

As we prepare for the Thanksgiving break next week and reflect on the many things for which we are thankful, I want to take a moment to share a few that Bartlesville Public Schools has to be thankful for.

We are thankful for the students who fill our classrooms, the support of parents for students and their teachers, and the teachers, counselors, librarians, teacher assistants, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, various support staff, and administrators who work diligently to ensure our students are able to achieve to their fullest potential.

We are also thankful for the support we receive from our community, foundations, and local businesses. The Bartlesville Public Schools Foundation provides grants to our teachers, helps fund various projects including Bruins on the Run, and is helping expand the district's STEM curriculum at all six elementary schools. Bartlesville Education Promise provides support for our students to meet third grade reading requirements, after-school tutoring at all school sites, summer transition camps for incoming middle school and high school students, and various summer activities. The Bartlesville Regional United Way supports education by partnering with the Boys & Girls Club of Bartlesville, Cherokee Council Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma, Salvation Army, and Westside Community Center. Local businesses such as Phillips 66, ConocoPhillips, and ABB have also helped fund our STEM and student technology initiatives. Truity Credit Union, Arvest Bank, and Patriot Chevy and Buick provide support to our teachers through general donations as well as initiatives like the #truitylovesteachers campaign and Arvest and Patriot's joint Teacher of the Month program.

Bartlesville Public Schools is also thankful to the community for supporting its previous bond issues which have helped our schools offset state budget challenges and invest in better facilities, transportation, student programs, and instructional technology.

I am thankful for having too many examples to list. Our school system is filled with wonderful people and quality programs. Our community is supportive and contributes both time and money to our schools.

I would like to wish all of you and your families a happy, healthy and relaxing Thanksgiving holiday! GO BRUINS!

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This column is online at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Nc0n_k1cu8UM-Yp5NP4fsHG9gXqkFjMsHU9YHkGJYQk/edit?usp=sharing

