

Principal's Welcome

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! We are all looking forward to a wonderful year with your children. It is our goal to foster a community that builds a safe, inviting environment where everyone thrives and can be successful. We encourage you to participate in your child's school experience and value the home-to-school partnerships that support your child's success. Please review the school handbook with your child for important information regarding school policies and procedures. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

TIGERS TO THE TOP!

Kimberly Gessner

Communication

Our children come first and are top priority at Tumbleweed. If you have a question or concern about your child's progress, please make an appointment with your child's teacher immediately. While the principal is available to meet with you, we ask that you address your concerns with the teacher first. Due to teacher's schedules, we ask that you make an appointment that is convenient for you and the teacher. In order to keep academics a priority, we ask that the appointment be before or after school hours. Let's work together to solve your concerns and issues. Visit our Web site at tumbleweed.wesdschools.org for the latest contact information.

School Vision Statement

Tumbleweed Elementary School is committed to providing an engaging and enriching environment that will promote academic and social excellence for all students.

Tumbleweed's vision is to create a high performing, quality school, that is committed to developing its students into responsible citizens and lifelong learners.

We envision:

- Responds effectively to the diverse needs of the student;
- Is characterized by a caring staff;
- Has an involved, supportive community; and
- Continuously strives to improve.

School Motto

TIGERS TO THE TOP

School Colors

Gold & Black

School Mission Statement

Tumbleweed's mission is to provide relevant, quality education to our students that will enable them to participate successfully in the changing world.

In pursuit of this mission, Tumbleweed will:

- Seek innovations that encourage excitement for learning;
- Create a learning environment characterized by caring and trust;
- Help each child develop to his or her fullest potential; and
- Provide opportunities that help students meet the challenges of change.

Integrated Action Plan

The Tumbleweed School Integrated Action Plan continues to be monitored and adjusted to meet the needs of our students. The Site Council and our Leadership Team have been working on identifying and assessing Tumbleweed's needs and defining where to focus its resources in relation to the Goals of an Effective School.

Parent Involvement

The staff and administration at Tumbleweed welcome your involvement and participation in your child's education. We believe you are your child's first and most important teacher.

We realize that your life is busy. However, we provide many ways for you to be involved, and you will find many great rewards.

1. Make sure your child arrives **BEFORE** 7:30 to school every day and that he or she is on time. Setting the habit of coming to school must be done from kindergarten.
2. Attend parent/teacher conferences. Two days have been set aside during each semester for conferences. Our staff will accommodate your needs at other times if additional conferences are needed.
3. Attend school events with your child. There are several school-wide and classroom events throughout the school year. We hope you will share as many of these as possible with your child.
4. Visit us on social media: Facebook – Tumbleweed Elementary and Instagram - @tumbleweed_wesd
5. **VOLUNTEERING**: A volunteer application must be filled out **YEARLY** and may be subject to a background check. Applications can be found on our district website under Community.

Read and discuss communications with your child. You are always invited to eat lunch with your child. Adult lunches are available at a minimal cost. The PTA meets monthly and encourages participation. You can be an active participant in the school vision and direction as part of our Site Council. The Site Council meets monthly and provides direction in the accomplishment of our school mission. Contact your child's teacher if you are interested in becoming an approved volunteer.

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

School address

4001 W. Laurel Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85029

School Web Site: tumbleweed.wesdschools.org

School Hours

Breakfast in the classroom begins @ 7:30 a.m.

Daily Schedule: KG- 6 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday Only: KG- 6 7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: 7:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

We recommend you call 602-896-6600 to make an appointment to speak with the principal.

Important Telephone Numbers

Office 602-896-6600 **Attendance** 602-896-6611

Health Office 602-896-6610 Cafeteria 602-896-6617

Library 602-896-6609 Counselor 602-896-6658

Sp. Needs 602-896-6669 KidSpace 602-896-6615

Transportation 602-896-5270 Head Start 602-896-6667

Arrival and Dismissal

Students must be in their classroom by 7:30 a.m. or they are marked **TARDY**. If your child arrives late or is dismissed early by just five minutes, over the course of the school year, your child would miss out on more than two full days of instruction. It is our goal to maximize

instructional time for all students by ensuring that classes are not interrupted with announcements or messages from home.

Having students **arrive on time consistently** and being prepared to learn enhances their opportunity for being successful.

Students who are tardy miss out on key instructions at the beginning of the day, and other students in the class are interrupted when a student arrives late. **If your child is late, it is required that a parent/guardian parks in the large parking lot off of 39th Avenue and signs the student(s) in at the front office.** In an effort to reduce classroom interruptions, please refrain from pulling your child out of school early especially when it is 10-15 minutes before dismissal. ID will be REQUIRED to sign out a student. Your support is appreciated in scheduling your child's personal appointments outside of school hours.

We would like to limit classroom disruptions. If you have a message or materials the office will relay this by sending an email to the teacher.

To have a safe and orderly environment, all students must report directly to their classroom for breakfast. Students need to be in class on time each day.

When the school bell rings at 7:30 a.m., all students are to be on campus and ready to begin school. Students who are tardy MUST BE SIGNED IN by a parent/guardian in the front office and pick up a tardy pass before they will be allowed to enter their classroom. Parents will be contacted to resolve chronic absenteeism or tardiness. **All students who miss more than 10 days of school will require an attendance plan and students with 18 or more days of absences will be considered chronic. Intervention supports will be put into place in order to reduce the amount of tardies/absences in order to maximize student learning.**

Please help us by using the following guidelines:

Parents are to pick up and drop off their children in designated areas on the campus. Please be considerate of others and do not block driveways, student crosswalks, parking spaces or drive-through lanes. **U-Turns around our school can be dangerous. Please refrain from making U-Turns during drop-off or pickup times.**

Attendance/Ttruancy

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 and parents of students who are chronically absent or are truant.

When a student reaches five total absences (excused, unexcused and/or unverified), families will receive an attendance notification letter. When a student reaches 10 **unverified, unexcused, and excused absences**, families will receive an attendance warning letter and 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 health tech if illness will be a consistent, foreseeable issue.

A letter will be sent by the school to the parents/guardians 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.

Reporting Absences

Please be sure to call the attendance line at 602-896-6611 to report an absence or tardy for your child. Voicemail is provided 24 hours a day for your convenience. It is important that you leave the specific reason

that the child is ill, such as cold, flu, asthma, fever, diarrhea, nausea, pink eye, etc. The health technician needs to send out notices for contagious diseases, so it is imperative that you leave specific information about the illness in the message.

Meal Information

Tumbleweed provides universal free breakfast and lunch to all students.

Lost and Found

The lost and found is located in the cafeteria. Please label personal items with the child's name for easy identification. Unclaimed items are donated at the end of the year.

Bullying

Tumbleweed Elementary School and the WESD believe it is the right of every student to be educated in a positive, safe, caring and respectful learning environment. Furthermore, a school environment that is inclusive of these traits maximizes student achievement, fosters student personal growth, and helps students build a sense of community. **Bullying, harassment or intimidation will not be tolerated at Tumbleweed School** to assist in achieving a school environment based on these beliefs. Per District policies and procedures, students who believe they are experiencing bullying or suspect another student is being bullied should report their concern to any staff member or complete the bully report form located in the school library or front office. The report will be investigated by the principal or principal's designee and individual conferences will be held with the victim and the alleged perpetrator(s) to address the concerns. Every effort is made at Tumbleweed School to educate, support and guide our students to engage in appropriate social interactions that will ensure a safe campus in which all can learn and succeed.

Policy for Class Change

From time to time, due to a variety of reasons, a parent may request a room change for his or her child. The following guidelines are used to facilitate such requests:

- Parent/Teacher Conferences;
- Parent/Administrative Conferences; and
- Parent/Teacher/Administrative Conferences.

Custodial Services

Custodians have the responsibility of keeping the buildings and grounds in order. They have a very important job and require the help of all students to make their jobs easier. Students are required to pick up litter and books from the floor before leaving the classroom. Students who make unnecessary work for custodians, through abuse or destruction, may be required to clean up the damage. Remember that custodians are valued members of the school staff and must be treated courteously and respectfully at all times.

Library Media Center

The library is seen as the hub of the learning instruction. Teachers and students rely upon it to enrich literacy and to supplement learning instruction.

Classes visit the library once a week. Books may be checked out on your child's library day and must be returned his or her following library day. Renewing of library books is allowed, if needed. Notices will be sent home with students when books become significantly overdue.

Please encourage your children to return their library books on the due date. This will help keep books in circulation for all students to enjoy. Should your child lose or damage a book, payment for the replacement

is the family's responsibility. This will help us maintain our library and give a sense of responsibility to our students.

Physical Education

Tennis shoes or closed-toed shoes are required every day that the student has physical education. Cleats are not permitted on campus. Clothing should be worn that is appropriate to the weather and conducive to active play.

All notes excusing a student from physical education activities must be given to the health tech before school starts and are good only for the day specified or up to one week. Excuses for more than one week must be accompanied by a doctor's note.

We are very understanding of special problems that children may have, such as asthma, diabetes, etc., and ask that the child do as much as he or she is able to do.

Student Services

A social worker is available to assist students and families whenever there is a need. If you have questions regarding this service or need assistance, please call 602-896-6658.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

It is our goal to have 100% parent participation in parent/teacher conferences each semester during the school year. We look forward to seeing all families for conferences to discuss student progress and any possible areas of focus.

Tumbleweed Parent Organization

The PTO is a parent teacher organization that sponsors many activities throughout the school year. They would be delighted to have your help, and we hope that you will become an active member of this important school community group. Please call the front office for PTO contacts and information.

The objectives of the PTO are to promote the welfare of children in school, home and community; to promote legislation for the care and education and well-being of children; and to promote a working relationship among the educators, parents and community to secure for our children the highest advantage in all facets of education.

PTO officers include a president, vice president, membership chair, recording secretary and treasurer.

Voice Mail

It is our goal to protect instructional time by ensuring that classes are not interrupted with messages from home. With voice mail, you may leave a message for a teacher at any time. If you have an emergency, you will need to call the school office because voice mail may not be checked until the end of the school day.

Student Telephone and Cell Phone Usage

Telephone use by children is reserved for emergency purposes only. Cell phone usage is not permitted during the school day. Cell phones should be off and put away while on campus. This is a daily reminder on the announcements. All SMART watches should only be used to check the time. Be sure your child knows where they are to go at the end of each school day.

After-school Programs

Many activities take place after regular school hours. After-school Academy offers classes in academics, technology and enrichment.

Birthdays and Special Occasions

Treats for student birthdays need to be arranged ahead of time with the homeroom teacher and be chosen from the District approved food list

of prepackaged items. Balloons or flowers delivered to students for special occasions will not be permitted in the classroom.

Food delivery or fast food drop off is not allowed for students. Please call the front office if you have questions.

Student Honors Recognition

Student accomplishments and achievements will be honored throughout the school year. Students in grades 4-6 are presented with a certificate for earning Principal's List (all A's) or Honor Roll (As and Bs - B average) each quarter. Students with an academic grade of D's or F's, an N or U (unsatisfactory) in effort or behaviors, including the areas in music, art and PE will **not** be eligible that quarter.

Students may also be recognized for perfect attendance.

Sixth grade students may earn the Presidential Educational Excellence Award. In order to be eligible for the Presidential Award for Academic Achievement these students must show outstanding educational growth, improvement, commitment or intellectual development in their academic subjects (student must be on the Principal's List for three consecutive years).

These awards will be presented at awards celebrations throughout the school year. Our goal is to ensure that all students are recognized in a manner that will enhance their self-esteem and academic progress.

Tumbleweed Tigers ROAR with our 3 B's

At Tumbleweed, we emphasize common behavioral expectations for all to ensure Respectful, Responsible, and Safe behavior for everyone.



	Tumbleweed Elementary School Wide Expectations					
	Classroom	Walkways	Playground	Cafeteria	Restroom	Events
Respectful	-Follow all staff directions -Use kind words and actions	-Follow all staff directions -Use kind words and actions	-Follow all staff directions -Use kind words and actions	-Follow all staff directions -Use kind words and actions	-Use the bathroom and leave immediately -Be mindful of others	-Follow all staff directions -Raise your hand and wait to speak -Show patience
Responsible	-Keep it clean -Use the correct voice level -Use materials correctly	-Keep it clean -Use correct voice level -Keep straight lines	-Keep it clean -Use the correct voice level -Be honest	-Keep it clean -Use correct voice level -Have ID ready	-Keep it clean -Use correct voice level	-Keep it clean -Use correct voice level -Use materials correctly
Safe	-Be a reporter -Keep hands, feet and other objects to yourself -Sit correctly -Use classroom tools safely	-Be a reporter -Keep your hands, feet, and other objects to yourself -Walking feet	-Be a reporter -Keep hands, feet and other objects to self -Use equipment safely	-Be a reporter -Food is not to be shared	-Be a reporter -Have self control -Give privacy to others	-Be a reporter -Give personal space to others -Sit correctly

Multi-Tiered System of Support

Our school uses a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to make sure all students have what they need to learn and grow. MTSS helps us support students in their academics as well as their social-emotional well-being. All students receive strong, school-wide support, but some may benefit from more targeted help. This might include additional instruction, small group time to practice skills, or more individualized plans. Teachers and staff regularly check how students are doing and adjust support as needed. Our goal is to work as a team with families

to help all students do their best by using data to provide the right kind of support for both academic success and social-emotional growth.

Technology and Personal Belongings

Students are not to bring personal belongings such as music devices, headphones/earbuds, handheld electronic items, laser pens, toys, or trading cards of any kind to school unless specifically given permission to do so by a teacher. If a student needs a cell phone for safety purposes, to and from school, it should be turned off and kept in the student's backpack during the school day. Students are not allowed to use cell phones on campus for any purpose, including receiving calls, taking pictures, or text messaging. If a cell phone is found out of his or her backpack, it will be confiscated and sent to the office for parent pick up and the student may be subject to disciplinary action.

Items that are brought to school will be taken by the teacher and returned to the student at a later time or turned in to the office to be picked up by a parent. If the student continues to bring items to school, the principal will hold a meeting with the parent.

Reporting Injuries at School

All injuries that occur at school should be reported to the school health tech. If the injury occurs in the classroom, the teacher in charge should be notified. If the injury occurs on the playground, the teacher on duty should be notified. The teacher will administer first aid when necessary and either send the student to the health office or call for assistance from the health tech. Injured students should not leave the classroom or playground area until a teacher has seen the student. Parents will be notified if the health tech deems it necessary.

Safety Always Comes First

We have made the safety of our children our number one priority. To maximize our efforts, we need your utmost cooperation with regard to vehicle traffic. By following the directions of posted signs and the directions given by school personnel, especially when it comes to the school parking lots and the student cross walk zones, we can minimize the risk of student injury.

The following information will help all of us make these traffic areas safer for our children. Please note that this information does not represent every aspect of vehicle/traffic laws, but is to serve as a helpful reminder.

Crosswalk Zone

Students must follow the directions given by the crossing guard for their safety and well-being. Remember that crossing guards are members of the school staff and must be treated courteously and respectfully at all times. **Students and adults need to use the crosswalk** when crossing the street or moving through the parking lot.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up

- Obey all posted traffic signs.
- Drop-off and pickup traffic must enter from the east off 39th Avenue. For student drop off, drive all the way to the student drop-off area (sunshade) in the east parking lot (entrance off 39th Avenue). Parents may park in the designated areas (painted) and escort their children to the designated drop off area.
- Drivers must remain in their vehicle while in the pickup line.
- **Never** have children walk across the parking lot without an adult accompanying them.
- Early Pick-up: Parents and/or Guardians are the **ONLY** authorized adult to sign out a child early. **PRIOR authorization** is required with the office to release to any emergency contact.

Bicycles/Skateboards/Scooters

Washington Elementary School District and Tumbleweed School assume no responsibility for bicycles, roller blades, skateboards or scooters. The regulations listed below are planned to provide for safety and ensure that bicycles, skateboards or scooters are not stolen or damaged. If your child rides a bicycle or skateboard to school, the following rules will be enforced. Please use caution when using bicycles, skateboards, or scooters when going back and forth to school.

We strongly recommend that students wear appropriate protective gear.

1. We recommend that kindergarten students not ride bicycles, scooters or skateboards to school.
2. Students are not to loan their bicycles, scooters or skateboards to other students.
3. Bicycles, skateboards and scooters are to be walked on school sidewalks at all times.
4. Bikes must be parked properly in the enclosed bicycle areas, taking up only one space.
5. Every bicycle should have a good padlock. Students are asked not to share padlocks.
6. Students should never ride their bicycles, skateboards or scooters on campus in the school parking lot.

Bicycles, scooters and skateboards are to be walked across 39th Avenue and Poinsettia under the direction of the crossing guard. Bicycle riders then proceed to walk their bikes across the playground to the bike racks by the basketball courts. Skateboards are to be locked in the rack during the school day.

Students coming from the west side of the school or north of Laurel Lane should walk their bicycles on the sidewalk until they arrive at the bike racks by the basketball courts. If a student needs to cross Laurel Lane, he or she should do so at the designated crosswalk with the crossing guard. Students coming from the south or east side of school on 39th Avenue should park their bicycles in the area near the basketball courts.

Fire and Lockdown Drills

All schools must have a fire drill at least once a month. The first drill will be announced; thereafter, they will be unannounced. Students are expected to be silent and follow instructions. Lockdown drills will also be conducted throughout the school year. Lockdown drills will involve various scenarios and happen at differing times of the day.

Water

It is good practice to bring a water bottle each day to stay hydrated. There are refilling stations around campus. Only water is permitted at school. Milk and juice will be provided at breakfast and lunch. Students should not share their water bottles with others for health code purposes.

Dress Code Reminders

Please refer to the WESD Dress Code within the handbook or website. Students are also required to wear their IDs while on campus and when taking the school bus.

Read to Succeed @ Tumbleweed

As a school community we strive to involve all families in reading with your children at home on a nightly basis. The more minutes you spend reading, the better reader you become. Students will be given weekly reading logs for 20 minutes a day, five days a week. This reading can be done as a family or individually. Students will receive a monthly incentive if their goal is reached. Please join us by encouraging your children to read each night and return their logs.