

12.16.2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students of Little Axe Public Schools,

This is a very lengthy letter with a lot of information, please read in its entirety.

As a district, we have worked to protect all faculty, staff, students, and community members as best we can. We have remained in communication with the Cleveland County Health Department in an effort to make decisions to continue in-person instruction or conduct virtual instruction. During this first semester, we have greatly appreciated the patience and understanding shown as we navigate a very difficult situation with little guidance or direction. With further direction from the Cleveland County Health Department as well as in an attempt to implement safer solutions for in-class instruction, we continue to adapt and find working solutions that incorporate consistency and continuity for our students, staff and parents/guardians.

Fortunately, we had planned to transition to 1-1 (one electronic device for every student) instruction for years and had a plan in place to transition over 4 school years before the pandemic occurred. The district had been purchasing software as it came available. As we began to see that the pandemic was going to create times of necessary virtual instruction, we were able to increase the speed with which we transitioned to 1-1 instruction through getting an electronic device for each student within the first weeks of school. Having 1-1 devices has allowed the district to transition to virtual instruction with little difficulty, thus allowing protection of faculty, students, and ultimately members of the community.

Barring restriction from the Oklahoma Health Department, beginning Monday, January 4th, 2021, Little Axe Public Schools will transition to an alternating in-person instruction schedule. This is commonly referred to as an "A/B schedule". On Mondays and Tuesdays students with the last names beginning with "A" through "K" will attend in person instruction. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, students with last names beginning with "L" through "Z" will attend in-person instruction. Students who wish to continue virtual instruction may continue to do so. Parents and Guardians who have children with multiple last names, please call the site office to ensure that those students are on the same schedule, if desired. If children with multiple last names are at multiple sites, the district will accommodate them by coordinating between sites. Students will be expected to continue virtual learning during the two days at home. Assignments will be given to continue learning. This schedule is being adopted to ensure that in-person instruction occurs as much as possible while maintaining a safe distance and lowering the potential of exposure to COVID-19. For further questions regarding the A/B schedule, please contact your site administration: Elementary: Teresa Neeley, Principal: teresa.neeley@littleaxeeps.org, Middle School: Dalton Griffin, Principal: dalton.griffin@littleaxeeps.org, High School: Trey Kirkpatrick, Principal: trey.kirkpatrick@littleaxeeps.org.

Little Axe Public Schools will continue to consult with the Cleveland County Health Department how to safely conduct school. Changes such as going to school full time or full virtual may be made based on their recommendations. The change to the "A/B" schedule will add more consistency to instruction during a very fluid situation. It will also hopefully take away waiting on an announcement each Friday for school status determination to provide our families more time to prepare.

If your child is on an IEP, you will be contacted by your child's special education teacher to determine appropriate services for your child.

If your child is attending Vocational Training at the Vocational center, those classes will continue as scheduled and as announced by the center. The alternative education academy will continue to run four days a week as previously scheduled.

Although they will be carrying approximately half of the students, buses will run as scheduled. If your child rides a bus, please ensure that he/she is at the bus stop at the designated time; bus stop times will not change at this time.

Child nutrition meals including breakfast and lunch will continue to be free throughout the remainder of this school year. A plan is being developed to provide food for every student for the days not in school. Thanks to our food service company and food service coordinator, we have been approved for weekend meal distribution, thus allowing the additional meals. Further questions about child nutrition meals may be addressed to Andreza Sleik: andreza.sleik@littleaxeps.org

Sports will also continue into the new year with restrictions in place. Athletes will be given a limited number of vouchers to give to those they choose. Without a voucher, fans will not be allowed in the building to watch the contest due to restrictions currently in place. When Little Axe is traveling, we will respect the protocols at the other school as other districts will have varying protocols. Failure to abide by all safety protocols may result in being banned from all future athletics events. If there are questions about sports, please refer them to Bryant Briggs, Athletic Director: bryant.briggs@littleaxeps.org.

Please contact your medical provider if your child experiences COVID related symptoms such as, but not limited to; running a fever, sore throat, persistent cough, loss of smell or taste, or shortness of breath. Additionally, if you are concerned that your child has recently been exposed to COVID-19, at school or away from school, please keep them at home until they have finished their mandated quarantine. They will be able to complete their work virtually.

As a reminder, Little Axe Public Schools require properly worn masks and temperature screenings for all individuals entering all buildings. Hand sanitizing stations are available in every classroom and office. Disinfectant is provided in every room for spot cleaning. Every building is disinfected twice per week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or as needed, with a commercial-grade product designed to

be effective for up to two weeks; and our buses have been disinfected after each route (4 times daily).

Thank you for your support, patience, and understanding during this time. If I can be of assistance or can answer questions regarding our COVID protocol, please do not hesitate to email me at jay.thomas@littleaxepts.org.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jay Thomas
Superintendent