



Phone: (480) 424-8500
Attendance: (480) 424-8503
Health Office: (480) 424-8502
Fax: (480) 424-8520
Office Hours: 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM
School Hours: 8:35 AM - 3:05 PM
Early Dismissal time is 11:35 AM.
School Website:
<http://www.cusd80.com/Rice>
Remind App username: @pingel

*This is an actual photo of our playground



welcome

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I welcome you and your child to Robert J.C. Rice School and to Room C4. This is a classroom filled with children of all abilities. We have a fun year ahead of us with lots of learning and adventure.

Our day is spent with a heavy concentration on your child's literacy skills, including reading and writing with integration of social studies, science, & social emotional lessons, math instruction, and other various specials.

You, as parents and/or guardians, have played and will continue to play an important role in your child's school success. You were his/her first teacher. I hope you will be confident in placing your trust with myself and the other Rice staff as we will do our best to guide your child's academic and social learning each day.

I look forward to meeting you and want to remind you that Room C4's door is always open throughout the school day, when safe and approved.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Pingel, CTA Kindergarten Teacher



STAY CONNECTED

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW



Kindergarten



Absences – If your child is going to be absent, please call the school (480-424-8500). If your child is going to be absent for an extended period (a week or more) please notify me as well as the front office.

Tardies – When your child comes to school late, he/she must be taken to the office for a tardy slip. **Please help your child get to school on time because instruction will start right away.** **School hours are as follows: 8:35-3:05.** Please be sure your child does not arrive on campus before 8:10 a.m. as there will be no supervision before that time.

Dismissal - Please be sure you fill out the form "After School Transportation Information" and turn it in to me **BEFORE** the first day of school! If there will be any changes in the usual transportation arrangement, please be sure to contact the office at least an hour prior to dismissal. We will **NEVER** send a student home without parent permission via the office. Our parent pick up area is in the front of the school. Stay in your vehicles, obey traffic signs, and always use the name plates in your front right car dash window. These easy steps will ensure a smooth and safe transition for everyone involved.

Messages

If you need to get an urgent message to your child or myself, please call the office and they will get the message to us before the students are released. The classroom phones go straight to voicemail, so you will **not** be able to contact me directly by calling the classroom during school hours. You may also send a note with your child to school to alert me of any changes for that day.

Breakfast/Lunch

Payments may be made anytime by going online to: myschoolbucks.com Payments may be made by check or cash at the cafeteria during meal periods. Put check or money in envelope clearly marked with student's name and account number, along with cafeteria.

Water Bottles

Water is the only beverage students will be allowed to consume in the classroom. If you chose to send your student with a water bottle, it's a good idea to put a sock over it to avoid a water mess. Please label your child's water bottle with his/her name and room number on it so it can be easily returned if lost or misplaced.

Snack

Please feel free to bring an individual labeled healthy snack each day for your child to enjoy during afternoon break. Some examples are fruit snacks, small bag of chips, or goldfish crackers. Please keep this separate from your child's lunch.

Birthdays

We ask that instead of treats, that you bring a birthday book to share with the class. The book will be read to the class and returned to you the same day. If you would like, you can wrap it up so your child may open it as a gift on his/her birthday.

OPTIONAL: Your child MAY also bring in goodie bags **OR** store-bought, individually-wrapped treats. Rice Krispy Treats, Hostess/Little Debbie treats or fruit snacks are all great options.

*Birthday invitations can only be distributed at school if ALL students receive an invitation.



Volunteers

Throughout the year, there will be many opportunities to volunteer in the classroom doing various things like working in small groups, preparing future lesson materials, organizing events, donating items, and chaperoning field trips.

To volunteer, I use a website called *Sign Up Genius*. You can create an account by going to www.signupgenius.com. Rice also uses this website for families to sign up for fall and spring Parent Teacher Conference nights.

Visitors

To ensure safety of students and staff, Rice is a closed campus. This means ALL guests, including familiar faces, MUST sign in at the office (obtain a visitor's sticker) to be on school grounds. Parents are not to be on the playground *before or after school*. However, Rice welcomes and encourages family involvement while following safety guidelines.

Newsletter

Please make sure you read the classroom newsletter at the beginning of each school week, as it will inform of you any important dates as well as school/class information. It will be sent via email and will be posted on my website. If you do not have access to email, please let me know so that I can send home a hard copy.

Dress Code

PLEASE NOTE: No spaghetti straps are allowed. Please have your child use the 2-finger test when determining if a strap is wide enough. Also, hats are not permitted inside the classrooms. You may consider sending your child to school with a light sweatshirt as it can get chilly in the classroom. I highly recommend sending your child in sneakers each day. Even though we do not have PE every day, the children will be playing in the wood chips each day at recess. *Dress code will be strictly enforced, so please review the student handbook if you need the details.*

Book Orders

Once a month you will find a Scholastic book order in your child's binder. There are wonderful age-appropriate books to choose from at a very reasonable price. Your participation is entirely optional. You may order online at www.scholastic.com/bookclubs. Please use my class code (P3GX3) when placing your order so the class gets a free book for each order! Orders and payment will be done strictly online only.

Box Tops

Box Tops are collected as a school wide fundraiser throughout the entire school year. You can scan your receipt using the box top app. Incentives and rewards are given to students individually and as a classroom from the box top fairy each quarter if a classroom reaches certain goals. At the end of the year, a special surprise is given for the top 2 classroom winners. Box Tops are found on non-perishable items such as Kleenex, Paper Towels, cereal, Hamburger Helper, and other varies items.

Lost and Found

I encourage you and your child to check our school's lost and found, located in our Multi-Purpose Room, regularly for any missing items. Please label all clothing and supplies to increase the return of any personal item.



Kindergarten



Behavior & Classroom Management

Rice holds high expectations for both academics and behavior through our school wide program called PBIS. The kindergarten team uses PBIS through the "Keys to Success" format that teaches important life skills and qualities that students need to become successful citizens. Students will learn 4 keys: Be Respectful, Be Inclusive, Be Safe, and Be Engaged. Each key has indicators which will be taught and modeled extensively throughout the year. Your child will have a weekly Behavior Star Chart which also serves as a daily home-school communication tool.

Your child must have his/her Behavior Star Chart signed daily by a parent/guardian. A detailed trifold, along with a sample Behavior Star Chart, will be provided. The class will use one chart for the first week of school as I model and teach the keys and their accompanying indicators. **Your child will receive his/her individual chart the second week of school and every week throughout the year.**

Kinder Behavior Incentives

Daily: Students who keep all 10 stars on their Behavior Star Chart each day will get a Rhino Reward to save and buy items from the Rhino Rewards Store.

Weekly Key Club Inductee: Each Friday, one student will be inducted into the Key Club for demonstrating excellent behavior or improvement. Instructions will be sent home that outline the week's activities.

Weekly: Each Friday, all students will be given the opportunity to trade in their Rhino Rewards for various prizes from our classroom Rhino Store. Prices and prizes change throughout the year.

Treasure Box Prizes

My classroom has a treasure box which is filled with all kinds of small toys that the kids enjoy. Please feel free to donate any prize you think the kids might like throughout the year (i.e., Dollar stores, fast food kid meals, and the Target Dollar section).

Progress Reports/Report Cards

Students will receive a progress report mid-quarter. Grades will be available for viewing online via Infinite Campus. Your child will be graded by the following codes for both academics and behaviors:

Excelling (E) 90%-100%
Satisfactory (S) 80- 89%
Improving (I) 70- 79%
Needs Improvement (N) 69% and below

Conferences will be held in August and February. Conference day dismissal will be at 11:30am for Room C4.

Testing

Reading- Assessment of your child's progress occurs bi-monthly throughout the year. These tests will focus of text comprehension, skills, vocabulary, and fluency (See last page below)

Writing- Sentence/story writing will be graded on 1 of 3 types bi-monthly. (See below).

Spalding- There will be a spelling and phonogram test every week starting 2nd Quarter.

Handwriting- Handwriting will be graded for proper Spalding formation on a regular basis on written phonograms, spelling tests, and writing samples.

Math- Assessment of your child's progress occurs frequently throughout the year. These tests will focus on the concepts taught in the Saxon program each week. Students take two tests every 5 school days (usually on Fridays) on math facts and different skills.



Into Reading: Reading & Write from the Beginning: Writing

Kindergarten will be implementing the ELA Arizona Academic Content Standards this year. To view and learn more about these standards, please visit the district website at:

https://www.cusd80.com/cms/lib/AZ01001175/Centricity/domain/4554/ela%20teacher%20access/standards/K_ELA_Standards.pdf

The Spalding Method: Phonics

We will be learning manuscript handwriting formation, saying and writing 70 phonogram sounds, and 20 spelling lists (15 words each) while focusing on blending/segmenting sounds, syllable types, and specific rules and marking. To view and learn more about this program, please visit the Spalding website at: www.spalding.org

Saxon: Math

Kindergarten will be implementing the Math Arizona Academic Content Standards this year. To view and learn more about these standards, please visit the district website: Quarter 1: (Kindergarten)

<https://www.cusd80.com/cms/lib/AZ01001175/Centricity/Domain/4550/kinder.pdf>

Quarter 2- Quarter 4: (1st grade)

<https://www.cusd80.com/cms/lib/AZ01001175/Centricity/Domain/4550/first.pdf>

Homework Binders

Your child will bring home a Rhino Binder every day. It is used to bridge the communication between school and home. **Their homework and Behavior Star Chart are to STAY IN THE BINDER.** The right side (back) of the binder will be for papers that can stay at home (i.e., class work, flyers, art, etc.). The left side (front) of the binder will be for papers that need to be returned to school (i.e., homework, PTO RSVP, order forms, etc.). **This binder is to return to school every day.**

Homework Procedures

Your child will be assigned homework Monday through Thursday. The homework binder will contain nightly assignments and our "Homework Chart", which outlines the nightly assignments. Homework will always be review work and will correlate with the grade level objectives.

Your job is to monitor the comprehension of the homework. Accuracy, along with neatness, are prime indicators of excellent homework. If your child does not complete the assignment to his/her best ability, please do not accept this work because I do not in the classroom. High expectations at home will reinforce the same standards at school.

Please fill out the following portions on the Homework Chart each night.

- title of book
- sight word/spelling menu option (directions are listed on Homework Chart and Menu)
- time (the total number of minutes spent on homework)
- parent signature/initials

At Home Supplies

I highly recommend that you set up a special homework office for your child; this office is a quiet, well-lit place designated for homework completion. I suggest a homework kit consisting of:

- Tactile tray: cookie sheet or shallow Tupperware w/sand, salt, or shaving cream
- Black dry erase markers
- Sidewalk chalk
- Markers, crayons, and paper
- Playdoh or clay
- Pipe cleaners

These items will be used to complete sight word and spelling homework.

