

SUPERINTENDENT'S POST, OCTOBER 2017
By Chuck McCauley | Bartlesville Public Schools



I am happy to congratulate the seven seniors receiving recognition in the 63rd annual National Merit Scholarship Program. The Class of 2018 has four National Merit Semi-Finalists: Lukas Cochran, Sarah Covell, Hannah Linzy, and Greta Olsen. It also boasts three National Merit Commended Students: Markus Klawun, James Martinez, and Zachary Woods. James is also a National Hispanic Scholar in the program. We are proud of the achievements our students earn by their hard work and discipline.

The 2017 fall activities schedule is rapidly coming to a close. We will celebrate our seniors during the last home football game on November 3. I wish our cross-country teams the best of luck at the 6A State Championships, where the boys and girls teams will be the defending state champions. During the 2017-18 school year, Bartlesville High School won three 6A state championships, tying for the most in Oklahoma.

The success of our students, both academically and in their activities, is a testament not only to our talented teachers and coaches, but also to the efforts of the district's classified or "support" employees. Over 300 of them occupy essential roles, including administrative assistants, teaching assistants, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and maintenance staff. We celebrated them during Education Support Personnel Week in October, along with the employees of Source One, the YMCA, and Cole's Lawn Service who also work in and around the schools. Their teamwork supports our district's vision of educating and enriching lives.

The second annual Hands-On, Minds-On Bartlesville Math & Science Night event for middle school students will be held on Monday, November 6, 2017 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Madison Middle School. That event is open to all middle school-age students in the Bartlesville area. Last year over 200 middle school students attended the first annual event. This year will again feature even more interactive STEM stations manned by professional and volunteers, along with free pizza and great prizes. There will be a new opportunity for four lucky students to fly on the commuter plane to Houston for a facility tour.

State test scores will be released this month, and will be significantly lower across the state than what we are used to. The state has greatly increased its standards and required more complex assessments, so this is a new beginning. We cannot compare previous results to the new baseline, and the decreases students and parents will see do NOT mean they are less skilled or our schools or teachers are less effective.

Unfortunately, our state legislature has yet to find a way to adequately fund our public schools. State Superintendent Hofmeister recently remarked about legislators who demand "reform" in exchange for improved funding even as state standards have dramatically increased, "The message is 'We are not going to fund more for education and teacher pay raises without reform.' What has just occurred is more sweeping than anything that has happened in recent years. My message (to lawmakers) is: Catch up."

I hope everyone has a great Fall Break. GO BRUINS!