

# Newsletter



## Reed, Resendiz Earn Teacher of the Year Honors

A pair of OPS educators were recognized for their exceptional work in the classroom this spring!

In February, it was revealed 2024-2025 OPS Teacher of the Year Liz Reed had been named one of 10 finalists for the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Award. Reed, who teaches English at the 8th Grade Center, was surprised with a visit from officials from the Oklahoma State Department of Education (pictured below) in March.

The Oklahoma Teacher of the Year will be named at a special gala on June 5 in Midwest City.



Meanwhile, Stone Canyon's Kristin Resendiz was named the 2025-2026 OPS Teacher of the Year in March at the annual Evening of Distinction (pictured above).

Resendiz is the lead special education teacher at Stone Canyon and is in her 13th year with Owasso Public Schools. She teaches with a simple philosophy in mind: do what is best for the individual student.

Resendiz will complete the application process to be considered for Oklahoma Teacher of the Year over the next several months.



## Looking Ahead

**May 4-8**

Teacher Appreciation Week

**May 5-7**

Pre-K & Kindergarten Kick-Start

**May 11**

OPS Board of Education Meeting

**May 19**

Class of 2026 Commencement

**May 22**

Last Day of 2025-26 School Year

**June 1**

Summer Feeding Begins

**June 8**

OPS Board of Education Meeting

**July 13**

OPS Board of Education Meeting

**July 30**

Summer Feeding Ends

**August 10**

OPS Board of Education Meeting

**August 11**

Elementary Meet the Teacher Night

**August 13**

First Day of 2026-27 School Year

## Projects Update

Planning continues on many of the major projects from the 2025 Student Investment Plan, with additional work already underway this spring and more scheduled for summer.

Over spring break, a new road was added around Bailey Elementary to ease traffic on 86th Street during busy drop-off and pick-up times. It will be completed later this spring. New fencing was also installed on OPS property adjacent to the Ag property in April.

Major construction will move forward this summer at secondary campuses. At the 8th Grade Center, construction on Phases 1 & 2 will begin, featuring a tornado-safe cafeteria, science labs, and spaces for special education and fine arts. At the 6th Grade Center, site work will begin for the new 5th Grade Elementary Center, and the 129th Street entrance will be regraded to improve access and traffic flow.

Additionally this summer, a roof replacement project at Smith

Elementary will begin, while Owasso High School East Campus roof upgrades will commence with the replacement of chiller and boiler lines.

Summer projects for OPS athletics facilities include resurfacing of the tennis courts and installing new turf at Owasso Stadium.



## 2026-2027 Enrollment Has Begun

Enrollment for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year has begun!

Parents of returning students can complete the enrollment process through the Parent Portal. Simply navigate to the "Forms" section of the portal and fill out the required information for each returning student. Any parent who needs assistance with accessing the Parent Portal can contact their student's school.

At this time, parents of students who will be new to the District, including Pre-K and new Kindergarten students, can begin the enrollment process by filling out a pre-registration form located on our website. You will then receive instructions on how to add your student to your Parent Portal.

For more information on enrollment, please visit the District's [Enrollment webpage](#). No need to wait! Complete the enrollment process now and enjoy a worry-free summer!



## Ram Spotlight: Aaron Higgs

Aaron Higgs is a substitute custodian for Owasso Public Schools, filling in at school sites across the District as needed.

In January, while serving at Ator Elementary, Higgs became a real-life hero. When a student began choking during lunch, he quickly stepped in and used the Heimlich maneuver to help prevent what could have been a tragic situation.

Moments like this remind us that every member of our Ram Family plays an important role in keeping students safe. Higgs' quick action and selfless response made all the difference that day.

To hear more of Higgs' story, check out the District's YouTube page at [youtube.com/@owassops](https://youtube.com/@owassops)



## Shoutouts!

» OHS students Zoey Garrett, Ella Burns, Jaxon Sivils, Brylee Cole, Michael Fleming, Selene Mack, Ryland Nuckels and Darci Roberts, along with OHS teacher Avery Chambers & OPS Director of Fine Arts Dr. Chris Barber were all named recipients of the Oklahoma Arts Excellence Award.

» Students in Mrs. Zena Lewis' 7th Grade geography class won a \$250 prize from the Oklahoma Alliance for Geography and donated their winnings to Owasso Community Resources.

» Owasso Varsity Cheer wrapped up their season by claiming the Stunt State Championship.

» The Barnes Elementary Academic Bowl team took home 1st place at a competition in March.