



Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Bites Newsletter

Message from Principal Kawahara
August 21, 2025



Mrs. Perotti's TK Class - Music Class w/ Mr. Gates

Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

We are now one week into the new school year. Kiddos have settled into the routines and are ready to hit the ground running as we move into our first regular schedule week! One of the highlights for me this week has been checking in with students in the lunchroom and hearing about how class is going, what they think

of the food and what movies I should consider watching.

Another highlight was the call received today from Student Services informing me that Sycamore Valley had the highest attendance in SRVUSD for the first week of school. Our average daily attendance was a whooping **99.43%**! As I mentioned at Back to School Night - this brings me so much joy and sets our Sharks up for success! We are off to a great start - let's keep it going!

Keep reading from some dates to remember, information about picture day, student absence reporting process, School Site Ballot, Street Smarts Assembly, and district updates.

Dates to Remember:

08/27 - School Photos Taken

09/01 - No School - Labor Day

09/04 - Vision & Hearing = 5th & 2nd Grades

09/09 - Street Smarts Assembly

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

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

09/25 - Festival Around the World

10/03 - No School

Bell Schedule:

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

[**Bell Schedule: TK - 5th**](#) [**Daily Bell Schedule**](#)

Attendance Phone Line:

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.

Attendance Update:

If your child attends one of our after-school programs on campus, please read the following important information. Under California AB 1113, school districts are required to track student attendance in after-school programs that are part of the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP). **This attendance data is collected for reporting purposes only and doesn't impact your child's regular school attendance record.**

School Photos:

Wednesday, August 27 is our school photo day.

If your student is absent on this day, our make up date will be on October 8th.

If you would like to order school photos, here is the link:

[**https://www.ciphotoca.com/sycamorevalley**](https://www.ciphotoca.com/sycamorevalley)

School Site Council:

We currently have four (4) open parent membership spots. There are 4 candidates on the ballot for Sycamore's School Site Council. Please read the bio

for each of the candidates. Please confirm these 4 members by checking the confirmation box.

Site Council Ballot

The ballot is open through Thursday, August 28, 2025 @ 3:00pm.

Street Smarts Assembly:

On September 9th students in all grades will participate in the annual Street Smarts Assembly. Street Smarts, a traffic safety education program serves San Ramon Valley. This interactive assembly reminds students about pedestrian, biking and traffic safety habits. For more information about the program click this link: [**STREET SMARTS**](#)



District Updates:

30 Under 30: Nominations Close Monday, 8/25 (COMMS)

30 Under 30 Nominations Due August 25

Do you know a deserving young alum making a difference? Nominate them today so we can celebrate their success with our community! [**Submit your nomination here**](#)

Ed Tech Essentials #1: Student Passwords

Ed Tech Essentials is a series of lessons designed to equip students with the technology skills they need to succeed. Delivered at the beginning of and throughout the school year, these lessons focus on building strong digital habits from day one.

This week, we are highlighting a critical first step: ***password safety***. We encourage all staff to teach a dedicated lesson on this topic to ensure every student understands the importance of protecting their digital identity. Empowering students with this knowledge is essential for their security and digital citizenship.

Why Passwords are Complex

Students often get frustrated with complex password requirements. It's crucial to explain why passwords must be complex. Simple passwords like "12345" or "password" are easy for others to guess or for programs to crack. A strong password, one that uses a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols, is much harder to break. This complexity protects their schoolwork, personal information, and any data stored on their accounts from unauthorized access. The more complex the password, the safer their data is.

The Importance of a Password Safety Lesson 💡

Taking the time to teach a dedicated lesson on password safety is one of the most effective ways to protect student data and promote good digital citizenship. It's not enough to simply give students a password; they need to understand why their password is a critical tool for protecting their personal information and

schoolwork. This lesson helps them develop habits that will keep them safe online now and in the future.

SEPTEMBER Board Resolutions- **National Literacy Month**

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of September as National Literacy Month. The schools of SRVUSD stand firmly committed to promoting reading as the catalyst for our students' future academic, professional, and personal success. We are committed to providing the highest quality evidence-based instructional materials, screening and diagnostic tools, interventions, and supports so that every student becomes a proficient and engaged reader, writer, speaker, and listener.

SRVUSD encourages engagement with parents and caregivers so they can support literacy at home and enhance opportunities for exploration, fun, and in support of academic achievement.

Citizenship Awareness Month

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of September as Citizenship Awareness Month. It is important that our students understand the basic principles of democracy and what it means to be an American citizen. Young people can play a critical role in our democracy by helping to choose the people who will lead us and by voicing their opinions on the issues that are important to them.

Students are encouraged to participate in the democratic process through voter education programs and involvement in civic engagement activities. District schools are encouraged to celebrate Constitution Day on September 17 and participate in California High School Voter Education Weeks during the last two weeks of September.

National Hispanic Heritage Month Sept 15 - Oct 15

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes September 15 - October 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month. Hispanic and Latino Americans have made so many social, artistic, linguistic, and intellectual contributions to our society, the State of California, and our community. Their influence and rich history enrich our nation and our schools through their entrepreneurship, commitment to community service, deep value of justice and liberty and social and cultural life. As stated in the Multicultural Education Policy of the California State Board of Education, each student needs an opportunity to understand the common humanity underlying all people.

Help Spread the Word: Paid Survey for Families with Young Children

The RAPID Survey Project at the Stanford Center on Early Childhood is seeking input from California parents of children under age 6. This paid survey covers topics such as healthcare, child care access and preferences, parent and child well-being, and material hardship. The survey will remain open through August 29, 2025, and will reopen on September 4, 2025.

Take the 15-minute survey at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/rapidca-cde>

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

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

08/27 - School Photos Taken

09/01 - No School - Labor Day

09/04 - Vision & Hearing = 5th & 2nd Grades

09/09 - Street Smarts Assembly

09/10 - Dippin Dot Launch Party

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

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

09/24 - Dippin Dots

09/25 - Festival Around the World

10/08 - Dippin dots

10/22 - Dippin Dots



REGISTRATION for SYCAMORE

Registration is OPEN and we are halfway there - 50% of families have completed registration so far!

The “Shark Fund” is the schools education fund and registration is our single largest fundraising event. We rely on your donations, so please complete registration today - it only takes a few minutes. Every family needs to complete registration!

**Online Registration for Sycamore Valley Elementary –
Open August 11, 2025 @ 9:00am - September 5, 2025 @ 11:30pm**

<https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/registration>

August 11, 9:00am - September 5, 2025, 11:30pm
Online Registration for Sycamore Valley Elementary:

Registration is specific to each school site. Your support is vital to student success. Registration includes a variety of activities such as volunteer opportunities and support for your student’s classroom, including materials and technology. Registration also covers Shark Fund contributions to our award-winning programs, which provide Para-Educators, weekly library visits, intervention programs, office support, and more. Additionally, registration includes PTA membership, directory preferences and orders, yearbook purchases, spirit wear, and other site-specific items.

Site specific registration for Sycamore Valley is done on an annual basis online per the dates listed above: <https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/registration>
You will need to create a Future Fund account. This site will take you through a series of steps to complete your child(ren)’s registration.

Registration will take about 15 minutes. Information can be saved in case you cannot complete the entire process at one time, but make sure you press submit before September 5th. Check your receipt to ensure it went through.
Have questions about registration? Contact: Stephanie Kozlik at stephanie.m.kozlik@gmail.com





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;

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.

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 assessment is also a requirement. The TB test assessment 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.



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 Photo Day
Wednesday, August 27th

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

Volunteers Needed:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DAFA72DAAAFAC25-58091558-photo#/>

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! All delivered to your door in days! Shipping is FREE on orders of \$75 or more!

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

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

SYCAMORE VALLEY
OFFICIAL SPIRIT WEAR STORE

BACK - TO - SCHOOL

SALE

SAVE 25%

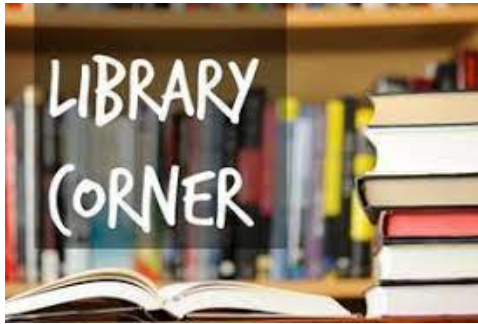
SHOP NOW

1ST PLACE Spiritwear

SHOP AT: 1STPLACE.SALE/13542

FREE SHIPPING \$75
ORDERS OVER

The advertisement features a woman and a young boy standing in front of a school building. The boy is wearing a grey t-shirt with a blue shark logo and a backpack. The woman is wearing a black t-shirt with "Sycamore Valley SHARKS" written on it. The background is a blue-tinted image of a school building.



Welcome back Sharks!

We will begin our class visits to the library very soon, and I am excited to see everyone with a book in their hands!

Thank you to parents who expressed interest in volunteering, emails will be coming soon.

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

Festival Around the World:
Volunteers needed for this event.



SYCAMORE VALLEY VOLUNTEERS



Festival Around the World Coordinators

Lead organizers for "Festival Around the World" event in September.

This Sycamore tradition will have to be cancelled if we can't find festival leads.

For more Info. please contact:

vpprograms@sycamorevalleypta.org



Destination Imagination® (DI) General Info Session

Open to All SRVUSD Students (TK-12).

Two Dates Available!

- Gale Ranch MS, MPR - August 28, 2025 @7pm (TK-12)
- Dougherty Valley HS, Commons - September 10, 2025 @7pm (TK-12)

Destination Imagination® (DI) is an outside-of-school, project-based educational program that inspires and equips students to become the next generation of innovators and leaders. Teams in our program improve in creative thinking, critical thinking and collaborative problem solving. Our participants experience the creative process, develop new friendships and learn to work together.

All SRVUSD Students are invited to attend. Please join us for this Info Session to learn more on how to get started for the 2025-2026 season. Bring your student as teams may be formed during the meeting.

Questions? Contact bob@californiacreativity.org

Learn More: [BEST OF THE BAY REGION](#)



IGNITE THE POWER OF ALL YOUTH

to be the creative and collaborative innovators of tomorrow



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/1FAIpQLSfoSbFX2AU1BlppgLwuEERvuj8KtXshaoSxmB1lcQ_EbOqRw/viewform

For more information, contact Deniz Ozek at deniz.c.ozek@gmail.com



SYCAMORE NEEDS YOU!

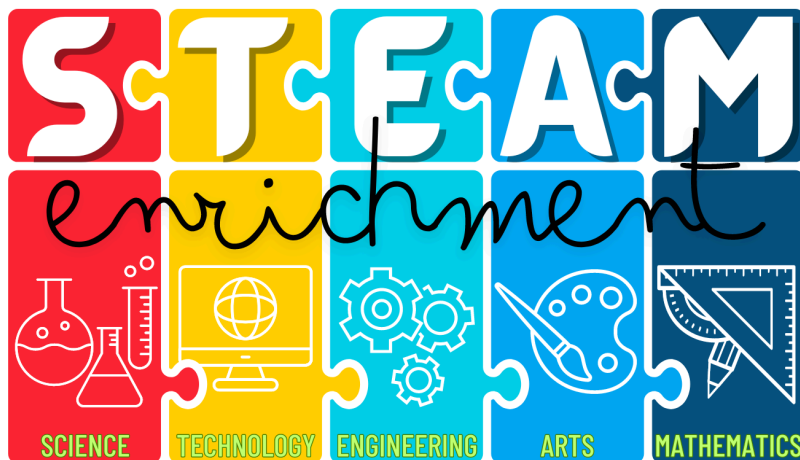
Become a 2025/2026 Sponsor Today!

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 katerinita@aol.com



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 with any questions about the STEAM Enrichment program.



Shark Fund Updates



Dippin' Dot Calendar:

09/10 - Dippin Dot Launch Party

09/24 - Dippin Dots

10/08 - Dippin dots

10/22 - Dippin Dots



DIPPIN DOTS NEW FLAVOR LAUNCH PARTY

Wednesday
sept. 10th.

11:30 - Kinder Parking Lot
12:50 - Blacktop

\$5.00/pack or
punchcard for \$25.00

Your paragraph text

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:

We would like to say a huge thank you to the families that organized and hosted the Bocce Social event this past weekend! 100% of the ticket sales went directly to the Shark Fund - which is over \$4,000!

Thank you to the host families ~ Betzina, Dorshkind, Kozlik, Morrison, Pignati, Schembri, Spatcher, & Sproul.



School Site Council Update

School Site Council Meeting

We currently have four (4) open parent membership spots. There are 4 candidates on the ballot for Sycamore's School Site Council. Please read the bio for each of the candidates. Please confirm these 4 members by checking the confirmation box.

Site Council Ballot

The ballot is open through Thursday, August 28, 2025 @ 3:00pm.

First Meeting To Be Determined.



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.

Please see the latest updates to students' meal experience, broken out by grade level.

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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