

Office of the Superintendent
Winslow Unified School District No. 1
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Cyndie Mattox
Superintendent

Shirley Lomeli
Business Manager

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Dear Parents:

This letter is to make you aware that the schools in Winslow Unified School District #1 no longer accept delivery of flowers, balloons or other novelties on birthdays, Valentine's Day or similar occasions. Office staff will not make attempts to deliver unnecessary materials to students, which include balloons, flowers or the like. There are many reasons for this decision which I will outline in the following paragraphs.

First and foremost, those deliveries are a disruption to the educational mission of the district. Students are called to the office to get their gifts, after which they are late getting back to class and when in the classroom the items become a distraction to all the students, keeping all students from maximizing their learning opportunities. There is no suitable storage area in the classrooms or in the offices of the schools and the items become a potential issue with other students who may want to handle them or even vandalize them. Further, the office becomes entrusted with the appropriate delivery of the items that you the consumer paid the florist to deliver. If you wish to have your child receive that type of delivery or item in a celebration, please have it delivered to your home.

Many students ride our buses to and from their homes. On the buses, these items present unique hazards including safety issues within the confines of a bus. They act as items that become the focus of the attention of the children and tend to cause disruptive behaviors. In addition, they may be in the view of the bus driver who is charged with monitoring student behavior on the bus. If a student rides in a car, balloons present a vision hazard in those vehicles as well. We encourage you to continue the practice of acknowledging your children on those special days; only we ask that the deliveries be made to your homes.

The schools will, of course, make other deliveries that ensure welfare of your child, including medication, messages, books and other educational materials they may have forgotten when they left home in the morning. Thank you for assisting us in maintaining the primary focus of the schools, which is education.

Cyndie Mattox
Superintendent,
Winslow Unified School District #1

Updated from 2014 letter