

CCSD 46 DISTRICT NEWS

APR 17, 2024



THIRD ANNUAL LAKE COUNTY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

The Lake County Regional Office of Education (ROE) is hosting the Third Annual Educator of the Year Ceremony on May 8, 2024, at the Lake County Fairgrounds. School Districts were invited to submit one nomination per category for the awards. All honorees are invited to attend the event. This year, CCSD 46 has nominated the following outstanding educators, administrator, and support personnel:

- Taylor Burton (AV) -- Classroom Elementary/Early Childhood Teacher
- Jenny Ersler (GMS) -- Classroom Middle School Teacher
- Laura Golden (FS) -- Classroom Diverse Learner Teacher
- Abbi Mehnert (WV) -- Early Career Educator
- Laura Duilan (GMS) -- Student Support Personnel
- Marcus Smith (GMS) -- School Administrator



Also, this year the ROE is providing special recognition for members of custodial and maintenance teams. Mr. Juan Cortez from Avon Center School was selected to represent the CCSD 46 Operations and Maintenance team at the awards event.

More information on the event can be found on the Lake County ROE [website](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS



- April 17 - Early Childhood Center Family Engagement Night
- April 19 - FS/GMS Talent Show 7:00 pm Frederick School
- April 20 - Foundation46 Barnfest 6:00-11:00 pm Jesse Oaks, Gages Lake
- April 24 - Board of Education Meeting 6:00 pm Frederick School
- May 6-10 - Staff Appreciation Week
- May 8 - Late Start Day
- May 15 - Board of Education Meeting 6:00 pm Frederick School
- May 24 - Half-Day/Early Release
- May 27 - Memorial Day - No student attendance
- May 31 - Last Day of School (if no emergency days are used)
- June 2 - Eighth Grade Graduation Ceremonies - Grayslake North High School
Grayslake Middle School 11:30 am, Park Campus 2:00 pm



GRAYSLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

Work is nearly completed on the restoration of Grayslake Middle School. The District is projecting that the construction and cleanup will be completed on Friday, April 26, 2024. With this date in mind, the following has been outlined:

- Friday, April 26 - Last day of construction work
- Monday, April 29 - No school for students - this will be an emergency day so staff can move back to GMS and ready their classrooms for students. This day will not need to be made up at the end of the year
- Tuesday - April 30 - GMS will reopen for student learning

Additional information will be made available to GMS families shortly, including bus schedules.

The following is just some of the work that has been done at Grayslake Middle School since January:

GMS Large Gym

The damaged floor in the GMS Large Gym was torn out and a new floor has been installed, sanded, painted and sealed. The large gym will be ready for students upon return to the school.

Unit Ventilators

There were 32 classroom unit ventilator heating coils that froze and all have been replaced. Many pipes and specific pipe fittings also needed replacement, and that work has also been completed.

Sprinkler System

There were 357 sprinkler heads around the building that froze and all have been replaced.

GMS Kitchen

Multiple heating coils were replaced in the GMS kitchen. This work has been completed, and our kitchen will be ready upon return.

Classroom Restoration

The restoration team has been changing out ceiling tiles, and cleaning the classroom walls and furniture. Flooring replacement in affected classrooms and offices around the building will be completed before the return to GMS.



Because of lead times on certain project items, additional minor work will be completed after the students and staff have returned. Please be assured that the building will be completely cleaned, systems tested, and occupant ready. Staff and student safety is our number one concern.



CCSD 46 PARTNERS WITH ORGANICLIFE SMART FOODSERVICE

The Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 46 has awarded its 2024-2025 school year food service contract to OrganicLife Smart Foodservice of Chicago. OrganicLife is the leading provider of scratch-cooked, chef-driven school lunches in the Midwest. Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, OrganicLife will deliver a transformative school dining experience by prioritizing nutrition, sustainability, and tailored menu options to meet the diverse needs of the district's students.

OrganicLife's pledge to the planet and commitment to sustainability also aligns well with the district's goals. From sourcing local ingredients as much as possible to participating in Farm-to-School events and implementing sustainability initiatives, OrganicLife aims to make CCSD 46 a leader in food service environmental excellence.

Understanding the complexities of dietary restrictions and allergies, OrganicLife prioritizes allergy awareness to ensure every student's needs are met with utmost care. The ability to adapt and accommodate individual dietary requirements sets OrganicLife apart as an inclusive food service provider, which parents can rely on for safety and students can enjoy without concern. Further setting OrganicLife as a trailblazer in student nutrition is their philosophy of actively seeking out and valuing student feedback. Involving students in the development of menus encourages a shared sense of ownership and satisfaction in their daily meals.



organiclife smart foodservice *Sample Lunch Menu.*

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All-Natural Crispy Chicken Nuggets Garlic Shredded Potatoes Local Apples Flourless Whole-Grain Roll 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goaty Cheese Casserole Cheddar Biscuits Roasted Sesame Walleye Local Banach Red Grapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crispy Chicken Teriyaki Roasted Sesame Sweet Rice Soft-Fried Local Vegetables Super Green Broccoli Fresh Bananas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand-Tossed Cheese Calzone Warm Marinated Spaghetti Sauce Super Green Broccoli Fresh Bananas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pasta & Tomato Sauce Roasted Potatoes Salsiccia Vagheire Local Apples White Grain Garlic Twist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classic Hamburger Fresh Baked Whole-Grain Buns Crispy Honey Fries Cherry Slice + Ranch Dip Just-Picked Fresh Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vina Organic Beef Enchiladas Wholly Protein Baked Beans Roasted Cauliflower Just-Picked Fresh Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grilled Turkey + Cheese "Panini" Crusty Bread BBQ Baked Potato Chips Just-Picked Fresh Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nav's Sausage + Meatballs Roasted Green Salad Local Parsnips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fingerfood BBQ Chicken Roasted Potatoes Sweet Corn Succotash Fresh Tomato Oranges Honey Oat Roll
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stuffed Baked Chicken Pizza Baby Carrot Stix + Ranch Local Banach Red Grapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All-Natural Beef Hot Dog Fresh Baked Whole-Grain Buns Crispy Cass. With Fresh Fruit BBQ Grilled Sweet Corn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4-Star Mac 'n' Cheese Whole Grain Whole Wheat Buns Pastrami Pretzel Stick Just-Picked Fresh Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vina Beef + Bean Burrito Cheddar Biscuits Roasted Vegetable Medley Just-Picked Fresh Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All-Natural Chicken Alfredo Whole Grain Potato Pasta Green Beans Parker House Panzanella Roll
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three Buffalo Chicken Sandwichs Crispy Sweet Potato Fries Cherry Slice + Ranch Dip Local Banach Red Grapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pasta + Marinara Super Green Broccoli Fresh Navel Oranges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brusch for Lunch Day! Whole Grain Whole Wheat Stix + Smp All-Natural Turkey Sausage Crispy Fingerprint Hash Browns Just-Picked Fresh Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pasta-Pasta Chicken Tostitos Black Beans + Rice Cheddar Corn-Tomato Salsa Just-Picked Fresh Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stuffed Turkey + Gravy Hand-Sliced Potatoes Cheddar Cornbread Muffin Just-Picked Fresh Fruit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand-Tossed Cheese Calzone Warm Marinated Spaghetti Sauce Super Green Broccoli Just-Picked Fresh Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cherry Chicken + Broccoli Roasted Green Rice Local Veggie Medley Fresh Connecticut Oranges 			

Each meal includes 100% RST-free skin or 1% milk.

OrganicLife, renowned for its commitment to high-quality, healthful meals prepared fresh daily, prioritizes scratch-cooked foods that our students will enjoy as both wholesome and delicious. We are proud to introduce a service that places student health at the forefront which will spark a positive change within our cafeterias.



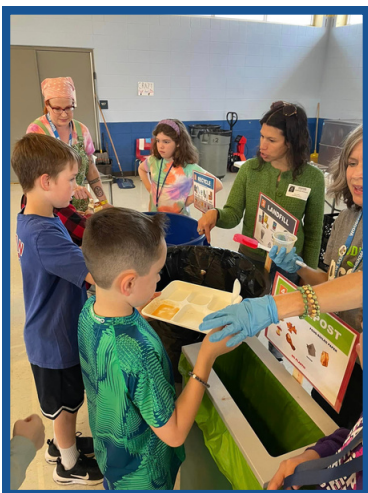
SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE: COMPOSTING AT WOODVIEW

This week, Woodview School began piloting a composting program to target food waste and educate students on recycling and composting practices. Each classroom has selected Composting Ambassadors who help guide their classmates when sorting items from lunch. Parent volunteers will also assist with the sorting of items.

Stations for recycling include a share table for uneaten whole fruit and unopened factory-sealed foods; a liquid disposal container; a recyclable materials station for milk and juice cartons, plastic, cans, glass, and paper products; a station for landfill items like chip wrappers, drink pouches, and plastic bag; a composting station for food and food-soiled paper waste; and a station for stacking food trays and utensils. The organic waste is picked up regularly and delivered to a local commercial composting facility where it is turned into nutrient-rich compost for soil enrichment.

Composting has been ongoing at Park Campus and GMS, through a “Back of the House” initiative where waste is monitored as it leaves the kitchen areas. Since the beginning of the school year, 80 lbs. of waste was recorded at Park Campus and 113 lbs. of waste has been recorded from GMS/GMS East. Plans to initiate “Front of the House” composting throughout our CCSD 46 schools will be underway following the Woodview pilot.

More information on the District’s Sustainability Initiatives including the Woodview program are available on the March 20 [Board of Education meeting video](#) at the 1:38:40 mark.



FAMILY MESSAGES



We heard your request! In response to feedback and comments we received from our community, the District has updated our notification process for families. Families have the opportunity to select how they would like to receive notifications through our Infinite Campus (IC) Student Information System - whether that be the IC mailbox, email, text, or voice messages. We have updated our voice messages to now include the pertinent information that is shared in email and on our district website when we send out notifications - not just a message to see the website for information. Please keep in mind that messages will continue to be available on the district homepage, so if you miss a message or are unsure of the information you can always revisit that communication online.

EARTH DAY - APRIL 22

Earth Day falls on Monday, April 22, and is celebrated annually to raise awareness about the health of our environment and promote changes we can make every day to create a healthier planet. This year's theme, "Planet vs. Plastics," calls for everyone to unite to combat plastic pollution to protect our health.

Visit [Earth Day 2024](#) and [52 Ways To Invest In Our Planet](#) for actions you can take, both big and small, to make a difference.



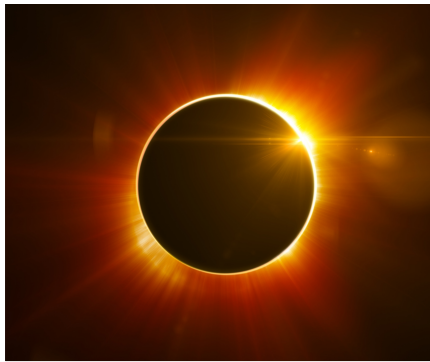
TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024

On Monday, April 8, students and staff were able to step outside the classroom and experience an unforgettable astronomical phenomenon - a near-total solar eclipse. While the CCSD 46 viewing area wasn't in the path of totality, we were still treated to a great show and learning experience for our students. Students and staff donned their special ISO-certified solar eclipse glasses and were able to see a respectable partial eclipse of the sun.

CCSD 46 is partnering with Astronomers Without Borders and collecting the eclipse glasses to recycle and send them to students in Africa, Asia, and South America so they can also safely experience a solar eclipse. If your family has eclipse glasses you would like to contribute, please send them to school or drop off at the CCSD 46 District Office, 565 Frederick Road, Grayslake, IL.



TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024



SUMMER PROGRAMS

This summer we have several programs offered for students.

Illinois Virtual Schools and Academy Summer Bootcamp

Dive into a summer of learning fun with Illinois Virtual Schools and Academy (IVSA)! IVSA is hosting a summer program to provide students the opportunity to receive extra summer practice and live instruction in math and reading to prepare for a successful 2024-25 school year. This program is being offered through the Lake County Regional Office of Education and is available free of charge to any current K-7 CCSD 46 student.

IVSA will run from Tuesday, June 11, 2024 - Thursday, July 25, 2024. Live online morning classes will be held weekly in math and reading on Mondays - Thursdays. Each student will have a math and a reading session between 8-12pm on one or two days per week. Students have access to an online curriculum and can practice anytime during the seven-week period. This program will be held virtually. Parents/Guardians will receive log-in information prior to the start of the program on June 11th. In order to participate, students will need access to a computer (PC, Mac, or Chromebook), and a quiet place to work. If your child will need to use their D46 issued Chromebook in order to participate in this program, please indicate so on the registration form that is linked below.

You can find more information regarding the Illinois Virtual Schools and Academy [here](#).

Please use this [form](#) to register your child for this program. If you would like to register more than one child, complete the form for each child. Registration will be open until Friday, April 26.

Adelante/ML Summer Program

- Offered to any student who is an incoming Pre-kindergartener through seventh grader who has qualified for an English Learner Program or has exited from the program in the past year
- Four weeks from June 3- June 27 (No School on June 19), 9am-12pm Monday - Thursday.
- Information about registration will be provided for students that qualify through their school and/or teacher

Extended School Year

- Recommended students leaving grades Kindergarten through seventh grade that are eligible through their IEP
- Four weeks from June 3- June 27 (No School on June 19), 8am-11:15am Monday - Thursday
- Eligibility for this program is determined through the IEP team and information will be provided through the student's team



FOUNDATION 46 BARNFEST - THIS SATURDAY!



Jesse Oaks Barn, 18490 W Old Gages Lake Road, Gages Lake, from 6:00-11:00 PM. This event is for ALL 21+ aged friends and family members, so bring them along for an unforgettable night of laughter and community spirit!

The auction and raffle are now open to EVERYONE! If you can not attend, you can still support Foundation 46 by buying tickets for some fantastic raffle items from our sponsors, including TWO booze coolers, a 50/50 raffle and some fantastic auction items!

BARNFEST RAFFLES & AUCTIONS

There is still time to buy your tickets to join us this Saturday or participate in the raffle or auction by clicking the Raffles & Auctions link.

Foundation 46 gives CCSD 46 students the opportunity to explore their own ingenuity and create something they may have only dreamed of by supporting projects both in school and in the community. The Foundation has funded grants for makerspaces, robotics, 3D printing, multicultural instruments, and exciting classroom proposals. The Foundation raises funds with their Barnfest event and accepts tax-deductible donations on their website: <https://foundation46.org>

STUDENT SERVICES PROGRAM REVIEW

In an effort to ensure that the district is providing high quality programming and services for all students, in 2023 CCSD 46 began working with the District Management Group to conduct an Opportunities Review of the services for our students. We are excited to share the findings from the Student Services Opportunity Review in the attached District Management Group Executive Summary. The district is looking forward to implementing the action plan that continues to be developed from the information and feedback gathered through the review.

District Management Group's Student Supports Opportunity Review

Community Consolidated School District 46 - Executive Summary

April 2024

Purpose

Community Consolidated School District 46 (CCSD 46) partnered with District Management Group (DMGroup) to conduct a Student Supports Opportunity Review. This review focused on addressing academic challenges, particularly for students with diverse learning needs, such as those with IEPs, 504s, and Multilingual Learners (MLs). The goal was to ensure that all students receive appropriate support by enhancing clarity and alignment in school practices. With a focus on district systems and structures, support for multilingual learners, programming for students with disabilities, and the roles and responsibilities of staff, DMGroup presented its findings and recommendations based on a comprehensive mixed methods approach.

Methodology

To fully assess the practices and outcomes of CCSD 46, DMGroup combined quantitative and qualitative methodologies to provide a more holistic understanding of the district's operations and challenges. Quantitative data was collected in the form of student outcomes, staffing, schedule data, and schedule analysis in the fall of 2023. Concurrently, qualitative data was collected through interviews, focus groups, and survey questions involving key stakeholders. The following is a list of stakeholders that were interviewed:

- Special Education Facilitators
- Special Education Teachers
- General Education Teachers
- MLL Teachers
- Program Assistants
- Speech and Language Pathologists
- Occupational Therapists
- Physical Therapists
- School Psychologists
- Social Workers
- Reading and Math Specialists
- Instructional Coaches
- Behaviorists
- Principals and Assistant Principals
- Parents

To understand student outcomes and quantitative data in CCSD 46, DMGroup utilized the following data sources:

- Illinois Report Card data
- District-provided data
 - Financial
 - Staffing
 - Student placements
 - Identification rates
 - Special education referral rates, including dual identification of multilingual students
- Schedule sharing data

DMGroup also facilitated the implementation of its Change Management Framework to foster leadership and promote change. A component of the framework involved establishing a guiding coalition of district, school, and union leadership to provide feedback, prioritize considerations, and determine actionable steps.



Commendations

Through the above analysis, DMGroup identified the following strengths in the district.



Authentic Collaboration – Staff spoke consistently about the full team approach amongst many different practitioners to meet the needs of students.



Behavioral Support – Staff expressed that students are receiving valuable social-emotional and behavioral supports from specialists as a result of the partnership with SURPASS.



Elementary Reading Interventions – Staff mentioned that consistent, staggered elementary intervention blocks with content-strong specialists and an established curriculum are in place for literacy.



In-District Placements – Staff shared that the district is committed to keeping as many students in-district as possible by cultivating in-house programs for students with more severe needs.

Opportunities and Future Considerations

The following are opportunities and future considerations that have been identified for CCSD 46 to consider for implementation to improve the systems, structures, and supports for students.

Strengthen District Communication Structures

- **Create a proactive plan for communicating with staff around student supports to improve staff effectiveness and clarity around important topics.**

Staff at CCSD 46 have emphasized the need for clearer communication from the district office, especially regarding new initiatives. This includes a specific gap in understanding the role of the Special Education Facilitator and its impact on district procedures. This communication challenge, rather than an effectiveness issue, requires deliberate dissemination of critical messages about student support to school leadership and staff by district leadership. CCSD 46 should consider developing consistent approaches for communicating critical information, refining, and clarifying the role of the Special Education Facilitator, and enhancing their capacity as 'On the Ground' leaders to bolster communication between schools and the district office.

Reestablish and Cultivate Consistency in Student Services

- **Continue to refine strong IEP writing practices, clarify expectations for direct service, and add checks for school transitions to guarantee consistent and equitable services for students with disabilities.**

School staff shared concerns regarding the alignment of services with students' needs, leading to inconsistencies in support and school resources. DMGroup's assessment revealed variations in the time spent by special education teachers supporting students, suggesting potential inconsistencies in service approaches. To address this, clear parameters and "look fors" can guide IEP writing and meetings, with input from the special education facilitator and case manager. CCSD 46 could consider the following actions: defining expectations for direct service (time spent with students) to special education teachers across campuses, ensuring consistent approaches and processes in IEP writing and services, and strengthening procedures for student transitions, including a thorough analysis of IEPs prior to transition years and enhanced communication between schools and administrators.



Develop Staff Skill to Support Multilingual Learners

- **Prioritize professional development and coaching that explicitly targets supporting multilingual learners.**

Staff have highlighted the need for additional professional development to effectively support multilingual learners. DMGroup found that instructional coaches, inclusive of the bilingual coach, spent little of their time on coaching and staff development related to supporting multilingual learners, due to other competing job responsibilities. This may be creating a barrier for teachers providing adequate support to multilingual learners. To enhance support for multilingual learners, it is recommended that all staff are engaged in collective learning to enhance their understanding of supporting multilingual populations, addressing staff skill gaps through tailored professional development, especially in grades 5-6 and 7-8, and provide comprehensive training and support to instructional coaches to emphasize linguistically responsive teaching in their interactions with teachers.

Define an Instructional Coaching Model

- **Reestablish the priorities of instructional coaches and ensure time is spent supporting and coaching teachers.**

At CCSD 46, instructional coaches find their roles and responsibilities somewhat unclear and are in the process of establishing a unified coaching model. Despite having diverse duties, coaches should primarily focus on coaching teachers weekly. Refining the coach's role and establishing a clear coaching model is essential to ensure impactful support. Insights reveal coaches could spend more time on coaching versus other responsibilities. A unified coaching model will continue to align practices and priorities, maximizing impact. Clear role definition will emphasize effectiveness in supporting teacher growth and student achievement. Since this data was gathered, work has been done by the Teaching and Learning Department over the past school year to refine their role and has proactively addressed some of the reported challenges.

Clarify the Role of Program Assistants

- **Establish a clear vision for program assistants in the district and refine their role and responsibilities.**

DMGroup found that there was variation reported in the amount of time that program assistants spent directly supporting students. Additionally, staff have voiced concerns about the lack of clarity and training in effectively utilizing program assistants. There are also many types of program assistants in CCSD 46 including special education, reading, MLL, and 1:1s and reporting structures were unclear. While special education program assistants primarily focused on supporting academics, their allocation of time for collaboration with teachers or professional development remained unclear, which is crucial for instructional success. Effective training and delineation of roles and responsibilities are essential for leveraging program assistants as valuable resources for student success.

Prioritization

To guide the district in addressing these opportunities, DMGroup facilitated a session with the guiding coalition to build an opportunity prioritization matrix based on the impact and feasibility of opportunities. The guiding coalition prioritized the opportunity, '*Consistency in Student Services.*' The guiding coalition then engaged in an implementation workshop to establish a comprehensive vision and clear objectives. The plan aims to ensure consistent and equitable services for students by defining expectations, ensuring IEP consistency in approach, and strengthening procedures for school transitions, thus maximizing access and

support across the district. Ultimately these approaches will ensure support is individualized to meet the specific needs of students.

Next Steps

The next steps for CCSD 46 leadership are to develop action plans for the prioritized opportunities, and to continue further communication of these findings to staff and the community. This strategic, prioritized approach will ensure there is sustained change in district-wide systems and structures to support classrooms and improve the achievement of students with or without disabilities.