



VALLEY  
ACADEMY



# Coyote News

## From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Brooks, M. Ed. Principal



Welcome to a fabulous new school year!

At Valley, our primary goals are to ensure a safe campus and provide our students with the best education in Phoenix.

In order for it to be safe and efficient, everyone must follow the school's safety practices including our preferred drop off and pick up procedures. We understand that only so many cars can legally park in our school's parking lots. Therefore driving around campus and using our drop off/pick up areas is preferred. The lot in front of the office should be reserved for those needing to be on campus for administrative purposes. In addition, parents should not be parking in the red zones as they are for emergencies only. We understand that driving around the buildings takes more time in the morning and afternoon, but this is the safest option for

every child, including yours.

Here are some important suggestions that will make traffic flow safely and smoothly so that everyone's day can continue with ease.

- ◆ Give yourself plenty of time to follow the correct drop-off and pick-up procedures.
- ◆ If you need to park in a spot, please select one around the sides of campus or drive around to the east side of campus to safely enter the front lot from the east/ exit side of campus.
- ◆ Never enter campus using the east "exit only" driveway on Rose Garden Lane. It is for exiting traffic only!
- ◆ When traveling on Rose Garden Lane, please be cautious for children/ staff in the crosswalk.

Valley Academy continually strives for the safest campus possible, and that requires your help. Thank you for supporting our school and our student safety procedures.

I am proud of our faculty and staff. We have a great group of professionals here. I am confident that our teachers provide an excellent education for our students. So, I cannot wait to see what we can accomplish together this school year!

Please enjoy your long weekend. I look forward to seeing you soon at one of our home Volleyball games (the schedule is posted online) or the upcoming Book Fair/ Family Fun Night on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>.

My best,

Mrs. Victoria Brooks, M.Ed.

Principal

## Upcoming Events

**Spirit Day** Beginning in September, all students may participate in Spirit Day the first Friday of each month by wearing their Spirit Day shirt. K-8 may purchase Ice Cream during lunch.

**Progress Reports** Wednesday, September 11th. ParentVUE will have grades available to view.

**Early Release/Staff Development** Friday, September 20th. All students K-8 dismiss at 12:15 p.m. Preschool dismisses at 11:30 p.m. Teachers will participate in a Staff Development in-service.

**More Information Listed on Last Page**

For more information, please visit our website at [www.ValleyAcademy.com](http://www.ValleyAcademy.com)

### And now, a word from our Government ...

As a public school, Valley Academy is asked to make our families aware of certain state and governmental notices. Here they are, in a nutshell:

The "Move On When Reading" state policy, a result of the legislation in [A.R.S §15-701](#), [A.R.S §15-704](#), and [A.R.S §15-211](#) (as amended by [HB2026](#)) explains the requirements for pupil promotion, early literacy instruction, and accountability for student achievement in reading. It requires that a student not be promoted from third grade to fourth grade if he or she "does not demonstrate sufficient reading skills" on the state's third grade reading test in accordance with the statutes. For more info <https://www.azed.gov/mowr>

Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) – Parents are allowed to inspect school records and have an expectation of privacy in educational matters. Reid Traditional Schools does not share directory information for commercial purposes. For more information on FERPA rights, check out the Other Services area of our website, or ask the school office for assistance.

IRS Form 990 - A copy of the school's non-profit tax return is available in the school office upon request.

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) – The school has been inspected for asbestos and certified to be asbestos free. The required AHERA Management Plan and inspection materials are available in the school office.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) – Students with disabilities are entitled to a copy of procedural safeguards. For more information, check out the Other Services section of Valley Academy's website, or ask the school office for assistance.

McKinney-Vento Act – Special guidelines on the enrollment and education of homeless children are outlined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. For more information, see [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).

Get to know our teachers! All our teachers' profiles are available in the front office for your review.

**In honor of September 11th, we will be holding a special morning assembly in recognition of those members of our community who are first responders either in the Police or Fire Department. If you are a police officer or a firefighter, we would like to recognize you for your dedication to serving our community.**

**We invite you to please submit your name to Mrs. Lowery at [VLowery@ValleyAcademy.com](mailto:VLowery@ValleyAcademy.com) or at 623-516-7747 ext. 115 by Tuesday, September 3rd. We would like to present you with a small token of our appreciation at the assembly on Monday, September 9th at 8:15 a.m.**

**We appreciate your dedication to serving our community by protecting and providing care. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your service.**

**With grateful hearts,**

**Mrs. Victoria Brooks, M.Ed.  
Principal**

# Meet the Staff at Valley Academy!

## Administration & Office

Ms. Mitchell, M.Ed. - CEO  
Mrs. Brooks, M.Ed. - Principal  
Mrs. Breshears, M.Ed. - Asst. Principal  
Mrs. Lowery - Secretary  
Ms. Uhlving - Office Manager  
Mrs. Allen, RN - Health Office  
Mrs. Grimm - Receptionist

## Support Staff

Mr. Holt- Custodian  
Mrs. Munoz - Custodian  
Mrs. Schmidt - Food Service Mgr.  
Mrs. Kunkalaguntla - Food Service Asst.  
Mrs. Towers - Food Service Asst.

## Preschool

Miss Burns  
Miss Uhlving

## Kindergarten

Mrs. Johnson  
Miss Olson  
Mrs. Rivett  
Mrs. Sutaris

## First Grade

Mrs. Francisco  
Ms. Schambach  
Mrs. Torta  
Mrs. Zahariades

## Second Grade

Mrs. Carpenter  
Mrs. Freeland  
Mrs. Rook  
Miss Webb

## Third Grade

Mrs. Ford  
Mrs. Keely  
Ms. Loreto  
Miss Magnusen

## Fourth Grade

Mr. Beckham  
Miss Hilgendorf  
Mr. Mitchell  
Ms. Ray

## Fifth Grade

Mrs. Freeman  
Mrs. Lewandowsky  
Mrs. Meyer

## Sixth Grade

Mrs. Copper  
Miss Gross  
Mr. Smith

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Mr. Bauer  
Miss Ekdahl  
Mrs. Matangi  
Ms. Rohr  
Mrs. Simon

## Special Area Teachers

Mrs. Dever - Library  
Mrs. Ferris - World Languages  
Mrs. Lander - Technology  
Mrs. Loveless - Music  
Coach Mims - P.E.  
Mrs. Watkins - Art  
Mrs. Carter - Speech  
Mrs. Godina - Resource  
Mrs. Calderon - Academic  
Compliance Coordinator  
Mrs. Kamat - Academic Tutor  
Mr. Matangi - Band

## Classroom Aides

Mrs. Cummings  
Mrs. Escarcega  
Mrs. Fernando  
Mrs. Gurrum  
Miss Handschug  
Miss Hernanskey  
Ms. Ibanez  
Mrs. Jacob  
Mrs. Karumuri  
Miss Keely  
Mrs. Patel  
Mrs. Robinson  
Miss Scrip  
Mrs. Talluru  
Mrs. Weston

## Coyote Club Aides

Mrs. Ponnatota -  
Coordinator  
Mrs. Gurrum  
Mrs. Karthikeyan  
Mrs. Ramakrishnan  
Mrs. Tammana  
Mrs. Tangala  
Mrs. Weickardt



## Welcoming Familiar Faces Back to Our Staff!



Hello! I'm Mrs. Meyer, and I am so glad to be back teaching fifth grade this year! I have been around Valley Academy since I was a fourth grader, way back in 1995, and spent five years teaching here in 7-8 grade from 2012-2017. In my years away as a full time teacher I remained as a substitute teacher here



on campus so some of you often would have seen me around. I feel so privileged to be back as a part of this team and this community both as a parent and staff member. In my free time, my husband and I spend most of our time with our three children (all students here at Valley Academy) and volunteering at our church.



**No School  
Monday,  
September 2, 2024**

*Arizona Instruction*  
After School Enrichment Classes & Clubs  
begin the week of September 3, 2024.

**Reminder:** If your child needs medication while at school, a parent or guardian must bring the medication to the nurse's office and fill out a form. No medications should be in a student's backpack without specific permission. This includes over the counter medications and homeopathic medications as well.

I would also like to remind you that if your child has a fever that is 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater, they will need to stay home from school until it has been 24 hours **without a fever** and **without the use of fever reducing medication** (acetaminophen, ibuprofen, naproxen, or aspirin). They will be sent home if brought to school too soon or if their temperature is over 100 degrees.

Thank you!


*Mrs. Emily Allen, R.N*

Valley Academy Nurse



**Picture Day for K-8 Grades  
Wednesday, September 4, 2024**



**SAY CHEESE!**



All students are photographed and must adhere to dress code for jewelry, hair, and uniform. Order forms can be sent with exact cash or check or online orders can be made at [Inter-State.com/Order](http://Inter-State.com/Order). Order Code is 90692QF. **Shipping and handling charges may apply to orders placed after Picture Day.**

**Preschool Picture Day**

All students in preschool will be photographed on Thursday, September 5, 2024. Students must wear their uniform and will be photographed in the morning. Picture packets have been sent home, and if you would like to purchase a picture packet, please return it to your child's teacher with exact cash or check.

**Early Release**

Students in Preschool dismiss at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, September 20th, and students in grades K-8 dismiss at 12:15 p.m. for Early Release. Pick up locations are drive-thru, walk-up, and walkers that walk across the street. The office is not a pick up area.

Parent ID Badges

must be worn when on campus or you must get a sticker from the front office. If you still need to take your picture for a badge, please contact Mrs. Dever to set up an appointment at [JDever@ValleyAcademy.com](mailto:JDever@ValleyAcademy.com). Badges are \$5.00, exact cash or check.

We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome your children back to campus for our 2024-2025 school year. We are so excited to have them here, and we look forward to an awesome year!

**MATH and SCIENCE**

Another fun year of MathCounts and Science Club will be starting soon. If you are interested, MathCounts begins September 4th (Wednesdays) from 3:20 - 3:55 p.m. and Science Club starts September 5th (Thursdays) and runs from 3:30 - 4:25 p.m.

## Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA)

Ms. Rohr, our 8th grade Math teacher wanted to recognize these seven current 8th graders who earned a perfect score on the Math portion of AASA last spring. We are so proud of their hard work and achievements.



Pictured left to right: Ryaan M., Rakshan U., Dominic B., Charlotte Z., Phong P., Shriyaa S., and Amuktha A.



These two students earned a perfect score on their AASA Language Arts Test as 7th graders. We are so proud of them! They were the only two in all of 7th and 8th grade last year. Way to go Ryaan M. and Charlotte Z.

## Literati BOOK FAIRS

### WE'RE HAVING A "GALACTIC ADVENTURE" BOOK FAIR!

From September 16-19, students will explore starfields of stories at Valley Academy's Literati Book Fair! Parents and guardians are specially invited to visit the fair during Family Fun Night on Thursday, September 19th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Every purchase supports our school!

**Shop Our Fair Online:** Can't attend in person? No worries! Shop a wider selection of books at [Valley Academy Online Book Fair](#) (use hyperlink), including popular online exclusives like *Dog Man* and *The Baby-Sitters Club*. When you search for our school, double-check that you have the right city and state.

**Buy Gift Cards:** Purchase digital gift cards for use at both our in-person and online fairs, for an easy payment method that won't get lost in a backpack (and never expires!).

**Share Wishlists:** Invite friends and family to shop for your reader directly—gift cards included! You can also shop your teacher's wishlist online to support your classroom.

**Volunteer:** We'd love your help! Please use the link to sign up to volunteer for this year's "Galactic Adventure" Book Fair.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoE4AAAA82DA5FBC16-51005921-valley> Thank you!

**\*All volunteers get a 20% book fair discount\***

## Literati BOOK FAIRS



# September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 No School Labor Day	3 <i>Arizona Instruction Classes Begin</i>  Spalding Parent Class 5:00 p.m.	4 <b>Picture Day</b>  <b>MathCounts Club Begins</b> $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$	5 <b>Preschool Picture Day</b> Girls' Volleyball <b>AWAY</b> Game 4:30 p.m.  <b>Science Club Begins</b> 	6 <b>Spirit Day</b> 	7
8 	9 <b>Honoring 9/11 Morning Assembly</b> 8:15 a.m. <b>Fundraiser Packets Due</b> Girls' Volleyball Game 4:30 p.m. 	10 <b>VAPO Meeting</b> 8:15 a.m. <b>Caught Being Good</b>  Spalding Parent Class 5:00 p.m.	11 <b>Progress Reports Available Online</b>	12 Girls' Volleyball Game 4:30 p.m. 	13	14
15 <b>Book Fair Mon—Thurs.</b> 	16 Girls' Volleyball Game 4:30 p.m.  <b>Cheer Clinic</b> 3:30 p.m.	17 <b>Cheer Clinic</b> 3:30 p.m.  Spalding Parent Class 5:00 p.m.	18 Girls' Volleyball <b>Game BLUE OUT</b> 4:30 p.m. 	19 <b>Cheer Tryouts</b> 3:30 p.m. Girls' Volleyball Game 4:30 p.m.  <b>Family Fun Night</b>	20 <b>Early Release AM Specials 12:15 Dismissal</b> <b>Staff Development</b>	21
22	23 <b>Morning Assembly</b> 8:15 a.m.	24  Girls' Volleyball <b>AWAY</b> Game 4:30 p.m.  Spalding Parent Class 5:00 p.m.	25	26 <b>Board Meeting</b> 6:15 p.m. <b>Reid Offices</b>	27	28
29	30					