

Student/Parent Handbook 2016-2017



Hall-Halsell Elementary

402 West Clyde
Vinita, OK 74301

Phone: (918) 256-6692
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Respectful, Responsible
and
Ready to Learn

District Mission Statement

Ensuring that successful learning occurs for all students at all levels
Ensuring a safe, positive and respectful environment
Ensuring that all students are prepared for success in a changing and diverse society.

Beliefs

Each child is unique and important.
All children can and will learn, with each requiring differing amounts of time and practice.
The most successful children are those with parents who play an active role in their education.
Success and positive motivation strategies maximize learning opportunities.
Strong self-esteem is at the heart of successful, happy children.

The Hall-Halsell Elementary Creed

I am a Hall-Halsell student.
I come to school to learn.
I will treat others like I want to be treated.
I will be: " Respectful, Responsible and Ready to Learn".

In addition to the Hall-Halsell guidelines contained in this handbook, the district school board policies will inform your family of procedures and rights established by the Vinita Board of Education in accordance with state and federal laws. The full policy is available for review at the school site or at the Board Office.

- Bus rider rules
- FERPA rights
- Gun-Free Schools
- Proficiency Based Promotions
- Sexual harassment of Students

- Suspension of Students

Hall-Halsell Guidelines

Arrival

Doors open at 7:30 a.m.

Students who will eat breakfast at Hall Halsell will be dropped off at the cafeteria through Circle Drive.

Bus riders will be dropped off at the cafeteria (south) side of the building and those who will eat breakfast will walk to the cafeteria - those who do not eat breakfast will walk through the cafeteria to the Jump and Jive.

4K and 5K students who do not eat breakfast will be dropped off at the Jump and Jive. 1st and 2nd grade students who do not eat breakfast will be dropped off at the cafeteria and walk through the cafeteria to the Jump and Jive.

Students will remain in the Jump and Jive until dismissed to their classes after opening "Rise and Shine".

Students arriving after 8:10 may be dropped off at the cafeteria doors entering through circle drive to receive a tardy slip.

Students arriving after 8:30 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian through the front door for a tardy slip.

Dismissal

Students being picked up from Circle Drive will be escorted to cars as quickly as possible. In order to make the system work safer and faster, please remain in your car. A green "car rider sign" will be supplied to parents/guardians that must be visible from the car visor to pick up a child from circle drive. Those without a visor sign must go to the office.

Walkers will be escorted from the Jump and Jive to the street in front of the school.

Buses will load from the Jump and Jive.

For your child's safety:

If you need to change the way your child is going home from the normal routine please send a note or contact the office no later than 1:00 p.m.

Without a note or phone call we will send your child home the usual way – no word of mouth from the child will be followed.

Attendance

Please call the office by 9:00 a.m. if your child is absent. If the office is not contacted within 24 hours a student will be considered unexcused. If you are unable to contact the school by telephone, please send a signed note in your child's communication notebook. District policy requires excessive absences to be reported to the local District Attorney. Please have your child at school on time – district policy also states that three tardies equal one absence. Please review the District Attendance Policy posted below:

ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is important that children attend school regularly, if your child is ill it is best for him/her to stay at home. In accordance with the policy of the Board of Education, this policy will govern attendance and absenteeism in grades kindergarten through fifth.

The maximum number of absences during any semester will be ten. A student absent from class more than five times during a nine week period will be required, along with the student's parents, to work out an improvement plan with the principal.

When a student is absent, the parent or guardian should call the attendance clerk (school secretary) before 10:00 a.m. the day of the absence, if possible. Otherwise, the student must bring a note from the parent/guardian explaining the absence.

Three (3) tardies, as defined by the student handbook, during a nine weeks period will be considered one (1) absence.

School Law states that if a child is absent without valid excuse four (4) or more days or parts of days within a four-week period or is absent without valid excuse for ten (10) or more days or parts of days in a semester, the attendance officer shall notify the parent, guardian or custodian of the child and immediately report such absences to the district attorney in the county wherein the school resides. If the child is found to have these absences the matter will be referred to the Craig County District Attorney. The District Attorney's office can charge the offender with causing, aiding, abetting or encouraging the deprivation of a minor, under Title 21 Section 858.1. This offense could be fined up to \$500 for a first offense and up to \$1000 for a second offense. Extreme cases could also incur up to one year of jail time as a punishment.

A valid excuse for excessive absence is defined, but not limited to, as confirmed contagious illness by a physician documented release from school. Parents who notify the school by way of a doctor's letter verifying the day or days a student has been absent will not count towards the four, five or eight day letters. Parents must understand the doctor's verification must be specific on the number of days the student may be excused from school.

Meals

In order for student(s) to qualify for free/reduced meal benefits, a new application must be completed each year. If we have not received a new application, your student's status will be full price. The application will be processed and you will be notified when the application has been approved.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT TO THE MEAL ACCOUNT UNTIL A NEW FORM IS PROCESSED.

Students who eat a school lunch must prepay. Lunches may be prepaid monthly. When your balance is depleted, a note will be sent with your child. If no payment is received an alternate lunch will be given.

If you have questions, please contact the child Nutrition Services Office at 918-256-6950.

Illness

Please do not send your child to school sick. Children will be sent home under the following conditions:

A fever of 100 or more, vomiting, diarrhea, unidentified or contagious rash, eye redness/discharge, live head lice. Students should not return to school until a 24-hour period from the first time a normal temperature was reached and all vomiting and diarrhea has stopped.

MEDICATIONS

Per school law, no prescriptions or over-the-counter medications will be given to students without a medication authorization form being on file in the office. Forms will be available in the school office throughout the year. The form must be signed by the parent or guardian and must accompany all medication to school. All medications must be in their original container. An adult should bring new medications/refills to the school – for safety reasons, please don't send medications with your child.

Pertinent health information will be given to teachers and staff on a "need to know" basis. If your student has a chronic disease or condition the nurse can

develop a health action plan for the student while at school.

Dress Code

Please have your child wear shoes that are appropriate for running, active movement, PE, Music and the playground. Flip-flops and sandals are not safe for our playground. Shorts should be of appropriate length. Spaghetti straps must not be worn. Hairstyles considered a distraction will not be allowed.

Discipline

The Hall Halsell student expectations and the 8 Habits of Happy Kids will be the basis for student expectations at Hall Halsell. Please review the expectations with your child.

The Vinita Public Schools Suspension Notice is included at the back of the handbook for review.

Hall Halsell Expectations

- 1. We will value one another as unique and special individuals.**
- 2. We will not laugh at or make fun of a person's mistakes nor use sarcasm or putdowns.**
- 3. We will use good manners, saying "please", "thank you", and "excuse me" and allow others to go first.**
- 4. We will cheer each other to success.**
- 5. We will help one another whenever possible.**
- 6. We will recognize every effort and applaud it.**
- 7. We will encourage each other to do our best.**
- 8. We will practice virtuous living using the Life Principles.**

The 8 Habits of Happy Kids

- 1. Be Proactive - *I am responsible for the choices I make!***
- 2. Begin with the End in Mind - *Have a plan!***
- 3. Put First Things First - *Work first, then play!***
- 4. Think Win-Win - *Everyone can win!***
- 5. Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood - *Listen before you talk!***
- 6. Synergize - *Together is better!***
- 7. Sharpen The Saw - *Balance feels best!***
- 8. Find Your Voice - *Find Something Special about me and use my gifts to help and inspire others!***

Bus Riders

Students who violate safety rules on the bus may be placed on probation, suspended or denied bus privileges. A Bus Conduct Report will be sent home with the student and the preliminary action or recommendation will be given in writing to the parent/guardian.

Please read the district policies on Transportation/Bus Rider Rules and Consequences for Violations of Rules below:

TRANSPORTATION

Free transportation in district-owned buses is provided to students who do not live in reasonable walking distance to school. This is a privilege for those students who maintain proper behavior while riding on the bus. All buses used by the Vinita Schools meet the

requirements of the State Board of Education and operate in compliance with their regulations. All students are urged to regard the bus as an extension of the classroom as far as conduct is concerned. The driver of the bus has the same authority as any school official over the students in his/her care. After a student gets on the bus, he/she is under the supervision of the bus driver who is expected to maintain discipline in order to prevent serious accidents. The driver has absolute authority and is expected to look after the welfare of all students under his/her care. Any student may be removed from the bus who persists in disobeying regulations. After getting on the bus, no student is to depart from the bus until it reaches school in the morning or arrives at the designated place for them to get off. A note signed and dated by the parent/guardian would be necessary for permission to be given allowing the driver to let a student off at a place other than their assigned drop-off place.

BUS RIDER RULES

Riding a school bus is a privilege and the privilege may be removed for not abiding by the bus rider rules.

Previous to loading students should:

1. Be on time at the designated school bus stops -- keep the bus on schedule.
2. Stay off the road at all times while waiting for the bus.
3. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before attempting to enter.
4. Be careful in approaching bus stops.
5. Do not move toward the bus at the school loading zone until the bus has been brought to a complete stop.
6. Respect people and their property while waiting on the bus.
7. Receive proper school official authorization to be discharged at places other than the regular bus stop.

While on the bus students should:

1. Keep all parts of the body inside the bus.
2. Refrain from eating and drinking while on the bus.
3. Refrain from the use of any form of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.
4. Assist in keeping the bus safe and clean at all times.
5. Remember that loud talking and laughing or unnecessary confusion diverts the driver's attention and may result in a serious accident. (The life you save may be your own.)
6. Treat bus equipment as you would valuable furniture in your own home.
7. Students should never tamper with the bus or any of its equipment.
8. Maintain possession of books, lunches, or other articles and keep aisles clear.
9. Help look after the safety and comfort of small children.
10. Do not throw objects in or out of bus.
11. Remain seated while bus is in motion.
12. Be courteous to fellow pupils, the bus driver, and the patrol officers or driver's assistants.
13. Refrain from horseplay and fighting on the school bus.
14. Remain quiet when approaching a railroad crossing stop.

15. Remain in the bus during road emergencies except when it may be hazardous to their safety.

After leaving the bus students should:

1. Go at least ten (10) feet in front of the bus, stop, check traffic, wait for bus driver's signal, then cross the road.
2. Go home immediately staying clear of traffic.
3. Help look after the safety and comfort of small children.

Extracurricular Trips

1. The above rules and regulations should apply to all trips under school sponsor-ship.
2. Sponsors should be appointed by the school officials.

Consequences for Violations of Bus Rules

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE STANDARD PROCEDURES

First Offense: Assigned seat by the bus driver and placed on probation. (Minor Offense)

Second Offense: Assigned seat and placed on probation. (Minor Offense) (Parent contacted by phone and written notice from the bus supervisor)

Third Offense: Loss of bus privilege for a minimum of two days. (Parent contacted by phone and written notice from the bus supervisor)

Fourth Offense: Loss of bus privilege for a minimum of five (5) days. Parent and student must attend a conference with the bus supervisor to reinstate riding privilege. (Parent contacted by telephone and a written notice from the bus supervisor)

Fifth Offense: Loss of bus privilege for a minimum of ten (10) days. Parent and student must attend a conference with the bus supervisor and the transportation director to reinstate riding privilege.

Sixth Offense: Termination of bus riding privilege for the current semester and/or succeeding semester. The bus supervisor is the only individual who has the authority to suspend transportation services. The Director of Transportation may suspend services in emergency situations.

A. A student whose behavior is such that it directly jeopardizes the safe operation of the school bus, or who refuses to follow the directions of the driver, will lose his bus riding privilege without receiving previous warnings. Immediate loss of riding privilege can result from the following behavior: vandalism, fighting, abusive language or gestures directed toward school personnel, failure to cooperate with driver, possession and/or use of drugs, weapons, etc., throwing or spitting objects or any other actions that jeopardize the safety of student passengers or school personnel.

B. Bus discipline procedures involving identified special education students are determined individually.

The discipline steps that have just been outlined should be construed as the standard procedure for correcting inappropriate behavior on Vinita School busses. Disciplinary procedures can begin at any of the steps as outlined if the behavior merits a more severe disciplinary action to correct the behavior.

PARTIES

There will be two parties in the classroom during the year: Winter and Spring. Some students like to bring treats to the class on their birthdays. Treats should be prepackaged - no homemade treats allowed. Students and parents should not plan parties unless they have first received their teacher's approval. Students who bring treats must give them to all students in their classroom, not just a few. Students or parents are not allowed to deliver personal party invitations to students at school. Such invitations must be taken care of outside of school.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL DISMISSAL

1. Sometimes it is necessary for school to be dismissed early without warning because of emergency situations. Please make arrangements with your child as to where he/she should go and what he/she should do at those times.
2. If it becomes necessary to close school because of adverse weather conditions or other emergency situations, please listen to your local radio stations and area television stations for this information. A calling system will also alert you to school closings due to inclement weather. Please make sure your phone number is updated in the office to receive these, and other school messages.

School/Home Communication

Binders will be used daily for communication, information and homework. Teachers will send home a newsletter every month to keep you informed of classroom news. You may also sign up for a free "REMIND" text messaging service with information about weather, special activities and upcoming events. Your support of school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school. I encourage you to become involved at Hall-Halsell through volunteering, participation in the "Hall-Halsell Partners" parent organization, special classroom celebrations and activities throughout the year. Together we can make a difference!

Hall Halsell field Trip Release Form

My child, _____, has my permissions to go on any school sponsored field trip during the 2015/2016 school year. He/She is in the _____ grade and _____ is the teacher. Parents will be notified prior to field trips.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

The following District Policies are included:

Annual Notification

Gun-Free Schools

Suspension of Students

Suspension Appeals Process

Sexual Harassment of Students

Proficiency Based Promotion

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION

The Vinita School hereby notifies each student and their parents of their right to inspect and review the student education records under the Federal Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act.

Parents have a right to:

1. The right of a student's parents and eligible students to inspect and review the students education records.
2. The intent of the Vinita School District to limit the disclosure of information contained in a student's education records except: (1) by the prior written consent of the student's parent or the eligible student, (2) as directory information or (3) under certain limited circumstances as permitted by the FERPA.
3. The right of the student's parent or an eligible student to seek to correct parts of the student's education record which he/she believes to be inaccurate, misleading or in violation of student rights. This right includes the right to a hearing to present evidence that the record should be changed if the district decides not to alter it according to the parent or eligible student's request.
4. The right of any person to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if the Vinita School District violates the FERPA.
5. Parents and eligible students should come to the Principal's office to obtain copies of the policy and information as to the correct procedure to follow in requesting action about a student's record. The district will arrange to provide translations of this notice to non-English speaking parents in their native language.

GUN-FREE SCHOOLS

It is the policy of the Vinita Public School District to comply fully with the Gun-Free Schools Act.

1. Any student in the Vinita Public School District who uses or possess a firearm at school, at any school-sponsored event, or in or upon any school property including school transportation or school-sponsored transportation will be removed from school for not less than one full calendar year.

Firearms are defined in Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 921, as (A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted

to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (D) any destructive device including any explosive, incendiary or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine or any device similar to the above. Such firearm or weapon will be confiscated and released only to proper legal authorities.

2. Oklahoma Statutes, Title 21, Section 1280.1 prohibits any person, except a peace officer or other person authorized by the Vinita Board of Education to have in such person's possession on any public or private school property or while in any school bus or vehicle used by any school for transportation of students or teachers a weapon as defined on the following page:

19"...any pistol, revolver, dagger, bowie knife, dirk knife, switch-blade knife, spring-type knife, sword cane, knife having a blade which opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring, or other device in the handle of the knife, knuckles, or any other offensive weapon."

Any student who violates Section 2 of this policy will be subject to discipline which may include suspension up to one full calendar year (for firearms) or for any term less than one calendar year (for weapons other than firearms) as determined by the superintendent or the superintendent's designee.

Students with disabilities are subject to this policy and will be disciplined in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act if any such students are determined to be in violation of this policy.

Meningococcal Meningitis - Know the Facts

<http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/>

Under Oklahoma's Public Records law, absent a specific exclusion, written communications to or from Vinita Public School District personnel are considered public records. E-mail communication with this correspondent may be subject to public and media disclosure upon request.

SUSPENSION OF STUDENTS

It is the policy of the Board of Education that the superintendent or designee may suspend a student for the following offenses.

- A. Violation of a school regulation
- B. Immorality
- C. Adjudication as a delinquent for an offense that is not a violent offense. This includes assault with a dangerous weapon but does not include assault.
- D. Possession of an intoxicating beverage, low-point beer, wireless telecommunication device (the previous statute used the term "electronic paging device"), or missing or stolen property if the property is reasonably suspected to have been taken from a student, a school employee, or the school during school activities.

E. Possession of a dangerous weapon, a controlled dangerous substance, or a firearm. Any student who violates the policies or regulations of the school may be suspended up to the remainder of the current semester and the succeeding semester or for one (1) calendar year for violation of the Gun-Free Schools Act.

The superintendent is directed to establish regulations, subject to board approval which support this policy. Such regulations will include provisions for the appeal of suspensions.

Students suspended for periods greater than 10 days (long term) will be provided the right to

appeal such suspension to the Board of Education. Students suspended for periods of 10 days or less (short term) may appeal such suspension to the suspension appeals committee as

outlined in the attached regulations. The superintendent may delegate authority for suspensions of students to building principals.

REFERENCE: 70 O.S. 24-101

S.B. 1119, June 10, 1994

H.B. 2130, June 9, 1997

REGULATION

In accordance with the policy of the Board of Education, the following regulation will govern the suspension of students from school.

The authority to suspend a student from school in the school district is delegated to the respective building principals.

1. Any student may be suspended for the following offenses.

A. Violation of a school regulation

B. Immorality

C. Adjudication as a delinquent for an offense that is not a violent offense. This includes assault with a dangerous weapon but does not include assault.

D. Possession of an intoxicating beverage, low-point beer, wireless telecommunication device (the previous statute used the term "electronic paging device"), or missing or stolen property if the property is reasonably suspected to have been taken from a student, a school employee, or the school during school activities.

2. A suspension will not extend beyond the present semester and the succeeding semester except for violations of the Gun-Free School Act or possession of a controlled dangerous substance, which provides suspension for up to one (1) calendar year.

3. Except under circumstances which require the immediate removal of a student or students, the parent(s) or legal guardian will be informed before a student is released from school.

4. The school will provide an education plan for students suspended for six (6) days or more, unless the student is suspended for possession of a dangerous weapon, a controlled dangerous substance, or a firearm. The educational plan is to be designed for the reintegration of the student into school.

The plan will set out the procedure for education and will address academic credit for

work satisfactorily completed. A copy of the educational plan will be provided to the student's parent(s) or guardian.

The student's parent(s) or guardian will be responsible for the provision of a supervised, structured environment in which the student will be placed and bears responsibility for monitoring the student's educational progress until the student is readmitted to school.

A student who has been suspended for a violent act or an act showing deliberate or reckless disregard for the health or safety of faculty or other students will not be entitled to enroll in an Oklahoma public school until the terms of the suspension have been met or the time of suspension has expired. A student who has been suspended for a violent offense directed toward a teacher will not be allowed to return to that teacher's classroom without the approval of that teacher.

Procedural steps to suspension:

A. Probations. A student may be placed on probation with or without additional disciplinary action. If probation is selected by the principal as a suitable alternative to suspension, both the student and the parent(s) will be notified and the reasons therefore.

B. In-house suspension (IHS) is an alternative to short term out-of-school suspension. IHS will be imposed by the student's principal. In-house suspension involves certain procedural rules, which do not pertain to other types of suspension. Therefore, a separate regulation has been established. That regulation can be found elsewhere in this policy.

C. Short term suspension. A student may be suspended from school for up to a ten (10) day period by the principal. Both the student and parent(s) will be notified of the suspension, the reasons therefore, and the right to appeal the suspension to the suspension committee.

D. Long term suspension. A student may be suspended from school for the remainder of the current semester and the entirety of the succeeding semester or may be transferred to the to the Alternative Program. Students suspended for guns or possession of a controlled substance will not be referred to the Alternative Program until completion of the one (1) year suspension defined by law.

Appellate procedures. Any student who has been suspended under the steps listed above, or the student's parent(s), may appeal the suspension to the suspension committee, If the period of suspension committee, if the period of suspension is ten (10) days or less, or to the Board of Education, if the suspension is for more than ten (10) days.

The following procedures will govern the appellate process.

A. A student, or the student's parent(s), will notify the superintendent as soon as possible following the suspension or the notice of the intent to suspend, of their intent to appeal the suspension.

B. Upon receiving notice of a student's or parent(s) intend to appeal the superintendent will advise the suspension committee (short term) or the President of the Board of Education (long term). The appeal will be heard within ten (10) days from the date the notice of intent is filed with the superintendent. The superintendent, at his/her

discretion, may permit the suspended student to attend classes pending the outcome of the appeal.

C. During the hearing of the appeal, the student may be represented by legal counsel or other adult representative; may examine witnesses on his own behalf; cross examine opposing witnesses, and offer other evidence in his/her behalf including the student's own testimony.

D. The suspension committee will uphold the suspension, modify the terms of the suspension, or overrule the suspension. The student and the student's parent (s) will be notified within five (5) school days of a decision.

**VINITA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NOTIFICATION OF SUSPENSION - SHORT TERM / LONG TERM**

VHS 918-256-6777 EHMS 918-256-2402 WR 918-256-5350 HH 918-256-6692

Date: _____

Dear _____

Please be informed that _____ is hereby suspended
from _____ School for: _____

He/She will be eligible for reinstatement on _____

Administrator _____

I have been given the opportunity to review the allegations against me. _____

Student Initials

**VINITA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SUSPENSION - SHORT TERM / LONG TERM
APPEALS PROCESS**

Short Term Suspension (Up to 10 days)

- Appeal to building principal within 48 hours
- Principal set up hearing at building level within 48 hours
- Committee will be comprised of 3 site teachers
- Committee will hear from principal and parents
- A decision will be given within 24 hours
- The decision of the committee is final
- A student can be placed in In-School Suspension until a decision is rendered

Long Term Suspension (More than 10 days)

- Appeal to building principal within 48 hours
- Principal set up hearing at building level within 48 hours
- Committee will be comprised of 3 site teachers
- Committee will hear from principal and parents
- A decision will be given within 24 hours
- If not satisfied with the building level committee decision:
- Appeal to superintendent within 48 hours
- Superintendent will set up hearing at district level within 48 hours
- Committee will be comprised of an adjacent administrator and 2 different site teachers.
- Committee will make a recommendation to the superintendent within 24 hours
- Superintendent will render his decision within 24 hours
- Superintendents decision is final
- A student can be placed in In-School Suspension until a decision is rendered

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS

The policy of this school district forbids discrimination against, or harassment of any student on the basis of sex. The Board of Education will not tolerate sexual harassment by any of its employees or students. This policy applies to all students and employees including non-employee volunteers whose work is subject to the control of school personnel.

Sexual harassment is defined as sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or innuendoes, words or actions of a sexual nature directed toward any person which are unwelcome by the person to whom the conduct is directed and which would be offensive to a reasonable person. Any incident of sexual harassment should be reported to the School Counselor immediately. Sexual harassment will be treated as a major violation.

PROFICIENCY BASED PROMOTION

Upon the request of a student, parent, guardian, or educator, a student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in one or more areas of the core curriculum: Social Studies, Language Arts, The Arts, Languages, Mathematics, Science.

Proficiency for advancing to the next level of study will be demonstrated by a score of 90% or comparable performance on an assessment or demonstration as selected by Vinita Public School District.

A Note from the Principal

I'm so excited to begin a new school year not only as principal at Hall-Halsell but also as a learning leader! I see my responsibility as that leader to foster a climate for the faculty, staff, students and parents, that encourages success through a safe and secure environment where everyone feels appreciated, listened to and respected. I believe each student is unique yet their needs are the same – a caring and stimulating environment in which to grow academically, emotionally and socially in an atmosphere of guidance, discovery and compassion. Hall-Halsell should be more than just a place to be, it should be a place to belong!

I feel so blessed to be surrounded by the amazing faculty and staff at Hall-Halsell. Each member of our team has an amazing spirit - an excitement and enthusiasm that is contagious! I'm confident this spirit will encourage students to want to be and do their very best.

Please don't hesitate to call or come by the school to visit. I have an "open door" policy. I'm anxious to meet each of you and I value your input as we make decisions that will support and enrich your child's academic and social growth.

It truly does take all of us as partners – when we all work together great things will happen!

Mary Veith Smith