

(11/8/23 District Administrator's Corner Article)

Veteran's Day has a deep history and is a time for reverence. For the River Valley School District, it is a day to learn through this history and honor veterans who also might be a father, mother, brother, sister, grandpa, grandma, uncle, aunt, spouse, cousin, neighbor, or leader in our community. It is a chance to recognize and thank a great group of folks who have served to protect us and our democracy. Some of our best learning is created by understanding these stories and experiences.

Though the day started with the culmination of World War I, this holiday also was resolved concurrently on June 4, 1926, with these words:

*"Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday... inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples."*

An Act approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I. But in 1954, after World War II required additional mobilizations of soldiers, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars. We now celebrate and honor these incredible community members that have protected our community.

As President Eisenhower stated, "We will wish to join hands in the common purpose." We believe all students must understand the importance of our nation's history, so as to not repeat what can be learned from conflict. Each of our buildings will celebrate on Friday, November 10, but at different times. Our schools will be honoring our veterans as follows:

**At Early Learning Center:** Visiting veterans from all 4 communities will enjoy donuts, juice, and coffee while classes sing, recite poems, or give them cards.

**At River Valley Elementary:** Starting at around 8:15, a program will be held in front of school (if raining, will be held in the gym). Students, staff, visitors, and veterans will gather as designated veterans will raise our school flag. The Pledge of Allegiance will be recited and the folding of our flag will be observed. Taps will be played and a gun salute will conclude the ceremony.

**At River Valley Middle School:** Social studies classes will do a presentation in class on this day and highlight the importance of honoring our veterans. Students will write letters and cards for Operation Gratitude. They take the letters and put them into care packages for veterans, new recruits, and currently serving members. Special morning announcements will also be shared.

**At River Valley High School:** Veterans will be recognized during daily announcements, taps will be played, and there will be a moment of silence. Students will watch a brief video and write thank you notes to local veterans to be delivered or mailed.

Thanks is never enough, but by teaching students to share in our gratitude, it will hopefully change our future.

Sincerely,

Loren Glasbrenner, District Administrator  
River Valley School District