

December 15, 2020

USD 345 Staff & Families:

I would like to thank our staff and families for continuing to work together this school year through the many challenges we have faced together. Your resilience and positive attitude is reflected in our students as they watch us navigate changes and transitions brought about by this pandemic.

At last night's board meeting, revisions were made to the 2020-21 calendar to assist with the extra planning needed to keep our elementary students full on-site and additional winter break days for all students and staff.

APPROVED: Additional Elementary Planning and Collaboration (adding 5 early release Fridays to elementary buildings)

Jan 8 - Elementary Release at 1:30 pm  
Jan 15 - Elementary Release at 1:30 pm  
Jan 22 - Elementary Release at 1:30 pm  
Jan 29 - Elementary Release at 1:30 pm  
Feb 5 - Elementary Release at 1:30 pm

APPROVED: 2020-21 Calendar Revision (Extend Winter Break to add Dec 21, 22, 23 as no school days with Dec 21 a ½ staff PD day)

Please remember that we partner with our Boys and Girls Club of Topeka (BGCT) to help provide families with childcare programming when we are not in session. Parents can become a member of BGCT by visiting [bgctopeka.org](http://bgctopeka.org). First you will create a parent portal account, once that is done you will need to call 785-234-5601 and speak to membership, so they can activate the new account and enroll your family.

Registrations for BGCT early release Fridays and winter break are both available through the BGCT parent portal (12/21-12/23 and 12/28-12/30). Amy Erickson is our Seaman director and can be reached by email with any questions at [AmyErickson@bgctopeka.org](mailto:AmyErickson@bgctopeka.org).

BGCT follows the KDHE guidelines for childcare. Members must wear masks at all times except when eating, both inside and out. They are kept socially distanced with cohorts together and limited group mixing. All parents must answer a daily health screening and have temperature checks on members prior to exiting their cars or entering the building. Cleaning and sanitizing is done throughout the day as well as scheduled restroom breaks to wash hands.

#### BGCT Costs

Early Release: \$9; \$6 free or reduced

Winter Break (meals provided): \$18; \$12 free or reduced. We have been assured no one will be denied for inability to pay.

I am proud of our elementary schools and community efforts to keep our elementary kids full on-site since the end of September. That is a remarkable accomplishment during the pandemic and our kids have greatly benefited.

All of us will keep working to ensure our elementary kids remain in school as long as possible with the hope of bringing our middle and high school students back as safely and quickly as we can.

Thank you again for your partnership and please have a safe and healthy winter break.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Noble  
Superintendent