



VALLEY
ACADEMY



Coyote News

From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Brooks, M. Ed. Principal



Welcome Back to school!

It is always exciting to begin a new school year. I appreciate that I have such a fantastic staff and wonderful community of parents and children to work with. It is with great joy that I look forward to reconnecting with everyone on campus for another fabulous school year.

Coming soon we will be hosting a book fair and family fun night. I hope to see you here on September 29th for a night to reconnect with each other on campus.

As always, our goal at Valley is to ensure that our campus is safe and running efficiently. 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.

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!

Be cautious when entering the campus. Children are present and therefore you must drive at a slow speed using great caution and care.

Also, I am happy to announce that the parent identification badges have been created and distributed. Wearing a parent badge is required while you are on campus. If you still need a badge, you may email Miss Webb in the library to set up a time with her to take your picture. She will happily assist you. 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.

Mrs. Victoria Brooks, M.Ed.

Principal

Upcoming Events

Spirit Day Friday, September 2nd. Beginning in September, all students may participate in Spirit Day the first Friday of each month by wearing their Spirit Day shirt.

No School Monday, September 5th is Labor Day.

Progress Reports Wednesday, September 7th. Parent Portal will have grades available to view.

Early Release/Staff Development Friday, September 16th. 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

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. Wilkins -Food Service Asst.

Preschool

Miss Breshears
Mrs. M. Freeman

Kindergarten

Mrs. Johnson
Miss Olson
Mrs. Pearson
Mrs. Sutaris

First Grade

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

Second Grade

Mrs. Carpenter
Mrs. Freeland
Miss LaMonica
Mrs. Rook

Third Grade

Miss Boothman
Mrs. Ford
Mrs. Gonzalez
Mrs. Keely

Fourth Grade

Mr. Beckham
Miss Hilgendorf
Mrs. Pace
Ms. Ray

Fifth Grade

Miss Block
Mrs. Freeman
Mrs. Lewandowsky

Sixth Grade

Mrs. Copper
Miss Gross
Mr. Smith

7th & 8th Grade

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

Special Area Teachers

Mrs. Ferris - World Languages
Mrs. Lander - Technology
Mrs. Loveless - Music
Coach Mims - P.E.
Mrs. Watkins - Art
Miss Webb - Library
Mrs. Godina - Resource
Mrs. Mendoza - Speech
Mrs. Ekdahl - Academic
Compliance Coordinator
Mrs. Kamat - Academic Tutor

Coyote Club Aides

Mrs. Murphy - Coordinator
Miss Ford
Miss Hernanskey
Mr. Keely
Mr. McGovern
Mrs. Patel
Mrs. Weston

Classroom Aides

Miss Burns
Mrs. Cummings
Mrs. Dever
Miss Gourage
Mrs. Huppert
Ms. Hynes
Ms. Ibanez
Mrs. Karumuri
Miss Keely
Mrs. Robinson
Miss Saunders
Miss Uhlving
Mrs. Whitehead



Welcoming New and Familiar Faces to Our Staff!



Hello, I am Miss Breshears, and this is my first year teaching at Valley Academy. It is also my first year of being a teacher! I am a Valley Academy Alum. I attended from 2nd -8th grades and enjoyed being at this school!

Before I became a teacher, I was an aide for two years in a Preschool classroom here at Valley, and last year I was a Kindergarten Aide. Valley Academy is very close to my heart; therefore, I feel very honored to be able to teach here!

My name is Mrs. M. Freeman, and I am so excited to be teaching preschool at Valley! This is my second year teaching. I taught kindergarten last year in the Peoria district and feel very blessed that this position opened up at Valley. I am very passionate about working with children and becoming someone they can always rely on. Creating special relationships with my students is what keeps me going; I love seeing their smiling



faces every day! In my free time, my husband and I love taking our two goldendoodles to the park, going golfing, and reading. I'm looking forward to an awesome year!



Welcoming New and Familiar Faces to Our Staff!

Hello. I'm so excited to be here to teach at Valley Academy! My name is Miss LaMonica, and I was born in Scottsdale, Arizona, but I have lived in Staten Island, New York, for most of my life. I moved to Phoenix to start teaching here at Valley Academy! Previously, I have worked as a Direct



Support Professional where I assisted an individual with special needs and helped them achieve specific life goals. This rewarding and challenging job inspired me to pursue teaching and to make a difference in children's lives. I also love creative writing/

screenwriting and have been involved in musical theatre for several years.

Hello! My name is Mrs. Rook, and I am so excited to be teaching at Valley Academy! I spent most of my life in Austin, Texas, but I have lived lots of fun places since then. For college, I attended Texas A&M University where I studied psychology. I have always loved working with kids, but I discovered that I wanted to be a teacher after spending a summer helping to run youth sports camps at my local YMCA. I have been married for almost four years and I have two German Shepherd dogs. Growing up, I was heavily involved in choir, and I played soccer for my school and club teams. In my free time, I enjoy visiting national parks, hiking, kayaking, baking, and reading. If you see me at Valley Academy, please say hello! I would love to meet you!



My name is Miss Block, and I am so blessed to have had the opportunity as a substitute teacher last year to get to know students and teachers in all grades. Fifth grade feels like the perfect spot for me to now have a classroom all my own. My desire to teach began as I studied philosophy in college and started working with the middle schoolers at my church. I have a dream to one day teach philosophy classes at the college level, and after loving my time with the students, I thought teaching in a K-8 setting was a perfect start for me. Currently I get to volunteer as a youth leader at Illuminate Community Church with the sophomore girls, acting as a mentor, listening ear, or just providing support and encouragement. I spend any other free time I have with family, friends, my pets (I love all animals!), reading, making art, or hiking. I cannot wait for an amazing year of getting to know everyone at this school better.



My name is Mrs. Matangi, and I am the new 7th and 8th grade Science teacher. I grew up in southern California and earned my degree in the Bay area. I enjoy learning about anything, but have a special interest in math, science, and music. I taught private violin lessons throughout high school and college and have played in orchestras since I was ten. Life Science captured my attention in middle school, and I have been infatuated with every branch of science since. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy reading books, cleaning my house, and spending time with my husband. I'm excited to be here and meet you all!

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.

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

Campus Safety

As always, our goal at Valley is to ensure that our campus is safe and running efficiently. To help in this, everyone must follow the school's safety practices including our preferred drop off and pick up procedures. 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.

Students should not be dropped off in the front lot.

If you need to park on campus for any reason, do not park in the red zone. Park only in a designated parking spot.

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 continue to drive unless children are in the crosswalk.

Be cautious when entering the campus. Children are present and therefore you must drive at a slow speed using great caution and care.

We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome your children back to campus for our 2022-2023 school year. We are so excited to have them here, and we look forward to an awesome year!

OUR FEATURED GRADE LEVEL

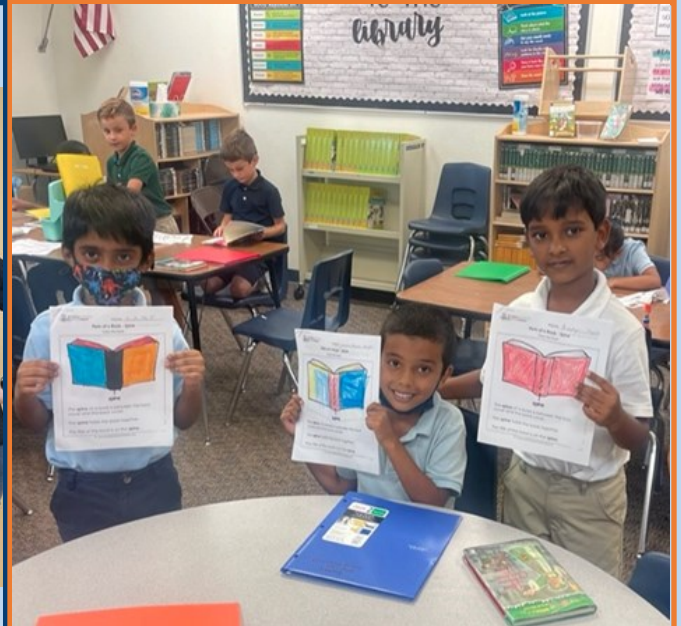


MIDDLE SCHOOL IS A WALK IN THE PARK

Our middle school team is excited for the year and to get to know some new and familiar faces. In middle school, students have one Homeroom teacher, and they visit all five teachers for their classes each day. Like their shirts say, "a walk in the park." From left to right; Mr. Bauer, Literature; Mrs. Matangi, Science; Miss Ekdahl, Writing; Ms. Rohr, Math; and Mrs. Simon, History

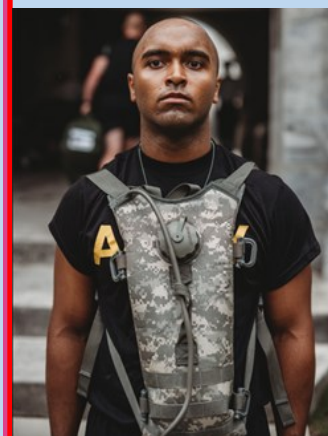


Mrs. Francisco, one of our first grade teachers, welcomed her baby girl on July 3, 2022. Meet baby Penelope, our newest staff baby! Mrs. Francisco will be back soon to join her class. She is very excited to meet her students and get to know them better.



In Library class, our 2nd grade students were learning all about different parts of a book! Starting in kindergarten, students at Valley Academy have one book report a month to do. Miss Webb, our Librarian is a wonderful source for our students. She helps them look for a suitable book from our Recommended Reading List when she's needed and teaches a love for reading! Pictured is Goutham R., Srihith V., and Anay J.

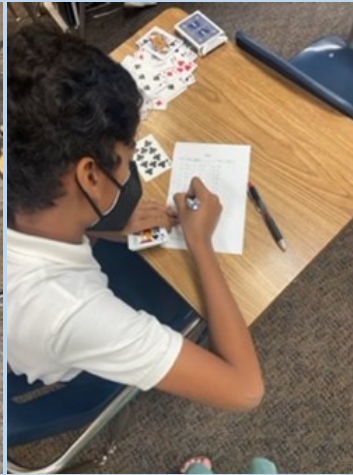
On June 29, 2022, one of our former students, Brandon N., reported to West Point to begin his 47-month journey. His parents, Mr.



Neugebauer and Dr. Waterman, sent us this update along with a warm "Thanks again for helping him get on this path." We love to see updates of our alumni students. We wish Brandon well in his journey and give him our many thanks for his

7th Grade Having Fun with Math!

7th grade students are pictured while playing war with adding and subtracting integers. Red cards are negative and black cards are positives. Half of the time, they are playing the greatest sum wins and the other half of the time, the greatest difference wins. To play, they have to remember rules for adding and subtracting integers and also comparing integers.



+ Same - + Signs -	Different + Signs -
1. Add the absolute values of the numbers.	1. Subtract the absolute values of the numbers.
2. Keep the common sign.	2. Take the sign of the greater absolute value.
$-3 + (-5) = -8$	$3 + (-5) = -2$
$3 + 5 = 8$	$-3 + 5 = 2$



Labor Day is Monday, September 5th. There is no school. Enjoy your long weekend and be safe.



Students in Preschool dismiss at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, September 16th, 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.

Preschool Picture Day

All students in preschool will be photographed on Thursday, September 8, 2022. Students must wear their uniform and will be photographed in the morning. Picture packets have already been sent home, and if you would like to purchase a picture packet, please return it to your child's teacher.

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, or if you never received your ID from Meet the Teacher day, please contact Miss Webb to set up an appointment at KWebb@ValleyAcademy.com. There is no charge for retakes.

Picture Day for K-8 Grades Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Picture packets will go home soon. All students are photographed and need to be in uniforms.

Enchanting Eyes

By: Sanjitha K.

There is something about the way you put your eyes on me. Your eyes, they are like two dark, bottomless trenches. They cast an enchanting spell. I can't look away, no matter what. If I spent another moment gazing upon them. I fear I might get lost, wandering hopelessly in those endless voids. I must be watchful and vigilant in order not to roam into the trench to which there is no way out. I am terrified of falling in. Falling in love, that is. Because of you I know how it feels to express love and affection. However the grave price we pay for this sentiment is the misery and grief that come with heartbreak. It's excruciating to know you will never reciprocate my feelings. The hypnotic trance your gaze has placed me under, it's too much agony to bear.

The above writing piece was written by an 8th grade student. The Writing Committee would like to feature original student work as part of the Valley Academy monthly newsletter. Each month a grade level will be featured in descending order. In October, we would like to feature a writing piece from an 7th grade student. If your 7th grader would like to submit a writing piece, please have him/her turn it in to Mrs. Freeland by September 8th. She and Miss Ekdahl will look over the submissions and choose one for the October 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.

In honor of September 11th, we will be holding 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. If you are a veteran, police officer, or a firefighter, we would like to recognize you for your dedication to serving our community and country.

We invite you to please submit your name to Mrs. Lowery at VLowery@ValleyAcademy.com or at 623-516-7747 ext. 115 by Wednesday, September 7th. We would like to present you with a small token of our appreciation at the assembly on Monday, September 12th at 8:15 a.m.

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

With grateful hearts,

Mrs. Victoria Brooks, M.Ed.
Principal



September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Spirit Day	3
4	5 No School Labor Day	6	7 Progress Reports Available Online	8 Preschool Pictures Skate Night 5-7:30 p.m.	9	10
11	12 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	13 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m. Caught Being Good	14	15	16 Early Release AM Specials 12:15 Dismissal Staff Development	17
18	19	20	21	22 Board Meeting 6:15 p.m. Reid Offices	23	24
25 Scholastic Book Fair	26	27	28 Picture Day	29 Family Fun Night	30	