



VALLEY
ACADEMY



October 2022

Coyote News

From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Brooks, M. Ed. Principal



Parent Teacher Conferences are this month. This is a great opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with your child's teacher. Children do better in school when their parents are involved in their education. Conferences are one way to get involved. We encourage you to schedule an in-person conference through the provided [Sign-Up Genius link](#). So, make parent/teacher conferences a priority and take the following steps to ensure you and your child get the most out of them.

Before the conference:

- Talk with your child: Find out his or her favorite subjects or activities, and ask if there are any concerns he or she would like you to discuss with the teacher.
- Review assignments: Are there some areas where your child really shines and others that might need a little extra work? Discuss both strengths and weaknesses with the teacher.
- Check whether your child should attend: In most cases, the conferences are strictly between the parents and the teachers, so you'll probably need to make childcare arrangements.

The day of the conference:

- Be on time: The conference schedule is tight and teachers need all parents to be on time. If something comes up, notify the teacher as soon as possible. Try to reschedule, even if it has to be a telephone conference.
- Remember that conferences are brief: A typical parent/teacher conference lasts 15-20 minutes. If you need additional time, ask for a follow-up session.
- Keep an open mind: Some parents get angry when teachers discuss trouble spots. Remember these conferences are meant to help you understand your child's school performance. Working together with the teacher will help your child succeed.

Afterward:

- Tell your child: After the conference, meet with your child and discuss the teacher's comments. Remember to praise all the things your child is doing well and pass along the teacher's compliments. If you need to, talk about areas that you and the teacher will be working on to help your child improve.
- Follow up: In the days that follow, let your child's teacher know that you are following through on what was discussed, and that you'd like to hear how things are progressing in the classroom.

Remember that at Valley Academy, parental involvement is welcomed and encouraged through the year. Feel free to schedule a phone or in-person conference any time you think there is a need.

Mrs. Victoria Brooks, M.Ed.

Principal

Upcoming Events

Spirit Day Friday, October 7th. All students may participate in Spirit Day the first Friday of each month by wearing their Spirit Day shirt. For grades K-8, ice cream is available at lunch for purchase.

No School Monday, October 10th. No school in honor of Columbus Day.

Report Cards Wednesday, October 12th. Students' work is assessed and grades are also available online to view using ParentVUE.

Early Release/Parent Teacher Conferences Thursday and Friday, October 13th—14th. Preschool dismisses at 11:30 a.m. and all students K-8 dismiss at 12:15 p.m. for parent/teacher conferences.

More Information Listed on Last Page

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

In commemoration of September 11th, Valley Academy held a special morning assembly in recognition of those members of our community who are veterans in the military or first responders either in the Police or Fire Department. We recognized them for their dedication to serving our community and country.



From left to right: Specialist 4 John Pelaccio, Lance Corporal James Whitehead II, Specialist Glenn Hoover, Operations Specialist Second Class Chris Berlese, Sergeant 1st Class Robbie Salman, Firefighter/Paramedic Drew Freeman

We appreciate their dedication in serving on the front lines either by providing care or protecting our community. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your service.



Pictured below is Brooklyn B. & Chloe B.



Meet the staff at Valley Academy who are ALUMNI!



"Working for Valley was an easy choice to make. Regardless of whether you are a teacher, student, or parent, you are welcomed and treated as family. The administration and teachers at this school go above and beyond to ensure the best possible education for all students. I believe strongly in the traditional education Valley offers and I could not see myself working anywhere else. " - **Miss Webb, Librarian**



"I chose to come back and work at Valley because of the quality of education offered. Valley Academy provided me with a strong educational foundation that allowed me to go further in my educational pursuits. I want to be able to continue that legacy as a teacher at this school." - **Mr. Beckham, 4th Grade teacher**

Providing a Traditional Foundation for the Future

"I wanted to work at Valley because of the family feeling you get when you are here. Valley Academy also does an amazing job at making each student feel welcomed and appreciated! Personally, I love the traditional style of teaching and believe it is important to use in schools. Becoming a teacher here has been a real "full circle moment" for me and I feel so happy being a part of the Valley Academy community." - **Miss Breshears, Preschool teacher**



Meet the staff at Valley Academy who are ALUMNI!



"Valley Academy has played a huge role in my life, so the fact that I have ended up working here is an amazing "full circle moment." I attended this school from kindergarten to 8th grade, meaning I spent 9 years of my childhood growing and learning here. I still remember in kindergarten being so excited to have Mrs. Robinson pull my wiggly teeth out, and crazy enough, now she is a co-worker of mine!

The opportunity to work as a kindergarten aide here arose suddenly and pretty last minute, but worked out wonderfully. Not only do

I have trust in this school, but I also felt like it was meant for me to work in this position.

Working in the kindergarten classroom has been a very new experience for me, and yet so much fun. Creating relationships with the kids makes me love what I'm doing. I have confidence in these children's futures because I know Valley Academy has helped shape mine." - **Miss Saunders, Kindergarten Aide**
 Pictured from left to right with Miss Saunders is Ayini T., Samyra K., and Minahil F.



"I chose to work at Valley Academy because it gives me consistent hours. That's something that is hard to find as a high schooler. It has a great community as well. It is fun to see former teachers and be able to work with former classmates." - **Miss Ford, Coyote Club Aide**



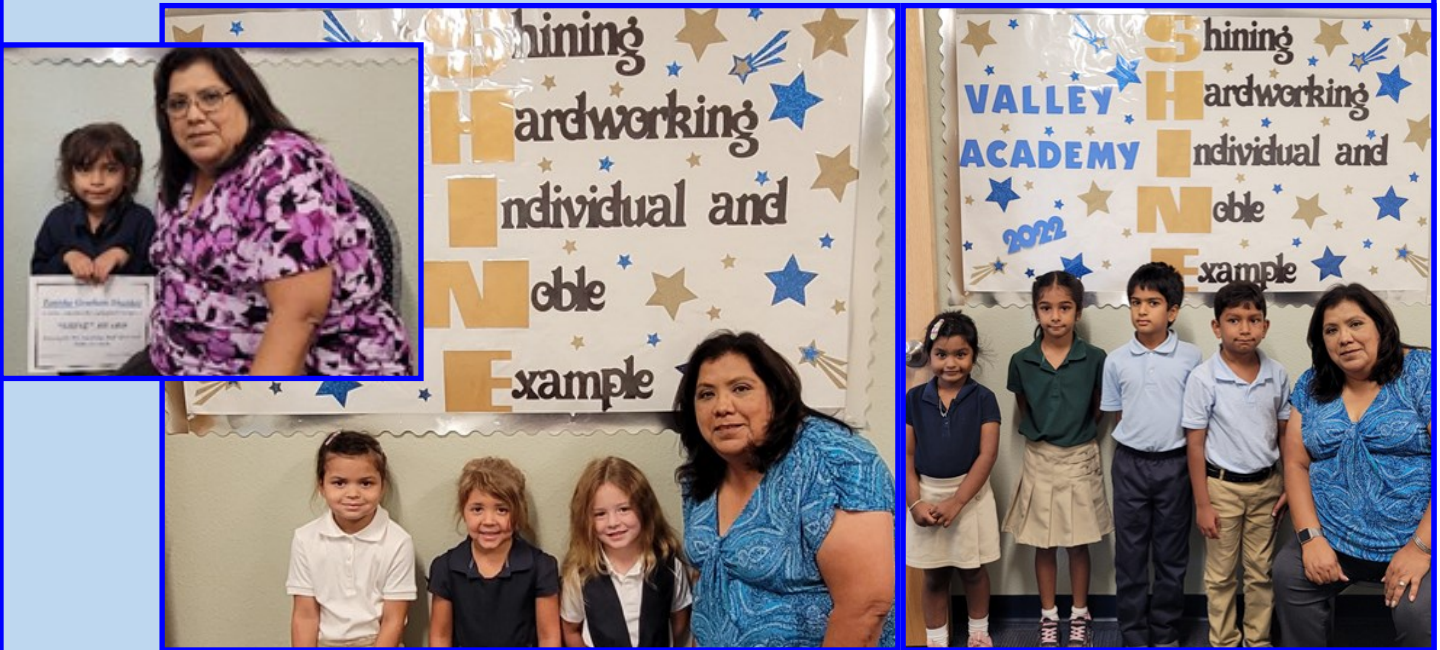
"When I was a Valley Academy student, I understood the importance of a school that offered a solid academic education. I had seen the difference between Valley's standards and other schools' standards first hand. As an adult attending college, I realized that I still valued the traditional, academic standards that Valley offered and that I wanted to teach here. I was fortunate to receive

a job offer from Valley, and I happily began my teaching career here in 2006." - **Miss Gross, 6th Grade teacher**

"I feel incredibly lucky to be able to teach what I do, and as someone who went through the curriculum, I knew how I wanted to approach Valley's traditional style of education to a generation of students who have different experiences than I did. Valley has a unique approach to middle school education in that we have a dedicated writing class; and the opportunity to be able to share my skillset, experience, and passion for writing is unique to this institution. At one point I was inspired by my teachers in this very building to think critically, and I can only hope I give some of the same inspiration to my students now."

- **Miss Ekdahl, 7/8 Writing teacher**

September & October SHINE Recipients



Congratulations to the following students: Tanisha G.S., Cora T., Sloane R., and Stevie M., from kindergarten and Aeisha P., Nithila N., Sathvik L. N., and Samadh S. from 1st grade. They were selected by their kindergarten and 1st 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
Valley Academy

Community Helpers Visit Kindergarten! In September, kindergarten students were visited by our friendly neighborhood community helpers to talk about their jobs and how they help kids.



Captain Johnson with the Phoenix Fire Department, Officer Gonzalez with the Mesa Police Department, and Nurse Faucett were very helpful in teaching students about safety and how kids can be community helpers too! Sadly, we didn't get a good picture of Nurse Faucett.

OUR FEATURED GRADE LEVEL



Like a normal team, but much cooler.

In sixth grade, the students have all adjusted to the sixth grade routines and they are doing great!! The home room teachers in sixth grade are Mrs. Copper, who also teaches math, Mr. Smith, who also teaches science, and Miss Gross - a former Valley Academy student, - who also teaches social studies. We are all happy to be working with a great group of students this year and looking forward to some fun learning activities and meaningful experiences as the year progresses!



In Art class, students work on their Rousseau inspired rain forest scene components. Pictured is Julia M. and Sara M.

Sixth grade students are creating sketches inspired by their prehistoric art unit. Pictured to the right is Bronson F.



Reminder:
Early Release Day!

**Thursday, October 13th &
Friday, October 14th**

Preschool dismisses at 11:30 a.m.

K-8 dismisses at 12:15 p.m.



Reminder!

No School on October 10th

Girls' Volleyball Wraps Up Its Season

Thank you to Coach Olson, Coach Matangi, and our girls' volleyball team for a fun and exciting season of volleyball. They played with so much heart, and we couldn't be prouder of these girls.



A word from the Writing Committee

In the November newsletter, we would like to feature a writing piece from a 6th grade student. If your 6th grader would like to submit a writing piece, please have him/her turn it in to Mrs. Freeland by October 11th. She and Miss Ekdahl will look over the submissions and chose one for the November newsletter. Submissions not accepted will still earn an honorable mention certificate.

Below are the parameters for the writing submissions:

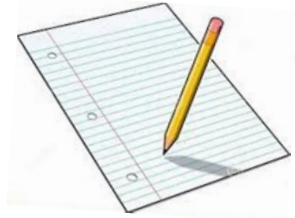
The writing piece must be school appropriate.

Poems should be 50 or fewer words.

Prose should be 75 or fewer words.

The piece must be edited for spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors.

No pictures to accompany the writing.



Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are October 13th & 14th; this will also coincide with our Early Release Days. Our students dismiss both days at 12:15 p.m. in order to accommodate our conferences. Preschool classes dismiss at 11:30 a.m.

Please visit our school website, <http://www.ValleyAcademy.com> to set an appointment for your conference by using the Sign-Up Genius button on the homepage. From there, select your child's teacher and a conference date and time that is most convenient for you.

All parents with children in grades K-6 are required to attend a conference. For parents with children in grades 7 and 8, conferences are on an "invitation only" basis or by parent request.



Arizona Instruction

Arizona Instruction classes allow students to be creative in all areas. Pictured is Addison M. and Charlotte

B. from the Art class. Way to go! Your picture is awesome!

Student Council Elections

Student Council Officers were just elected. The campaigns were great, the speeches were amazing, and we have a great group this year. Mrs. Simon, Mrs. Ferris, and Mrs. Lander are looking forward to working with this incredible group of talented and hard working students who have some great ideas for the school!

Here are this year's Valley Academy Student Council Officers:

President: Chloe B. (8th Grade)

Vice President: Brooklyn B. (8th Grade)

Treasurer: Dominic B. (6th Grade)

Secretary: Michelle B. (7th grade)

Historian: Sameeksha GS. (6th Grade)



October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Spirit Day End of 1st Quarter	8
9	10 Columbus Day No School	11 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m. Caught Being Good	12 Report Cards Sent Home	13 Early Release 12:15 Dismissal Parent/ Teacher Conferences	14 Early Release 12:15 Dismissal Parent/ Teacher Conferences	15
16	17 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	18 Honor Roll Ice Cream	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Board Meeting 6:15 p.m. Reid Offices	28	29