



Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer

School District U-46
Educational Services Center
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U-46.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 7, 2018

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School District U-46 to Demonstrate Appreciation for Veterans with Special Events

*Veterans to visit classrooms to speak about their military
service through partnership with Gail Borden Public
Library*

ELGIN - Students and staff in School District U-46 will support and honor our local veterans and troops with special ceremonies, concerts, breakfasts, and assemblies during the month of November. In addition, dozens of local veterans are visiting schools across the District this week and next to talk to students about their service and their lives in a program being held in partnership with the Gail Borden Public Library.

“By welcoming these veterans into our classrooms, the students get to learn about American history from a very personal perspective, and to better understand the sacrifices that members of the military make,” said Chief Executive Officer Tony Sanders. “At the same time, it’s a wonderful way for our students and staff to have a chance to express their appreciation, in person, for the veterans’ service.”

Tish Calhamer, the community engagement manager at the Gail Borden Public Library, is working with 40 volunteer veterans who will visit more than 100 U-46 classrooms as part of the special program, called Veterans Voices. Veterans who may want to participate in future events are encouraged to visit gailborden.info/veterans to learn more and submit a volunteer application.

“This program draws on the power of personal stories, and reminds students that history is all around them,” said Calhamer.

Amador “Johnny” Vargas, a 90-year-old veteran of the Korean War, visited Mrs. Veronica Aristeo’s Dual Language classroom this week at Garfield Elementary School in Elgin as part of the Veterans Voices program.

“I was proud to be a soldier. I fought for that flag,” he said, pointing to the American flag hanging in the corner of the fifth grade classroom.

Mr. Vargas was drafted into the Army, serving from 1951 to 1953 in the 2nd Infantry Division’s 38th regiment. He described how patrols were organized, how soldiers would take turns in foxholes - one sleeping while the other would be on guard, and he spoke with pride about his division’s reputation as one feared by the soldiers on the other side.

Mr. Vargas learned to play the trumpet as a child, and after he returned from military service (as a corporal) he had his own band. As a retiree, he found his musical talents in demand playing “Taps” at military funerals, and in a moment during which he got wistful, he described for the students how he prefers to play the song, slow and drawn out.

“When I play ‘Taps’ I think of all my buddies I lost in Korea, and I put a lot of feeling into it,” he said. “I want people to feel the emotions I feel.”

Additional Veterans Day events are as follows:

School	Address	Date/Time	Description
Prairieview Elementary	285 Mayflower Lane, Bartlett	Thursday, Nov. 8 at 1:15 p.m.	Veterans Day assembly featuring Scouts serving as the color guard
Larsen Middle School	665 Dundee Ave., Elgin	Friday, Nov. 9 at 8 a.m.	Breakfast for veterans in the library, followed by an all-school assembly with the EHS band performing and two guest speakers



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Lords Park Elementary	323 Waverly Drive, Elgin	Friday, Nov. 9 at 8 a.m.	Breakfast for veterans, and a chorus will perform a medley of songs to honor them. Veterans will visit classrooms to talk to students and answer questions.
South Elgin High	760 E. Main St., South Elgin	Friday, Nov. 9 at 8 a.m.	Veterans Day ceremony
Heritage Elementary	507 Arnold Ave., Streamwood	Friday, Nov. 9 at 8:30 a.m.	Veterans Day Ceremony
Liberty Elementary	1375 W. Bartlett Road, Bartlett	Friday, Nov. 9 at 8:45 a.m.	Veterans Day breakfast and celebration
Canton Middle School	1100 Sunset Circle, Streamwood	Friday, Nov. 9 at 9 a.m.	For each dollar a student or staff member donates the week of Nov. 5, they will receive a strip of paper to honor, remember or thank a service member. The goal is to fill the halls of Canton with a "Chain of Thanks." During a Nov. 9 assembly, the donation will be presented to Salute, Inc., the Canton Band will perform, and the school will honor the veterans in attendance.
Kenyon Woods	1515 Raymond	Friday, Nov. 9	Musical salute to



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Middle School	St., South Elgin	at 9:15 a.m.	veterans and a panel of veterans and active members of the armed forces talking to each social studies class throughout the day
Bartlett High	701 Schick Road, Bartlett	Friday, Nov. 9 at 9:18 a.m.	Veterans Day assembly
Willard Elementary	370 W. Spring St., South Elgin	Friday, Nov. 9 at 1 p.m.	Veterans Day assembly
Kimball Middle	451 N. McLean Blvd., Elgin	Friday, Nov. 9 at 2:30 p.m.	Veterans Day assembly featuring the Elgin VFW, a color guard, and discussion of flag etiquette
Clinton Elementary	770 Mill St., South Elgin	Friday, Nov. 9	Students have written "thank you" letters to veterans, collected candy for troops, and designed a "Wall of Honor." Students and staff are urged to wear red, white, and blue on Friday.
Elgin High	1200 Maroon Drive, Elgin	Friday, Nov. 9	Lunch and performance by members of the EHS band honoring current veterans on staff, in addition to a display outside the main office.
Nature Ridge Elementary	1899 Westridge Blvd., Bartlett	Friday, Nov. 9	"Operation Gratitude" will collect candy to send to troops
Larkin High	1475 Larkin	Friday, Nov. 9	A display outside the



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	Ave., Elgin	through Monday, Nov. 12	Deans' offices will honor Larkin's veterans and active-duty military.
Creekside Elementary	655 N. Airlite St., Elgin	Monday, Nov. 12 at 11:30	Visit from a Veterans Voices speaker to Mrs. Weber's room
Hawk Hollow Elementary	235 Jacaranda Drive, Bartlett	Monday, Nov. 12	Veterans Day celebration
Hillcrest Elementary		Monday, Nov. 12	During the building-wide "Morning Meeting," teachers will lead their students in close reading activities, creating a timeline regarding the history of Veterans Day, and writing "Thank You" letter to veterans to post by their classrooms.
Ronald D O'Neal Elementary	510 Franklin Blvd., Elgin	Monday, Nov. 12	As part of the school's "Socks for Soldiers" drive, new socks can be dropped off at the O'Neal front office. Donations will be given to the Elgin American Legion.
Spring Trail Elementary	1384 Spring Valley Drive, Carol Stream	Monday, Nov. 12	Students and staff will be encouraged to wear red, white, and blue.
Sycamore Trails Elementary	1025 Sycamore Lane, Bartlett	Tuesday, Nov. 13 at 8:30 a.m.	Veterans Day assembly
Garfield	420 May St.,	Friday, Nov. 16	Students will perform



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Elementary	Elgin	at 8:45 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.	a musical program to honor veterans.
Fox Meadow Elementary	1275 Jenna Drive, South Elgin	Through the first half of the month	Students will write "Thank You" letters to veterans in nursing homes.

Reporters: Please contact Mary Fergus at MaryFergus@u-46.org if you plan to attend any of the above listed events or if you want details on the schedule for the program of veterans visiting classrooms.

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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. Nearly 39,000 pre-K through twelfth 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](#).