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Tahlequah, OK 74464

Stephen R. Haynes
Superintendent

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George Ritzhaupt
Principal

March 26, 2019:

Dear Briggs Family/Parents/Guardians:

First, I want to thank you so much for your support of Briggs School. These are uncertain times, but as a community, we will work together to take care of each other. As a school, we are taking the CDC recommendations seriously as the spread of the coronavirus is expanding in Oklahoma. The State Board of Education has closed all school buildings for the remainder of the year and has issued an order for all public schools to offer distance learning for the remainder of the year, starting on April 6, 2020. We are waiting on guidance and a template from the Oklahoma State Department of Education in order to finalize the distance learning plan for Briggs.

To protect you and school employees, there will be limited contact between parents/students and school staff. Next week, teachers and administrators will be working on our distance learning plan that will include instructional packets that will be distributed to every student. Also, there will be a variety of supplemental materials provided to aid in your child's learning. In addition, teachers may provide supplemental television programming and online activities for your child (if you have television service and/or internet access in your home). Our distance learning plan will evolve over time and may include instructional programming on school devices (MacBooks and iPads) in the future. As you might guess, reading and math will be the primary focus of our distance learning plan. However, the plan will also include instructional activities for other curriculum areas. You can expect to be contacted by the school or your child's teacher next week.

The Briggs food service program has been exceptional! Today, we served over 400 children with breakfast and lunch! On Monday, March 30, we will add a third meal (supper) to the program. We will continue to provide drive through service at the gym and bus route delivery from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon), Monday through Friday. As a reminder, we kindly ask that you have children present for meal service as we hopefully await the approval of a USDA waiver where presence is not required.

We know that many of you are concerned about end-of-the-year activities. We have been discussing many different options, so please know that we will do our best to provide some of the most significant activities (8th Grade Graduation, Kindergarten Graduation) in an alternative format. We will keep you posted as details are available.

During these times, it is critical that we have the most up to date contact information for our parents/guardians. If you have had a recent phone or address change, please contact Michelle in the front office at 918-456-4221, extension 100, so that we can update our student information system. It might be also helpful to provide an email address if you have one. The office is currently open from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., but will be open next week from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Again, thank you for your support and cooperation, and let us know if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Haynes, Superintendent