

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Grades Pre-K to third grade started 5:1 small group instruction again on January 19th. If your child is in Pre-K to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and you have not been notified, or wish for your child to attend with a group, please contact your school. Certain Special Education students also returned on the 19<sup>th</sup>. If your child qualifies to return, you should have been notified by the school.

Athletics and Activities started once again on January 18<sup>th</sup> in small groups of 4:1. Coaches and sponsors have been working to schedule these practices and activities. If you haven't been notified, please contact your school, coach, or sponsor. Each of the athletic and activity groups will meet in 4:1 pods after school. This includes athletics, band, choir, theatre, MESA, FFA, BPA, Rocketry, and maybe some I haven't noted here.

I have attached a brochure to this e-mail. It provides important information about the Special Bond Election that began on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The Special Bond Election is a "mail-in" election. Ballots were mailed to all registered voters who reside in the Portales Municipal Schools District. They were mailed to the address on file at the Roosevelt County Clerk's Office. If you are a registered voter and have not received your ballot, you may contact the County Clerk.

The bond revenue raised by a successful result of this election is very important to maintain the capital infrastructure of the District. Funds generated by this bond will ensure that the District has the financial ability to replace roofs on buildings at our schools, replace end of life HVAC systems across the District, repair or build parking lots where needed, create a media center at Portales High School, upgrade athletic fields at Portales High School and Portales Junior High School, and begin a needed remodel at James Elementary School. Please note that passage of the bond question will not raise property tax rates. Past bonds have been used to upgrade and maintain our buildings so that they will last for years to come. You can see some the completed projects on the brochure. It is important that you support this bond election and be sure to vote when your ballot arrives. Ballots must be returned by February 16.

I believe the State and Public Education Department (PED) are moving in a direction to get schools started in the hybrid model across the state. On Thursday, January 14, our District completed a required COVID Reentry Readiness inspection by the Fire Marshall. Passing this inspection is the final step in the process to begin opening our schools for the hybrid model. We are prepared to reopen in hybrid quickly once PED provides permission to open.

Thank you so much for your continued patience and support as we continue to move forward with this very unusual and trying school year.

Sincerely,

Johnnie S. Cain  
Superintendent