

# REID TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS

14841 N. Black Canyon Highway  
Phoenix, Arizona 85023

Phone: (623) 478-2344  
Fax: (623) 478-2333

[www.ReidTraditional.com](http://www.ReidTraditional.com)

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Contact: Ms. Heidi Mitchell, C.E.O. of Reid Traditional Schools  
[hmittell@reidtraditional.com](mailto:hmittell@reidtraditional.com) cell: 602-568-5668

## REID TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS' VALLEY ACADEMY NAMED 2014 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

(October 3, 2014) Phoenix, AZ -- U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced on September 30, 2014 that Reid Traditional Schools' Valley Academy has been named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School. Only four Arizona schools received the award this year, and RTS Valley Academy was the only charter school to do so. The award recognizes RTS Valley Academy as an exemplary high performing school.

The U.S. Department of Education will honor 337 schools from across the nation at a recognition ceremony on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Victoria Wilber, RTS Valley Academy Principal, says, "This is one of the most prestigious awards a school can attain, and I am so proud of our dedicated, talented teachers and smart, hard-working students."

In the history of Arizona charter schools, only eight other charter schools have ever been named a National Blue Ribbon School.

Reid Traditional Schools' Valley Academy was one of the first charter schools founded in Arizona. Since 1995, the school has consistently received the top available rating from the Arizona Department of Education. Mrs. Wilber explains, "We attribute this 20-year record of academic success to our unwavering dedication to traditional education and our team's commitment to continuous improvement."

Mrs. Wilber will travel to Washington D.C. in November with Mrs. Mettes, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher chosen by her peers to represent the faculty at the awards ceremony. Ms. Heidi Mitchell, CEO of Reid Traditional Schools says, "This is truly an honor, and it is a wonderful way to commemorate Valley Academy's 20<sup>th</sup> year of excellence in education."

RTS Valley Academy is a back-to-basics, traditional, A-rated, Spalding-certified K-8 school in northwest Phoenix with 800 students. Highly qualified teachers provide a challenging, sequential, teacher-directed curriculum supported by individual accountability, high academic and behavioral standards, and strong parental involvement. The primary grade curriculum includes early phonics instruction, memorization of math facts, and regular homework to ensure student success. As students progress through the grades, they use this strong academic foundation to develop critical thinking skills and meet ever-increasing academic challenges.

Reid Traditional Schools' Valley Academy was also named 2011 Charter School of the Year by the Arizona Charter Schools Association. Reid Traditional Schools has two campuses in northwest Phoenix.

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Blue Ribbon Schools feature of RTS Valley Academy:

[http://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/awardwinners/14az253pu\\_reid\\_traditional\\_schools\\_valley\\_academy.html?ref=embedcode&schoolcode=14AZ253PU](http://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/awardwinners/14az253pu_reid_traditional_schools_valley_academy.html?ref=embedcode&schoolcode=14AZ253PU)

U.S. Department of Education press release:

<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-announces-2014-national-blue-ribbon-schools>