

## **Dear PARENT**

On behalf of the Logan County District Attorney's Office, I would like to wish you all a successful 2017-2018 academic year. This year my office will be working closely with Guthrie school officials to monitor and assist school attendance. Students who do not attend school as required by law are deemed truant and it is the statutory duty of the District Attorney's Office to address truancy issues. It is the desire of the District Attorney's Office that all children attend school as required by law and as is in their best interests. We strongly believe that a child who successfully completes his/her schooling has a much higher chance of becoming a successful, responsible and law abiding citizen. We have seen this correlation over several decades.

There will be a committee monitoring school attendance issues this year and this committee will be reporting findings to my office. This committee is formed to help all students attend school as required. The Guthrie School District is here to help all families get their child to school every day and my office stands behind their efforts. The goal of the committee is to work with families and find solutions to get children to school as required by law.

The Logan County District Attorney's Office will initiate criminal proceedings to ensure school attendance for any child that does not attend school as required by law. These proceedings could involve actions naming the child and/or the parent(s) of a truant child and requiring those parties to appear in Court. It is our sincere desire that families with attendance issues work with the school committee and get those issues addressed before the matter is referred to my office for the filing of criminal information.

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**Laura Austin Thomas** 

District Attorney

**Logan & Payne County**