

We're OFF and Running

We just completed day 2 of the 2015-2016 school year. It's great to see the students in the buildings again!! As I reflect on the first couple of days, change is first and foremost on my mind. We've had changes at most schools and with these changes come a bit of chaos, but by day 2 things were already better.

Because of the addition of an auditorium, gym and office space on the high school, there is no parking lot available for AHS students. This has caused everyone to rethink parking. On day 1, many students decided the Presbyterian Church parking lot was their choice so this lot filled up very quickly. Day 2, students used all options a bit more and 14th and Cedar was not quite as congested. By the end of next week, students should be settled into their parking spot of choice.

Kennedy parent drop off and parking switched directions so this will take some time to get in a rhythm as well, but things again were better on day 2 than day 1.

Several organizations deserve many thanks as they were involved and have helped us to start up school safely. A big **THANK YOU** goes to Lon Schrader and his team from the Abilene Public Works Department. They were very helpful in posting signage and marking crosswalks in different places around our schools to help with traffic flow and safety.

The next big **THANK YOU** goes to Chief Heimer and the Abilene Police Department. Their presence in the school areas is always welcomed and very much appreciated. They are saturating the areas around the high school during the first days of school and are helping to set the standard for traffic patterns around the schools. We are very fortunate to have this team of people that are truly concerned about the safety of the citizens.

I'd also like to **THANK** Pastor Tom Reid, Presbyterian Church and Mark Miller, CEO Memorial Hospital for allowing our students to use some of their available parking. I'm not sure what we would do without your willingness to help us out this school year.

A big **THANK YOU** also goes to our staff including Dave Canfield, maintenance director, and his team for additional signage and painting. Many of our staff including Chris Parton, transportation director, Scott Jenne, AHS custodian and others that continue to help around the areas of the schools directing and assisting with traffic patterns. Great Work!

Lastly, I would like to **THANK** the parents and other citizens in this community that are slowing down a little bit more, taking a little more time around the school areas, and watching out for our children. There is absolutely nothing more important than the safety of these young boys and girls!!