



VALLEY
ACADEMY



Coyote News

From the Principal

Mrs. Brooks, M. Ed.



As February begins, I reflect and am so grateful for all the wonderful people that I interact with each day in our community. I think of the smiling faces of the parents I see and the students on campus that I have the honor to connect with, as well as the staff that leads them daily on their path of growth. I also appreciate the hard work that happens here and the success we see in our students' abilities and test scores.

Our campus community is as focused as ever on our students' growth and success, and with that success comes the reward of knowing your children are learning, growing in their knowledge, and helping our school earn very prestigious awards. We have just received our newest plaque that we hung in the office showing that **we once again have been named a US News and World Report Best Elementary School 2025!** It is something that I hope our whole campus can feel proud

of because it takes the commitment of us all.

I am also reminded that the school year passes quickly and that there is no time to waste before state testing begins in April. Please continue to work with your children at home and communicate with their teachers so that our partnership remains strong, and we can reap the benefits of our teamwork.

At the end of the month, I look forward to seeing you on campus for our school's outdoor concert highlighting each of the grade levels' musical abilities. It should be a nice evening to enjoy community with the opportunity for a picnic dinner and concert under the stars.

Valley Academy is a truly unique and incredible place. From the outside, we might look like other schools, but inside we are truly special. I am proud of the work we do here and all the factors that make us who we are. Valley Academy is not just a school, it is a thriving community.

Happy February, and may your day be full of happiness and joy!

My best,

Mrs. Brooks, M. Ed., Principal

Valley Academy Receives National Recognition

Congratulations are once again owed to the Valley Academy family of parents, students, and staff. **We recently received national recognition from U.S. News for being a 2025 Arizona "Best Elementary School."** The U.S. News rankings show how well schools educate their students from all socioeconomic backgrounds with the goal of setting them up for success, based on state testing in Math and English Language Arts. At Reid Traditional Schools, we've always known our high academic and behavioral standards prepare students for a stellar future, but it's great to hear it from such a distinguished source as the U.S. News School Rankings. Your consistent, daily efforts have helped us achieve this high honor; keep up the great work!



Upcoming Events

Spirit Day February 7th — All students in grades PK-8 may celebrate their school spirit with wearing spirit day t-shirts.

Progress Reports February 12th — Students' work is assessed and reports are available on ParentVUE.

Early Release and Classroom Parties

February 14th — K-8 Valentine's Day parties will be held in the classrooms from 11:15 a.m.—12:15 p.m., and students in K-8 will dismiss at 12:15 p.m. Preschool dismisses at 11:30 a.m.

Parent Teacher Conferences February 14th — Conferences are scheduled upon request with your teacher.

No School February 17th — Presidents' Day

Spring Concert February 25th — Grades 1-8 perform.

School Board Meeting February 27th — 6:15 p.m., Reid Office (14841 N. Black Canyon Freeway) School Board meetings are open to the public, and parents are welcome to attend.

More Events Listed on Calendar Page

For more information, please visit our website at www.ValleyAcademy.com

National Junior Honor Society's December Toy Drive benefiting Arizona Department of Child Safety Foster Care kids

During the month of December, our Valley Academy National Junior Honor Society teamed up with Arizona Department of Child Safety to help foster care children 0-21 years old in need during the winter season. This local charity does some great work, and we love helping them out by collecting new unwrapped toys each year during our Toy Drive. The total number of toys collected was 337!

Of course, our students do this to help our community, but it doesn't hurt to be rewarded for good deeds as well! The winning classroom, Mrs. Keely's third grade class with a total of 48 toys donated, received a PIZZA PARTY!

Congratulations to our NJHS students for another successful year hosting a toy drive for the children and young adults in DSC care. Thank you for all your hard work to brighten the holidays for them.

NJHS members bring toys from our toy drive outside to load.



Students Akshara S., Valeria C.M., Naisha M., Ashrith M., Sai Anirudh M., Anabelle G., Neha D., and Sophia S. to the left and Caleb G. and Andrew S. to the right are helping to take toys outside to load.



Little Masters

Students from Valley Academy often share their trophies with us to display in the office. Students like Geethika K. and Ramannuza K. win in tournaments at Phoenix Chess Academy. Great job and very impressive.



SPELLING BEE!



Congratulations to all our Scripps' National School-Wide Spelling Bee students! All contestants did an

outstanding job spelling extremely difficult words and are wonderful spellers. A special congratulations to our winners: 3rd place, Isha R.; 2nd place, Lyra J.; and our 1st place winner, Vanshika K. Congratulations!



Now that it is cold and flu season, our school nurse would like to remind our families that your children need to be fever free for 24 hours before they can return to

school. Also, all medications must be checked in with the school nurse and given at the nurse's office. Students may not carry any medications on them or in their backpacks. Thank you for helping to keep students healthy.



Spirit Week Fun!



Mrs. Calderon, our Academic Compliance Coordinator, and Mrs. Kamat, our Academic Tutor, twinned and didn't even plan it!



For USA Day, students Arnav N., Ridvik C., Aadrik C., and Nishv N. dressed in their best RED, WHITE, and BLUE with the spirit to go with it!



Mrs. Schmidt, our Food Service Manager, and Mrs. Kunkalaguntla, our Food Service Asst., twinned and dressed the part! How fun!

Arizona Instruction - Students in Arizona Instruction's after school Jr. Cheer and Jr. Dance class performed for their families in what can only be called "Adorable" performances! These students did an amazing job! Way to go, everyone!



Travel Reduction Program

Valley Academy participates in the Travel Reduction Program, and one of the perks to using an alternative mode of transportation to work is being entered into a drawing each quarter. Our 2nd Quarter Travel Reduction Program winner is Mrs. Lander, our Technology teacher. We also held a New Alternative Mode User contest, and the winner is Mrs. Loveless, our Music teacher. Congratulations, Mrs. Lander and Mrs. Loveless! Thank you for your participation in helping to do our part in reducing pollution.



Getting ready to do your taxes?

If you are an Arizona taxpayer, you can choose to send some of your tax dollars directly to our school.

Wouldn't you like to support our school – for free???

If you're getting a tax refund, your school donation of \$400* will give you \$400 more in your refund check. Even better, if you **owe** taxes, your \$400* donation will reduce the check you write to the IRS by \$400. That's right – you get 100% of your money back!



[Click here](#) for more information.

*\$400 limit for joint filers, \$200 limit for individual filers

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

Yearbooks for Sale

Price: \$21.00 + tax (\$22.81)

Scan below or visit Treering.com

Passcode: 1016827231844556

Purchase by April 18th



If you have any questions, you may email Miss Uhlving at tuhlving@valleyacademy.com.



A Class Deserving of a Congratulations!

Mr. Bauer's ENTIRE 7th grade homeroom class all received Honor Roll 2nd quarter! Way to go!

January/ February SHINE Recipients

Congratulations to the following students: Vedashree T., Helena V., Atharv P., and Gautam A.M., from 4th grade. They were selected by their 4th grade teachers as their classes' "SHINE" recipients this month! SHINE stands for Successful, Hardworking, Individual, and Noble Example. I am so thankful to them for being shining examples for others to follow. This is a special award and I am so proud of them. Way to go, students!

Mrs. Breshears, M. Ed., Assistant Principal



Re-registration Information for 2025-2026



An Intent to Return Form has been sent to students in kindergarten through 7th grade. Please complete the form by Friday, February 14th to hold your child's spot for the 2025-2026 school year. If you are aware of a situation that means you will not be returning to Valley Academy, we appreciate knowing that in advance as well. If you have any questions please contact the front office. We hope to see each of you back next year!

Student Joy Sparked by Teacher Smiles

Research shows that students are more likely to smile after a teacher smiles. A 2024 study found that facial expressions of students' joy typically occurred within three seconds after their teachers. In 58 percent of teacher-student interactions, teachers were the first to express joy and students shortly after with the same joyous smiles. So SMILE ON, teachers—it's infectious!



Valley Gram Sale!

What: Valentine's Day candy or snack with a special message written by you!

When: Sold Feb. 6th – Feb. 13th

***They are delivered to that special someone at the Valentine's Day party on February 14th by a Student Council Member.**

Where: Students can buy two ways: (1): Sold on our campus in front of the flag pole at 7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. or (2) from your teacher, or from Mrs. Simon, Mrs. Lander, Mrs. Ferris, Mrs. Metzka, or Mrs. Francisco.

Cost: \$1.00 - The cost will include a 2x4 label with a message affixed to the treat.



AZ State Civics Exam



The 8th graders took the AZ State Civics Exam and yet again for 2 years in a row, received the highest average that Valley Academy has ever had! Their average as a class was a 98% with 18 of them receiving a 100% and another 19 of them receiving a 99% or a 98%! The group pictured received a 100% on both the AZ State Civics Exam and their Government Unit Exam, and this was also the largest group who has ever received this honor – 16 of them (it was hard to fit them in the picture)! It is safe to say that this group is just outstanding! Great job everyone!

Pictured: Andrew S., Jadon R., Rakshan U., Ryaan M., Shanthanu P., Luka K., Dominic B., Charlotte Z., Oviya M.S., Sameeksha G.S., Snigdha N., Valeria C.M., Brooke B., Lyra J., Avika G., Shriyaa S.

EARLY RELEASE Friday, February 14th.

School dismisses at 12:15 p.m. for K-8 grades.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday, February 14th upon request only.



NO SCHOOL on Monday, February 17th

in observance of Presidents' Day.

The Fun Run results are in, and the classes that can participate in Crazy Sock day on Friday, February 7th are: Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Francisco, Mrs. Freeland, Mrs. Keely, Ms. Ray, Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Freeman, Mrs. Simon, Miss Ekdahl, Mrs. Matangi, Ms. Rohr AND the winner of the teacher gift card is Mrs. Francisco! The top three classes that won a Pizza party were Mrs. Johnson (1st place), Mrs. Keely (2nd place) and Mrs. Freeman (3rd place). Congratulations to all of our winners, and thank you for raising funds for our school!

Classroom Valentine's Day Party Friday, February 14, 2025

All K-8 classes will participate in Valentine's Day parties from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Friday, February 14th. All students in K-8 will dismiss at 12:15 p.m.



Field Trips This Month

6th Grade, Friday, February 7th
5th Grade, Thursday, February 13th
1st Grade, Thursday, February 20th
4th Grade, Friday, February 21st
Kindergarten, Friday, February 28th



VALLEY ACADEMY PRESENTS:
 "SPRING INTO MUSIC"

A VOCAL CONCERT BY 1ST-8TH GRADES

How does an evening under the stars, listening to beautiful music and enjoying some family time, sound? Well, you will have that opportunity on Tuesday evening, February 25. Your children have been working for many months to sing for you, and I am so excited at the prospect of you getting to hear them!

When: Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Where: Valley Academy Basketball Court

Time: 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. (gates will open at 5:30 p.m.)

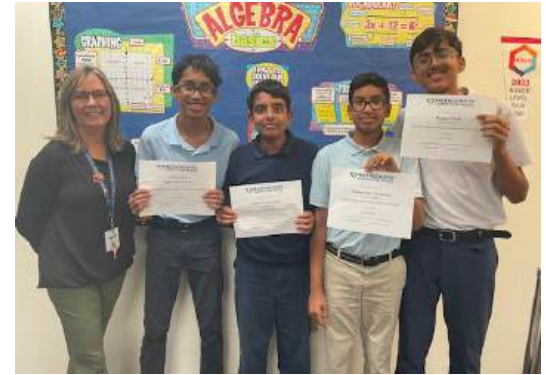
Cost: \$0 (chips, granola bars, soda and water will be available for purchase)

Food trucks are also a possibility

Projected Weather: Sunny with a high of 72 degrees and a low of 57 degrees

Congratulations, Math Club
Competition Participants

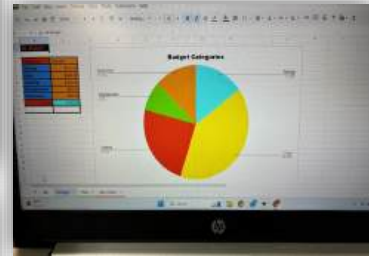
Math Club is very exciting for our students, and they look forward to the Math Competition each year. Congratulations to Mrs. Copper and Valley Academy's 12 finalists from our school competition: Nadhira D., Hansha M., Nick U., Viraj J., Nihal G., Siddhant S., Aviral G., Jaikarthick M.V., Yogith S., Sreevenkat S., and Ryaan M. Great job, everyone!



Above is Mrs. Copper with the winning team: Yogith S., Jaikarthick V., Sreevenkat S., and Ryaan M. Congratulations!

















Technology News—Our 8th grade students are working on a TechnoBudget. Students learned about personal finance by building a budget and creating a spending plan with \$750. They went shopping and were required to stay within their budget category amounts—one of which was Savings. Students used the features of Google Sheets to organize their data. We integrated business, language arts, math, and visual arts. Photos below are of Oviya M.S., Yogith S., Bronsen F., Lyra J., Saanvi U. and Danica B.,



Save the Date
 for
 Valley Academy's
 Spring Festival
 on Saturday, March 1st
 from 11 a.m.—4 p.m.
 Details coming soon!



February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31 	1
2	3 	4	5 	6  Football Game Home vs. Freedom Academy 4:00 p.m.	7 Spirit Day  6th Grade Field Trip	8
9	10	11 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m. Caught Being Good	12 Progress Reports  Football Game Away vs. South Valley Prep & Arts *Skyline Prep Field 4:00 p.m.	13  5th Grade Field Trip  Football Game Home vs. Verde Christian Academy 4:30 p.m.	14  Classroom Parties 11:15-12:15 Early Release 12:15 Dismissal No Specials Parent Teacher Conferences	15
16	17 Presidents' Day No School	18  Football Game Home vs. Imagine Bell Canyon 4:00 p.m.	19	20  1st Grade Field Trip	21  4th Grade Field Trip	22
23	24	25  Spring Concert 1-3; 5:15 p.m. 4-8; 7:00 p.m.	26	27 Board Of Directors Meeting 6:00 p.m.	28  Kindergarten Field Trip	Spring Festival 11-4 p.m.