



---

# Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Bites Newsletter

---

## Message from Principal Kawahara August 7, 2025

---

Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope you all enjoyed the summer and are ready for the opening of the school year. Teachers and staff have been working hard and are looking forward to seeing everyone Wednesday, August 13th!

Keep reading for some dates to remember, the bell schedule, information about the Annual Update, attendance, staff update, Site Council, drop off/pick up procedures, the SRVUSD mobile communication device policy, e-bikes, and updated volunteer requirements.

### **Dates to Remember:**

**8/11** - Classroom placement posted in Parent Portal 12:00noon

**8/11** - New Family TK - 5th Tour/Orientation 5:30pm on campus - Please RSVP

**8/12** - TK/K Ice Cream Social - Please RSVP

**8/12** - Back to School Night - 5:30pm TK/K

**8/13** - First Day of School - All students arrive at 8:00am

**8/13** - Back to School Night

**1st - 3rd** - 5:30pm - 6:15pm in the classroom for the teacher presentation

**All Grades** - 6:20pm - 6:40pm in the MPR for Principal Kawahara's presentation

**4th - 5th** - 6:45pm - 7:30pm in the classroom for teacher presentation

8/27 - School Photos Taken  
9/09 - Street Smarts Assembly

**Bell Schedule:**

For those of you who need it, here is a link to Sycamore's Bell Schedule for this school year: [Bell Schedule: TK - 5th](#) [Daily Bell Schedule](#)  
[August Schedule](#)

**Annual Update - Required for all families:**

The Annual Update is a required process for all students in SRVUSD and ensures that we have accurate information.

*The Annual Update for your students needs to be completed by **Saturday, August 9th**. The Annual Update is a required task for ALL families, including returning students and new students enrolled on or before July 14, 2025.*

**Log in to your [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#) and complete the Annual Update today!**

Need assistance? See these [instructions](#) and the [FAQ](#).

For more Back to School information, visit SRVUSD's [Back to School webpage](#).

Thank you for taking the time to complete this - we need 100% completion and having it done by the 9th will save Mrs. Jones from having to follow up.

**Attendance:**

Every Day Counts!!

It is essential that your child attends school daily and arrives on-time. Students miss instruction and shared class experiences that support learning and build community. Please align days off with the instructional calendar, try to arrange appointments for after school and keep your child home only when they are sick. When a student does have to miss school, please notify the school office by phone or by email. (925) 855-2898 or [sy-attendance@srvusd.net](mailto: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.

Additionally, if your child has to be out of town during scheduled school days please know that, according to district policy, our teachers are not obligated to provide work while students are absent unless a parent/caregiver requests an **Independent Study Contract (ISC)**. Students are allowed no more than 15 school days for an Independent Study Contract per school year. Otherwise, make-up work will be waiting for the student in the classroom when the student returns to school. Here is the link to start the request if you would like.

**Independent study request form= Vacation: [Independent study request form](#)**

**Staff Updates:**

Please join me in welcoming the following people to the Sycamore Valley community -

Nancy Franklin is joining the office team as the School Secretary.

Melissa Parker is joining the 2nd grade team, having taught science to students here last year.

Thomas Spadini is coming from John Baldwin to join the 4th grade team.

Lynne Ertola and Lorelee MacDonald are joining the science team.

Kenny Mac will be teaching instrumental music to the upper grades.

### School Site Council:


The School Site Council is a collaborative council composed of five parents, and five staff members (teachers, classified staff and school administration) and two alternate members. We meet five times during the year to review school data and progress towards goals, consider and provide feedback on the development of new goals for both the annual Site Plan for Student Achievement and the Comprehensive School Safety Plan. If you are interested in becoming a School Site Council member, please submit a short bio to Barbara Jones at [bjones1@srvusd.net](mailto:bjones1@srvusd.net) by Monday, August 18th at 3:00p.m. Your name will be added to the ballot for consideration.

### Drop Off / Pick Up:

In an effort to streamline drop off and pick up and alleviate the congestion on Camino Tassajara, please review the following graphic for details.

At drop off and pick up, please pull ***all the way forward in the carline***. Once you are stopped in the carline, please have your child exit the car and then pull out. It causes undue congestion when cars stay in the carline in order to drop off at the top. Please be sure your child is ready to exit the car (ie. shoes on, breakfast eaten, etc.) and work with your child to exit the car independently on the curb side of the car. We ask parents not to get out of the car to assist children (this keeps the line moving along).

Do not drop off in the parking lot - this is unsafe for students and drivers who are exiting parking spots.



## Sycamore Valley Elementary Drop-off and Pick-up Reminders


For questions or concerns, contact Principal Patricia Kawahara at [pkawahara@srvusd.net](mailto:pkawahara@srvusd.net)

### FOR VEHICLES

- RESTRICTED RIGHT TURN:** on westbound Camino Tassajara at Holbrook Drive when students are present; obey the new right turn traffic signal; right turns allowed from bike lane only
- Holbrook Drive merge:** two northbound lanes on Holbrook Drive merge into one lane at the crest of the hill
- Crossing Guards:** obey Crossing Guards at Holbrook/Camino Tassajara and Staff in front of the school
- No Parking in front of school:** during school hours. Use the main parking lot to park your vehicle and walk to campus
- Extended Drop-off / Pick-up area:** drive your vehicle all the way forward to drop off or pick up your student
- Watch for pedestrians in the crosswalks**
- Small parking lot near Kindergarten:** will be closed during drop-off and pick-up

### FOR PEDESTRIANS

- Pedestrians and bicyclists:** obey Crossing Guards



**1** Right turn RESTRICTED from westbound Camino Tassajara when students are present; obey signal. Right turns allowed from bike lane only.

**2** Holbrook Drive northbound: 2 lanes merge to one lane at crest of hill

**3** Obey Crossing Guard

**3** Obey Staff Crossing Guards

**4** NO PARKING along curb during school hours

**5** Expanded drop-off / pick-up area: PULL ALL THE WAY FORWARD

**6** Watch for pedestrians in crosswalks

**7** Side parking lot closed during drop-off and pick-up

**SYCAMORE VALLEY CAMPUS**

For illustrative purposes only. Map not to scale.

## **District Updates:**

### **SRVUSD Mobile Communication Devices (MCDs) Policy:**

Elementary School: Mobile Communication Devices (MCDs), including phones, smartwatches, and other wearable communication tools, must be turned off or silenced and stored during the school day for all students in preschool through grade 8. Devices should remain out of sight in backpacks or other designated storage and may not be used during class time, passing periods, recess, or lunch.

Middle School: Middle school students may only use their MCDs during the school day when a teacher gives permission for instructional purposes, and with approval from the principal or their designee.

High School: High school students may use their devices only during non-instructional time (e.g., breaks, lunch, passing periods). During classroom instructional time, MCDs must be turned off and put away, unless a teacher gives permission for academic use.

MCDs may not be used in a way that disrupts learning or violates others' privacy. If a student uses a device in an unauthorized way, it may be confiscated and disciplinary action may be taken, especially in cases of repeated misuse.

Exceptions may be made for health needs, emergencies, or when required by a student's IEP or 504 Plan, with appropriate documentation.

The district is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices brought to school.















Please use devices responsibly and follow all school rules to support a safe and focused learning environment.

[BP 5131.8: Mobile Communication Devices](#)

[AR 5131.8: Mobile Communication Devices](#)

Elementary (Preschool-grade 5)

***Students may not use or have MCDs, including smart watches, visible at any time during the school day.*** Devices must be turned off or silenced and stored in backpacks or designated storage areas from arrival through dismissal. This includes time on campus before the morning bell, class time, recess, and lunch.









Effective August 2025, the SRVUSD Mobile Communication Devices policy will be implemented for all students.*				
	Before the Morning Bell**	During Instructional / Class Time	During Lunch, Recess, Breaks, and Passing Periods	After the School Day**
Preschool through Grade 5				
Devices must be turned off or silenced, and stored in backpacks or other designated storage				
Grades 6 - 8		 <small>MAY BE PERMITTED by teacher for instructional purposes</small>		
Devices must be turned off or silenced, and stored in backpacks or other designated storage				
Grades 9 - 12		 <small>MAY BE PERMITTED by teacher for instructional purposes</small>		
Devices must be turned off or silenced, and stored in backpacks or other designated storage				
<p>* SRVUSD 5131.8 BP permits exceptions for emergencies, health-related needs as determined by a licensed physician, or as required in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan.</p> <p>** SRVUSD 5131.8 AR defines the school day as ...the period from the time a student arrives on campus until the time of their dismissal, including class time, passing periods, breaks, and lunch periods...</p>				
				 <div> <p><b>Student Use of Mobile Communications Devices</b></p> <p><b>EFFECTIVE 2025-26</b></p> </div>
SRVUSD Board Policy 5131.8				

### E-Bike Rules:

E-bikes and E-scooters have been observed being ridden on our athletic fields, particularly on the turf. **E-bikes and E-scooters are NOT permitted on any SRVUSD athletic fields.** Riding on the turf causes accelerated wear and tear, reducing its lifespan and increasing the need for costly repairs or replacement. Please remind students that bicycles and scooters should only be used on designated pathways.

Additionally, this summer I met the new Chief of Police for the Town of Danville, Thomas Rossberg. He shared the following information about E-Bikes:



		Vehicle Details		Rules		
		Pedal Operated	Max Assisted Speed	Minimum Age	Driver License Required	Helmet Required
	Class 1 E-Bike	✓	20 MPH	n/a	✗	17 yrs and under
	Class 2 E-Bike	✗	20 MPH	n/a	✗	17 yrs and under
	Class 3 E-Bike	✓	28 MPH	16 yrs	✗	All ages
	E-Scooter/Power Scooter	n/a	15 MPH	15 Years with DL or permit	✓	17 yrs and under
	Dirt Bike or E-Dirt Bike	n/a	n/a	Not allowed on Road or Sidewalk		All ages
	Moped	n/a	n/a	Class M1/M2 License		All ages
	Motorcycle	n/a	n/a	Class M1/M2 License		All ages

### **Volunteer Requirements:**

#### **Reminder: Updated SRVUSD Volunteer Requirements for 25-26**

Effective July, 1, 2025, all SRVUSD Volunteers must complete the updated requirements to work with or drive our students. Requirements include a background check, proof of TB test, and completion of online training. Please see the resources below for more information:

[SRVUSD Volunteer webpage](#)

[2025-26 Volunteer Handbook](#)

[Volunteer FAQ](#)

**EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025**

# **NEW SRVUSD VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS**

In alignment with CA State Assembly Bill 506, effective July 1, 2025, all volunteers will be required to complete a Livescan fingerprint background check as well as mandated reporter and sexual harassment prevention training to be eligible to volunteer for the 2025-26 school year.



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

Thank you,  
Patricia Kawahara  
Principal



## **Important Dates to Remember**

07/17 - Annual Update Opens 7/17 - 8/09 - **required**

08/11 - Sycamore Online Registration Open for 25/26: 8/11/25 - 9/05/25

08/11 - TK/K/New Family Orientation & Tour 5:30pm - **whole family**  
08/11 - Classroom Placement announced in parent portal 12:00pm  
08/12 - TK/K Ice Cream Social 1:30pm  
08/12 - TK/K Back to School Night 5:30pm - **Parents Only**  
08/13 - First Day of School - Min. Day Schedule 8:00am  
08/13 - 1st - 5th Grade Back to School Night 5:30pm - **Parents Only**  
08/27 - School Photos Taken  
09/09 - Street Smarts Assembly

---



## 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.

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.

We are sharing important updates regarding the SRVUSD volunteer clearance process for the 2025-26 school year, specifically related to background checks, online training requirements, and associated fees. SRVUSD continues to partner with [Be A Mentor \(BAM\)](#) to manage volunteer clearance. This message is being shared with all current parents and caregivers, regardless of previous or current clearance status.

### **New Background Check and Training Requirements-**

In alignment with [California State Assembly Bill 506](#), effective July 1, 2025, all volunteers will be required to complete a Livescan fingerprint background check as well as mandated reporter and sexual harassment prevention training to be eligible to volunteer for the 2025-26 school year. Once fingerprinted for SRVUSD, volunteers will not need to repeat the process in future years.

**Current Level 3 volunteers cleared through BAM: no action is required for the background check. Annual online training is required, and a current DMV driving report must be uploaded.**



**Current Level 1 and 2 volunteers:** You will receive an email from BAM prompting you to complete the new requirements.

**Volunteers must complete all requirements before working at fall registration, classroom assignments, and all 2025-26 school events.**

**Volunteers in the BAM system who have not completed all requirements will be unable to volunteer until clearance is complete.**

**New Volunteers:** Level 1 volunteer or Level 2 volunteer, with driving: Please submit your [volunteer application](#) through BAM to begin the clearance process.

**Effective July 1, 2025, volunteers will be classified as Level 1 (cleared for all events, no driving) or Level 2 (cleared for all events, including driving). Current Level 3 volunteers will be reclassified to Level 2.**

**Livescan Fingerprint Fees-**

Due to Board-approved budget reductions, SRVUSD is making adjustments in several areas, including the fees associated with background checks for volunteers and staff. These changes are essential to responsibly address the district's financial situation while upholding our commitment to providing a high-quality education for all students.

**Effective immediately, all applicants and volunteers—regardless of clearance level—will be responsible for covering the full cost of their Livescan fingerprinting through a service provider of their choice.**

SRVUSD will no longer cover Livescan fingerprinting expenses. In addition to the fingerprinting fee, which is paid directly to the Livescan provider at the time of service, BAM will collect a \$25 processing fee from each applicant or volunteer. Since rolling fees vary by provider, we recommend contacting your preferred Livescan location for specific pricing. BAM will provide a list of approved providers.

**For full details on [volunteer requirements and the clearance process](#), please refer to the [SRVUSD Volunteer Handbook](#), [District webpage](#), and the [SRVUSD Volunteer Requirement FAQ](#)**

**Note: A TB test is also a requirement. The TB test is good for 4 years. The risk assessment form is to be completed by your doctor. You will need to upload, to your Be A Mentor account, either the completed risk assessment form or the negative TB test result form from your doctor.**

---

**EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025**

# **NEW SRVUSD VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS**

In alignment with CA State Assembly Bill 506, effective July 1, 2025, all volunteers will be required to complete a Livescan fingerprint background check as well as mandated reporter and sexual harassment prevention training to be eligible to volunteer for the 2025-26 school year.



---

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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).*

---

---

---

## **SPIRITWEAR**

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

Summer Sale, featuring 20% savings across the entire site! In addition, eight new [Under Armour](#) product lines have just been added!

**[Shop Now!](#)**

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

**SYCAMORE VALLEY**

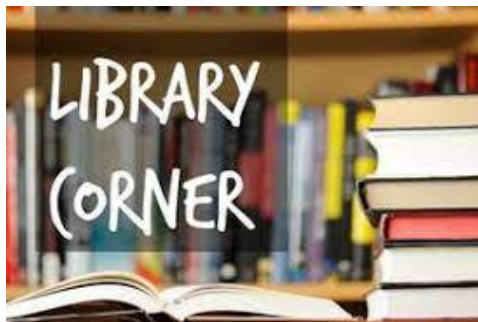
**SCHOOL'S  
ALMOST  
OUT FOR  
SUMMER**

**GREAT DEALS  
ARE HEATING UP!**

**20%  
OFF**

**USE CODE: SUMMER**

**SHOP AT: 1STPLACE.SALE/13542**



If you find a library book, please return it to the school office.

We look forward to our students visiting the library starting later this month.

Any questions - contact Mrs. Prindiville - [jprindiville@srvusd.net](mailto:jprindiville@srvusd.net)



## PTA Updates

---

# Sharky Fit Club

### Sharky Fit Club -

**Future Classes:** Watch for classes to start up again in the fall!

Thank you for everyone's participation this past year!

Online waiver form/ permission slip:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfoSbFX2AU1BIppgLwuEERvuj8KtXshaoSxmB1lcQ\\_EbOqRw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfoSbFX2AU1BIppgLwuEERvuj8KtXshaoSxmB1lcQ_EbOqRw/viewform)

For more information, contact Deniz Ozek at [deniz.c.ozek@gmail.com](mailto:deniz.c.ozek@gmail.com)

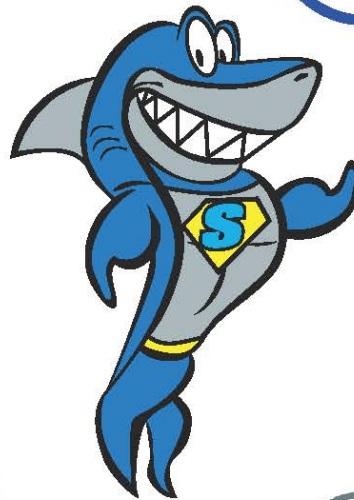
---





JENNIFER LARSON | FOUNDING PARTNER  
jen@arriveREgroup.com | 925.858.0398 | DRE #01897334  
arriveREgroup.com

**SHARKY SHOUTOUT  
TO OUR 2024-2025  
SYCAMORE VALLEY  
ELEMENTARY SPONSORS**



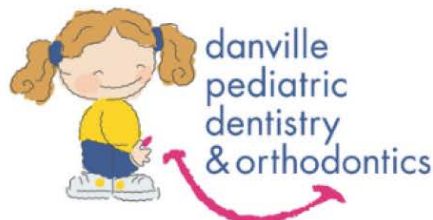
FLOURISH  
airway  
COLLECTIVE

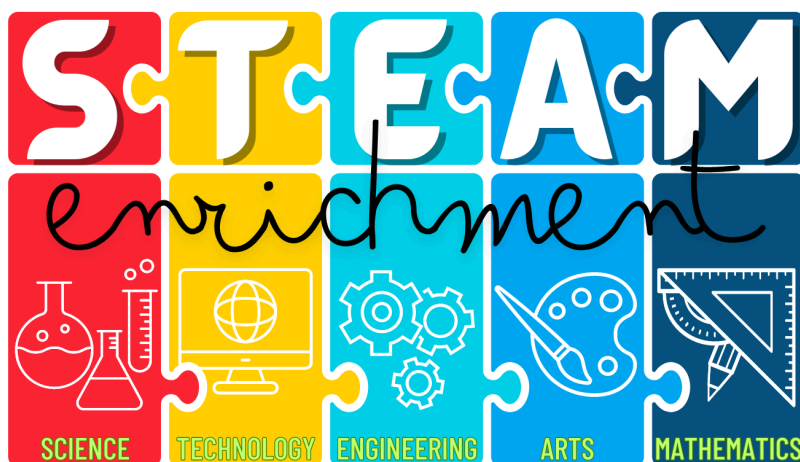
**JEN O'GRADY**  
925.389.2380

Golden Gate | Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY  
Lic.# 01738517



**GARAGE  
KINGS**  
925-786-6822



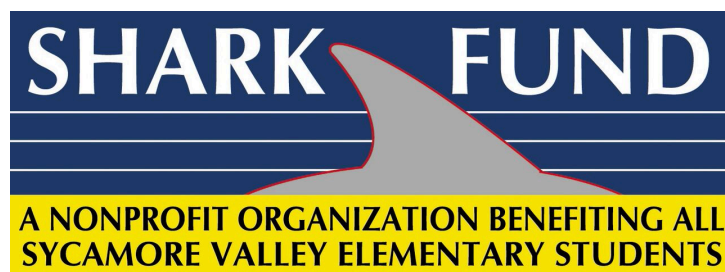


All programs for STEAM Enrichment have concluded for the year. Thank you for all of your participation and helping to make it a successful year!

We'd love to hear your feedback on the STEAM Enrichment program. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey:

<https://forms.gle/veuMdHP83ywDmEii8>.

Contact [steamenrichment@sycamorevalleypta.org](mailto:steamenrichment@sycamorevalleypta.org) with any questions about the STEAM Enrichment program.



## Shark Fund Updates

---



**Dippin' Dot Calendar:**

**Dates will be announced for August and September when we return to school.**

---

## **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:**

Shout out to all the volunteers who are helping to welcome our new families.

---



## **School Site Council Update**

---

### **School Site Council Meeting**

**Next Meeting To Be Determined for the 25/26 school year.**

If you are interested in being a Site Council member next year, please email your bio to Barbara at [BJones1@srvusd.net](mailto:BJones1@srvusd.net). All members are voted in by the Sycamore community.

**A ballot will be sent to our Sycamore families at a later date.**

---



## 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 & 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>

---

---

---

## Read Our Announcements

[VIEW ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

---

## Keep in Touch with Us!

Follow and Like Us!



---

You are receiving this email because your email address is associated with

**Sycamore Valley Elementary**

2200 Holbrook Dr., Danville, CA 94506

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

[Opt Out](#)

### Statement of Confidentiality:

The contents of this e-mail message and any attachments are intended solely for the addressee. The information may also be confidential and/or legally privileged. This transmission is sent for the sole purpose of delivery to the intended recipient. If you have received this transmission in error, any use, reproduction, or dissemination of this transmission is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please immediately notify the sender by reply e-mail and delete this message and its attachments, if any.

(Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 USC SS 2510-2521)



