

**Dreams For The Future Start Here**

**L. MENDEL RIVERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**THOUGHT OF THE YEAR:**

**EVERY ACCOMPLISHMENT STARTS WITH THE  
DECISION TO TRY.**

**-----Gail Devers**

## ***MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS***

Dear Parents and Students,

On behalf of the Rivers Staff we welcome you to Rivers for the 2016-2017 school year. We are looking forward to this year and know that this will be an exciting time for all of us.

L. Mendel Rivers is one of four elementary schools in the Altus Public School system. Rivers is located on Altus Air Force Base, but serves students who live on and off base. Rivers follows all policies set forth by the Oklahoma Department of Education and the Altus Board of Education. Rivers is an accredited public school with the state of Oklahoma. The central office for Altus Public Schools is located at 219 N. Lee. The Superintendent of Schools is Mr. Roger Hill.

Rivers School has consistently been recognized as an outstanding Academic School over the last several years. This school received an A+ rating on the Oklahoma School Report Card for the past three years. Rivers was named the 5<sup>th</sup> best school in the state of Oklahoma last year and received the designation of High Performing School from the State Department of Education. The expectations are very high and we are dedicated in preparing our students for success.

Rivers takes pride in our mission as educators, of military connected students. We will always place the education of our students first, never accept defeat, never leave a student behind, guard the American dream of a better life, and will serve our country by being educators.

Rivers will continue to make progress and work with students and parents to provide the very best education possible. We are committed to caring for and guiding each of our students to a high level of learning success.

Yours truly,  
Robbie Holder  
Principal

## PHILOSOPHY

At Rivers Elementary, our philosophy is to establish a firm foundation on which students build citizenship and gain skills valuable to themselves and society. Through a safe and positive learning environment, we provide opportunities for each child to study in a comfortable surrounding. We encourage cooperation among school, home, and community because we believe the cooperative effort is necessary to the success of the whole individual—intellectually, emotionally, and physically.

Because we are committed to the learning success of each child and believe all children can learn, we challenge each to achieve a level of success in accordance with his or her abilities and potential. By equipping students with knowledge and skills, we strive to prepare all students to become life-long learners and productive citizens in an ever-changing world.

## OBJECTIVES

We will know we have accomplished our mission when all students demonstrate they are:

- 1 Complex Thinkers who continue to develop intellectually by using various learning strategies and resources to reason and make decisions
- 2 Accountable Individuals who show responsibility for their physical and emotional actions by applying acquired skills and making positive choices
- 3 Community Contributors who cooperate with others, respect others, and accept others, which are necessary to be a contributing member of society
- 4 Creative Producers who appreciate and experience creative expression in various areas

# ALTUS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 USC 1232 g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents of eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions. (34CFR 99.31):
  1. School officials with legitimate educational interest;
  2. Other schools to which a student is transferring;
  3. Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
  4. Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
  5. Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
  6. Accrediting organizations;
  7. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
  8. Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
  9. State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPS. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

For additional information, you may call 1-800-USA-Learn (1-800-872-5327) (voice). Individuals who use TDD may use the Federal Relay Service.

Or you may contact us at the following address:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U. S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-8520

## **CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE**

The Altus School District I-18 hereby gives notice that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Inquiries concerning application of this policy may be referred to the school counselor by phone at (580) 481-2183 or by mail at L. Mendel Rivers Elementary, 3000 Veterans Drive, Altus. OK 73521

## **ASBESTOS STATEMENT**

Under AHERA 40 CFR Part 763 Altus Schools has an asbestos-containing material. Periodic surveillance of the facilities is conducted during January and July with 3 year re-inspections conducted tri-annually. Building occupants and workers shall be informed when response actions take place. Management plans for the facilities that contain asbestos are available for review in the superintendent's office and at each school's administration.

## **SCHOOL ARRIVAL**

Breakfast students may arrive at 7:35 for breakfast and all other students may be delivered to school at 7:45.

Students remain outside of the building until the 7:50 bell rings unless they are eating breakfast. Breakfast students enter the building at the front entrance at 7:35.

During cold or inclement weather, the duty teacher will bring the students inside. Teachers are on duty to supervise students outside at 7:45 a.m. Please do not drop students off before that time.

7:35 Breakfast Students	Office Entrance
7:45 Car line students	North Entrance
7:45 South parking lot drop offs	Office Entrance
7:45 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup>	Courtyard Entrance

## **STUDENT DISMISSAL**

Pre-school, Kindergarten and First grade students will be dismissed at the north entrance and second, third, and fourth grade students will be dismissed at the office entrance.

Parents are expected to pick their children up before 3:15 p.m. each day.

**Please do not bring dogs as you drop off or pick up your child. This is a safety issue for the students.**

Keep all entrances and sidewalks clear so students can be dismissed out of the building.

## **TRAFFIC**

There is a parking area on the south side of the building and a few parking spaces on the north side of the building. When delivering your students using the south side parking lot, please enter the first gate and exit the parking lot out of the second gate. Please do your part to keep traffic flowing smoothly by using the pick up and drop off zones and parking only in designated areas.

Just as we all wait in line as we follow procedures to enter and exit Altus Air Force Base each day, the school also has some procedures that we ask that you follow. Have your children ready to exit your vehicle when you come to the drop off area. Remember, you may have a small wait as we safely get your child to and from your vehicle. More than half of our students come from off base so there is a great deal of traffic each day. Please allow yourself enough time so your child will not be late for school. We are happy to assist your child to and from the vehicle. Know that at the beginning of the school year and during bad weather that it will take a little longer to get students to the vehicles.

Traffic is very congested at the beginning and end of each day and the safety of the students is the most important issue. Obey the speed limit at all times and be attentive as students enter and exit the building.

There is a drop off and pick up lane on the north side of Rivers and school personnel will assist getting your child to and from your vehicle. We can load and unload 5 to 6 cars at a time. Please follow these guidelines to insure the safety of each child.

- Be patient
- Please do not park your vehicle in the street (When your vehicle blocks traffic it increases traffic congestion and causes unsafe conditions.)
- ( You may have to circle around the block)
- Remain in your vehicle while in the loading and unloading zone
- Children will not be allowed to cross the street unescorted by a parent
- Your child should be ready to exit on the right side of the vehicle when you pull up to the drop off space in the mornings. ( Have backpacks, lunch money, and good byes taken care of before you pull into the drop off line)
- Pull up a safe distance behind the next car as we load and unload your child
- Obey all speed requirements
- Be observant, cautious, and courteous

Students will be monitored and escorted to you or your car. Do not leave your car unattended in the loading and unloading zone. This causes traffic to become congested. Be patient as we get the students safely to you.

We ask that you observe the above safety rules so that all of our students and personnel will be safe each day as we start and end our school day.

## LUNCH AND BREAKFAST

Students pay for their lunches in the office. They may pay by the day, week, or month. We encourage you to pay by the week or month. Lunches in the cafeteria are \$2.50 for regular price and \$.40 cents for students who qualify for a reduced price lunch. An extra carton of milk may be purchased for \$.35 cents. Adult school employees may purchase a lunch for \$3.60 and non-school employees may purchase a lunch for \$4.00. We do not allow charging of meals. If your account runs out of money, your child may eat lunch that day and then bring in payment the next day.

Students who are going home for lunch need to bring a note from home indicating that they have permission to leave the school grounds and go home. This precaution is for the safety of your child.

Please let us know by 8:00 a.m. if you are planning to eat with your child. You may send the money with your child or pay in the office.

Students are welcome to bring their lunches to school. Remember to prepare lunches that they can easily unpack. If your child forgets his or her lunch and you need to bring it by the school, you may leave it in the office and it will be delivered before lunchtime.

Students have the opportunity to eat breakfast each morning. The cost for breakfast is \$2.00 and the reduced price is \$.30. Adult breakfast for employees is \$2.35 and non-school employees \$3.00. You may pay for breakfast daily, weekly, or monthly. Breakfast is served from 7:35 a.m. until 7:55 a.m. Students are dismissed from the cafeteria at that time.

Applications for the free and reduced meals are available in the school office. Please feel free to fill out an application at any time.

The lunch clerk will collect all money. She is located at the front office.

### LUNCH

PK &K	10:45/10:50
1 <sup>ST</sup> & 2 <sup>ND</sup>	11:20
3 <sup>RD</sup> & 4 <sup>TH</sup>	11:50

## **LUNCH and RECESS SCHEDULE**

PK RECESS 10:15-10:30  
LUNCH 10:45-11:10  
RECESS 12:30-12:45

K RECESS 9:45-10:00  
LUNCH 10:50--11:15  
RECESS 11:15-11:30

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> LUNCH & RECESS  
11:20-12:05  
3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> 11:50-12:35

## **PLAYGROUND RULES**

- 1 Stay on assigned playground area
- 2 Do not climb on fences
- 3 Only one child to a swing --- Do not stand or lay in the swings
- 4 No tackle games are allowed
- 5 No throwing of foreign objects such as rocks, sticks, sand, etc.
- 6 No games played involving grabbing someone, or pulling on clothing
- 7 Do not bring any toys from home to use on the playground
- 8 Use all equipment correctly

## **CLASSROOM RULES**

- 1 Be respectful of others at all times
- 2 Follow guidelines set by the school and classroom teacher
- 3 Use appropriate language and actions
- 4 Make smart choices

## **HALLWAYS**

Children should always walk in hallways, classrooms, or the cafeteria. Students should move in single file order with a teacher in charge when changing classes or leaving the building.

## **GUIDANCE**

The purpose of the guidance program is to help each student achieve his/her highest potential mentally, emotionally, and socially. Individual conferences may be requested by the student, teacher, or parent.

## **READING**

Reading is such an important skill. Most students who are not reading on grade level by the end of the third grade experience difficulty in school. Because of this, some students do not reach their full academic potential. Having all students reading on grade level by the end of the third grade has become a priority in Oklahoma. Altus Public Schools is committed to having all of our students reading on grade level each year.

Students are given assessments to determine strengths and weaknesses in reading. Mrs. Kelley, the reading teacher, will work with teachers and students using varied strategies to enhance reading skills.

Rivers uses several curriculum sources to teach reading. The focus for reading is to ensure that students gain adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor is also infused through the requirement that students read increasingly complex material through the grades. Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.

There will be benchmarks each nine week period that your child's teacher will inform you of at the beginning of the year that your child must reach. These benchmarks will be a major part of your child's grades reported on the grade card.

**Quote**

***“We can affect the lives of more children, more deeply, for a longer period of time, at less cost, by teaching them to read well by third grade, than by any other single thing we can do in our school systems.”***

***-----Kathleen Dally, Kennewick School***

**The Reading Sufficiency Act Reading Goal**

*The reading goal for Oklahoma public schools is as follows:*

*By July 1, 2008, and each year thereafter, all third-grade students will read at or above grade level by the end of their third-grade year, excluding up to fifteen percent of those students who have an individualized education program excluding those students who are English language learners who have been determined not to be proficient in English as defined by a state-designated English proficiency assessment.*

***The Reading Sufficiency Act Screening and Assessment***

*Kindergarten, First, Second, and Third Grade Students*

*Each student enrolled in kindergarten, first, second, and third grade of the public school of this state shall be assessed at the beginning of each school year using a screening instrument approved by the State Board of Education for the acquisition of reading skills, including, but not limited to, phonological awareness, phonics, spelling, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.*

*For those students at risk for reading difficulties, teacher shall emphasize reading skills as identified in Oklahoma Academic Skills, monitor progress throughout the year, and measure year end reading progress.*

**Section H, I, and J of Senate Bill 346**

***H.*** *Beginning with the students entering the first grade in the 2011-2012 school year, if the reading deficiency of a student, as identified based on state approved assessments, is not remedied by the end of third grade, as demonstrated by scoring at the unsatisfactory level on the reading portion of the third-grade criterion-referenced test administered pursuant to Section*

*1210.508 of SB 346 the student shall be considered for retention upon review by committee.*

*I. The parent of any student who is found to have a reading deficiency and is not reading at the appropriate grade level and has been provided a program of reading instruction shall be notified in writing of the following:*

- Current services*
- Description of proposed supplemental instructional services for remediation*
- Strategies for parent to use*

*J. No student may be assigned to a grade level based solely on age or other factors that constitute social promotion.*

## ***MATH***

The Math instruction at Rivers primarily comes from the SAXON curriculum. The focus of math instruction will concentrate on the following:

- Numbers which includes the whole number operations and relations
- Geometry which includes spatial relations and measurement

These standards are broad and include the application of and define what students should understand and be able to do with numbers and number concepts.

There will be bench marks for skills each nine week period that your child's teacher will inform you of at the beginning of the year that your child must reach. Students are required to learn the math facts appropriate for each grade level. These benchmarks will be a major part of your child's grades reported on the grade card.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

All students in grades K-4 will participate in physical education. P.E. will be taught by a qualified P.E. instructor. A note should be sent from home when your child cannot participate in P.E. because of illness. A doctor's

statement may be required for continued illness. Pre-school classes will have P.E. with their classroom teachers.

The physical education plan for Rivers Elementary incorporates into the daily program discussion of the food groups, the importance of proper nutritional meals, and healthy physical activities. The students begin their physical education classes using circuit-training activities. These activities are used to strengthen their body's systems such as respiratory, circulatory and muscular. Some examples of these exercises/activities are ladder stretches, push-ups, sit-ups, and squats as well as jumping jacks. Activities are used to demonstrate that exercise can be fun as well as beneficial to our health. These activities are age appropriate to encourage students to participate. The activities are designed to improve health by releasing stress and building character through sportsmanship as well as improving leadership. Student progress is determined by successful participation in class activities and assignments as documented by the report card grade.

## **FINE ARTS**

All students in grades K-4 will participate in music education. Music will be taught by a qualified music instructor. PK students will have instruction in the classroom.

The Fine Arts are organized around four standards:

- **Language of the Arts**

Students will learn to use appropriate vocabulary as it relates to the area of art they are studying.

- **History and Culture of the Arts**

Students will recognize the development of music and the visual arts from a historical and cultural perspective.

- **Expression in the Arts**

Students will perform a variety of music by singing or playing musical instruments.

- **Music Appreciation**

Students will learn to appreciate music and expand their listening beyond music currently familiar to them.

## **GIFTED AND TALENTED**

Multi-criteria evaluation procedures are used for the purpose of identification and placement of students in the gifted and talented program. Students will go to these classes at Rivers.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

It shall be the policy of the Altus Public Schools to follow state and federal laws and regulations with respect to eligibility and placement in special education. Please refer to Policy 200.410, 200.411, and 200.412 in the Altus Board Policy Book.

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework is a valuable educational tool. It is important to a student's academic development that parents be aware of and involved with assignments and offer encouragement.

Homework is to be returned the following day after it is assigned. Students who do not turn in homework or complete work will be assigned detention or miss recess in order to complete that work so they do not receive a 0.

## **DETENTION**

Detention is defined as a period of time, other than class time when a student is detained. Detention is held in the library. Students are responsible to bring their assignments and complete the work. Students may need this time to complete work or tests after being absent for several days or if homework is incomplete. Students have been tardy for unexcused reasons for the third time also attend detention. Detention is held during recess.

## **ILLNESS AND MEDICATION**

Oklahoma State Law requires that all student health records are current with documentation of the required vaccines. The school health records are kept by the school nurse and she is required to notify parents to bring shot records to school if they are incomplete. Active records are kept in a safe place in

the school office. Health records of transferred or graduated students will be kept on file.

If you become ill at school, we will contact parents. If we cannot contact parents we will use the emergency contact numbers provided on the enrollment cards. The nurse or secretary will treat minor cuts and bruises.

### **ADMINISTERING MEDICATION**

#### **Administration of Prescription and Non-Prescription Medication:**

The school nurse, principal, or her designee may administer prescription or non-prescription medication, if indicated, during school hours. The student must have a medication permission and emergency form on file. If indicated on the form, it may be necessary to call the parent before administering any medication.

No medication shall be administered unless the parent or guardian of the student requiring the medication has given the school written authorization to administer the medicine. The parent or guardian of any student requiring medication during school shall bring the medication to the principal or his designee. Medication cannot be brought to school or sent home with the student. The parent must complete and sign the "Request for Administration of Prescription and Non-Prescription Medication form. A new form must be completed for each change in medication and renewed each school year.

All asthma inhalers will be kept with the student. Parents must sign a form indicating that their child will keep asthma inhalers with them in their class.

Please alert your child's teacher and the office staff about severe allergies that affect your child.

### **TEXTBOOKS and LIBRARY BOOKS**

Books belonging to the school which are lost, stolen, or damaged shall be paid for by the pupil responsible.

## TELEPHONE USE

The telephone is available for emergency use only. You must have permission from the principal, or secretary to use the telephone. Students will not be called to the telephone except in an emergency. Messages will be delivered to the student's classroom teacher.

## STUDENTS LEAVING CLASS EARLY

All students will be checked out through the office if they need to leave school early. Stop at the office and school personnel will get your child from class. Any time out of class will be noted on the attendance record.

## ATTENDANCE AND TARDIES

In the case of an absence, please notify the school at 481-2183 as early as possible. Make-up work will be allowed in case of excused absences. Make-up work may be picked up at the end of the school day in the office. Students should be responsible for asking for work when they return to school. The time limit for turning in make-up work is one day for every day a student is absent. Assignments not made up will be recorded as a zero for the grade. If an absence is due to future events please notify the teacher ahead of time, so you can be provided with a study sheet for subject areas that will be missed. Most class work and assessments will be completed at school when the student returns.

Excessive tardies were a major problem at this school site last year. We certainly understand the occasional reason for being tardy; however the records indicate that the same students were habitually tardy throughout the school year.

Students are considered tardy after the 8:00 bell rings. When students are late to class it not only causes a disruption in their day, but also the entire classroom. Please help everyone by getting your child to school on time each day. If a student is tardy they will need to make up any missed work that school day. Students must pick up a tardy or admit slip before they enter class.

**Excessive Absences: If a child is absent without a valid excuse for four or more days or parts of days within a four-week period, or is absent without valid excuse for ten or more days or parts of days within a semester,**

**schools are required by law to report these excessive absences to the District Attorney.**

Absences will be considered excused for the following reasons providing communication is made to the school the day of the absence; **illness, bereavement, family emergencies, recognized religious holidays, and doctor or dentist appointments.** All other absences are considered unexcused. Make-up work will not be provided for students who just simply do not attend or parents keep them home.

Students are considered absent for one half-day if they miss more than one hour of class.

Because excessive absences cause a severe disruption in student learning, it is important that students be in attendance except for illness and emergencies.

The federal No Child Left Behind Act gives each school site a rating to determine the adequate yearly progress of the school. The factors that are used to determine AYP are test scores, student progress, and student attendance. Please help keep absences to a minimum. Don't let being absent from school become a habit.

Situations may arise that require your child to miss school because of family emergencies or deployments, please let us know so that we may work with you during those difficult times.

### **SCHOOL WITHDRAWALS**

Parents of students withdrawing from school during the year will need to contact the office in order for records to be prepared. Students must be in attendance through the sixth school day preceding the end of regular classroom instruction during a semester to receive a final grade for work done during that semester. Students checking out of before the sixth day preceding the end of class work will receive a transfer grade of all work completed to that point.

### **STUDENT DRESS CODE**

Appropriate dress is required at all times. No clothing or anything attached to the clothing that advertises beer, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or has words or statements that are vulgar or suggestive may be worn. Also, see-through clothing, clothing that reveals bare midriffs or backs are not acceptable. Sagging pants will not be permitted at school or school-related activities. Any clothing or hairstyle (painted hair and or tall spiked mohawks) that causes a disruption to the learning in the school is not permitted.

### **FIRE AND LOCK DOWN DRILLS**

Fire drills and lockdown drills will be conducted periodically during the school year. They are necessary for the safety of the students, faculty and staff. Everyone should know specific information about what to do during this time. Teachers will go over this information with the class. Evacuation routes are posted in each room.

### **SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES**

The following procedures will be followed in the event of severe weather.

- 1 Board of education officials will monitor the situation and work closely with Civil Defense.
- 2 Parents will be contacted by call or text to keep parents informed
- 3 Children will not be released to leave school unless a parent or adult with parent permission arrives at school to pick up the child.
- 4 Busses will not run until an all clear sounds.
- 5 All schools are equipped with battery operated storm sentry radios.
- 6 Teachers will remain with students until they are released by the building principal.
- 7 During threatening weather, students should be moved to an interior hallway.
- 8 Severe weather drills will be conducted during the school year to be prepared for any such emergency.

### **PARENT CONTACT SYSTEM**

Altus Public Schools has a messaging system which enables the school to contact parents in case of emergencies, school changes, and any other important information by phone, text, and e-mail. You will be asked to complete a form at the beginning of the year to give us that information so you may be notified as quickly as possible. Please help us by keeping your information current.

## **GRADING SYSTEM AND REPORT CARDS**

Report cards are issued to students on the Wednesday following the end of each nine- week grading period. A progress report will also be sent home during the nine weeks period as indicated on the school calendar. The evaluation of student achievement is one of the important functions of the teacher.

A	EXCELLENT (90-100)	H	HIGH
B	GOOD (80-89)	S	SATISFACTORY
C	AVERAGE (70-79)	L	LOW
D	POOR (60-69)	U	UNSATISFACTORY
F	FAIL (BELOW 60)		

An honor roll will be published for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at the end of each nine- week grading period using the following point value system.

A	4 points
B	3 points
C	2 points

## **FOURTH GRADE HONOR ROLLS**

### **Nine- Weeks Honor Roll**

1. Fourth grade students must have a 3.0 point average.
2. Art, music penmanship and physical education grades will not be counted for the nine weeks honor rolls.
3. Any student who makes a “D” or “F” will be automatically disqualified from the nine weeks honor roll.

### **Principal’s Honor Roll (Semester)**

Fourth grade students must have a 3.5 grade point average on semester grades to be included on the Principal’s Honor Roll.

### Superintendent's Honor Roll (Semester)

Fourth grade students must have a 4.0 grade point average on semester grades to be included on the Superintendent's Honor Roll.

### Altus Elementary Honor Society (Year)

Fourth grade students who make the nine weeks honor roll for three of the four periods each year will be members of the Honor Society.

Students making the different Honor rolls will be recognized at semester and yearly assemblies.

### Recognition of Good Grades

Students who make A's and B's in grades first through fourth will be awarded certificates at the end of each nine-week period.

The school will present reading awards for grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade levels at the end of the school year.

## **SCHOOL PARTIES AND INVITATIONS**

The scheduled school parties are in December and February. All parties will begin at 2:15. The school will provide an end of year celebration for the students.

To celebrate birthdays you are welcome to send a treat to school that the children can be given as they leave the classroom for the day. (no drinks please) The treat will be given as the students line up to be dismissed from school so send something that is easily carried. Please do not send birthday invitations to school to be passed out unless every child in the class is invited.

Birthday balloons and flowers that are delivered to the school for students will be given to the children at the end of school day.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Parent volunteers are an important part of Rivers Elementary. Parents donate thousands of hours each year to help our students. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer you can contact your child's teacher or sign up as a volunteer on PTO projects.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

The Oklahoma State Legislature passed a law in the 2002 session that requires each school site to observe a moment of silence each day. The law reads as follows:

“The board of education of each school district shall ensure that the public schools within the district observe approximately one minute of silence each day for the purpose of allowing each s

student, in the exercise of his or her individual choice, to reflect meditate, pray, or engage in any other silent activity that does not interfere with, distract, or impede other students in the exercise of their individual choices.”

### **PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parents are welcome to come to school and meet with teachers during a teacher's conference time. In addition, scheduled parent teacher conferences will be held on the following dates for 2015-2016.

September 15, 2016 3:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

February 9, 2017 3:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

### **VISITORS**

It is the policy of the Altus Board of Education that all visitors to any school sign in at the school at the front desk.

It is important that we protect learning time at school. We ask that you not interrupt teaching and learning by going to classrooms. The office staff will be happy to get your child from class or give your child a message. If you need to make an appointment with a teacher, you may leave a message or E-mail the teacher and he or she will set up a conference time.

**YOU MAY VIEW THE DISCIPLINE POLICIES AND ANY  
OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY ON THE  
ALTUS PUBLIC SCHOOL'S WEB PAGE**

[www.altusps.com](http://www.altusps.com)

**THE NEW OKLAHOMA EDUCATION STANDARDS,  
CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES, AND OTHER SCHOOL  
INFORMATION MAY BE LOCATED AT THE  
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

[www.sde.state.ok.us](http://www.sde.state.ok.us)