



VALLEY
ACADEMY



Coyote News

From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Brooks, M. Ed. Principal



Hello October! We happily welcome fall and cooler weather.

We are also excited to invite you to our upcoming mandatory Parent-Teacher Conferences. These meetings will be a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress, set goals for the next quarter, and continue working together to support their success. Be on the lookout for more information to schedule your conference soon.

Conferences are one way to get involved, because every time you attend a parent/teacher conference, you learn more about your child and strengthen the bond with your child's teacher. 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 not only welcomed but encouraged through the year. Feel free to schedule a phone or in-person conference any time you think there is a need.

My best,

Mrs. Victoria Brooks, M.Ed.
Principal

Upcoming Events

Spirit Day Friday, October 2nd. 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 or prepaid ticket.

Picture Retakes Wednesday, October 7th. Retakes offered to KG-8th grade absent students, new students, or those bringing back an original picture package to exchange for a retake picture.

End of 1st Quarter Friday, October 9th.

No School Monday, October 12th. No school in honor of Columbus Day.

Report Cards Wednesday, October 14th. Students' work is assessed and report cards will be sent home.

Early Release/Parent Teacher Conferences Thursday and Friday, October 22nd—23rd. 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

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."

- Mrs. Metza, 2nd Grade teacher



"When starting my journey as a teacher, I reflected on the educational values and philosophy that Valley instilled in me, and I knew that I wanted to teach at a traditional school. When an opportunity arose, I decided to come home and continue my educational career here at Valley. For me, Valley provided a strong educational foundation that allowed me to go further in my educational pursuits. My hope is 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 spent 9 years growing up at Valley Academy as a student, and it gave me all the tools I needed to be successful in whatever field I chose. I feel very lucky to be able to give something back to this amazing community!"

- Miss Huth,
3rd Grade teacher



Meet the staff at Valley Academy who are ALUMNI!

"It is such a joy to come back to the elementary school that I attended. I started with Valley Academy back in 1995 when the doors first opened in first grade.

When looking where I wanted to teach after college, I knew it had to be with a Reid school.

The structure, family feeling, responsibility to community, and higher respect for education is what brought me back.

I felt just as safe expressing my thoughts and learning new skills in 1999 as I do today being a 3rd grade teacher.

It is a warm feeling to know that Valley was family to me then and has welcomed me back now."

**-Miss Magnusen,
3rd Grade teacher**



"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 firsthand. 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 loved my time here as a student. I had a great group of friends and teachers who really nurtured my love of learning. I remember going to high school and being so much more prepared than some of my classmates because of the strong foundation I received here at Valley Academy, particularly in the middle school. When it came time to get a job as a teacher, I knew I wanted to come back here to work, so when the opportunity came, I took it immediately! It is great to be back in a place that I have called home for so long."

**- Mrs. Meyer
7th Grade teacher**



Mrs. Meyer is pictured above with her teacher from sixth grade, Mrs. Keely, still one of our current teachers here on campus.

"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; 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



Five Years or More...Let's Dive into our Years of Experience

Working at Valley Academy is more than a daytime job. Working here means a spirit of friendship and family, a culture that brings us together with a sense of value in what we teach or do, relationships built and students we often see come back time and time again, parents we know when they are visiting on campus, and a love for this community that we call Valley Academy!

Let's dive into the years of experience that our staff has put in. If you notice, staff might be displaying a Pin of Service and below are what they are and what they represent. Named below are those employees with 5+ years of service.

We are proud to be here serving our students, whether we are administration, teachers, or support staff!

Our 5 or More Years of Service Pin

Miss Tracy Burns, Preschool – 5 years

Mrs. Gina Francisco, 1st Grade teacher – 5 years

Mrs. Kim Torta, 1st Grade teacher – 5 years

Miss Danielle Hilgendorf, 4th Grade teacher – 5 years

Mrs. Katie Metza, 2nd Grade teacher – 6 years

Miss Megan Keely, Preschool aide – 6 years

Mrs. Maricela Zahariades, 1st Grade teacher – 7 years

Mr. Daniel Beckham, 4th Grade teacher – 7 years

Miss Amanda Ekdahl, 7th/8th Grade Writing teacher – 7 years

Mrs. Cameron Ferris, World Languages – 7 years

Mrs. Emily Allen, Nurse – 7 years

Mrs. Maria Munoz, Maintenance – 7 years

Mrs. Julie Ford, Kindergarten teacher – 8 years

Mrs. Susan Sutaris, Kindergarten teacher – 8 years

Ms. Kim Rohr, 7th/8th Grade Math teacher – 8 years

Mrs. Jessica Dever, Librarian – 8 years

Mrs. Heather Loveless, Music – 9 years



Our 10 or More Years of Service Pin

Ms. Tami Loreto, 5th Grade teacher – 10 years

Mrs. Lisa Carpenter, 2nd Grade teacher – 11 years

Miss Haley Magnusen, 3rd Grade teacher – 12 years

Mrs. Angela Copper, 6th Grade teacher – 14 years

Mrs. Julie Meyer, 7th/8th Grade Literature teacher – 14 years

Mrs. Michelle Simon, 7th/8th Grade History teacher – 14 yrs.

Mrs. Vicki Lowery, Principal's Secretary – 14 years



Our 15 or More Years of Service Pin

Mrs. Andrea Johnson, Kindergarten teacher – 18 years

Ms. Stacy Schambach, 4th Grade teacher – 18 years

Mrs. Terri Lander, Technology – 18 years

Mr. Dell Mims, P.E. – 18 years

Mrs. Sheryl Watkins, Art – 18 years

Mrs. Valerie Freeman, 5th Grade teacher – 19 years

Mrs. Beth Lewandowsky, 5th Grade teacher – 19 years

Mrs. Janet Robinson, Kindergarten aide – 19 years

Mrs. Kris Schmidt, Food Service Manager – 19 years



Our 20 or More Years of Service Pin

Miss Elaine Gross, 6th Grade teacher – 20 years

Mr. Ed Smith, 6th Grade teacher – 20 years

Mrs. Kristy Keely, 3rd Grade teacher – 25 years

Mrs. Victoria Brooks, M.Ed., Principal – 28 years

Mrs. Carol Breshears, M.Ed., Assistant Principal – 22 years

Mrs. Brenda Cummings, 4th/5th Grade aide – 22 years

Mrs. Veronica Freeland, 2nd Grade teacher – 31 years

Ms. Jeannine Uhlving, Office Manager – 24 years



Dear Valley Academy Families,

We are reaching out to encourage you to become an active participant in your child's educational experience by volunteering at our school. At Valley Academy, we believe that the partnership between home and school plays a crucial role in the success and well-being of our students. As stated in our school handbook, parent volunteers provide a tremendous service. **We ask every family for a minimum of 3 hours a month or a total of 27 hours a school year of volunteer participation in the school.** Your volunteer time is tracked through VAPO's Volunteer Voucher forms that can be found online, in the office, or received from your child's teacher. This tracking system is shared with Administration and used to receive grants for extra funding for our school and sometimes class placement preference.

Parental involvement not only strengthens our school community, but it also enhances the learning environment for all students. Whether you have an hour to spare each week or can contribute to one-time events, your involvement will make a significant impact. Volunteering gives you the opportunity to engage directly with your child's school experience, build connections with teachers and staff, and contribute to the success of important school activities.

There are numerous ways you can volunteer, including:

- Helping in the classroom with hands-on activities
- Assisting with school events and field trips
- Supporting VAPO with fundraisers and community events
- Sharing your skills at home helping with special projects

We encourage you to consider volunteering, as even small contributions of time can have a big difference in the educational experience we provide. Your involvement shows your child the value of education and the importance of being an active member of the school community.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact either your child's teacher, or Mrs. Eckles, the president of VAPO at veckles@ymail.com. We are happy to work with you to find a volunteer opportunity that fits your schedule and interests.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school and for being an integral part of your child's educational journey.

Warm regards,

Mrs. Victoria Brooks, M.Ed.
Principal
Reid Traditional Schools' Valley Academy



PARENT-TEACHER Conference

Parent Teacher Conferences are October 22nd & 23rd; 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 under "Quick Links." From there, select your child's teacher and a conference date and time that is most convenient for you. Conference sign-ups will close on Wednesday, October 21st at 5:00 p.m. Parents who have not signed up for a conference time prior to that date will need to contact their child's teacher directly to schedule a conference.

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 and an invitation to sign up will be emailed directly to you.



Congratulations to Jake J. (4th Grade), Dave J. (1st Grade), and Ivaan S. (2nd Grade) for winning 1st place for the Best School Team through Little Masters Phoenix Chess Academy! Way to go!

October S.H.I.N.E. Recipients

Congratulations to the following students: Kaira A., Aadhiran P., Ranveer P.R., and Kabir A., from first grade. They were selected by their first-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



Our Student Council Has Elected Officers

We are pleased to announce that this year's Student Council officers were just elected! Thank you to all who participated in this year's Student Council campaign. The campaigns were great, the speeches were amazing, and we have a great group this year. Mrs. Simon, Mrs. Ferris, Mrs. Lander, Mrs. Francisco, and Mrs. Metza 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: Pranavi A. (8th Grade)
Vice President: Aditya B. (7th Grade)
Treasurer: Sairam M. (6th Grade)
Secretary: Arjun N. (6th Grade)
Historian: Sawyer R. (5th Grade)



Pictured below is Pranavi A. swearing in members of this year's Student Council.



Supply My Class

Mrs. Sutaris has won the APS Supply My Classroom \$500 Grant! She was presented with the award and certificate in front of her proud class of students. We are so happy for her and appreciate APS for providing this honor to one of our teachers! Thank you, APS!



NEWS & UPDATES

Please join Student Council for Movie Night featuring



Thursday, October 1st at 5:30 p.m. in the M.P.R.

Tickets are \$3.00 for students and \$1.00 for adults. That gets you a free bag of popcorn as well!

(Other drinks and snacks will be available for sale.)

Bring the entire family, blankets, pillows, and relax!

(No pajamas please!)

This is a cash only event, no bills larger than \$20.00.

Reminder: 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.

Donations of clothing, especially belts and underwear, are needed in boys and girls' sizes 6-12. Thank you!

Mrs. Emily Allen, R.N.

Valley Academy Nurse



**Eighth Grade
Car Wash Fundraiser**

\$5.00 per car

Saturday, October 3, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Valley Academy

1520 W Rose Garden Ln

**Tickets sold in front of the office
from 7:30—8:00 a.m. and
in the pickup line after school
on October 1st and 2nd.**

School Picture Retake Day Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Picture retake day is for K-8th grade students who missed picture day or for those who wish to bring their original portrait package back in exchange for a picture retake.



Picture
Retake Day

***Your class picture will not be reprinted, so please be sure to keep it.**

1st Quarter ends
Friday, October 9th.
Report Cards go home
Wednesday, October 14th.

Masquerade Dance



For 7th & 8th Grade
Friday, October 9th from
6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Pre-paid dance
admission fee and
permission slip are due
by October 8th.

Money and forms
will not be accepted
at the door.



Talent Show Entry Form due Wednesday, October 6th
Audition: PK—4th Grade, Tuesday, October 13th, 3:30 p.m.
Audition: 5th—8th Grade, Wednesday, October 14th, 3:30 p.m.

Required Dress Rehearsal: 4:00 p.m.,
Wednesdays, November 12th and 18th

Talent Show: 5:30 p.m. in the MPR Thursday,
November 19th



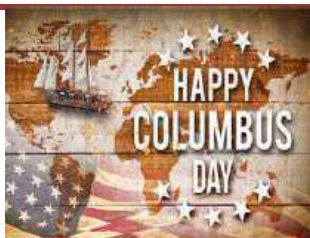
High School Information Night

For: 5th – 8th Grade families
Date: Wednesday, October 21st
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Several high schools will be in attendance to give an overview of what they offer and have a Q&A.

Reminder!

**No School
on October 12th**



Thursday, October 22nd & Friday, October 23rd
Preschool dismisses at 11:30 a.m.
K-8 dismisses at 12:15 p.m.

Early
Dismissal

**for Mandatory
Parent-Teacher Conferences**

FIFTH GRADE NEWS



Meet the 5th Grade team! From left to right are Ms. Loreto, Mrs. Freeman, and Mrs. Lewandowsky.



Pictured with their "Cell in a Bag" experiments are Sparrow W., Aadhya S., and Adalynn K.

The fifth grade always has fun with science. Our year in science starts with the study of cells. We dive right in with an Eggs-cellent Experiment where we get to watch a demonstration on diffusion. We watch as an egg, stripped of its shell, utilizes osmosis to reach equilibrium with its environment. We watch it swell as it absorbs water, and we watch it shrivel and shrink as it gives off its abundance of water to the thick syrup it floats in. Observing diffusion was an example of how a cell gathers and expels water and nutrients through its membrane, just as the cells in plants and in our bodies exchange the products we need to stay alive. After observing passive transport, we recreated a Cell in a Bag including all the organelles in a plant cell. We will complete many more experiments and observations before the year is over. Any day we can "play" with science is a good day!

SIXTH GRADE NEWS

Meet our 6th Grade team!

Miss Gross (Social Studies), Mr. Smith (Science), and Mrs. Copper (Math). In 6th Grade, students are in their homeroom in the morning learning Language Arts and Reading and rotate classes after lunch for Social Studies, Science, and Math. This prepares them for switching classes in 7th & 8th grade.



In Science, we are learning about ocean landforms and freshwater systems. We began the year learning the scientific method. Soon, we will be learning about plate tectonics and how the land masses formed. Pictured above is Sam M. and Scarlett C.

In Social Studies class, students began the year studying maps and the globe. Students then created their own interpretations of ancient cave paintings. Currently, 6th grade is learning about early people and ancient cultures in Mesopotamia.



Pictured above is Darsh H.-S. and Leon D. To the right is Dhatri K., Aarav N., Nehan N., Yogya K., Harper W., and Jose O.



In Math, students are learning about ratios and how to find a unit rate. We began the year learning how to identify the different math properties and how we can use them to make math easier. Some properties we are identifying are: commutative, associative, distributive, inverse, identity, and zero.



October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Movie Night 5:30 p.m. 	2 Spirit Day 	3 Car Wash Fundraiser 10:00—2:00 p.m. 
4	5 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	6  Talent Show Entry Forms Due	7  Picture Retake Day	8 Caught Being Good 	9 Fall Fundraiser Packets Due End of 1st Quarter 7/8 Fall Dance 6:00-8:00 p.m. 	10
11	12 NO SCHOOL Columbus Day Staff Development	13 VAPo Meeting 8:15 a.m. 	14  Report Cards Sent Home 	15	16 7/8 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	17
18	19 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	20 Honor Roll Ice Cream 	21 High School Information Night 6:00 p.m.	22 Early Release 12:15 Dismissal Parent/ Teacher Conferences	23 Early Release 12:15 Dismissal Parent/ Teacher Conferences	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	30