

PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Welcome to the 2020 – 2021 school year. At Alta Vista, we are dedicated to making sure we are meeting the needs of each one of our students. Our teachers are committed to planning as a grade level to develop lessons that will challenge their students and help them succeed in their classes. Alta Vista uses Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) to help encourage positive behaviors on campus. Students are reminded of the expectations around campus and they are acknowledged for all the good things they are doing. We appreciate parent support in and outside the classroom and encourage you to actively reach out to your child's teacher to see how you may be of assistance to them. Thank you for your continued support and let's have a great school year!

Cordially,
Cody Riding

MISSION STATEMENT

"The Alta Vista community will provide a safe, inviting environment for our students, where high standards for learning and citizenship are maintained."

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Address: 8710 N. 31st Avenue, Phoenix, 85051

School Web Site: <http://altavista.wesdschools.org>

Important Phone Numbers:

Office: 602-347-2000

Health Office: 602-347-2010

Attendance: 602-347-2011

KidSpace: 602-347-2021

FAX: 602-347-2020

School Hours: 8:15 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Office Hours: 7:45 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Office Hours on Wednesdays: 7:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Student Arrival: 8:00 a.m.

Classes Begin: 8:15 a.m.

Early Release Wednesday: 1:45 p.m.

School Attendance/Reporting Absences

Alta Vista School pays strict attention to the attendance of our students. State law mandates that the school record reasons for all student absences. Therefore, when a student is absent, it is necessary for the parent to call the school (**602-347-2011**) on or before the day of absence in order to advise the school as to the reason for the absence. **All absences not verified by parental or administrative authorization will remain unexcused.** If a parent does not have access to a phone, either at home or at work, a note will be accepted for verification purposes. For absences greater than one day in length, the school should be notified each day of the absence.

When a child is absent and a message has not been received by 9:00, a dial-out will be sent to the parent/guardian stating that his or her child is not at school.

Truancy

In order to assure students are successful and meet current state legislation, which requires all students to attend 90% of the school year, WESD has an Attendance Unit (AU). The AU will work in conjunction with the City Justice Courts to identify students who are chronically absent or are truant.

When a student reaches five unexcused/unverified truantries or 10 total absences, the school may make a referral to the AU for appropriate actions (see District guidelines). **In order to avoid this eventuality, there are several precautions to take: (1) reinforce being on time and good attendance, (2) call the school each time a student will be late or absent, (3) present any medical documentation to the nurse and/or attendance clerk if illness will be a consistent, foreseeable issue.**

Per District policy, a letter will be sent by the school to the families of students who are approaching or pass the midway point for unexcused absences, excused absences and tardies. Parent cooperation is of the utmost importance in assuring student success.

Tardies

The gates open at 8:00 a.m. daily and students go straight to their classrooms for breakfast. Students arriving to their classrooms after 8:15 a.m. are considered late, and must report to the front office for a late pass. An excused tardy will be allowed for medical appointments and family emergencies only. Excuses that involve personal responsibility are not considered excused. **Excessive tardies may result in disciplinary action.**

Breakfast/Lunch Information

Alta Vista School provides both a daily lunch and breakfast program free for all students. Breakfast is served within each homeroom class beginning at 8:00 a.m. Students can also choose to bring their own lunch or supplement the school lunch with a single serving snack to enjoy in the cafeteria. Students may not share food or remove food from the cafeteria for any reason. Parents are always welcome to have lunch with your child. If you are coming to lunch, you must sign in at the office and obtain a visitor's badge. We ask that parents please eat with their children in the cafeteria and sign out in the office when the child joins their class for recess.

Health Office/Medications

The Health Center is located next to the office. The purpose of this department is to address health needs for your child while he or she is at school. Please notify us if your child has a physical disability or chronic health problem that may affect school performance or require other support. Concerning medications, a student should not transport medications, including over-the-counter medications, to or from school. An adult should bring medicines to the health office in the original pharmacy container and provide written parent permission.

The **ONLY** medication given to the student is what has been provided by the parent, following District guidelines.

Physical Education (PE) Excuses

Written permission is required from the parent if your child is to be excused from PE. If excused for longer than one week, a written statement from the student's doctor is required. All PE excuses must be turned in to the health technician.

COMMUNICATION

Parent-Teacher Connections

Alta Vista enjoys and appreciates the support of parent volunteers. Parents who are interested in volunteering within their child's classroom or are available to help during school events are encouraged to contact the office throughout the year. We welcome your participation!

Site Council

The Alta Vista Site Council meets once per month. The composition of this council is an equal number of teachers and parents. Terms last for two years and announcements are made when new parent and teacher positions become open. Any parent may attend these open meetings.

Contacting Teachers

Teachers at Alta Vista have a direct phone line into their classrooms. Parents may leave messages for teachers to return their call as soon as possible. Please do not rely on leaving a voicemail with the teacher if there is a change in pick-up procedures for a student for the same day. For these changes and other emergencies, parents should use the main office number for school communication. Parents will receive a list of direct voice mail numbers during Meet the Teacher Night early in the school year.

School Newsletter

The Alta Vista school newsletter and other communications are available online. The District uses **peachjar**, a digital flyer distribution company. A link can be found on the WESD website at <https://www.wesdschools.org>. Please follow the sorting guidelines to access Alta Vista specific flyers.

GRADING/HONORS/AWARDS

Makeup Work Policy

When students are absent, it is their responsibility to talk with their teachers to obtain missed assignments. Teachers will cooperate with the students in getting their assignments. Students should complete missed assignments and turn them in to their teachers. Homework can be requested after three days of absence. Students are allowed extra time to complete these assignments equal to the number of days they were absent.

Academic Honors- Grades 3-6

Academic Excellence:

4.0 grade point average – no Ns or Us

Principal's List:

3.9 – 3.5 grade point average – no Ds or Fs – no Ns or Us

Honor Roll:

3.6 – 3.0 grade point average – no Ds or Fs – no Ns or Us

Student of the Month

Student of the Month breakfasts are held every month to honor students who have been chosen by their teachers as students who are modeling both good academic effort and safe, respectful and responsible behavior.

Perfect Attendance

Students with perfect attendance are recognized each quarter. Students with perfect attendance all year receive special recognition in May. Perfect attendance includes no tardies or early sign-outs.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE/BEHAVIOR

Alta Vista School teaches all students how to **Be Responsible, Be Respectful and Be Safe**. Teachers, support staff and the school administration implement Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) as our school-wide approach to teaching students appropriate behavior. Our philosophy about school-wide expectations for student behavior is to teach appropriate behavior just as explicitly as we teach academic subjects. We teach students what it looks like and sounds like to act safely, respectfully and responsibly in different areas of the school and different times of the day. All students follow the same set of rules and expectations throughout the school. Teachers and support staff teach students with positive statements that reinforce appropriate behavior and when students follow the rules and expectations, they are recognized. When students do not follow the rules, there are planned consequences to get them back on track. Alta Vista students and staff will continue to follow a strict "No Bullying" policy, which creates a physically and emotionally safe learning environment for all students. Additionally, the WESD Governing Board adopted a consistent discipline policy on April 28, 2005. It is located in the District portion of this handbook. **Every parent and student will be asked to sign a statement that they have read and understood this plan and the Alta Vista specific information pages.**

Behavior Expectations

Hallways: Keep hands feet and objects to yourself. Use walking feet. Be prepared. Walk with a purpose. Be kind. Use an appropriate voice level. Share the sidewalk.

Cafeteria: Keep hands feet and objects to yourself. Use walking feet. Be prepared. Follow procedures. Be kind. Use appropriate voice level.

Playground: Keep hands feet and objects to yourself. Follow playground rules. Line up when the whistle blows. Use equipment appropriately. Be kind.

Restroom: Keep hands feet and objects to yourself. Flush, wash, dry, goodbye. Be kind. Use an appropriate voice level.

Classroom: Keep hands feet and objects to yourself. Use walking feet. Be prepared. Follow directions. Do your best. Be kind. Use an appropriate voice level. Use materials appropriately.

Dress Code

Student dress shall be appropriate at all times. **Alta Vista adheres to the policies described in the STUDENT DRESS section of the WESD Parent/Student Handbook.** Any student's dress that distracts from or interferes with the normal learning process will be considered inappropriate. The decision as to whether or not such a condition exists, or a decision as to the course of action to be taken, shall be left to the reasonable discretion of the school administrators. Alta Vista employs the following guidelines when evaluating appropriate school attire. Flip-flops, backless shoes, and high heels are not appropriate footwear for the playground or campus. Tennis shoes with wheels are not allowed. All students must wear tennis shoes on the days their class has PE. Sleeveless shirts should have at least a two-inch strap. A shirt is too short if any part of the abdomen is showing when the student raises his or her hand above his or her head. Sweatshirts with hoods are discouraged. If it is worn, the hood must remain off the head at all times. **Hats are not to be worn on campus except for during special spirit days.** If there is a medical reason for wearing a hat, the parents should contact the administration.

Items Not Allowed at School

Alta Vista is NO BACKPACK school. Grade level teams will provide go-home folders as needed and communicate their policies with families.

Alta Vista has a "No Gum or Candy" policy anywhere on campus. Any items brought from home for lunch must be eaten in the cafeteria during lunch or during a nutrition break provided by the teacher. Hair sprays, shaving creams, silly string, spray paint or other aerosols are not permitted on campus. Make-up and cologne should remain at home. Skateboards, rollerblades, scooters, skates and wheeled tennis shoes are not allowed. Toys (with the exception of those brought for teacher-directed activities), permanent markers, lasers, musical devices, electronic games/devices, firecrackers, and trading cards are not allowed on campus. Personal sports equipment such as balls, bats and Frisbees should not be brought to school. The school will provide sports equipment for use on the playground. Electronic reading devices such as Kindles, iPads and Nooks are prohibited due to the risks of possible damage or loss. Weapons, whether real or toy/model, are strictly prohibited and their possession will result in suspension or expulsion in accordance with District policy. Possession or the use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs is prohibited and may result in suspension or expulsion in accordance with District policy.

Alta Vista does not accept responsibility for prohibited items. They are not to be brought to school. Parents must pick up any confiscated items.

Cell Phone Guidelines

Students are not allowed to use cell phones or cell phone connected devices such as smartwatches on campus for any purpose, including receiving calls, taking pictures or text messaging. If you desire that your child carry a phone for non-school time emergency purposes, the phone must be turned off and kept, *at the student's own risk*, in his or her backpack or

notebook. Phones should not be carried by students during school hours and should not be turned on until the student has left campus. Any violations of this policy, including having the phone ring or emit any noise, will result in discipline. After the second occurrence, a parent will need to come to school and pick up the phone. Personal cell phone use on field trips is not allowed.

Consequences

Please refer to the discipline policy in the District portion of the handbook for a description of offenses and consequences. The District provides a range for consequences and the Alta Vista administration will choose within the range based upon the severity of the offense and the student's discipline history, including the number of similar referrals.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Alta Vista has a crisis/lockdown plan in place in the event of an emergency. Fire and lockdown drills are conducted in accordance with District policy. If the need to evacuate the school should occur, students will be evacuated to a secure location. Parents, guardians and child care providers will pick up students at the chosen location.

Campus Security

- Children should not be on the school grounds until 8:00 a.m. No one is on duty for purposes of supervision until that time.
- When the gates open at 8:00 a.m., only students will be allowed to enter the school through the three entry gates. Adults who have completed the volunteer process and made specific arrangements with a staff member or who have a scheduled meeting on campus will sign-in and get a visitor's badge at the front office.
- Children who leave school during the school day (for doctor's appointments, etc.) must be picked up from the front office by an adult indicated on their individual registration paperwork. Anyone picking up a student during the school day will need to present a photo ID to office staff.
- Adults may not take children from the classroom, playground, etc. Children are to be sent to the office by the teacher and met there by the appropriate adult.
- Parents who come for their children may not offer rides to other children.
- All visitors to our school are asked to stop at the office to identify themselves and receive visitors' passes.
- Students must not trespass on the Cortez campus (except on the designated walk path) or trespass on neighbor's property.
- Students should not remain on the school grounds after dismissal without teacher and parent consent or attending a supervised activity.
- Students must follow the designated safe school walk paths to and from school daily. Crossing guards are provided in front of the school in order to cross 31st Avenue, at the intersection of 31st Avenue and Butler, and between Alta Vista School and the apartments along Dunlap Avenue.

Handicap, Carpool, Pickup

Handicap spaces in the front of the school are reserved for those displaying a handicap license plate or placard because they need close access due to a handicapping condition. We have parents, guardians and/or students who may need access to these spaces at any given time. Maricopa County requires carpool spaces be reserved for those participating in the trip reduction program. We appreciate you leaving those spots available for carpooling staff. Please feel free to park in any non-reserved, open parking space. Please do not park in the fire lane when picking up students midday. At the end of the day, please enter the pickup line and wait for your turn to come around to the pickup area. Kindergarten students and their siblings may be picked up in the south parking lot line (near the front office). All other students are to be picked up in the north lot line. Your child/ren will then enter your car from the curb. Please adhere to our parking lot drop-off and pickup rules for the safety of all students.

Dismissal

In an effort to minimize interruptions to the classrooms at the end of the day, ***students cannot be checked out any later than 3:00 p.m.*** This time is reserved for announcements, homework assignments and end-of-the-day instructions. Please keep this in mind when making appointments.

Bicycles

All students who ride bikes to school must put their bicycle in the designated bike rack and LOCK IT individually. Should your bike be stolen, report it to the school AND call the Phoenix Police Department Bicycle Detail at 602-262-6141. ***Alta Vista School cannot be held responsible for any lost or stolen property.***

SCHOOL SUCCESS

Alta Vista understands that effective, comprehensive assessment to screen, diagnose, monitor and measure outcomes is essential to evaluate the effectiveness of our programs.

We will do this by implementing procedures to collaboratively and individually identify instructional improvements related to our identified needs in the areas of reading and math and behavior. Teachers will utilize assessment results to make data-based instructional decisions to provide interventions in the areas of reading, math and social/emotional behavior.

At Alta Vista, we also believe that students, families and the school working together make an unbeatable team to support the academic success of each student. We ask your assistance in following the guidelines in our student/parent/teacher/staff compact.

STUDENT/PARENT/TEACHER/STAFF COMPACT

Students

As a student, I understand school is important. I know my parents/guardians and teachers will help me to do my best in school, but I must work hard to do well. I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability.

AS A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT, I WILL:

- ❖ Come to school every day, except when ill, and arrive at school and class on time.
- ❖ Come to class prepared with all materials, homework and the positive attitude required to learn.
- ❖ Work cooperatively with other students and adults at school and make sure my actions are not interfering with the learning of others.
- ❖ Respect the rights and property of others and follow school rules.
- ❖ Appropriately communicate my needs to the adults at school and home.

Parents/Guardians

As a parent, I realize that my child's school years are very important, and I understand that my participation in my child's education will help his or her achievement and attitude. Therefore, I agree to carry out the following responsibilities.

AS THE PARENT OF A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT, I WILL:

- ❖ See that my child comes to school every day he or she is not ill, develops good sleep habits and that he or she arrives to school on time.
- ❖ Take the time to meet my child's teacher and reply promptly to all messages, notes and telephone calls from school.
- ❖ Encourage my child to respect the rights and property of others and to follow school rules.
- ❖ Encourage the qualities of responsibility, self-discipline and a love for learning by example and practice.
- ❖ Encourage my child to read and complete homework each day and to show a genuine interest in his or her progress in school.

Teachers/Staff

AS THE TEACHER/STAFF MEMBER OF A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT I WILL:

- ❖ See that each student receives a well-planned day of instruction for each day in attendance.
- ❖ Maintain open communication by keeping parents informed of the student's school performance.
- ❖ Through my positive behavior indicate to the student that he or she is valued, has strengths and can achieve.
- ❖ Demonstrate a commitment to educate each student as fully as possible.
- ❖ Protect the rights of all students to learn.