

The 2018 Homecoming Parade will be downtown on Thursday, September 27 at 6:30 p.m. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend as we *Rumble in the Jungle*. Bartlesville High School's homecoming game against Sapulpa is set for Friday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m. on Lyon Field at Custer Stadium. Our new cheerleading mascot, Bruiser the Bruin, debuted at the game last week.

We are proud of the students who were honored at their graduation ceremony on Sunday, August 19, for earning the equivalent of a high school diploma by passing General Educational Development (GED) exams. We had 41 people pass the GED exam through our testing center; 19 of those were Bartlesville Adult Learning Center students. These graduates completed the exam process between August 16, 2017 and July 25, 2018.

In August a group of hardworking staff members spent most of a week issuing over 1,200 take-home Chromebooks to freshmen, new sophomores, juniors, and seniors at the high school. The returning sophomores received devices last year which they could keep and use over the summer. Every high school student in regular education now has a take-home Chromebook. That is over 1,560 devices in use on a daily basis, plus hundreds more cart-based devices in use across the district.

The Chromebooks are allowing us to begin to shift away from physical textbooks to electronic ones, along with a wide variety of interactive online resources. Our high school math teachers and students are leading the charge, with some science classes also exploring the use of digital texts. Classroom Chromebook carts in the middle school English classrooms are helping students and teachers at Central and Madison prepare for next school year when every regular education student in grades 6-12 will have a take-home Chromebook. Like the teachers across the high school, some of our middle school teachers are exploring use of the Canvas Learning Management System with their students. I mentioned last month how the University of Oklahoma and many Texas universities are using Canvas. Now Oklahoma State University has announced it and its affiliated schools will begin using Canvas in 2019. So our students who head off to college should be well prepared for how they will learn in higher education.

I deeply appreciate our teachers who are putting in extra time and effort to provide digital instruction for their students. Our elementary schools are itching to get in on the act, and later this school year two shared Chromebook carts will be in place at each elementary school as they prepare for online state testing of 4th and 5th graders in April.

As part of our wellness initiative at BPS, I became a sponsor for the Run the Streets Woolaroc 8K on October 13, 2018. This sponsorship allows any district school employee to participate in the 8K or its related Fun Run for a discounted rate. This year's race is very special because it supports Run the Streets and is the inaugural season of Bruins on the Run. The registration deadline for our employees is September 28. With a week left, I am very pleased we have 94 people signed up!

Next month will also bring Fall Break on October 18 and 19. Our students and staff will be ready to catch their breath from all of the progress being made in the district.

Go Bruins!

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This column is online at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TU88gak0b1TpiKkRlw54XWmyBGVnXkqQqoke9bSNZ5g/edit?usp=sharing>

