WELCOME TO SCHOOL!

A neighborhood school focused on cultivating active and authentic learning experiences within an innovative, mindful, and joy-filled community of learners.
Welcome to Council Oak Elementary

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Welcome to Council Oak Elementary

Council Oak Elementary is the longest, continuously running elementary school in the state of Oklahoma. This year, we are celebrating our 105th anniversary!

Council Oak Elementary is a neighborhood school focused on cultivating active and authentic learning experiences within an innovative, mindful, and joy-filled community of learners. Rooted in an unwavering respect for every child, we strive to foster a learning community immersed in critical thinking, academic ideation, creative design and emotional intelligence.

The Council Oak Elementary teaching philosophy places significant value on partnering with children as active participants in their learning. We offer children collaborative workspaces, materials for constructivist thinking and hands-on exploration to increase their engagement with the curriculum. Illustrating the children’s educational process and growth, the walls of our classrooms are lined with children’s work to highlight their thinking.

In addition, our educators offer flexible seating so children can utilize a variety of workspaces for group projects. Children are actively engaged in their learning choices, helping to underpin ownership of their learning while also increasing their capacity to solve problems now and in their future.

Council Oak Elementary racial/ethnic distribution

- White: 59%
- Black: 11%
- Hispanic/Latinx: 6%
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 5%
- Multi-racial: 18%

est. 480 total enrollment
At Council Oak Elementary, we do not rely entirely on academic data. However, adding data to the collection of inputs we gather as we develop intentional and strategic academic choices, we celebrate the authentic gains our children continue to achieve.

**CHILDREN READING AT, OR ABOVE, GRADE-LEVEL**

- **Council Oak, 2022**
- **National Average, 2022**

Booklets are printed materials with four or more pages, containing details about a business, event, product, promotion, etc. They are also known as catalogs or pamphlets, and are usually created to communicate a message to a wide variety of audiences.
A Vision for Our Unfolding Work

Guiding Values & Principles

Providing students with the highest quality learning experiences demands a strategic balance of knowledge building and responsivity. No one student is alike, and thus, no one learning approach is applicable for all. To best serve our students, we must foster a learning environment rooted in core knowledge but consistently informed by evolving experiences and inspirations. Influenced by the works of David Hawkins, Jerome Bruner, Howard Gardner, innovative education researchers, the Reggio Emilia Approach, and an on-going collection of student-centered community, with the right to engage in partnership alongside educators and families.

Distinct Learning Styles Steeped in the Multiple Intelligences Theory, we believe "students possess different kinds of minds and therefore learn, remember, perform, and understand in different ways." Gardner (1991). Educators prepare and respond to learning opportunities through observation, analysis and differentiation.

Equitable Experiences Reflective of the community we serve, all school participants recognize the value of diverse backgrounds and experiences, and work together to ensure a principled learning environment.

A Community of Researchers As partners in learning, children and adults foster a reciprocal relationship, continuously informed by unique experiences as well as responsive to the needs of the participants. Co-creators of their learning experiences, children and educators develop trust, inquiry and courage as they make meaningful and authentic connections within their learning.

Making Learning Visible Essential thinking occurs between teaching and learning; it is the process rather than the product we so deeply value. Artifacts of student work, educator reflections, and family feedback are integral in documenting the process of education. Documentation actively informs all participants of the powerful ideas generated within each classroom.

Community Partners An essential component of our community is an active and engaged partnership with families and caretakers. Together, the school and community exchange ideas, areas of expertise, and distinct experiences to enhance the learning environment.

Academic Measure Guided by academic rigor, and influenced by inquiry, responsive curriculum encourages differentiated and meaningful learning opportunities. Strong academics blend the theoretical with the applied, the natural with the built, and the conceptual with the innovative.

Mindful of the Whole Child To educate a child means to educate the whole child; mindful of the variety of capacities inherent among children. Considerations include, but are not limited to the physical, emotional, cognitive, and creative needs of every child. Supported in this way, students feel confident to engage in global citizenship.

"To be open to others means to have the courage to come into this room and say I hope to be different when I leave."

—Carlina Rinaldi
At Council Oak Elementary, we believe the classroom is made up of three components: the children, the educator, and the environment. The educator is never the "expert," however together, the children and the educator explore, research, and learn alongside each other. Our learning environment is a very important part of our children’s learning experience.

With their interests in mind, our curriculum is centered on the interests of the children. Grounded in their curiosities, our children are more motivated to move the work, and the authentic learning, forward. Additionally, having a calm, intentional classroom helps set the tone of each day. This type of environment makes way for stronger engagement, deeper connections and an overall love of learning.

Council Oak Elementary is proud to offer special programs, including: Crazy Eight Club, Basketball, Soccer, Choir, Art, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Running Club, Bike Club, Math Club, Book Club, Young Rembrandts, Under the Canopy, Mad Scientists, Drama, Coding Club, Chess Club, Student Council, Green Team, Football, Drill Team and Tulsa Changemakers.

Thanks to the support of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation and Devon Energy, Council Oak Elementary has a new STEM center where children can engage in participate in fun and engaging hands-on learning activities.
PRINCIPAL, AUBREY FLOWERS

Joining Team Tulsa in July of 2017, I am honored to be the principal at Council Oak Elementary. I received my Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences, Elementary Education from Portland State University in 2003. I then received my Master of Education, Administration, Curriculum, and Supervision from the University of Oklahoma in 2017. As a classroom educator since 2008, I am a passionate advocate for children, honoring the perspectives and curiosities children bring to their own learning. I have had the privilege of presenting facilitated experiences with children at several national and international conferences as well as participated in an intensive study tour of the schools in Reggio Emilia, Italy. And in April of 2022, I was overwhelmed with surprise and joy when I received the Milken Educator Award. When not working alongside the children, educators and families of Council Oak Elementary, I am a partner to my husband and best friend Brad and a mom to our awesome 5 children Charley, Jake, Ford, Mason and Wyatt.

DEAN OF CLIMATE & CULTURE, CARRIE JONES

I am a 4th generation Tulsa and lifelong TPS girl. I attended Grimes Elementary, Carver Middle School, and Booker T. Washington High School. My Bachelor’s is in Special Education from Northeastern State University and I have a Master’s in Educational, School, and Counseling Psychology with a focus on Student Learning and Wellbeing from University of Missouri. I have 20 years of classroom experience in TPS, with 14 of those years as a Special Education Teacher and 6 as a Fine Arts Teacher. I served as the Social Emotional Learning Champion at COE for 4 years. I am passionate about advocacy and social and emotional well being. I believe that when ALL of our needs are met, we have the ability to thrive and soar.

I have been married to Mr. Jones for 20 years and we have a daughter, Edie. I love spending time with my family and friends, being creative, and reading.
Our Council Oak Teaching Team

PRINCIPAL'S SECRETARY, KRISTIN MILLER

I joined the school community in 2007, when my oldest son started in PreK. I volunteered for class field trips, school events such as Jog-A-Thon and spent several years creating the yearbook. Since 2014, I have held a few different jobs at school: substitute teacher, para, PreK TA, and now am starting my 5th year as principal's secretary. Both of my sons have attended school at Council Oak, my oldest is in his 2nd year of college and my youngest is in 7th grade. My husband of 26 years is the crossing guard at 21st Street. I didn't know 15 years ago how much this school and the community would be such a big part of my life!

SCHOOL CLERK, SHELLY TRIM

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Shelly Trim, I have worked in the office for the last 24 years. My husband and I have been married for 34 years. We have been blessed with 1 daughter, who is a teacher for TPS and 1 granddaughter who is simply AMAZING. Some of my hobbies include reading, knitting, gardening, and baking/cooking.

HEALTH ASSISTANT, DEE ADAMS

I finished school in 1965, graduating from Booker T. Washington Highschool. Go mighty hornets! I completed a soldering course which then enabled me to work as a mechanic at MacDonald Douglas Aircraft for 12 years. Then, I took medical assistant training at SEDA, and worked as a personal medical assistant for 7 years. Starting in 2005, I was hired to be a health assistant for TPS, working at Grimes Elementary before coming to Council Oak. I was married, and have 2 children, 3 grandchildren, and 1 great grand child. I enjoy traveling, and cooking large meals for the whole family and my church. I enjoy seeing and talking with teachers and students every day, they are inspiring!

FACILITIES MANAGER, PASQUAL VILLA

I am the new facility manager at Council Oak. I have been a custodian here since February 2017. I enjoy cooking and watching movies with my wife and son. I also enjoy going outdoors and going on family outings on the weekends.
Our Council Oak Teaching Team

TEACHER LEADER, CHELSIE FONDREN

I am so excited for my 5th year at Council Oak! I graduated from NSU with a bachelors in Early Childhood Education. For the last 20 years, I have been a Tulsa Public Schools teacher. During that time, I always taught PreK and Kindergarten. My heart is with the littles. My husband Chris and I have been married 20 years. Together we have 3 sons, Parker, Thomas, and Finn. I love to spend time outdoors — gardening, camping, taking long walks, or relaxing on the patio. I strive to foster a safe community that welcomes questions and risk-taking. This is going to be an amazing year of wonder, exploration, and discovery. Thank you for sharing your child with me.

TEACHER LEADER, BETTY FOSHEE

My name is Betty Foshee and I have had the privilege of being a part of our school community since 2013. I earned my bachelor's in Early Childhood Education at the University of Oklahoma. I have been working with children birth to age 8 since 1995. My philosophy is grounded in constructivism with an inspiration from the Reggio Emilia approach. I believe the integration of the arts is a fundamental principle in my classroom. My husband JD, and I have been married since 1990. We have two beautiful children, Bailee and Joshua. Family is a large piece of my identity, which also extends to our school community. I am eager to learn alongside your child throughout this school year.

TEACHER LEADER, DOMINIQUE JONES

Hello families! I am thrilled to be back in Lacebark Elm this year, and in my 5th year affiliated with Council Oak. Last year, our room explored the concepts of responsibility and power through literature. We examined different cultures and perspectives, along with how we connect to our larger global society. Through stories that spanned over time and geography, our students made connections that created empathy, agency, and a desire to know more. I am excited to embark on this inquiry of identity and purpose with the Council Oak community by my side! Let's rumble.

TEACHER LEADER, ELIZABETH MARTIN

I started teaching Kindergarten at Carnegie Elementary in 1990 after earning a BSE at the University of Arkansas, where I was once Social Chairman of Kappa Alpha Theta. Fayetteville, Arkansas is still home to my parents, my brother’s family, and my own children, Sarah and Roby, who were both Leopards before attending Holland Hall and UofA. Sarah is now a teaching artist & studio manager with a BFA, and Roby is a graduate of the UofA Walton School of Business. Dan Martin and I live in Maple Ridge with our 2 puppies Flip & Wally. Mr. Martin is a realtor with Peter Walter and Associates, and he went to Edison. I used to be a realtor, too, but I prefer teaching because I enjoy working with kids! I love to see children make connections... That just makes my day :)}
Our Council Oak Teaching Team

TEACHER LEADER, RACHEL HUMPHREY

Hello there! I am Rachel Humphrey. This is my 10th year teaching at Council Oak. I am originally from Poughkeepsie, NY and have called Tulsa home since 2008. Before teaching at Council Oak, I received my Bachelors in Elementary Education from the University of Tulsa. While at TU I was a member of the women’s rowing team. I am thrilled to teach reading and language arts for 5th grade. My favorite part of teaching is building relationships, fostering a love for reading and empowering children to use their own unique voice! Outside of school I love spending time outside, exercising, reading, and being with my family. My husband Brian and I have two daughters Evelyn and Violet. I can’t wait to read some great books this year with you this year!

CLASSROOM TEACHER, CELESTE MCNEAL

Welcome to the Crow Community: Love lives here! I am delighted to begin my 1st year teaching at Council Oak. I was raised in Eureka Springs, Arkansas and graduated with a B.A. in Holistic Health from Hendrix College. I strive to support children to express who they truly are by recognizing, encouraging, and praising their natural talents while helping them gain confidence through experience in our play-based environment. I greatly value creating a community of inclusivity and gratitude where each student feels respected, seen and heard. It is truly an honor to walk alongside these creative children as they learn to embody the many life lessons of kindergarten and create a firm foundation for a lifelong love of learning!

CLASSROOM TEACHER, JORDAN WALTERS

My name is Jordan Walters and this is my 2nd year as a kindergarten teacher, but my 5th year as a teacher at Council Oak. I was born in Canada and have lived in China, Iowa, Kansas, and Illinois and am happy to call Tulsa my new home. I’m a culture enthusiast with a penchant for live music, abstract art, fiction, and film. Teaching kindergarten has reawakened my curiosity about the world and I look forward to investigating it further with my students. With empathy and equity, I seek to encourage and inspire my students to become their very best selves!

CLASSROOM TEACHER, JANA SIMMONS

Welcome to the Magnolia class!

I am Jana Simmons. I have been teaching with Tulsa Public Schools for 12 years. I have been married to Greg (not the builder) for 18 years in October. We have two children; Greer who is a Junior and Fiona who is a Freshman. Both are at Charles Page High School. I look forward to getting to know each of your children and families. This journey is a special time of growth and discovery!
Our Council Oak Teaching Team

CLASSROOM TEACHER, KRESTA TEEGARDEN

My name is Kresta Teegarden and I have had the privilege of being a part of this school since 2004. I am from Oklahoma and attended college at Northeastern State University, where I earned a Bachelor’s in Early Childhood Education. When I’m not teaching first grade, I’m at home with my two daughters, Sophia and Sunny, and my husband, David. Together with a team of amazing and creative teachers, I am committed to providing your family with a loving and developmentally sound foundation for a lifetime of learning. I strive to create and maintain an environment where your child can grow and thrive while exploring the world around them. Thank you for sharing your precious children with me.

CLASSROOM TEACHER, SYDNEY MOFFITT

I’m from Ada, Oklahoma and moved to Tulsa in 2016. I have an associate’s degree from TCC and then attended OU Tulsa where I completed my Bachelor’s in Education and graduated in 2020. I’m a military spouse and have a 9 month old.

For the past 6 years, I have worked with children. Making relationships is the most important thing for me in my teaching experience. I have enjoyed watching children’s curiosities being brought to life and witnessing their discoveries and progress through exploration and inquiry based learning.

CLASSROOM TEACHER, MARY BOGGS

For the past seven years, I have worked with children from birth to age 8. I earned my Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education at the University of Oklahoma, with emphasis on the Constructivist approach and Reggio Emilia inspired practices. I believe education for children should be a hands-on, learning experience. Through exploration, discovery, and investigation children can begin to construct their own authentic knowledge about the world around them.

I married my best friend, David. Currently, we don’t have any kiddos, but we do have two pups. We love to do all things outdoors; including hiking, canoeing, and gardening. I’m looking forward to a year full of learning and exploration!

CLASSROOM TEACHER, CHAD JOHNSON

My name is Chad Johnson, I am in my 4th year as an early childhood education teacher and my second year at Council Oak. I am a Tulsa native, and a graduate of the University of Tulsa.

Other than teaching, my biggest passion is classical music. I have a Bachelor’s Degree in Piano Performance and I also teach piano lessons to all ages. I offer piano lessons after school, either in my classroom or at my home.

My classroom philosophy is that children learn best when they feel safe, happy, and are having fun. One of the strategies that I utilize to make a lesson fun, is the incorporation of music. I believe that there is a song and dance for any lesson.
Our Council Oak Teaching Team

CLASSROOM TEACHER, ERICA DANLEY

I was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma and attended school at Barnard Elementary, Wilson Middle School, and Central High School. I graduated in 2007, with a degree in Early Childhood Education from Oklahoma State University. I have taught at several urban schools in the Tulsa and Oklahoma City area for the past 14 years. My husband Chris and I have one child, Louie, and several pets. In my spare time I enjoy creating art, playing cello, watching movies, and being out in nature. I am known to dabble in puppet making, miniatures, Lego, and stop-motion animation.

CLASSROOM TEACHER, NICOLE LOCKRIDGE

I am Nicole Y. Lockridge. I was born and raised in Tulsa, I’ve always known that I would be a teacher. I have spent majority of my life in a TPS classroom, either as a student, paraprofessional, or teacher. This will be my ninth year teaching third grade. I absolutely love working with this age group. Being a part of each students’ success brings pure joy to my heart. It’s amazing to witness how much they grow in just one year. My hope for each and every one of my students is to leave my class with the skills and tools necessary to be successful in whatever they choose to do in life.

CLASSROOM TEACHER, RICHARD CARTER

My name is Richard Carter. The 2022-23 school year is my 25th year to be teaching in this building. Away from school I enjoy spending time with my wife Darla, our three dogs, and two horses. We both sing in our church choir and enjoy many activities at church along with all things orange. Throughout the year you will find us in Stillwater for all of the home football games and this year we added season tickets for basketball and will be attending as many of the games as we can make. In addition to this I can frequently be found mowing our two and one half acres. I enjoy getting to know my students and their families better as we make this journey together.

CLASSROOM TEACHER, HEIDI GAULT

Hello! I am Heidi Gault, and I am excited to be your 5th grade teacher. I started teaching at COE in the Fall of 2021, and I have also taught French at Jenks High School, TCC, and KU. My husband and I are from Wichita, and we moved to Tulsa in 1997 after finishing graduate school at KU. We have three children – Ethan, Innes, and Ellie, all who attended COE. In my spare time, I love running and mountain biking, and my favorite adventure is backpacking and camping with my family.
Our Council Oak Teaching Team

**CLASSROOM TEACHER, PATTY EATON**

This year, I am excited to return to the pre-k classroom. I have worked at Council Oak for 18 years serving in a variety of roles. I look forward to building relationships with incoming families and share in their child's first “big school” experience.

When I am not at school, I enjoy traveling, nature, cooking and music. I especially love spending time with family and playing with my new baby grandson.

Childhood is that state which ends the moment a puddle is first viewed as an obstacle instead of an opportunity - Kathy Williams

**CLASSROOM TEACHER, JOANNA NIIHOLM**

My Name is Joanna Niiholm and I am the Pre-K teacher for the Quartz class. I've been teaching for two years and received my Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Oklahoma in May of 2021. During my free I enjoy reading, cooking, traveling, and spending time with my friends and family. I look forward to exploring, growing, creating, and learning with this community during the 2022-2023 school year!

**CLASSROOM TEACHER, SARAH BLANCHARD**

My name is Sarah Blanchard, and I am the PreK teacher in the Rose Rock Class. This is my 9th year teaching, and my second year at Council Oak. I received my Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education from the University of Oklahoma in 2014 and my master's degree in Early Childhood Education from NSU in 2019. In my free time I take aerial classes (silks, lyra, trapeze) at Tribe Circus Arts, and I also love doing yoga. I love teaching at Council Oak, and I love partnering with families to create the best PreK experience for the kiddos at this amazing school!

**CLASSROOM TEACHER, KELCI STANSBURY**

My name is Kelci Stansbury, and I am thrilled to join the Council Oak learning community! I have spent the past four years as an elementary visual arts educator and am excited to be on this new adventure in first grade. I am a graduate of the Evergreen State College and a Tulsa native. My classroom philosophy is rooted in learning through exploration, play, creative problem-solving, and collaboration. I am passionate about being a lifelong learner and value building healthy relationships. There is so much we are going to be learning together this year!
Our Council Oak Teaching Team

RESOURCE TEACHER, LAUREN MARTINEZ

In the summer of 2021, my husband and I visited Tulsa. We fell so in love with the community and the people that we packed up our 3 dogs and our belongings and moved on out here!

It fills me with so much joy and happiness to be here and to serve this school and the children that attend. I just finished up my master's from Northern Arizona University in Early Childhood Special Education. My background includes working in behavioral health and early childhood inclusion programs. I love working with students that learn outside of the typical, traditional way. I truly believe that every person deserves an equitable education.

RESOURCE TEACHER, MASON ROGOISH

Welcome to Mr. Mason's Room! My name is Mason Rogoish and I am the Special Education Teacher. The 2022-2023 school year is my 3rd year teaching at Council Oak Elementary. I am a graduate of OSU, a BTW Hornet, a Carver Wildcat and also attended COE in 1995!

I am married to my best friend and wife of 11 years, Sarah. I have two amazing children, Kingston and June. I love to cook, play music, and dance. I am so happy to be part of the best teaching team in the world, Council Oak Elementary!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER, RON KING

My name is Ron King. I am from Madill, Oklahoma. I graduated from Madill High School in 2006. After high school, I attended Murray State College and graduated with an associate degree. After Murray I went to Southeastern Oklahoma State University where I graduated with my bachelors. This is my third year at Council Oak.

In my free time I love to hunt and fish. I am also a huge football fan. I have been active in sports and recreation for my whole life. I am looking forward to the school year and can't wait to meet the children and their families.

MUSIC TEACHER, KATIE RYAN

My name is Katie Ryan and I was born in Tulsa, OK. I have a twin sister, one daughter and several pets. I earned a bachelor's degree in fine art from Oklahoma State University and a master's degree in art history from Syracuse University after which I began teaching art and as of 2022 have done so for 13 years. I love being part of the Council Oak teaching team for several reasons, namely the way we work together as a team. I believe it is important that kids have responsibility and agency in their own learning, we achieve this beautifully at Council Oak.
Our Council Oak Teaching Team

MUSIC TEACHER, TRAVIS HENSON

My name is Travis Henson. I’m originally from Oklahoma City. I graduated from SWOSU in 2006 and am currently attending OU for continuing education. I love teaching at Council Oak! My teaching is based on the Orff Process and holistic learning. Music has provided a space for me to belong, create, and thrive. I am honored to share that opportunity, that space, with our children.

LIBRARY, KATHLEEN BERRIGAN

Born in New Orleans, Mrs. Berrigan’s parents moved to Tulsa when she was an infant and she loves this city. She received her bachelors in Journalism/Public Relations from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2004. Afterwards she graduated with a Masters in Library Media Science from Northeastern State University while managing a bookstore in downtown Tulsa. She has been a librarian with Tulsa Public schools since 2020. She has two children with her husband Erik. In addition to her family, her greatest joy is sharing her passion for books and the love of stories with young readers.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM, NATALIE BERKA

Hello and welcome!
My name is Natalie Berka and I am so excited to have all of your children in my class. This is my seventh year teaching, and my third year at Council Oak Elementary School. I received my Bachelors of Science in Early Childhood Education from the University of Oklahoma. In my free time I enjoy watching OU football, riding my bike, and spending time with my family and friends. I can’t wait to have an amazing year with your children!

READING INTERVENTIONIST, MOLLY SINNETT

I am excited to be teaching again! My love for Council Oak began when my oldest son started kindergarten here. I love being apart of such an inclusive community where all kiddos have a chance to learn and grow.

When I am not at school, I love to fish, read with my boys, go on runs and just be in the great outdoors. Family time is my favorite time.
Our Council Oak Teaching Team

GIFTED & TALENTED, DIANE STANFORD

My name is Diane Stanford. I graduated from OSU and am the gifted teacher. I have taught Gifted and Talented for 18 years. My favorite subject when I was in school was math and I still love it.

I enjoy playing games and solving puzzles. I love to go to Escape Rooms when I can find a group to go with. I have one daughter and one dog, whose name is Bella. I love coffee and Mexican food. My go-to snack would be cashews, almonds, or peanuts.

ELD, EARLENE GATHRIGHT

Working with children has always been my passion. From years of teaching and leadership, I have had the most wonderful experiences. Therefore, having the opportunity to work with students learning English and becoming productive citizens in the United States, is a great opportunity. They bring a rich culture to our school and community.

SPEECH PATHOLOGIST, SUSAN JOHNSTON

I have been the Speech & Language Pathologist at our school for 10 years now. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Speech Language Pathology at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah in 2005 and my Master's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Tulsa in 2011. I absolutely love what I do! I get to educate and empower students every day, helping them build confidence in themselves. I firmly believe in our school, parents, and staff and am honored to be a part of the Council Oak team.

I am a proud mom of 2, my son Liam and my daughter Autumn. My husband Greg is a storm chaser and loves to share his weather knowledge and safety with students. In our spare time we love to travel to Colorado every chance we get!
Our Council Oak Teaching Team

TEACHER ASSISTANT, GRACIE EATON-CLARK

I am Ms. Gracie. I work in the Turquoise class as a TA. I went to school at Council Oak, and I graduated from Booker T. Washington High School. I have been working at Council Oak for 4 years as a para and now a PreK TA. I plan to be a teacher in the future. I love working with children everyday and couldn't imagine myself doing anything different.

TEACHER ASSISTANT, NICHOLE CLEMENS

Hi my name is Nichole Clemens. I am the building TA (teacher assistant) for Council Oak. This year will mark my fifth year at the school. I enjoy the chance of getting to work with and help a variety of students throughout the day.

TEACHER ASSISTANT, ASHLEY EMERSON

I am grateful to be returning for my 8th year at Council Oak Elementary. I enjoy incorporating my love of nature with the opportunity for learning moments anywhere I'm with children. It's a joy to watch and be a part of children growing into their own gifts, talents, and abilities.
PARaprofessional, Shawn Tiger

Welcome to COE
I have been working here at COE for 22 years. I absolutely love working as a Para and assisting teachers with their daily activities. I have two amazing children, Jordan and Jasmine. We have 2 dogs that enjoy long walks on Riverwalk. I enjoy going to all sporting events and traveling to the beach. Attending Pow Wow’s and collecting beaded earrings are my favorite. Tiger spelled in Creek language is “Kaccv”.

PARaprofessional, Jennifer Brooks

In the spring of 2022, my husband and I moved to Tulsa from Colorado with our two dogs and cat. We have enjoyed exploring the city, restaurants, parks and hosting a lot of friends and family. My background is medical as I was an ER medic for 8 years and decided to change careers and go into education about 4 years ago. I’m so happy to be here at Council Oak Elementary and serving my community. Working with children gives me great happiness and fulfills my day.

PARaprofessional, Cindy Shyers

I started working as a para for Council Oak last year. Although I just became a part of the staff, my family has been a part of this school for several years. I have 3 children, Phillip, Judah, and Mia. I love to create! I like creating art using wood, charcoal and acrylics. I also love being out in nature, so hiking is a favorite. Going to different sports games like baseball and soccer are also favorite things to do. I look forward to the year here at Council Oak and being a part of children’s growth.

Facilities Team, Sandy Parker Chlyma

My name is Sandy Parker Chlyma and I have had the privilege of working for Tulsa Public Schools for 33 years, 15 of which have been with my family - Council Oak! When I’m not at school, my enjoy spending time with my husband and family, especially seeing all the leopards at Safari Joes!
Our Council Oak Teaching Team

AFTERCARE COORDINATOR, KRISTIE SMITH

Hello my name is Kristie Smith, I'm the site coordinator for Council Oaks After Learning Program. I'm a mother of three boys that taught me the value of our youths education. I feel lucky and privileged to be working and teaching the educators and leaders of our future.

AFTERCARE SUPERVISOR, KATLYN STAY

Hello my name is Katlyn Stay. I've been working with Tulsa Public Schools for 8 years. I am the program supervisor for the After Learning Program at Council Oak. Currently, I am working towards a Bachelors in Education.

AFTERCARE TEACHER, LINDA HARRIS

I am a group leader in the After Learning Program and have worked at Tulsa Public Schools for 5 years. I feel lucky and privileged to work for Tulsa Public Schools. I enjoy working with the leaders of our future.

AFTERCARE TEACHER, JOINING
Your Back-to-School

CHECKLIST

☑️ SCHOOL UNIFORM/DRESS CODE

We will continue to observe the Tulsa Public Schools dress code just as we have over the past two years. As a uniform district, children may wear a standard uniform inclusive of khaki or navy pants, shorts and/or skirts as well as a polo shirt of assorted color. However, as we continue to prioritize strong school attendance and a positive school culture, our focus is on welcoming children to Council Oak in whatever clothing they have, so long as it falls within the Tulsa Public Schools Dress Code Policy.

☑️ LABEL! LABEL! LABEL!

Did we mention label?! Having your child’s coat, sweatshirts, backpacks, water bottles, lunch boxes and just about anything else you can imagine properly labeled will bring you much needed relief when it goes missing! Daily, our Council Oak Teaching Team discovers personal property of our children on the playground, in their classroom, the gym, the cafeteria, etc... sometimes the lost garments even takeover the hallways. Labeling your child’s items with their names (first initial and last name at a minimum) is extremely helpful as both you and your child attempt to retrieve it.

☑️ REST-TIME (PREK ONLY)

Everyday, our prekindergarten children will be offered an intentional time in the afternoon to rest. Children are not required to sleep however, after a busy day, many do. Families are encouraged to bring a small nap mat or blanket as well as a small “lovey (if needed).” Please be thoughtful of size as prek lockers are very small and get very full.

☑️ BACKPACK

Though not required, a backpack can be very helpful for your child as they attend school. We do ask that backpack options are appropriate for the size of your child (not too big!), contain only school appropriate items (no toys please!), and be able to fit inside your child’s assigned locker.

☑️ SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Each grade-level at Council Oak Elementary has a unique school supply list. This list can be found on our school website as well as in our main office. If you are needing support in purchasing this year’s school supplies, or you are interested in helping other families to purchase school supplies, please reach out to the main office at 918-833-9400.

☑️ LUNCHBOX

Breakfast and lunch are free for all Council Oak Elementary children. Children may either bring their lunch from home or receive a lunch from the school cafeteria. We do remind our families to make healthy choices if their child is bringing lunch from home (aka no soda or candy please).
PreK-Kinder Supply List

All supplies will be community use.

**Must Have Supplies**
1 box facial tissue  
2 containers Clorox wipes  
1 ream copy paper  
3 composition notebooks (black)  
2 bottles Elmer’s glue  
1 pkg glue sticks  
2 sets watercolor paints  
1 pkg 12 count #2 pencils  
1 black sharpie  
4 dry erase markers  
2 boxes Crayola markers  
2 boxes Crayola crayons  
1 plastic pocket folder  
1 water bottle

**Optional Supplies**
1 container hand sanitizer  
1 pkg. pink erasers  
cardstock (variety of colors & black)  
watercolor paper  
wire  
washi tape  
small dixie cups  
paper plates  
baby wipes  
magic erasers
1st-2nd Grade Supply List

All supplies will be community use.

**Must Have Supplies**
1 pkg. 24 count #2 pre sharpened pencils  
2 boxes Crayola markers  
2 boxes Crayola crayons  
1 pkg. Uni Ball rollerball pens (black)  
1 pkg. 24 count colored pencils  
1 box cap erasers  
2 dry erase markers  
4 vis a vis markers  
1 black sharpie  
4 glues sticks  
1 bottle Elmer’s glue  
24ct watercolor paints  
1 ream copy paper  
2 pkgs wide ruled notebook paper  
1 pkg index notecards  
3 composition notebooks (black)  
1 primary journal (can be found on Amazon)  
2 boxes facial tissue  
washi tape  
masking tape  
4 plastic folders with brads (blue, green, yellow, purple)  
11in white binder (1st grade only)  
1 water bottle

**Optional Supplies**
1 box slider sandwich bags  
1 box slider gallon bags  
2 containers play-doh (any color)  
multi-color post-its  
Scissors
3rd-5th Grade Supply List

Items with a * may be labeled with student name. All other supplies will be community use.

**Must Have Supplies**

- 4 black and white composition notebooks college ruled *
- 2 composition notebooks with graph paper *
- 1 plastic red pocket folder *
- 1 plastic blue pocket folder *
- 1 package classic colors washable markers
- 2 black Sharpies
- 2 black Flair pens
- 1 package pre-sharpened wood pencils
- 1 roll of washi tape
- 13x5 package of index cards
- 1 package post it notes
- 1 box tissues
- Water color tray (3rd grade only)
- 1 Highlighter (4th grade only)
- 1 Box of round toothpicks (5th grade only)

**Optional Supplies**

- White copy paper
- 1 package college ruled lined paper
- White construction paper
- Clorox disinfectant wipes
- Plastic protractor
ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL
Walkers, Carline & After-Care Transportation

During arrival, please drop your child off at their designated area (marked above). During dismissal, please be sure to have your child(ren)'s dismissal number posted on your dashboard. The Council Oak Teaching Team will call your child's number at which point their homeroom teacher will dismiss the child to the carline. During both arrival and dismissal, drivers must remain in their car at all times. Additionally, for an efficient carline process, cars must continue to move forward along the curb. The Teaching Team will be sure to direct your child in the appropriate direction. Stopping your vehicle in the passing lane and/or double parking is prohibited at all times. Teachers will not dismiss a child to a car not located alongside the curb.
WALKERS
During arrival, families are welcome to walk their child to any of the 4 crosswalks located near the school. Children will be crossed by the assigned crossing guard, we ask that our families remain on the far side of the crosswalk. During dismissal, families must wait at their preferred crosswalk holding their child(ren)’s dismissal number for the crossing guard to see. The Council Oak Teaching Team will call for your child at which point their homeroom teacher will dismiss the child to the crosswalk area. For everyone’s safety, please do not call/walk your child across the street outside of the protected crosswalks at anytime.

BUSES & VANS
This year we will have a few Tulsa Public Schools buses as well as various aftercare vans utilizing our bus loading and unloading zone. Drivers must refrain from parking in the dedicated bus area on the southern end of the building on Cincinnati Ave.

DISMISSAL NUMBERS
Safety is our top priority at Council Oak; dismissal numbers are a key component to our dismissal safety. Whether picking up a walker at the crosswalk or a car-rider in carline, having your assigned numbers clearly posted helps the Council Oak Teaching Team dismiss your child(ren) to the appropriate responsible adult. These numbers are unique to your child and, for their safety, will not include children’s names of any kind. At the beginning of the year, your family will be issued 2 dismissal placards. The Council Oak Teaching Team will not dismiss children to anyone without a school-issued placard.
CONTINUED LEARNING AT HOME

With a strong focus on growing academic competencies within our children, the Teaching Team at Council Oak Elementary is committed to clarifying the intent and focus of homework assignments. For decades, research supporting and arguing “homework policies” have made their way into school policies throughout the country; we at COE are deliberately bringing the needs of our children to the forefront of our efforts. In doing so, the target of extending children’s learning into their non-school time intentionally supports learning concepts explored in class, increases fluency with fact & process recall, as well as invites our families to engage in thought-provoking dialogue. So what does this look like for your child?

COMMUNICATION

At the beginning of each week, our classroom educators will share (via email) the upcoming learning concepts planned, the upcoming measured (graded) assignments as well as applicable resources to support the explored concepts initiated within the classroom.

READING NIGHTLY

According to the Department of Education, “The more students read, or are read to for fun on their own time and at home, the higher their reading scores.”

Prekindergarten-Kindergarten  A nightly invitation to read
First grade-Second Grade      10-15 minutes nightly
Third grade                   15-20 minutes nightly
Fourth grade                  20-25 minutes nightly
Fifth grade                   25-30 minutes nightly

CONCEPT PRACTICE

Utilizing the resources shared by your classroom educator, or taking advantage of an unexpected learning opportunity, extending the connections made in the classroom is the most beneficial support for academic growth.

Prekindergarten-Kindergarten  5-10 minutes nightly
First grade-Second Grade      10-15 minutes nightly
Third grade-Fifth grade       15-20 minutes nightly
VISITING SCHOOL

We are so excited to welcome our families back into the building for the 2022-2023 school year! And though we cannot resume open doors during our morning arrival, we are so happy to welcome families during volunteer opportunities, scheduled lunches, classroom visits and a variety of other times throughout the year. Just as we always have, every adult coming to visit the school will need to sign-in and out through the main office. Additionally, all volunteers must have a background check on file through our main office prior to being in the building. For any questions and/or assistance, please call the main office at Council Oak (918-833-9400).

CLASSROOM OBSERVATIONS

The Council Oak Teaching Team is honored to share in the daily happenings of each classroom. Should a family request to observe their child(ren)'s classroom, Tulsa Public Schools requires 24 hours notice prior to requested observation. Please communicate these requests to both the classroom teacher as well as the main office so that we can help to coordinate your visit.

COMMUNICATION REQUESTS

Prioritizing their work with children, our Council Oak teaching Team will have minimal access to their emails/texts throughout the school day. Should you have an immediate need, the best method for communicating that need is through the main office. Otherwise, as guided by their teacher contract, the Council Oak Teaching Team has 48 hours to respond to a parent correspondence.
STAY CONNECTED!

WEEKLY CLASSROOM COMMUNICATION
Dependent on your child(ren)’s age, you will receive weekly emails for your child(ren)’s homeroom teacher at least once a week. The emails will contain important information such as current areas of study, upcoming events & forms needed for special events such as field-trips. Please be sure to keep your preferred email address up-to-date with your child(ren)’s teacher as this will ensure the most consistent messaging.

WEEKLY COUNCIL OAK BULLETIN
The Weekly Bulletin for our Council Oak Elementary community is sent home via email at the end of each week. The Bulletin includes a calendar of events for the upcoming week as well as announcements and newsworthy items. Please be sure to check your email each week to learn more about classroom and school-wide events.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES
The Weekly Bulletin for our Council Oak Elementary community is sent home via email at the end of each week. The Bulletin includes a calendar of events for the upcoming week as well as announcements and newsworthy items. Please be sure to check your email each week to learn more about classroom and school-wide events.

CONNECT WITH YOUR COUNCIL OAK PTA & FOUNDATION
Both of our parent organizations, the PTA and Foundation, are amazing avenues to build relationships with other Council Oak families, get involved within our community and stay in the know of all the fantastic opportunities for our children. Feel free to reach out to either organization at https://www.counciloakfoundation.org and/or https://www.facebook.com/counciloakpta.
Responding to concerning child behaviors

FAMILY RESOURCES

Strategies to help navigate school-based concerns

1. Talk with your child’s teacher
At Council Oak, our families and teachers work in partnership to not only support the academic components of learning but also the children’s social & emotional wellbeing. Teachers are most easily reached via email and will typically respond within 48 hours.

2. Reach out to the office team
If families feel uncomfortable or would prefer to speak with a member of our office team, we are here to help. Our office line is answered every school day, 7:30am–3:30pm. Council Oak families are welcome to call and schedule an appointment with Mrs. Flowers or Mrs. Jones.

3. Safety Concern Reporting Hotline
All Tulsa Public Schools children, teachers and families can utilize TIPS, an online system to report potential threats to the safety of children and staff.

Community Service Partner
Embedded within our building, Council Oak Elementary, is thrilled to have the support of Family & Children Services. As a result, our families have the opportunity to connect with a licensed therapist, a behavioral technician, and a case manager. Family & Children Services accepts both Soonercare as well as most private insurances.

Student Success Plans
The Student Success Plan is a way to help students make a plan to meet their goals to succeed at school and in life. Teachers, counselors, and family work with the student to set academic and behavioral goals and ways in which to achieve them. These plans can be developed at the request of any Council Oak staff or recommended by the Council Oak Teaching Team.

Behavior Response Plan
The Council Oak Elementary fosters a positive school environment. This district goal is to support our students in learning how to navigate challenging situations and make smart and productive decisions about how they respond so that they are prepared to be successful in college, careers, and life. Download the guide at www.tulsaschools.org.

Council Oak Elementary
Office Phone Number
918-833-9400

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Additional family supports

FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) forbids any educational agency, institution or school from disclosing personally identifiable information from a student’s educational records to any non-school official without parental notification or consent. Specifically, FERPA prohibits the Council Oak Teaching Team from sharing any information, including discipline consequences, with anyone other than a child’s family.
Seeking to Understand: Questions we consider when assigning appropriate discipline

When and where the concern occurred?

Who was involved?

When and where the concern occurred?

Did we have adult supervision as expected?

Is this incident a pattern of behavior? Connected to a previous concern? An escalation of behavior?

in accordance with guidance from APA (American Psychological Association) and aligned with Tulsa Public Schools’ Student and Family Guide to Success, we...

- Allow more flexibility with discipline and rely more on teachers’ and administrators expertise within our school building
- Have teachers and other professional staff be the first point of contact regarding discipline incidents.
- Replace one-size-fits-all discipline with an approach that gears the discipline to the seriousness of the infraction.

Our work is unfolding, responsive, and continually improved based on best practices. Our unwavering commitment to every child, teacher, and family at Council Oak is to provide a physically and emotionally safe space for all.
Drills! Drills! & Drills!

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

**Lockdown**
- Remain inside: schedule as usual
- Close window coverings
- ALL walkie talkies on w/volume up

**Intruder on campus**
- RUN to your safe place
- HIDE in your safe place
- FIGHT if your life is in danger

**Fire Drill**
- Line up at your nearest exit
- Exit space when notified "exit now"
- Gather in safe space away from danger
- ALL walkie talkies on w/volume up

**Tornado Drill**
- Remain or get inside quickly
- Seek shelter in a safe space
- ALL walkie talkies on w/volume up

**Atmospheric Release Drill**
- Remain or get inside quickly
- Close all window & block any air drafts
- ALL walkie talkies on w/volume up
TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLICY 2601-R: STUDENT DRESS CODE

General Rules

The following decorations and/or designs (including tattoos and/or brands either temporary or permanent*) imprinted upon or attached to the body or clothing are prohibited:

- Symbols, mottoes, words or acronyms that convey crude, vulgar, profane, violent, death-oriented, gang-related, sexually explicit, or sexually suggestive messages.
- Symbols, mottoes, words or acronyms advertising tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia.

*Visible and permanent tattoos/brands incompatible with the standards set forth herein shall be covered to prohibit their display.

Excessively large or baggy clothes are prohibited. Approved garments must be of a length and fit that are suitable to the build and stature of the student.

Permitted garments shall be clean, in good repair, and shall have no holes worn through, slashes or rips.

Permitted clothing shall be worn as designed/manufactured to include the following:
- Suspender straps must be attached as designed and worn on shoulders
- Shirts/blouses must be appropriately buttoned
- Zippers on pants and shirts must be zipped
- Belts must be fastened

School team apparel or school organizational uniforms are allowed on a game day or on other days as approved by the school's administration.

All students participating in approved school activities are expected to comply with required dress and personal appearance regulations of the activity in which they are participating. Students who refuse to dress as required by the school or sponsor will not be permitted to participate in the activity or to represent the school in any way.

Outerwear

Students must store outerwear (coats, hats, gloves, scarves, etc.) in their lockers upon arrival at school. Outerwear will not be permitted in classrooms, cafeterias, libraries, corridors or other areas of the school buildings after arrival unless authorized by the school's administration.

Head Coverings/Sunglasses

Scarves, curlers, bandanas, sweatbands, or other similar head coverings or adornments shall not be worn to class or within school buildings.

Caps, hats or other similar head coverings shall not be worn to class or within school buildings unless prescribed by a physician, previously approved by the school's administration for religious reasons, or approved by the school's administration for a special school activity.

Sunglasses (unless prescribed by a physician) shall not be worn to class or within school buildings.

Upper Garments

The cut of sleeveless garments must not expose undergarments or be otherwise immodest. Strapless garments are prohibited. Shoulder straps of permitted garments must be a minimum of the width of two fingers of the person wearing the garment.

Bare midriffs, immodestly low cut necklines, off the shoulder, or bare backs are prohibited. Garments must be of appropriate length, cut and/or fit to meet these requirements while sitting and/or bending.

Lower Garments

Undergarments shall not be visible. Pants and shorts shall be worn at the waist, and shall not extend below the heel of the shoe in length.

Tights or leggings worn as outerwear, spandex, bike shorts, bathing/swimming wear, sleep wear (including pajamas), etc., are not permitted.

Shorts and skirts must be of modest length defined as a maximum of 6" above the knee of the wearer or not above the fingertip of the wearer with the arm fully extended, whichever is longer.

Footwear

Students shall wear appropriate footwear for protection and hygienic reasons while on school grounds, participating in school activities, or on school transportation. House slippers, and shower shoes are examples of unacceptable footwear.

Accessories

Jewelry and other accessories shall not convey prohibited messages as defined above. Visible pierced jewelry shall be limited to the ear.

Dog collars, tongue rings and studs, wallet chains, large hair picks, chains that connect one part of the body to another, or other jewelry/accessories that pose a safety concern for the student or others are prohibited.

Religious and Health Accommodation

Where a bona fide religious belief or health need of a student conflicts with the school dress code, reasonable accommodation shall be provided. Any student desiring accommodation shall notify the school principal in writing of the requested accommodation and the factual basis for the request. Approved coverings worn as part of a student's bona fide religious practices or beliefs shall not be prohibited under this policy.

Clothing Assistance

It is the policy of the Board that no student will be denied an education due to a bona fide financial inability to obtain clothing that complies with the school dress code. Any student for whom compliance with the school dress code poses a bona fide financial burden may submit a written request for clothing needed, together with a statement of financial need. School principals, or their designees, shall assist families in financial need to obtain clothing that complies with the school dress code. In meeting requests for assistance, principals, or their designees, shall consider community resources such as clothing donations from school personnel, merchants, parent organizations, and charitable organizations, financial assistance, purchasing clothing for a student, and providing additional time for a student to obtain clothing that complies with the school dress code.

School Policies

Individual schools, via their respective school shared decision-making councils or school improvement committees may, upon approval by the principal, impose more strict dress code requirements than those set forth herein. However, all schools must meet the standards set forth in this policy as the minimum requirement. Schools shall publish any and all additional requirements/expectations relative to student dress. Students and their parents/guardians have the responsibility to be aware of any school specific dress codes and to conform to those requirements after the school has provided reasonable notice.

Penalties/Sanctions

Students who elect not to conform to the dress and grooming rules set forth by this policy will be subjected to disciplinary actions and/or sanctions as defined by the district's Behavior Response Plan.

Unusual Circumstances

If any unusual situation relative to dress or grooming arises which is not specifically covered in this policy, the building administrator shall have the authority to rule on the appropriateness of the attire.

ADOPTED: JULY 2001
REVISED: NOVEMBER 2013
**Welcome to Our School**

**Our 2022-2023 Calendar**

**First Day of Classes: August 18**
**Last Day of Classes: May 25**

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*Please check with your school for exact dates and times
**Any additional calendar days beyond May 26, 2023, naturally occurring or otherwise, will result in an extension of the calendar or distance learning days could be declared.
COUNCIL OAK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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