



Little Axe Public Schools
2000 168th Ave N.E.
Norman, OK 73026
(405) 329-7691

Jay Thomas
Superintendent

4.12.2018

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Patrons of Little Axe Public School,

First of all, I would like to thank each of you for your support over the past two weeks as we have worked to get better funding for our school! This effort has been successful in getting more funding for our classrooms as well as improved teacher support. This letter is also to inform you that Little Axe Public School will resume classes on Monday, April 16, 2018. Little Axe Public School will enter “phase 2” of our support of the walkout while resuming classes. Each day, we will be sending a bus to the Capitol building. This bus will be transporting selected teachers from each site, students from the site selected for that day and parents from the selected site who wish to ride as well. Monday, April 16, 2018 will include selected students and parents from the High School site, Tuesday, April 17, 2018 will include selected students and parents from the Middle School site and, Wednesday, April 18, 2018 will include selected students and parents from the elementary site. Parents choosing to ride the bus will need to be approved by the principal’s office before riding. If you would like to ride the bus with your child, please let your principal know as soon as possible. Plans for Thursday and Friday will be announced during the week of April 16. By sending a delegation, our school and community can begin “phase 2” and continue to support the walkout while having class and serving the students as well as complete testing requirements set by both the State and Federal government.

As a “thank you” for all of your support over the past two weeks as well as, more importantly, the past several decades, there will be a special community appreciation event on April 27th, 2018. The community appreciation event will include a ceremonial ribbon cutting and open house at both new Safe-Rooms. The event will begin at the High School Gymnasium at 6:00 pm where Hot Dogs, chips and a drink will be served with speakers presenting. A ceremonial ribbon cutting will take place for the secondary Safe-Room at 6:30 pm. After the ribbon cutting at the secondary site, we will move to the elementary site Safe-Room, where dessert and punch will be served and a second ceremonial ribbon cutting will take place at that time. The Safe-Rooms will be open for a walk through and questions will be answered during the event. We anticipate concluding the event by 7:30 pm. If you have questions about this event, please do not hesitate to contact my office or your principal’s office.

I would like to review some of the reasons for the teacher walkout. Over the past several years, legislators have been elected because of promises made to help the education community. Many

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promises were made and not kept during each election cycle. For over 10 years schools have received “just one more cut” for the year. Over the past 3 years, Little Axe Public School budget has been cut over \$300,000! If we are to ensure the educational success of our students, better funding is a must! Across the district, we have less certified staff than we had 3 years ago due to significant budget cuts. The results of the teacher walkout will help remedy this issue. The teacher shortage is real, better pay and increased funding was needed to recruit and retain teachers. Throughout our communities, the statement has continually made that something must be done to take care of our schools. While the budget is not perfect and all funding has not been completely restored, something was done that helped schools significantly. Continued efforts through “phase 2” and continued community involvement will support the effort to fully fund our schools.

Again thank you for all of your support of Little Axe Public School! Thank you for your patience over the past two weeks! Thank you for allowing us to have a part in your child’s life! As we return to school, we are excited to see all students again and are excited to finish out the school year on a successful note! Since we had to use inclement weather days during the ice storm, and to make up for days missed, Little Axe Public School will be in session 5 days a week through the end of the school year. Further information will be given regarding other make-up days in the near future. Communication with the State Department of Education will determine if we will need to attend school on May 29 and 30 to complete our required hours. I will be sharing that information as it comes available and as I am able to have that conversation with them.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding!

Professionally,



Jay Thomas,
Superintendent,
Little Axe Public School

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