



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U-46 Celebrates Black History Month

Schools, District host special programs

ELGIN - While School District U-46 aims to celebrate Black history throughout the school year, our schools and District have been recognizing contributions of Black Americans throughout the month of February.

The District is hosting a Black History Month celebration at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 24, at Larkin High School. It will feature a keynote speech from Roger Simmons, Judson University's Director of Diversity and Spiritual Development, a role in which he works with the university community to develop programs, policies, and practices that promote an institutional culture of diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence. His presentation is entitled "Power, Promise and Purpose: Our Gaze is Fixed!" All members of the U-46 community are welcome to attend.

In addition, U-46 and the Alignment Collaborative for Education are hosting a college admissions panel with representatives and alumni from four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) — Howard University, Tuskegee University, Grambling State University, and North Carolina A&T State University. High schoolers and their family members who want to attend the panel, being held virtually at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23, should register at info.u-46.org/HBCU-Panel.

Teachers and school leaders across the District have also created special activities and events while acknowledging that we cannot limit Black history lessons and celebrations to the month of February. Some of the events are listed below.



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School	Activity	Date
Abbott Middle School	Morning announcements featuring information about HBCUs. Door decorations throughout school. — Black History Month Assembly featuring a step show and a presentation about the National Pan-Hellenic Council, known as the Divine 9, the umbrella organization housing Black Greek-letter organizations	All month — Feb. 24
Bartlett High School	A heritage banquet will feature a celebration of Black history, heritage and culture through emcees, presentations, and food. — Morning announcements feature a Black history fact each day.	Feb. 21 at 5:30 p.m. — All month
Clinton Elementary School	Morning announcements celebrating important figures and events	All month
Coleman Elementary School	Daily presentations given by students over the school's intercom system celebrating notable African-Americans	All month
Glenbrook Elementary School	Daily morning announcements on notable African-American individuals and a display in the hallway	All month
Harriet Gifford Elementary	Dr. Aaron Palmer, an African-American neurosurgeon resident at Northwestern's	Feb. 28 at 10 a.m.



	<p>Feinberg School of Medicine, visits a 6th grade classroom to share his story. Students will decorate the hallway with items related to his visit.</p> <p>—</p> <p>Morning announcements feature a student reading a paragraph in the first person about an important African-American figure in history. Doors decorated for the month.</p>	<p>—</p> <p>All month</p>
Heritage Elementary School	Black History Month Speech Assembly	Feb. 24 at 8:30 a.m.
Highland Elementary	Door decorations throughout school	All month
Hilltop Elementary	Morning announcements focus on important African-American individuals	All month
Larsen Middle School	Daily morning announcements featuring an inspirational quote, and a display in the hallway	All month
Lowrie Elementary School	Principal and assistant principal visit classes for a “read aloud” tied to Black History Month	All month
McKinley Elementary School	Students created artwork of notable African-American figures to display in the hallways	All month
Parkwood Elementary School	Thirteen students will visit Hanover Township’s senior center to read to the elderly and do arts	Feb. 17



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	and crafts tied to Black History Month	
Ridge Circle Elementary School	Black History "Student Open Mic" in the library	Friday afternoons in February
Sunnydale Elementary School	Morning trivia questions tied to Black History Month, plus artwork and projects in the main hallway	All month
Wayne Elementary School	Black History Month laser show	Feb. 27 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Reporters: Please contact Tara Burghart at taraburghart@u-46.org if you would like to attend any of the above listed events.

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School District U-46 serves families in 11 communities: Bartlett, Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood and Wayne, as well as portions of Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago. In total, the District encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley, approximately 45 minutes west of downtown Chicago, and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. More than 35,000 pre-K through 12th graders attend the 57 District schools and programs. To learn more, visit the U-46 [website](#), or like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).