



TISHOMINGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1300 E. Main
Tishomingo, OK 73460



BOBBY WAITMAN, Superintendent

ROB FREDERICK, High School Principal

BRANDON MORELAND, Elementary Principal

CHARLES HOOK, Middle School Principal

LINDA HOLMES, Federal Programs Director

March 25, 2020

Dear Students and Parents,

The Oklahoma State School Board took action during a special board meeting held this morning to close school buildings for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Oklahoma School Districts will provide educational services via distance learning. The District is aware that not every student has access to a personal technology device or access to the internet. The District will be working with Staff to create a program of distance learning for each grade level and subject. This program will be created within the framework set forth by the Oklahoma State Department of Education, taking into consideration that not every student has access to a personal technology device or the internet. We will have a program of distance learning in place by April 6, 2020. The District's staff will begin to communicate with students and families as soon as a program of distance learning has been developed.

We are sharing this information with you now so you can prepare accordingly for your family. We understand this change is in the best interest of everyone's health, which is our greatest priority as a district. The state board's vote also means that all extracurricular activities and special events will be canceled or postponed as well. Making these difficult decisions, we believe, is simply the right thing to do for our students, our staff and our community.

For students, it likely will be sad and disappointing to receive confirmation that school as they know it will not resume this year. Please give them a safe place to express their feelings and to vent about the changes in their life. For our seniors and their parents, we know it is an especially difficult time. Though we realize that nothing can replace the experience of being awarded a diploma in the company of a large crowd of family and friends, we will do all that we can to provide a platform for celebrating each of our 2020 graduates. As a matter of fact, District staff members are already engaged in developing creative means by which the Senior Class of 2020 may be spotlighted and celebrated. This is an unfair situation but, it does not diminish their achievements. In fact, it will become one more example of how they demonstrated their strength as Tishomingo Indians.

All state and federally mandated assessments have been waived for the 2019-2020 school year. Students in third grade will not be administered the third grade reading test required under the Reading Sufficiency Act. Therefore decisions made concerning the promotion and retention of third grade students will be made by a Student Reading Proficiency Team. If any student is subject to retention the parent of the

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student will be contacted to establish a meeting time and means by which the meeting will be conducted. Students that have an IEP through the District's special education department will receive information from Linda Holmes, Special Education Director, to provide further direction regarding the process and details related to the student's annual IEP Meeting.

We appreciate so much the commitment of our staff and community to meeting the needs of students. The education of our students will very much be dependent upon a cooperative effort between the teacher, parents and students. We are committed to doing whatever it takes to provide students with the best of educational services regardless of the learning environment in which this education takes place. School is not defined by a building, but instead by the connection between teachers and students along with parental support. I have been touched by the commitment of teachers and their efforts to connect with students and provide them with enrichment and support during the early days of the school closure.

This is an unprecedented situation, and it has required an unprecedented response but, we can still take care of Tishomingo's students. This is a community that sticks together in challenging times, and we know this experience will be no different. As soon as we identify our next steps, we will share them with you.

We will work through this current challenge, and we will be made stronger by it.

Bobby Waitman
Superintendent