

As the school year's final bells rang to an end last week, we closed the doors to another interesting year in Oklahoma education. It has been a positive year for the Bartlesville Public Schools, and I truly hope your children have also had a good experience. I would like to reflect on the road we have traveled together these past months.

In the most recent ranking of top high schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, Bartlesville High School had the highest rank of any school outside of the two major metropolitan areas. The school was ranked third on the east side of the state, behind only two magnet schools.

We made significant gains this year in several key areas such as our STEM initiative and 1:1 Student Computing Initiative and great accomplishments in athletics and activities.

One of our 2020 Strategic Plan goals is to implement a comprehensive STEM program encompassing all elementary, middle, and high schools. This year all BPS Kindergarten through 5th Grade classrooms completed a Computer Science Module through Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Launch. Central and Madison Middle Schools were two of the three middle schools in the state designated as Distinguished Schools by PLTW, the other being a private middle school in Lawton. 54 Bartlesville High School students took a computer science course this year, and for 2018-19 the computer science course requests have nearly tripled. We will proudly pilot a new PLTW Cybersecurity course this fall.

In August, all freshman received a Chromebook and iPad carts were placed in elementary schools as part of the second phase of the 1:1 Student Computing Initiative. In the fall, Chromebooks will be rolling out to all high school students as well as more iPad carts in elementary schools. The rollout will expand to all middle school students in 14 months.

This graduating senior class was part of multiple state championships in athletics and activities. For the second year in a row, no high school in Oklahoma won more 6A OSSAA State Championships than Bartlesville High School. Bartlesville boasted multiple individual state champions and runners-up in athletics and activities, including Cross-Country, Debate, Fine Arts, Golf, Journalism, Pom, Science Fair, Swimming, Track, and Wrestling.

On behalf of our entire staff, and especially our teachers, I was to express our gratitude for your continuing support for our district as we strive to provide the best education for every child who walks through our doors. You won't find a more committed school district to defying the odds by overcoming our financial barriers while providing the best service to our students and families. We understand the needs of our students and are determined to provide every opportunity for them to succeed.

Parents and guardians, I wish you a safe, relaxing, and rewarding summer vacation. I look forward to seeing you and your children again in the fall. Thank you for your support and encouragement throughout the year.

Go Bruins!

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This column is online at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RcZMsuuEzQqA-HU93upZjFqjDU9F6urMia363_kHT4/edit?usp=sharing

