From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Brooks, M. Ed., Principal



Who would have thought we would be starting the 2020-2021 school year without seeing students walk through our doors, missing the back to school pictures, not receiving the back to school hugs and hearing about the summer adventures of our students? COVID-19 has changed the landscape of education at Valley as we know it.

Here on campus we have spent countless hours planning, meeting, and replanning for what school would look like this fall. The first day of school was like no other, and this year continues to be an ever-changing plan as we continue to evaluate our

online teaching methods and help our students and their families through this new adventure. Our entire staff is working harder than ever to provide our students the top notch education we all expect from Valley Academy. As an administrator of over 13 years, I could not be prouder of the hard work that is taking place here and the caring efforts of my team to make this new adventure the best experience it can be.

As a school, we are continuing to monitor the health benchmarks for schools and continue to have conversations with the staff about how we can best provide a seamless education to our students, both remotely and through our hybrid model in Phase Two. We want you to know that our hearts are in everything we do and will continue to be; not only in the education we provide, but also in the health and safety of our students and staff.

As we look to the future, I wish you all good health and many blessings. Together as a Valley Academy community, we can achieve great things even in

these challenging times.

Mrs. Brooks, M. Ed., Principal

Upcoming Events

Spirit Day Friday, September 4th. Beginning in September, all students may participate in Spirit Day each Friday during Phase Three by wearing their Spirit Day shirt.

No School Monday, September 7th is Labor Day Progress Reports Wednesday, September 16th. Parent Portal will have grades available to view.

Early Release/Staff Development Friday, September 20th. All students K-8 dismiss at 12:00 p.m. Preschool dismisses at 12:30 p.m. Teachers will participate in a Staff Development in-service.

More Information Listed on Last Page

Thank you, Mrs. Brooks, Teachers, and Staff!

Over the summer, our Principal, Mrs. Brooks, along with teachers and staff, together distributed student belongings. Teachers went out to say "Hello" to their students and students said, "Thank You" to us! Although last school year was cut short, we deeply felt the appreciation shown by our Valley families, and we immensely missed our students.



Meet the Staff at Valley Academy!

Administration & Office

Ms. Mitchell, M.Ed.-CEO Mrs. Brooks, M.Ed.- Principal Mrs. Browne, M.Ed.- Asst. Principal

Mrs. Lowery - Secretary Ms. Uhlving - Office Manager Mrs. Allen, RN-Health Office Mrs. Grimm - Receptionist

Support Staff

Mr. Carlson - Custodian Mrs. Munoz - Custodian

Mrs. Schmidt - Food Service Mgr. Mrs. Wilkins -Food Service Asst.

Preschool

Mrs. White Mrs. McCartney

Kindergarten

Mrs. Johnson Miss Olson Mrs. Pearson Mrs. Sutaris

First Grade

Mrs. Bedolla Ms. Jubb Ms. Schambach Mrs. Winemiller

Second Grade

Mrs. Calderon Mrs. Carpenter Miss Dessenberger Mrs. Freeland

Third Grade

Mrs. Ford Miss Fox Mrs. Keely Mrs. Nuttall

Fourth Grade

Mr. Beckham Miss Gross Mrs. Pace Ms. Ray

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Breshears Mrs. Freeman Mrs. Lewandowsky

Sixth Grade

Mrs. Copper Mrs. Garcia Mr. Smith

7th & 8th Grade

Ms. Brasher Miss Ekdahl Mrs. Licano Mrs. Rohr Mrs. Simon

Special Area Teachers

Mr.s. Lander - Technology Mrs. Loveless - World Languages Coach Mims - P.E. Mrs. Watkins - Art Miss Webb - Library Mrs. Wright - Music Mrs. Starayeva - Resource Mrs. Mendoza - Speech

Mrs. Ekdahl - Academic Tutor

Covote Club Aides

Mrs. Wilkins, Coordinator Mrs. Vazquez, Coordinator Miss Lavra Mrs. Mistry

Miss Ray Mrs. Saunders Mr. Wagner

Classroom Aides

Mrs. Baczynski Miss Breshears Mrs. Cummings Mrs. Dever Mrs. Ferris Mrs. George Mrs. Kamat Mrs. Robinson Mrs. Vazquez Mrs. Webner Mrs. Zahariades



Welcoming Familiar Faces to Our Staff!

We are welcoming some familiar new faces to our staff this year! We are proud to introduce you to Miss Amanda Ekdahl and Miss Katie Webb, who are both former students of ours. Miss Ekdahl is teaching 7/8 Writing while Miss Webb is our new Librarian. Also a familiar face here is Mrs. Terri Lander who is now teaching Technology. She not only substitute taught here for many years but is a longtime parent. Miss Fox and Miss Olson, though new, are also familiar faces, as Miss Fox student taught here last year and Miss Olson substitute taught here last year. Welcome, everyone, officially to our Valley Family!



Our bulletin board is welcoming our wonderful teachers back to campus. They have been working hard to prepare their curriculum for remote learning while in Phase Three, and are here teaching from their classrooms. They are amazing teachers who are here to provide their students with the same rigorous curriculum they have always taught. Welcome Back!



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:

AZ HB2732-stipulates that 3rd grade students who obtain a score on the reading portion of the AzMERIT test that demonstrates the pupil is reading far below the third grade level may not be promoted from the third grade.

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.

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

Mr. Hayo's Retirement Quilt

While some teachers decorate their classroom with posters, Mr. Hayo chose to decorate his classroom with only 8th grade shirts. Mrs. Simon said in a letter written to Mr. Hayo, "You paid homage to every 8th grader and their time spent at Valley. The kids mean so much to you that if any of us were to travel to your house on a weekend, chances are we would see you wearing one of these 8th grade shirts on your own time. Mr. Hayo even wrote a "Hail to the T-Shirt" chant that the 8th graders sing on the last day of school to commemorate their 9 years at Valley and pay respect to the hanging of their shirt on Mr. Hayo's wall. These shirts are not only the kids' legacy, they are your lega-

cy." Mr. Hayo's quilt is made with 20 eighth grade shirts representing 20 years that Mr. Hayo dedicated to Valley Academy, though he has been here longer than the shirts have been around. It was written that, "this blanket shows 20 years of memories of students that you have encouraged, inspired, loved, and helped become better people. You have no idea how much influence you have had for all of the 955 8th graders on those T-shirts. And I know that is not a reflection of every child you have taught—that is a number I can not even fathom, since you have been teaching for 53 years. That is a huge accomplishment, one I think all of us wish we could achieve before we retire. 53 years of teaching is no small feat." Congratulation on your retirement, Mr. Hayo, we certainly will miss you. Thank you for teaching, we were lucky to have you.



NEWS & UPDATES



While Teachers and Staff were making preparations for a new way of teaching, they received a surprise visit from Kona Ice. It was a welcomed break for a free icy treat. Thanks,

Kona Ice! Other breaks from a virtual classroom have included three-minute dance parties during the first week of school. Our teachers took their minds to the dance floor and celebrated each day with a little dance!







NEWS & UPDATES

While our teachers have been hard at work preparing for remote learning...

Our students were preparing their desks at home, getting their uniforms ready to wear, and making their first day of school special in unique ways.























September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Spirit Day	5
DIBELS Testing	7 No School Labor Day	VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m. Caught Being Good	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	Preschool Pictures	Early Release AM Specials 12:15 Dismissal Staff Development	19
Scholastic Book Fair	21	22	23	Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. Reid Offices	25	26
27	28	29	30			