

# Why Do Students Like O.S.D.?



**COMMUNICATION** What do deaf and hard of hearing students like about OSD? Many things, but the biggest reason can be said in one word—"Communication". OSD's philosophy is to use any mode of communication necessary to facilitate learning. OSD is designed for educating deaf and hard of hearing students from early childhood through high school. Signing classes are available to those staff members who need to improve their signing abilities. As a result, deaf and hard of hearing students go anywhere on OSD's campus and meet anyone, confident that communication will not be a problem.

Deaf and hard of hearing students enjoy the opportunities that OSD's "chat-with-anyone" environment provides. They communicate freely with their peers, teachers, and administration. They take advantage of social workers, counseling help, transportation assistance, the on-campus health center and the Student Assessment Center to mention some of OSD's many services to their students. Deaf and hard of hearing students are given the opportunity to improve their communication and social skills in ways that no other educational setting could provide—at school during the day, in the cafeteria at mealtimes, in the student union and in the dormitories at night.

**ACTIVE SCHOOL LIFE** Deaf and hard of hearing students at OSD share a hearing loss with all the other students on campus. This means there are no barriers to any student who wishes to join sports teams, drama, or any of OSD's many student organizations. Hearing loss is not a barrier to winning any of the many awards and honors bestowed on OSD students each year. There is no surprise seeing the coach signing the plays to the OSD quarterback or the crowning of a deaf or hard of hearing Homecoming Queen.

## **OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

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Deaf and hard of hearing students enjoy OSD's policy of getting together with other schools throughout the Midwest. They participate in events with schools as far away as Georgia and Minnesota as well as those closer to home such as Missouri, Kansas, Texas and Arkansas to mention a few. OSD considers these opportunities to make new friends, see other places and be exposed to different viewpoints an important part of education.

The National Honor Society, Student Government, Art club, and the Performing Arts Council are some of the organizations that the OSD students can join. A Student Canteen is run by the Seniors who use the sales to finance their annual Senior Trip as well as donating money to improve OSD. The last three years the Seniors have visited Cancun and Walt Disney World twice. The 2007 Seniors are trying to plan a trip to a Beach\Resort this year.

**EDUCATION** Deaf and hard of hearing students like the fact that OSD's educational program is tuition free. They like that it is set up for them alone. They like OSD's commitment to staying current with technology. The vocational and business classes have been upgraded and every classroom has fast internet access. Deaf and hard of hearing students also like OSD's belief that deafness should be no barrier to learning any academic subject. The mathematics program, for example, doesn't stop with just teaching the classes required for graduation, but also provides students the opportunity to take advanced classes in Trigonometry and Math Analysis. Goals are set high in all academic areas. Deaf and hard of hearing students respond to OSD's attitude that Deafness is a condition that is to be accepted and not a handicap that restricts life. OSD hires only highly qualified teachers. The majority of OSD's teaching staff have Master's Degrees or better and their focus is on deaf and hard of hearing Education. Many of OSD's teachers and staff are deaf and hard of hearing themselves. This provides role models and proves to the students (better than any words could express) that they succeed too