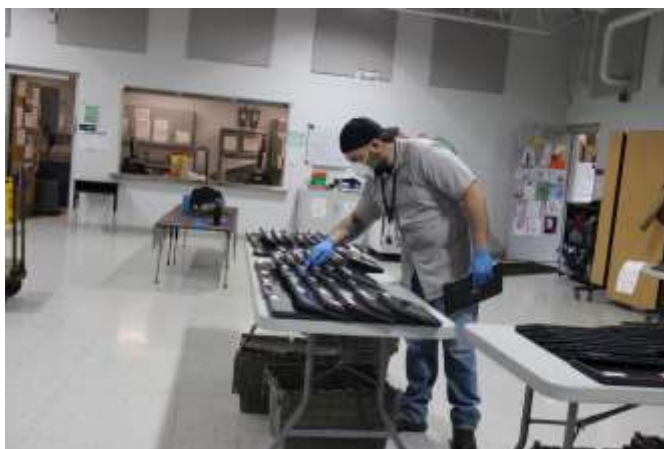


## Press Clippings 03/31/20

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### U-46 launches remote learning for all students this week

By, Rafael Guerrero



School District U-46 collected 5,800 Chromebook computers to distribute to families that did not have at least one at home in preparation for the district's remote learning program, which started Tuesday.

For students in District U-46, school this week will look very different from what they've known previously.

The state's second largest school district rolled out its distance learning plan Tuesday, with thousands of students and teachers working and instructing remotely via computer for the foreseeable future in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

"I will say this, it is exciting in a sense because it is pushing us as a district into different areas," said Josh Carpenter, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning. "It is new for our students and for our staff. There is some excitement for us in these challenging times."

Teachers will communicate electronically, providing information on expectations, how to access and submit assignments, and other details to parents and students, according to a district newsletter. Parents will have to report their child present or absent in daily attendance.

How teachers offer instruction will vary, Carpenter said.

In one example shared by the district, the daily lesson plan of a fifth-grade dual-language teacher at a Streamwood elementary schools asks students to research a Women's History Month assignment using Encyclopedia Britannica and Google Classroom, access in-home workout videos for physical education, and answer questions after watching science videos.

A professional development virtual webinar held Monday for teachers started with a greeting from Superintendent Tony Sanders, who acknowledged the unprecedented task ahead of them as the district shifts to remote learning and the challenges they may face.

He urged staff to maintain good health among themselves and their families, engage parents, find ways to innovate, show empathy, allow for successes and failures, and "do your best."

"I don't expect perfection ... but we just have to do our absolute best for our kids," Sanders said.

Carpenter said some staff prepared for distance learning by participating in voluntary professional development. The district's recent purchase of a new content management

system will prove beneficial in making remote instruction easier and more efficient for students and teachers, he said.

“We have planned for (remote learning) to go as long as we need it to go,” Carpenter said. “But that doesn’t mean we won’t make modifications as we learn more.”

U-46 distributed 5,800 Chromebook computers last week to be given to families that did not have at least one district-issued computer. Initially it was feared there wouldn’t be enough laptops for elementary school students, who weren’t scheduled to receive one until the next school year, but officials were able to find enough devices so they could be lent to those who had none, Carpenter said.

According to an update released Saturday, the district will have an additional 3,900 Chromebook computers to be distributed to families at a later date.