

LPS sets hours, credits

Did you know that as the Fort Sill Garrison Commander I have the opportunity to sit on the Lawton Public Schools Board of Education as a member of the board.



Did you know?

By Col. Raymond Lacey
Fort Sill Garrison commander

In this capacity, I attend semimonthly meetings and provide a voice for Fort Sill on all matters affecting the education of the children in our Fort Sill and Lawton communities.

During the July 15 board meeting, two important policies were passed that affect students at all levels.

The first policy is a change in school hours.

The Lawton Public Schools Board voted to add 15 minutes to the length of the school day for all schools. All LPS elementary schools, which includes Geronimo Road Elementary School and Sheridan Road Children's School on Fort Sill, will now begin at 9 a.m. and release at 3:45 p.m.

All middle schools will begin at 8:30 a.m. and release at 3:15 p.m. and all high schools will begin at

7:45 a.m. and release at 2:30 p.m.

This action provides LPS more flexibility in determining the length of the school year in the event conditions create a need to make up lost days or change because of budget or other constraints.

The second policy affects high school students and the number of basic credits required to graduate from high school. The policy brings LPS high schools in-line with State of Oklahoma requirements.

Here are the highlights of the policy.

The student must have at least 23 units of credit earned in the subject areas listed to be eligible for graduation.

Since the 2006-2007 school year, all ninth grade

students, in order to graduate from an Oklahoma public school, are required to complete the "college preparatory/work ready curriculum or sets of competencies" at the secondary level. The core curriculum of 23 units will include at least 17 units in the following Achieving Graduation Excellence (ACE) graduation requirements:

Four units of English; three units of mathematics; three units of laboratory science; three units of history and citizenship skills; two units of foreign language or computer technology approved for college admission requirements; one additional unit selected from the preceding categories or career and technology education courses approved for college admis-

sion requirements; and one unit or set of competencies of fine arts such as music, art, or drama, or one unit or set of competencies of speech.

I want to stress that this is only an outline of the requirements; the board outlined many choices that exist within each category.

To take full advantage of all the choices that exist and to ensure students are preparing for graduation, I would recommend that all students and parents check with high school counselors for more detailed information.

As we begin the new school year I will continue to update everyone on the many things happening in the Lawton Public Schools and its board of education.

Career counselors

Command Career Counselor: Sgt. Maj. Hilton, 442-4815; Installation Operations Noncommissioned Officer: Staff Sgt. Shannon Hanks, 442-4707;

U.S. Army Garrison/40th Military Police Detachment/Fires Center of Excellence: Staff Sgt. Shannon Hanks, 442-2822;

Administrative Assistant Staff Sgt. Jaime Oliveros, 442-3968;

Senior Reserve Component Career Counselor: Sgt. Maj. Shawn Streussnig, 442-5930;

428th Field Artillery Brigade: Sgt. 1st Class Walter Martinez, 442-3910;

1st Battalion 78th FA: Staff Sgt. Crystal Lockhart, 442-8869; 2nd

Battalion 2nd FA Staff Olivia Lockhart, 442-3062;

434th Field Artillery Brigade: Sgt. 1st Class Yajaira Villarreal, 442-1274;

6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade: Sgt. 1st Class Jeremie Wilson, 583-0310;

Medical Command: Staff Sgt. Jerold Dixon, 458-2082;

214th Fires Brigade: Master Sgt. Christopher Williams, 442-5240;

2nd Battalion 4th FA: Staff Sgt. Tremain Doctor, 442-3844;

2nd Battalion 5th FA: Staff Sgt. Christopher Drinkwater, 442-3442;

1st Battalion 14th FA: Staff Sgt. Michael Massey, 442-2328;

168th BSB: Staff Sgt. Bobby H. Head; 75th Fires Brigade: Master Sgt. Adrian Ramos;

3rd Battalion 13th FA: Staff Sgt. Santos Reyes, 442-0518;

2nd Battalion 18th FA: Staff Sgt. Tyrese Jefferson, 442-3493;

1st Battalion 17th FA: Staff Sgt. Charles Ellis, 442-6452; 100th BSB: Staff Sgt. Amanda Snyder, 442-4792; and 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade: Master Sgt. Anthony L. Anderson, 442-8171.

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