Freedom Elementary Newsletter

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Word of the Week

Optimism

To anticipate the best possible outcome.

Quote of the Week

"They can because they think they can."

August 30, 2018

Lawton Public Schools Foundation

On Friday, Sept. 21, you will have an opportunity to invest in the future when the LPS Foundation hosts its annual fundraiser breakfast. The breakfast will take place at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 2632 Cache Rd. The all-you-can-eat buffet will be served from 6:30 – 9:00 am. Tickets are $10.00 and are available at the Freedom Office and the LPS Communications office in the Shoemaker Educational Center. They will also be available at the door on the morning of the event. All proceeds from the breakfast go to the foundation's permanent endowment fund. Last year, the foundation was able to award almost $100,000 in grants to teachers which funded projects involving math, science, music, literature, technology, and mentoring programs. The students and teachers of Lawton Public Schools thank you in advance for your support!!

School Hours

The school day begins at 9:00 am and ends at 3:45 pm. Doors will open at 8:40 am for all students to go immediately to their classroom. To ensure the safety of all students and staff, parents will not be allowed to enter the building past the main entry area unless volunteering or have a scheduled appointment, which includes morning drop off.

Freedom Parent Handbook, 2018-2019

LPS Guiding Principles

At Freedom our teachers and staff are dedicated to the following:

- **We equitably serve our students' needs as career-bound citizens.**
- **We celebrate our diversity within a culture of shared professional ideals.**
- **We foster investment in Freedom through communication, collaboration, and transparency.**
- **We promote healthy and fit lifestyles as we learn, do, and teach.**

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission at Freedom Elementary School is to educate all students to achieve their highest level of academic performance, fostering the development of a positive self-esteem, as well as creating healthy/fit career bound citizens.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision at Freedom is to provide a safe and secure environment that motivates and empowers ALL students.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

August 31- Professional Day (NO SCHOOL)

SEPTEMBER

September 3 – Labor Day (NO SCHOOL)
September 14- Freedom Color Run
September 17 – Constitution Day (Wear red, white or blue)
September 21 – End of 1st 6 weeks
September 21- LPS Foundation Breakfast 6am-9am
September 24 – Progress Reports Home

October

October 5- Picture Day
October 12 – Professional Day (NO SCHOOL)
October 15-16- Parent Teacher Conferences 4pm-7pm
October 17-19 – Fall Break (NO SCHOOL)
October 22- Red Ribbon Assembly 10:00am
October 25- PTA Monster Mash 6pm-8pm

November

November 1-2 – Book Fair Preview
November 5-9- Book Fair!
November 12- Veterans Day Observed (NO SCHOOL)
November 21-23- Thanksgiving Break (NO SCHOOL)

PTA News……

Freedom Color Fun Run!!

When: Friday, September 14 at 12:30pm

Who: Freedom students and family

Cost: $5.00 per Student, $8.00 per Adult

Where: Freedom Elementary

Pre-K and Kindergarten will run first, making one lap around the parking lot. 1st and 2nd grades will run 2 laps. 3rd and 4th grades will run 3 laps. 5th grade will run 4 laps. There will be color stations where volunteers will throw non-toxic colored powder on the runners.

Runners are encouraged to wear sunglasses and a bandana to cover their eyes and mouth. All participants should wear shorts and white shirts with swim suits underneath, and tennis shoes. After the run, all students will have the opportunity to be sprayed by a Fort Sill fire truck! All students should bring a change of clothing and a towel.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The following procedures have been established for unexcused absences:

1. **Absences**

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children attend school on a regular and punctual basis. The purpose is to help students learn daily and be educationally prepared for the next school year. The District believes that teaching children the importance of regular and punctual attendance also helps them mature into responsible adults who will one day be prepared for the world of work. Children are expected to be in school a minimum of ninety percent (90%) of the time. The following steps assist in accomplishing this goal.

A. Before 9:15 a.m. on the day of any absence, it is the responsibility of the student's parent/guardian/legal custodian (hereafter referred to as the parent) to notify the school secretary or building administrator regarding the reason for the absence. In the event the school is not contacted, a school official will attempt to contact the parent.

B. If a student has three unexcused absences, a school official will contact the child's home, and the child's parent will be required to meet with the school official to discuss the unexcused absences, as well as the student's academic standing and potential for success in school.

C. In accordance with Oklahoma School Law (Section 232), when a child is truant four (4) or more days or parts of days within a four-week period or is absent without valid excuse for ten (10) or more days or parts of days within a semester, the district office of student services shall report such absences to the Comanche County district attorney. *The district attorney has responsibility for initiating legal proceedings pursuant to Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statues. (70-10-106).*

2. **Absences and the Ability to Receive Credit**

No student shall receive semester credit in a course in which the student is absent more than ten (10) days per semester, excluding approved activity absences, court appearances, religious observances or illnesses documented by a licensed medical practitioner. The building principal shall have discretionary authority to approve any make up or waiver for days missed beyond the 10-day limit.

3. **Absence and Removal from Attendance Roll**

In compliance with Oklahoma School Law (Section 387/Part 2), a student who has been absent without a valid excuse for ten (10) consecutive days shall be removed from the district's attendance roll beginning with the eleventh day.

In the event your child is absent from school, please call the school office before 9:15 on the day of the absence. It is school policy that if an excuse is not received within three days of the absence, it will be recorded as an illegal absence. A doctor's note is required for verification of a student absence.