs in every bathroom reminding students and staff to wash their hands.

CPS officials couldn’t immediately say whether they had seen a decrease in attendance in recent weeks due to virus fears.

Meanwhile in the suburbs and beyond, officials at School District U-46 in Elgin, the second largest in the state, are monitoring attendance but haven’t yet seen any major dips, spokeswoman Mary Fergus said.

The district, which serves families in Kane, DuPage and Cook counties, is working with the public health departments in all three counties to stay prepared for a potential spread of communicable diseases, following its usual plan for those types of outbreaks.

In Oak Park Elementary School District 97, principals told staff in emails Wednesday morning that students who are called in sick by parents will be asked to provide more details, including whether they have flu-like symptoms.

Todd Fitzgerald, the principal at Julian Middle School, urged staff to stay home if they or a family member feel sick or have flu symptoms. Fitzgerald said in the email that staff would continue routine cleaning and disinfecting of the school.

---Daily Herald---03/06/2020

Free pie and pizza among efforts in Elgin to ramp up for Census count

By: Elena Ferrarin



Efforts to make sure everyone is counted in the 2020 U.S. Census have ramped up in Elgin. Pictured here is Elisa Lara, co-chairwoman of the health subcommittee of the Elgin Complete Count initiative.

Households across the country will begin receiving invitations next week to participate in the 2020 Census, and efforts to make sure everyone is counted have ramped up in Elgin.

A "[Census Pi\(e\) Day Celebration](#)" for families with free pizza and pie is scheduled for 11 a.m.-1 p.m. March 14 at the Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, with the goal of encouraging people to participate in the census count, said Denise Raleigh, chairwoman of the Elgin Complete Count initiative.

Census participation is crucial because it will determine how much federal money -- \$1,500 per person, according to some estimates -- will be disbursed in Elgin, Raleigh told the Elgin City Council on Wednesday. "A miss is very costly, especially when the next census won't be for 10 years."

Elgin Complete Count is a partnership among local leaders and organizations that has obtained more than \$180,000 in grant money to fund a comprehensive informational campaign. That includes outreach to segments of the population that historically have had less census participation, such as families with young children and the Latino and Lao communities, Raleigh said.

Starting March 12, households will receive official [U.S. Census Bureau](#) mail with information about how to participate online, by phone or by mail. Census takers will begin visiting college campuses and senior centers in April, and from May to June, they will visit homes that haven't responded to the Census.

The Elgin committee's grant money is funding two English-Spanish bilingual workers who have been informing residents about the census. One is stationed during high-

traffic times at Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin, and the other works with the nonprofit Centro de Information, with churches and at community events, such as high school basketball games.

Volunteer Ket Herena said about 50 Lao leaders will gather Saturday in Elgin with a representative of the U.S. Census Bureau. More activities will take place in April, when the Lao New Year falls, and May, which is Asian American Heritage Month.

It's important to persuade people to trust that the U.S. Census Bureau won't share information with anyone, including other government agencies, and equip individuals, particularly seniors, to recognize potential census scammers, Raleigh said.

There will be several "portable access centers" in Elgin that will allow people who don't have internet access at home to submit census questionnaires online, Raleigh said. Those will be at the YWCA, the Eastside Recreation Center, the Elgin Community College library, Centro de Informacion and all three Gail Borden Public Library locations.

The grant money also is funding billboards, signage, ads on radio and local cable TV, and a 17-foot "world's largest Census tablet" (not real) that travels across town. A social media campaign will kick off shortly, Raleigh said.

The initiative also has enlisted the help of educators from child care centers, schools and a variety of other educational institutions across town, said **Karla Jimenez**, co-chairwoman of the education subcommittee.

"We are using all of our communications channels that we can," Raleigh said.

To sign up for a census newsletter or get more information, visit gailborden.info/census.

See students from five high schools perform at U-46 TalentFest at the Hemmens

Submitted by Elgin Area School District U-46



Senior Trevor Heydt performs his magic show at the Elgin High School Talent Show Jan. 16. Heydt took first place in the competition and advances to the districtwide TalentFest competition at the Hemmens on Tuesday, March 10. *Courtesy Of John Konstantaras*



Bartlett High School junior Nick Raymundo finished in second place at the school's talent show for singing "Love Boy" by Bruno Mars. He will sing at the U-46 districtwide TalentFest at the Hemmens on March 10. *Courtesy Of Dave Tonge*

Elgin Area School District U-46's high schoolers will showcase their artistic skills and compete against each other at the 10th annual TalentFest Tuesday, March 10, at the Hemmens, 45 Symphony Way, Elgin. Parents and community members are welcome to attend.



Junior Dario Perkins performs his original rap "Unstoppable" at the 2020 Talent Festival at Streamwood High School on Feb. 20. Perkins and Megan Kuntz will represent Streamwood in districtwide TalentFest March 10. - *Courtesy Of John Konstantaras*

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased through the [Hemmens online box office](#), by phone at (847) 931-5900 or at the door.

The contest features 10 acts, made up of two finalists chosen from each of the five District high schools -- Bartlett, Elgin, Larkin, South Elgin, and Streamwood. After these 10 finalists perform, the audience will vote for their favorites. The top five acts advance to the second act, where they will perform again. A panel of judges will select the first, second and third-place winners.



From left, seniors Ashley Reyes and Maria Rivera sing "Stay" by Rihanna at the Elgin High School Talent Show Jan. 16. Reyes and Rivera took second place in the competition and will compete at TalentFest. - *Courtesy Of John Konstantaras*

Winners receive a cash prize as well as a commemorative plaque. In addition, the school whose acts receive the most total audience votes will be awarded the traveling TalentFest Trophy. Larkin High School has taken home the TalentFest trophy for the past two years.



Abigail Anderson sings "Vienna" by Billy Joel at the 2020 Talent Showcase at Larkin High School on Jan. 23. Anderson was voted to be one of two finalists in the competition and advances to the districtwide TalentFest. - Courtesy Of John Konstantaras

"We're excited to celebrate the 10th anniversary of TalentFest this year and it's been a pleasure to see how much the event has grown in the past decade," said TalentFest Coordinator Jeff Grosser. "TalentFest continually provides a fantastic opportunity for our high schoolers to showcase their creativity in front of family, friends, peers, and community members and we can't wait to see the students perform on March 10."



Junior Lauren Wersching sings as junior Gauri Yadav accompanies her on piano during a performance of "California Dreamin" by The Mamas and The Papas during the Bartlett High School talent show. They finished first and will perform at TalentFest. - Courtesy Of Dave Tonge

The acts this year include a vocalist/guitarist and piano vocal duo from Bartlett High, a magician and vocal duo from Elgin High, a vocal trio and single vocalist from Larkin High, a rock band and tap dancing duo from South Elgin High, and a rapper and vocalist/guitarist from Streamwood High.

This year's TalentFest will also feature a performance from Mariachi Joya Dorada de U-46, directed by U-46's Fine Arts Coordinator Jaimie Giraldo. The mariachi ensemble has grown each year since it formed in 2009 and includes about 125 students from Elgin and Streamwood high schools, Abbott, Canton, Ellis, Kimball, Larsen, and Tefft middle schools.



Freshman Megan Kuntz, center, and junior Dario Perkins, right, celebrate as co-winners at the 2020 Talent Festival at Streamwood High School on Feb. 20. They will represent Streamwood in the districtwide TalentFest on March 10. - Courtesy Of John Konstantaras

During TalentFest, the U-46 Educational Foundation will host a Wall of Giving in the lobby of the Hemmens. Donors who take a numbered envelope from the wall can pledge to make a donation to the Foundation in an amount equal to the number on the envelope. With this fundraiser, the Foundation has the potential to raise more than \$5,000, which will be used next year to help send all U-46 fourth-graders to a performance of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra.



Jasmine Boyer, Joshua James and Cassandra Valdes sing "Lay Me Down" by Sam Smith at the 2020 Talent Showcase at Larkin High School on Jan. 23. The Boyer, James and Valdes act was voted to be one of the two finalists in the competition. - COURTESY OF JOHN KONSTANTARAS

"The U-46 community is thrilled to have this opportunity to celebrate our high school performers," said U-46 Educational Foundation Coordinator Dawn Curran. "With TalentFest's focus on the arts, this fundraiser has become a natural fit for the Foundation."



Freshmen John Millard, Sam Politte and Christian Freehill, playing a blues medley, finished second at the South Elgin Talent Show. They will advance to U-46 TalentFest on March 10. - Courtesy Of Dave Tonge

This year's celebrity judges are Jeffrey Pierce, publisher of Bravo Magazine; Jaimie Giraldo, U-46 Fine Arts Coordinator; Lisa Medendorp, U-46 Educational Foundation board member; and two students from Judson University, Carter Grimes and Bryan Tripp.



Kira Baasch and Marissa Lullo, both seniors, finished first at the South Elgin High School talent show with their tap dance performance and will advance to compete in TalentFest. - Courtesy Of Dave Tonge

Additionally, this is the first year TalentFest will feature emcees from each of the district's high schools. Nine students will host the event and share responsibilities introducing acts and interacting with the audience.



Freshman Megan Kuntz performs "Angela" by the Lumineers at the 2020 Talent Festival at Streamwood High School on Feb. 20. Kuntz and Dario Perkins will represent Streamwood in the districtwide TalentFest March 10. - Courtesy Of John Konstantaras

TalentFest is made possible with the support of the U-46 Educational Foundation, the Elgin Cultural Arts Commission, and Judson University.

---The Courier-News---03/06/2020

The march is on toward upgrade

U-46 to spend \$4.6M for major renovation of Elgin High School's Memorial Stadium

By Rafael Guerrero

A \$4.6 million proposed overhaul of Elgin High School's Memorial Stadium calls for new bleachers, track, fencing and press box to be installed and the natural grass field replaced with artificial turf.

If approved by the District U-46 School Board, work could begin as soon as April 7, be substantially completed by Aug. 3 and completely finished by early October, officials said.

Money for the work was included in this year's district's budget, coming from the operations and maintenance funds.

The stadium was built in 1961 but has had no major work done since then other than the installation of a running track in the early 1990s, district documents said.

"The stadium needs repairs to bring it back to the level of other high school athletic facilities," the proposal submitted to the school board said.

The press box, bleachers, track and fencing are in poor condition and require work that district staff can no longer do, documents said.

Cracks in the concrete beneath the home team's bleachers, for example, have resulted in water leaking into the locker rooms below.

A full grinding of the cracks and sealing is required, documents said.

Replacing the stadium's natural grass with artificial turf opens the stadium for uses beyond sporting events and marching band competitions, officials said. Activities that could be held there include physical education classes and team and band practices for Elgin and Larkin high schools.

If approved by the board, the district would hire Chicago-based F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen and Associates to do the work. Included in the \$4.6 million price tag is \$284,000 for additional lighting, \$62,000 for security cameras, \$44,000 for a concrete walkway and \$87,000 for a polyurethane track.

In order to accommodate the work, some spring sports events will have to be moved beginning in early April, Plant Operations Director Sheila Downs said.

"(Elgin's athletic director) has already begun coordinating that, with either schools or nearby locations," Downs said.

The athletic complexes at Bartlett and South Elgin high schools underwent similar upgrades in 2018 and 2019. In those cases, the improvements made it possible for the two schools to host home football games and other events for the first time in their histories.



Pending District U-46 School Board approval, \$4.6 million in renovation work will be done at Elgin High School's Memorial Stadium. (Megann Horstead/Courier-News 2016)

Press Clippings 03/05/2020

There are no U-46 related news stories.

SPORTS

---The Courier-News---03/06/2020

Boys Basketball

Marlowe is an emerging North star

After St. Charles North takes down South Elgin, Linke calls Marlowe ‘the next great big’

By Matt Le Cren



St. Charles East’s Chase Monkemeyer grabs a rebound Tuesday against Streamwood during the second quarter of a Class 4A Elgin Regional semifinal. (Brian O’Mahoney/Courier-News)

Senior center Connor Linke already knows who will replace him after he graduates from St. Charles North.

The Bradley-bound star has complete confidence in 6-foot-7 sophomore forward Ethan Marlowe.

“He can already shoot the ball better than I ever could,” Linke said. “We’re working on post moves all the time in practice, and he’s gotten so much better this year playing against me and watching me.

“He has tremendous upside, and he’s going to continue to develop and be the next great big at St. Charles North.”

Marlowe already is making an impact as the North Stars’ sixth man. He came off the bench Tuesday and played a key role in a 54-40 victory over South Elgin in the semifinals of the Class 4A Elgin Regional.

Marlowe, who finished with seven points and three rebounds, dished three of his four assists to Linke during a 22-4 burst bridging the first and second quarters that gave the North Stars a 27-10 lead.

St. Charles North (22-9) led by double digits the rest of the way. In the third quarter, Marlowe drained a 3-pointer and assisted on another by Colin Nelson, both of which bumped the lead up to 20 points.

“Our ball movement was great in the first half,” Marlowe said. “I knew they couldn’t guard Connor, so every time I got the ball in the high post, I knew Connor was going to have them sealed — just throw the ball inside and he would go finish.

“There’s a lot of trust around the group here, and we make good passes and good plays together.”

Dylan Marquis scored eight points to lead South Elgin (13-20). The Storm had no answer for North’s deft passing, which produced 10 assists on 16 baskets.

The 6-9 Linke was the main beneficiary. He scored eight of his 16 points in the first quarter, making 5 of 6 shots and all six of his free-throw attempts in addition to recording a game-high 13 rebounds and four blocked shots.

“We’re an unselfish group of guys,” Linke said. “We want to pass the ball and get guys easy layups. That’s our brand of basketball.”

It proved to be an efficient brand against the Storm.

Nelson finished with nine points for the North Stars, while Luke Scheffers scored eight points and Christian Czerniak and Max Love each had six. Nelson, Scheffers and Czerniak all had two assists.

Marlowe’s role has allowed him to adjust to the varsity game while still gaining experience behind an all-senior starting lineup.

“It’s a blessing coming off the bench,” Marlowe said. “Just reading the game, seeing what’s looking good on offense and where I need to be on defense and matchups. I’m learning so that’s huge.”

St. Charles North coach Tom Poulin loves Marlowe’s upside.

“He’s a sponge,” Poulin said. “He’s gotten a lot better from the start of the year. He wants to learn and he has a really good role model in Connor. He’s scratching the surface.”

The North Stars have a chance to win back-to-back regional titles for the first time in program history at 7 p.m. Friday when they play St. Charles East in the championship game.

“We want to leave a legacy here at North,” Linke said. “That’s definitely a way to do it.”

St. Charles East 95, Streamwood 69: The Saints took command with a 16-0 run in the first quarter and never looked back.

Chase Monkemeyer scored 23 points, Sean Sullivan added 19 points and Zack Clodi had 16 for St. Charles East (24-7). Jakobe Strong led the Sabres (15-15) with 32 points.