The school year is in full swing! Hopefully your family has settled into a comfortable routine as you navigate school and work days as well as after school activities and family time.

In this month’s newsletter you’ll find lots of information and resources.

- Get ideas for building connections with your child as well as your child’s teacher and counselor.
- Learn more about valuable programs and supports offered by the district.
- Be the one to save a life with ways you can act to help someone in crisis.
- Support regular school attendance with a few simple strategies.
- Access information about financial assistance, health insurance, and low-cost internet.

**Connect with School Counselors**

Broken Arrow Public Schools is committed to providing high quality school counseling services for all students and families. If you need to speak to your school counselor, you can email them with your contact information and they will reply either by phone or email depending on the need.

For easy access, click HERE for a list of names and email addresses for school counselors in the district.

**Conversation Starters**

"Not sure how to talk to teachers about your child’s struggles in school? Try these conversation starters. They’ll help you bring up topics like school services, evaluations, behavior challenges, and more."

**Make Matching "Thinking of You" Bracelets**

Make matching “thinking of you” bracelets with your child and wear them when you’re apart. Whenever you look at the bracelets, you will be reminded of each other and they can help your child be brave whenever you aren’t together.

Click HERE to learn more!

35 Fresh New Ways to Ask "How Was Your Day?"
District Supports Available to Students & Families
Your family may be eligible for one or more of the valuable resources provided by the district. Check out the information below for more details.

Families in Transition
If your family lives in any of the following situations:
- doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship
- in a shelter
- in a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation
- in a car, park, abandoned building, or bus station
your school-aged child(ren) might be able to receive help through a federal law called the McKinney-Vento Act.

Contact the district's McKinney-Vento Student Support Specialist for more information or click HERE.
Valeri Radford 918-259-7497 vradford@baschools.org

Students in Foster Care
According to the Child Welfare Information Gateway, "children and youth in foster care are more likely to have difficulty in school because of the complex challenges they face outside of the school environment, including decreased placement stability and subsequent school changes, exposure to traumatic experiences, etc..."

Such circumstances can greatly impact their academic progress. In accordance with federal and state laws, Broken Arrow Public Schools partners with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services to ensure educational stability and minimize educational disruptions for students in out-of-home care.

If you need assistance or support for a student in kinship or foster care, please contact the district Foster Care Liaison.
Jennifer Price, Social Services Coordinator
918-258-0474 jlprice@baschools.org

Students with Native American Heritages
The Indian Education programs at Broken Arrow Public Schools are possible because of two federal grants – Title VI and Johnson O’Malley (JOM). These grants provide educational services and supplemental programs to students with Native American heritages.

For more information about eligibility and enrollment for these services, please click HERE to visit the Indian Education webpage.
You may also call Shelly Blackmon, Enrollment Clerk at 918-259-5734 or siblackmon@baschools.org

Students with Special Needs
The Special Services Department provides an array of services to exceptional students requiring additional services and supports to meet their educational needs. Students and their families receive the most appropriate level of programming using a range of options tailored to the individualized needs of the student within state and federal guidelines.
Click HERE for more information.

Students who are English Learners, Immigrants, or Bilingual
Broken Arrow Public Schools provides high quality, research-based English language instruction as well as cultural and community support in order to engage English Learners (EL), bilingual and immigrant students in grades Pre-K through 12. Students receiving these services represent more than 50 different countries and 57 different languages.

For more information, please click HERE.
You may also contact Jennifer Betsworth at jbetsworth@baschools or Andrea Salazar at asalazar@baschools.org.
Broken Arrow Provides Lifelines Suicide Prevention Curriculum for Students

Broken Arrow Public Schools offers secondary students information about youth suicide, and more importantly, what they can do if they are worried about themselves or a friend.

We set strict standards for the suicide-prevention programs that we have investigated:

- They needed to show their effectiveness through research.
- They needed to send accurate messages about suicide that are grade-level appropriate.
- They needed to emphasize the importance of help-seeking behavior.

BAPS selected Lifelines Prevention curriculum which exceeds these criteria. Because research has demonstrated that programs presented only once have little lasting impact, the Lifelines Prevention curriculum is designed to be delivered in four forty- to forty-five-minute modules that reinforce messages about help-seeking. For more information about this program, please contact your school's counselor. While all the counselors have been trained in Lifelines, the focus at the elementary level is on age-appropriate, social-emotional life skills.
Be Here BA--Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Click HERE for simple strategies for supporting regular attendance.

Click HERE for the district’s Attendance Policy.

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preschoolers</th>
<th>Elementary Students</th>
<th>Middle and High Schoolers</th>
<th>College Students</th>
<th>Workers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Build skills and develop good habits for showing up on time</td>
<td>Read well by the end of third grade</td>
<td>Stay on track for graduation</td>
<td>Earn their degrees</td>
<td>Succeed in their jobs</td>
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Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.

Let's help students build a habit of good attendance early & often: #SchoolEveryDay

Parenting Pointer

When something goes wrong in your life, Just Yell “plot twist!” and move on.

Be sure to contact your child's school when they are absent!

Click HERE for a list of sites and phone numbers.
ACT NOW!--Deadline September 22, 2021
Qualifying Families Could Receive Additional Funds for Groceries from a Federally Funded Grant

HURRY! CLICK HERE FIRST

Financial Assistance Available!
What is covered?
- Past due rent
- Past due utilities including water, gas, propane and electric
- Forward rent for up to three months

More information: Frequently Asked Questions

SoonerCare (Medicaid) Insurance Now Available for Ages 0 to 64
On June 30, 2020, the Oklahoma Medicaid Expansion Initiative, State Question 802, passed by a majority vote to expand Medicaid eligibility to adults ages 19-64 whose income is 138% (133% with a 5% disregard) of the federal poverty level or lower.

Internet Options for Low-Income Households
Brian Whitacre with OSU Extension writes, "Internet access is crucial in today’s society – particularly high-speed connections, or “broadband.” Whether for keeping in touch with family and friends, searching / applying for jobs, staying up-to-date on local events or applying for various government programs, having access to the internet is required for many aspects of life. Unfortunately, the cost of maintaining a monthly internet connection exceeds what many Oklahomans can afford."

He's right! It's also a vital resource for students in order for them to keep up with their school work, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to linger. Below are some resources that may be helpful to families trying to meet this need in an affordable way. Click each image for more information.

#COVEROK

Cox Connect2 Compete®

PCS for People

Access from AT&T

Student Library Hotspot