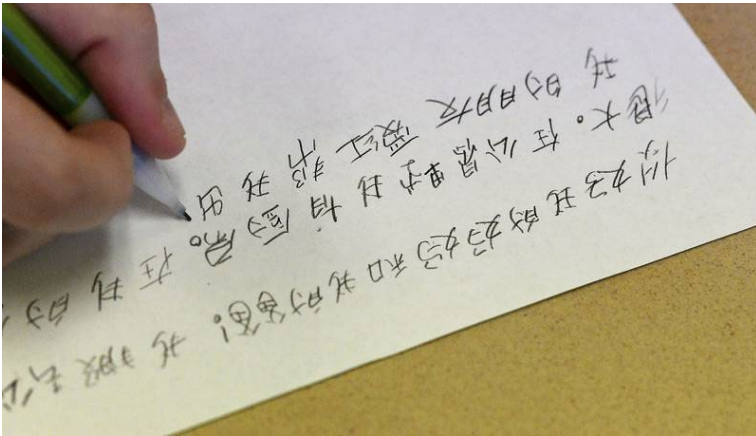


Press Clippings 5/4/2022

Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News

U-46 to offer Japanese and Mandarin classes as electives --- 5/3/2022

By Mike Danahey



School District U-46 is adding Mandarin and Japanese to its curriculum at all five high schools. (Brian OMahoney / Pioneer Press)

School District U-46 plans to add Japanese and Mandarin language classes to its elective offerings at all five high schools in the 2022-23 academic year.

“Initially, Level 1 would be available at all five high schools,” Jacob VandeMoortel, coordinator of K-12 Social Studies and World Languages, told the school board Monday night.

Streamwood High School is the only U-46 school to currently offer Japanese and Mandarin.

The addition dovetails with the Illinois State Board of Education’s decision to require high school students to complete two years of a world language in order to receive their diploma, a change that goes into effect in the 2028-29 school year, VandeMoortel said.

U-46 currently has no world language requirement for its students but it does offer French, German and Spanish language classes.

Streamwood students will continue in the language classes in which they are now enrolled. In 2022-23, another level of Japanese and Mandarin will be added so that by 2025-26, every high school will offer four years of study for both languages.

“This would be two years ahead of the Illinois state graduation requirement,” VandeMoortel said.

The district plans to work with New Zealand-based education tech company Education Perfect to create customized content for the classes.

“Students will have digital textbooks, which they will access through their computers,” VandeMoortel said.

Teachers are excited that what Education Perfect provides can be used in whole group, team or individual instruction, he said.

The program’s estimated over six years would be \$43,560 for digital resources and \$6,792 for initial and ongoing professional development, he said. Assuming 484 students take the courses over those six years, the cost would be about \$17 per student per year, VandeMoortel said.

The new language instructors would likely travel from campus to campus to teach classes, at least for the first year, he said.

“I am so happy to see this being offered eventually to all high schools,” board member Melissa Owens said. “This puts us on par with other high schools that neighbor our district. It sets our students up for success in languages that are really important, especially in the business world.”

Board President Sue Kerr said she also was pleased by the addition of the new classes and the world language requirement, but questioned what kind of impact it might have on student schedules given other requirements and interests.

“This may be making things more difficult for our kids in some ways,” Kerr said.

Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News

Elgin News Digest --- 5/3/2022

By Mike Danahey



Elgin High School teacher Juan Figueroa received the Regional Superintendent Award April 29 at the annual Kane County Educator of the Year awards banquet in St. Charles. (Kane County ROE / HANDOUT)

Elgin High School teacher wins Kane educator award

Elgin High School teacher Juan Figueroa was the recipient of the Regional Superintendent Award during the annual Kane County Educator of the Year awards banquet Friday, April 29, in St. Charles.

Figueroa teaches college-level dual credit courses in Spanish and Spanish Language Arts courses in the school's dual language program.

Other nominees from School District U-46 were Sandy Ritter at Tefft Middle School in Streamwood for Middle School Teacher of the Year; Faviola Ximena Escobar at Larsen Middle School in Elgin for Middle School Teacher of the Year; and South Elgin High School Assistant Principal Steve Tucker for School Administrator of the Year.

For more information, go to kaneroe.org/educator-of-the-year.

South Elgin High student named school board adviser

South Elgin High School junior Angelica Harris will be the student advisor for the District U-46 School Board during the 2022-23 school year.

Harris will attend school board meetings and offer opinions on topics related to students. She is a champion race walker and founded South Elgin High School's environmental club, according to the application she submitted.

Should Harris be unable to serve the entire term, Madeline Conter, currently a junior at Elgin High School, will take her place.

The current student student adviser is Jessica Pearce, a senior in the STEM Academy at Bartlett High School who is graduating in May.

Pearce and other members of the superintendent's student advisory board recommended Harris and Conter from 12 students who applied for the position. The school board approved the recommendations April 25.

Daily Herald

Five Larkin seniors earn Elgin Hispanic Network scholarships --- 5/3/2022

By Rick West

Five Larkin High School seniors are being honored by the Elgin Hispanic Network.

Javier Samaniego, Alejandro Ramirez, Giselle Aguilera, Julissa Navarro, and Ariana Mattos-Cruz will be awarded scholarships ranging from \$1,200 to \$2,000 that they can use for college or a trade school.

"All five scholarship recipients represent hope for our Latino community in Elgin," said Maria Borrero, scholarship/award chair for the Elgin Hispanic Network. "They each have amazing life stories and have been faced with many challenges, including living and going to school during a global pandemic. They all have managed to thrive and persevere academically and in their extracurricular activities."

The scholarships are awarded based on academic performance, extracurricular activities, financial need, community involvement, demonstration of bilingualism and biculturalism, and involvement within the Hispanic community.

The program normally awards scholarships annually to three high school seniors from Elgin who are of Hispanic descent. Additional scholarships were funded this year by the Seigle Foundation and the Elgin Human Relations Committee.

The students and their families will be honored Thursday at a dinner at Pastigel Bakery in Elgin.

The nonprofit Elgin Hispanic Network has awarded over \$65,000 in scholarships to high school seniors in Elgin since 1992. The charitable organization, founded in 1987, consists of over 70 organizations and nearly 150 individuals with a mission to positively impact the Hispanic community in the greater Elgin area.

The Examiner of Bartlett

U-46 Board recognizes students for performances ---

5/4/2022

By Seth Hancock: Note – This story also ran in The Examiner of Streamwood

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** recognized a group of students for their performances at the Illinois Future Problem Solving Bowl as well as the district's music program at its Monday, April 25 meeting.

Students placing first and second at the bowl will compete at the International Future Problem Solving Bowl in Massachusetts this summer. The U-46 students were all coached by teacher Ellen Smith at Streamwood's Glenbrook Elementary School.

"I am very proud of all my teams," Smith said in a district press release. "They endured competing during the pandemic when all the competitions were virtual and now they were able to return to an in-person state meet and do really well. I continue to coach because of the

students' enjoyment, and the benefits I feel they gain from their participation in this academic competition.”

Neda Bazys (Streamwood's Canton Middle School) was first in the individual competition. Sophia Lee, Aiken Navarro, Andrew Punnoose and Zinnia Saher of Glenbrook were first in the junior division. Michelle Cardozo, Nishi Sheth, Katelyn Wong and Svanik Yachavaram of Elgin's Larsen Middle School were first in the middle division and also earned the Bucky Award “given to only one team at the whole competition, for their creative and futuristic solution to a problem,” the release stated.

Mannat Ashta, Yuvan Ganne, Veer Gupta and Risha Lakkadi of Glenbrook were second in the middle division.

The district's music department was recognized after being one of 22 Illinois districts named Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants. This was the fourth straight year for the recognition.

Jaimie Giraldo, fine arts coordinator, said for the release: “In U-46, we already know how wonderful our thriving music programs are, but this recognition allows the public and our greater school district community to recognize the fantastic musical opportunities happening here. We are proud of our music programming, and look forward to continuing to share our successes with our community.”

The Examiner of Bartlett

Variety of expense items approved by U-46 board ---

5/4/2022

By Seth Hancock: Note – This story also ran in The Examiner of South Elgin and in The Examiner of Streamwood

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** approved of \$628,352 in expenditure items as well as two curriculum items for Streamwood High School's Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Action, Design (LEAD) academy at its Monday, April 25 meeting.

The votes were 6-0, board member Eva Porter was absent.

The curriculum items were for the business for innovators course, with an estimated cost of \$601,090 over six years, and the LEAD Launch course, projected to cost \$9,075. Both courses will begin in the 2022-2023 school year.

The largest expenditure was \$210,911 (operations and maintenance fund) with Game Time c/o Cunningham Recreation for playground equipment for Elgin's Harriet Gifford, Hanover Park's Parkwood and Streamwood's Ridge Circle elementary schools.

The current playsets “are in extremely poor condition due to age and require replacement to mitigate safety issues,” the proposal states.

With Northern Illinois University, \$144,000 will be paid by the nation’s taxpayers through grants for staff to obtain bilingual/English as a second language endorsements.

Two proposals, both from the education fund with Warehouse Direct, were presented to relocate staff offices at the Educational Services Center, which is being reconfigured. The district will spend \$101,271 to move financial operations from the first to second floor and \$67,156 to move the teacher effectiveness initiatives and teacher mentor program from the third floor to the first.

Also, with Warehouse Direct, the district is asking for \$74,514 (education fund) to replace 462 elementary school bench-style tables and 594 secondary stool-style tables.

The district will also spend \$30,500 (education fund) with Group Travel Planners to send 40 students from Elgin, Larkin and Streamwood high schools on a summer college tour of historically black colleges and universities in Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Also approved by a 6-0 vote was \$7.9 million in itemized bills.

Daily Herald

Girls soccer: Bartlett, St. Charles North eye conference titles

--- 5/4/2022

By Chris Walker, Daily Herald Correspondent



St. Charles North's Sidney Timms, left, pictured with Benet's Mariana Pinto at the Naperville Invitational, and her North Stars teammates are leading the DuKane Conference race. **Bartlett** also is in good position in its bid to win the Upstate Eight. *John Starks | Staff Photographer*

Bartlett (5-0-1) picked up a huge Upstate Eight Conference victory on Monday night, beating **Elgin** (9-3-1, 5-2) to put itself in an excellent position for another conference title.

The Maroons missed a penalty kick in the first half while the Hawks got a goal from Alexis DeRango on a ball from fellow senior Madison Neer to take a 1-0 lead in the second half. Neer then used her size to score on a header from senior Sabrina Fowler to give the Hawks some insurance.

"She's our tallest player and really wanted to score," Bartlett coach Vince Revak said. "She kind of barreled through the defense and got a great header."

Revak acknowledged that the game wasn't a thing a beauty but that the Hawks stuck with it and kept battling.

"I told them at half that they controlled their own destiny so win the half," he said. "They were ready to go. It got pretty chippy in the second half and was probably our most physical game of the year."

Bartlett still has three conference games remaining against **South Elgin**, Glenbard South and East Aurora while the Rams (10-5-1, 5-0-1) still have Glenbard South, Larkin and Fenton.

Bartlett's only non-wins in conference the past two seasons have been ties to the Rams, including a 1-1 decision on April 27. The Hawks haven't lost a conference game since a 1-0 defeat to Elgin on May 6, 2019.

Elgin's hopes for a conference title soured after back-to-back shutout losses to Bartlett and Glenbard East.

In another competitive conference race, St. Charles North (13-2, 4-0) controls its own destiny in the DuKane Conference. The North Stars host Batavia (10-5-2, 4-1) on May 12 and also have games against Glenbard North (2-11-3, 1-4) and Wheaton North (8-5, 2-2) remaining. The Bulldogs host St. Charles East (13-4-1, 3-1) on Thursday. The Saints remain alive for the conference championship but would need some help from Batavia and also would need to beat Geneva (10-6-2, 1-2) on Saturday and Wheaton North next week.

Tough break for Kaneland:

At least Kaneland coach Scott Parillo, who also coaches the boys' team in the fall, knows what this feels like.

Parillo was experiencing a bit of déjà vu on Saturday as the top-seeded Knights lost the Interstate Eight Conference championship to second-seeded Sycamore in a shootout after battling for 80 minutes of scoreless soccer.

Just a few years ago, it was the Knights who were the second seed that stunned the Spartans in the title game 1-0 on a Tucker Jahns goal with 23 seconds left.

The Knights (12-3-1) had shut out the Spartans 3-0 earlier this year but just couldn't convert any of their scoring chances and then misfired on their first two PK tries.

"It's unfortunate we couldn't finish any of them and had to go to PKs," Parillo said. "So it's second place in conference, which is unfortunate, but next year (the format) changes and there will be a conference champ at the end of the regular season and they are also going to have a tournament champion."

Playing time key for Batavia:

Batavia may not have got the results it was hoping for during last weekend's Tournament of Champions in Burlington, Iowa, but basically its entire roster received playing time and the Bulldogs will look to use that experience to finish the regular season strong as they remain in the hunt for a conference title.

Batavia opened the tournament with a win over Waukee Northwest from Iowa with Bella Lins scoring the only goal. Batavia coach Mark Gianfrancesco reported that 19 of 20 players saw action in the win. The Bulldogs fell, 2-1, to St. Teresa's Academy from Kansas with Jaden Collins scoring off a Ryan Gianfrancesco corner kick. The Bulldogs played 20 of 21 of their available players in that game.

In their finale, five Batavia players were rested for a variety of reasons including simply for a much-needed rest and the Bulldogs were blanked 1-0 by Middleton from Wisconsin.

"We had a ton of chances," Mark Gianfrancesco said. "We just couldn't finish."

2022 Chicago Red Stars all-tournament team:

St. Charles North's Bella Najera and St. Charles East's Anna Champine were named to the first all-tournament team in the Naperville Invitational. Geneva's Caroline Madden was a second team selection while Bartlett's Laney Stark, Burlington Central's Brianna Domaleczny and St. Charles East's Ella Stehman received honorable mention recognition.

State tourney time:

The postseason begins for some of the smaller area schools next week, which includes Class 1A Rosary and Aurora Central, both that are hosting regionals. Rosary welcomes Phoenix Military Academy from Chicago for a semifinal on May 10 while the Chargers host Lisle in a semifinal on May 11.

Burlington Central, Crystal Lake South and Kaneland are among the area's Class 2A schools that are hosting. The Gators take on familiar foe Prairie Ridge in a semifinal with the winner likely meeting Crystal Lake Central for a regional title. Burlington Central is taking on Cary-Grove in its state series opener.

In Class 3A, Geneva, Dundee-Crown, Hampshire, Huntley and **Streamwood** are all hosting. The Vikings are looking for their first regional title in five years and likely would get Wheaton Warrenville South in the title game. Interestingly, the Vikings and Tigers will meet in a DuKane Conference game on May 10. If higher seeds win in the Dundee-Crown regional, the Chargers would get Jacobs in the regional final. Coincidentally, those two squads are set to battle in the Fox Valley Conference on May 10. At Streamwood, the Sabres will first have to defeat Larkin to get top-seeded St. Charles North and then would have to upset the North Stars to advance to face Elgin or Bartlett in the regional title game.

The Examiner of Streamwood

Sabres softball struggle through four-loss week --- 5/4/2022

By Seth Hancock

The **Streamwood** softball team had a tough week going 0-4 in Upstate Eight Conference play, but Sabres coach Colleen Hill said her team is battling as it hopes to finish the season strong.

Against West Chicago, the Sabres dropped a 19-0 game to start the week on Monday, April 25 at West Chicago.

Streamwood lost its starting pitcher to an injury early on as freshman Sophie Saflarski got through just two batters. Freshman Kailey Pawlikowski finished the game in the circle.

“It was a tough week for the Sabres with our pitcher going down on the second batter of Monday’s game against West Chicago,” Hill said. “With that being said our team showed up to compete falling short with our bats and struggling to help ourselves out on defense.”

Streamwood went on to drop three straight home games starting with a 19-2 loss to East Aurora on Tuesday, April 26. The Sabres then fell 15-0 to Glenbard South on Wednesday, April 27 and lost to **Larkin** in an 18-0 game on Thursday, April 28.

The Sabres are now 1-15 overall, 0-10 in the UEC. Despite some struggles in the first half of the season, Hill said the team is eager to finish strong and she said senior Nicole Barcenas is showing some strong leadership and a willingness to play where needed.

“The second half of conference started against Larkin, and we are looking to finish stronger than our first half,” Hill said. “With a young team we just ask for them to give it their all and learn from their mistakes.”

Hill added: “Senior Nicole Barcenas stepped up this week moving from her position at third base to cover shortstop as well as pitching in our game against Glenbard South, her first ever appearance (in the circle).”