



WE ARE SHARKS!

TK/ KINDERGARTEN / NEW FAMILIES GUIDE

2026-2027 INFORMATION GUIDE
SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY

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WELCOME BACK LETTER FROM PRINCIPAL KAWAHARA

Welcome Sycamore Valley Sharks!

August 2026

Dear Sycamore Valley Families,

I am delighted to welcome back returning families and welcome new families to the Sycamore Valley community! I am looking forward to a wonderful school year.

Sycamore Valley is a strong community that works together to foster the growth of the whole child. There are many 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 Jenna Sproul and Tiffany Shugrue, 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, Jenna, have three children - Luke in 4th grade, Colin in 1st, and Madison in TK. This is my second year on the New Family Team. I look forward to meeting our new families and helping you become familiar with all that our wonderful school has to offer.

I, Tiffany, also have two children at Sycamore - Cole in 4th grade and Kennedy in 3rd grade. I have been an active member of the New Family Team for four years and look forward to making this a warm and welcoming experience for everyone.

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 and Shark Fund have planned some terrific events throughout the school year! You can find dates and details for all the events on the [Activity Calendar](#) posted in this packet and on the [Sycamore PTA website](#). The weekly email newsletter, [Shark Bites](#), 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,

NEW FAMILY TEAM:

Tiffany Shugrue and Jenna Sproul

Email: newfamilies@sycamorevalleypta.org

PTA PRESIDENT:

Twinkle Huang

Email: president@sycamorevalleypta.org

TK/KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION 2026-2027

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

FIRST DAY

8/13: The first day of school, **Thursday, August 13th** is a minimum day for all students.

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

The schedule for the **first day of TK-PM is 9:50am - 11:20am.**

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

Please plan to tour your TK-AM or Kindergarten classroom with your child from 8:00am - 8:20am and return to **pick up your child at 9:30am.** Please plan to tour your TK-PM classroom with your child from 9:50am - 10:10am and return to **pick up your child at 11:20am.** Thank you for understanding that we will not be able to accommodate any siblings during that special 8:00am - 8:20am and 9:50am - 10:10am time for you and your TK student or Kindergartener.

Please join us at the turf field picnic tables at 8:20am or 9:50am 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

8/14 - 8/21: From Friday, August 14th through Friday, August 21st all TK-AM/Kindergarten students will attend school from 8:00am - 11:30am. TK-PM students will attend 11:30am - 3:00pm daily, except for Wednesday, August 19th, TK-PM will attend 8:00am - 11:30am. 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.

8/14 - 8/21: From Friday, August 14th through Friday, August 21st all 1st - 5th grade students will attend school from 8:00am - 1:25pm. Wednesday, August 19th all 1st - 5th grade students will attend school from 8:00am - 12:50pm.

EARLY/LATE SCHEDULE

Beginning **Monday, August 24th** the Kindergarteners will attend 8:00am - 11:30am or 9:00am - 12:30pm on: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The time designation will be made by your child's teacher and you will be notified by the Wednesday prior to the start of this Early/Late schedule. Drop off procedures for Late Sharks will be shared at this time. Every Wednesday, all TK & Kindergarten students will attend 8:00am - 11:30am.

IMPORTANT DATES

8/11: August 11, 2026, 5:30pm - 6:45pm TK, Kindergarten, & All those 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 [Kinder/TK/New Family Orientation](#)**

8/12: August 12, 2026, 1:00pm - 2:30pm TK & Kindergarten Welcome Dippin' Dots Ice Cream Social.

The PTA invites you to the **TK/Kindergarten Ice-Cream Social on Wednesday, August 12th** on the TK/Kindergarten playground. **EVITE: [Ice Cream Social 2026](#)**

8/12: TK & K Back to School Night is Wednesday, August 12, in the classrooms for parents/guardians only to meet teachers and learn about the TK/K Programs.

TK-AM 5:00pm-5:40pm, TK-PM 5:45pm-6:25pm, Kinder 5:30pm-6:15pm

8/13: 1st-5th Back to School Night is Thursday, August 13th on campus for parents/guardians only to meet teachers and hear a welcome address from our Principal, Patricia Kawahara.

4th – 5th Grade: 5:30pm - 6:15pm in the classroom for the teacher presentation

All Grades: 6:20pm - 6:40pm in the MPR for Principal Kawahara's presentation

1st – 3rd Grade: 6:45pm - 7:30pm 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 2026

August 2026

Dear Sycamore Valley Families,

Below you will find our **2026-2027** 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 Thursday, August 13th.

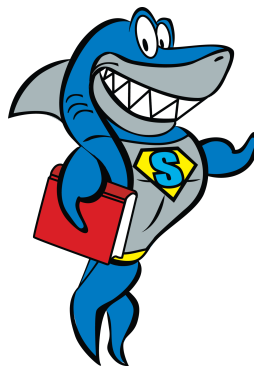
GO SHARKS!

Sincerely,

Patricia Kawahara, Principal

Sycamore Valley Elementary School

Pkawahara@srvusd.net



BELL SCHEDULE 2026-2027

SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY BELL SCHEDULE 2026-2027			
TK / KINDERGARTEN		THIRD GRADE	
First Day of School 8/13 TK-AM & K	8:00 - 9:30	First Day of School 8/13	8:00 - 12:00
First Day of School 8/13 TK-PM	9:50 - 11:20	All students thru 8/14-8/21	8:00 - 1:25
All TK-AM & K students 8/14-8/21	8:00 - 11:30	Instruction Schedule	8:00 - 2:30
All TK-PM students 8/14-8/21	11:30 - 3:00	Wednesday Schedule	8:00 - 12:50
Instruction Schedule		Conference Days	8:00 - 12:00
K - Early Schedule begins 8/24	8:00 - 11:30	Minimum Days	8:00 - 12:00
K - Late Schedule begins 8/24	9:00 - 12:30	10/5-10/09, 3/17-3/19	
TK-AM Instructional Schedule	8:00 - 11:30	Last Day of School 6/3	8:00 - 12:00
TK-PM Instructional Schedule	11:30 - 3:00		
Wednesday Schedule All TK & K	8:00 - 11:30		
Conference Days TK-AM & K	8:00 - 10:30		
Conference Days TK-PM	9:30 - 12:00		
Minimum Days TK-AM & K	8:00 - 10:30		
10/5-10/09, 3/17-3/19			
Minimum Days TK-PM	9:30 - 12:00		
10/5-10/09, 3/17-3/19			
Last Day of School 6/3 (All)	8:00 - 10:30		
FIRST GRADE		FOURTH GRADE	
First Day of School 8/13	8:00 - 12:00	First Day of School 8/13	8:00 - 12:00
All students thru 8/14-8/21	8:00 - 1:25	All students thru 8/14-8/21	8:00 - 1:25
Instruction Schedule		Instruction Schedule	8:00 - 2:30
Early Schedule begins 8/24	8:00 - 1:50	Wednesday Schedule	8:00 - 12:50
Late Schedule begins 8/24	8:40 - 2:30	Conference Days	8:00 - 12:00
Wednesday Schedule	8:00 - 12:50	Minimum Days	8:00 - 12:00
Conference Days	8:00 - 12:00	10/5-10/09, 3/17-3/19	
Minimum Days	8:00 - 12:00	Last Day of School 6/3	8:00 - 12:00
10/5-10/09, 3/17-3/19			
Last Day of School 6/3 (All)	8:00 - 12:00		
SECOND GRADE		FIFTH GRADE	
First Day of School 8/13	8:00 - 12:00	First Day of School 8/13	8:00 - 12:00
All students thru 8/14-8/21	8:00 - 1:25	All students thru 8/14-8/21	8:00 - 1:25
Instruction Schedule	8:00 - 2:30	Instruction Schedule	8:00 - 2:30
Wednesday Schedule	8:00 - 12:50	Wednesday Schedule	8:00 - 12:50
Conference Days	8:00 - 12:00	Conference Days	8:00 - 12:00
Minimum Days	8:00 - 12:00	Minimum Days	8:00 - 12:00
10/5-10/09, 3/17-3/19		10/5-10/09, 3/17-3/19	
Last Day of School 6/3	8:00 - 12:00	Last Day of School 6/3	8:00 - 12:00

DAILY BELL SCHEDULE 2026-2027

SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY DAILY BELL SCHEDULE 2026-2027	
TK-AM	8:00 - 11:30 Monday - Fridays
TK-AM + TK-PM	8:00 - 11:30 Wednesday
TK-PM	11:30 - 3:00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
KINDERGARTEN	8:00 - 11:30 or 9:00 - 12:30 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 - 11:30 Wednesday
FIRST GRADE	8:00 Early Sharks Instruction Begins 8:40 Late Sharks Instruction Begins 9:25 - 9:40 Recess / Wednesday 9:25 – 09:40 Recess 11:40 - 12:20 Lunch / Wednesday 11:15 – 11:45 Lunch 1:50 Early Sharks Dismissal 2:30 Late Sharks Dismissal 8:00 - 12:50 Wednesday
SECOND	8:00 Instruction Begins 09:45 - 10:00 Recess on M/T/W/Th/F 12:10 - 12:50 Lunch / Wednesday: 11:45 – 12:15 Lunch 1:35 - 1:45 Recess 2:30 Dismissal 8:00 - 12:50 Wednesday
THIRD GRADE	8:00 Instruction Begins 9:45 - 10:00 Recess on M/T/W/Th/F 12:10 - 12:50 Lunch / Wednesday: 11:45 – 12:15 Lunch 1:35 - 1:45 Recess 2:30 Dismissal 8:00 - 12:50 Wednesday
FOURTH / FIFTH GRADE	8:00 Instruction Begins 10:05 - 10:20 Recess on M/T,Th/F Wed. 10:05 – 10:15 12:40 - 1:20 Lunch / Wednesday 12:15 – 12:45 Lunch 2:30 Dismissal 8:00 - 12:50 Wednesday

AUGUST SCHEDULE 2026-2027

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

Monday 8/10	Tuesday 8/11	Wednesday 8/12	Thursday 8/13	Friday 8/14
	TK / KINDER / and NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION 5:30-6:45pm	DIPPIN' DOT SOCIAL TK & K Playground 1pm-2:30pm TK & K BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT PARENTS ONLY TK-AM 5:00pm-5:40pm, TK-PM 5:45pm-6:25pm, Kinder 5:30pm-6:15pm	FIRST DAY TK-AM / Kindergarten 8:00am - 9:30am TK-PM 9:50am - 11:20am 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 12:00pm PARENTS ONLY 1st-5th BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT 4th - 5th: 5:30-6:15 pm All Grades: 6:20- 6:40 1st - 3rd: 6:45-7:30 pm	TK-AM / Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am TK-PM 11:30am - 3:00pm 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 1:25pm
Monday 8/17	Tuesday 8/18	Wednesday 8/19	Thursday 8/20	Friday 8/21
TK-AM / Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am TK-PM 11:30am - 3:00pm 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 1:25pm	TK-AM / Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am TK-PM 11:30am - 3:00pm 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 1:25pm	TK-AM & TK-PM & Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 12:50pm	TK-AM / Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am TK-PM 11:30am - 3:00pm 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 1:25pm	TK-AM / Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am TK-PM 11:30am - 3:00pm 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 1:25pm
Monday 8/24 (K & 1st Begin Early/Late)	Tuesday 8/25	Wednesday 8/26	Thursday 8/27	Friday 8/28
TK 8:00am - 11:30am or 11:30am - 3:00pm 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 or 11:30am - 3:00pm 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-AM & TK-PM & Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 12:50pm	TK 8:00am - 11:30am or 11:30am - 3:00pm 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 or 11:30am - 3:00pm 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 8/31	Tuesday 9/01	Wednesday 9/02	Thursday 9/03	Friday 9/04
TK 8:00am - 11:30am or 11:30am - 3:00pm 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 or 11:30am - 3:00pm 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-AM & TK-PM & Kindergarten 8:00am - 11:30am 1st - 5th Grades 8:00am - 12:50pm	TK 8:00am - 11:30am or 11:30am - 3:00pm 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 or 11:30am - 3:00pm 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 24th**. 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: 8:00am - 11:30am

Late Sharks: 9:00am - 12:30pm

Kinder Late Sharks wait by the front gate or in the MPR if it's raining. Late Sharks should arrive between 8:50am - 9:00am. A teacher or para will escort all Late Shark students to their classrooms. Drop off is not a drop and go. We kindly request that parents park in the lot and wait with their child until the gate opens at 9:00am.

WEDNESDAYS:

All Kinders attend 8:00am - 11:30am.
Drop off at the Kindergarten playground.

First Graders

Early Shark: 8:00am - 1:50pm

Late Shark: 8:40am - 2:30pm

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. Drop off is not a drop and go. We kindly request that parents park in the lot and wait with their child until the gate opens at 8:40am.

WEDNESDAYS:

All first graders attend 8:00am - 12:50pm.
Drop off on the 1st-5th grade playground.

TK-AM: Monday - Friday: 8:00am – 11:30am **TK-PM:** M,T,Th,F: 11:30am – 3:00pm W: 8:00-11:30am

Online Bell schedule: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xcfU5YzoKB0-ZdAgbff4jz6FR1YqtuGD/view> Revised July 27, 2026

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. TK and Kinder students will meet on the TK/K playground.

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 by the time 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 8:00am.

Drop off for TK & Early Shark 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. Late Shark Kindergarteners will line up at the front gate. **Parents must wait with their child until the gate opens.** A teacher or para will escort all Late Shark students to their classrooms.

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. 1st - 5th graders should be picked up at the front gate, on the big kid playground blacktop or at the back path. 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 safely.

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 and Trish Drive](#). 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. **Students should not exit through the gate at the 2nd grade quad.**

CELL PHONE USAGE IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN WHILE DRIVING. PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING. THE 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:** TK/Kindergarten, First Grade, Second Grade, Third Grade, Fourth Grade, Fifth Grade
 - **RESOURCES:** Band/Music, Library/Media, Physical Education, Science, SLAM: SCIENCE LANGUAGE ART MATH
 - **TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES:** Student Portal, Infinite Campus Parent/Student Portal, Schoology, Technical Assistance
- **FAMILIES** –
 - **PTA:** Yearbook, Sister School, Festival Around the World, and other community events
 - **SHARK FUND:** Givebacks, online and in-person Auction, Monster Mash event, Sharky Cinema, Donate, Corporate Match and Dippin' Dots.
 - **SITE COUNCIL:** Safety Plans, SPSA Plans
 - **RESOURCES:** Volunteers, Register Your Child, Shark Bites Newsletter
 - **MORE PAGES:** New Families Welcome Packet
- **STUDENTS** – Rainbow Room, Special Education, 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, ParentSquare emails

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

Room Parent

- Room Parents are selected in the first few weeks of school from those who express interest during the Future Fund registration process or Back to School Night. 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>)



IN-PERSON / VIRTUAL

Back to School Night (BTSN) – Details will be sent out via email. This is a parent-only event; no students please.

- **TK & K** - Wednesday, August 12th, 5:30pm - 6:30pm
- **1st-5th** - Thursday, August 13th
 - 4th - 5th Grade: 5:30pm - 6:15pm in the classroom for the teacher presentation
 - All Grades: 6:20pm - 6:40pm in the MPR for Principal Kawahara's presentation
 - 1st - 3rd Grade: 6:45pm - 7:30pm in the classroom for the teacher presentation

PTA meetings – 9 times this year

- PTA meeting dates: Sept 2, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec. 2, Jan 6, Feb 3, Mar 3, Apr 14, and May 5. Meetings begin at 8:05am Meetings will be held in-person unless noted otherwise.

Shark Fund meetings – 9 times a year

- Shark Fund meeting dates: Sept. 16th, Oct. 21st, Nov. 18th, Dec. 16th, Jan. 20th, Feb. 17th, March 17th, April 21st, May 19th. 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 unless noted otherwise.



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

- The LED sign on the MPR promotes school events.
- Banners are hung up at school to inform about various events and activities during the year.

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

Everyone has something to offer! 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 at Sycamore Valley Elementary you must register through Be A Mentor.**
- Please go to <https://www.srvusd.net/Students-and-Families/Volunteer-Requirements/index.html>.
- Due to the volume of applications at the start of the school, please begin your registration process as soon as possible. You can start now!
- This is a one-time registration. You will not need to re-register every year.

There are two levels of clearance you may apply for: **We recommend that all parents/guardians register for Level 1.** If you would like to be a field trip driver, register for Level 2 as well.

- **Be a Mentor Level 1 – Classroom, on-campus volunteers, & non-driver chaperones for day field trips**
 - Applicants will be approved through the Sex Offender Registry.
 - Volunteers' fingerprints will be processed through the FBI and the Department of Justice.
 - Proof of Tuberculosis (TB) clearance every four (4) years
 - Clearance can take 45 days.
- **Be a Mentor 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.
 - Volunteers' fingerprints will be processed through the FBI and the Department of Justice.
 - Proof of Tuberculosis (TB) clearance every four (4) years
 - Clearance takes up to 10 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

Barbara Jones

Sycamore Valley Elementary, Office Manager

BJones1@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>

Bell Schedules: <https://www.srvusd.net/Students-and-Families/Academic-Information/Bell-Schedules>

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

Independent Study / Vacations:

<https://www.srvusd.net/Departments/Educational-Services/Enrollment-Info/Independent-Study/index.html>

If your student will be missing school due to a trip/vacation, a parent/caregiver can request an Independent Study Contract (ISC), which must be no more than 15 days per school year. Otherwise, make-up work will be waiting for the student in the classroom when the student returns to school.

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-Educator / 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.

2026-2027 SYCAMORE ELEMENTARY CALENDAR

 7/16-8/10 SRVUSD Annual Update - Parent Portal 8/10 9:00am to 9/04 11:30pm - Sycamore Valley Elementary Online Registration	<u>AUGUST</u> 11 New Family/Kinder/TK Orientation 12 TK/Kinder Dippin' Dots Social 12 Back to School Night-TK/K 5:30 13 First Day of School (MIN DAY) 13 Parent Coffee 8:20-9:30am Turf field picnic tables 13 Back To School Night - 1st-5th 26 Picture Day TK - 5th	<u>SEPTEMBER</u> 2 PTA Meeting 8:10 am 2 Vision/Hearing (K, 2nd, 5th) 3 Vision/Hearing (K, 2nd, 5th) 7 NO SCHOOL - Labor Day TBD Sharky Cinema 12:50-2:30pm 16 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting 6:30 22-26 International Culture Week 25 Festival Around the World
<u>OCTOBER</u> 2 No School 5-9 Conference Week/Min. Days 7 PTA Meeting 8:10 am 7 Picture Makeup Day / Retakes 11 SRVEF Run For Education TBD Sharky Cinema 12:50-2:30pm 21 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting 6:30 23-31 Red Ribbon Week TBD Monster Mash 30 Halloween Parade	<u>NOVEMBER</u> 4 PTA Meeting 8:10 am TBD Sharky Cinema 12:50-2:30pm 5 Fun Run 11 NO SCHOOL - Veterans Day 12 <i>Fun Run Weather Backup date</i> 16-20 Sister School Donation Drive 18 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting 6:30 23-27 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break	<u>DECEMBER</u> 2 PTA Meeting 8:10am TBD Sharky Cinema 12:50-2:30pm 4 Game Night 10 Staff Luncheon 16 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting 6:30 21-31 NO SCHOOL-Winter Break
<u>JANUARY</u> 1-4 NO SCHOOL - Winter Break 6 PTA Meeting 8:10 am 11-15 Inclusive Schools Week 18 NO SCHOOL - MLK Jr. Day 18-22 Bookmark Contest 20 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting 6:30 25-26 Book Swap Donations 27 Book Swap	<u>FEBRUARY</u> 1-5 Words Matter Awareness Week 3 PTA Meeting 8:10 am TBD Sharky Cinema 12:50-2:30pm 17 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting 6:30 15-16 NO SCHOOL - Presidents Day 26 African American History Showcase	<u>MARCH</u> 3 PTA/Site Council/Shark Fund Job Fair/Meeting 8:10am TBD Sharky Cinema 12:50-2:30pm 17 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting 12 NO SCHOOL - Staff Develop. TBD Spirit Week TBD Auction 17-19 Conference Days (Min.Days) 22-24 5th Grade Outdoor Ed 31 Variety Show Dress Rehearsal
<u>APRIL</u> 1 Variety Show 2-9 Spring Break 14 PTA Meeting 8:10am (Elections) 22 STEAM Night 21 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting (Elections) 6:30p	<u>MAY</u> 5 PTA Meeting 8:10 am 10-14 Staff Appreciation Week 13 Open House (Tentative) 13 Staff Luncheon 19 Virtual Shark Fund Meeting 6:30 28- 31 NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day	<u>JUNE</u> 1 5th Grade Clap out 2 5th Grade Field Day 3 Last Day of School (MIN DAY)

Revised 7/27/26

Subscribe to the school Google Calendar: <https://sy.es.srvusd.net/Calendar/index.html>

2026-2027 School Year



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!

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 \$675 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.

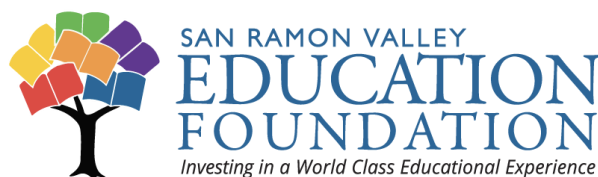
WHAT: Your donations fund trained para-educators that support student success across the grade levels. Paras assist with small-group instruction, ensuring every child gets the attention they need. The Shark Fund also funds weekly Sycamore Valley library visits, intervention programs, and critical office administrative and teacher support.

WHY: Shark Fund is funded by you, our parent community! Without parent donations we would not exist. The donations we receive 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. Registration is the single largest fundraising event and critical to ensure in classroom support. Everyone who donates is welcome to attend our Shark Fund meetings held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm via Google Meet.

HOW: Please contribute what you can to the Shark Fund during the August online registration drive! Then pursue corporate matching with your employer, it's easy - just load your receipt to your company's matching program (note that there are 3 tax ID numbers at the bottom of your receipt).

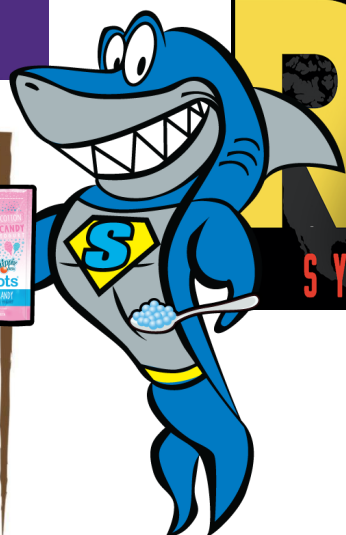
Thank you for making this important investment in your child's education!

Doug Merian
Sycamore Shark Fund President, Sycamore Elementary Parent
sycamorevalley.edfund@srvef.org



SHARK FUND EVENTS

Join the FUN this year: Online Auction (March), Monster Mash (October), Amazing Race (May), Camp Shark (May), Sharky Cinema (Monthly), Dippin Dots (Every other Wednesday)



SHARK SHOP SPIRIT WEAR: 1stplace.sale/13542

SYCAMORE VALLEY SPIRIT WEAR STORE



ORDER AT [1STPLACE.SALE/13542](https://1stplace.sale/13542)

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