



Noble Public Schools

Frank Solomon, Superintendent

P.O. Box 499 / 111 S. 4th St. Noble, OK 73068

Phone: 405-872-3452 / Fax: 405-872-3271

www.nobleps.com

July 13, 2020

Good Evening Students, Parents, Guardians, Faculty and Staff,

As I sit here tonight, one month before the start of our 2020 School Year, I find myself struggling with what to say to you. I know there are still many unknowns and things are continually changing from day-to-day and week-to-week, as we prepare for the 2020-2021 School Year. I know that many of you are struggling with the decision on what to do with your children next month. I also understand the fear and uncertainty that many are facing as they prepare to make the decision as to what is best for their children. That is a decision that I am also facing as I am making the decision on what to do with 2,900 children, plus guiding three of my own grandchildren that are school-aged this year.

I wish I had all the answers, but trust me that I am invested in this school system, this community and this town. I will never do anything to knowingly harm your child or the children of anyone else. Since March 10th, me and my leadership team have been meeting as the possibility of a school closure became apparent. We did not have a spring break, or even much of a summer break. We have spent a great deal of time listening, learning, and strategizing on how to re-open our schools come this fall. We have been meeting with the State Department of Education, State Department of Health, the Emergency Management Team, fellow superintendents, school administrators, and many more so that we can be ready when asked to re-open. We have asked for feedback from our staff, from the community, and from anyone that would have an opinion on the matter at hand. We knew this would open the doors for criticism, and it has. Several have taken to social media to share their concerns without contacting me or any administrator. Our intent was not to cause friction with our stakeholders or between stakeholders, it was simply to ask for feedback as we look towards re-opening. Attempting to use technology and social media for collaboration, support, and feedback, has become a platform for bullying, negativity, and division, not just in our district, but around the country.

Since Spring Break, we have spent many days and weeks cleaning and disinfecting our facilities. We have continued to purchase PPE for our students and staff. We have invested in state-of-the-art equipment to help insure that are facilities are as safe as they possibly can be. We are slowly bringing back students and staff to our campuses, practicing safe social distancing habits while continuing to clean. We have continued our feeding programs into the summer months as we try to ensure that no child be left hungry. We have purchased and are continuing to purchase, technology devices to allow us to become a 1-to-1 district as soon as possible, hopefully by the first day of school. We have been developing our own teacher-created curriculum for online learning so that students have the privilege of continuing to be a Noble Bear regardless of the educational model. We are providing for 2020-2021 the choices of In Person and Virtual/Online Learning for all grade levels. We are attempting to provide the services that our children so desperately need, but I need your assistance

If you would please do me a favor and complete the survey at the link below which will give us additional feedback as we make the final decisions for the school year ahead. And, before you share your comments on social media, please note that we welcome the opportunity to explain. As I stated earlier, this is not a simple decision or one that I take half-heartedly. This is not just a decision that me and my administration team are dealing with, but all school systems are as we want to do what we have been tasked to do, while taking care of our students and staff. I know they would all appreciate a special thought or prayer as we look to the upcoming month(s). I love the use of Social Media as it allows me to share the great things we are doing, plus I get to share my grandkids with you. But sometimes the negativity and continuous complaining makes me question why I do. We are so much better together than we are alone. My door is always open. Go Bears!

Respectfully,

Frank Solomon
Superintendent
Noble Public Schools