

WHITERIVER

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



JAYHAWK

Positive Attitude

Respect

Inviting Environment

Doorway to the Future

Excellence in Academics

PARENT/STUDENT Handbook

2025-2026

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SCHOOL HOURS

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

7:30 am—5:30 pm

Student Hours:

M-T-W-Th

8:45 am—3:45 pm

Teacher Hours:

8:00 am—4:15 pm



SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER

928-358-5660

WHITERIVER SCHOOL HOME OF THE JAYHAWKS



PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK INTRODUCTION

This handbook provides general information to the students and parents of Whiteriver Elementary School regarding rights and responsibilities, as well as school rules and routines. The State of Arizona requires the school district to adopt a code of student conduct for all elementary schools.

It is the responsibility of the principal, teachers and staff to help parents and students understand and follow the rules of conduct, as well as to foster school routines. Parents are to read and discuss this handbook with their child in order to help them be successful in school.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Whiteriver Elementary School is to offer a safe learning environment that guides all students to reach their highest potential.

KIDS AT HOPE
believed and practiced
AT WHITERIVER ELEMENTARY



Whiteriver Unified School District (WUSD) is a district of HOPE using the Kids at Hope framework. Here is the Kids at Hope pledge your child will be learning this year:

I am a Kid at Hope.

I am talented, smart and capable of success.

*I have dreams for the future
and I will climb to reach those
goals and dreams every day.*

At the same time school staff will be Treasure Hunters who believe and model that ALL children are capable of success. Staff will recite the Treasure Hunter's Pledge:

*As adults and Treasure Hunters we are
committed to search for all the
talents, skills and intelligence that
exist in all children and youth.*

*We believe that all children
are capable of success . . . NO EXCEPTIONS!*

Our Kids at Hope Parent Pledge is the opportunity for our parents to reinforce the same beliefs that are shared:

I am an anchor parent.

I believe that my child is talented, smart and capable of success.

I am committed to helping my child reach their goals and dreams.

I believe that my child will succeed, NO EXCEPTIONS!



OUR VISION STATEMENT



At Whiteriver Elementary School we *empower all students to value culture, community, and learning to prepare for a successful future.*

We also encourage and promote a sense of **PRIDE** in all of our students. We developed an acronym that defines our school's **JAYHAWK PRIDE**:

JAYHAWK STRONG

Positive Attitude

Respect

Inviting Environment

Doorway to the Future

Excellence in Academics



It is our vision that all students at Whiteriver Elementary can achieve their dreams and that their Jayhawk Pride can give them the power to do just that! Jayhawks, let your pride **SOAR!**

SCHOOL COLORS

Whiteriver Elementary school colors are blue and yellow. Please show your **PRIDE** by wearing our school colors to all school activities and sporting events!

Whiteriver Unified School District #20

Governing Board Approved: March 19, 2025

2025-2026 School Calendar

July 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025						
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28	29	30				

October 2025						
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November 2025						
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30						

December 2025						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

July	
4	Holiday-Independence day
14	Extended Year Staff Start Date
22	New Teacher District Orientation
23	All Staff Report
23-25	All Staff Orientation & Inservice
28	1st Day of School Start Q1/S1

August	
15	Optional Off-Contract PD Day
28	Holiday-Tribal Fair Day

September	
1	Holiday-Labor Day
12	PD Day

October	
2	End Q1
6-9	Fall Break
13	Holiday-Indigenous People's Day
14	Start Q2
24	Optional Off-Contract PD Day

November	
11	Holiday-Veterans Day
21	PD Day
26-28	Holiday-Thanksgiving

December	
5	Optional Off-Contract PD Day
18	End Q2/S1
22-31	Winter Break
24-25	Holiday-Christmas Eve & Christmas
31	Holiday-New Year's Eve

January 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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February 2026						
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March 2026						
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29	30	31				

April 2026						
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May 2026						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

January	
1	Winter Break
1	Holiday-New Year's Day
5	Start Q3/S2
19	Holiday-MLK Day
30	PD Day

February	
16	Holiday-President's Day
27	Optional Off-Contract PD Day

March	
12	End Q3
16-19	Spring Break
23	Start Q4
27	PD Day

April	
10	Optional Off-Contract PD Day

May	
8	PD Day
21	Last Day of School End Q4/S2
25	Holiday-Memorial Day
26	Last Day for Staff/Make Up Day if needed
27	Make Up Day if needed
28	Make Up Day if needed

June	
4	Extended School Year Staff End Date
19	Holiday-Juneeteenth Day
Q1=38 school days; 42 teacher days	
Q2=36 school days; 37 teacher days	
Q3=38 school days; 39 teacher days	
Q4=36 school days; 39 teacher days	

WHITERIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF		
2025-2026		
OFFICE STAFF		EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS SERVICES
KASEY, Bonnie- Principal		CAYOSA, Joyce- Resource
MILLER, Melissa- Instructional Coach		MANAGBANAG, Aileen- Resource
NASTIVAR, Norlinda-Student Data Coordinator		MASSEY, Darilyn- PreK
PALMER, Patricia- Secretary		MELENDEZ, Seth- Structured ESS
SUSAN, Norma- Community Liaison		NGO, Tyrone- PreK
KINDERGARTEN		ESS Instructional Assistants
BONITO, Jade		NGO, Josenia-PreK
EDISON, Nina		PADDLETY, Brenda- PreK
MACAPOBRE, Joanne		POTTER, Aluna-STC
		WYCLIFFE, Nicolas
1st GRADE		FOJORDO, Janrette
JOHNSON, Rebecca		
LAVENDER, Rachel		INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS
WELCH, Connie		ETHELBAH, Tara
		FALL, Essie
		GREGG, Frankie
2nd GRADE		PARKER, Fayette
ARANDA, Rosanne		MORGAN, Tia
BEST, Molly		SUSAN, Norma R.
MONCAL, Percy		DIAZ, Krystal
MOSQUERA, Khenn		MILES, Kasheena
3rd GRADE		
ARMSTRONG, Ferminia		SUPPORT PROGRAMS
COLELAY, Jara		ALSENAY, Miriam - Apache
NUBBE, Catie		SAMUEL, Jelayne- Library Paraprofessional
		LAVENDER III., Asa - Art
4th GRADE	1.	TAYLOR, Robert - PE
JONES, Kristine		THOMPSON, Sanjiv - STEAM
LIMPAG, Jefrey		ETHELBAH, Danielle - Health Professional
MAGALLANES, Kim		
		CUSTODIANS
5th GRADE		BENDLE, Joriko
ETHELBAH, Becky		BENNETT, Kerri
PARKER, Mazie		MASSEY, Cordell
RONDUBIO, Vicente, Dr.		
READING SPECIALIST		
PLATH, Jennifer		
	8	

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW

As the parent of a student in the Whiteriver Unified School District, you have a right to know the professional qualification of the teachers who instruct your child and ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the State of Arizona has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subject he or she teaches.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency permit or other provisional status by which state licensing criteria have been waived.
- The teacher's college major and whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any instructional aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

You also have the right to know:

- (i) information on the level of achievement and academic growth of your student, on State academic assessments required; and
- (ii) timely notice that the student has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

If you would like any of the information above, please contact the school administrator.

FERPA AND DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) 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 and eligible students (18 and over) the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school, to ask that they be corrected if believed to be misleading or inaccurate, and requires the school to obtain permission before releasing information from a student's education record to anyone other than school officials with a legitimate interest, a school to which a student is transferring, audit officials, financial aid officials for specified students, organizations conducting certain studies on behalf of the school, accrediting organizations, the court system, health and safety officials, and the juvenile justice system.



FERPA also dictates that Directory Information may be given out upon request without consent. Directory Information consists of the student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, e-mail address, photograph, grade level, major field of study, dates of attendance, enrollment status, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height if student is a member of an athletic team, honors and awards received, and the student's most recently attended education agency or institution. Parents and eligible students have the right to opt-out of sharing Directory Information. During the annual online student enrollment process parents have the opportunity to indicate what if any directory information is to be disclosed. Parents and eligible students can provide written request to the school data coordinator to make changes.

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Whiteriver Elementary School has a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), which everyone is encouraged to join. This is an opportunity to have a strong voice in your child's education. The PAC sponsors special activities and fundraisers to support and enrich the Whiteriver Elementary School community and serves as a valuable source of advice and opinion for the principal. **Watch the newsletter for PAC messages and announcements.**



APPROPRIATE SCHOOL BEHAVIOR

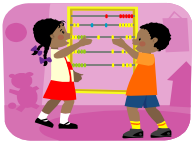
Students, teachers and staff are expected to show appropriate behavior while in school. This means that at Whiteriver Elementary we are all expected to embody our vision of PRIDE at all times. All students, teachers and staff are to have a **Positive attitude** and encourage each other to do our very best!

We are to be **Respectful** to each other through both our words and actions. We must always stop and think before we speak or act– will the outcome be positive and encouraging to another student? It is up to *you* to make the right choice! In doing this we can create an **Inviting environment** in which ALL individuals feel safe and welcome.

Our school is one that provides a **Doorway to the future** so we are always working diligently to reach our individual goals while at the same time, helping others to achieve their dreams.

Finally, we need to always be mindful of why we come to Whiteriver Elementary each day. We are here to achieve **Excellence in academics**. Every day is a great day to learn and to build our most important muscle, our brain!

Whiteriver Elementary incorporates Positive Behavior Intervention Supports to teach and reinforce appropriate behaviors. Please see our PBIS handbook for more information.



SCHOOL WIDE RULES: EXPECTATIONS AND STUDENT RIGHTS

All students are expected to be good citizens inside and outside of the classrooms by demonstrating the following:

1. Be respectful to all adults and treat all other students the way you wish to be treated.
2. Leave all non-academic materials at home.
3. Leave every school area you enter neater and cleaner than you found it.
4. Carry a pass anytime you are in the hallway without your class.
5. Walk in silent, straight, careful line anytime you are transitioning to another place with your class. Keep away from walls. Keep your body to yourself.
6. Come to school, on time, dressed according to the dress code every day there is class.

Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that will bring integrity to themselves, their family, their community and our school. It is important for students to understand that the entire school staff is responsible for their conduct during school hours, while anywhere on the school campus, on the bus, going to and from school, and at all school functions. Our expectations are aligned to the Project Achieve guidelines, and campus procedures, which are consistent with the research on effective schools and identified in our belief statement. All are purposed upon respect for others and for self.

BULLYING, HARASSMENT & INTIMIDATION POLICY

The Governing Board of the Whiteriver Unified School District believes it is the right of every student to be educated in a positive, safe, caring, and respectful learning environment. To assist in achieving a school environment based on the beliefs of the Governing Board, bullying in any form will not be tolerated.

Bullying

Bullying may occur when a student or group of students engages in any form of behavior that includes such acts as intimidation and/or harassment that

- Has the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm or damage to property;
- Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that the action, behavior, or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive environment in the form of physical or emotional harm;
- Occurs when there is a real or perceived imbalance of power or strength;
- May constitute a violation of law.

Bullying of a student or group of students can be manifested through written, verbal, physical , or emotional means and may occur in a variety of forms including, but not limited to, the following:

- Verbal, written/printed or graphic exposure to derogatory comments, extortion, exploitation, name calling, or rumor spreading either directly through another person or group or through cyber bullying;
- Exposure to social exclusion or ostracism;
- Physical contact including but not limited to pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving, or spitting;
- Damage to or theft of personal property.

Harassment

Harassment is intentional behavior by a student or group of students that is disturbing or threatening to another student or group of students. Intentional behaviors that characterize harassment include, but are not limited to, stalking, hazing, social exclusion, name calling, unwanted physical contact and unwelcome verbal or written comments, photographs and graphics. Harassment may be related, but not limited to, race, religious orientation, sexual preferences, cultural background, economic status, size or personal appearance. Harassing behaviors can be direct or indirect and by use of social media.

Intimidation

Intimidation is intentional behavior by a student or group of students that places another student or group of students in fear of harm of person or property. Intimidation can be manifested emotionally or physically, either directly or indirectly, and by use of social media.

Students are prohibited from bullying on school grounds, school property, school busses, at school bus stops, and at school sponsored events and activities. Bullying includes bullying by the use of electronic technology or electronic communication devices, including telephones, social networking and other internet communications on school computers.

Disciplinary action may result for bullying which occurs outside of the school and the school day when such acts result in a substantial physical, mental, or emotional negative effect on the victim physically, while on school grounds, school property, school buses, at school bus stops, or at school sponsored events and activities, or when such acts) interfere with the authority of the school system to maintain order. All suspected violations of law will be reported to local law enforcement.

Students who believe they are experiencing being bullied or suspect another student is bullied should report their concern to any staff member of the School District. When disciplinary action is necessary for Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation, relevant District policies shall be followed. ***Students found to be bullying others will be disciplined up to and including suspension or expulsion from school.***

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

1. REPRIMAND

A formal conference and warning from a school official to the student. Written communication is sent to the parent.

2. CONFERENCE

Parents are notified of student misconduct, and a conference may be conducted with students, parents, school officials and/or other concerned individuals. The purpose of the conference is to discuss the student's behavior and help understand factors contributing to the misconduct, explain any discipline that is required by the District Discipline Matrix, and to emphasize the more appropriate, desired behavior.

3. RESPONSIBLE THINKING CLASS

A removal from class for a short period of time for student to reflect on and behavioral counseling with a staff member.

4. DETENTION

A restriction of free-time privileges such as recess; time after school may also be used as detention time. Parents will be required to provide transportation when after school detention is assigned.

4. RESTRICTION OF BUS PRIVILEGES

Temporary exclusion of a student from school transportation facilities.

5. LOSS OF PRIVILEGES

Occurs when a student is not allowed to participate in any school activity other than academic classes. This may include extra-curricular activities during or after the regular school day.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

6. IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Removal from class for a specified length of time, not to exceed ten (10) school days. Student will receive support on campus.

7. SHORT-TERM SUSPENSION

Removal from school for a specified length of time, not to exceed ten (10) school days.

8. LONG-TERM SUSPENSION

Removal from school for a specified length of time, a minimum of eleven (11) school days and a maximum of one hundred eighty (180) school days. The period of long-term suspension may extend into the next school year.

9. EXPULSION

Permanent removal of a student from school. Governing Board action is required. Appeal for reinstatement is available and must be approved by and is at the discretion of the Governing Board.

10. RESTRICTION PENDING A PARENT CONFERENCE

The student will be removed from school and school activities until a parent conference is held with the appropriate building administrator. The purpose of a parent conference is to attempt to reach a satisfactory and workable solution to the problem the student is experiencing.

A complete Discipline Policy can be found in our office or on our district website: www.wusd.us



ATTENDANCE



ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

IMPORTANT: ONLY AUTHORIZED INDIVIDUALS ARE ALLOWED TO EXCUSE A CHILD'S ABSENCE OR TARDY

The regular school attendance of a school-aged child is required by state law. Regular school attendance is essential for success in school; therefore, absences shall be excused only for necessary and important reasons. Such reasons include illness, bereavement, other family emergencies, and observance of major religious holidays.

In the event of a necessary absence known in advance, the parent is expected to inform the school office at **(928) 358-5660**. When a student returns to school following any absence, a note of explanation from the parent is required.

If the absence is caused by emergency, such as illness, the parent is expected to telephone the school office at **(928) 358-5660, before 8:30am**. Please leave the following information on the school's voicemail system: *student's name, teacher's name, reason for absence* and *request for homework*. When a student returns to school following ***any*** absence, a note of explanation from the parent is **required**.

WHEN ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

State law mandates that the school record reasons for all student absences. Therefore, when a student is absent, it will be necessary for the parent to call the school on or before the day of the absence in order to advise the school as to the reason for the absence. When it is impossible to call on the day of the absence, the school should be notified on the morning the student returns. All absences not verified by parental or administrative authorization will remain unexcused.

Excessive absences (excused or unexcused) could result in referral to the Juvenile Advocate/Prosecutor

The White Mountain Apache Education Code has been amended to provide two circumstances when a student or parent/guardian can be charged due to the child failing to attend school:

1. A student is "habitually truant" if he/she has a total of five unexcused absences within a school year.



ATTENDANCE



2. A student has "excessive absences" when the student misses more than an excess of 10% of the total number of scheduled school attendance days during the year (14 days.)

TARDIES

Any student not in the classroom at 8:45 am is considered tardy. Excessive tardies hurt a child's education as much as absences. When students come in late. They must check in at the front office to receive a tardy pass and have their time entered in our computer attendance system.

CHECKING STUDENTS OUT FROM SCHOOL

All adults requesting to check students out from school will be checked by office staff to ensure they have the rights to do so. Adults checking students out from school must sign students out and must provide a written reason for why a child is being checked out.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Students must be present ALL day, EVERY day bell to bell to be recognized for perfect attendance. Students who are tardy or checked out early will not be eligible for perfect attendance acknowledgements.



SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS



- Adult supervision is provided from 8:15 am to 4:00 pm. Students are not allowed on campus before 8:15 am.
- Students will be adult supervised during school sponsored activities, however students must be picked up IMMEDIATELY following the activity.



ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL



Student safety is our primary concern and we ask your cooperation and diligence in dropping off and picking up students. All areas are monitored by school staff.

Pick -Up

Staff will direct pick up traffic and call on students to come to the appropriate vehicles. Parents are to pull all the way forward. Staff will record the parent/guardian's name and students picking up on a clipboard. Then call on the radio for students to come to the vehicle.

Bus Loading Area

State law does not allow parents to be in the bus loading area.



TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS

**IMPORTANT: ONLY AUTHORIZED INDIVIDUALS ARE ALLOWED TO MAKE
TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS FOR A STUDENT**

Parents are required to notify the front office one day prior to change the student end of day transportation. Same day changes may be made if the student is to be picked up or walk home instead of riding the bus.

BICYCLES

Encourage children who walk or ride bicycles to obey safety rules. All bicycles must be parked in the racks provided with their own locks.

Skateboards are not allowed on the school campus.



POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT (PBIS)

Whiteriver Elementary supports students through Positive Behavior Intervention and Support. Students are taught to be respectful, responsible, safe, and excellent in all locations. They receive reinforcements when they demonstrate these positive behaviors. Please see the PBIS handbook on our website or request a copy from our office for more information.

EXPECTATIONS ON THE PLAYGROUND

During the day, playground time is allotted for recess with teacher supervision. Here are the playground rules your child needs to know and follow:

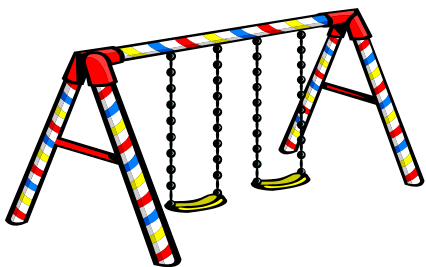
PLAYGROUND RULES:

- Be courteous at all times.
- No Rough Play (including tackle football) will be tolerated.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct will result in losing playground privileges.
- Students should take turns in the slides and swings.
- When sliding, students must be seated in a forward position.
- No stopping while on the slide. Move quickly to the side when at the bottom, so as not to be in the way of the next student.
- Students MUST be on their designated grade level playground.



Things **NOT** allowed on the playground:

- Climbing on top of the tubes
- Standing on bars
- Going up slides
- Climbing on walls or fences
- Throwing of wood chips or rocks
- Jumping off the apparatus
- Food and drinks (i.e., chips, candy, soda, milk, etc.)



Jayhawk Strong!
Playground/Gym



Respect Use considerate words and actions Share equipment	Responsible Leave school property undamaged Tell an adult when someone needs help
Safe Stay in supervised areas Play appropriate games Leave rocks and sticks on the ground.	Excellence Invite others to join Be a good friend

CAFETERIA



Students are expected to sit and eat lunch for a minimum of ten minutes. Here are the cafeteria rules and routines your child needs to know and follow:

GETTING FOOD IN THE CAFETERIA

- Show good line behavior.
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
- Use a whisper voice.
- Get your tray, milk and silverware.
- Take only what you will eat.
- Do not share food with others.
- Say, "Please" and "Thank you."



Jayhawk Strong!
Cafeteria



Respect Line up quietly Take only what you are going to eat	Responsible Use good table manners Nice quiet conversations Eat what is on your tray
Safe Clean your area Tell an adult about spills Stay in your seat	Excellence Head outside with walking feet Make healthy food choices

CLEANING UP IN THE CAFETERIA

- Do NOT leave your seat until you are excused.
- Students MUST raise their hand when they finished eating.
- Clean up your eating area.
- NO food or drink is to leave the cafeteria.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided for all K-5 students. Please make sure that you discuss the route you want your child to take to and from the bus stop. Talk about the importance of always boarding and departing the bus at the correct stop that you know and approve of.



Jayhawks Strong!
Bus



Respect Listen to adults Follow bus rules	Responsible Stay in your seat Keep your body to yourself Keep your belongings secure
Safe Get on the correct bus Get off the bus at your location	Excellence Go straight home See something, say something



BUS TRANSPORTATION RULES



District provided transportation is a privilege, not a right. Here are the following bus routines your child needs to know and follow:

At the bus stops students will:

- Follow all school rules at bus stops.
- Be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before bus arrival.
- Stay clear of the bus until it comes to a complete stop.
- If you are late and miss the bus GO STRAIGHT HOME!
- There is to be NO pushing or shoving while getting on/off the bus.
- No one will be allowed on the bus if under the influence of alcohol/drugs.
- No objects are to be thrown or otherwise transferred inappropriately inside the bus or out the windows.
- Students must use appropriate/acceptable language at all times. **(NO BAD WORDS!)**
- Students will respect all parts of the bus by not vandalizing the interior or exterior parts of the bus.
- Drivers/Monitors have the right to assign seats.

While Riding the Bus:

- Students are expected to remain seated at all times while the bus is in motion.
- All body parts are to be **INSIDE** the bus and NOT out the window or in aisle.
- Students are to always be facing forward and sitting appropriately.
- Keep all speaking voices and other noises at a minimum (yelling, screaming, shouting will be considered a bus infraction and a safety hazard).
- Eating, drinking and gum chewing will NOT be allowed on the bus.
- **NO GLASS CONTAINERS are allowed** on the bus.
- Students are to behave respectfully by keeping hands, feet and other objects to themselves.
- No pets or animals will be allowed on the bus.



BUS TRANSPORTATION RULES CONTINUED



While Riding the Bus continued:

- Students may NOT bring vapes/drugs/alcohol or paraphernalia on the bus.
- Weapons of any kind are NOT allowed.

Before Exiting the Bus:

- Pick up and remove all litter and dispose of properly.
- Take all belongings with you.
- Students are to immediately/safely exit the bus and **GO STRAIGHT HOME!**
- **STUDENTS MUST GET OFF AT THEIR REGULAR BUS STOP UNLESS THEY HAVE A BUS MESSAGE FOR A CHANGE OF AFTER SCHOOL DESTINATION.**
- **Failure to follow bus transportation rules may result in suspension of bus privileges.**



SCHOOL



CURRICULUM EXTENSION TRIPS

Curriculum extension trips may be integrated into the curriculum to support student achievement. Individual permission slips are sent to parents after a field trip has been administratively approved.



KINDERGARTEN VISITATION

An orientation visit is held for incoming kindergarteners from the Head Start School in the spring. Students visit the Kindergarten classroom and playground while parents learn about Whiteriver Elementary and all of the exciting opportunities its program has to offer!



SCHOOL DRESS CODE

The District encourages students to take pride in their attire as it relates to the school setting. Students should dress in a manner that, in addition to the following guidelines, takes into consideration the educational environment, safety, health, and welfare of self and others.

- A. Students must wear a shirt with pants or skirt or the equivalent (dress, leggings, or shorts).
- B. Clothing must not be see-through and must cover a student's undergarments, chest and torso, when standing or sitting.
- C. Shoes must be worn at all times. Closed shoes are to be worn for any type of physical activity, such as physical education, et cetera.
- D. Jewelry shall not be worn if it presents a safety hazard.
- E. Clothing, accessories and/or jewelry may not state, imply, or depict hate speech/imagery targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected classification.
- F. Students may wear clothing, accessories and jewelry that display religious messages or religious symbols in the same manner and to the same extent that other types of clothing, accessories and jewelry that display messages or symbols are permitted.
- G. Subject to the above, no hats, bandannas, other head coverings, or sunglasses may be worn in a classroom or school building, except for properly approved occupational safety headgear required for special classes or if authorized by a school administrator or authorized/prescribed by a medical professional.
- H. Obscene language or symbols, or symbols of drugs, sex, or alcohol on clothing are prohibited.
- I. Students may not wear clothing, accessories and/or jewelry with images, symbols, slogans, words or phrases that are profane, discriminatory or defamatory or that is worn with the intent to convey affiliation with a criminal street gang as defined in A.R.S. [13-105](#).
- J. Hats and sunglasses may be worn outside.

Exceptions for special activities or health considerations may be preapproved by the administrator.

Students who volunteer for extracurricular activities, such as athletics, band, chorus, et cetera, are subject to the standards of dress as defined by the sponsors of such activities



ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES

- Students are not allowed to wear make-up.
- Ear piercing (with parent/guardian consent) are the only piercings allowed.
- Writing on body and clothing is also unacceptable.
- Jayhawk Pride Thursdays: Students are encouraged to wear a Jayhawk shirt or school colors.

DISTRICT-WIDE BACKPACK POLICY

All schools will enforce a clear bag/backpack policy. All bags must meet the following criteria:

- Backpacks must be transparent made from plastic, vinyl, or PVC
- Pockets must be transparent, no hidden or covered pockets are allowed
- Tinted or semi-clear material is not allowed
- Print or labels must not obstruct the view of the contents in the bag
- Students are allowed a 4x4 or smaller personal hygiene kit
- Athletic bags do not have to be clear and must be checked in upon arrival to school and will be stored in a secure location
- Administration has the discretion to determine whether a backpack meets the allowable criteria
- Backpacks not meeting the criteria will be confiscated and required parent pick up at the end of the school day.



FOOD

Students are not allowed to bring sweets or snacks such as gum, kool-aid, sunflower seeds, soda, chips, or candy to school. The school abides by the district food service wellness policy, those recommended healthy snacks may be served for approved classroom parties. If you would like to recognize your child on their birthday, gift bags are acceptable.



*The Whiteriver Unified School District Wellness Policy is available in our office or on our district website www.wusd.us for additional information.



IMMUNIZATIONS

All students attending public schools in Arizona must have the following on file with the school nurse before the child can be admitted or attend school: current immunization record with documents the month, date, and year of immunization for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, hepatitis B series, and MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella). Students not current with their immunizations will be sent home, and they need to bring back a current immunization record in order to return to school. It is strongly advised that parents/guardians keep their child's immunization current.

JOM

For students to receive benefits from the Johnson O'Malley Program (JOM), parents must sign the JOM form.

LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

The purpose of Language Acquisition is to provide a full access of Whiteriver Elementary high standards of learning for all students regardless of their language background. All teachers are required to receive a Structured English Immersion (SEI) endorsement. This is to ensure that teachers have a balanced understanding of effective



SNOW DAYS/LATE STARTS/ EMERGENCY EARLY RELEASE/ EARLY DISMISSAL



- In the event that there is an inclement weather and other emergencies (i.e., fire, no water, snow, national emergency, etc.), any decisions will be made district-wide by the superintendent. Please discuss with your child what to do in the event that he/she arrives home and no one is there. Parents are requested to inform their child's teacher **in writing** of any changes or other arrangements that they prefer for their child in the event an emergency dismissal occurs. Snow days, late starts, and emergency early releases will be announced on KNNB and other radio stations.

DISTRICT CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

Personal electronic devices are disruptive to the education environment therefore as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act and Arizona Revised Statute 15-120.05 the following policy applies to all students attending Whiteriver Unified School District schools:

Elementary School-Kindergarten to Grade 5

Personal electronic devices are not allowed at school.

Students will be restricted from accessing the district's network but will have necessary access associated with instructional programs and assessments.

Parents may contact students by calling the front office.

Students may request the front office staff to contact their parent.

Travel updates for sports and other school activities will be sent out via Bloomz and social media.

Emergency communications will be sent out to parents via the Bloomz communication platform-text messages, phone calls as well as social media posts. Students will be allowed to contact parents from a school phone when safe to do so.

Students requiring a personal electronic device due to a medical condition or other extenuation circumstance must have a written IEP, 504 or administrator approving the use of such device.

Violations of District Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy

If a student is found in violation of the policy the following consequences will be given:





HOME-SCHOOL CONNECTION



PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Please contact your child's teacher **FIRST** with any questions that you may have, as teachers have the most direct contact with your child every day and are best able to answer your questions. Teachers are available **BEFORE** and **AFTER** instructional time to address any questions or concerns you may have regarding your child's progress in school. You are asked to leave a message on teacher voicemail or send an email during school hours and teachers will respond as soon as possible. You can also leave a message with the front office staff. **PLEASE** ensure that all of your contact information is up to date. It is important that teachers and parents communicate regularly in order to promote the success of your student!

HOMEWORK POLICY

Whiteriver Elementary expects students to continue their learning beyond the school day. Therefore, each student may be assigned homework that does the following:

- Provides practice of skills and lessons introduced in class
- Strengthens basic skills
- Develops independent study skills
- Keeps parents aware of their child's curriculum

HOMEWORK REQUESTS

If a child is absent due to illness, then time at home needs to be spent on recovery. A request for homework should be made at the time an absence is called in to the school. The teacher will have materials ready for pick up at the end of the school day.



PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES



There are three (3) designated times in the school year when Parent-Teacher Conferences take place. In-person conferences will take place Thursdays from 4:15-7:00 pm. Phone conferences may be scheduled upon parent request.

Fall: October 15th and 16th

Winter: January 7th and 8th

Spring: March 26th and 27th

Student progress is discussed and a report card is issued for students in Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Concerns or questions regarding your child's progress in school should be directed to your child's teacher at ANY TIME during the school year. ***We encourage open communication between school and home.***

REPORT CARDS

Report Cards are given every nine weeks. The subject grade should be based upon pupil mastery of the content of the course. The teacher will establish a reasonable standard for average achievement in each of the subjects.

The following scale will serve as a guide for the distribution of grades,

K– 3rd grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
A– 90-100%	A– 90-100%	A-90-100%
B– 75-89%	B– 78-89%	B– 80-89%
C– 60-74%	C– 64-77%	C– 68-79%
D– 45-59%	D– 50-63%	D– 55-67%
F– 0-44%	F– 0-49%	F– 0-54%

Grades will be weighed at 60% classwork, 35% formative assessment, 5% benchmark assessments.



ADVANCEMENT & RETENTION



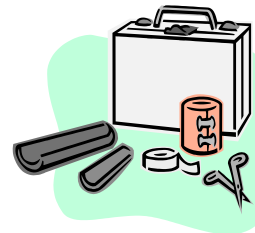
The State of Arizona says that advancement or retention is determined by the teacher and is based on the learner's progress.

- Teachers will alert parents at the first Parent-Teacher Conference if there is a concern about their child's progress.
- Teachers will notify parents by the second Parent-Teacher conference if their child is being considered for retention.
- Interventions for home and school will be collaboratively created by teachers, parents and other school staff, if necessary.
- Parents have the right to appeal the decision of the teacher to retain or advance their child.
- Parents may submit a written request for a review concerning retention or advancement to the Governing Board within ten (10) days after issuance of the end of the year report card.

HEALTH OFFICE

There is a qualified Health Provider on duty every day. The Health Office provides the following services:

- Annual height and weight data
- Vision and hearing screenings
- First aid (when needed)



When students exhibit signs of illness, parents are contacted. **It is critical that Emergency Card information is COMPLETE and CURRENT.**



MEDICATIONS



Whiteriver Elementary follows all Arizona regulations when it comes to dispensing medicine.

1. Medicine MUST be prescribed by the child's physician.
2. Prescription drugs must be in the **original pharmacy container, labeled with the child's name, date, dosage, and time to be taken.**
3. Parents must take the medicine to the Health Office and complete a medication administration form.
4. Medicine must be given in the presence of a health provider, principal, or designated staff member.

Medications

Our schools have standing orders for certain medications that can be administered at school. These medications are all medications you can purchase over the counter without a doctor's prescription. At registration, you will either give consent, or not, for our Health Aides to administer these over the counter medications when needed for your student, per our doctor's approved standing orders. Stomach aches cannot be treated with medication at school. This is to prevent masking of symptoms that could be potentially life threatening.

Medication Administration packets need to be completely filled out in order for any medications brought in by a parent/guardian, to be administered at school. The parent's and the doctor's signatures are required for all medications that are brought in by parents/guardians. Our schools have Health Aides, which are either Medical Assistants or Certified Nursing Assistants.

In the state of Arizona, Certified Nursing Assistants are not allowed to administer medications without a provider's authorization, they cannot administer based on the prescription alone. Medical Assistants can administer prescription medications that are in the original container, the prescription on the bottle gives them the ability to administer it at school. The difference between the two is that one is licensed and the other is certified.

Illness

Students who present to the Health Office with a fever of 99.8 F or higher or who have thrown up will be excluded from school. When a child has an active fever or is actively vomiting, they are considered highly contagious. To prevent the spread of illnesses, the student cannot return to school until they have been fever and vomit free for at least 24 full hours, without the use of fever-reducing medication (Tylenol/Ibuprofen).

COUNSELING SERVICES

Individual and group counseling services are available to our students through Apache Behavioral Health Services. Parents/Guardians must complete intake and referral forms before counseling services can take place.

NON-ACCIDENTAL INJURIES, NEGLECT, ABUSE OF A CHILD

School personnel are mandated by law to report concerns about children such as non-accidental injuries, physical neglect or emotional abuse. The law requires that if the concern is a reasonable belief, there does not need to be physical evidence. School personnel do NOT investigate, we only report as obligated by the state statute.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The Special Education Program is for students who are identified through testing and qualify for extra assistance. Services are provided both in and out of the classroom as needed and determined by the Individual Education Plan (IEP). Certified Special Education Teachers work with students and address special needs.

ANCILLARY PROGRAMS

Students will regularly be provided instruction in a variety of ancillary programs rotating on a weekly basis. Program descriptions are as follows:

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Physical Education (PE) activities promote physical well-being. These lessons are taught during the school day and the entire class is expected to participate. If your child has a health issue that restricts him or her from participating in PE for a period of time, a doctor's note is required.

LITERACY CENTER

The Whiteriver Elementary Library maintains a quality collection and facility. It includes the following:

- Reference materials
- Periodicals
- Fiction and non-fiction books
- Technological resources



K-2nd grade students may read books in the library or in the classroom, but are not allowed to take library books home. If a book is lost, stolen, or damaged, parents are responsible for the replacement of the book.

ART CLASS

Each student will participate in art classes in which the fine art standards are taught. They will showcase their artwork throughout the building and during the annual art show.



STEAM CLASS



Students participate in STEAM Classes where they learn science, technology, engineering, arts, and math in interactive project based learning activities.

APACHE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Students will be provided the opportunity to learn the Apache Language integrated through Apache Culture.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES



***Please be aware that any updates or changes to Student Activities and the School Calendar will come in our monthly newsletters.*

ATHLETICS:

Fourth and Fifth Grade Only:

Fall Season: Volleyball, Flag Football

Winter Season: Girls & Boys Basketball

Spring Season: Co-Ed Softball

NATIVE AMERICAN DAY:

Chosen students will participate in a cultural performance.

SCHOOL SPELLING BEE:

The Bee is for students in grades 3 through 5. Start studying now, the Bee is in December!

OTHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Science Fair, Family Fairs, Academic Nights and celebrations, Student Council, Apache Club, STEM Enrichment, and PAC family events.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost articles of jewelry, money, eyeglasses, etc. are kept in the School Office until claimed. The clothing lost and found bin is located in the hallway. Items left at the end of the school year will be donated.



EMERGENCY DRILLS & PROCEDURES

Students participate in regular fire and evacuation drills. Whiteriver Elementary also has procedure plans for lockdowns for the entire campus. In the event of a lockdown, parents will be notified through School Messenger. All staff, students, and visitors must lock down during the event. Do not come to the school or call the school as this may risk the safety of students and staff. Information will be released as soon as it is safe to do so. In the event of an evacuation, a reunification point will be communicated through School Messenger.

WEAPONS



(A.R.S. 15-515) No student shall carry or possess a weapon (knife, loaded or unloaded gun, explosive firearm, pellet gun, dangerous firearms) or simulated weapon (fake gun, water gun, sharp objects) on school premises without the authorization by school administrator, no shall a student use or threaten to use a weapon or simulated weapon to disrupt the activity of the District. There will be severe consequences for students who violate this policy/law.

LET YOUR PRIDE *SOAR!*



JAYHAWK STRONG

Positive Attitude

Respect

Inviting Environment

Doorway to the Future

Excellence in Academics