

Oklahoma School for the Deaf
DRS Commission Report
July 2020
Chris Dvorak, Superintendent

OSD Activities and Events

Student Athletic Honors:

National DeafDigest Sports Football All-Americans, KJ Lokeijak, Tyler Manek, and Jose Salas
National DeafDigest Sports Volleyball All-American, April Pennel
NDIAA Div II Boys Basketball Player of the Year, Isaiah Holt, OSD Junior

Coach Honors:

National DeafDigest Small Schools Volleyball Coach of the Year, Angie Shelby
NDIAA 6-man Football Coach of the Year, Jason Sledd

Saturday, February 8

OSD High School Basketball Boys and Girls teams both won Great Plains Schools for the Deaf championships. GPSD comprises teams from state schools for the deaf in Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Wisconsin.

Saturday, February 8

The OSD Middle School Robotics Team competed for the first time in a national robotics competition held at the Texas School for the Deaf, Austin, TX. While they did not place collectively, a two student team placed 4th in one of the events. The middle school robotics program was established during the 2019-2020 school year through a partnership with the National Technical Institute for the Deaf STEM Resource Center in Alabama.

March 5-6

The Oklahoma School for the Deaf ASL Immersion Camp was held on the Sulphur campus this March. Public high school and college ASL students from Oklahoma and Texas were invited to participate in a two-day weekend ASL immersion environment with OSD students and staff which provided a strong representation of native language use.

March 5-8

The OSD High School Academic Team competed in the Gallaudet University Midwest Regional competition in Minnesota where they enjoyed wins over Missouri and Ohio Schools for the Deaf but were ultimately defeated by the host school, Metro Day School (St. Paul, MN), in the double elimination event.

OSD COVID-19 Response

Thursday, March 12

- All students and teachers were provided an iPad to be taken home for distance learning due to the anticipation of a school closing.

Tuesday, March 17

- OSD Administrators and critical staff (HR, nurses, social services) met to identify and address action items.
- Safety & maintaining contact with families and staff were identified as top priorities
- Established a primary point of contact for families
- Placed all staff on administrative leave until April 6.
- Identified staff who are essential during the March 17-April 6 window
 - Administrators, billing and payables, HR
 - Matt Neal & GALT contracted staff to perform critical maintenance operations
 - Disinfecting specific areas after being accessed by essential clerical staff.
 - Disinfecting buildings, buses, and equipment.
 - Routine checks to identify structural damage or equipment failures
 - Emergency response if identified
 - Routine upkeep of grounds
 - Continuation of critical infrastructure projects
 - Matt Neal identified CDC protocol for disinfecting schools and will ensure OSD staff adhere.

Wednesday, March 25

- Student prescription medications in the Student Health Center were mailed certified to each students' parent/guardian home address.
- Student belongings in both the dorms and school lockers were collected and organized for delivery.
- Matt and Lynn identified food supplies and items that will expire before Aug. and donated them to Sulphur Public Schools.
- OSD medical PPE was donated to Arbuckle Memorial Hospital, Sulphur, OK
- Educational administrators developed an initial instructional plan
 - IXL online modular curriculum
 - Google Classroom
 - Other digital mediums
 - Physical assignments mailed only to specific students
 - Academically appropriate
 - Inability to reliably access internet services

Thursday, March 26

- Delivery of student personal belongings began via school suburbans.

- Additional iPads and chargers delivered to students

Friday, March 27

- Donated 3 outdoor canopies to Ar buckle Memorial Hospital for their outdoor COVID-19 testing site.

Monday, March 30

- Established preventative protocols for staff accessing campus
- Developed a comprehensive weekly bulletin for families
 - Contained all the need-to-know information about COVID-19 and related resources for families. Newsletters continue to include campus-wide news and updates, education program updates, resources for food, clothing, home assistance, occupational needs, and so much more!
 - Created and distributed a virtual learning contact list for parents
- Resumed staff daily bulletin

Wednesday, April 8

- Distance Learning Plan submitted to SDE

OSD Distance Learning Plan

All OSD students and teachers have Apple iPads and keyboards to accommodate distance learning. Our teachers and the social services specialist have worked with each of our families to confirm home internet access and provide information and resources to help guide the handful of families that do not have access.

- *Online student distance learning to include Art and Physical Education (ALL GRADES)*
 - *Each student in all grades have IXL online curriculum accounts*
 - *Each student has a Google Classroom (and all G Suite Education applications)*
 - *Google Hangouts, Google Meet, and Zoom for virtual meetings*
- *Teachers in all grades are using the above curricula and delivery systems as primary distance learning tools. Teachers in all grades are prepared to modify assignments in a physical format for students who have limited internet access.*

A more comprehensive school-wide program was also created which includes routine virtual contact with students and families to continue the following activities:

- *Teacher assistant tutoring and supplemental instruction*
- *Student IEPs and related services (audiology, speech therapy, etc.)*
- *Counseling and transition*
- *Psychological services*
- *Nursing checkups and guidance related to preventative and general health and wellness*
- *Social services and family support*
- *Statewide Deaf and Hard of Hearing Equipment Distribution Program family check-ins*

- *Staff and student ASL language development*
- *ASL interpretation and Spanish translation services*
- *Routine communication to families*
- *Routine communication to staff from school leadership*

Thursday, May 28

Services to our families continued to be a priority. Before the pandemic hit, 218 high school food boxes had been sent home with 17 high school students served weekly since September. A total of 398 elementary food bags had been given out with 24 elementary students served weekly since August. We were able to send a large disbursement of the remaining food in the pantry, (30 food boxes) to our neediest families at the end of May.

June 1-5

Oklahoma Educational Interpreter Training Institute was held virtually. Over 50 educational interpreters attended this annual training provided by Oklahoma School for the Deaf. OSD maintains a registry of Oklahoma educational interpreters, certification and continuing education information, and training, residency and mentorship opportunities for educational interpreters in partnership with OSDE.

Saturday, June 6

High School Awards Banquet and Graduation Ceremony, OSD Gymnasium

The OSD graduating class of 2020 was able to enjoy their special day in person on the OSD campus with eight guests each. The day began with a luncheon for the graduates and their guests followed by the presentation of academic and athletic awards. The graduation ceremony then took place with the banquet-style seating arrangement remaining. Graduates and their guests then lined the football field to receive congratulations and well wishes from a parade of staff, alumni, family and friends which concluded the day.

Monday, July 6

OSD Sulphur campus reopened for regular work activities with health and safety precautions in place.

Upcoming

A traditional school calendar has been established with the understanding that disruptions to the in person school schedule are likely to occur. All OSD students and certified teaching staff have an iPad, charging equipment, and digital communication and learning tools to continue academic activities without disruption. The 2020-2021 school year is scheduled to begin Monday, August 10, 2020.

Discussions regarding health and safety precautions are ongoing for the foreseeable future. OSD has purchased three microstatic spraying machines and 600 clear masks. We have also

coordinated with Randy Weaver and have procured additional PPE and sanitizer. Focused cleaning, air displacement and social distancing when possible will be a part of our plan, which we expect to be perpetually subject to modification as new state and national data becomes available. We are also developing creative student and staff traffic flows, hygiene protocols during the school day and in our residential setting, and routines that emphasize outdoor activity.

OSD will be a part of a high school cyber security course of study pilot program developed by the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, the first course of study ever developed in this field. OSD students will be able take courses in cyber security and hopefully continue in the field to contribute to a professional workforce in a growing industry.

OSD has established a new Family and Early Childhood Services Department which will bring early childhood programming, regional schools, and statewide family services under one department.

The student discipline committee will be replaced by a Student Support Team which will meet regularly rather than when student behavior negatively manifests. This team will comprise counselors, teachers, our social worker, residential staff, coaches and administrators who will discuss individual student social, emotional, and academic needs and collaborate with families to design interventions to support students before problems become problems.

OSD has partnered with DRS/OMES to create a tailored digital workflow system to not only significantly reduce the use of paper, but to also increase request and approval process efficiency and trackability. This new workflow will prove highly useful in work and learning environments that are more susceptible to disruption and remote collaboration.

We will complete the deployment of 72 laptop and desktop computers this summer and establish a new leased device system that will allow us to increase our adaptability and remain functional and current with our technology.

Student enrollment for Fall 2020 will be entirely online and easily accessible for all students and their families. No significant decrease in enrollment is anticipated.