



TIGER TRACKS

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF BROKEN ARROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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From the Superintendent Input needed for high school future

Last week, I had the opportunity to spend most of our professional development day with the high school staff. During my time with them, I participated in engaging conversation, much of which surrounded the topic of our high school configuration. The conversation was lively and insightful, and it was one of the best discussions I have had with teachers in my time at BAPS.

Although the topic of multiple high schools has been talked about for many years, our community has yet to have a dialogue involving all stakeholders. It is apparent that the time has come to remedy this. Over the next 18 months, we will conduct a series of activities to gain input from all stakeholders including parents, staff, students and patrons. We will enlist the help of a third party to guide us through this process to ensure we consider all aspects of the multiple high school issue.

As we engage in this conversation, I would encourage everyone to keep an open mind and remain focused on what is best for our students. Often, stakeholder opinion depends on personal circumstances and our own experiences. Throughout this process, it is important for all of us to be willing to consider the possibility of a paradigm shift. Although everyone has a personal story that influences their preference, at the end of the day, we must focus on finding a solution that will truly provide the best education possible for Broken Arrow students.

I look forward to discussing this topic with each of you in the coming months. Thank you in advance for helping us make our district the best it can be.



Star Awards Gala honors employees April 16

To congratulate and honor its “stars,” Broken Arrow Public Schools (BAPS) combines many of its yearly awards ceremonies into a single celebration full of gratitude, laughter and applause. At the second annual Star Awards Gala, the district will recognize Site Teachers of the Year, the Support Employee of the Year, retirees and service award recipients in the Tulsa Renaissance Hotel’s Grand Ballroom on Thursday, April 16, at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m., and dinner is served at 6:30 p.m.

Ticket sale dates are March 23 through April 3. Tickets are \$10 each, cash or check only, and will be available for purchase at any school site and the Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center box office.

“It is an honor to celebrate our employees who continually make it their mission to represent Broken Arrow Public Schools with incredible leadership and excellence every day,” BAPS Superintendent Dr. Jarod Mendenhall said. “The dedication these individuals show to our students and staff is what makes Broken Arrow such a special place.”

During this sit-down dinner event, 27 Site Teachers of the Year are formally introduced, five are named finalists and one is honored as the District Teacher of the Year. This individual goes on to represent BAPS at the State Teacher of the Year Competition this summer.

In addition, five staff members will be recognized as Support Staff of the Year finalists with one being presented with the Beyond and Above award. These employees are nominated by teachers, administrators, colleagues and supervisors for consistently going the extra mile in support of the district’s goals and objectives.

Throughout the evening, a number of retirees and service award recipients who have contributed 20 or more years of service will also be recognized for the positive impact they’ve made throughout their career.

Seating is limited and tickets must be purchased by April 3 for those who wish to attend. Teacher of the Year and Support Staff of the Year honorees receive a specified number of complimentary tickets for their family and guests. Seating at the event is general seating, filling on a first-come-first-served basis. Business casual attire is preferred.

Important Dates to Remember:

- March 9: Site Teacher of the Year RSVPs due
- March 25: Support Staff of the Year and Service Award recipient RSVPs due
- March 23-April 3: General admission \$10 tickets on sale at any school site or BAPAC
- April 1: Deadline to notify the HR Department of retirement to be recognized at the Gala (Please contact 918-259-5740 for more info.)
- April 16: Star Awards Gala dinner at 6:30 p.m. and program at 7 p.m.



OH, THE PLACES THEY’LL GO...

In support of its ongoing literacy efforts, BAPS is joining with school districts across the nation to celebrate Read Across America — a weeklong event focused on promoting the importance of reading and remembering Dr. Seuss, one of the most beloved children’s authors of all time. Please join us March 2-6 as we encourage fun and creative literacy opportunities for Broken Arrow students through dress-up days, reading challenges, book donations and guest reading. Anyone interested in volunteering their time to be a guest reader can sign up at any school site within the district. Readers are needed at all times throughout the school day, so staff members are encouraged to invite others to participate.

“I am appreciative of the increased and continued community support of this event, and I hope many choose to participate,” Mendenhall said. “After all, according to Dr. Seuss, ‘you’re never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.’”

For other ways to participate, please [click here](#).

IT’S A GREAT DAY TO BE A TIGER!
Broken Arrow Public Schools is an equal opportunity educational institution.





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DATES TO REMEMBER

February 28 – District wide Chess Tournament, Centennial Middle School, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

February 28 – Strike Out MS, third annual baseball event at BAHS, begins at 12 p.m.

March – National Reading Month

March 2-6 – Read Across America week

March 12-13 – Parent-Teacher Conferences

March 13 – No School

March 16-20 – No School, Spring Break. (District administrative offices closed March 19-20.)

March 23-27 – District wide Food Drive (goal: 18,000 pounds of food/1 can per student)

March 23-April 3 – General admission Star Awards Gala tickets on sale at any school site or BAPAC

March 26 – Multicultural Diversity Festival at Tulsa Technology Center

March 28 – Sweet Cravings Fundraiser for Margaret Hudson Program. Learn more [here](#).

April 9-April 11 – BAHS Spring Musical, “Oliver!”

April 12-April 18 – National Library Week, Librarian Appreciation Week

April 16 – Star Awards Gala at Tulsa Renaissance Hotel Ballroom, 7 p.m.

**The above list is not a comprehensive list of all district events but represents events that will impact a majority of our employees or campuses, or that are large in scale. For a comprehensive list of events, [click here](#) and apply the appropriate filters.*