

Oldham elementary school scheduled to close

Liberty Elementary students, others will be redistricted in 2014

By Glypie Grider

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Citing rising utility costs and maintenance problems, school officials have announced that Liberty Elementary will close at the end of the 2013-14 school year.

Oldham County Schools Superintendent Paul Upchurch distributed a letter to parents Tuesday explaining the decision to close the 87-year-old facility.

The decision comes after years of maintenance and utility needs, which have included mold and air conditioning problems, among other infrastructure concerns.

Roughly 400 students attend Liberty. In 2014, Liberty students will be redistricted to attend Buckner Elementary and La Grange Elementary. Students are also expected to be redistricted to a new elementary school in Brownsboro, which has yet to be built, Upchurch said.

He said the district is trying to handle the situation with sensitivity. School board member Kevin Woosley said Upchurch and other school board members will continue to meet with parents, teachers and school officials to discuss the closing and what it means for Liberty students.

Liberty School began as a one-room structure to accommodate students in eight grades. It was built on a site between the present Liberty Elementary School and Liberty Baptist Church between 1860 and 1889.

By the end of World War I, community leaders realized a need for a larger school and completed the \$12,000 brick structure in 1923.

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