

Altus Elementary School
Student Handbook
2023-24



A BRIGHT FUTURE BEGINS HERE

“The Altus Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, qualified handicap or veteran status.”

“Inquiries concerning application of this policy may be referred to the principal by phone at (580) 481-2180 or by mail at Altus Elementary School, P.O. Box 558, Altus, OK 73521”

MESSAGE TO OUR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Altus Elementary School welcomes you for the 2023-2024 school year! The teachers and staff have spent many hours preparing and are anxious to meet the students. Your child is important to us and we are dedicated to providing the best education possible. We want you to know your child's safety and educational needs are top priority to all of us at AES.

AES has a third and fourth grade staff of teachers dedicated to the task of educating your child as well as looking out for their health and safety. In addition to the classroom teachers, we employ an assistant principal, counselor, PE and music teachers, Title I teacher, ELL teacher, and four Special Education teachers to help us meet the needs of all students. We also have an OT and Speech Therapist. Our support staff is ready and willing to help in whatever way they are needed. The secretaries are always ready to assist you so please don't hesitate to call.

The English Language Arts program is enriching to all students. Our teachers strive to build a strong vocabulary which will enable the students to comprehend and express themselves in their writing. Saxon math is used to teach third and fourth grade math concepts. Our academic program includes reading, language arts, math, science, and social studies. The Oklahoma Academic Standards will be used in planning all instruction. The district provides each child with an iPad to supplement the learning experience.

To ensure your child's education reaches its full potential we ask that you work together with us at Altus Elementary School. Stay in contact with your child's teacher by signing up for their class app. Call or email me if you have a question you feel would be better answered by me. Our goal is to make your student's years at AES a positive learning experience.

Sincerely,

Terri Hamilton, Principal

PHILOSOPHY

At Altus 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 comfortable surroundings. We encourage cooperation among school, home, and community because we believe 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 US 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 FERPA. 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) 481-2180 or by mail at Altus Elementary School, 1830 Sunset 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 Time Schedule

The following schedule will be adhered to by students at Altus Elementary School.

Teachers will be on duty at 7:45.

7:50 Bell rings to send students to class

8:00 Tardy bell rings and class instruction begins

3:00 End of school day

3:15 Teachers off duty

Activities

The District Calendar, School Facebook page, school website, and notes sent home will inform parents of various activities and to invite parents to visit during these activities. The District Calendar may be seen at www.altusps.com

Arrivals/Dismissal

The first bell in the morning is at 7:50 and the tardy bell is at 8:00. Students not riding an Altus Public Schools bus should not arrive before 7:30 a.m. All fourth-grade students will enter the building by the front doors. All 3rd grade students will enter the building through the east door of the 3rd grade wing. All students will be dismissed at 3:00. When picking children up after school, please note the following:

- All 4th grade car students will exit through the front doors which face Sunset Drive. All 3rd grade car students will exit through the east door on the 3rd grade wing.

- Bus students will load in the bus lane.

Students should be picked up no later than **3:15**.

AFTER SCHOOL EXTENDED DAY CARE PROGRAM

AES provides an after school program for students of working parents. The program hours are from 3:00-5:30 p.m. on school days only. Please contact the school office or Mrs. Gambill for more information.

Altus Elementary School Attendance Policy First Action

When a student has been absent from school four or more days or parts of days within a four-week period without a valid excuse the parent or guardian will receive notification that will include the following:

- Cover letter
- State warning letter
- CIMS report

Second Action

When a student has ten days or parts of days of unexcused absences, it will result in filing with the District Attorney's Office. (Per semester)

Third Action

Excessive excused or non-excused absences could result in student retention.

NOTE:

Notification will be sent to parents of students who are frequently absent due to illness when the number of absences has exceeded ten days. In order for further absences to be considered excused, a doctor's verification may be required.

Students will be permitted to make up classwork missed because of an excused

absence. Make-up work will not be permitted for truancy. (unexcused absences)
Absences will be considered excused for the following reasons providing communication is made to the school on the day of the absence; illness, bereavement, family emergencies, recognized religious holidays, and doctor or dentist appointments. All other absences are considered unexcused.

Attendance, Tardies, Absences, and Makeup Work

Definitions

Tardies-students arriving after 8:00 a.m. must receive a tardy slip from the office. Tardies result in loss of valuable teaching activities and can impact student progress.

Absence-missing more than one hour of instruction is equal to 1/2 day absence.

Truancy-an absence without parent/guardian or school consent and appropriate notification made to the building principal.

Attendance-Regular attendance is a necessary part of the learning process and is a key to getting a good education. The educational experience consists of more than merely taking tests. Daily classroom participation, interaction with the teacher and other learners, and receipt of instruction is necessary to acquire desired knowledge and skills.

Notification of Absence from School-If your child is ill or must be absent from school for any reason, please notify the office at 481-2180 The office will be open at 7:30 a.m. Parents are encouraged to call as early as possible. If for some reason a parent/guardian contact has not been made regarding a student's absence by the end of that school day, the student will be considered truant.

Make-up Work-Students will be allowed to make up the class work missed due to an excused absence. Students are given one school day plus the number of school days absent to make up class work and tests. If the make-up work is not completed, a zero will be recorded for each missing assignment and test.

Excessive Absences-If a child is absent without 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.

Bicycle Safety

Riding bicycles to and from school can be dangerous. Strict safety practice by the students is required. No unsafe practices will be tolerated. Bicycles are to be walked on school property during the school day, and bikes are to be kept in the racks provided during the school day. Bikes must be parked in the racks for safety purposes. Always lock your bike. Scooters and roller blades should not be brought on school property.

Breakfast Program

All children will be provided a free breakfast in the classroom. Breakfast will be served from 7:50-8:10 in the classroom. The cost for parents to eat breakfast with their children is \$3.00. **There will be no charging for school meals.**

Bullying

It is the policy of this school district that bullying of students by other students, personnel, or the public will not be tolerated. Students are expected to be civil, polite, and fully engaged in the learning process. Students who act inappropriately are not fully engaged in the learning process. This policy is in effect while the students are on school grounds, in school vehicles, at designated bus stops, at school-sponsored activities, or at school-sanctioned events, and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management, and welfare of the school district. Bullying of students by electronic communication is prohibited whether or not such communication originated at school or with school equipment, if the communication is specifically directed at students or school personnel and concerns harassment, intimidation, or bullying at school. As used in the School Safety and Bullying Prevention Act, "bullying" means any pattern of harassment, intimidation, threatening behavior, physical acts, verbal or, electronic communication, directed toward a student or group of students that results in or is reasonably perceived as being done with the intent to cause negative educational or physical results for the targeted individual or group and is communicated in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student. Such behavior is specifically prohibited. In administering discipline, consideration will be given to alternative methods of punishment to insure that the most effective discipline is administered in each case. In all disciplinary action, teachers and administrators will be mindful of the fact that they are dealing with individual personalities. The faculty may consider consultation with parents to determine the most effective disciplinary measure. (Reference Board Policy 700.430 and 700.431 on the District webpage)

Bus Transportation

Bus transportation is provided to students in certain designated areas. Transportation of students by method of school bus should be considered a privilege, not a right; therefore, students should be aware that privileges may be lost if they are abused. Only regularly scheduled bus students are to ride the buses. Students need to go immediately to the buses after school has been dismissed. Each bus driver will establish rules for the buses in accordance with the District Transportation Manual. No busing will be provided for pre-school children.

Bus Discipline

For students the procedures below will be applied:

- 1st Offense-upon the first offense of unacceptable conduct, the principal will counsel the

student and inform the parent.

- 2nd Offense-Upon the second offense, the principal will notify the student and parent that the student is suspended from school bus riding privileges for three (3) days. The student will be transported home on the last day he/she rides the bus.
- 3rd Offense-Upon the third offense, the principal will notify the student and parent that the student is suspended from school bus riding privileges for seven (7) days.
- 4th Offense-Upon the fourth offense, the principal will notify the student and parent that the student is suspended from school bus riding privileges for ten (10) days.
- 5th Offense-Upon the fifth offense, the principal will notify the student and parent that the student is suspended from school bus riding privileges for twenty (20) days.
- 6th Offense-Upon the sixth offense, the principal will notify the student and parent that the student is suspended from school bus riding privileges for the equivalent of one semester. (87 days)

If a student shows an uncontrolled malicious disregard for the safety and well-being of the passengers and driver, it is possible that immediate suspension from the bus and school may occur without going through the procedures above.

The same rules of conduct expected at school and in the classroom shall apply for the student on the school bus.

Bus conduct procedures involving identified special needs students are determined individually on a case by case basis.

Checking Students Out During the School Day

To ensure the safety and protection of all students, parents needing to check their children out during the school day should go to the office and sign their child out. Students will be notified by office personnel to meet parents/guardian at the front office. Our time with your child is valuable. Please try to schedule doctor's appointments and trips at a time that will not conflict with his/her learning.

To promote the safety of our students, to give them better supervision, and to encourage them to take advantage of our school lunch program, the following policy will be instituted.

During the noon period, students will be restricted to the school campus. However, a parent may pick up his/her own child and take that child from the campus during the lunch period. A parent will be allowed to take his/her child only. Students who are late in returning to class from lunch will be given an unexcused tardy.

Technology

Technology education has become an important part of our curriculum and a part of the Oklahoma State Competencies. All students at AES will have access to an IPAD. There is Internet access to each classroom available for students.

Counselor

Our counselor provides counseling services throughout the year and coordinates many programs and activities. Parents, teachers, or students may request services from the counselor for individual counseling, behavior modification techniques, classroom activities, and other needs.

Dismissal of School due to Severe Weather or Other Cause

On occasion weather or other unforeseen cause merits dismissal of school or requires a late start time. When questions arise listen to KWHW 1450 or FM radio 93.5 radio to hear updated news concerning start times and dismissal. Local television cable channel 10 will also broadcast this information. Altus Public Schools will send out mass phone calls to inform parents of students of any dismissals.

Dress Code

Students are encouraged to dress comfortably, healthy, and cleanly at all times. Appropriate dress, as determined by the staff and administration of Altus Elementary, is required at all times. Shorts and mini-skirts may be worn if they meet the following criterion: while standing straight with arms to the side, the middle finger of both hands must not be able to touch the bare skin on the thighs. This would include any slit or frayed hole that may be in a dress, shirt, shorts, or jeans. Leggings or shorts underneath do not make the clothing acceptable. No clothing or anything attached to the clothing that advertises beer, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or bears words or statements that are vulgar or suggestive may be worn. Also, bare feet, spaghetti straps, see-through clothing, and bare midriffs are not acceptable under this code. Jeans with holes can be worn if, while standing straight with arms to the side, the holes are below the middle finger of both hands. Hats and hoods of any kind are not allowed at school unless with prior approval or for special days. Sagging pants, house shoes, or pajamas will not be permitted at school. (Exception would be pajama day). Piercing is limited to the ears only. Athletic shoes are encouraged for physical education classes and recess for student personal safety. Skate type shoes are not permitted due to safety concerns.

Discipline Policy

The Altus Public Schools believes that the primary function of the schools is to educate children. We further believe that students have the right to learn free of unnecessary distractions and to attend a school in which an atmosphere conducive to learning exists. Education includes establishing norms of acceptable social behavior and assisting students in understanding and attaining those norms. From time to time, it will be necessary for the benefit of the individual and of the school for the faculty and administrators to enforce corrective actions for breaches in acceptable behavior.

The teacher or administrator shall have the same right as a parent or guardian to control and discipline a child while the child is in attendance in the Altus Schools or in transit to or from the school or while attending or participating in any school function authorized by the school district (70 O.S. 6-114, School Laws of Oklahoma).

Each student shall be treated in a fair and equitable manner. The severity of the disciplinary action will be based upon a careful assessment of the circumstances surrounding each infraction. (Reference Policy #700.150 on the district website)

Enrichment Program

Altus Elementary students who qualify for the Enrichment Program will be served with a pullout program with the amount of weekly class time increasing at each respective grade level. Multi-criteria evaluation procedures are used for the purpose of identification and placement of students in the enriched studies program. Screening and nomination procedures of students for possible placement will include:

1. Referrals by parents, teachers, and/or peers
2. Group Achievement test scores
3. Classroom performance and work samples Students who score at the 97th percentile or above on a standardized achievement test or nationally recognized standardized test will be automatically placed in the program with a teacher referral and permission of the parents or guardian.

Field Trips

Field trips are designed to supplement different aspects of the classroom curriculum and to introduce students to the resources of the community. Parents will receive notices of field trips in advance. Altus Schools will provide any transportation needed for trips. To ensure the safety of your child, a power of attorney must be on file.

Fire and Other Safety Drills

Safety drills to include fire, severe weather, emergency lockdown, and evacuation drills will be conducted during the year. A fire and severe weather plan is posted in each room.

Flowers and Bouquets

Flowers or balloon bouquets will not be delivered to students in class because it is a distraction and disrupts learning. A message will be given to the student instructing them to pick up the bouquet in the office after school.

Grades

Teachers in the Altus Schools, in determining grades, shall utilize the following percent spreads:

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F Below 60

U Unsatisfactory

Students in fourth grade can qualify for the honor roll each nine weeks in five subjects: math, reading, language, social studies, and science. They can qualify for the Principal's (3.5) or Superintendent's (4.0) Honor Roll each semester. Students who make the nine weeks honor roll for three of the four nine-week periods shall be members of the Honor Society.

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

A=4 points

B=3 points

C=2 points

Recognition of Good Grades

Students who make A's and B's will be awarded certificates at the end of each semester.

The school will present reading awards at the end of the school year.

Hall

When walking in the hall, students should walk quietly in a single file line at all times and keep their hands to themselves. No running is allowed. Students will move through the halls on the right side to alleviate congestion.

Homework

Homework is a valuable educational tool. It is important to a student's academic development. Parents should be aware of and involved with assignments. They should offer encouragement whenever possible. We ask the parents not to do the work for the

child. You may assist the students whenever it is deemed necessary.

Teachers will assign homework from time to time; however, excessive or unnecessary homework is to be avoided. In order that students are not burdened with excessive assignments, the Altus Elementary Schools have adopted the following policy on homework assignments:

1. It is recommended that students be assigned homework whenever teachers feel it is necessary but it is not to be assigned in excessive amounts.

2. A home exercise that requires approximately 1/3 of the number of minutes spent on the subject during class is appropriate. This time spent will be based on the work time required on the assignment by an average student in the class.

a. Example of No. 2: Ten minutes of homework given for thirty minutes of class instruction.

b. Example of No. 2: Fifteen minutes of homework given for fifty minutes of class instruction.

Exemption to this rule: Students who are “making up” work missed due to an excused absence will be given one day plus the number of days absent to make up classwork and tests. If the makeup work is not completed, a zero will be recorded for each assignment and test.

3. It is recommended that homework should be checked.

4. Homework will never be used as an instrument for modification of negative behavior.

IPAD USE AND GUIDELINES

Care of iPads in the classroom are a responsibility of both students and teachers. The teacher’s responsibility is to share correct guidelines and procedures and to monitor students as they use and transport iPads in the learning environment. Guidelines and access should be age appropriate for each grade level of student. iPads are one learning tool that we use, and just like other materials in the classroom, we understand usual wear and tear on devices. Altus Schools asks that you adhere to the following iPad use and guidelines.

- Take good care of iPads and accessories in order to prevent damages to the devices
- Keep the iPad in the protective case at all times
- iPads will be retrieved and returned to the charging cart according to the teacher’s directions
- Food and beverages should be kept away from iPads
- Disassembly of any part of the iPad is not allowable
- iPads will not be used in ways that are not educationally appropriate by following the Acceptable Use Policy procedures and the teacher’s instructions
- Markers, crayons, stickers, or tape will not be used on iPads
- Serial numbers must not be tampered with on the iPads

- iPads are the property of Altus Public Schools and intentional damage and defacing is considered damage to school property
- Contact the teacher immediately if there is a problem or damage to an iPad
Failure to follow the above guidelines could result in limited use and access to iPad devices in the classroom.

Children

If your child becomes ill at school, we will contact you. If we cannot reach you, we will use the emergency contact information you have provided. Please remember that we cannot keep ill children at school.

Immunization

Oklahoma State Law requires that all children be immunized before entering school. There are required immunizations and a shot record is required upon enrollment.

In School Supervision

Time Out Supervision is an in-school detention time used as a form of discipline. Students can be placed in Time Out by the principal or his/her designee. Students under adult supervision will complete daily assignments in a designated area in the building.

Learning Lab

Special education classes are available for students to receive individualized special assistance. Various state and federal guidelines must be met.

Lost and Found

The lost and found department is located on the stage in the cafeteria. Articles found are to be turned in to the office. Articles not claimed by one week after the end of each semester will be disposed of or donated to charity.

Lunch Program

All Children will be provided a free lunch at no cost to the parents. Extra milk is \$.35. Parents wishing to eat with their children in the cafeteria should notify the school early in the morning of the day they are eating. The cost of lunch is \$4.50.

Medication

The school nurse, principal, or his/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. 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/her designee. Medication cannot be brought to school or sent home with the student.** The parent or guardian 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 medications brought to school by students, with the exception of inhalers and epi pens, will be confiscated and the parents will be asked to come to school to pick up the medication. Medication not picked up within two weeks will be destroyed.

Music Classes

Students will participate in music classes weekly. In addition, various programs will be presented during the year.

Parent Conferences

Parents are welcome to come to school and talk with teachers. Appointments can be made to coincide with the teacher's schedule. This can be done through the office. Call 481-2180 to set up the conference. Refer to your district calendar at the front of this handbook for school-wide conference schedules.

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.

Birthday Parties

Invitations to children's birthday parties are not allowed at school unless an invitation is given to each child in the classroom.

Physical Education

All students will participate in physical education. P.E. will be taught by a qualified P.E. instructor and should be of benefit to every student. 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. Athletic shoes are recommended for wear in physical education classes. The physical education plan for AES incorporates into the daily program discussion of the food groups, the importance of proper nutritional meals, and healthy physical activities. Student's progress is determined by successful participation

in class activities and assignments, as documented by report card grade.

Playground

Use good sense when playing on the playground. There are at least two adults, one certified and one support, on playground duty. If students have a need they should see a playground teacher for assistance. Following are a list of general safety rules for the playground.

Playground Expectations

- **Use all equipment safely and properly**
- **Stay where a teacher can see you**
- **Freeze where you are on the first whistle**
- **Walk to appropriate area after second whistle**
- **Follow all staff directions**

Power of Attorney

All students must have a Power of Attorney on file to attend any school field trip.

Reading Sufficiency

In compliance with the reading Sufficiency Act of Oklahoma State Law, Altus Public Schools' K-3 grade students shall be assessed at least three times each school year for specific reading skills utilizing assessments approved by the State Department Board of Education.

The purpose of the Reading Sufficiency act is to ensure that each child attains the necessary reading skills by completion of the third grade, which will enable students to continue development of reading skills and succeed throughout the school year. Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, students who score Does Not Meet Criteria on the Reading portion of the 3rd grade criterion-referenced tests will be retained. If a student scores unsatisfactory they may only be promoted to the 4th Grade if the student qualifies for a good cause exemption provided by school state law. As well, Altus Schools' Board policy requires retention of Kindergarten through 2nd grade students that are not reading on grade level according to the Reading Sufficiency assessments. (Reference Board Policy 700.605)

Recess

When the whistle blows after recess, students should stop playing and talking. At this time students should walk and take their places in line. Students should be courteous and should obey all safety rules while playing at recess.

Report Cards

Report cards will be issued to students at the close of each nine-week grading period. Attendance will be reported on the report card. Report cards will be computer generated and must be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to the classroom teachers.

Room Parents

The room parents will give parties during the year. If you are interested in becoming a room parent, contact your child's teacher.

Severe Weather

When severe weather occurs, Board of Education officials monitor the situation and work closely with Civil Defense. Children will not be released to leave school unless the designated adult indicated on the student's enrollment form arrives to pick them up. Buses will not run until an all clear sounds. All communication from the Board of Education to the schools will be done on KWHW 1450 AM and Channel 10 on local cable television because of the probability of a loss of phone communications. Students will not be released to leave the building until officials at the Board of Education sound an all clear.

Speech Class

Speech classes provide services for students having speech or language difficulties. Federal guidelines must be met for qualification.

Telephone

Students are not allowed to use the telephone unless absolutely necessary and they must have a permission slip from their teacher.

Textbooks and Library Books

Students are responsible for all textbooks and library books issued to them during the school year. All lost or damaged books must be paid for. All monies collected are recorded by the school bookkeeper and paid to the proper fund for replacement purposes. If a lost book is found, money paid will be refunded.

Title I

Altus Elementary School is a Title I school. All students have access to Title I assistance.

Toys

Toys should not be brought to school unless requested by your teachers. Toys brought to school will be secured and must be picked up by parent from the Principal's office.

Visitors

Visitors should stop by the office and obtain a visitor's pass.

Visually Talented Program

Elementary students, grades 2-4, who qualify for the visually talented program, will be served with a pullout program. Nominations are based on students' potential in art and need for differentiated or accelerated services and meet district guidelines as established by board policy. The student's parent or guardian, teacher, or school administrator may make nominations at any time throughout the school year. The visually talented art specialist will be responsible for student testing.

Volunteer Program

Volunteers play an important and valuable role in education. Voluntary assistance in the education of students offers a way for you to become actively involved in your child's school. Volunteers can assist the school in a variety of ways which might include making copies, making bulletin boards, making classroom materials, assisting with special events and field trips, and listening to students read. Volunteers are required to have passed a law enforcement background check. All volunteers are subject to board of education approval. Volunteers may be required to have confidentiality training before volunteering in the school.

Wireless Communication Device (Cell Phone, Pager, Personal Tablets)

Wireless telecommunication devices, including but not limited to cell phones, smart watches, and pagers, shall not be used by students on school premises during regular school hours. In no case will a device be allowed which has the capability to take "photographs" of any kind. Principals at the various sites determine regular school hours. If in a student's possession, wireless telecommunication devices shall be turned off during these hours and put away in an inconspicuous place out of sight, for example, in a purse or book bag. Student possession of wireless telecommunication devices shall not distract or disrupt the educational environment, including class time, assemblies, lunch, meetings and/or passing between classes in school hallways. Students found to be distracting or disrupting the educational environment will be subject to disciplinary action. Students found to be in possession of a wireless telecommunications device in violation of the rules shall be subject to disciplinary action under the student discipline policy, including confiscation of the device pending parent/guardian conference, detention, in-school supervision, alternative placement, or suspension. Where appropriate, police authorities may be contacted. Students in violation of the discipline policy may be disallowed from carrying any personal communication device. Where appropriate, police authorities may be contacted. (Reference Board Policy 700.160)

Withdrawal of Students

If you are moving and are withdrawing your child from school, please call or come by the

school a few days prior to the withdrawal date. This will give ample time to complete the necessary paperwork, etc. Your cooperation is always greatly appreciated. Parents must come to school and sign documents for withdrawal.

Moment of Silence

The minute of silence is for the purpose of allowing each student to reflect, meditate, pray, or engage in other silent activity. At Altus Elementary School this will be incorporated into the morning activities with the observance of the pledge of allegiance to the American flag and Oklahoma flag.

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN BOARD POLICIES THAT ARE VERY IMPORTANT.

YOU MAY VIEW ANY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY ON THE ALTUS PUBLIC SCHOOL'S WEB PAGE

www.altusps.com

THE OKLAHOMA ACADEMIC STANDARDS, CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES, AND OTHER SCHOOL INFORMATION MAY BE LOCATED AT THE OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE AT www.sde.state.ok.us

[Updated September, 2023 by Terri Hamilton](#)