

Press Clippings 3/1/2022

Daily Herald

Over 200 U-46 high school students participate in annual Student Summit --- 3/1/2022

Submitted by Elgin Area School District U-46

The student advisor to [Elgin Area School District U-46's Board of Education](#) will lead about 220 high school students during the Student Summit on Thursday, March 3, at Elgin Community College.

Jessica Pearce, a senior at Bartlett High School, organized this year's Student Summit, which aims to promote a unified school culture across the district.

"The Student Summit gives its participants the ability to come together and discuss their unique experiences and shared concerns to promote progress in U-46," Pearce said. "It is a day of lively and impactful discussions that ultimately shape school and district policy, and I am thrilled to see what will begin as a result of this year's event."

Students will be welcomed to the summit by U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Lela Majstorovic, and ECC President Dr. David Sam.

After an outline from Pearce on how the day will proceed, the students will listen to a presentation on the first topic of the summit, mental health, and then break into smaller discussion groups. The same format will follow for the other two topics to be discussed: post-secondary success and student engagement.

The students who will attend the summit come from all five of the district's comprehensive high schools as well as the Dream Academy and Central Schools Program. Principals select the students, some of whom serve on the Principal's Student Advisory Council, and the members of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council will serve as facilitators at the tables to keep discussions constructive and positive, and to encourage participation among all students.

Pearce said in her experience, mental health is often the topic that students are most eager to discuss.

"Given that the pandemic has only exacerbated mental health issues for so many people, I would expect that students this year will be just as passionate, if not more so, in discussions concerning how the district can best support students with mental health concerns," she said.

Following the Student Summit, district administrators will review the notes and relay information to school administrators.

High school principals then will conduct a debrief session with their students to discuss ideas that can be implemented at their school. Pearce will also deliver a presentation on the Student Summit to the U-46 Board Of Education in April. Previous summits have led to changes in the district's dress code and influenced Equity initiatives.

Former Student Advisor Eric Loera launched the U-46 Student Summit during the 2016-17 school year. It's continued every year since.

WHO: Board of Education Student Advisor Jessica Pearce, U-46 high school students and administrators including U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Lela Majstorovic, and ECC President Dr. David Sam.

The U-46 Student Summit will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Drive.

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 36,000 pre-kindergarten through 12th-graders attend the 57 district schools and programs. To learn more, visit www.u-46.org, or follow on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News

Elgin News Digest: Ecker Center gets grant from Mental Health Board --- 3/1/2022

By Mike Danahey

Ecker Center receives funding from Hanover board

Ecker Center for Behavioral Health in Elgin was among several social service agencies to share in more than \$35,000 in funding from the Hanover Township Mental Health Board.

Ecker will receive \$4,457 for infrastructure improvements to its main office, 1845 Grandstand Place, Elgin.

Other groups receiving money included \$15,000 to the Ray Graham Association for People with Disabilities to launch a new employment program at **Streamwood High School** and \$15,000 to Community Alternatives Unlimited for technology upgrades to streamline intake processes for home visits with families with developmental disabilities.

Hanover Township serves more than 105,000 residents in portions of the Cook County communities of Streamwood, Elgin, Bartlett, Hanover Park, Hoffman Estates and Schaumburg.

For more information, call 630-837-0301 or go to www.hanover-township.org.

Daily Herald

17 Elgin Area School District U-46 student named All-State Musicians --- 2/28/2022

Submitted by Elgin Area School District U-46

Seventeen **Elgin Area School District U-46** high school students will be recognized by the board Monday, Feb. 28, with an "Accent on Achievement" for their outstanding achievements as musicians, as well as one elementary student who placed first in the state in his age range for his original musical composition.

The high schoolers 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 in Peoria in late January.

"These students, guided by our music teachers, have persevered through two years of a pandemic, working hard to progress and challenge themselves," said Jaimie Giraldo, U-46 Coordinator of Fine Arts. "Their success is a testament to their dedication, drive, passion, and grit, as well as to their teachers' commitment and support."

In addition to the high school honors, Saul Castaneda, a sixth-grader at Sunnydale Elementary School in Streamwood, placed first in his age division in the ILMEA's composition contest. His original music composition, "The Curse of a Legend," was written for a small ensemble of musicians, 10 or fewer.

The board will recognize the following students with "Accent on Achievement" certificates at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28, in room 140 at the Educational Services Center. The U-46 Board of Education meeting will also be streamed live on the district's YouTube [channel](#) and be available for the public to participate via a Zoom webinar at www.u-46.org as well.

Bartlett High School

- Nicole Kamarat, senior, All-State Chorus - soprano I
- Philip Vu, senior, Honors Chorus - bass I

- Abby Juson, senior, All-State Chorus - alto II
- Eric Fox, junior, All-State Chorus - tenor II
- Dinah Garner, senior, All-State Chorus, soprano I

Elgin High School

- Nathan Lopez, senior, All-State Chorus - tenor I
- Shaun Tupaz, senior, All-State Chorus - bass II
- Madeline Conter, junior, Honors Chorus - alto I

Larkin High School

- Ariana Mattos Cruz, senior, All-State Orchestra - violin
- Jackson Baker, senior, Honors Band - trumpet
- Katherine Wynn, junior, composition

South Elgin High School

- Jacob Pangilinan, senior, Honors Chorus - bass I
- Kiera Moore, sophomore, All-State Chorus - alto II
- Nathan Shue, junior, Honors Chorus - bass I
- Mark Berg, senior, Honors Chorus - bass II
- Alejandro Diaz, junior, Honors Chorus - tenor II
- Elijah Clarke, senior, All-State Chorus - bass II

Sunnydale Elementary School

- Saul Castaneda, 6th grade, Composition

ILMEA District IX honors festival

Thirty-one 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:

- From Bartlett High School: Junior Melanie Swan (chorus - alto II), senior Colleen Fleming (chorus - Alto II); junior Anton Tharakan (chorus - tenor II), junior Ethan Tharakan (chorus - bass I), senior Sophie Leo (chorus - soprano I), sophomore Ava Raspatella (chorus - soprano I), senior Alexandra Feltenberger (chorus - soprano II), junior Emily Nowakowski (chorus - soprano II), senior Nafisa Fahim (chorus - soprano II), junior Lauren Neidlinger (chorus - alto I), sophomore Jamielyn Opilla (chorus - alto I), freshman Landon Kim (orchestra - violin), sophomore Zoey Helle-Kuczynski (band - clarinet).
- From Elgin High School: Senior Emanuel Mendez (chorus - tenor II), senior Matthew Khosrowabadi (chorus - bass I) senior Jocelyn Wagner (chorus - alto II), junior Tori Hinson (chorus - soprano II), junior Stephanie Skrabacz (band - clarinet), junior Jessica Wong (orchestra - violin)
- From Larkin High School: Sophomore Mia Legaspi (chorus - soprano I), senior Emmanuel Legaspi (chorus - tenor I), senior Jackson Baker (jazz combo - trumpet), junior Madelyn Dobbeck (band - trumpet), senior Ella Nail (band - clarinet)
- From South Elgin High School: Senior Kyle Moore (chorus - tenor II), junior Christian Freehill (jazz band II - bass), senior Olivia Diehl (jazz band II - bari sax), senior Payton Kraemer (chorus - soprano II), senior Anna Marie Park (orchestra - viola), senior Erinn Karis (chorus - alto I), freshman Amy Skrzbacz (band - clarinet)

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

- From Eastview Middle School: eighth-grader Mahi Patel (orchestra - violin), eighth-grader Alyssa Dzien (orchestra - viola), eighth-grader Makayla Preuss (orchestra - violin), eighth-grader Carl Henricksen (band - trumpet)
- From Kenyon Woods Middle School: eighth-grader Christina Park (orchestra - violin), eighth-grader Annika Johnson (orchestra - viola), seventh-grader Olivia Beach (orchestra - bass), eighth-grader Daniel Vo (orchestra - violin), eighth-grader Hannah Greenberg (band - clarinet), seventh-grader Maggie Altergott (orchestra - viola)

- From Kimball Middle School: seventh-grader Molly Smith (orchestra - cello)
- From Larsen Middle School: seventh-grader Hudson Kim (orchestra - violin)
- From Highland Elementary School: sixth-grader Elina Alvarado (band - trumpet)

Daily Herald

Elgin, Larkin, South Elgin finalists advance to U-46 TalentFest at Hemmens --- 2/28/2022

Daily Herald report



Larkin High School senior Emvi Legaspi and sophomore Emialy Legaspi perform "You are the Reason" by Calum Scott at the school's Talent Showcase on Feb. 15. The brother and sister duo will compete against the other top finishers from the U-46 high schools at TalentFest at the Hemmens on March 8. *Courtesy of John Konstantaras*

Elgin Area School District U-46's annual TalentFest is a talent competition featuring two finalists from each of the five District U-46 high schools. The two acts are chosen by judges or audience votes from the high schools' talent shows, which all took place over the past few weeks.



Larkin High School seniors Kayla Griffin and Joshua James sing "Like I'm Gonna Lose You" by Megan Trainor at the Larkin Talent Showcase. They will compete against other U-46 high school finalists at the March 8 TalentFest at the Hemmens. - Courtesy of John Konstantaras

The performing arts competition will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at the Hemmens Cultural Center, 45 Symphony Way, Elgin. Tickets are \$5 at the door or can be purchased at hemmens.org.



Coming in first place at the South Elgin Talent Show and progressing to TalentFest 2022 at the Hemmens is Feather Report. Members have fallen in love with the jazz genre of music and perform a song called "The Chicken," written by Jaco Pastorius. Playing at their school competition on Feb. 16 are, from left, senior Andrew Hilario, trumpet; senior Dylan Dankel, keyboard; senior Collin Van Der Karr, drums; junior Christian Freehill, bass; and senior Olivia Diehl, saxophone. - Courtesy of Dave Tonge

At TalentFest, all 10 acts perform in the first part. At intermission, each member of the audience votes for their favorite act. The five acts receiving the most audience votes perform again, this time also evaluated by five preselected judges.



The Can Line took second place at the South Elgin High School talent competition and will compete at TalentFest. Made up of percussionists in the school's drum line, from left, are juniors Christopher Avila, Gabbi Flynn and Anna Fleck, and seniors Joe Lortie and Collin Van Der Karr. Their piece was called "Stinken Garbage," and features unique drum parts designed for trash cans. The members have been collectively playing drums for five to six years. - Courtesy of Dave Tonge

Those judges choose the first, second and third place winners. The winners receive a cash prize and a plaque.

The school that has the most audience votes combined between its two acts receives the traveling TalentFest Trophy.

On Thursday, Feb. 24, we ran photos of the TalentFest finalists from Bartlett and Streamwood high schools. Today we're featuring the finalists from Elgin, Larkin and South Elgin high schools.

See more on Facebook at [U-46 TalentFest](#).