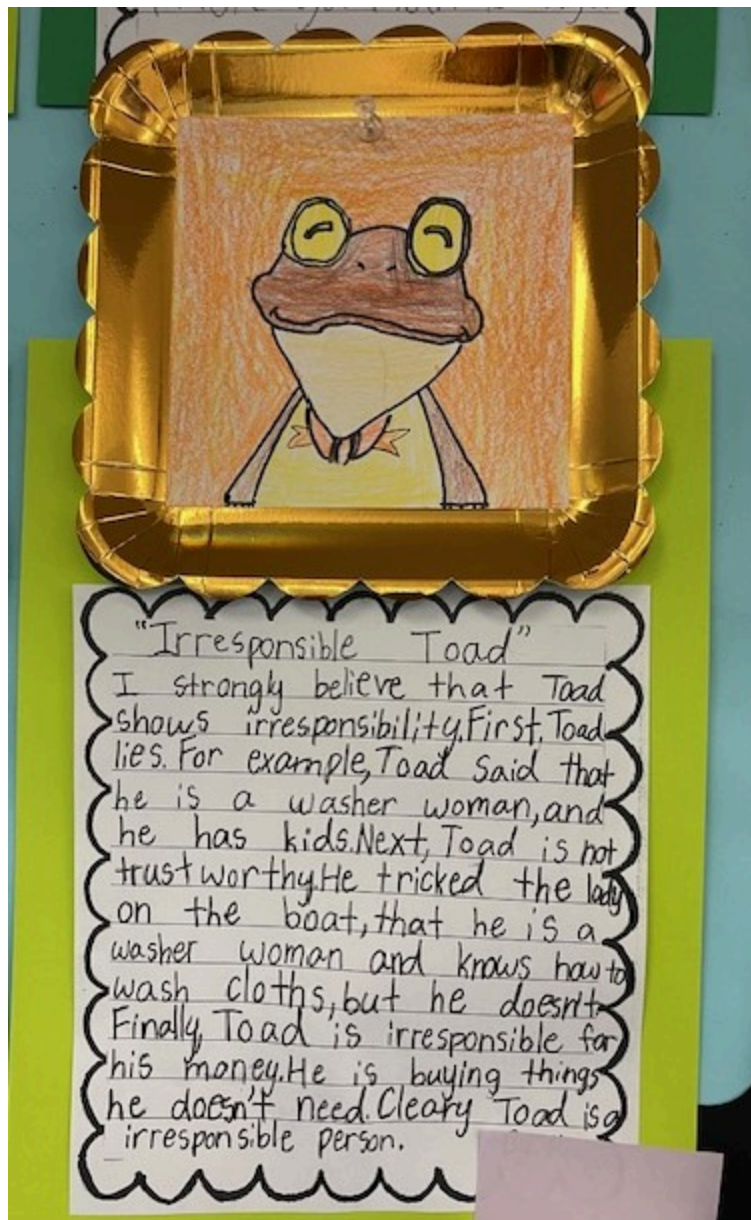




Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Bites Newsletter

Message from Principal Kawahara
September 18, 2025



Mrs. Vasconi's 3rd Grade - Irresponsible Toad Stories

Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope you and your family are well. Our fifth graders return this afternoon from a three day adventure in the redwoods and we are excited to hear all about it! Conferences are fast approaching. Please be on the lookout for the sign-up sheet from your child's teacher. We strongly encourage everyone to attend a conference if at all possible. Conferences are a great opportunity to share information about your child and to learn about their progress so far and how they are doing at school overall. Keep reading for some dates to remember (conference week runs on a minimum day schedule), some reminders, information on Be a Mentor, Festival Around the World and some district updates.

Also, please note: next week our Holbrook Drive neighbor, Beth Chaim Congregation, will be conducting services for the High Holy Days. There will be

no parking in their lot. Please be a good neighbor and park in the school's main lot.

Dates to Remember:

09/16-09/18 - 5th Grade Outdoor Ed

09/23 - High Holy Days - No Parking in Beth Chaim Parking Lot

10/03 - No School

10/06-10/10 - Conference Week - Min. Day Schedule

All TK/K = 8:00 - 10:30

All 1st - 5th = 8:00 - 12:00

10/08 - School Photo Retakes / Make-Up Day

10/12 - Run for Education - 42nd annual

10/16 - Festival Around the World - 5:00pm - 7:00pm - Blacktop

10/24 - Monster Mash - MPR & Blacktop Time - TBD

10/31 - Halloween - Wednesday Day Schedule

All TK/K = 8:00 - 11:30

All 1st - 5th = 8:00 - 12:50

10/31 - Halloween Parade 9:00 @ Turf Field

Bell Schedule: September at a Glance:

[September Schedule](#)

October Read Aloud:

[October Read Aloud Schedule](#)

Be A Mentor:

Clarification regarding volunteer drivers. As of June 2025, all volunteers who wish to drive on a field trip will need to complete the DMV report through their Be A Mentor account. There is a \$2.00 fee for this process. Be sure to upload your Driver's License information as well.

There are 3 requirements that are necessary every year.

- 1) DMV report
- 2) Annual Training (2)
- 3) Car Insurance Declaration Page

Festival Around the World - 10/16/25

We're so excited to announce that Sycamore Valley Elementary School will be hosting our Festival Around the World on Thursday, October 16, 5-7pm!

Volunteer welcome sessions on September 23rd. More information below in our newsletter.

District Updates:

September is Attendance Awareness Month:

ABSENTEEISM AND ACHIEVEMENT

Did you know?

Poor attendance can influence [whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade.](#)

By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator [that a student will drop out of high school.](#)

By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores. [This article by the Gates Foundation](#) details why the 9th grade year is so important.

When students are absent, they miss instruction, skill practice, and hands-on learning activities in the classroom that make it harder to catch up. If they are absent for group or partner work, this can also affect the other students they are grouped with.

Parents and caregivers are essential partners in promoting good attendance!

Here are some strategies that can help:

Create a consistent schedule and distraction-free workspace; help older students use planners or digital tools to stay organized.

Stay engaged by checking progress, attending events, communicating with teachers, and encouraging your child to seek help.

Encourage participation in clubs and activities; model good listening and compassion to support healthy friendships.

If your child feels anxious about school or a subject, reach out to teachers or counselors to collaborate on support.

October Board Resolutions:

Safe Schools Month

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of October as Safe Schools Month. Safe schools provide an environment where teaching and learning can flourish and creating a safe environment for all students to thrive is the priority of our district and each of our schools.

We will continue to work with a broad spectrum of local community partners, law enforcement, mental health professionals, parents, students, teachers, and staff to take any threats of violence seriously and to develop, implement and monitor policies and programs that foster and support a positive school climate, free from harassment and violence.

National Bullying Prevention Month

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of October as National Bullying Prevention Month. Bullying is physical, verbal, nonverbal or written conduct, sexual or emotional harm, or intimidation with respect to sex, gender, ethnicity, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, color, physical or mental disability, marital or parental status, age, sexual orientation, or physical and social characteristics intended to cause harm.

SRVUSD, schools, classrooms, teachers, students, parents, and the broader community are encouraged to engage in a variety of awareness and prevention activities and curriculum designed to make our community safer for all children and adolescents.

Filipino American History Month

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of October as Filipino American History Month. Filipino Americans have made significant and enduring contributions to the United States, including in the areas of civil rights, labor, education, and culture. Promoting awareness and appreciation of Filipino American history fosters a greater understanding of the diverse cultural fabric that makes up our nation, and encourages an inclusive environment where all students and staff feel a sense of belonging.

Week of the School Administrator: Oct. 12-18

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the week of October 12-18 as School Administrator Week. Our administrators are dedicated and passionate lifelong learners who believe in the value of quality public education. SRVUSD appreciates our administrators and the incredible impact they make on the lives of our students. During this week we show appreciation for all school administrators and education leaders, including principals, assistant principals, special education leaders, school business officials, classified leaders, the Superintendent, and assistant superintendents.

Red Ribbon Week: Oct. 23-31

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the week of October 23-31 as Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco, smoking, and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign. SRVUSD's students, parents/caregivers, faculty, staff members, and administrators can symbolically honor their commitment to healthy, drug-free lifestyles by displaying red ribbons on their clothing and/or personal items, and by encouraging a drug-free lifestyle during the week of October 23 - October 31.

Please keep reading for some upcoming event information, important dates and other PTA/Shark Fund News.

Thank you,
Patricia Kawahara

NOTE: Gmail users, please be sure to click "View Entire Message" at the bottom of this email to avoid missing all important updates. A new window will open displaying the full newsletter.



Important Dates to Remember

09/23 - High Holy Days - No Parking in Beth Chaim Parking Lot
09/24 - Dippin Dots
10/01 - Sharky Cinema 1:00pm - MPR
10/03 - No School
10/06-10/10 - Conference Week - Min. Day Schedule
 All TK/K = 8:00 - 10:30
 All 1st - 5th = 8:00 - 12:00
10/07 - TK/K Information Meeting - Virtual - 6:00pm
10/08 - School Photo Retakes or Make Up Day
10/08 - Dippin dots
10/12 - Run for Education - 42nd annual
10/16 - Festival Around the World - 5:00pm - 7:00pm - Blacktop
10/22 - Dippin Dots
10/24 - Monster Mash - MPR & Blacktop Time - TBD
10/31 - Halloween - Wednesday Day Schedule
 All TK/K = 8:00 - 11:30
 All 1st - 5th = 8:00 - 12:50
10/31 - Halloween Parade 9:00 @ Turf Field
11/01-11/30 - TK/K Priority Enrollment Window Open
11/05 - Sharky Cinema - 1:00pm - MPR
12/01 - Astronomy Night - 5:30 - 7:30 on the Blacktop
12/03 - Sharky Cinema - 1:00pm - MPR

Reminder:
If you need to drop-off items for your child
or their teacher,
Please call the school office when you arrive
at the main gate.
(925) 855-2800



Attendance Line
Please call the attendance line to report
your child's absence:

925-855-2898
sy-attendance@srvusd.net

If your child will be absent from school, please notify the school office by phone or by email. (925) 855-2898 or sy-attendance@srvusd.net Please provide your child's first and last name (spell the last name), teacher's name / grade, and the reason for the absence

AR 5113 States that all absences which are not cleared within two days after a student's return to school shall be recorded as unexcused (CUT).



School Photos Were Taken on Wednesday, August 27th

October 8th is Retake / Makeup Day

Volunteers needed for our Photo Retakes/Makeup Day on October 8th.
[Here](#) is your sign-up genius for Photo Re-take Day

Click here to order school pictures:
<https://www.ciphotoca.com/sycamorevalley>

SAN RAMON VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TK & KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

for the 2026-27 School Year



Enrollment Dates

**PRIORITY ENROLLMENT WINDOW
NOVEMBER 1 - 30, 2025**

* Completed online enrollment applications submitted by Nov. 30th will be included in 1st round of confirmation of space at the resident school site. Applications submitted after Nov. 30 are received on a first come-first served basis for space.

Age Guidelines

TK for 2026-27

Child must turn 4 years of age
on or before
September 1, 2026

KINDERGARTEN for 2026-27

Child must turn 5 years of age
on or before
September 1, 2026

Parent Information Night

**TK and Kindergarten
Information Night
(virtual*)**

**Tuesday, Oct. 7
6:00-7:00 pm**

*Virtual meeting link can be found
on our [TK/Kinder webpage](#)

TK/Kinder Webpages



- [TK FAQ](#)
- [Kindergarten Readiness](#)
- [TK/Kinder Enrollment Quick Reference](#)

www.srvusd.net/enrollyourchild

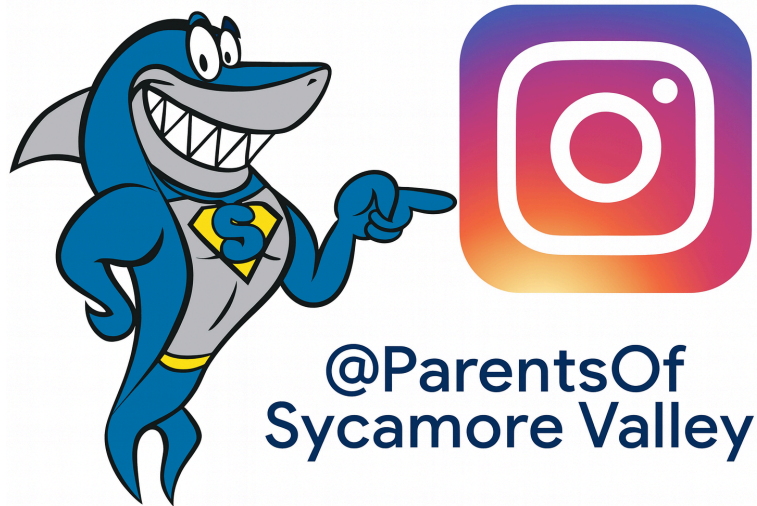
TK/K Priority Enrollment Information Flyer
[Enrollment Flyer](#)

TK and Kindergarten enrollment opens November 1st for the 2026-27 school year.

Children who turn 4 (TK) or 5 (Kinder) by September 1, 2026, are eligible to attend.

A virtual information session will be held on Tuesday, October 7 at 6:00 pm to learn more. The link to join the presentation can be found on the [TK/Kinder page](#) of the District website.

PTA
Instagram:



Follow our new Instagram page @parentsofsycamorevalley for bite-sized updates on school events, programs, and all the fun happening at our school!

SPIRITWEAR

Click here for the [Spiritwear Sale](#)
Shark Spirit Clothing Sale -

The Sycamore Valley Back-to-School Sale is live! Save 25% off sitewide on tees, hoodies, hats and more, through September 23rd!

All delivered to your door in days!
Shipping is FREE on orders of \$100 or more!

Don't miss this limited time offer! [Shop Now!](#)

Store Link: <https://1stplace>.
FREE SHIPPING \$100+

SYCAMORE VALLEY

 **BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALE**

Save 25%
sitewide and enjoy **FREE shipping***

[SHOP NOW](#)



SHOP AT: 1stplace.sale/13542 

*Free shipping on qualifying orders over \$75.



Be A Mentor:

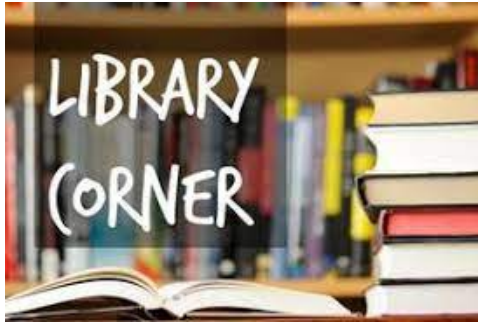
Volunteer Clearance - Reminder - **NEW REQUIREMENTS**

We ask all of our parents/guardians to register w/ Be A Mentor for level #1 - general volunteer. This clearance will allow you to be on campus and/or in the classroom with the children. All volunteers must be finger printed. Here is the link to sign up. [Be A Mentor](#) Click on the New Volunteers Apply Now on the bottom right side of the page.

Clarification regarding volunteer drivers. As of June 2025, all volunteers who wish to drive on a field trip will need to complete the DMV report through their Be A Mentor account. There is a \$2.00 fee for this process. Be sure to upload your Driver's Licence information as well.

There are 3 requirements that are necessary every year.

- 1) DMV report
 - 2) Annual Training (2)
 - 3) Car Insurance Declaration Page updated
-



Welcome back Sharks!

Please note - if your student still has outstanding fines from last year, they will be getting a reminder sent home and will not be able to check out new books until the fines have been settled.

Any questions - contact Mrs. Prindiville - jprindiville@srvusd.net



PTA Updates



Festival Around the World: October 16!

We're so excited to announce that Sycamore Valley Elementary School will be hosting our **Festival Around the World** on **Thursday, October 16, 5-7pm!** This special event brings our community together to celebrate the cultures, foods and traditions of the many countries around the globe and gives students a chance to experience the world right here at the Blacktop!

We'd love for YOU to be part of it! Families are invited to host a booth to showcase their countries, or to lend a hand with event setup. Whether big or small, every contribution helps make this festival memorable for our kids.

To learn more and sign up, please join one of our **Volunteer Welcome Sessions:**

Option 1: Sept 23, 2025 – 12:00 PM (noon) PT

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 880 6729 2755 | Passcode: u0Hg00

Option 2: Sept 23, 2025 – 6:00 PM PT

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 817 6737 1550 | Passcode: 5pbNCM

If you have any questions, please reach out to Shiva (shivmeev@gmail.com) or Azima (azimas@gmail.com).

ASTRONOMY NIGHT

2025

Great fun for families and enthusiastic
astronomers alike!

DECEMBER 1

Activity Program :



- Telescope Displays
- Talk with astronomers
about the night sky
- Enjoy hot cocoa

5:30-7:30

Sycamore Valley
Elementary
Blacktop



SYCAMORE NEEDS YOU!

Become a 2025/2026 Sponsor Today!

Would you like to get your business noticed at school events, bring sycamore supporters into your business, get a write-off, and get us to our fundraising goal? **Become a corporate sponsor today!**

See the attached flyer for all the details.

Sponsorship Flyer

Questions? Contact Jeannine Pickering jeannine.pickering@gmail.com
and Katerina McCormack katerinitsa@aol.com

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See the attached flyer for all the details.

Questions? Contact Jeannine Pickering jeannine.pickering@gmail.com
and Katerina McCormack katerinitsa@aol.com



**GARAGE
KINGS**
925-786-6822



Little Genius
— academy —

**SHARKY SHOUTOUT
TO OUR 2025-2026
SYCAMORE VALLEY
ELEMENTARY SPONSORS**



ARRIVE
REAL ESTATE GROUP

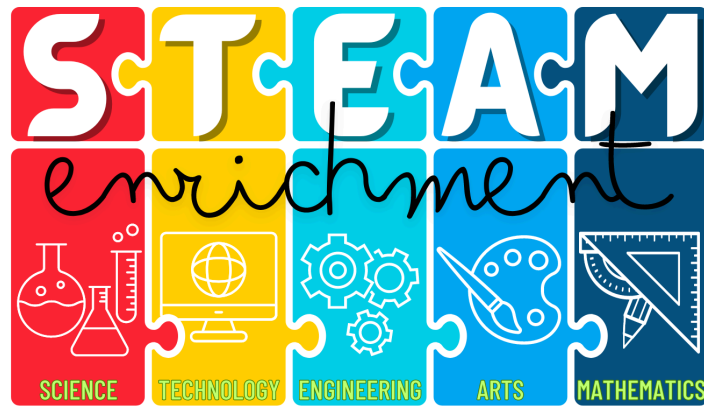


FLOURISH
airway
COLLECTIVE



RK Dentistry

Dr. Richard J. Koeltl, D.D.S. Committed to Healthy Smiles



Reminder to sign your kids up for our various STEAM programs listed below. Sign-ups are well under way and there are still some spots left! Students can sign up for as many programs as they like.

Battle of the Books:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944AAA62AA3F9CF8-58519683-battle>

Book Club 1st-2nd: *Need parent volunteer to lead this*

Book Club 3rd-5th:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B45A4AE2FABF49-58529121-book#/>

Research Projects:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4EA5AD2BAAF58-58542405-steam>

Science Builder's Challenge: *Need parent volunteer to lead this*

Science Fair:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B45A4AE2FABF49-58529308-science#/>

Math Madness:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944AAA62AA3F9CF8-58517479-math>

Math Olympiad:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944AAA62AA3F9CF8-58519098-math>

STEAM Art: *Need parent volunteer to lead this*

WordMasters Challenge:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044AFA72AA46-58538422-wordmasters#/>

Odyssey of the Mind:

[Sycamore Valley Odyssey of the Mind Information Session.xlsx](#)

We are looking for parent volunteers to lead/co-lead various STEAM Enrichment programs! Any parents that would like to volunteer, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/UYXqdHs7HvicUqvL8>

Contact steamenrichment@sycamorevalleypta.org with any questions about the STEAM Enrichment program.



Odyssey of the Mind Information Session.

Parents and kids welcome. We will talk about the program and preview this year's problems. Thursday, September 25, 7:00-8:00. Feel free to reach out to texasbrian@gmail.com with any questions.

[Click here - Zoom link for the meeting](#)



Shark Fund Updates

Mark your Calendars!

Monster Mash is Friday October 24th!

We will kick off the Halloween celebrations with Monster Mash - trunk or treat on the blacktop and a glowstick dance party in the MPR! Tickets will go on sale 10/1 for \$25/per person. Similar to last year, we will send out a sign-up genius for the trunk or treat next week. If you host a trunk, you will get two tickets comp'd (so a family of four would then purchase 2 tickets, 2 are free).

Sharky Cinema - First One 10/1!

Sharky Cinema will be the first Wednesday of each month this year, starting October 1st. Tickets will go on sale on Tuesday 9/23 at 7pm.

Auction!

This is a live auction year, and we are gearing up for a great event! If you are interested in helping with the auction in any capacity - please reach out to the

Shark Fund board, as planning meetings will start soon!

Sycamorevalley.edfund@srvef.org (Doug - President)

Sycamorevalley.edfundvp@srvef.org (Adele - VP)

Thank you to all of the parents that have completed registration so far! We are 60% to our goal, but need 100% participation! The \$675 suggested donation stays here at Sycamore and allows us to support each student and each classroom with para hours, which is incredibly valuable! Not every school in our district is able to do this - we are able to provide this because of your donations!

Any donation amount is greatly appreciated and remember, registration is where you also buy yearbooks, complete directory information, and make the classroom donation. You can still complete your registration through the school office!

[Registration Form](#)



Run for Education:

**A Community Tradition Benefiting Our Schools
That's Not to Be Missed!**



**42nd ANNUAL
RUN
FOR
education**

**REGISTER
TODAY!**

srvef.org/the-run

5K & 10K | MINI RUN |
FRIENDSHIP RUN | EXPO +
KIDS' ZONE

OCTOBER 12, 8AM - 12PM
2700 CAMINO RAMON

A community tradition for 42 years
benefitting SRVUSD schools

Don't miss this popular community event with all SRVUSD schools - the [San Ramon Valley Education Foundation's 42nd Annual Run for Education](#) on **Sunday, October 12th** at 2700 Camino Ramon adjacent to City Center! Walk or run at your own pace. Then, enjoy the Expo

for Education featuring a kids' zone, inflatable games, face painter, post-race refreshments, exhibitor booths, and drawings for over \$1,000 in prizes (must be present to win).

Adding to the fun: School bands, cheer teams, and mascots on the 5K/10K course.

Students 18 and under receive a \$5 discount on the 5K and 10K. Register 4 or more at the same time and receive a 5% discount off your total.

Don't forget: The Champions Cup is at stake! It will once again be passed on to the elementary, middle, and high school with the highest Run participation (by percentage of student population). This year, the Elementary Champions Cup winner will also receive a ¼ lb bag of candy from Sweet Street for everyone at their entire school!

New this year: A Champions Cup awarded to the school that's the Top Run for Education Fundraiser.

For more information, visit: srvef.org/the-run

[Register Here](#)

Looking for an easy and fun way to get involved? Join us as a volunteer by clicking [here](#).



Dippin' Dot Calendar:

09/24 - Dippin Dots

10/08 - Dippin dots

10/22 - Dippin Dots

Dippin Dot Pre-pay Punch Cards are Back!

Punch cards can be purchased for **\$25.00**.

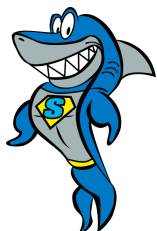
Prepay for 5 Dippin' Dots, get one free

Save time in line

No need to bring money to school

Families can share one card

100% of proceeds benefit your students at Sycamore



Sharky Shout Out:

A big thank you to our Sponsorship team for working hard to secure support for our school this year!



School Site Council Update

School Site Council Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 4:00pm.

This is a virtual meeting:



After School Enrichment

Please refer to Peach Jar for after school enrichment opportunities that are offered for Sycamore students.

[Sycamore Valley Peach Jar](#)



Lost & Found

With the change of weather our lost and found

is growing!!

Take a look at the Rack and in the Yellow Bin.

You may be surprised and find a sweatshirt / jacket / or sweater that you did not know was left behind.

Please make sure that your child's name is marked on their clothing.
Smaller Lost & Found items are in the Office.

Water Bottles and Lunch Boxes are on the shelf in the MPR.



Child Nutrition

Meals Provided @ Sycamore

Breakfast and lunch will continue to be offered free of charge for all students for the 25/26 school year, funded through the California Universal Meals Program.

Here's the link to the Child Nutrition website.

[link](#)

Breakfast & Lunch will be provided at no cost to all students that request a meal at school.

[MENUS](#)

For more information about the meals, please visit the Child Nutrition Website.

<https://www.srvusd.net/Departments/Business-Services/Child-Nutrition/index.html>

Can my child purchase a second meal?

Yes, but they need to have funds on their prepayment account, which can be done on the Titan [Family Portal](#). Cash will not be accepted in the breakfast or lunch line. Cash or checks can be given to the Child Nutrition Manager outside of the breakfast or lunch meal service time. A second breakfast is \$4.00 and a second lunch is \$5.75 at Elementary Schools and \$6.00 at Middle and High Schools. School staff can purchase a breakfast for \$4.50 and lunch for \$6.00.

Read Our Announcements

[VIEW ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

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Follow and Like Us!



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Sycamore Valley Elementary

2200 Holbrook Dr., Danville, CA 94506

[\(925\) 855-2800](tel:(925)855-2800)

[Opt Out](#)

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