

April 29, 2016

Dear Gage School Patrons:

With the school year coming to a close and the transition to Fargo-Gage beginning, we would like to use this letter as a means to update you on a number of important issues. We want to begin this message reaffirming our commitment to our communities and our kids. We are absolutely committed to providing a positive and beneficial completion to this school year and look forward to the opportunities that our combined efforts will provide in the years ahead.

**End-of-Year Activities:** For the remainder of this school year, classes and activities will continue, as committed and as scheduled, at both Gage Schools and Fargo Schools respectively. Gage's graduation will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Fargo graduation will be May 13<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you at these events.

**Student Programs:** In addition to core curriculum classes, Fargo-Gage will offer Agriculture Education (FFA), 4-H, Band, Choir, Athletics, Business Professionals of America, Beta Club, FCA, Career Technology and Concurrent College courses (no cost to student if "C" grade or better).

Fargo School staff and students had the privilege of hosting the Gage students and teachers for a visitation and tour of the Fargo campus on April 28. We obviously take pride in our modern facilities and recent upgrades and certainly welcome visits from any of the Gage Community....just give us a call at [\(580\) 698-2298](tel:5806982298).

**Summer School & After School Tutoring Programs:** For those students who benefit from additional instruction time, Fargo will be hosting Summer School May 23<sup>rd</sup> – June 16<sup>th</sup>. We will work closely with and coordinate these efforts with the Gage teachers, administrators and parents to insure all qualifying kids have access to this beneficial program.

Additionally, Fargo offers a combination of before and after school tutoring with teachers providing additional instruction time when needed by students which will continue for the 2016-2017 school year.

**School Board & Administration:** Fargo Board of Education members are Lindsey Schneider (President), Kenneth Moyer (Vice-President), Wesley Crain (Clerk), Michael West and Dan Plante. Two board members will be added from the Gage Board of Education to provide representation from the Gage District.

Fargo's current Superintendent, Mr. Terry Stevens, is retiring at the completion of this year as is Mrs. Pam Myers, the Elementary Principal. Mr. Mike Jones (cell [405-933-4844](tel:4059334844)), currently Superintendent at Gracemont, will be assuming Fargo's Superintendent position July 1, 2016 and will join Mrs. Sherri Tune who has served as Fargo's High School Principal the past sixteen years. Applications are currently being taken for the elementary principal position.

**Certified Staff & Support Staff:** The Administration and Board are in the process of determining staffing needs for next year. In addition to the elementary principal position, an elementary teaching position is currently open and the addition of other needed certified and support positions will also be

considered. Certainly consideration will be given to Gage employees for positions that may become available at Fargo-Gage.

As an incentive and to attract and retain quality educators, Fargo compensates teachers for after school tutoring and provides reimbursement to teachers for continuing education and advanced degree classes.

Gage Facilities: The uses of the school facilities and property will continue to be available in an uninterrupted manner for the needs of the Gage community. Funerals, Chamber of Commerce meetings, etc. are certainly welcomed events at the school facilities. We would ask that you help us identify these uses such that we can coordinate efforts as necessary to insure efficient use of the facilities. Please contact Mr. Stevens in this regard.

Access to the gym as a public tornado shelter area will also continue. We will coordinate with the Gage Fire Department and Town of Gage to insure timely and appropriate access is available for severe weather events. We plan to continue using the gym during the school year for junior high and high school basketball practices.

Short term: Efforts will be underway to assess the facility condition and needs, and to inventory existing equipment and supplies. Within reason, an approach aimed at preserving/maintaining the facilities and utilizing equipment to the best benefit of our kids would seem responsible.

Long term: We will work with the Gage Community to develop workable and beneficial plans for ongoing uses of the school facilities and property. We commit to and look forward to being a part of that effort.

Other Issues: By no means is this an all-inclusive document.....other considerations exist and still others will present with time. We will continue to keep you informed and involved in the most complete way possible.

It has been a difficult school year in Gage, Oklahoma. In the progression of time and events, the 2015-2016 school year will always have an annexation asterisk attached....that cannot be changed. What we can affect and control going forward, is the advantages we provide our communities and the kids of Fargo-Gage. Our combined resources are to be envied. Our resolve and support should not be questioned. We, as a responsible school community, should commit to an approach of "what is best for kids" which always proves to be "what is best for our communities". Be a part of the solution...be involved in a positive way. Let's combine the best of the traditions of Fargo and the best of the traditions of Gage...let's be supporters of Fargo-Gage.

Respectfully,

Your Board of Education and School Administrators