

August 15, 2024

Dear Sycamore Valley Families,

We had a wonderful first day of school. We enjoyed seeing our returning Sycamore Sharks and welcoming new Sharks to our community. We look forward to a wonderful year of learning and growing together. Keep reading for dates to remember, reminders about schedules, site council, district updates, sycamore registration and vacations for your family and staff updates,.



Dates to Remember:

08/15 - 08/23 - Assessment Day Schedule view August Schedule for times: [August Schedule](#)

08/26 - Regular Bell Schedule begins [August Schedule](#)

08/28 - School Photos

09/02 - No School - Labor Day

09/13 - "A Day to Be Brave" virtual presentation

Bell Schedule

For those of you who need it, here is a link to Sycamore's Bell Schedule for this school year: [Bell Schedule: TK - 5th](#) [Daily Bell Schedule](#)

School Site Council:

The School Site Council is a collaborative council composed of five parents, and five staff members (teachers, classified staff and school administration) and two alternate members. We meet five times during the year to review school data and progress towards goals, consider and provide feedback on the development of new goals as well as the school safety plan. If you are interested in becoming a School Site Council member, please submit a short bio to Barbara Jones at bjones1@srvusd.net by Wednesday, August 21st at 3:00p.m. Your name will be added to the ballot for consideration the following week.

Vacations:

We strongly encourage families to take vacations during the scheduled school breaks. It can be difficult for children to catch up and acclimate back into the school routine when the rest of the class has continued to move forward. If you are planning a trip during scheduled school days please know that, according to district policy, our teachers are not obligated to provide work while students are absent unless a parent/caregiver requests an Independent Study Contract (ISC), which must be for at least 5 school days and not more than 14 school days. Otherwise, make-up work will be waiting for the student in the classroom when the student returns to school. Here is the link to start the request if you would like.

Independent study request form= Vacation: [Independent study request form](#)

COVID:

COVID-19 now falls under the general framework to reduce the spread of infection, including but not limited to COVID-19, influenza, RSV, and norovirus.

Those diagnosed with COVID-19 should follow the guidelines in the [SRVUSD Illness Policy](#).

Staff and students should stay home for 24 hours until the fever has resolved and symptoms are improving and manageable. A negative test is NOT required to return to work or school. Our illness policy aligns with the CDPH guidance posted in October 2023.

Drop Off / Pick Up:

In an effort to streamline drop off and pick up and alleviate the congestion on Camino Tassajara, please review the following graphic for details.

At drop off and pick up, please pull **all the way forward in the carline**. Please be sure your child is ready to exit the car (ie. shoes on, breakfast eaten, etc.). Please work with your child to exit the car independently on the curb side of the car. We ask parents not to get out of the car to assist children (this keeps the line moving along).

Sycamore Valley Elementary
Drop-off and Pick-up Reminders

For questions or concerns, contact Principal Patricia Kawahara at pkawahara@srvusd.net

FOR VEHICLES

- RESTRICTED RIGHT TURN:** on westbound Camino Tassajara at Holbrook Drive when students are present; obey the new right turn traffic signal, right turns allowed from bike lane only
- Holbrook Drive merge:** two northbound lanes on Holbrook Drive merge into one lane at the crest of the hill
- Crossing Guards:** obey Crossing Guards at Holbrook/Camino Tassajara and Staff in front of the school
- No Parking in front of school:** during school hours. Use the main parking lot to park your vehicle and walk to campus
- Extended Drop-off / Pick-up area:** drive your vehicle all the way forward to drop off or pick up your student
- Watch for pedestrians in the crosswalks**
- Small parking lot near Kindergarten:** will be closed during drop-off and pick-up

FOR PEDESTRIANS

- Obey Crossing Guards**
- Obey Staff Crossing Guards**
- Watch for pedestrians in crosswalks**
- NO PARKING along curb during school hours**
- Expanded drop-off / pick-up area: PULL ALL THE WAY FORWARD**
- Side parking lot closed during drop-off and pick-up**
- Right turn RESTRICTED from westbound Camino Tassajara when students are present; obey signal. Right turns allowed from bike lane only.**

SYCAMORE VALLEY CAMPUS

For illustrative purposes only. Map not to scale.

The graphic is a detailed street map of the school campus area. It shows Camino Tassajara running vertically and Holbrook Drive running horizontally. The map includes a school building, a parking lot, and various traffic signs and signals. Numbered callouts (1-7) point to specific locations and provide instructions for drivers and pedestrians. A blue banner at the top contains the school name and contact information. A small cartoon shark logo is in the top left corner.

Volunteer Handbook - New!

Here is the brand new [Volunteer Handbook](#) as a resource for our families. Please review this information if you are planning to volunteer. Remember to register with [Be A Mentor](#) so you can be cleared to be one of our volunteers.

Reminder: A Day To Be Brave Assembly info:

9/13/24 - "A Day to Be Brave" virtual presentation

Grades Kinder-5th will be participating in "A Day to Be Brave" virtual presentation by the author of *The Biggest Worrier*, Angelique Monet. There are a number of other elementary schools participating across the district and we are delighted to be able to bring this unique experience to our students. The schedule is listed below.

8:30-9:15 = 2nd Grade

10:30-11:15 = 1st Grade

11:30-12:15 = 4th Grade

12:30-1:15 = 3rd Grade

1:30-2:15 = 5th Grade

Staff Updates:

Over the summer we had a shift in staffing. Mrs. Sayers took a different position at another school as did Mrs. Howard. Lori Smith a long time Para has retired. Meredyth Roller, another one of our Para's has taken a new job. Ramani Perugupalli, our instructional assistant, has taken a new position at a different school site. Jason Jennings, our instrumental music teacher, has taken a full time position at Los Cerros Middle School. We will miss them but wish them well in their new endeavors.

Mr. Hewett has moved back to 4th grade. Mrs. Cory has moved from science to 5th grade. Mr. Coley has moved into 3rd grade. Ms. Smoller moved to 2nd grade. Mrs. Millman and Mrs. Perotti are our new TK teachers for TK-am and TK-pm. Jim Gates has joined us as the TK/2 vocal music teacher. Hannah Sechet has joined our Speech Therapy team.

Julie Cullen has moved into an instructional assistant position. Anai Matlock and Priya Kaarthik have joined our Para team replacing Lori Smith and Meredyth Roller.

Thank you,

Patricia Kawahara