Rockets
ROUND-UP

OAKDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL
Quarterly Newsletter
January 2021

OAKDALE.ORG
To the Oakdale community,

I am incredibly proud of the way Oakdale continues tackling the ongoing pandemic. Since August, we’ve kept our doors open five days a week. However, we are prepared to switch to distance/virtual learning at any moment. We remain hopeful our teachers will soon be able to receive the vaccine!

We are also excited to share property valuation in Oakdale’s district has increased. Our operating budget relies solely on ad valorem taxes, so this increase means more resources coming into the district. We are currently exceeding expectations regarding projected growth.

Plus, be sure to check out the new Oakdale.org! Our reformatted website is now your go-to place for the latest information on what’s happening in our district. Board policies have been updated and categorized by topic. Our goal is to be transparent and offer as much information to the community as possible.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH M. PIERCE
Superintendent
Oakdale Public School
In its regular meeting on Jan. 12, the Oakdale Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution calling for a bond election on April 6, 2021. If passed, the $4.5 million bond will:

1. **Reconnect the perimeter road** to allow a continuous path for traffic along the edge of the property.
2. **Create a single fire department connection point**, providing additional sprinkler lines as required by the Fire Marshal.
3. **Make upgrades and improvements to playgrounds and outdoor learning spaces** to bring them up to the high standard families expect at Oakdale.

“The Oakdale community is beautiful and fantastically located, but it suffers from a lack of communal spaces,” said Board President Jerome Loughridge. “The proceeds from this bond will help us complete critical infrastructure while also providing co-curricular spaces for our students and recreational facilities for our neighbors.”

The inclusion of general language on the bond allows funds for other needs, such as replacing old classroom furniture and updating technology devices.

To ensure understanding and transparency of the proposal, Oakdale plans to host a virtual live Town Hall Forum for patrons in coming weeks.
Please join us in extending a big thank you to the Oakdale Board of Education! Their hard work and dedication help make Oakdale a better place by ensuring a solid educational foundation for our students.

Our board includes Jerome Loughridge, president; Erin Hulsey, vice president; and Todd Corbin, clerk. Todd recently ran unopposed and will be reseated for a new three-year term this summer.
This year marks a pivotal time for Oakdale School to develop a new Master Plan to account for growth and expansion of the district in the next decade. The last Master Plan was completed in 2011, and it doesn’t reflect our current vision.

Our new Master Plan will incorporate updated school data and community demographics and lay out a long-term vision, goals and strategic plan for the district to proactively prepare for future needs.
NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR OAKDALE TEACHER

LISA PITTS
5th Grade Science and STEM Teacher

Oakdale’s own Lisa Pitts, a 5th grade science and STEM teacher, has been named one of six state-level finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)!

PAEMST is the nation’s highest recognition a K-12 mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching. Finalists were chosen by a committee of teachers, district-level personnel, representatives from higher education and past awardees.

“This is an incredible honor, and I owe so much of it to the encouragement of fellow Oakdale teachers,” Mrs. Pitts said. “They’re such great role models for our students and for me. I’m a better teacher because of the people I work with.”

Mrs. Pitts has been able to leverage a Facebook networking group to collaborate with other finalists, which she describes as an incredible benefit for her students. If she wins, she will receive a paid trip to Washington, D.C., to attend events and professional development opportunities; a $10,000 award from the National Science Foundation; and a certificate signed by the president of the United States.

CONGRATULATIONS, MRS. PITTS! WE ARE INCREDIBLY PROUD OF YOU!
OUR VISION
To provide each student the opportunity to excel, to provide each educator the tools necessary to enable excellence and to partner with our community to develop responsible citizens who have the ability to positively impact their world now and in the future.

ABOUT OAKDALE SCHOOL
Oakdale Public School, established in 1908, is a dependent pre-K through 8th grade school district located several miles northeast of Oklahoma City along the I-35 corridor into Edmond. We serve approximately 650 students living within Oakdale’s nine-square-mile boundary.