

# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

BOE



*Principal - Mrs. Lorle Bolt*

## **A message from our principal**

Dear Charger Families,

At Overbrook Attendance Center, the safety and well-being of our students is our highest priority. As part of our comprehensive safety plan, we will be conducting a **practice lockdown drill on Monday, February 16, 2026**. The purpose of this drill is to help students and staff practice the steps they would take to stay safe in the unlikely event of an emergency.

We understand that discussing safety procedures with young children requires care and sensitivity. To best support our elementary students, we focus on:

- **Using simple and reassuring language** – explaining that drills are a way to practice being safe, just like fire drills
- **Clear communication** – helping students understand what to do in a calm, age-appropriate way
- **Visual aids** – using pictures and demonstrations to show where to go and what to do
- **Addressing questions and anxieties** – encouraging students to share their thoughts and reassuring them that drills are only a precaution
- **Regular practice** – helping students feel more comfortable and prepared through routine practice



We encourage families to talk with their child about the drill and emphasize that these practices are an important part of keeping everyone safe. If your child has specific concerns or anxieties, please don't hesitate to reach out to their teacher. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure a safe and nurturing environment for our students.

Warm regards,  
Mrs. Bolt

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## February Dates to Remember

2/9: **No School**

2/11: BOE Meeting - 6:00 PM

2/17: Spring Picture Day (Individual & Class Photos)

2/25: Parent-Teacher Conferences – 4:00–7:00 PM

2/26: **No School** – Parent-Teacher Conferences, 8:00 AM–7:00 PM

2/27: **No School**

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## Important Dismissal Reminder

Dear Families,

As a reminder, we have several dismissal times throughout the afternoon. If your child is dismissed as a walker at **3:20 PM** and you are waiting for a sibling to arrive from Carbondale, we kindly ask that you keep your child with you during this time.

Recently, some dismissed students have been rejoining students and staff who are waiting by the east doors for buses to arrive. This can create confusion and sometimes leads to behavioral challenges, as remaining students may want to move freely with those who have already been dismissed. To help ensure a smooth, safe, and calm dismissal for everyone, we ask that dismissed students remain with their parents once they have been released.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued partnership. We truly appreciate your support in helping our dismissal process run smoothly.

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## Order Your OAC Yearbooks

OAC Yearbook Orders Are Open!

Parents, please order your yearbooks online!

Go to [inter-state.com/order](https://inter-state.com/order)

Enter the code: 0280P



Place your order before March 27, 2026

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## Public Notice

Notice is hereby given pursuant to K.S.A. 72-1431, of a public hearing to be held on the 11th day of February, 2026, at 6:00 pm at 104 S. Burlingame Road, Scranton, Kansas regarding the Unified School District No. 434, Osage County, Kansas proposal to close Scranton Preschool/District Administrative Center for the following reasons:

The Board of Education proposes to close this building to improve the school system through the consolidation of facilities and the efficient reallocation of district resources. Currently, the facility houses only a single grade level (preschool) and the district administrative offices. Closing the building will allow the district to better utilize staff, reduce operational costs, and integrate preschool students into a more comprehensive educational environment alongside other grade levels. Additionally, the district will relocate administrative staffing and the District Administrative Center (DAC) to an existing vacant building previously utilized for this purpose, ensuring more efficient use of current district-owned property.

This proposal specifically addresses the loss of revenue resulting from declining enrollment—a challenge currently affecting a majority of Kansas school districts. The Board determines that the fiscal savings realized by discontinuing the operation of this physical infrastructure will be reallocated directly to enhance student instructional programs and educational services. By prioritizing investment in students over the maintenance of underutilized brick-and-mortar facilities, the district aims to protect and improve the overall educational opportunities for all pupils during this period of shifting demographics.

Students attending Scranton Preschool will be reassigned to Overbrook Attendance Center.

A representative of the board of education will present the proposal to close Scranton

Preschool and District Administrative Center and the board will hear testimony as to the advisability of the proposed closing.

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## Thank you!

On January 28, the Carbondale Masons generously donated \$3,000 to USD 434 to support monetary funds for students, including assistance with lunch costs, field trips, and other student needs. The donation was distributed equally among the district's three attendance centers. Principal Lorle Bolt accepted the funds on behalf of Overbrook Attendance Center (OAC), Principal Mike Maloun for Carbondale Attendance Center (CAC), and Principal Kyle Ellis for the high school. We sincerely thank the Carbondale Masons for their continued generosity and commitment to supporting our students and families.



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## Subject: Overbrook Attendance Center, Kids Heart Challenge is Coming – Be the First to Sign Up Today! 🔄

Overbrook Attendance Center families, I am excited to help create a community of lifesavers and am asking you to join me. Sign up tonight to receive a wristband! This year, we have an important goal to have 100% of our families learn the lifesaving skill of Hands-Only CPR! It only takes a few minutes to learn, and it can make all the difference in an emergency.

1. Sign Up for Kids Heart Challenge by downloading the free “AHA Schools” app for Apple <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/aha-schools/id548389448> or Android [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aha\\_jump.android.communicator&hl=en&pli=1](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aha_jump.android.communicator&hl=en&pli=1) or by clicking HERE. [http://www2.heart.org/site/TR?fr\\_id=12398&pg=company&company\\_id=542206](http://www2.heart.org/site/TR?fr_id=12398&pg=company&company_id=542206)

2. Be a hero: Send 10 texts TODAY to help save lives. 3. Complete Finn's Mission: Complete all 7 steps, learn Hands-Only CPR, and be entered to win two Super Bowl tickets! By signing up and raising funds, you can help us earn gift certificates for physical activity and recess equipment to support the health & wellness of our school community. Let's work together to create a community of lifesavers.

Thank you for your support in helping us achieve this incredible goal!



## Kindergarten Parents: Mark your Calendars

**K Parents Only:** There will be no school for Kindergarten students on Friday, May 1st.

This allows the incoming preschoolers who will be Kindergarten students in the 2026-2027 school year to experience Kindergarten round-up! All other students (1st - 3rd) will have school that day as regularly scheduled.

## Board Goal 4: Community Involvement

At Overbrook Attendance Center (OAC), we prioritize strong partnerships with families and the community through consistent and meaningful communication. We regularly engage with families using Facebook pages, classroom newsletters, building newsletters, and district newsletters to share important information, celebrate successes, and keep families informed. We further strengthen community relationships by recognizing staff and community members whenever possible through the same communication channels used with families.

Beginning next school year, USD 434 will transition to ParentSquare as our primary communication platform. ParentSquare will provide families with one consistent avenue for communication across classrooms, buildings, and the district. This platform will streamline messaging, improve

accessibility, and allow for more timely and efficient communication, further strengthening our outreach to families.

The district has also hosted multiple steering committee meetings that included community representatives as part of the USD 434 reconfiguration process. These meetings allowed for open dialogue, community input, and collaboration to support informed decision-making.

Overbrook continues to partner with Overbrook Parks and Recreation through the shared use of district facilities, distribution of community flyers to students, and by opening our doors each summer to support an OPR-run summer camp program. These partnerships enhance opportunities for students and families beyond the school day.

Regarding enrollment, the process has become more streamlined each year. OAC and the district continue to refine procedures to make enrollment more accessible and family-friendly, ensuring families are supported throughout the process and encouraging continued community engagement with our schools.



**Lorle Bolt**

Lorle is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters