



WE ARE SHARKS!

TK/ KINDERGARTEN / NEW FAMILIES GUIDE

2022-2023 INFORMATION GUIDE
SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY



WELCOME PACKET TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| WELCOME PACKET TABLE OF CONTENTS | 1 |
| WELCOME BACK LETTER FROM PRINCIPAL KAWAHARA | 2 |
| TK / KINDER / NEW FAMILY WELCOME TEAM | 3 |
| TK/KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION 2022-2023 | 4 |
| BELL SCHEDULE LETTER 2022 | 5 |
| BELL SCHEDULE 2022-2023 | 6 |
| DAILY BELL SCHEDULE 2022-2023 | 7 |
| AUGUST SCHEDULE 2022-2023 | 8 |
| EARLY SHARK / LATE SHARK PROGRAM | 9 |
| DROP OFF AND PICK UP GUIDELINES & TIPS | 10 |
| HOW TO STAY INFORMED | 11 |
| GET INVOLVED! | 13 |
| BECOME A VOLUNTEER! | 14 |
| QUICK LINKS | 15 |
| 2022-2023 SYCAMORE ACTIVITY CALENDAR | 16 |
| SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE MAP | 17 |
| SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY VIDEOS | 18 |
| SHARK FUND WELCOME LETTER! | 19 |
| SHARK FUND CORPORATE MATCH | 20 |
| SHARK FUND AMAZON SMILE | 21 |

WELCOME BACK LETTER FROM PRINCIPAL KAWAHARA

Welcome Sycamore Valley Sharks!

August 2022

Dear Sycamore Valley Families,

My name is Patricia Kawahara and I am the new principal of Sycamore Valley Elementary School. I am delighted to welcome everyone to the 2022-23 school year!

Sycamore Valley is a caring community that supports the growth of the whole child. As we continue to rebound from the impacts of the pandemic we are focusing on the academic, social and emotional needs of all students and fostering connections. We are looking forward to opportunities for our community to come together in partnership to support our students. The generous support of the PTA and the Shark Fund allow for additional programs, technology and support which benefit all of our little Sharks and is greatly appreciated!

Please introduce yourself to the staff, community members and me at our upcoming back to school activities over the next few weeks. Forging a strong partnership at the outset allows for a successful and inclusive school year.

I look forward to a year of new challenges, growth and community.

GO SHARKS!

Patricia Kawahara
Principal, Sycamore Valley Elementary School





TK / KINDER / NEW FAMILY WELCOME TEAM

Greetings New Sycamore Family,

Welcome to Sycamore Valley Elementary! Our names are Christine Hoffman, Catherine Sjoberg, Rica Santo, and Ashley Wochok and we oversee the New Family program for Sycamore's PTA. We're excited to help new families transition in and feel a part of the Sycamore community.

I, Christine, have a daughter, Claire, who will be entering fifth grade and a son, Evan, who will be entering second grade this year. We love Sycamore Elementary! We feel very lucky to have our children led by such wonderful staff and teachers and have felt so welcomed into the school community. I look forward to meeting our new families this year and to help make this a fun and positive year for each of you. This is my fourth year on the PTA New Family team.

I, Catherine, have a daughter, Maddie, who will be entering fifth grade and a son, Calvin, who will be entering fourth grade. This is my fourth year on the New Family team and I look forward to making this a welcoming experience for all! We have an amazing support team at Sycamore Valley that can't wait to meet all of you!

I, Rica, am a proud mom to three daughters, Fiona, who will start fifth grade this year, Naomi, entering second grade, and Hailey, entering kindergarten. This is my first year on the PTA New Family Team and I look forward to helping you all navigate through this wonderful school.

I, Ashley, have a daughter, Taryn, who will be entering second grade, and a daughter, Presley, who will be entering kindergarten. This is my first year on the New Family team and I look forward to making this a welcoming experience!

Whether you're an incoming TK/Kindergarten family or just moved here, there are a number of handouts in this packet that will hopefully facilitate a smooth transition to Sycamore Elementary. Additionally, the PTA has planned some terrific in-person/virtual events throughout the school year! You can find dates and details for all the events on the PTA Calendar posted on the Sycamore PTA website: <https://sy.es.srvusd.net/Families/PTA/index.html>. The weekly email newsletter, Shark Bites (<https://sy.es.srvusd.net/Families/Resources/Shark-Bites-Newsletter/index.html>) also has valuable and timely information including an update from our principal, school events, as well as comings and goings.

We are here to help you! Sycamore is a wonderful environment for your child to flourish both academically and socially. Please reach out to us with your questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Christine Hoffman, Catherine Sjoberg, Rica Santo, and Ashley Wochok

Email: SycamoreValleyWelcome@gmail.com **Phone:** (925) 575-7076

PTA PRESIDENT: Erin Meyer Cell: 925-963-2198 Email: erin@meyerca.com

TK/KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION 2022-2023

Welcome! Please review the following information as you prepare for the first days at Sycamore!

FIRST DAY

8/10: The first day of school, **Wednesday, August 10th** is a minimum day for all students.

The schedule for the **first day of TK/Kindergarten is 8:00 am - 9:30 am.**

The schedule for the **first day for 1st – 5th is 8:00 am - 12:00 noon.**

Please plan to tour your TK or Kindergarten classroom with your child from 8:00am - 8:20am and return to **pick up your child at 9:30 am.** Thank you for understanding that we will not be able to accommodate any siblings during that special 8:00 am - 8:20 am time for you and your TK student or Kindergartener.

Please join us at the turf field picnic tables at 8:20 am for the Welcome Coffee and an opportunity to meet other TK/Kindergarten parents and families. At that time, PTA will be available to answer questions you may have.

FIRST TWO WEEKS' SCHEDULE

8/11 - 8/19: From Thursday, August 11th through Friday, August 19th all **TK/Kindergarten students will attend school from 8:00 am - 11:30 am. Every day, families can drop their students off on the playground. Please stay with your child until the teacher greets the class. For afternoon pick up, please wait outside the gates.** If your child will be carpooling with someone else or attending Kids' Country, you will need to communicate that information with your child's teacher.

8/11 - 8/19: From Thursday, August 11th through Friday, August 19th all **1st - 5th grade students will attend school from 8:00 am - 1:30 pm.**

EARLY/LATE SCHEDULE

Beginning **Monday, August 22nd** the Kindergarteners will attend 8:00 am - 11:30 am or 9:00 am - 12:30 pm on: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The time designation will be made by your child's teacher and you will be notified approximately the Wednesday prior to the start of this Early/Late schedule. Every Wednesday, all Kindergarten students will attend 8:00 am - 11:30 am.

IMPORTANT DATES

8/8: August 8, 2022, 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm Kindergarten, Transitional Kindergarten & New to Sycamore Welcome Night. Please join us for a special evening on campus. Children are welcome! There will be an overview of what you can expect from Sycamore and you will meet some of the parent volunteers who will be leading campus tours. **Evite** <http://evite.me/jKYWdHYvvh>.

8/9: The PTA invites you to the **TK/Kindergarten Ice-Cream Social on Tuesday, August 9th** on the TK/Kindergarten playground. Times separated by teacher assignment (You will receive this assignment in the [Parent Portal](#) on Monday, Aug 8th at 12pm) **EVITE:** <http://evite.me/E59cY1hUar>

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTENERS:

2 - 2:45 pm Smoller (TK)

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS:

3 - 3:45 pm Baylies, Koeltl (K),

4 - 4:45 pm Readler/Millman (K), Schembri (K)

8/11: Back to School Night is Thursday, August 11th on campus for parents/guardians only to meet teachers and hear a welcome address from our Principal, Patricia Kawahara.

3rd - 5th - 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm in the classroom for the teacher presentation

All Grades - 6:25 pm - 6:35 pm in the MPR for Principal Kawahara's presentation

TK- 2nd - 6:45 pm - 7:30 pm in the classroom for the teacher presentation

We look forward to meeting you and all our new TK/Kindergarten students and families!

BELL SCHEDULE LETTER 2022

Dear Sycamore Valley Families,

August 2022

Below you will find our 2022-2023 bell schedule. You will notice that we are continuing our shortened Wednesday schedule, which allows for a teacher collaboration period outside of the school day. Research shows that teacher collaboration around instructional strategies and curriculum is directly linked to and improves student academic outcomes.

During this collaboration time, teachers will be focusing on instructional strategies across the curriculum. This includes using this time to discuss and identify supports for individual student needs, as well as develop learning activities, lesson plans, assignments, and assessment, and moreover, utilize data as a means of informing and reconstructing teaching practices.

Thank you for your support of our students and their teachers as we move into our new school year. If you have additional questions or concerns, please reach out to me. We look forward to welcoming you back to Shark Country on August 10th.

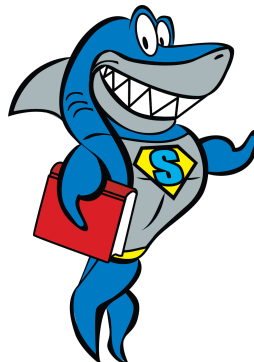
GO SHARKS!

Sincerely,

Patricia Kawahara, Principal

Sycamore Valley Elementary School

pkawahara@srvusd.net



BELL SCHEDULE 2022-2023

| SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY BELL SCHEDULE 2022-2023 | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------|
| TK / KINDERGARTEN | | |
| Instruction Schedule | | |
| All TK/K students thru 8/11-8/19 | 8:00 -11:30 | |
| K Early Schedule begins 8/22 | 8:00 -11:30 | |
| K Late Schedule begins 8/22 | 9:00 -12:30 | |
| TK Instructional Schedule | 8:00 -11:30 | |
| First Day of School 8/10 | 8:00 -9:30 | |
| Wednesday Schedule | 8:00 -11:30 | |
| Conference Days Schedule | 8:00 -10:30 | |
| Minimum Days | 8:00 -10:30 | |
| | <i>10/3-10/7, 3/22-3/24</i> | |
| Last Day of School 6/1 (All) | 8:00 -10:30 | |
| THIRD GRADE | | |
| Instruction Schedule | | 8:00 -2:30 |
| All students thru 8/11-8/19 | | 8:00 -1:30 |
| First Day of School 8/10 | | 8:00 -12:00 |
| Wednesday Schedule | | 8:00 -12:50 |
| Conference Days | | 8:00 -12:00 |
| Minimum Days | | 8:00 -12:00 |
| | <i>10/3-10/7, 3/22-3/24</i> | |
| Last Day of School 6/1 | | 8:00 -12:00 |
| FIRST GRADE | | |
| Instruction Schedule | | |
| All students thru 8/11-8/19 | 8:00 -1:30 | |
| Early Schedule begins 8/22 | 8:00 -1:50 | |
| Late Schedule begins 8/22 | 8:40 -2:30 | |
| Wednesday Schedule | 8:00 -12:50 | |
| First Day of School 8/10 | 8:00 -12:00 | |
| Conference Days Schedule | 8:00 -12:00 | |
| Minimum Days | 8:00 -12:00 | |
| | <i>10/3-10/7, 3/22-3/24</i> | |
| Last Day of School 6/1 (All) | 8:00 -12:00 | |
| FOURTH GRADE | | |
| Instruction Schedule | | 8:00 -2:30 |
| All students thru 8/11-8/19 | | 8:00 -1:30 |
| First Day of School 8/10 | | 8:00 -12:00 |
| Wednesday Schedule | | 8:00 -12:50 |
| Conference Days | | 8:00 -12:00 |
| Minimum Days | | 8:00 -12:00 |
| | <i>10/3-10/7, 3/22-3/24</i> | |
| Last Day of School 6/1 | | 8:00 -12:00 |
| SECOND GRADE | | |
| Instruction Schedule | 8:00 -2:30 | |
| All students thru 8/11-8/19 | 8:00 -1:30 | |
| First Day of School 8/10 | 8:00 -12:00 | |
| Wednesday Schedule | 8:00 -12:50 | |
| Conference Days | 8:00 -12:00 | |
| Minimum Days | 8:00 -12:00 | |
| | <i>10/3-10/7, 3/22-3/24</i> | |
| Last Day of School 6/1 | 8:00 -12:00 | |
| FIFTH GRADE | | |
| Instruction Schedule | | 8:00 -2:30 |
| All students thru 8/11-8/19 | | 8:00 -1:30 |
| First Day of School 8/10 | | 8:00 -12:00 |
| Wednesday Schedule | | 8:00 -12:50 |
| Conference Days | | 8:00 -12:00 |
| Minimum Days | | 8:00 -12:00 |
| | <i>10/3-10/7, 3/22-3/24</i> | |
| Last Day of School 6/1 | | 8:00 -12:00 |

Please refer to the Bell schedule online: <https://tinyurl.com/3pu3hk6b>

Revised Aug 6, 2022

DAILY BELL SCHEDULE 2022-2023

| SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY DAILY BELL SCHEDULE 2022-2023 | |
|---|---|
| TK | 8:00 - 11:30 Monday - Friday 9:00 - 9:15 Recess and 10:30 – 11:00 Recess |
| KINDERGARTEN | 8:00 - 11:30 or 9:00 - 12:30 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 - 11:30 Wednesday 10:00 - 10:30 Recess |
| FIRST GRADE | 8:00 Early Sharks Instruction Begins 8:40 Late Sharks Instruction Begins 10:05 - 10:20 Recess 12:00 - 12:40 Lunch / Wednesday 11:10 – 12:00 Lunch 1:50 Early Sharks Dismissal 2:30 Late Sharks Dismissal 8:00 - 12:50 Wednesday |
| SECOND / THIRD GRADE | 8:00 Instruction Begins 10:05 - 10:20 Recess 12:00 - 12:40 Lunch / Wednesday 11:10 – 12:00 Lunch 1:55 - 2:05 Recess 2:30 Dismissal 8:00 - 12:50 Wednesday |
| FOURTH / FIFTH GRADE | 8:00 Instruction Begins 9:45 - 10:00 Recess 12:30 - 1:10 Lunch / Wednesday 12:00 – 12:30 Lunch 2:30 Dismissal 8:00 - 12:50 Wednesday |

Revised Jul 26, 2022

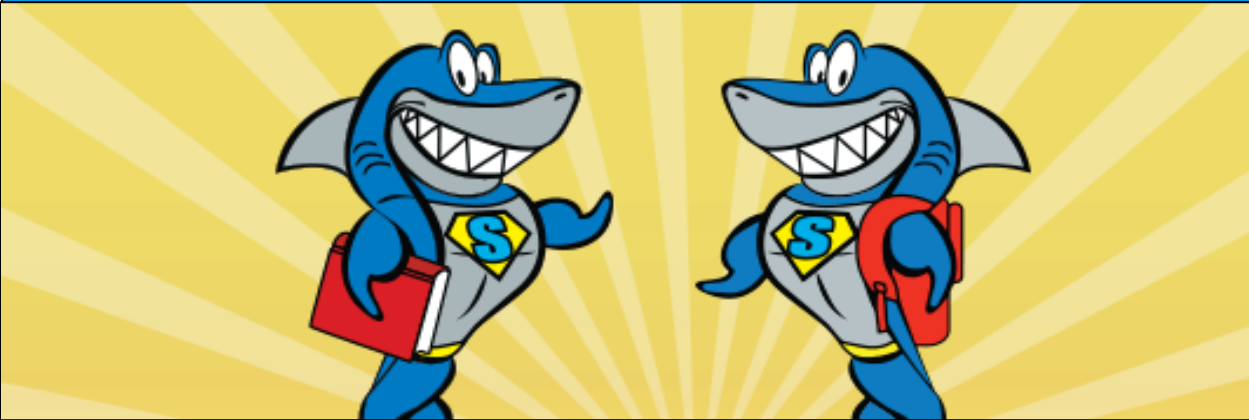
AUGUST SCHEDULE 2022-2023

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| | Non-School Day |
| | Minimum Day |
| | Adjusted Wednesday |
| | Assessment Day |
| | Regular Day |

| Monday 8/8 | Tuesday 8/9 | Wednesday 8/10 | Thursday 8/11 | Friday 8/12 |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| TK / KINDER / NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION 6:30 - 7:45pm | DIPPIN' DOT SOCIAL TK Students 2 - 2:45 pm: Smoller Kindergarteners 3 - 3:45 pm: Baylies & Koeltl (K) 4 - 4:45 pm: Readler/Millman (K), Schembri (K) | FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL TK - Kindergarten 8:00am - 9:30am 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 12:00pm PARENT COFFEE 8:20am - 9:30pm | TK - Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 1:30pm PARENTS ONLY BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT TK-5 5:30pm - 7:30pm | TK - Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 1:30pm |
| Monday 8/15 | Tuesday 8/16 | Wednesday 8/17 | Thursday 8/18 | Friday 8/19 |
| TK - Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 1:30pm | TK - Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 1:30pm | TK - Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 12:50pm | TK - Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 1:30pm | TK - Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 1:30pm |
| Monday 8/22 <i>(K & 1st Begin Early/Late)</i> | Tuesday 8/23 | Wednesday 8/24 | Thursday 8/25 | Friday 8/26 |
| TK 8:00am - 11:30am Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am or 9:00am - 12:30pm 1st Grade 8:00am - 1:50pm or 8:40am - 2:30pm 2nd - 5th Grades 8:00am - 2:30pm | TK 8:00am - 11:30am Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am or 9:00am - 12:30pm 1st Grade 8:00am - 1:50pm or 8:40am - 2:30pm 2nd - 5th Grades 8:00am - 2:30pm | TK - Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 12:50pm | TK 8:00am - 11:30am Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am or 9:00am - 12:30pm 1st Grade 8:00am - 1:50pm or 8:40am - 2:30pm 2nd - 5th Grades 8:00am - 2:30pm | TK 8:00am - 11:30am Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am or 9:00am - 12:30pm 1st Grade 8:00am - 1:50pm or 8:40am - 2:30pm 2nd - 5th Grades 8:00am - 2:30pm |
| Monday 8/29 | Tuesday 8/30 | Wednesday 8/31 | Thursday 9/1 | Friday 9/2 |
| TK 8:00am - 11:30am Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am or 9:00am - 12:30pm 1st Grade 8:00am - 1:50pm or 8:40am - 2:30pm 2nd - 5th Grades 8:00am - 2:30pm | TK 8:00am - 11:30am Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am or 9:00am - 12:30pm 1st Grade 8:00am - 1:50pm or 8:40am - 2:30pm 2nd - 5th Grades 8:00am - 2:30pm | TK - Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 12:50pm | TK 8:00am - 11:30am Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am or 9:00am - 12:30pm 1st Grade 8:00am - 1:50pm or 8:40am - 2:30pm 2nd - 5th Grades 8:00am - 2:30pm | TK 8:00am - 11:30am Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am or 9:00am - 12:30pm 1st Grade 8:00am - 1:50pm or 8:40am - 2:30pm 2nd - 5th Grades 8:00am - 2:30pm |

EARLY SHARK / LATE SHARK PROGRAM

SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY EARLY SHARK / LATE SHARK PROGRAM



The Early Shark/Late Shark Program is designed to maximize individual attention by reducing classroom sizes for two periods of time each day.

The program is in place for **Kindergarteners** and **First Graders** and begins **August 22nd**. The time designation will be made by your child's teacher and you will be notified at the end of the week, prior to the start of the Early/Late Shark Program.

Kindergarteners

Early Sharks: 8:00 am - 11:30 am
Late Sharks: 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Kinder Late Sharks and a parent/guardian line up in the designated area for their classroom. The teacher will open the door and welcome all of the Late Shark students to the classroom.

WEDNESDAYS:
 All kinders attend 8:00am - 11:30am

First Graders

Early Shark: 8:00 am - 1:50 pm
Late Shark: 8:40 am - 2:30 pm

First grade Late Sharks wait by the front gate or in the MPR if it's raining. Late Sharks should arrive between 8:30am - 8:40am. A teacher or para will escort all Late Shark students to their classrooms.

WEDNESDAYS:
 All first graders attend 8:00am - 12:50pm

TK: All Transitional Kindergartners will attend 8:00- 11:30 am daily.

Please refer to the Bell schedule online: <https://tinyurl.com/3pu3hk6b>

Revised Jul 26, 2022

DROP OFF AND PICK UP GUIDELINES & TIPS

PLEASE OBSERVE ALL POSTED SIGNS AND INSTRUCTIONS

First Day of School:

The first day of school is a busy time. Most of our learning community will be on campus. Arriving early and spending a few moments on the playground will help ease first day excitement and lessen parking lot congestion. You are welcome to walk your child to the blacktop. Look for your child's teacher name/room # at the line up area. Teachers will meet the students on the blacktop and greet students and families so that all our families feel welcome. If you would prefer to drop your child(ren) at the curb, there will be staff on hand to greet your child(ren) and direct them to the blacktop.

Drop Off:

It is important to drive slowly and watch for children and adults. You must remain in your vehicle at all times if you are using the carpool drop off lane. You may drop off your 1st-5th grader in the morning no earlier than 7:45am. There is adult supervision on the big kid playground blacktop starting at 7:45am. If you would like to accompany your child onto the playground, please park in the parking lot and remain on the playground blacktop with your child until adult supervision arrives. Students will line up at their classroom number when the bell rings at 8:00am. At 8:00am teachers will walk to the blacktop and greet their students. All adults must leave the playground at 8:00am, as we have P.E. classes that will use the blacktop beginning at 8:10am.

Drop off for TK/Kindergarteners is on the TK/Kindergarten playground. Please wait with your child until the bell rings for them to line up at their assigned classroom.

Pick Up:

Students who are being picked up in person:

All parents/guardians will park their vehicles in the lot in front of Sycamore. Parents/guardians will cross the street and stand in the grade level area at the front entrance. Parents/guardians may not go inside of the school gates. Once parents/guardians and students have connected, parents/guardians will immediately cross the street with their child and go to their parked vehicle. To ensure safety, please use the designated crosswalk!

NOTE: 1st - 5th graders are NOT to wait in the TK/Kindergarten Playground area to be picked up.

TK/Kindergarten parents must wait outside the TK/Kindergarten playground gate.

Students who are being picked-up in vehicles at carpool:

Students will stand by the designated grade level area outside of the gates until they see their family's vehicle arrive. Students will walk to the vehicle and enter. Once a student is safely in the vehicle, the vehicle should pull forward and leave the carpool lane safely.

The pick-up lane in front of school can be congested. It is important to drive carefully, watching for children and adults at all times. You may pull up into the lane closest to the curb and wait in your vehicle for your child. Never have children cross in front of other cars to get picked up in the second lane.

If you need to get out of your vehicle, please park in the parking lot and walk up to the school. Arriving early and BACKING into your spot, can save you time exiting the parking lot.

Alternate Drop-Off/Pick-Up Area:

Depending on the student's age, some parents choose to drop off or pick up their children at the end of the "back path" that lets out on Alta Vista Way. Many parents park at this trail which leads directly into the big kid playground. Do not park in areas not designated to do so, or block through traffic on Alta Vista Way. Drivers may be cited.

CELL PHONE USAGE IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN WHILE DRIVING. PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING. SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS AND PARENTS IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE. PLEASE USE CAUTION AT ALL TIMES WHEN DROPPING OFF, PICKING UP, WALKING IN THE CROSSWALKS OR TO/FROM THE BACK PATH.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED



ONLINE

Sycamore Valley Elementary Website (<https://sy.es.srvusd.net/index.html>)

- **HOME** page has news, upcoming events and many parent links.
- **SCHOOL INFO** –
 - **ABOUT US:** Mission and Vision, Map & Directions
 - **SCHOOL RESOURCES:** Handbook, Registration, Sycamore Wellness Policy, Emergency Plan, Forgotten Lunch Policy, Nurse /Health Forms, Homework Policy, Traffic Rules, Attendance, Arrival and Dismissal Procedures
 - **TEACHERS & STAFF:** Staff Directory, Principal, Office Staff, Classroom Teachers, Department Teachers, Resource Staff, Support Staff, Para-professionals
- **ACADEMICS** –
 - **GRADES:** Kindergarten, First Grade, Second Grade, Third Grade, Fourth Grade, Fifth Grade
 - **RESOURCES:** Band/Music, Library/Media, Physical Education, Science, Gifted and Talented Education (GATE), SLAM: SCIENCE LANGUAGE ART MATH
 - **COMPUTER LAB:** Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5
 - **TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES:** Student Portal, Infinite Campus Parent/Student Portal, Schoology, Technical Assistance
- **FAMILIES** –
 - **PTA:** Yearbook, Sister School, Reflections, Festival Around the World, Art Docent, Our Programs, Committee Resources, PTA Meeting Agenda
 - **SHARK FUND:** Givebacks, Events, Donate, Corporate Match
 - **SITE COUNCIL:** Meetings, Agendas, Meeting Minutes, SPSA, Safety Plans
 - **RESOURCES:** Volunteers, Register Your Child, Shark Bites Newsletter
 - **MORE PAGES:** New Families Welcome Packet, Student Directory
- **STUDENTS** – Odyssey of the Mind, Rainbow Room, Enrichment

Sycamore Valley PTA Website (under PTA tab on Families Section)

- Sycamore Valley PTA Calendar containing all school events, holidays and PTA meeting dates.
- Program details; parent, volunteer and committee resources; legislative updates and budget information.
- PTA Executive Board members – contact them with questions.
- PTA Roster – committee chairs – contact them with questions about specific events.

Shark Bites – each Thursday

- Weekly email of school news, updates and reminders, event and program information, thank you's, forms, etc. Shark Bites are archived on the school website under "Families/Resources/Shark Bites Newsletter." <https://sy.es.srvusd.net/Families/Resources/Shark-Bites-Newsletter/index.html>

Office Texts and Constant Contact emails

- Receive timely text reminders and updates from the Office Staff and PTA. Be sure to opt in during registration!

Room Parent

- Room Parents are selected the first few weeks of school from those who express interest during the Future Fund registration process. Their names will be listed in the school directory.
- Room Parents will coordinate communications and activities for each class. You will learn more during Back to School Night.
- Go to the Room Parent with your questions – they are a great resource.



SOCIAL SITES

Parents of Sycamore Valley Facebook page - Reminders, announcements and thank-you's.
(<https://www.facebook.com/ParentsOfSycamoreValleyElementary>)

Sycamore Sharks Twitter page - Reminders, announcements and thank-you's.
(<https://twitter.com/SYSharks>)

Sycamore Sharks YouTube page - Welcome/tour.
(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqvs2hzuUixH_jXhUOIE82g)

Classroom Shutterfly - Some Room Parents opt to run a Shutterfly site for classroom updates.



IN-PERSON / VIRTUAL

Back to School Night (BTSN) – Thursday, August 11th - IN PERSON

- All parents are invited to join us on August 11th on campus. From 5:30-6:15 you can visit 3rd - 5th classrooms, from 6:25-6:35 Principal Kawahara will address all parents in the MPR, and from 6:45-7:30 you can visit TK -2nd classrooms. Details will be sent out via email. This is a parent-only event; no students please.

PTA meetings – 8 times a year

- PTA meeting dates: Sept 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, Jan 11, Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 19, and May 3. Meetings begin at 8:35 a.m. Meetings will be held in-person unless noted otherwise.

Shark Fund meetings – 9 times a year

- Shark Fund meeting dates: Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 15, April 12, May 17. All meetings are hosted virtually on Google Meet on Wednesdays from 6:30pm to 7:30pm.

Site Council meetings – 5 times a year

- Site Council meeting dates: To be posted in the Shark Bites Newsletter
- All are welcome to attend meetings. Meetings will be held virtually until further notice.



PRINT/DIGITAL

Digital Welcome Packets for New Students

- Drop off guidelines – important first day of school information.
- Early/Late schedule information.
- Map, How to Stay Informed, Quick Links and Glossary of Sycamore Valley Elementary terms

Signage

- Banners are hung up at school to inform about various events and activities during the year.
- Multiple plexiglas bulletin boards are updated with information about events and programs.
- Two stand-up chalkboards placed on school grounds inform families about events and activities.
- A new LED sign will be installed this Fall to promote school events and display information from our sponsors.

Need More Information?

- Sycamore Valley Elementary Main Phone: 925-855-2800
- Sycamore Valley Elementary PTA Email: sycamorevalleypta@gmail.com
- Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Fund Email: sycamorevalley.edfund@srvef.org

Don't let a lack of information come back to bite you!



GET INVOLVED!

VOLUNTEERING AT SYCAMORE ELEMENTARY

Why volunteer?

- Many events and activities our kids benefit from and enjoy at Sycamore Valley would not be possible without the help of our parent volunteers.
- Your kids love seeing you in their classroom and at school.

Volunteering is good for your kids and you.

- It shows your kids you care about their education and consider school a worthwhile cause.
- Children of involved parents are more likely to earn better grades, attend school more regularly and be more positive in their attitude toward school.
- Volunteering gives you a firsthand understanding of your child's daily activities and the trends and fads of school life that can help you communicate with your kids.
- You get to know the teachers better, gain insight into the realities of the classroom, what happens in it and how to reinforce those lessons at home.
- Volunteering connects you to other Sycamore parents. Whether you are new to the school or just looking to meet new people, volunteering is a great way to make new friends.

Everyone has something to offer.

- You don't have to be Martha Stewart to volunteer. It's not about decorating the perfect cupcake or door poster. You don't have to be an expert, you just have to have a willingness to give your time and energy.
- Not everyone is suited for the same type of involvement and that's OK. You may have to "try on" a few activities before you find something that feels right.
- Your schedule may not lend itself to volunteering at school. If you can't be there during school hours there's lots of behind-the-scenes work that can be done at home.

Pace yourself.

- It's actually OK to say, "no." Volunteering is not a competitive sport. Every hour you give is a gift to your child, our school, and we hope, yourself.
- We don't want parents to burn out because they overcommit. We always need help, but we'd rather you pace yourself and stay engaged for the long haul.

We're parents, just like you.

- Volunteering at school may seem daunting. It's not. Before we became volunteers, we were and still are moms and dads just like you trying to figure it all out and support our kids and school as best we can. We hope you'll raise your hand and join us!



BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

HOW TO BECOME A SYCAMORE VOLUNTEER

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at Sycamore Valley Elementary School. There are opportunities to volunteer for one-time activities or for ongoing roles. **During the FutureFund registration process in August, you can indicate your interest in volunteer positions, or sign up as a General Volunteer! There will also be an opportunity to sign up as a volunteer when you attend Back to School Night.**

For the safety of its students, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) utilizes Be A Mentor, an online Volunteer Management System, to ensure that all SRVUSD school volunteers have passed the appropriate safety clearances.

Volunteer Registration

- In order to volunteer in any capacity at Sycamore Valley Elementary you must first register through Be A Mentor.
- Please go to <https://www.srvusd.net/Students-and-Families/Volunteer-Requirements/index.html> to get started.
- Due to the volume of applications at the start of the school, please begin your registration process as soon as possible.
- This is a one-time registration. You will not need to re-register every year.

There are three levels of clearance you may apply for: We recommend that all parents register for Level 1. If you would like to be a field trip driver, register for Level 2 as well. You only need to register for Level 3 when you are selected as an Overnight Chaperone.

Everyone has something to offer.

- **Level 1 – Classroom, on-campus volunteers, & non-driver chaperones for field trips**
 - Applicants will be approved through the Sex Offender Registry.
 - Clearance takes approximately 48 hours.
- **Level 2 – Field Trip Drivers**
 - The District will obtain a driving history for the last ten years from the DMV and will be notified any time there is a reportable violation or incident. Volunteers with 2 or more points will not be approved.
 - Clearance takes up to 10 days.
- **Level 3 – Overnight Chaperones**
 - Volunteers' fingerprints will be processed through the FBI and the Department of Justice.
 - Clearance can take 45 days.

To learn more about this system, please visit <https://www.srvusd.net/Students-and-Families/Volunteer-Requirements/index.html>
If you have questions regarding your application or need help please contact:

Be A Mentor
help@beamentor.org
510-342-7178

Georgeann Kurfurst
Sycamore Valley Elementary, Office Assistant
GKurfurst@srvusd.net



QUICK LINKS

QUICK LINKS

School Website: <https://syes.srvusd.net/>

PTA: <https://syes.srvusd.net/Families/PTA/index.html>

Shark Fund: <https://syes.srvusd.net/Families/Shark-Fund/index.html>

Site Council: <https://syes.srvusd.net/Families/Site-Council/Site-Council/index.html>

Attendance Line (used to report any student absence): (925) 855-2898

GLOSSARY

The Deep: The Deep is the room where photocopies are made in the rear of the main office.

MPR: Multi-Purpose Room. The MPR serves as the cafeteria and the venue where most school activities occur.

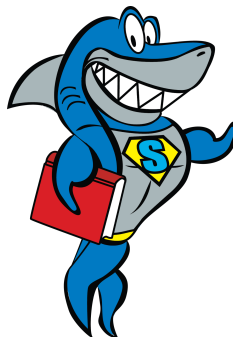
Para-Professional / Para: This is the wonderful individual who assists your child's teacher in the classroom on a daily basis.

Shark Bites: This is a weekly email sent out by the school every Thursday. It includes details about upcoming events, messages from the principal and other school-related information. Make sure to read this info so you are always in the know.

Shark Fund: Shark Fund is Sycamore's non-profit education foundation, 100% funded and managed by parents for the benefit of all Sycamore Valley students.

PTA: The Parent Teacher Association is a volunteer organization committed to creating a better environment for the students, parents, staff and administration at Sycamore.

Site Council: Site Council is made up of elected parents and appointed teachers to focus on the curriculum and ensure that the academic programs at Sycamore are always in line with the school vision and plan.



2022-2023 SYCAMORE ACTIVITY CALENDAR

| SUMMER 2022 | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER |
|---|---|---|
| 6/15 SRVUSD Annual Update - Parent Portal 8/2 to 9/2 Sycamore Valley Elementary Online Registration | 8 New Family/Kinder/TK Orientation 9 TK/Kinder Dippin' Dots Social 10 First Day of School (MIN DAY) 10 TK/Kinder Coffee 8:20-9:30am Turf field picnic tables 11 Back To School Night 5:30 - 6:15 3rd - 5th 6:25 - 6:35 Principal's Message 6:45 - 7:30 TK - 2nd 17 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting 6:30p 31 Picture Day TK - 5th | 2 Shark Shop orders due 5 NO SCHOOL - Labor Day 7 PTA Meeting 8:00 am 7 Sharky Cinema 1-3 pm 19-23 Book Fair 19-23 International Culture Week 22 Festival Around the World 21 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting 6:30p 26-27 NO SCHOOL -Staff Development 28-30 5th Grade Outdoor Ed |
| OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
| 5 PTA Meeting 8:00 am 5 Sharky Cinema 1-3 pm 3-7 Conference Week/Min. Days 8-9 SRVEF Run For Education 12 Picture Makeup Day / Retakes 14 Family Game Night 19 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting 6:30p 24-28 Red Ribbon Week 28 Monster Mash 5-7 pm 31 Halloween Parade | 1 NO SCHOOL -Staff Development 2 PTA Meeting 8:00 am 2 Sharky Cinema 1-3 pm 2-4 Halloween Candy Drive 9 Fun Run 11 NO SCHOOL - Veterans Day 14-18 Sister School Holiday Book Drive 16 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting 6:30p 21-25 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break | 20 Teacher Luncheon 23-31 NO SCHOOL-Winter Break |
| JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH |
| 2-9 NO SCHOOL - Winter Break 11 PTA Meeting 8:00 am 16 NO SCHOOL - MLK Jr. Day 17-20 Bookmark Contest 18 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting 6:30p 30-31 Book Swap Donations | 1 Book Swap 1 PTA Meeting 8:00 am 1 Sharky Cinema 1-3 pm 10 Family Game Night 15 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting 6:30p 20 NO SCHOOL - Presidents Day 21 NO SCHOOL - Staff Development 24 African American History Museum TBD Sister School Drive | 1 PTA/Site Council/Shark Fund Job Fair/Meeting 1 Sharky Cinema 1-3 pm 6-10 Words Matter Awareness Week 15 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting 6:30p 17 NO SCHOOL - Staff Develop. 20-24 Spirit Week 25 Carnival 20-26 Online Auction 22-24 Conference Days/Minimum Days |
| APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
| 3-7 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break 12 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting (Elections) 6:30p 19 PTA Meeting (Elections) 17-21 Exceptional Abilities Week 24-28 Staff Appreciation Week 26 Staff Luncheon 26 Variety Show Rehearsal 2pm 27 Variety Show 6pm | 3 PTA Transition Meeting 8:00 am 17 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting 6:30p 29 NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day 30 5th Grade Clap Out 31 5th Grade Field Day TBD Open House | 1 Last Day of School (MIN DAY) |

Revised Jul 28, 2022



SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE MAP

SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY WELCOME VIDEOS

CLICK ON THE LINK TO VIEW THE VIDEOS:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqvs2hzuUixH_jXhUOIE82g/videos



SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY TOUR VIDEO



SYCAMORE PARENT GROUPS INTRODUCTION VIDEO

SHARK FUND WELCOME LETTER!

DEAR INCOMING SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY FAMILIES,

Welcome to Shark Country! Sycamore is a wonderful place to learn and grow. We hope you and your children will love our school as much as we do!

The intent of this email is to introduce you to Shark Fund and request a voluntary donation for your student(s) for the 2022-2023 school year.

Shark Fund is Sycamore Valley Elementary's nonprofit education foundation, 100% funded and managed by parents for the benefit of all Sycamore Valley students. Shark Fund is an affiliate of the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation (www.srvef.org).

We request a \$475 tax-deductible donation per student for the school year. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and we encourage all families to pursue corporate matching programs with their employers.

WHAT: Past year donations have funded trained para-educators in every classroom to assist with small-group instruction, weekly Sycamore Valley library visits, social development for grades TK-3, reading intervention programs, critical office administrative support and twice weekly physical education for TK and Kindergarten students. Continued parent support is crucial to sustain these programs and other valuable resources each year.

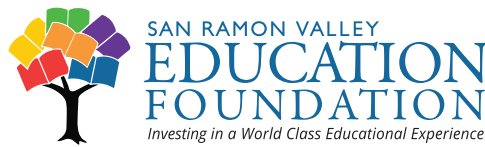
WHY: Shark Fund is funded by parent donations, corporate match programs, a charity auction, and other fundraising events throughout the school year. The revenues we generate help bridge the gap between state and local education funding (managed by the San Ramon Valley Unified School District) and what we, as a community, believe is necessary to provide high-quality educational experiences for our children.

HOW: Please submit your Shark Fund donation during the August online registration drive and pursue corporate matching with your employer.

Thank you for making this important investment in your child's education! We look forward to seeing you in Shark Country soon.

Alison L. Stracke
Shark Fund President, 4th Grade Parent
sycamore_valley.edfund@srvef.org





DOUBLE YOUR SHARK FUND DONATION WITH CORPORATE MATCH

LAST YEAR SYCAMORE ELEMENTARY RECEIVED OVER

OVER \$25,000

FROM CORPORATE MATCHES!



- 1 YOU DONATE
- 2 THEY MATCH IT
- 3 DOUBLE THE IMPACT

SEE IF YOUR EMPLOYER WILL MATCH YOUR DONATION
[HTTPS://WWW.SRVEF.ORG/DONATE/MATCHINGGIFTS.ASPX](https://www.srvef.org/donate/matchinggifts.aspx)

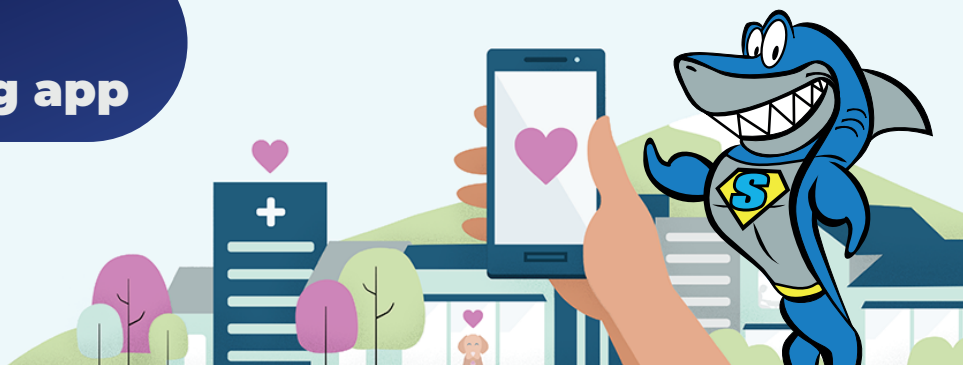
QUESTIONS? CONTACT TODD STRACKE AT
TODD.STRACKE@CLOROX.COM OR (510) 219-8589

Sycamore Valley Shark Fund is an affiliate of the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation
Donations are 100% tax-deductible. 501c3 Tax ID #94-3390401

amazonsmile

in the Amazon Shopping app

You can now support SHARK FUND when you shop on Amazon using your iPhone & Android phones



How to turn on AmazonSmile in the mobile app

AmazonSmile is a way for Sycamore families to support their Sycamore SHARK FUND. Every time you shop, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to our Sycamore SHARK FUND. You shop, Amazon gives!

1 Get the app

Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on your phone. You can find it in the **App Store** for iOS (<https://tinyurl.com/49f2eeym>) or **Google Play** for Android (<https://tinyurl.com/usrvwhnb>)

2 Join AmazonSmile

Simply sign up (<https://tinyurl.com/5fyne5cf>) by selecting your favorite charity **SRVEF- Sycamore Valley Elementary School Shark Fund**

3 Turn on AmazonSmile

Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (≡). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

AMAZONSMILE WEBSITE

Here's how to sign up for AmazonSmile:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Click on AmazonSmile
4. Search for our school to select as your charity: **SRVEF- Sycamore Valley Elementary School Shark Fund**
5. Start shopping!
6. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile



amazonsmile



Sycamore Valley Shark Fund is an affiliate of the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation (501c3 Tax ID #94-3390401)